



NEWSBRIEFS

Time off

Justice of the Peace Pct. 6, Pl. 1 – located at 190 N. San Elizario Rd. in Clint will be closed for the holidays from December 23, 2016 to January 3rd, 2017. The court will resume normal business hours on January 4, 2017. Any citations due during the days that we are closed, will be accepted through the month of January 2017.

– Ruben Lujan

Moving on up

Degrees and certificates – 2,287 of them – will be granted by El Paso Community College (EPCC) at its Fall 2016 commencement exercises. The ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 2016 at the Don Haskins Center. EPCC is annually recognized as the top grantor of associate degrees to Hispanic students in the nation. The Commencement Keynote will be delivered by Mr. Woody Hunt. Hunt is Executive Chairman of Hunt Companies, Inc. He also serves as Chairman of the Hunt Family Foundation, a private family foundation he and his wife Gayle. An EPCC Scholarship will be created in his honor.

– Jim Heiney

Very fast

Coming to a town near you, an 800-mile-per hour hyper train-a pod, actually, that can transport commuters and cargo, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. The concept of a supersonic train will be a reality in the not too distant future if billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has his way. Musk is the guy who wants to colonize Mars using his own SpaceX rocket ships and who is also behind the sleek Tesla electric motor car. And, he just inked a deal to build what he calls Hyperloop One, the world's first Mach-buster ground transport system in Dubai. He's also received more than \$50 million in initial financing to fund his project. There are many skeptics who doubt that Musk's concept will work, but there were those who were cynical when he stated up his successful electric car and private sector spaceship businesses.

– Jim Grimaldi

There's more hope for a confessed sinner than a conceited saint.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo courtesy of Friends of Rio Bosque

ONCE A DELTA – Rio Bosque Wetland Park where visitors can experience first-hand the biologically-rich ecosystems that were once prevalent in this river valley. Park supporters assert that the park's preservation is important because it provides future generations the opportunity to learn about these ecosystems and become inspired to be careful stewards of the natural world around them.

Annual event spotlights Rio Bosque Wetlands

The Wetlands Park conserves the river's former channel and preserves the landscape surrounding it

By **Alfredo Vasquez**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – From the onset, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park supporters' collective vision for its future has always been to revive the unique, natural wetlands landscape that once thrived in this desert region's river valley.

Thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers throughout the years, the lower valley wetlands park has undergone marked improvements. To present an update on the parks' progress, John Sproul, program coordinator/manager of the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, will be the featured speaker for the upcoming annual joint meeting of the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition (FMWC) and the Friends of the Rio Bosque (FRB) organizations.

The annual event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, at the El Paso Club (18th floor), in downtown El Paso's Chase Tower, 201 E. Main Street. The public is invited to attend the meeting which will include dinner and a cash bar.

Sproul, who works under the auspices

of the Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM), has participated in the wetlands revitalization project since its inception in the 1990s.

CERM is a University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) program that manages the 372-acre park for the City of El Paso.

At the upcoming meeting, Sproul will talk about the park's current condition and plans to the two groups that emphasize the connection between land conservation and water availability. "From the Mountains to the River" is an on-going theme among both groups' members.

FRB is a volunteer-support group for Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. FRB members work at the park which is located in an area known as Mission Valley. The group's goal is to make Rio Bosque Wetlands Park a world-class nature park through active involvement in its habitat-restoration, education, research, public outreach, advocacy, and fund-raising programs.

FMWC's activism was responsible for the establishment in 1979 of the 40-square-mile Franklin Mountains State Park; and in 2007 the FMWC initiated the annual Poppies Fest which is held on

the grounds of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology in the spring.

Currently FMWC's focus has been on convincing the federal government to designate the 7,081-acre Castner Range as a national monument site. The range, which was used by the Army for artillery exercises from 1926-1966, has been closed to the public since then; it is located at the Franklin Mountains State Park's eastern boundary.

FMWC's current board members are Scott Cutler, president; Judy Ackerman, Secretary; Pat White, Treasurer; Raul Amaya and Christi DeBates, at-large members.

FRB's board members are Richard Teschner, president; Bill Hoover, vice-president; José Arreola, secretary; René Espinoza, treasurer; Jane Fowler, Judy Ackerman and Bob Vines are directors.

To attend the annual joint meeting, advance reservations are required. To sign-up for the event, send a \$25 check (per person) by Friday, January 13 to-- FMWC, c/o Pat White, Treasurer; 10525 Texwood; El Paso, TX 79925.

For more information about the January meeting, contact Cutler at (915) 494-2193.



– Photos courtesy of John Sproul

WITH AND WITHOUT – The two photos of the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park show the wetlands in 2014 without water (left) and in 2016 with water. The improvement began after the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is nearby, increased its effulgent water discharge through the main drain that flows into the park.

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

Make a difference: Become a financial educator

Teaching personal finance is rewarding because the lessons topics can be immensely are often immediately applicable

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

VA podcasts get a thumbs up

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a weekly podcast titled “This Week at VA” that includes benefit information and interviews with veterans. So far it’s pretty good.

One episode features a blind Navy vet who’s a Paralympic Gold Medalist. Bradley Snyder is currently the world record holder for the 100-meter freestyle swim event. His description of how he’s adapted to his blind life (he lost his vision in an IED explosion) is inspirational. He’s also written a book, “Fire in My Eyes.” While a podcast is speech and sound only (no video), check out the picture of this veteran’s most excellent dog. What a beauty.

Another podcast is about Haley Carter, a female Marine veteran and graduate of the Naval Academy. She is a former goalkeeper for the Houston women’s soccer team and currently is the assistant coach for the Afghanistan women’s national soccer team. (Try to wrap your mind around that: Afghan women playing

soccer?) Carter also talks about claiming the VA benefits she’s entitled to – education, buying a house, health – and what it was like to transition out of the Marine Corps.

Yet another podcast is an interview with the Massachusetts secretary of veterans’ services, Francisco Urena. He talks about VA benefits, why he joined the military, serving in Syria and Kyrgyzstan, and more.

Granted, you’re not going to hear from veterans who’ve been waiting years for disability benefits or who’ve had their paperwork lost five times, but chances are you’ll get something good out of listening to the stories of these other veterans.

To access the podcasts on your computer, go to www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/ and scroll down the list on the right to This Week at VA Podcast. Click that. You also can sign up on iTunes and get weekly updates when a new one is put up.

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to many students’ lives. Whether you’re comparing financial products, creating a budget or evaluating the cost of a loan, financial literacy provides the foundation to make a well-informed decision. Even so, many people get little to no financial education.

According to a study from the Council for Economic Education, 45 states include personal finance in their K-12 standards, but only 17 states require high school students to take a personal finance class before graduating. After grade school, one might find financial education courses at colleges, universities or employers, but they’re rarely required.

If you have a passion for financial literacy, consider passing on your knowledge and helping your community change for the better. Whether you’re volunteering at a grade school or teaching a course at a local community center, teaching money management skills can help improve others’ future financial prospects and encourages community connection and growth.

Decide what to teach and take advantage of free resources. There are a wide range of lessons that students of different ages and backgrounds will need, from informative presentations for older adults who are targets of scammers to lessons for high school students who need to learn how to handle finances in college.

Prepare for your outreach by identifying the financial topics you want to teach. You can draw from your own strengths and experiences, which can be an effective way to help students relate to the lessons. However,

there are also free educational materials you can use to design your personal finance course.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has comprehensive free curricula for adults and young people in grades K–12, as well as a curriculum tailored to the needs of older people. Visa’s Practical Money Skills also offers curricula, lesson plans and educational games for students from Pre-K to college, including those with special needs. A simple Internet search can also turn up results for any financial lesson imaginable.

Focus on practical and interactive lessons. Incorporating interactive elements into the mix can supplement financial literacy curriculum and help lessons come alive.

You want to give your lessons context and teach students how to apply what they learn to real life situations. For example, explaining the importance of investing for the future and the benefits of compound interest is a great start, but you could continue your lesson by running a stock market simulation that lets students practice investing with play money.

Games and apps can also make lessons memorable and engaging. Younger children might benefit from physical activities like dividing allowance into saving, spending and charity jars. Or, they can play fun online games that teach basic lessons like recognizing and counting the value of coins.

Whatever topic you’re reteaching, plan every lesson with your students in mind. Reinforcing the lessons with relevant activities or even consequences and rewards can be effective.

Explore volunteer opportunities. If you’re unsure of how to get started, consider looking for a volunteer opportunity with an established nonprofit. Volunteering allows you to meet new people, give back to your community, make new connections and share knowledge that can have a lasting impact. Some organizations will train you and ask that you teach their own personal finance curricula. Others may set guidelines and let you work independently within them.

The Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) has a comprehensive guide to learning and teaching personal finance, as well as several helpful resources. Look for volunteering positions in your area with the CNCS government search engine (Serve.gov), which allows you to filter volunteering opportunities by keywords and location.

Bottom line: Whether you’re training as a professional teacher or working as a volunteer, teaching financial literacy is an admirable way to provide essential knowledge to members of your community. Using quality resources and tools – and bringing your own experience, passion and perspective – can help elevate students’ personal finance skills and make a positive impact in your community.

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.

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SEWING, ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABIO AND TORNILLO

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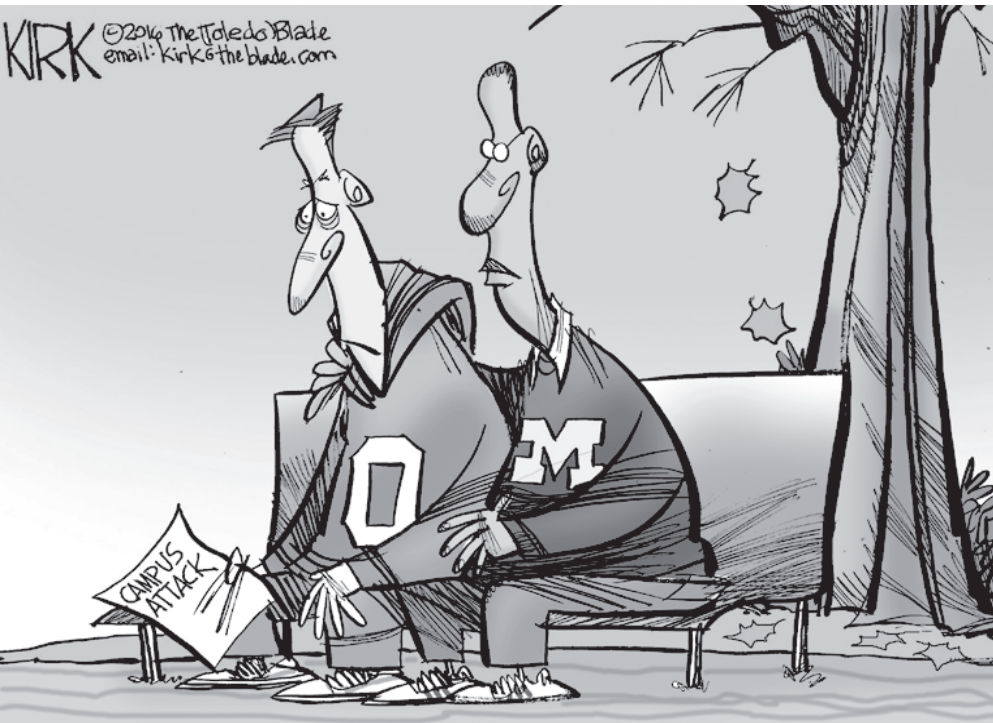
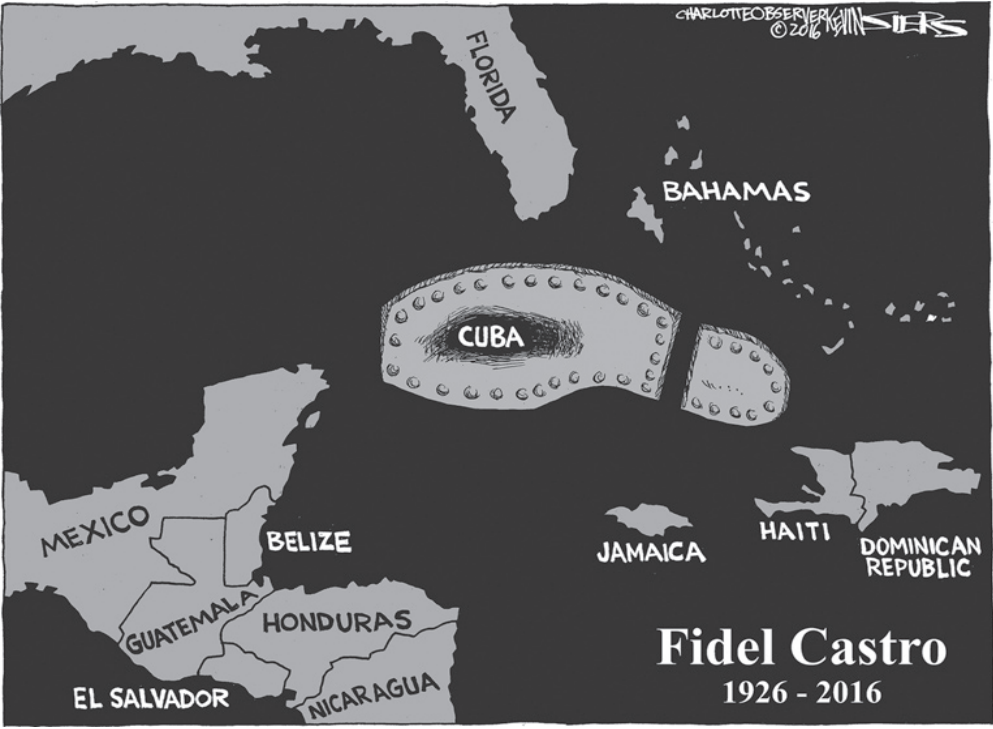
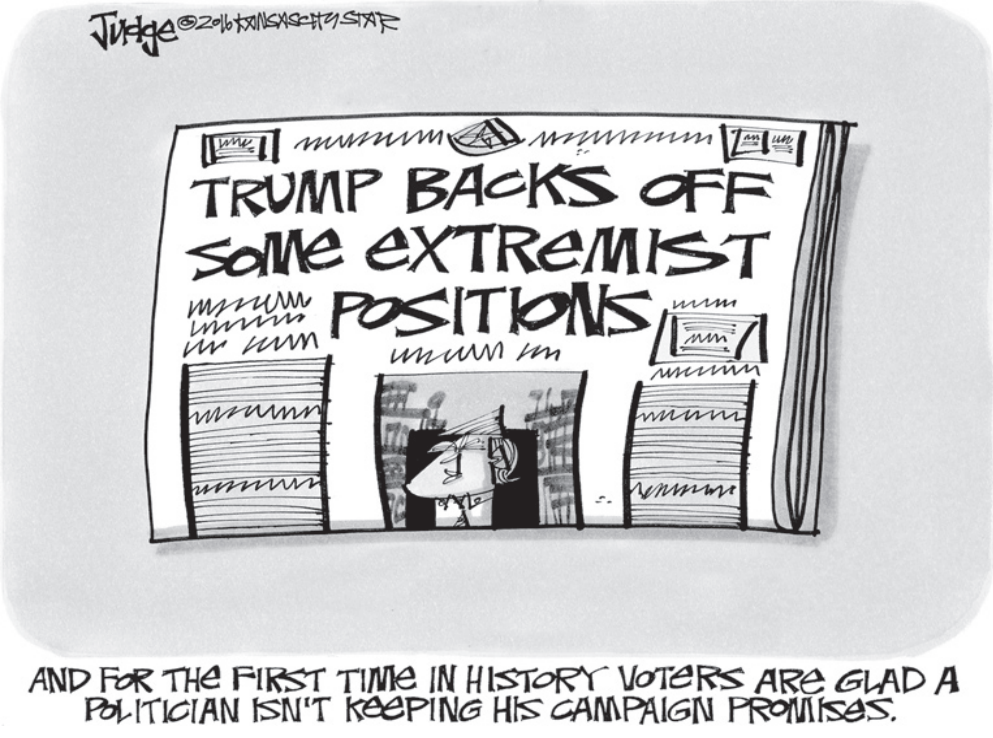
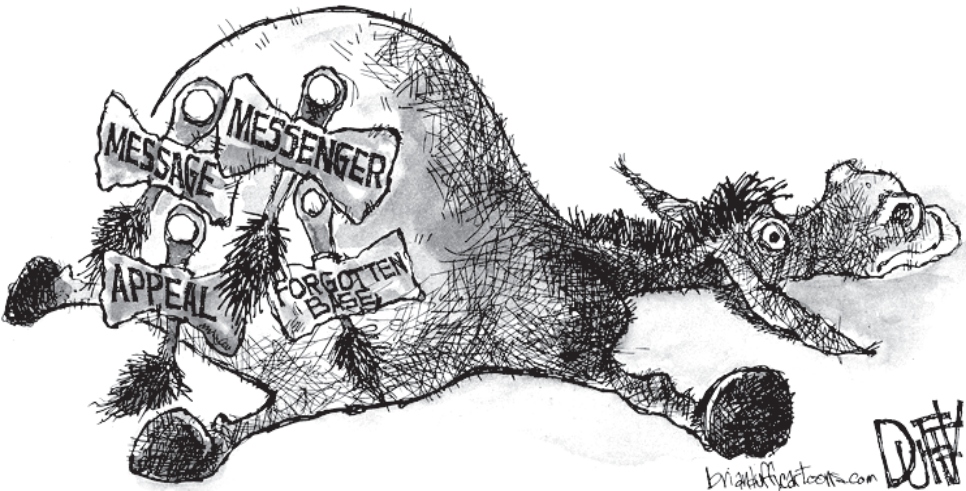
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PIN THE BLAME ON THE DONKEY



View from here By

Recount calls are divisive

Shrill calls for a recount of votes cast in the 2016 Presidential Election are divisive, says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

“The chances of overturning the results of the election are slim to none. Yet boisterous calls for a recount are further dividing the nation at a time when we have a chance to come together. Whatever happened to the concept of a loyal opposition where the party that loses accepts its position and, while offering differing opinions on issues, remains loyal to the elected administration?”

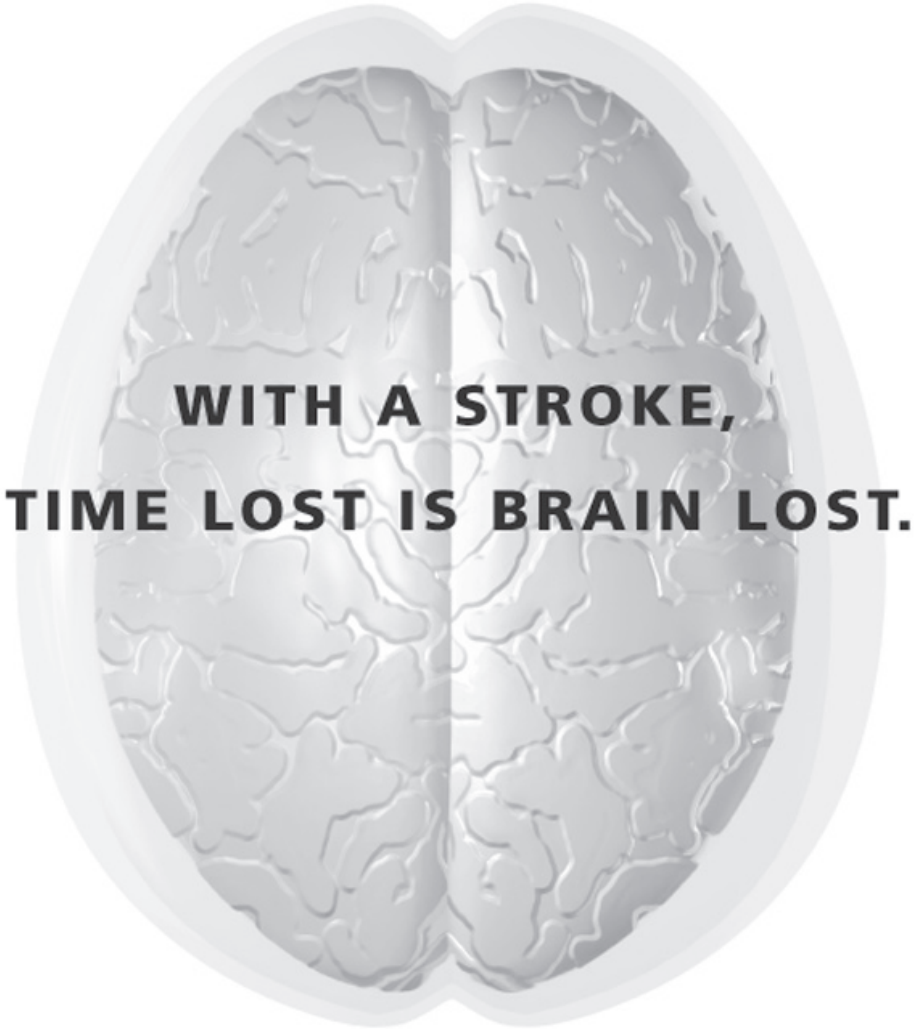
John F. Kennedy beat Richard Nixon in one of the closest election cycles in the history of the nation. Nixon was urged to seek a recount, but refused. “No matter what you may think about Nixon, he was a loyalist,” says Weber.

Kennedy won the popular vote by a very slim margin, but he overwhelmingly won the presidency in the Electoral College. Even President Eisenhower pressed Nixon to challenge the results, but as Nixon put it: “Our country cannot afford the agony of a constitutional crisis and I damn well will not be a party to creating one just to become president or anything else.”

The situation is similar in the aftermath of this year’s election “but this time around the not-so-loyal opposition is apparently unafraid of the possibility of creating a crisis,” according to Weber.

The AMAC chief says “it is important to allow the process of a peaceful transfer of authority in our government, not for the sake of the winner but for the sake of all of the citizens of the United States. It’s that process that sets us apart in the world and that is a source of our global influence. Anything that undermines the transition can only have grim consequences on our own nation’s future.”

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.



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.



Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was beloved American humorist and social commentator Will Rogers who made the following sage observation: “Too many people spend money they haven’t earned, to buy things they don’t want, to impress people they don’t like.”

• Famed Thoroughbred racehorse Man o’ War was as successful off the track as he was on it. After his famed career, he retired to stud, producing more than 64 stakes winners. Man o’ War sired 1937 Triple Crown winner War Admiral, and he was grandsire of Seabiscuit, who was Horse of the Year in 1938. In 1966, 37 percent of all stakes winners were descended from Man o’ War, and he appears at least 17 times in the bloodline of American Pharoah, the 2015 Triple Crown winner.

• Those who study spycraft are aware of the many ingenious ways that have been used to pass secret messages. One of the earliest examples occurred in the late 6th century BCE, when Histiaeus, the tyrant of Miletus (in present-day Turkey), shaved the head of his most trusted slave, tattooed a message on the slave’s scalp, and waited for the hair to grow back before dispatching the slave to his son-in-law, Aristagoras, along with instructions to shave the slave’s head upon his arrival.

• Police in Saudi Arabia have been instructed to arrest young men wearing tight jeans; the garments are considered to be immodest and un-Islamic.

• The Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company, founded in 1858 and based in Newark, New Jersey, has the distinction of producing the first beer in cans, back in January 1935.

Thought for the Day: “A man is known by the company he keeps. A company is known by the men it keeps.”
– Thomas J. Watson

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every section to be a smokefree section.



The American Lung Association is fighting for a day when we can all breathe easier. That’s why we champion smokefree public spaces and workplaces, and everyone’s right to breathe healthier air. Until that day, we are fighting for air. Join the fight at FightingForAir.org.



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CryptoQuip Answer

When you see angry fish scowl darkly at each other, you might exclaim “If lox could kill!”

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San Elizario runners recognized

ON THE FAST TRACK – El Paso County Commissioners Court unanimously recognized the San Elizario Boys Cross Country Team’s third consecutive State title with a proclamation on Monday, Dec. 5, 2016. The team posed for a photo during the presentation. Erick Arambula, Ulises Cardoza, David Ceballos, Adrian Contreras, Antonio Diaz, Miguel Garcia, and Carlos Pargas, along with coaches Cesar Morales and Jorge Maese, were present to receive such recognition. “It was not easy getting to this point,” said Head Coach Cesar Morales. “These boys trained really hard day after day and gave it their all at every race. We also could not have done it without the support from the community and all of SEISD who have been by our side since day one.” Erick Arambula, a San Elizario High School senior, said that he was determined to win again this year because it was his last year as a student and as a runner for SEHS. “My goal before graduating was to win three State titles as a team and I am happy to say that we accomplished that goal,” he said. “I speak for the team when I say how blessed we are for all the recognition and publicity we have received, including this one by the Commissioners Court.”

– Hector Gonzalez



Socorro Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended June 30, 2016

Data Control Codes		10 General Fund	Child Nutrition Program	50 Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:						
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 84,500,459	\$ 3,479,432	\$ 25,309,617	\$ 138,470	\$ 113,427,978
5800	State Program Revenues	254,033,940	121,142	20,600,252	5,779,801	280,535,135
5900	Federal Program Revenues	6,072,542	22,376,272	–	20,901,401	49,350,215
5020	Total Revenues	344,606,941	25,976,846	45,909,869	26,819,672	443,313,328
EXPENDITURES:						
Current:						
0011	Instruction	194,881,099	–	–	19,369,055	214,250,154
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	5,032,145	–	–	270,840	5,302,985
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,278,617	–	–	3,212,711	5,491,328
0021	Instructional Leadership	3,828,535	–	–	339,460	4,167,995
0023	School Leadership	22,964,951	–	–	76,176	23,041,127
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	9,518,397	–	–	2,686,520	12,204,917
0032	Social Work Services	1,643,790	–	–	507,500	2,151,290
0033	Health Services	3,821,960	–	–	209,163	4,031,123
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	10,294,997	–	–	–	10,294,997
0035	Food Services	–	27,516,693	–	–	27,516,693
0036	Extracurricular Activities	10,256,196	–	–	139,210	10,395,406
0041	General Administration	7,877,231	–	–	131,670	8,008,901
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	39,032,426	–	–	160,279	39,192,705
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	7,836,562	–	–	42,810	7,879,372
0053	Data Processing Services	5,155,097	–	–	48,020	5,203,117
0061	Community Services	753,243	–	–	1,115,306	1,868,549
Debt Service:						
0071	Principal on Long Term Debt	682,969	–	11,715,372	–	12,398,341
0072	Interest on Long Term Debt	30,850	–	34,695,812	–	34,726,662
0073	Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	–	313,685	–	313,685
Capital Outlay:						
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	2,316,030	–	–	16,257,481	18,573,511
Intergovernmental:						
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,496,015	–	–	–	1,496,015
6030	Total Expenditures	329,701,110	27,516,693	46,724,869	44,566,201	448,508,873
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	14,905,831	(1,539,847)	(815,000)	(17,746,529)	(5,195,545)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):						
7901	Refunding Bonds Issued	–	–	25,140,000	–	25,140,000
7916	Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	–	2,862,606	–	2,862,606
8940	Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	–	–	(27,025,000)	–	(27,025,000)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	–	–	977,606	–	977,606
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	14,905,831	(1,539,847)	162,606	(17,746,529)	(4,217,939)
0100	Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	113,344,638	8,005,989	45,353,298	46,504,316	213,208,241
3000	Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$128,250,469	\$ 6,466,142	\$ 45,515,904	\$ 28,757,787	\$ 208,990,302

Moments in Time

The History Channel

- On Dec. 19, 1986, Michael Sergio, who parachuted into Game Six of the 1986 World Series at New York’s Shea Stadium with a “Let’s Go Mets” banner, is fined \$500 and sentenced to 100 hours of community service.
- On Dec. 20, 1995, the United Nations peacekeeping force formally transfers military authority in Bosnia to North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, allowing the deployment of some 60,000 NATO troops.
- On Dec. 21, 1970, Elvis Presley visits President Richard Nixon to offer his services in the government’s war on drugs. Presley, who was apparently not searched at the gate, presented the president with a gift – a World War II-era Colt .45 pistol.
- On Dec. 22, 1808, Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony premieres in Vienna, Austria, in a freezing venue. Two hours into the poorly played concert, Beethoven stopped the music and had the ensemble start again from the beginning.
- On Dec. 23, 1959, rock ‘n’ roll pioneer Chuck Berry is arrested in Missouri and charged with transporting a 14-year-old girl across state lines for allegedly immoral purposes. Berry spent 20 months in federal prison following his conviction for violating the Mann Act.

Student-athletes really are supposed to get an education

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Growing up, one of my favorite movies was the Wizard of Oz.

Back then there was no Internet or Netflix, so I had to wait all year to have the chance to watch it again.

And there was one scene in the movie that always stuck with me, even to this day.

In the scene, Dorothy meets the Scarecrow for the first time and is confused by the fact that he can talk even though he has no brain.

She asks him how that’s possible?

He simply answers with a question of his own, “I don’t know, but some people without brains do an awful lot of talking – don’t they?”

Naturally, she agrees.

I’m not sure whether truer words have ever been spoken.

I’m especially reminded of that scene whenever I watch political pundits on TV, or read the comments section after almost any internet news article, or listen to frustrated sports fans who consider themselves experts.

That scene flashes in my brain whenever I listen to El Paso sports fans talk about the crumbling entity once known as the UTEP men’s basketball program.

Now let’s not fool ourselves, the Miners have not been the basketball force that we’ve been used to over the last 50 years.

UTEP has posted some good seasons since the retirement of Don Haskins in 1999, but the consistency has never been the same.

Several coaches have tried their hand at replacing “the Bear,” but no tenure has been as polarizing as Tim Floyd’s.

Beloved by many because of his history and success in El Paso, and chastised by others who feel he’s been a detriment to the program.

A winner wherever he’s been (we won’t bring up the NBA); many fans feel he’s suddenly forgotten how to coach young men.

One of the biggest gripes I hear from these “experts” is that Floyd is too tough on the players and that the athletes of today have to be treated with more entitlement, more understanding, and more tenderness.

In recent years, several players have

transferred out of the program. Many local fans put all the blame on Floyd, saying that he’s stuck in the 1970s and out of touch with the millennial mindset.

What fans tend to overlook is that college basketball players all over the country are transferring from one school to another. One sign of discontent and they’re off to find the emerald city.

Players from Duke and Kentucky and UCLA and Michigan State and North Carolina and Texas and Arizona and Louisville are transferring left and right... yes, even Kansas.

The problem isn’t unique to UTEP. The problem is everywhere and it’s the fault of the NCAA, which has made the transfer rules a whole lot easier for disgruntled young men.

I don’t know about coaching basketball or recruiting the best athletes, but I do know young people and parenting.

And so does Floyd, who makes no apologies for trying to introduce discipline, responsibility and integrity into a young person’s life.

In the recent case of Terry Winn, who is the latest player to quit the program and transfer to another school, Floyd

said Winn didn’t handle his time here with maturity and eventually became a distraction to the team.

So Floyd disciplined him.

Floyd knows how important Winn is to the team but still chose to deal with him more like a father than a coach. And in the end, that’s what Winn really needed.

Fans tend to forget what young athletes are really at UTEP for. They only remember half - the winning. They forget about the academics.

Without trying to sound naïve, I know the whole idea of the “student athlete” has evolved more into a myth; but does that mean we abandon the concept entirely and every school turns into a corruption factory like Baylor and Penn State and North Carolina?

Many students and coaches at higher profile schools get away with unthinkable acts of violence, deceit and abuse. Heck, Floyd kept Omega Harris out the Northwestern State game for missing class.

It may come at the cost of a few wins, but let’s not criticize Floyd for having the brains and heart and courage to do the right thing.

A sporting view

By Mark Vasto

Closing time

Every year, you are given a task. That task is a vote. While some would say the task is an easy one, you know better. For your Hall of Fame vote is all that stands between the chasm that divides the words “mediocre” and “legend.”

Some envy you. You are the baseball writers of America. You possess a talent, an ability that can elevate the mundane to the miraculous. But others despise you. When their heroes are

overlooked, when their favorite players whom they watched 162 days and nights each year are deemed to be second rate, it seems to be an arrogant dismissal of what they and most everyone values the most: their time.

Time was when a relief pitcher was considered somebody who couldn’t cut the mustard and make the starting rotation. Of course, there also was a

See SPORTS, Page 8

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish its last issue of 2016 on December 15, 2016.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Tuesday, December 13, 2016. The office will open again on Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2017

Horizon Middle School 400 N. Kenazo, 79928 (Horizon City)

Race starts at 8 a.m.



Events and Fees:

by 1/5/2017

5K run \$20.00

1 mile walk \$20.00

after 1/5/2017

5K run \$25.00

1 mile walk \$25.00V

Special Rate for STUDENTS and TEAMS: \$10.00/person

(10 person minimum to qualify as a team and all team member registrations must be turned in together by 1/5/2017.)

Registration:

Stop by either Up and Running store or mail to:

Up and Running Store

Attn: Race Adventures

1475 George Dieter, Suite O, El Paso, TX, 79936

Checks payable to Clint ISD

Awards:

First 300 registrants receive an official event t-shirt.

Trophy to top overall male and female winners

LARGEST TEAM! --Trophy, bragging rights

Medals to top 3 male and female age group winners in 5K Run

Age groups 0-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+



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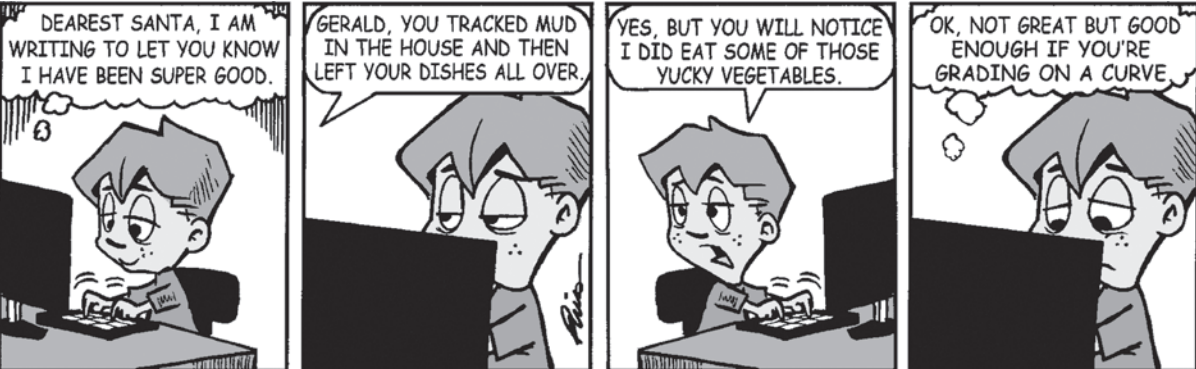
Comix

Your good healthBy Keith Roach, M.D.

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



DEAR DR. ROACH: For the past year, I have had hives on and off again, with the hives being more prominent in the morning than in the evening. I have been told by a dermatologist that it is a viral infection and that topical creams, antihistamines and/or steroids would only mask the virus – it would still be in my bloodstream. Are there other causes of hives that could be causing or exacerbating the problem? I do not know the exact cause of the hives, and they really don't itch too much – they are just unsightly. How long can a viral infection with hives take to clear up? Is there anything I can do to help speed along recovery? Can it be heat-related, as in the warmer months they tend to come out more than in the winter? I get differing diagnoses from various doctors, some saying I shouldn't go swimming or go outside in the sun, and others saying to go about my normal routines. I just wish I knew the exact cause. I would be grateful for any advice or insight on the topic of hives. – Anon.

though there is conflicting data. We don't know what causes it, but since the itchiness can be very uncomfortable, even severe in some cases, I think treatment, even though it may "mask" the underlying cause, is still helpful, and antihistamines are the mainstay of treatment. I tend to prefer cetirizine (Zyrtec), since it is effective (both for itchiness and in helping clear the hives), usually doesn't cause sedation and is very inexpensive as a generic. It may take two to five years, but chronic urticaria usually does go away eventually.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I haven't had to shave my legs for a few years, because I never get growth anymore. My doctor said it may be from hormones. I'm 78. Could that be the reason? – C.K.

Lack of hair can result from several reasons, including hormonal changes, but also from "poor circulation" – specifically, peripheral artery disease. Unrecognized peripheral artery disease is important, since it predicts increased risk of heart disease and stroke. A physical exam is sometimes enough to make the diagnosis; however, if your doctor's suspicion is high, he or she might order a Doppler ultrasound to evaluate the blood flow.

"Chronic urticaria" is the medical term for what you are describing, if you have hives most days of the week for six or more weeks. The rash is raised, usually round or ring-shaped, and can vary in size. They tend to be very itchy (you are lucky that way), and each lesion comes and goes within 24 hours. Chronic urticaria is common, occurs more often in women, and can appear on any part of the body. Sunlight and heat can be triggers for some people, whereas cold is a trigger for others. Diet usually is not a factor in chronic urticaria.

There are many theories, but nobody is sure, so I can't tell you the exact cause. It probably is not due to viruses, but hepatitis A and hepatitis C have been suggested,

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.

Super Crossword

- AS THE SAVING GOES... ACROSS

1 Capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina

9 Super deals

15 Stage backdrop

20 Aired in installments

21 Martial arts instructor

22 City near Dallas

23 Focus applied when covering a surface with concrete?

25 Styx setting

26 III, to Italians

27 Jai _

28 Solo in sci-fi

29 Hanker for

30 Prefix for tax or charge

32 College between two hills?

36 Suggest

39 Puts forward as fact

40 Bakery decorator

41 Try to be like

43 "Pinball Wizard" band

46 Shrek is one

50 Great review from the wife of George Washington?

53 Scandinavian king's lubricant?

56 Certain iPad

57 German coin

58 Harvest yield

60 Crooner Vic

61 Tailor, e.g.

63 Cut, as a

58-Across

65 Hitler Gehrig

66 Cause trouble to

67 Question to an animal doc at an amusement park?

71 Star, e.g.

73 "Illmatic" rapper

74 Drop-leaf table supporter

75 Chief city of the Ruhr

78 Butlers

80 Ruby and scarlet

81 See 31-Down

83 Crooner Perry

84 Caesar's hail to a mariner?

86 Buck that's toiling away?

88 Enumeration

89 Loafer liner

92 Grand Slam tennis events

93 Completely engrossed

96 President before Bush

99 _lance (pit viper variety)

100 Seamstress who was Adam's mate?

105 Downed

106 Italian cry at a dinner table

107 Canon _ (camera line)

108 Caspian Sea feeder

110 "Attack, mutt!"

113 Not as young

114 Tennis great Rod who keeps everyone safe?

119 Pixar figures

120 "In this way"

121 1970s-90s carrier to Lima

122 Collagist Max

123 Positive responses

124 Eased up on

DOWN

1 Month after Aug.

2 On _ with (equal to)

3 Paris' _ Gauche

4 " _ already said..."

5 Actor Voight

6 First name of Poe

7 Perfumery bottle

8 6x9-inch book size

9 One-eighty from NNW

10 "X" amount

11 Psych up

12 Like a Thai

13 Tea on TV

14 Moral error

15 Ball

16 School unit

17 Arm bones

18 Nonreactive

19 Amble along

24 Aunts, in Baja

29 Month after Nov.

30 More briny

31 With 81-Across, Beehive State NCAA team

33 Lo-fat

34 Suffix of ordinals

35 Cello forerunner

36 "Byzantium" actress Arterton

37 AOL letter

38 Hip-hop DJ's equipment

39 Scrutinizes

42 _ kwon do (martial art)

44 Carpenter's adhesive

45 Clued in

47 Is a little too proud of

48 Queen in a sari

49 Stunt master

51 Boot part

52 Sailors, say

54 Take too much of, for short

55 Member of an early-1900s art movement

58 Debt memos

59 Director Clair

62 " _-Cop" (1988 film)

64 Commercial on the tube

65 Olympic sled course

68 "How _ to know?"

69 Celebration

70 Jailbreaker

71 Indy path

72 Shankar on the sitar

76 Edit, as text

77 Scandinavian

79 Hormones in some replacement therapies

80 Harry Potter pal

Weasley

82 Draft inits.

85 Its cap. is Vilnius

86 Kaput

87 Toss high up

90 Brother of Iphigenia

91 Director Ang

94 Something novel

95 Sch. org.

97 Supply that's too abundant

98 Operating skyward

100 Theatricalize

101 Courage

102 Finish with

103 Weird

104 Out-of-the-way corners

105 Bygone Olds

109 Bygone Chevy

110 Swedish film shooter Nykvist

111 French noun suffix

112 Gunky stuff

114 Use skillfully

115 Ending for Brooklyn

116 Abbr. in trig

117 Part of L.A.

118 Lemur cousin
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
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- Answer Page 4

True Texas Facts by Roger T. Moore
Dec. 9, 1844-Anson Jones takes the oath as last President of Texas.



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.

	x		+		15
+		-		x	
	x		-		19
x		x		+	
	+		+		16
20		16		15	

1 2 3 3 5 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★ ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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: P equals E

JGPE CVM ZPP DEKLC HNZG ZWVJX
UDLRXC DQ PDWG VQGPL, CVM
ANKGQ POWXDNA "NH XVO WVMXU

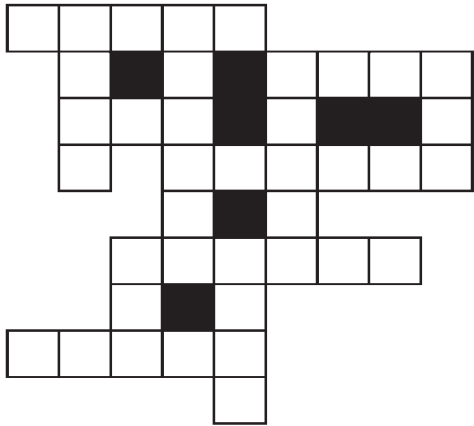
RNXX!"

Answer Page 4

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UND
ECEVAL
AVRIC
♥IGNR
♥REDSIB
♥BGO
LBDO
CREAG
ENE
♥GRICAN
NABLA
EVBR



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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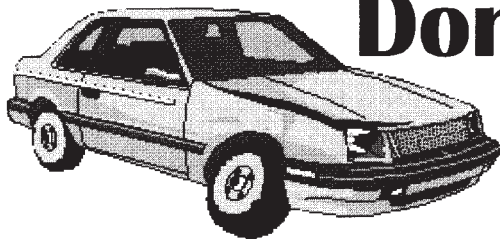
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Sports

From Page 6

time when starting rotations consisted of two starters who had 30 complete games every few months and were allowed to openly spit on the baseballs. Those days are over, thankfully, and it's time for us to evolve further by appreciating the closer role in baseball.

Many of you argue that the closer is a cop-out, a ploy managers use to save their skin more than they save games. After all, there's not much to think about when you're in the lead by one to three runs in the ninth and you have a multi-zillion dollar pitcher anxiously awaiting your call to the bullpen. Maybe the modern-day closer deserves some scorn.

Statistics show that teams with a lead in the ninth inning almost always win, anyway. People really into statistics have concluded that a top-shelf reliever maybe wins an additional four games for a team. Aha! Right there, that should make the case. They're worth it because a win is a win. Many a team has lost the division by four games.

But there's more to it than that. Do not mistake brevity for lack of worth. Yes, good starting pitchers eat up more than 200 innings each season, but why should that influence your vote for a closer? Let's say you're a season-ticket holder. You get to see your best starter maybe 15 times each year. Your closer? You see him whenever you're about to win – they're the ones who kept you in the seats, which not only justifies their salary (a team can't make money off of concessions when you're gone, after all), it justifies their importance. Trevor Hoffman and Lee Smith, closers unfairly subjected to this closer discrimination, would appear in 70-80 games a season. They were like a warm, 98-mph hug.

Think of it like your wife or husband, kids or partner, best mate, what have you. Would you rather see them 15 times a year for two hours a pop, or would you rather see them in 80 electrifying, 20-minute appearances over an extended period of time (five extra years if you're a lefty)? You already know the answer, and that's why you know it's time to open up the gates of the Hall for the overlooked men who spent their career awaiting a call, closing the door on their opponents. Make the call to the pen... your pen. The closer's time has come.

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