

NEWSBRIEFS

Funds for Hernandez

Horizon City resident Sarinah Hernandez was recently offered a Make-A-Wish wish. However the guidelines for Make-A-Wish prohibit them from providing what Hernandez really wants, and in fact, needs. Hernandez had asked for an indoor freestanding therapy pool. She has several very debilitating, chronic and painful conditions. She is homebound except for doctor appointments and church. Car rides to and from anywhere are very painful. The pool would allow Hernandez to get some exercise and hydrotherapy. To read more about Sarinah Hernandez visit <https://www.youcaring.com/sarinah-hernandez-651571> where people can also contribute to the fundraising for the pool, plumbing, wiring and enclosure. The goal is \$25,000.

– Amy Brown

The Fantasticks

El Paso Community College (EPCC) Theater Ensemble will offer its next play of 2016 season with The Fantasticks. Performances will be September 29, 30, October 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 8:00 pm and October 2 and 9 at 2:30 p.m. The EPCC Theater Ensemble performs at the EPCC Forum Theater, 9570 Gateway North. General Admission is \$15, Non-EPCC students and military are \$10 and EPCC students/staff and senior citizens are \$7. Tickets are available at the door. The box office opens two hours before each performance. The Fantasticks tells the story of two neighboring fathers who trick their children, Matt and Luisa, into falling in love by pretending to feud. With the father’s intentions of getting Matt to heroically save Luisa, they hire traveling actors to stage a mock abduction, ending the fake feud between their fathers. When the two children become aware of the deception, they end the arranged match and separate. The rest of the story tells how the two renew their vows with more maturity. For Forum Theater information or reservations, call (915) 831-5056.

– Jim Heiney

A politically correct world gone amok

At a time when many institutions of higher learning are reinforcing the

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A smile is the shortest distance between two people.

– Quips & Quotes

Coalition renews campaign for international park

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

WEST TEXAS – The Greater Big Bend Coalition (GBBC) is petitioning Texas Congressman Will Hurd, United States Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, and President Barack Obama to establish an international park on the Rio Grande. The proposed park boundaries include Big Bend National Park and protected wildlife areas in the Mexican states of Chihuahua and Coahuila.

Most visitors to Big Bend National Park, as well as park enthusiasts nationwide, have no idea that an international park on the Rio Grande was first proposed by the U.S. Congress in February 1935; and that on November 24 of that same year, environmental officials from Mexico and the U. S. met in El Paso and signed the first bi-national agreement to create an international park.

But it wasn’t until towards the end of World War II, in 1944, that President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote to Mexican President Manuel Avila Camacho and expressed his opinion that the Big Bend National Park, which was established in 1944, would remain incomplete until “both sides of the Rio Grande form one great international park”.

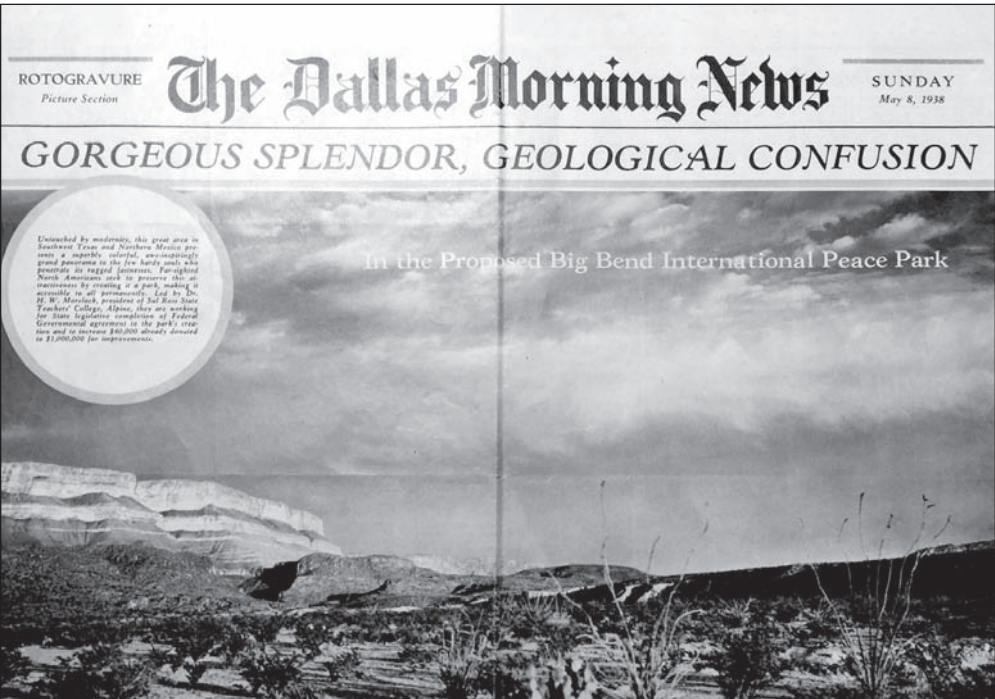
Then in 1946, President Harry S. Truman wrote to President Camacho on “behalf of the late President Roosevelt” to continue the international park campaign. Roosevelt had died in 1945. For some reason, as time slipped away the international park proposal was shelved.

Today, nearly eight decades later, GBBC members are now calling upon the U.S. and Mexico governments to resurrect that 1935 agreement and designate lands currently protected by the National Park Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas as one giant US-Mexico International Park.

International parks are not unknown to the National Park Service and North America, according to the GBBC members. As an example, they point out the U.S. and Canada’s Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which was established in 1932. This park combined Glacier National Park in Montana and the Waterton Park in Alberta.

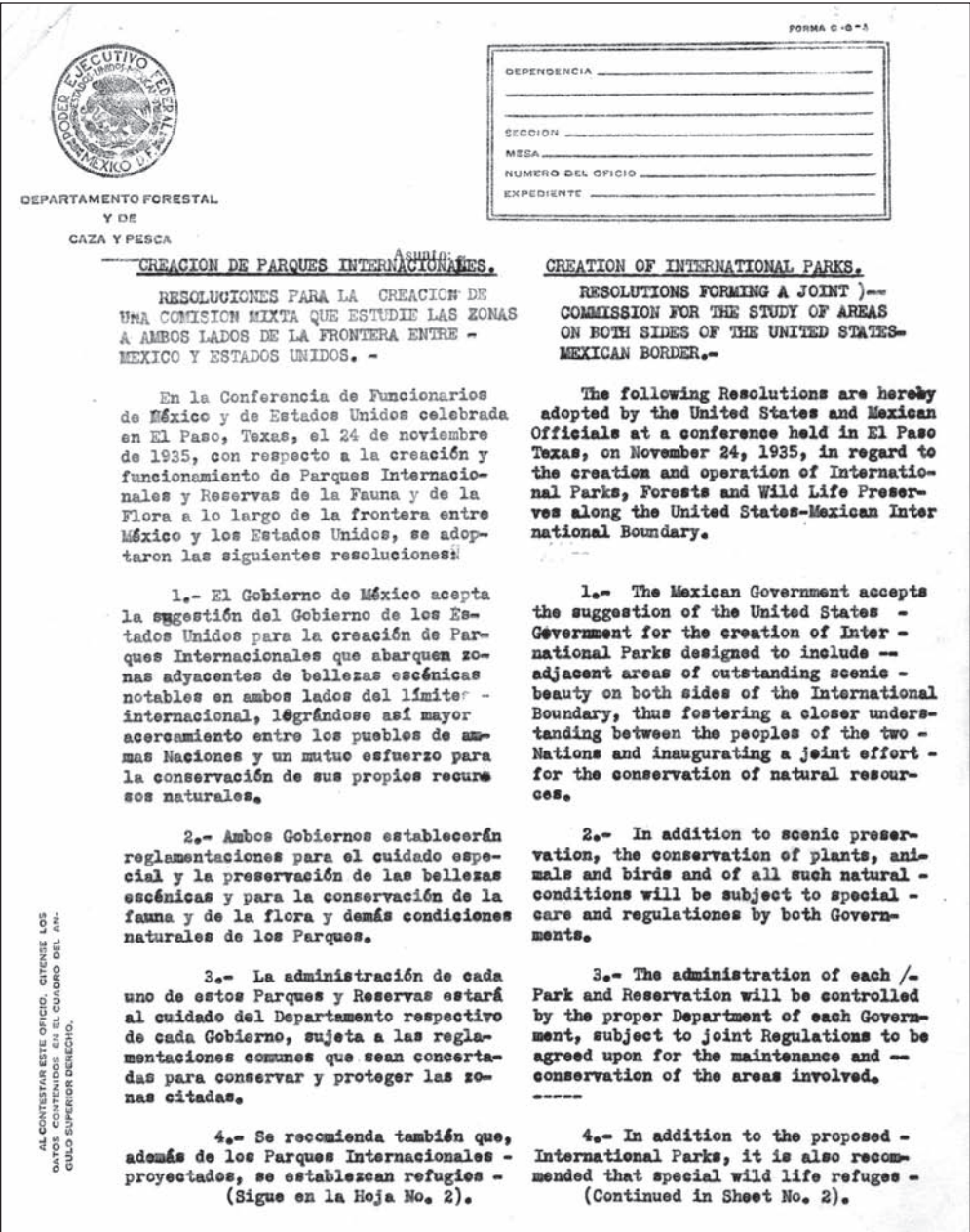
In reference to the U.S.-Canada park, local conservation advocate Rick LoBello stated that while both nations manage their respective parks separately, the guiding principle is that shared ecosystems- divided only by arbitrary political boundaries- should be conserved as a single, unified preserve.

In the U.S.-Mexico’s case, “the combined area would be managed using the successful model of cooperation at Waterton Glacier International Park on the US-Canada border with each protected



– Images courtesy of Rick LoBello and the Greater Big Bend Coalition

IN PRINT – The May 8, 1938 issue of the Dallas Morning News reported on the proposed Big Bend International Park agreement.



IN WRITING – Above is the first page of the 1935 bi-national agreement that was signed in El Paso, TX.

area managed under their respective national legislative frameworks,” LoBello explained. “Both countries would retain their national sovereignty over all lands within the international park area and each land management agency would continue to manage lands as authorized by each government,” he added.

Total size of the proposed Big Bend

International Park would be about 3,023,671 acres (4,724 square miles) of contiguous parks and protected areas. For comparison, Waterton Glacier International Park is 1,130,788 acres (1,766 square miles).

Another consideration that GBBC is

See PARK, Page 4

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

What college students should learn about money

As you prepare for a new year at college, managing your money may be the last thing on your mind. But, college is the perfect time to instill strong and healthy financial habits, such as budgeting and living within your means.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Operation Gratitude’s shelves nearly empty

Operation Gratitude needs your help. It recently had 1,332 volunteers assemble 11,280 care kits for first responders, depleting their stock of items for the boxes. And no wonder... since the first of the year, they have assembled 167,122 care packages for the military and first responders.

OpGrat started at Carolyn Blashek’s dining-room table outside Los Angeles in 2003, assembling packages to be shipped to active military in harm’s way. It’s never faltered, never failed to deliver. Thus far it has sent out 1.67 million care packages.

Now the holidays are coming, always a big push for OpGrat. From now through the end of the year, volunteers will be asked to assemble and ship 20,000 packages per month.

And the shelves are nearly empty.

There are a number of ways you can help. Go online to www.operationgratitude.com/wishlist and view the wish list for the packages. Dental kits, food, games, DVDs, socks, lip balm, gift cards and handmade items... the list is long. If you plan to send items, look on the OpGrat site for the Donation Form.

Scroll down the wish list page and see how you can help via Amazon.com purchases. You won’t even have to box up and ship your donations because Amazon does that for you. Do a search on Amazon for Operation Gratitude’s Wish List, with items prioritized and quantity needed.

Do you work for a company that makes any of the listed products and will donate in bulk? Let OpGrat know at angel@operationgratitude.com

On another topic, do you like golf? The Veteran Golfers Association is having a championship tournament near Biloxi, Mississippi, in mid October. Per the news release, “Wounded veterans and Purple Heart recipients will make up nearly half the field.” For details, go online to www.vgachampionship.org.

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By starting on the right foot with good saving and spending habits, you’ll have a good chance to set yourself up for a life of financial success. Here are some ideas students – with the help of parents, relatives and the school’s financial aid office – can consider while taking the leap into living away from home.

Create a financial plan early on. Create a general financial plan for your college years right away, and a more detailed budget for the upcoming semester. You can start with estimated costs for tuition, fees, room and board from your school’s financial aid office and fill in the actual numbers once you know them.

Even with financial aid, most college students need to be frugal as they balance major expenses and a limited income from work or parental support. While you may need to take out student loans, the better you manage your personal and educational expenses the less you’ll have to borrow now, and repay later.

Adjust your budget as you go. Your focus should be school, but you can also take time to track your money and stick to your budget. A budget can be a tool and a learning opportunity, and particularly during your first few semesters, you’ll likely have to make adjustments as you learn to balance wants and needs. Try to stick with it and remember it’s okay to make changes (and an occasional mistake) as you go.

Parents can discuss how they manage their personal or family budget and offer suggestions for cutting expenses or finding work. College students may face many financial firsts, such as signing a rental agreement, purchasing insurance or applying for a loan, and parents can share their experiences and advice.

Make your budget add up. Learning how to roll with the punches and live within your means are timeless skills.

You’ll have to balance academic obligations with a part- or full-time job to increase your income. But, there are often flexible on-campus jobs you can qualify for if you have a work-study grant as part of your financial aid package.

When it comes to saving, there are all sorts of ways to cut costs on necessities and indulgences. Consider the following three tactics almost any college student can use to spend less money.

Use student discounts. Dozens of stores offer students discounts, validated with an official ID, or an .edu email address, and you may be able to save 10 to 20 percent off your purchase. Ask store employees or check online before to see if a store offers a student discount before checking out.

• **Save on textbooks.** Look for alternatives to buying new textbooks, such as renting textbooks, buying used books, purchasing or renting e-textbooks or using the library’s reference copies.

• **Mobilize your savings.** If saving money is just one more thing you don’t want to think about, you can save your spare cash via your smartphone. Thinking about buying a car next summer or saving money for spring break? There are mobile apps that will calculate how much money you can afford to save at a given moment – whether that’s \$20 or ten cents – and will save it for you. You could also set up an automatic weekly or monthly transfer to your savings account through your bank. Chances are you won’t miss the money, and you won’t spend it if you don’t see it in your checking account.

• **Make a practice of saving for the future.** You’ll want to figure out the best way to use your savings. If you’ve taken out student loans, you could allocate some of the money to early loan payments.

Private and unsubsidized federal student loans accrue interest while you’re in school. Making a payment can help you avoid increasing your debt load and save you money on interest. Plus, unlike with some other types of loans, there’s no penalty for making early student loan payments.

Bottom line. College is an ideal time to instill healthy financial habits. Ask your parents or other relatives for guidance, discuss student loans and budgeting with your college’s financial aid office, learn a new skill online or attend a local personal finance workshop or seminar. While you set off on a series of firsts, take advantage of these resources to learn how to manage, save and wisely spend your money.

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.

Here’s

a Tip

By JoAnn Derson

- October sales items include: appliances, automobiles (current year’s model on sale when new model is unveiled), school supplies, fishing gear, ladies’ outerwear and early fall and winter clothing sales.
- Keep squirrels out of a pole-mounted birdfeeder and out of the birdseed! Just spray a cotton cloth liberally with WD-40 lubricating oil. Then wipe the pole with the cloth. Squirrels are good at climbing, but this is asking a little too much. Reapply every so often to keep it slippery.
- “If your knuckles get chapped and dry during the cold season, try rubbing a little Chapstick into them. It works for me.” – P.E. in Minnesota
- Store spaghetti in an empty Pringles can that has been wiped out. It’s the perfect height, and you can take just what you need. The plastic top makes it easy to see when it’s time to restock the angel hair!

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.



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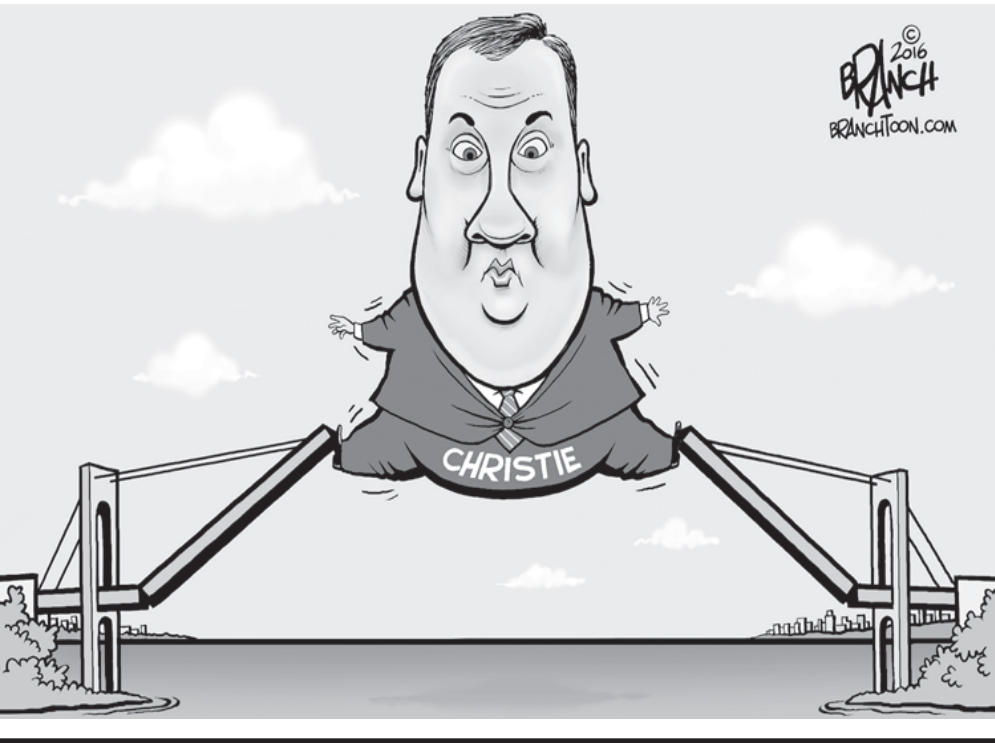
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PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The October 20 and October 27, 2016 issues will go to press on Monday, October 10, 2016.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Thursday, October 6, 2016.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Thursday, October 13, 2016. The office will open again on Monday, October 31, 2016.



View from here By John Grimaldi

The country needs truly representative lawmakers

It's been a dismal recovery, at best, since the so-called end of the Great Recession in 2009. All these years later, the American people continue to feel the impact of what has been arguably the greatest economic downturn the U.S. has experienced since the Great Depression of 1929 to 1939.

"Maybe we can't feel an improvement because there has been no improvement in the financial conditions of U.S. households, despite government claims that the recession is over and that the nation is well on the road to recovery. Look at the facts: the growth in Gross Domestic Product so far this year is depressingly low; median household income is down; the experts tell us that the federal deficit is at an 'historically unprecedented' high; and, while government unemployment statistics indicate that there are jobs out there for those who want them, there is also evidence that underemployment remains a major concern for all of us," according to Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

In 2008, 61% of Americans considered themselves in the middle and upper-middle class, today only 51% feel that way, says Jim Clifton, Chairman and CEO of the Gallup organization. Clifton says "25 million people are invisible in the widely reported 4.9% official U.S. unemployment rate."

The Gallup CEO put it in simple, if not dramatic terms in a recent opinion article he wrote: "Let's say someone has a good middle-class job that pays \$65,000 a year. That job goes away in a changing, disrupted world, and his new full-time job pays \$14 per hour – or about \$28,000 per year. That devastated American remains counted as 'full-time employed' because he still has full-time work – although with drastically reduced pay and benefits. He has fallen out of the middle class and is invisible in current reporting."

Clifton's rationale is valid, says Weber. The AMAC chief reasons that that the administration is using smoke and mirrors to bolster its claims that new jobs have been created by the millions during its tenure. "But statistics don't lie. The real unemployment level in the U.S. is considerably higher than what the government is reporting. Gallup for example figures real unemployment is at an unacceptable 9.7%. It is time that the country wakes up to the fact that new, conservative, forward-thinking leadership is needed if we are to fix the fiscal fiasco that has been foisted on us."

Weber says that the "potential vagaries" of the new administration whether it is led by Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump needs the balance of a Congress dedicated not to ideology, but to practical solutions.

"That's why the focus in November should be on the candidates for the Senate and the House. We need to keep truly representative lawmakers who care more about running the country in an efficient, productive manner and oust the ideologues who desire only to impose budget-busting socialist and progressive notions of what America should look like. If we don't keep these considerations in mind as we cast our ballots this year, we stand to lose not just our heritage and the legacies of our Founding Fathers, but the future of America as a force for good in the world. It's time to get out the vote."

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.

Briefs

From Page 1

notion of political correctness, the University of Chicago has drawn a line in the sand, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. The school put the student body on notice that it will not condone such things as so-called "safe spaces" on campus, places where there is no such thing as a first amendment right of free speech lest someone is offended because of what someone else has to say. Meanwhile, Princeton University has moved to eliminate gender specific references inside its ivy covered walls. Thus, there are no more "hims" or hers" on that campus leaving at least one observer to note that the

school, itself, should "man-up" and take the "prince" out of its name.

– John Grimaldi

It's all in the family

Most of us are not keen on relying on our children for financial help, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. Fidelity Investments, in fact, says that 93% of us are disinclined to ask our kids for help with our finances. On the other hand, Fidelity's research shows that the majority of our children, 70% of them, feel they should help out their aging parents, if needed. The conclusion: families need to openly discuss such issues as long-term care, living expenses in retirement, will and estate planning and where important documents are located.

– John Grimaldi

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Park

From Page 1

advocating has to do with the current Boquillas International Crossing between the Big Bend National Park and Boquillas, Coahuila. Advocates are recommending that it remain the sole crossing within the

international park. However, the coalition did suggest the possibility of building a new bridge north of Big Bend National Park, where the former La Linda Bridge once operated. GBBC indicated that the next step for bringing this almost

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Proposed International Park includes:

- 1.Big Bend National Park TX; 801,163 acres
 - 2.Maderas del Carmen Protected Area, Coahuila; 520,000 acres
 - 3.Ocampo Natural Protected Area, Coahuila Area; 826,000 acres
 - 4.Cañón de Santa Elena Protected Area, Chihuahua; 511,508 acres
 - 5.Big Bend Ranch State Park TX; 311,000 acres
 - 6.Black Gap Wildlife Management Area, TX; 54,000 acres
 - 7.Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River (196 mile portion of Rio Grande)
 - 8.Monumento Río Bravo del Norte in México (300 mile portion of Rio Grande)
- Data provided by Greater Big Bend Coalition

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was the great Russian author Leo Tolstoy who made the following sage observation: “A man is like a fraction whose numerator is what he is and whose denominator is what he thinks of himself. The larger the denominator, the smaller the fraction.”

• The earliest known brothel was located in Sumer (now southeastern Iraq), all the way back in 3300 B.C.E.

• The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, which took place in Tombstone, Arizona, at about 3 p.m. on Oct. 26, 1881, is probably the most famous shootout in the history of the Old West. You might be surprised to learn, though, that the gunfight didn't actually happen at the O.K. Corral, or even next to it – the gunfight took place in an empty lot six doors down.

• A futurist in the 1950s made the following prediction: “There will come a time when every country in the world will have a computer.”

• Etymology – the study of words' history, their origins and how their form and meaning have changed over time – is fascinating. For example, take the term “shilly-shally,” meaning to vacillate. In the 18th century, “shill” was another form of “shall,” and people trying to make a difficult decision might ask themselves “Shill I? Shall I?” Over time it was shortened to the form we use today.

• If your scissors are getting dull, don't waste time and effort with sharpening stones; all you have to do is cut up sheets of sandpaper to hone the cutting edges.

• Those who study such things say that if you added up the body masses of all the people on the planet right now, it would amount to roughly 750 billion pounds.

Thought for the Day: “In any free society, the conflict between social conformity and individual liberty is permanent, unresolvable and necessary.”
– Kathleen Norris

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Clint Independent School District

Strikes for Scholars

An event to benefit the Superintendent's Scholarship Fund



Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016
Oasis Lanes, 1660 N. Zaragoza (79936)
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Enjoy 3 hours of unlimited bowling
\$100 Team entry
Five bowlers per team
Shoes included

Registration
Team registration form & fees due by 4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 21, 2016 to
the Clint ISD Public Relations Department
14521 Horizon Blvd., 79928
Registration form can be downloaded at
www.clintweb.net

Awards, Door Prizes & More
Top team: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
Team spirit award: Best team theme uniforms
Drawings and lots of door prizes!

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Powell, Public Relations Clerk at 915-926-4058 or by email at nancy.powell@clint.net.



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CryptoQuip Answer

When leatherworkers sing, I think they're probably super at belting out tunes.

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Ornelas, Ortiz are San Elizario HS king and queen

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Silvanna Ortiz, also known as “CiCi” by many of her peers, and Brandy Ornelas are two high school students with disabilities who had the honor of serving as this year’s Homecoming King and Queen for San Elizario High School. More than 40 percent of the high school student population voted for them. The majority of the votes were from the San Elizario High School Cheerleaders and from those students who are considered the most popular around campus. The last time SEHS had a Special Ed student serve in the Homecoming court was 15 years ago—the campus has now made history by nominating two Special Ed students to be Homecoming King and Queen. For Brandy and Silvanna, becoming Homecoming King and Queen did not simply happen with a simple nomination or by having posters up on the walls all around the campus. This was all made possible thanks to the great community of San Elizario who is united and always includes every student in all kinds of activities, never discriminating

or setting limits based on physical or mental disabilities. This community knows and understands that they are capable of reaching beyond the status quo. Brandy and Silvanna do not, have not, and will never feel different because this amazing community and district does not see them differently and they know that they are like their other classmates with the same privileges and rights. “I am not surprised at the way these events unfolded because I had witnessed and experienced a similar situation back when I was working at Sambrano Elementary, another great school within the San Elizario Independent School District,” said Lizette Lopez-Vacio, SEHS Special Education Teacher. “Ever since I started working for this school district, I noticed that Special Ed students are never discriminated and they get to participate in every event and activity alongside every other student. I am a firm believer that students from SEISD will not only graduate with the best education within the academic system or the pride of being part of a great athletic program, but they will also graduate ready to interact with anybody without classifying anyone due to



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

HOLDING COURT – Brandy Ornelas, left, and Silvanna “CiCi” Ortiz being honored as San Elizario High School’s Homecoming King and Queen.

disabilities or social differences,” she added. Not only did SEHS show how compassionate and mature these two young students are, but they showcased how San Elizario as a community can come together to do something great. “My students had a great time and an incredible experience that they will cherish forever,” said Lopez-Vacio.

NEW HOUSES
Self-Help Built Starting At:
\$69,000
590-4511
Lower Valley Housing Corporation


EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

San Elizario Independent School District
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF VACANCY ON
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given that Trustee Place No. 4, an unexpired term, is vacant. All registered voters who are residents of the School District and who are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees should pick up a packet of information in the Superintendent’s Office at 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, Texas 79849-0920.

The packet must be submitted to the Superintendent’s office by: Friday, October 14, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. The School District reserves the right to waive any formalities or extend the deadline for this information.

The Board of Trustees will consider all applicants and reserves the right to conduct interviews of some or all of the applicants before making a decision. The person appointed by the Board to the vacant position shall serve to fill the unexpired term until the election held in May 2017.

For additional information please contact the Superintendent’s office at (915) 872-3900 Ext. 3515.

WTCC: 09-29-16

EPCC
THEATER ENSEMBLE
2016-2017 MAIN STAGE SEASON
presents



Suggested by a play called "Les Romanesques" by Edmund Rostand

Book & Lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt
Directed & Designed by Keith W. Townsend

Starring Lucas Pacheco • Salvador Ali Mendoza • Jaeme Orfanos

With Salvador Cervantes III • Luciano Madrigal • Vincent Bustillos • Diego Parada • Krystal Gamez • Cesar Hernandez

Music Director Cody Ritchey Choreographer Pam Turley Technical Director Dominic Pagano Scenic Artist David Paz Assistant Director Sabas Del Toro Stage Manager Diego Oropeza Production Assistant Christina Marquez

September 29, 30, October 1, 6, 7, 8 @ 8:00 pm
October 2, 9 @ 2:30 pm

Tickets:
\$7 EPCC Students/Staff/Seniors
\$10 Non-EPCC Students/Military
\$15 General Admission

Tickets on sale now!
Reservations 831.5056

Benefits EPCC Student Scholarships


The Best Place to Start!

EPCC Forum Theater
9570 Gateway Blvd. North

Box Office Hours: 6:00 pm evening of shows and 12:30 pm Sunday matinees

Parental Advisory: The theater ensemble productions deal with sensitive issues that may not be appropriate for children under the age of 13. Parental guidance is suggested. Children under the age of 7 will not be admitted.

<http://forumtheater.wix.com/epcc>

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And the award for ‘Most Despised Team’ goes to...

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Though most Americans go to games to have a great time and get away from the rat race for a couple hours, there is one universal truth in sports fandom – they spend as much time booing and they do cheering.

It’s like fans have to be just as good playing defense as they do helping their team score points.

They yell and scream and taunt and belittle and curse and complain and insult the visiting team as if they were at Thanksgiving dinner with their family.

And in the world of American sports there are teams out there that are easy to hate. The few that come to mind are Duke basketball, the New York Yankees, the Dallas Cowboys, Notre Dame football, and I guess this NBA season we can throw the Golden State Warriors into the mix.

But pound-for-pound, the most hated franchise in the United States has to be the New England Patriots.

Whether its all the cheating scandals or

pretty boy Tom Brady or the seemingly endless display of favorable referee calls, the Patriots have become enemy #1 to most football fans – and fans in general for that matter.

There are many reasons to despise this team from the Boston area, but the main one is that they just don’t stop winning.

Whether they lose their all-star quarterback, or their all-star tight end, or their all-star anything, they just keep rolling right along.

All the talk during the preseason was about how badly the Patriots would be crippled without Tom Brady.

By the time he returned from his four-game suspension would they be 1-3, or maybe 0-4? At the very best New England could only have a 2-2 record, right?

After spanking the Houston Texans 27-0 last Thursday, the Patriots improved to 3-0 with their second- and third-string quarterbacks.

All the while, looking no different than they have the last 15 years.

I know it’s still early in the season but analysts like to speculate on who the MVP of the league is at this date.

To me, that’s a no-brainer.

The MVP of the NFL so far this season is Bill Belichick.

I honestly have no clue how he does it. While other teams recoil into the fetal position after a key injury or a bit of bad news, Belichick and his Patriots immediately see past it and proceed with a “business as usual” attitude.

The system the coach has put in place is as much mental as it is physical.

And though almost everybody hates them – I don’t know a single soul who doesn’t at least respect what they do.

The fact that any quarterback they plug in for Brady does just as good a job as he does, makes you wonder whether Brady is really that good or is he a product of Belichick’s system?

Anyway, I don’t think anyone in the organization stays up at night thinking about it.

While Belichick is quickly moving up the ladder of greatest coaches of all time, he is also one of the most hated coaches of all time.

There’s no doubt that he has the personality of a empty ashtray and

rumors swirl that he actually did smile once – during the horse head scene in *The Godfather*.

It hasn’t hurt the Patriots that they play in the notoriously bad AFC East with the likes of the New York Jets, Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins.

But this year, without Brady, they’ve already beaten the Arizona Cardinals and the Texans, two potential playoff teams.

Because of the brash attitude, the scandals, the cheating and especially the winning, the Patriots will continue to be at the top of the “most hated” list.

But wouldn’t any of us want our teams to be that disliked if they were winning all the time?

Things aren’t going to change anytime soon. Belichick will continue to scowl at reporters with that “I am so much smarter than you” expression on his face, Brady will come back and play quarterback like he never inflated those footballs, and the Patriots will keep on winning.

They are the best franchise in professional sports – don’t you just hate them.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Talk, talk, talk

Just once, I would like to hear someone call in to a sports-radio talk show and announce that he’s a “first time listener, last time caller” and then proceed to unleash a torrent of criticism regarding whatever topic comes to mind.

I suppose that it’s meant as some sort of flattery toward the host of the show, but I’m thinking it means something else, a deep-seated need for attention from the guy behind the microphone. What else could it possibly be? And, you know, the caller gets the attention he craves because what’s the host gonna say? He’s

gonna say “thank you” because the listeners are the ones who make his job possible.

As a kid, I grew up listening to “Art Rust Jr. Sports Talk” on 770 WABC in New York. The guy was a living encyclopedia of sports (and jazz) knowledge. His show began in 1981, when he was supposed to do a pre-game introduction of the Yankees game. Then, when the players went on strike, WABC made perhaps one of the best decisions in modern radio history by keeping him on the air for three hours straight, “talking about sports” with his lone producer,

Steve Malzberg (himself now a successful broadcaster). And he was the only sports talk radio show in the entire tri-state area. That’s inconceivable in today’s world.

Without “Arthur George,” as he called himself, I probably wouldn’t be a sports writer or journalist. He would weave stories about Sonny Liston, Ali and Rocky Marciano seamlessly into yarns about Joe DiMaggio and George Selkirk. He made me understand the intricacies of baseball far better than any coach I ever had.

We always knew who listened, too. When we played football in the backyard, a good quarterback was really able to “fling that leather.” A great wiffleball pitcher could “hum that rock,” and a home-run hitter could

always be counted on to “poke that pea right out of the patch.” All terms employed by Art Rust Jr.

Every once in awhile we would muster the guts to call him up, but it was a long-distance call and the wait times could be long, so we stopped. Soon, along came a 24-hour sports radio station with a 1-800 number, so we gradually drifted over to that station. Oh, and we made calls, too. We often would call Howie Rose, now the Mets and Islanders announcer, and each time we would give him a running count of how we were “long-time listeners (the show had been on less than a month), 27th time caller.” Oh, how zany we were.

Nowadays, I love Michael Kay’s interview show, and without a doubt, the funniest

sports talk show I have ever heard has been in Dallas, where the morning crew at The Ticket keep me in stitches. YouTube “Donald Trump vs. Mark Cuban” or “Michael Irvin’s School Closing” and you’ll see what I mean. Classic stuff.

Art Rust Jr. slipped this vale of tears in 2010, joining his beloved Edna in the great ball orchard in the sky. His sign off is something I will never forget, and it works aptly here: “Yesterday’s a canceled check, tomorrow is a promissory note and today is all the time we have, so spend it wisely.”

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

Park

From Page 4

eighty-year proposal to fruition would be for both countries to

draft legislation calling for the creation of the international park or for the presidents of the U. S. and Mexico to jointly declare the area as an international park with the

support of the land management agencies involved.

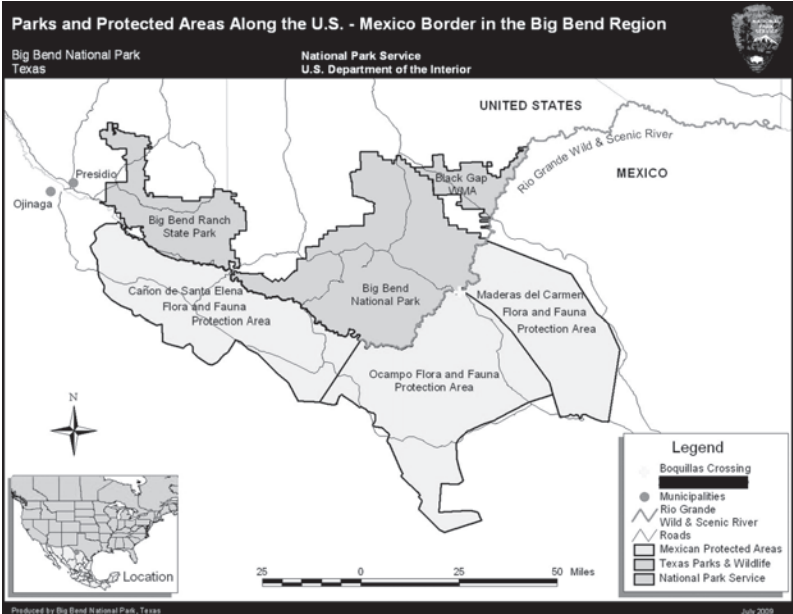
“Legislation may not be required since the lands that could be included already have protected status. The international

designation could be a symbolic gesture made by presidential orders in the U.S. and Mexico,” LoBello stated.

about GBBC’s efforts contact LoBello, at 915-474-1456. To view the petition, visit the group’s new website, at greaterbigbend.org.



PARTNERS – The flags of Mexico and the US are blended in with the Chisos Mountains and the Rio Grande in this image.



MAPPED OUT – National Park Service Map shows the Big Bend Border Area and the proposed Big Bend International Park with Mexico. Each of the eight protected areas (see page 4) proposed to be included as part of the international park has distinctive climate, physiographic setting, mountain-desert interface, and significant scenic values with abundant, diverse flora and fauna.

Comix

Your good healthBy Keith Roach, M.D.

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been trying to lose weight, with no results. I have cut back on carbs and sugar. In general, I watch what I eat. I also go to the YMCA and work out – in the water mostly, because my legs hurt so much. I weigh 286 pounds. I would love to lose 100 pounds, but I am not having any luck. When I go to my primary-care doctor, he tells me that I need to lose weight. When I tell him what I have been doing to try to lose weight, he doesn't believe me. I think I need more help with my weight problem. I don't know if I should find a new doctor, or what! – J.S.

ANSWER: I have heard variations of this story so many times from my own patients that I am sure you are trying. However, losing weight is a very difficult thing to do. Once your body has reached a certain weight, it is incredibly hard to get things turned around. Fortunately, it is possible for everyone to lose weight. But you certainly do need some help. So does your primary-care doctor. As an alternative to getting a new one, I think it might be worthwhile to see an expert in weight loss, since this is a field requiring knowledge of new medications, as well as potentially using medications approved for other conditions in an “off label” way to help you lose weight.

One of the first things to look at is all the medicine you already take. Most primary-care doctors don't know (and I mightn't have, if I didn't work at an institution where research and teaching about this goes on) how many medications for blood pressure, depression, epilepsy and diabetes (among others) can cause weight gain as a side effect. Sometimes switching medications can help a great deal. Most primary-

care doctors are uncomfortable prescribing medications for weight loss, especially after the disaster caused by the combination of dexfenfluramine and phentermine (fen-phen). There are newer and safer medications now.

Metabolic conditions such as Cushing's disease and hypothyroidism need to be looked for.

Careful evaluation of the diet – using food diaries and often enlisting the expertise of a registered dietician nutritionist – is of paramount importance. Since there is so much misinformation, I almost always find people eating unhealthy foods and avoiding healthy ones, to their detriment.

You should be congratulated on finding an exercise that you can do, and be encouraged to do so every day.

Finally, since you are 100 pounds or so overweight, your doctor also should consider the risks and benefits of bariatric surgery, the most effective way (and only reliable one for most people) of losing that much weight.

DR. ROACH WRITES: After I wrote about essential tremor, several people who suffer from this condition, as well as several clinicians, wrote to tell me about a product called Liftware that helps many (but not all) people with hand tremor eat with less difficulty. It's a handle that you can attach a fork or spoon to, and it reduces the amount of shaking. It's available at liftlabsdesign.com.

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.

Super Crossword

CREATING A MAIL SLOT ACROSS

- Mails a dupe to
- Peak in the Cascades
- 1975 shark thriller
- Lost intensity
- "You _ here"
- _-Davidson
- Saab of fashion
- Stare angrily
- What planes are in when they're taking off and landing?
- "Heck!"
- MetLife rival
- Nepal locale
- _ Perignon
- Climb a rope right after waking up?
- "Which of you is good at copying signatures?"
- Poker pro Ungar
- Beholds
- Houston hockey team until 2013
- Ancient Aegean land
- So-so
- Furlong divs.
- Spectral hue
- Big tree branch used to decorate a shop?
- Big computer of the 1940s
- Frustrates
- Delhi coin
- Tame some mean

- dogs?
- "_ girl!"
- Uno + uno
- Anniversary unit
- AQI monitor
- Four of _
- Skill, to Cato
- Law degs. held by the Obamas
- Comment when a surface only allows for a glossy finish?
- _ Friday's restaurant
- Dot in la Seine
- Off-limits acts
- Wad of gum, e.g.
- Carrie's "Star Wars" role
- 80s Prefix with soul
- Beer head
- Fashionably stylish grain husk?
- Big boo-boo
- Tactics
- Writer Nin
- Spiced tea brewed in a business workplace?
- Multi-vehicle crash
- Church bench
- Fed. crash-probing agcy.
- Tear-eliciting vegetable
- "Nowhere Road" singer Steve
- 105 Nailed
- 108 Happy _ lark
- Ensnared by a tree branch?

- Bit of gear used by a videography student?
- Simple tune
- Ames' state
- John Belushi catchphrase
- Flubs it up
- Apt phrase spelled by the deleted ends of this puzzle's theme answers
- "It's _ of the times"
- Seven days
- Parthenon goddess
- Trump
- Antsy
- Uses needle and thread
- Gym class, briefly
- Some hosp. cases

DOWN

- Bread seed
- With 47-Down, snow cone's base
- Promgoers
- "_ La La" (1964 hit)
- Writer of 104 symphonies
- The long _ the law
- Replay view, briefly
- Actor Lange
- Mate's "yes"
- Sci-fi knight
- "Sadly..."
- Telegrams
- Hill bigwig

- "Holy moly!"
- Sneeze response
- Take a soak
- Bert's pal
- University bigwigs
- 1993 Texas standoff site
- Toon pal of Stimpy
- Zap, in a way
- Black _ (very dark)
- Oil field sight
- Boo-boos
- Nile goddess
- P.R.'s ocean
- Wear down
- Small peeve
- Lah-di-_
- See 2-Down
- Honshu port
- Software reviser, e.g.
- Peach State
- Wiesbaden native, e.g.
- Vase handle
- Like some citrus tastes
- "Goodness me!"
- Kind of lettuce
- De-intensify
- "Eh" marks
- Little birdie
- Big bang producer
- Prefix with valent
- Contaminate
- Furthermore
- Cell stuff
- Energy
- Boozer
- Many oz.
- Slay

- Rodeo miss
- MS-to-MI dir.
- Lac liquid
- Grow mature
- Investigation discoveries
- Philosopher _-tzu
- Morales of film
- Scott Pelley's milieu
- Shiba _ (dog breed)
- Preceding
- Bow-making material
- Software running in browsers
- Tenet
- Keep _ on (don't reveal)
- Turn to try for a homer
- Small oil container
- Have home cooking
- Side (with)
- Actress Rigby
- Eagles' kin
- Actress Rich
- Zilch
- Work group
- Pleads, e.g.
- Track unit
- Verb suffix in the Bible
- "Gnarly!"

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19				20							21					22				
23			24								25					26				
27					28					29				30						
31				32				33	34				35				36			
37								38			39	40		41		42				
43				44	45	46	47				48		49				50	51	52	
			53						54	55					56					
57	58	59						60					61	62	63			64		
65								66				67						68		
69					70	71	72	73				74						75		
76					77					78						79				
80					81					82				83	84	85	86			
87				88				89	90					91						
92					93	94					95	96						97	98	99
			100					101		102						103	104			
105	106	107			108		109			110			111	112	113					
114				115				116	117				118					119		
120						121					122	123				124				
125						126					127							128		
129						130					131							132		

Moore Texasby Roger Moore

In the 1850’s the state legislature hosted a “laughing contest” at the capitol complete with prizes...good for a chuckle I thought.



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!

		×		+		26
+			×		-	
	×			+		17
×			-		×	
	×			-		29
20		27			21	

2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Focus on retirement planning – it’s your future

When most people begin their career, retirement is the farthest thing from their mind. Instead, they focus on trying to purchase a home, start a family, or perhaps save money for travel. Retirement seems so far away for many younger people that they delay putting aside money. However, it’s very important to save for the future – if you want to enjoy it.

An employer-sponsored retirement plan or 401(k) can be a useful way to set aside funds for retirement, especially if your employer offers matching funds on what you invest. If you don’t work for an employer that offers this type of plan, there are many other plans designed to help you save for retirement.

From solo 401(k)s to traditional and Roth IRAs, there are programs designed to fit a multitude of budgets. The earlier you start to save, the more funds you’ll have ready for retirement.

In addition to traditional programs, the U.S. Department of the Treasury now offers a retirement savings option called *myRA*. There’s no minimum to open the account, you can contribute what you can afford, and you can withdraw funds with ease. To learn more about *myRA*, visit www.myra.gov.

And, as always, there is Social Security, which is funded by taxes you pay while you work. To get estimates of future benefits and check your earnings record for accuracy, you can create a *my Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Prepare for your future and start saving – and planning – today!

For more information on the topic 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: **M** equals **R**

QAXH ZXOUAXMQLMDXMR RNHY, N

UANHD UAXW’MX JMLFOFZW REJXM

OU FXZUNHY LEU UEHXR.

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNOT By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

♥ ELI
BEGOIL

♥ ESPLO
IGNA

♥ NOPTIS

♥ ABN
NOGL
BOUGM

♥ GSA
GEEBAL

♥ ANPIL
EBSA

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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Moments in Time
The History Channel

- On Oct. 10, 1985, the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro reaches an end when U.S. Navy F-14 fighters intercept an Egyptian airliner attempting to fly the Palestinian hijackers to freedom. Four Palestinian terrorists had hijacked the ship three days earlier, killing an elderly Jewish American passenger and taking hundreds more hostage.
- On Oct. 11, 2002, former President Jimmy Carter wins the Nobel Peace Prize “for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts.” Carter, a peanut farmer from Georgia, served one term as U.S. president between 1977 and 1981.
- On Oct. 12, 1945, PFC Desmond T. Doss of Lynchburg, Virginia, is presented the Congressional Medal of Honor for outstanding bravery as a medical corpsman. Doss was the first conscientious objector to receive America’s highest military award.
- On Oct. 13, 1999, the Colorado grand jury investigating the murder of child beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey is dismissed, and the Boulder County district attorney announces no indictments will be made due to insufficient evidence. The murder remains unsolved.
- On Oct. 14, 1857, engineer and inventor Elwood Haynes is born. Haynes designed one of the first American automobiles, the Haynes “Pioneer.” The buggy was an 820-pound, push-start vehicle with chain drive, a steering tiller and 28-inch bicycle wheels.
- On Oct. 15, 1930, legendary composer and bandleader Duke Ellington records his first big hit, “Mood Indigo.” Ellington claimed he wrote the song in 15 minutes, but its actual genesis was a melody by clarinetists Barney Bigard and Lorenzo Tio, Jr. called “Dreamy Blues.”
- On Oct. 16, 1964, The People’s Republic of China conducts a successful nuclear test, becoming the fifth nation with atomic bomb capability. China joined the U.S., the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France in the exclusive nuclear club.

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