



NEWSBRIEFS

EPCC on break

El Paso Community College is observing Spring Break through Sunday, March 13. Classes will continue and offices will reopen on Monday, March 14. Online registration for Spring Minimester and Summer semester are available online.

— Jim Heiney

Schools on break

The Anthony, Canutillo, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario and Tornillo Independent School Districts are observing Spring Break this week. Classes resume Monday, March 14.

— Jim Heiney

SISD intersession

Students and teachers in the Socorro Independent School District will be on spring intersession through Friday, March 18. The SISD District Service Center will remain open during this time. Students and teachers return to class on Monday, March 21.

— Christina Flores-Jones

SISD job fair

The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) will hold a job fair on Friday, March 11, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the SISD District Service Center, 12440 Rojas Dr. SISD is looking for Bilingual/ESL and Special Education certified teachers for all grade levels. Qualified applicants are invited to SISD's Teacher Job Fair. In order to qualify, you must either have a Bilingual/ESL or Special Education certification. Special Education teachers should have a generalist or content-specific certification in addition to their certification in special education. Applicants should bring their resume and be prepared for the opportunity to meet and interview with school principals. Job openings at SISD schools are open due to growth and attrition in the district, offering great opportunities for prospective teachers.

— Christina Flores-Jones

Northwest ECHS recognized

The Educational Results Partnership and the Institute for Educational Productivity

See BRIEFS, Page 5

About the only thing you can get without patience is impatient.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

GOING UP – Concrete columns for the Loop 375 Border Highway West extension can be seen from Paisano Drive in West El Paso. The columns are part of the construction project that will extend the Cesar Chavez Border Highway from downtown El Paso at U.S. Highway 54 to Racetrack Drive near Doniphan Drive.

Vehicle registration fee increase helps pay for road projects

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Transportation projects worth more than \$112 million are now underway and are expected to benefit El Paso motorists in the county's far-east roadways.

Meanwhile, west side highway work has been ongoing for almost a year and steadily taking shape.

All of this construction work is part of the county's \$400 million mobility plan approved by El Paso County Commissioners Court back in 2013.

To help pay for the transportation projects, commissioners court approved more than two years ago an additional \$10 fee on vehicle registration bills. The county also entered into a funding agreement with the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) to help manage the county's mobility plan proposals.

According to county officials the county collects about \$6.5 million every year from the extra \$10 fee since it was adopted in September 2013. In addition to the registration fee increase, other sources of funding for the mobility plan include revenues from the Transportation Reinvestment Zone Number One, as well as allotments from state and federal transportation programs.

Most of the work for the highway projects is being done by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) with some of the work being completed by the county's public works department with the assistance of the CRRMA.

One of the main undertakings on the county's east side is the construction of the \$5.9 million Mission Ridge Boulevard project, which has already been started. The road work will run from Eastlake Boulevard to Pellicano Drive. Other major east side projects will be the widening of Rojas Drive, from Loop 375 to Eastlake Boulevard, and the widening of Eastlake Boulevard from Interstate 10 to Horizon Boulevard. Construction is expected to last about a year.

On the west side of the county, TxDOT has begun construction on the projects that include the Interstate 10 expansion development near Executive Center Boulevard and Paisano Drive and the access roads on both sides of the freeway between Resler Drive and Sunland Park Drive. It has also made visible progress on the Loop 375 Border Highway West extension project, which will link the Cesar Chavez Border Highway from downtown El Paso at U.S. Highway 54 to Racetrack Drive near Doniphan Drive. The west side projects are expected to take about four years to complete, stated TXDOT officials.

Perez to represent West Texas on state education board

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Georgina Perez, of El Paso, will represent District 1 on the fifteen-member State Board of Education (SBOE) after handily beating out the two other candidates who were vying for the position in the recent Democratic primary.

By winning the primary, Perez essentially won the District 1 seat, as no Republican is campaigning for the office that is slated to go to voters in the November general election. Beginning in January 2017, Perez will replace Martha Dominguez, who chose not to run for re-election after serving on the board since 2013.

District 1 encompasses 38 counties including El Paso County and most of the other border counties in West Texas. SBOE members are elected from single-member districts with the governor getting to appoint



— Photo courtesy of Georgina Perez

ON THE JOB – Georgina Perez will represent District 1 on the State Board of Education. District 1 has 38 counties including El Paso County and most of the other border counties in West Texas.

See PEREZ, Page 4

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

Five tips for planning a property-sharing vacation

If you’ve thought about renting property on vacation, keep in mind that it’s become a lot easier – and in some ways, harder.

Much of the vacation rental process has moved online, making the process simpler and more accessible. Also, the

so-called “sharing economy” has allowed more people in the lodging business renting rooms and dwellings. In fact, a 2015 study by consulting firm EY notes that in one year alone, the world’s dominant online room-sharing company – less than 10 years old – added more listings to its inventory than the largest global hotel companies added rooms during the same period.

So vacation rentals are easier than ever, right? Possibly, but you still need to protect your money against disappointing choices and possible fraud. Before committing to any kind of property rental or property-sharing vacation, do your homework. Here are five tips to get started:

1. Evaluate your destination fully. The busiest tourist destinations generally have the broadest range of lodging options – from luxury hotels to hostels. Vacation rentals are usually a happy medium, located in desirable neighborhoods with a homey feel and kitchen availability that can make a stay a lot cheaper. However, every destination has certain ways of handling vacation rentals. While the newer generation of property-sharing companies might be active here, evaluate traditional options like vacation property brokers and listing services to compare prices and offerings. Also, search the name

and address of the vacation property you’re considering with the words “vacation rental scam” to see if any indication of fraud, crime or other trouble turns up.

2. Check local short-term rental laws. While it’s generally easier to do this domestically than abroad, make sure the kind of vacation rental you’re considering is legal. Check recent news clips or contact a local tourism bureau or chamber of commerce to see whether your target municipality doesn’t have legal or zoning restrictions on your chosen rental.

3. Verify the renter personally and with local experts and agencies. If your renter is reputable, he or she should be more than willing to have a detailed conversation about the property, costs, financial arrangements and onsite rules – including deadbolt locks you can control if you are renting rooms within their residence. Make time to call the local tourism bureau, chamber of commerce, or the local chapter of the Better Business Bureau (<http://www.bbb.org>).

4. Get details about the renter or the property. Ask the renter for referrals from previous renters, if possible, and consider the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) Scam Watch travel page (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/taxonomy/term/877>) for

extensive updated advice on renting out-of-town property.

5. Ask for all completed agreements and liability insurance documentation before paying. Before you reserve, ask to see all contract information with pricing and scheduling information filled in as well as proof of insurance on the rental property. You should understand all payment and property rules affecting your stay and what might happen if there is accidental damage to the property while you’re there. Share these documents with your home or rental insurer for input before you sign. If a renter hesitates to share this information, you might want to consider other options. Also, review your personal health, property and liability coverage to make sure you’re protected during the trip.

6. Weigh all spending risks of the rental transaction. If you’re planning to rent vacation property, take the extra step of calling your credit card and travel insurance companies to determine whether they offer any particular protections in case something goes wrong with the rental. It’s a good way to review the full range of protection available to you on any out-of-town trip. And if a vacation landlord asks for advance cash payment – particularly wired

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Upgrades to Crisis and Suicide Hotline

The Veterans Crisis Line is forming a closer bond with the suicide prevention office and mental health services, indicating that the Department of Veterans Affairs is taking seriously its role in reducing veteran suicides.

Among the changes:

- Veterans will have their calls answered promptly by someone who is experienced. Calls pertaining to non-crisis matters will be diverted to other VA resources, freeing up the crisis responders.
- Eighty-eight more staffers are being hired, on top of the 300 already at the crisis line.
- Improvements to the phone systems to handle increased demand.

As an indication of how much the upgrades are needed, the crisis line sent emergency responders to intervene with veterans in crisis 11,000 times last year. Do the math: That’s over 30 veterans per day. With the online chat and phone text functions, crisis staffers talked to 300,000 veterans last year.

But they can’t do it alone. If you know a veteran who might be in crisis, either now or in the future, become familiar with the information at www.veteranscrisisline.net. You’ll find information on the warning signs of suicide, suicide and crisis resources, and ways you can help. Make your first stop on “The Signs of Crisis” and click on “Identifying.” The best first way to help a veteran who might be suicidal or in crisis is to learn all you can.

If you’re a veteran and you need help, call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 or send a text message to 838255. Or go to the web link above and join a chat group. If you’re not sure whether you’re at risk, take the self-check quiz.

There also is support for homeless veterans, and if you’re deaf or hard of hearing. These confidential support services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

(c)2016KingFeaturesSynd.,Inc.

See FINANCES, Page 8

1973
43
Years
2016

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABIO AND TORNILLO

PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2011 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
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 West Texas County Courier reserves the right to edit or reject letters to the editor or other submitted material it considers inappropriate.


AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$10 for 25 words, \$15 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to advertising it considers inappropriate.


DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$25 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Minimum 50 issues for \$45. Delivery via 1st class mail.


MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928




Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com



Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



Member Texas Community Newspaper Association



THE SECRET TO QUITTING FOR GOOD?
NEVER QUIT ON YOURSELF.



Most smokers take several tries before they quit for good. Each attempt brings you one step closer to success. Visit us online to see how we’ve helped more than a million people become ex-smokers.





AMERICAN
LUNG
ASSOCIATION.

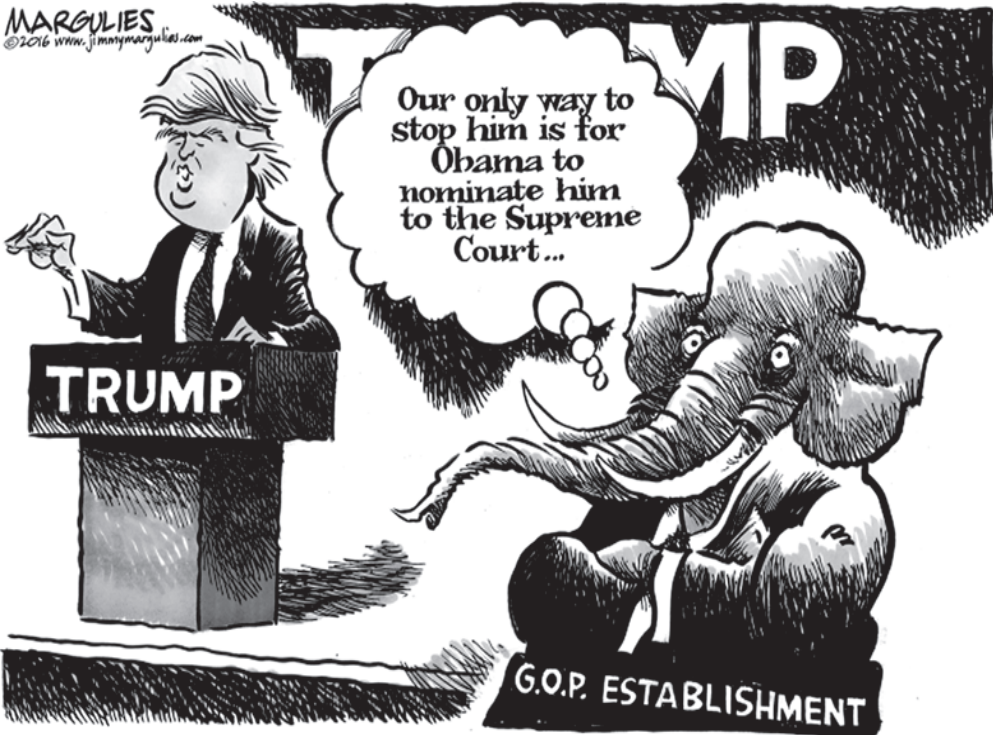
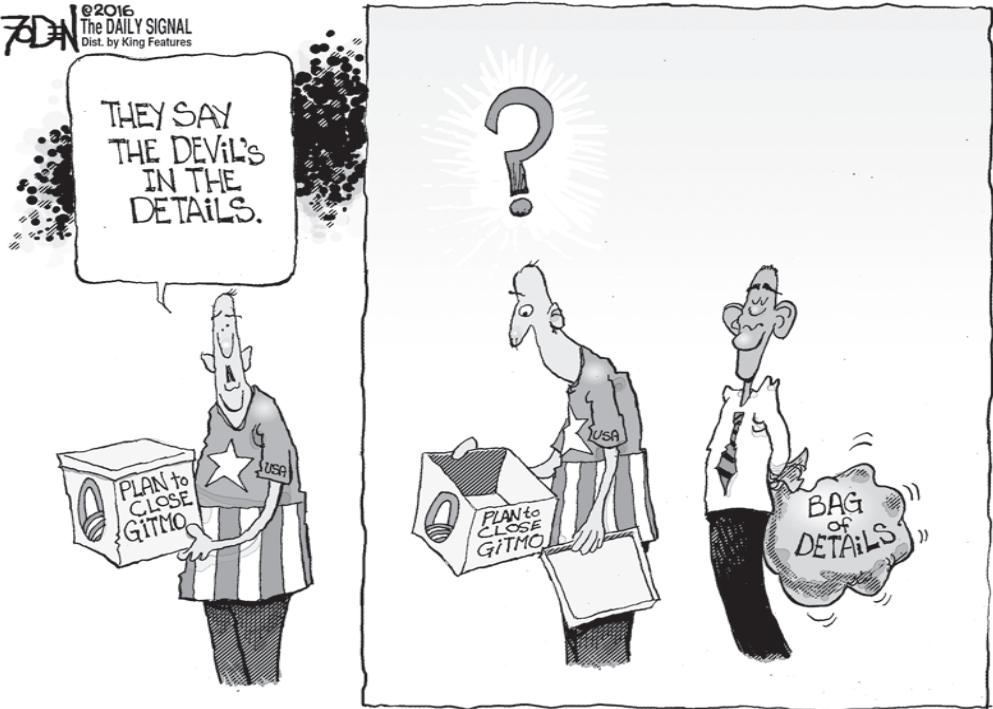
We support the quitter in you.
quitterinyou.org



AMERICAN
LUNG
ASSOCIATION.

We support the quitter in you.
quitterinyou.org

Made possible through funding by Pfizer Inc



View from here

By Traci Bruckner, Center for Rural Affairs

The socialist threat of the 2016 election

“For years polls have shown that Americans have been losing trust in government and it’s no wonder when you consider the state of employment these days, the sputtering economy and the out-of-control national debt. We haven’t reached the crisis stage as yet, but we’re heading for it in a fast and furious manner,”according to Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

Weber said that it is easy enough to blame President Obama for the “mess we are in” but there is more to the story than that.

“Americans, in general, have always had a conservative, capitalistic outlook on life, but now we are seeing a disturbing flirtation with socialism. Even such admired Democrats who called the White House their home in the past – people such as Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Jack Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson – had great respect for the nation’s heritage and traditions. They understood that workers need successful business leaders to provide jobs and that by going too far to the left leaves the nation at risk by making it harder to fuel the economy and to provide stability and meaningful employment.”

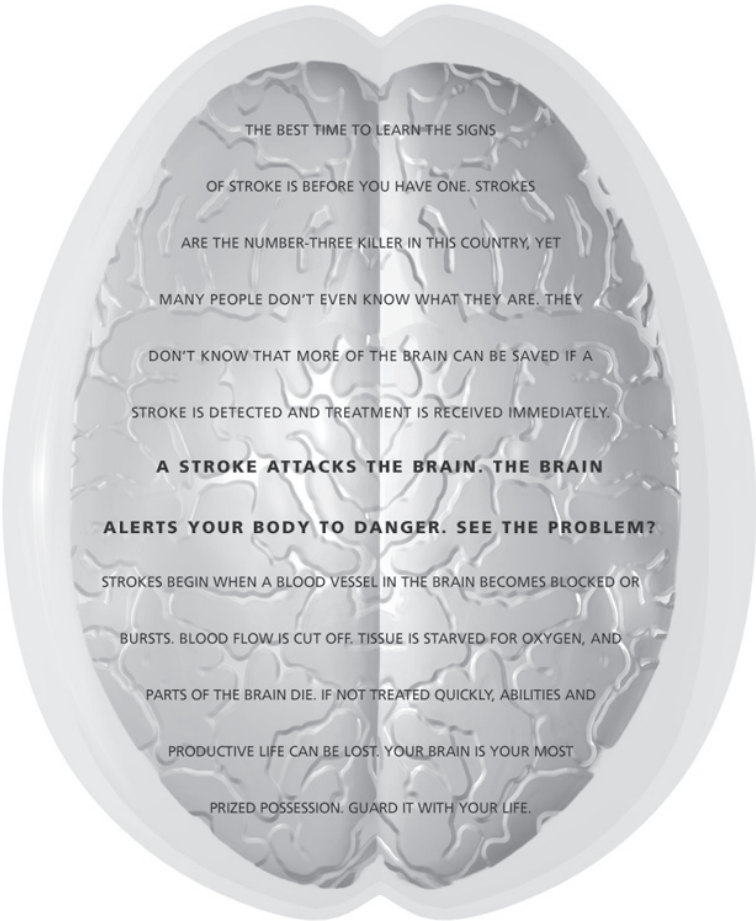
Weber said he was disturbed to learn of a new survey that came out recently indicating the millennial generation, young people under 30 years of age, is being swayed in large numbers by individuals such as Bernie Sanders who unabashedly promote a socialist agenda.

“It took the Soviet Union 70 years to be crushed under the weight of progressive share-the-wealth notions; you can bet that it would take less time than that for the U.S. to succumb to the vagaries of Sanders’ Communist-like agenda.”

But, the AMAC chief added, don’t give up. He said he believes the socialist threat that Sanders’ poses is “so scary” that it might just serve to reinvigorate the nation’s conservative base. Remember, he noted, the failures in the past of socialist ideologues to foist their liberal agenda on voters, gives the base cause to become more active in the political process going forward.

A British political analyst, Nile Gardiner, perhaps put it best, Weber noted: “Conservatism is thriving in America today because liberty, freedom and individual responsibility are at the heart of its ideology, one that rejects the foolish notion that government knows best. And its strength owes a great debt to the conviction and ideals of Ronald Reagan, who always believed that America’s best days are ahead of her, and for whom the notion of decline was unacceptable. As the Gipper famously put it in a speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference in 1988: ‘Those who underestimate the conservative movement are the same people who always underestimate the American people’.”

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.



WITH A STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.

If you suddenly have or see any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately: Numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body • Confusion, trouble speaking or understanding • Difficulty seeing in one or both eyes • Trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination • Severe headache with no known cause

Learn more at StrokeAssociation.org or 1-888-4-STROKE.

CHOOSE YOUR RIDE.



Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

 Save a Life™
Texas Department of Transportation

STRANGE
BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was British art critic and social reformer John Ruskin who made the following sage observation: “Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.”

• After the events of this past winter, you may not be surprised to learn that sales of cakes, cookies and candy spike when a blizzard is in the weather forecast.

• You’ve almost certainly heard of “M*A*S*H,” one of the most popular TV series of all time. One of the main characters on the show, which ran from 1972 to 1983, was Corporal Klinger, played by Jamie Farr. It’s interesting to note that in the 1950s, Farr actually served as an enlisted man in the U.S. Army in Korea – and the dog tags he wore on the show were the same ones he wore during his service.

• For reasons that are not quite clear, inventors have created a robot that can solve a Rubik’s cube in slightly more than one second.

• In 18th-century France, there was a Parisian printer who employed several apprentices, all of whom lived in the home of the printer’s family. The printer’s wife was, evidently, a lover of cats – and her cats begged for scraps and screeched at all hours of the night. Finally fed up with the felines, the apprentices took matters into their own hands: While the family was out of town, they held a formal trial, complete with guards, a confessor and a public executioner. After they were pronounced guilty, the accused felines were strung up on cat-sized gallows.

Thought for the Day:
“Politics, as a practice, whatever its professions, has always been the systematic organization of hatreds.”
– Henry Adams

(c) 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.

SAN ELIZARIO HISTORIC DISTRICT

ART MARKET

Arts & Crafts • Music • Reenactments • Food • Fun

SUNDAY

MARCH 20

11AM-6PM • INFO: 851-0093

WWW.SANELIZARIOHISTORICDISTRICT.ORG

To Advertise Call 852-3235 • Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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

	S	K	A						
	L		L	O	A	M			
R	A	N	K			Y			
	V		A			O			
	E		L	I	M	P	E	D	
		K	I	R		I			
					K	N	A	V	E
					E			I	
					D	R	A	M	

E	A	S	A	P		D	A	L	I		F	G	S		S	H	U	T					
O	R	B	I	T	E	R		E	M	I	S	S	A	R			P	A	T	H			
H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	P	U	M	P	K	I	N		E	Y	E	R			
O	S	E					E	N	V				E	E	L		M	A	D	R	E		
			I	G	L	O	O		H	O	W						L	I	K	N	O	W	
W	I	L	H	E	L	M	K	L	I	N	K						T	W	I	S	T		
A	S	I	A	N			S	E	I	N	E	S					O	N	T	O	A	S	
R	E	V	E	V	E		S	A	G				C	P	R								
T	R	E	E	T	O	P		M	E	N	W	A	L	K	O	N		M	O	O	N		
Y	E	N					W	E	D			A	E	R	O		S	E	I	Z	E	D	
								P	H	E	N	O	M	E	N	A	L		W	O	M	A	N
O	N	G	O	A	L			L	A	I	C					S	K	I					
N	E	W	M	I	L	L	E	N	N	I													
C	O	E																					
E	N	N	E	A	D	S																	
M	A	K	I	N																			
A	L	I	T	O																			
I	T	C	H																				
Z	E	K	E																				
E	R	S	T																				

CryptoQuip
Answer

Instead of solving these hard logic problems now, we choose to save them for a brainy day.

4	+	8	×	2	24
×		-		×	
7	-	3	×	5	20
-		×		+	
7	×	6	-	9	33
21		30		19	

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On March 22, 1765, to raise funds to pay off debts and defend the new American territories won from the French, the British government passes the Stamp Act. It levied a tax on all materials printed in the colonies, from newspapers and pamphlets to playing cards and even dice.
 - On March 23, 1937, Craig Breedlove, the first person to reach land speeds of up to 600 mph in a jet-powered vehicle, is born. He designed a three-wheeled, rocket-shaped vehicle powered by a surplus military jet engine and dubbed it the Spirit of America.
 - On March 24, 1989, the worst oil spill in U.S. territory begins when the supertanker Exxon Valdez runs aground on a reef in Alaska’s remote Prince William Sound. An estimated 11 million gallons of oil was released and eventually covered 1,300 miles of coastline.
 - On March 25, 1911, the
- Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory in New York City burns down, killing 145 workers. Owners had refused to install sprinkler systems and take other safety measures in case they needed to burn down the shop to collect fire insurance, a not uncommon practice at the time.

 - On March 26, 1953, American medical researcher Dr. Jonas Salk announces that he has successfully tested a vaccine against the virus that causes polio. In 1952 – an epidemic year for the crippling disease – there were 58,000 new cases reported in the U.S.
 - On March 27, 1945, Nazi Germany launches its last V-2 long-range rockets, killing 162 civilians in England and Belgium. The V-2 could carry a 2,000-pound warhead and became the precursor of the ICBM of the postwar era.
- (c) 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.

Perez

From Page 1

one member to chair the board. SBOE is charged with setting policies and standards for Texas public schools. The primary responsibilities of the SBOE consist of setting curriculum standards, reviewing and adopting instructional materials, establishing graduation requirements, overseeing the Texas Permanent School Fund, and appointing board members to military reservation and special school districts. Perez, who received more than 56 percent of the vote, beat out Joe Fierro Jr., of El Paso, and Lynn Oliver, a former educator from Bandera, for the SBOE seat. Fierro received about 28 percent of the votes, while Oliver

garnered about 16 percent. Perez’s background includes having taught eighth-grade reading at Parkland Middle School for ten years. She also founded *Tu Libro*, an organization that has provided more than 30,000 books to students and families in rural El Paso County communities. She has also testified before the SBOE to advocate for Proclamation 2017, which is designed to allow publishers to create SBOE-approved culturally sensitive materials for ethnic studies courses. During the primary campaigning period, Perez received endorsements from several prominent El Pasoans including state senator José Rodríguez and state representatives Mary González, César Blanco, and Joe Moody.

Briefs

From Page 1

have selected Canutillo Independent School District’s Northwest Early College High School (Northwest ECHS) as a 2015 Honor Roll School. Northwest ECHS is one of 713 public schools in Texas to receive this honor as part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools and highlight successful practices that improve outcomes for students. Schools receiving this distinction from leaders in the Texas academic and business communities have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time and reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. “We are proud to be recognized by education and business leaders in Texas as an Honor Roll school,” said Tracy Speaker, Principal of Northwest ECHS. “Our teachers and administrators work tirelessly to keep the focus on high expectations and student academic achievement and to continuously improve our practices. This hard work and dedication is paying off for all of our students, no matter their background.”

– Shane B. Griffith

SISD campuses recognized
Nine Socorro Independent School District campuses were recognized as 2015

Texas Honor Roll schools by the Educational Results Partnership and the Institute for Educational Productivity for their outstanding leadership and student achievement. Team SISD campuses being honored as Texas Star Honor Roll schools are: Dr. Sue Shook, Elfida P. Chavez, Loma Verde and Lujan-Chavez elementary schools, John Drugan School, Col. John O. Ensor, SPC. Rafael Hernando III and Montwood middle schools, and Mission Early College High School. The campuses were among 713 public schools in Texas to receive the title during the 2015 inaugural year. Elfida P. Chavez Elementary was also one of two schools in the region to be recognized with a special STEM designation for its high performance. “Being named a 2015 Texas Honor Roll School is a huge accomplishment earned by the students, staff, and community at each of our nine campuses selected,” said SISD Superintendent Jose Espinoza. “It is a well-deserved honor that speaks volumes of Team SISD’s unwavering dedication to high student success.”

– Christina Flores-Jones

Finders’ keepers
The person who found Mr. Flaherty’s wallet certainly displayed a “cheeky” sense of humor when he returned the Brooklyn man’s credit cards and drivers’ license. NBC News reports the individual who found the wallet enclosed a note that read: “I found your wallet, and your driver’s license had your address so here’s your credit cards and other important stuff. I kept the cash because I needed weed, the MetroCard because, well, the fare’s \$2.75 now, and the wallet ‘cause it’s kinda cool. Enjoy the rest of your day.

Toodles, Anonymous.”

– John Grimaldi


Of mice and men
Authorities in Brussels have had to delay plans to make much-needed repairs to the city’s crumbling roadways after mice apparently ate the blueprints, says the Association of Mature American Citizens.

– John Grimaldi

Wanted
A Northeast El Paso business is burglarized in November and the El Paso Police Department is asking the public for help in finding those responsible through the Crime Stoppers. The burglary took place over the night of Sunday, Nov. 8 and the early morning hours of Monday, Nov. 9, 2015 at Media Exchange (9155 Dyer). Once the unknown suspect or suspects gained entry into the business they were able to take several electronic items of value. The suspects searched the store for other merchandise. Thy fled the scene with several thousands of dollars in property. The manager of the store discovered the burglary in the morning. Investigators are certain that someone knows who is responsible for this burglary. Anyone with information on this burglary at the Media Exchange is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word “CRIME1” (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

– Javier Sambrano

People know Pueblo for its...





Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.



If you’re not covered, you’ll be discovered.



An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that’s about to change. • TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data to immediately tell law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who’s driving without insurance. • So, if you’re not covered, better get insured! • To learn more, visit: www.TexasSure.com

TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.

Cowboys have interesting draft decisions to make

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's been a month since the Denver Broncos crushed the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50 and you'd think the NFL would be out of the news for a bit.

But the NFL is the NFL for a reason.

There is some NBA talk out there about Stephen and LeBron, and a sprinkling about MLB spring training opening up soon, but the NFL still controls most of the sports interest in this country.

Whether its the retirement of this guy, or the cutting of that guy, or Johnny Manziel, the NFL stands front and center.

The latest talk concerns the NFL draft, which is slated for April 28 in Chicago.

And though the Tennessee Titans hold the first pick of the draft, it seems like every talking head out there is more interested in what the Dallas Cowboys are going to do with the fourth pick.

It's easy to remember how bad the Cowboys were last year with all the injuries they suffered, especially at quarterback with Tony Romo.

But many forget how good they were the year before that when they were just a Dez Bryant referee-catch-ruling from making it to the NFL title game.

Many of the so-called experts are putting their mock drafts together and almost all of them have the Cowboys taking a quarterback with that all-important pick.

They say that Romo is getting older. And at 36, he certainly is. But it's more because of the collarbone injuries he went through last year.

Romo is still one of the more talented passers in the league and can still lead this team deep into the playoffs, but Dallas found out last season that it had no viable replacement at quarterback if Romo goes down again.

So the talk is that there are two quarterbacks out there to consider, Carson Wertz of North Dakota State and Jared Goff of California.

And though Wertz is not a big name and comes from an itty bitty school like North Dakota State, scouts are saying that he is the real deal and impressed everyone at the NFL combine.

The consensus is that the Cleveland

Browns will take a quarterback with the second pick, meaning that the Cowboys will choose whomever the Browns don't.

But the real question is whether any of these two guys are good enough to make a real difference down the road.

The Cowboys aren't just looking for a viable backup. They'd rather draft a quarterback who will make a difference for the next decade.

Another thing to consider is the same thing they were considering a year ago. After Demarco Murray left the team for the Eagles, all the talk was about which running back they would draft to replace him.

They didn't.

The Cowboys went with Darren McFadden, who had a decent year but has been bitten with the injury bug way more than even Romo throughout his career.

Can the Cowboys, with that talented offensive line, afford to go into the season iffy at tailback?

When the Cowboys had Murray, their offense was their best defense. The object of any defense is to stop, or take the ball away from the opposing team's offense.

Well the Cowboys kept the ball away from opposing team's offenses by running the ball with Murray and converting first down after first down.

If I were in the Cowboys' draft room on April 28 I'd really consider who I believe is the biggest difference-maker in the draft.

Ohio State running back Ezekiel Elliott's combination of speed and power and his ability to catch the football makes him the guy to get.

He reminds me of a stronger and quicker Emmitt Smith. At 6 feet and 225 pounds, he has the size to take NFL punishment, and he can dish out some.

Some think the Cowboys should go for some defensive help and just ask the Broncos, you can never have enough defense.

But I have reservations about the quarterbacks in this draft. Maybe the Cowboys would be better served by going after a tested veteran who can adapt to any situation if Romo goes down.

But Elliott is the true gem of this draft. Which probably means Jerry Jones will pass him by.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Going, going, gone!

Legendary New York radio sports talk announcer Art Rust Jr. used to have a favorite saying: "I saw it on the radio."

Baseball translates better on radio than any other sport. In football, you really need to be watching the sudden movements like, say, when a tackle is broken. In a basketball broadcast, the

grace and beauty of a perfectly executed jump shot or high-flying dunk is lost. Hockey broadcasts consist primarily of commentary on line colors ("skates past the red line, passes to the blue line, back to the blue line, pass stolen at the red line, to the blue line, he shoots, stick save and the puck is kicked back at the blue

line ..."), and boxing has lost any semblance of the classic drama created by old-time announcers.

But baseball works. In fact, I would argue that baseball is better on radio than it is on TV.

Let's face it, the action in baseball comes in 60-, 90-, and 400-foot bursts. During the course of a three-hour game there may be, on average, less than an hour's worth of action. And even if there's a guy with a dramatic curveball on the mound like Zack Greinke, in most parts of the stadium you can't really

tell what he's throwing. In the park, the focus is on the outcome of a pitch, rarely is it about the mechanics.

On TV, fans get the familiar centerfield camera view. While this allows you to see the pitch and its velocity and arc, it's really an unnatural view, as most people have never watched a game from that angle, that far away. And while it lets you see the batter swing, the best way to take in a batter's swing is from the side. Lastly, that view does not allow you to see the position of the fielders or the lead of the runners. Granted, great production crews will have extra cameras and offer you brief glimpses, but

the experience just never really clicked with viewers and that, probably more than anything led to football's dominance on TV.

Not so on the radio, where the attention is on the details. A good announcer – of which there are many – adheres to the storytelling tradition during a classic baseball broadcast. They will announce the starting lineups rather than just posting it on your screen, they will describe the details of the uniforms and the atmosphere in the park, and you will better hear the pop of the ball in the catcher's mitt, hum of the crowd and crack of the bat. Descriptions

See SPORTS, Page 8

Take the First Step to a Heart-Healthy Life.

Start! Walking. Start! Something.

Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in America. But did you know that just 30 minutes a day of physical activity can improve your health and decrease your risk of heart disease?

An easy way to work physical activity into your regular routine is to start walking. For every single hour of regular, vigorous exercise, you can add two hours to your life expectancy.

It's easy to Start! whether you're by yourself or with friends, family and co-workers. You'll all feel a difference and live longer, heart-healthier lives.

Join the movement.

heart.org/start

start!

American Heart Association
Learn and Live

©2010, American Heart Association 1/10DS3493

1973
43
Years
2016

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARNS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORREILLO

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

25 words - \$10 per week; 40 words - \$15 per week

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

Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m.
Please print. Send form and
payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:

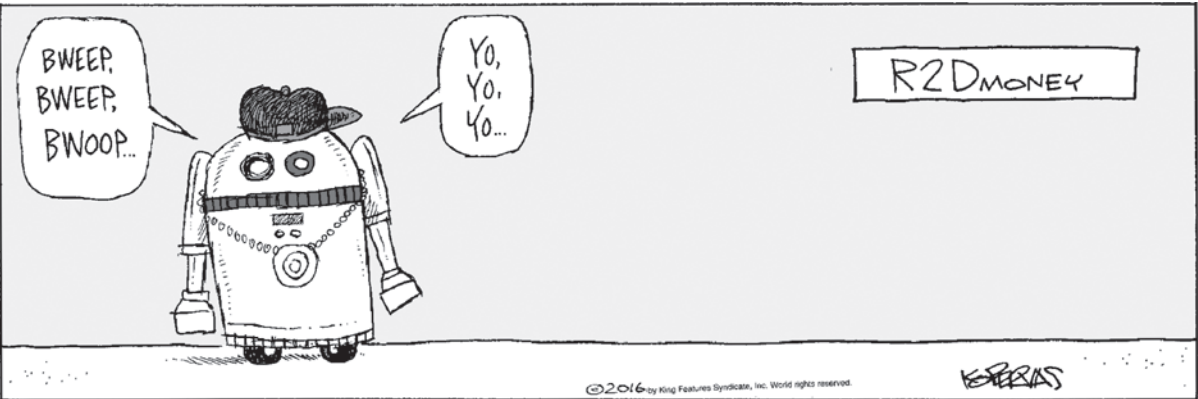
Name: _____

Phone: _____

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: Can high blood pressure cause blood clots, blindness and strokes? Or is this caused by taking the wrong combination of blood pressure medicines? – Anon.

High blood pressure over months or years causes damage to the lining of blood vessels. This can indeed predispose a person to a stroke. Reducing blood pressure gradually reduces risk of stroke.

Blood clots also can cause strokes, but these usually are not linked to blood pressure, high or low, and instead are linked to conditions that affect the blood itself or that affect the rhythm of the heart. Some medicines, such as estrogen, make blood clots more likely.

In people with very high blood pressure, lowering it too much, too quickly can cause strokes. The blood pressure needs to be reduced gradually, which usually can be done as an outpatient. There are still a few times when people with extremely high blood pressure are admitted to the hospital, where blood pressure can be brought down very slowly in a controlled environment.

High blood pressure is one of the most common ailments for the general population. The booklet on it describes what it does and how it’s treated. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 104W, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient’s printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

2013, I fell and landed on my left side. Since then, I have had quite a lot of pain. I had an MRI that showed I have a tear of the gluteus medius muscle. I was advised to have a surgical repair done as an outpatient. My family doctor wants me to wait and talk to another surgeon. My pain is aggravated by pressure and weight-bearing activities. What is your suggestion? I’m 77 and in pretty good health, and I walk my dogs several times per day. – M.C.

Gluteus medius tears are an increasingly recognized cause of hip pain. The gluteus medius muscle helps hold the hip in place during walking. They often are treated conservatively, with injection and physical therapy. They can be mistaken for trochanteric bursitis, but persistence of pain despite treatment should make the physician consider alternate diagnoses, and an MRI usually makes the diagnosis.

In your case, you have been suffering for two years, and I agree that it’s time to consider surgical repair. However, I also have to agree with your family doctor that a second opinion may be wise. There are several new surgical techniques, and you want an experienced surgeon operating on you. Talking to a second surgeon at the very least can make you more confident that the surgery is necessary.

Postoperative recovery may require six weeks of crutches or other assistive device, and another six weeks in a hip brace, although the exact recovery

DEAR DR. ROACH: In March

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

- A DOZEN TO CHOOSE FROM ACROSS**

1 Stinging box jellyfish

8 Salvador of surrealism

12 NFL three-pointers: Abbr.

15 Seal off

19 Satellite, to its planet

20 Envoy

22 Course

23 Jack-o'-lantern

25 One gazing

26 Ending of sugars

27 A deadly sin

28 Wiggly fish

29 Mother, in Madrid

30 Snow house

32 1986 #1 hit for Whitney Houston

36 Colonel on "Hogan's Heroes"

40 See 52-Across

41 Tibetan or Thai

42 Weighted fishing nets

43 How butter is often eaten

47 Gave gas to in a garage

49 Start to fall

50 ER lifesaver

52 With 40-Across, 1960s fad dance

53 Christmas star's place
- 55 7/21/69 New York Times headline

61 Strong desire

62 Say "I do" to

64 Having a sleek design

65 Snatched

66 1978 Maya Angelou poem

71 Shot _ (ice hockey statistic)

74 Not of the clergy

75 Bit of Aspen gear

76 Feedbag bit

79 Y2K

83 Nosy comic Jimmy?

86 Sebastian of England

87 Kind of poem

88 Ill-lighted

90 Pestle's partner

91 Nine-item groups

95 "Fallin' " singer Keys

98 Tale twisters

99 Dress fussily

101 Dessert at a tropical-themed party, maybe

103 1928 Eddie Cantor song

107 Reel drum

108 Samuel on the Supreme Court

109 Drop the ball

110 Mosque chief

111 Kick _ fuss

114 Strong desire
- 115 It uses only the 12 letters A, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, U and W (like eight long answers in this puzzle)

121 "The Wizard of Oz" farm hand

122 Present-day Persians

123 Most lax

124 In time past, in time past

125 Hogs' home

126 Rolling _ (rich)

127 Apply messily

DOWN

1 Arty NYC area

2 Lengthy reigns, say

3 Proficient

4 Wheaton of the screen

5 Volume 1 heading starter

6 "Black Beauty" author Anna

7 First names, in France

8 Disallow

9 Fuse box unit

10 Lucy of the screen

11 Philosophy

12 Bluff one's way through

13 Decorative grating

14 Wd. in Roget's

15 Talk with

16 Franz Joseph _
- 17 In _ surgery

18 Flung

21 Expel forcibly

24 Draws forth

29 Light fog

30 " _ no clue"

31 Playwright Jean

32 Gate joint

33 A single

34 Month divs.

35 Jeremy of basketball

36 Like toads

37 River to the Rhone

38 Pep (up)

39 Neeson of "Taken"

44 All-inclusive

45 Brogan, e.g.

46 Be inclined

48 Thrive

50 Track legend Lewis

51 Rototills, e.g.

54 Hogs' home

56 Country/folk singer Griffith

57 "Aren't _ pair?!"

58 Densest stable element

59 Tchr.'s org.

60 Hour div.

63 Portioned

66 Toy dog breed, briefly

67 "Bali. _"

68 Shaggy locks

69 German "a"

70 Didn't nix
- 71 In time past

72 Sign gas

73 Stefani of pop music

76 At the ready

77 Early arcade biggie

78 Laconic

80 Despair

81 City near Venice

82 Prey for owls

84 Rich kid in "Nancy"

85 Israel's Sharon

89 Noxious vapor

92 Sobriquet

93 Tuscan river

94 Dawn beads

95 Tablet buy

96 _ in wait

97 Horrifies

100 Oslo's land

102 Item for a cheerleader

103 Corn, to Brits

104 Amend

105 Boots

106 Algerian city

110 Tech sch.

111 Super, slangily

112 Mexican coin

113 Fax abbr.

115 That fellow's

116 20% of XV

117 Scottish "John"

118 Singer DiFranco

119 Farm tool

120 Solid _ rock

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																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	112	113
114							115			116	117	118					119	120		
121								122								123				
124								125								127				

MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

31 days after getting his ankle shattered by a bullet at San Jacinto , Sam Houston sees a surgeon in New Orleans.



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.

	+		×		24
×		-		×	
	-		×		20
-		×		+	
	×		-		33
21		30		19	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

© 2016 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

© 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: Is there a time limit on collecting Social Security disability benefits?

A: Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition does not improve and you remain unable to work. We will review your case at regular intervals to make sure you are still disabled. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach full retirement age, we will automatically convert them to retirement benefits. Learn more by reading our publication, *Disability Benefits*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Q: What is substantial gainful activity?

A: We use the term “substantial gainful activity,” or “SGA,” to describe a level of work activity and earnings. Work is “substantial” if it involves doing significant physical or mental activities or a combination of both. If you earn more than a certain amount and are doing productive work, we generally consider that you are engaging in substantial gainful activity. For example, the monthly SGA amount for 2015 is \$1,090. For statutorily blind individuals, that amount is \$1,820. You would not be eligible for disability benefits. You can read more about substantial gainful activity and if your earnings qualify as substantial gainful activity at www.socialsecurity.gov/oact/cola/sga.html.

For more information on any of the questions listed above, 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.

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: K equals E

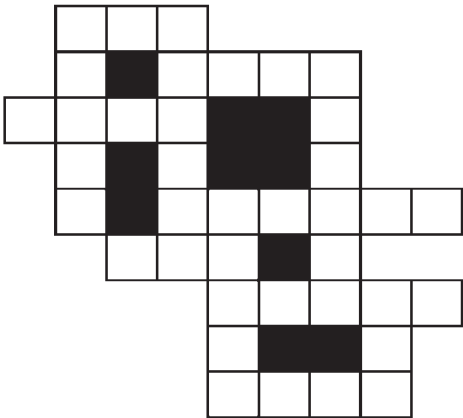
NCDAKQW ZP DZFLNCJ AOKDK
OQIW FZJNY HIZXFKVD CZG, GK
YOZDK AZ DQLK AOKV PZI Q
XIQNCE WQE.

Answer Page 4

© 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.



MIV
KALLIA
♥ LEVAS
AKRN
POIMAY
♥ RKI
MRDA
KEVAN
♥ KAS
♥ PIDLEM
KRIDE
MOLA



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

Finances

From Page 1

money – be very cautious. Many travel scams begin with wired cash.

Bottom line: Planning an upcoming vacation? Before you commit to a vacation rental, vet the owner and the property thoroughly.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered legal, tax or financial advice. It's always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.

Sports

From Page 6

of the play are far more intense, and your imagination can add flourishes to mundane plays you've seen a thousand times. Best of all, you can multi-task (my preference being a beer and a porch).

I'm no shill, but I have to recommend the MLB At Bat application for both Apple and Android phones to all baseball fans – particularly those on the go. The app costs \$19.99 for the season, \$4.99 monthly, and gives you access to every radio broadcast in the country plus being able to see video highlights of key plays if you wish. Other Internet radio sites offer some broadcasts, but MLB At Bat is well worth the money.

Check it for yourself and remember... yesterday is a canceled check, tomorrow is a promissory note, but today is all the time you have, so spend it wisely.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.

Health

From Page 7

depends on you and the type of surgery performed.

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) 2016 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.