



NEWSBRIEFS

Rangers on the hunt

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has asked the Texas Rangers to assist the Houston Police Department in finding New England Patriots Quarterback Tom Brady's jersey, which was stolen from the Patriot's locker room at NRG Stadium in Houston [after the Super Bowl]. Brady wore the jersey during the Patriots comeback victory in the Super Bowl. "In Texas we place a very high value on hospitality and football. Tom Brady's jersey has great historical value and is already being called 'the most valuable NFL collectable ever.' It will likely go into the Hall of Fame one day. It is important that history does not record that it was stolen in Texas. I've called Colonel Steve McCraw to ask that the Texas Rangers work with the Houston Police Department on this case," said Patrick. "I'm a Texans and Cowboys fan first, but the unquestionable success of the Super Bowl in Houston last night was a big win for our entire state and I don't want anything to mar that victory. Whoever took this jersey should turn it in. The Texas Rangers are on the trail."

— Media Press Release

Groundbreaking

The Tornillo Independent School District (TISD) will break ground for the District's new athletic facility on February 24, 2017. The TISD community voted for a \$10 million bond referendum during the May 2016 election. The bond provides funding for instructional facility improvement projects such as replacing roofs, heating and cooling; addresses Life & Safety issues; ADA accessibility; and athletic facilities. The athletic facilities include construction of a track and field with lights and artificial turf, bleachers, a press box and field house as well as the construction of tennis courts with lights. TISD is one of 12 districts in Region 19. At the present time it is the only district that does not have a track and field. However that didn't prevent the Tornillo Boys Cross Country Team from placing 2nd this year at the UIL State meet in Austin.

— Joanna Hernandez

Plan your path

The Socorro Independent School District invites business and industry partners to participate in the second

See BRIEFS, Page 4

When saving for old age be sure to lay up a few pleasant memories.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

El Paso County officials are looking to partner with the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association (EPBYAA) to improve the baseball and softball fields, like the one above, at Canutillo's Gallegos Park in the west side of the county.

Commissioners consider recreational areas proposals

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – While El Paso County Commissioners mull over a plan for enhancing a park on the west side of the county, on a similar issue on the far east side, they are considering restricting access to a popular recreational area.

El Paso County officials are looking into partnering with the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association (EPBYAA) to revitalize a portion of Canutillo's Gallegos Park, which is located in the west side of the county.

The association, a nonprofit organization that offers educational and developmental opportunities for children through athletics, is proposing that the group's members would improve the park's baseball and softball fields in exchange for their using the fields for youth programs,

according to a recent county report.

Dr. Dwayne Aboud, president and founder of EPYAA, told commissioners recently that the organization wants to help improve the park and to expand the association's programs in the west side. The group currently runs free after-school programs for elementary school children in the Clint Independent School District. It serves children in the communities of Clint, Montana Vista, and Horizon.

Following the group's request, commissioners court authorized the Public Works Department to look into a possible private-public partnership for the long-term use of the baseball and softball fields at Gallegos Park.

Commissioner Andrew Haggerty stated that the association's proposal comes at a perfect time, as the county is looking into laying new sod at Gallegos Park's fields. He said that this could be a great opportunity to re-arrange some of the

fields in order to make the park more enjoyable for the public. As part of the proposed partnership, the park would continue to be open to the public, county officials stated.

Meanwhile in the county's far east side, commissioners are weighing in on a proposal that involves the locally-referred to Red Sand dunes that are located off Montana Avenue near the Hueco Tanks State Park highway turn-off. The vast sandy-hilled area is popular with recreational gun shooters and off-road ATV (all-terrain vehicle) and dirt-bike riders. The court is considering making the playground off limits to the public.

County Commissioner Vincent Perez is proposing that the county erect "No Trespassing" signs on county-owned land and rights of way on the far east side to reduce recreational shooting on county land, which can pose a danger to nearby residents.

County officials stated that licensed gun owners can discharge a firearm in unincorporated areas of the county, so posting "no trespassing" signs could help keep people off of county property. They added that there are only certain areas where that could be done.

County officials pointed out that currently licensed gun owners can discharge a firearm in unincorporated and private areas of the county; so posting "no trespassing" signs along county property could help keep people off. However, they noted that there's only certain areas where that could be done. Part of the problem, they said, is that different people own different slivers of land in the area, and the county has little authority over those properties.

Commissioners court postponed taking action on this proposal to give county attorneys a chance to review it and the implications it might pose. Also, the county's Public Works Department was tasked with identifying where the signs could be installed and at what cost, and whether they could be placed along state-owned Montana Avenue. Additionally, being taken into account is the impact it would have on the El Paso County




El Paso County Commissioners are considering a proposal that would post "No Trespassing" signs on county-owned land and rights of way in the county's far east side to reduce recreational gun shooting on county property which, they said, poses a danger to nearby residents. By posting the signs, however, the county also would be closing the areas off to people who ride for recreational fun ATVs, motocross bikes, and other off-road vehicles in the open desert. The restriction would include the popular Red Sand dunes shown above.


See COMMISSIONERS, Page 6

Refinancing your debt could be a good idea if...

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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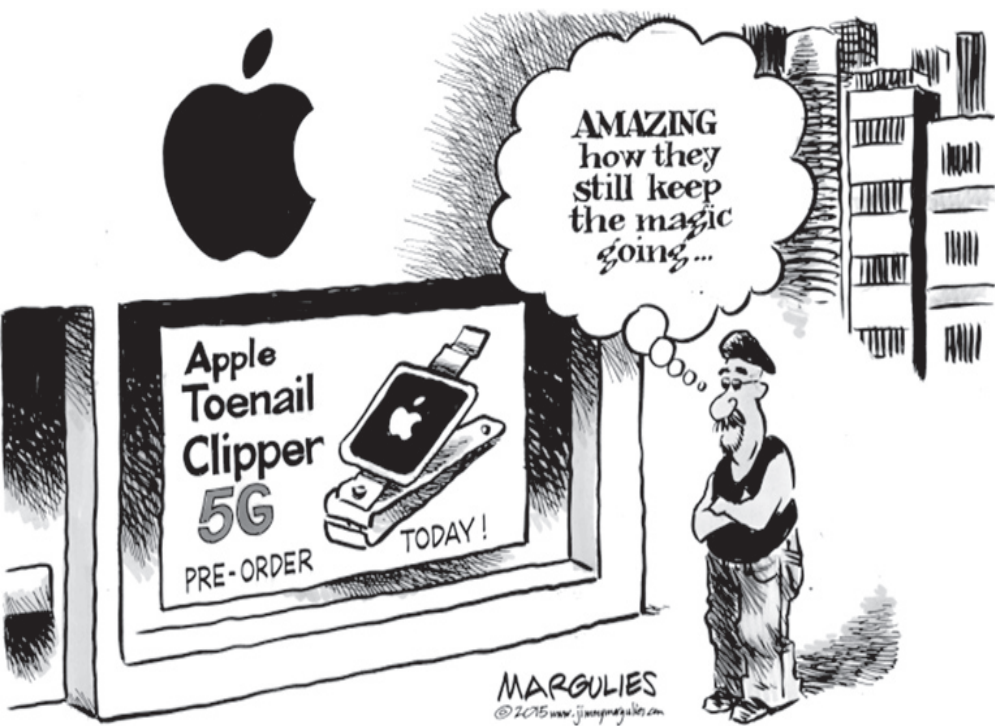
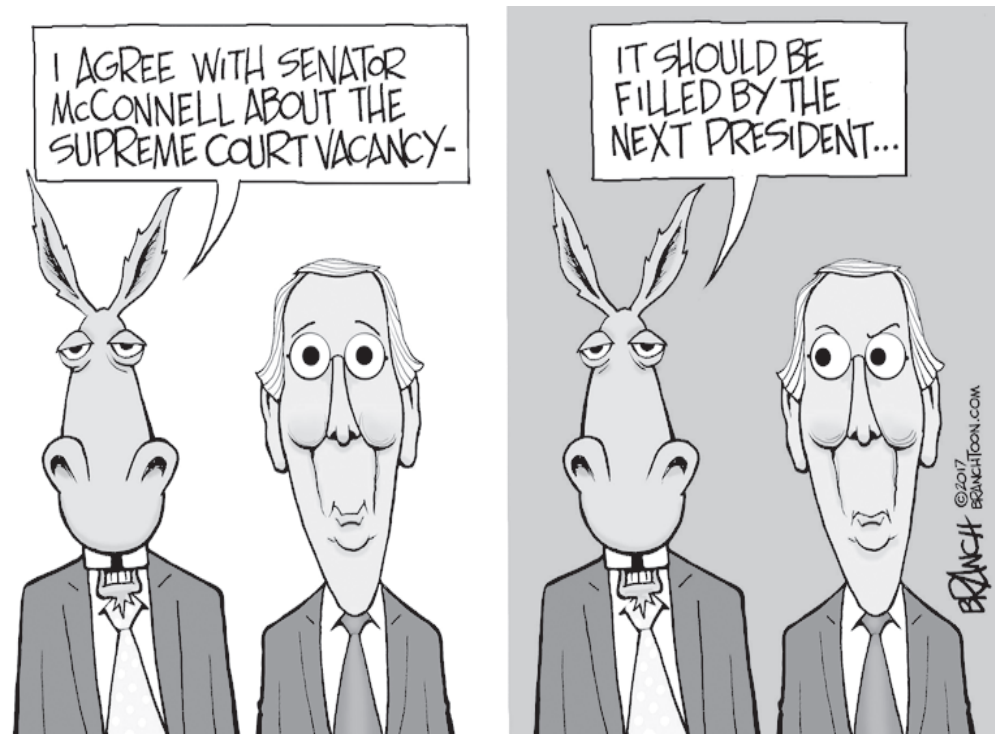
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View from here By

Call for voter fraud investigation is valid

President Trump was dismissed out of hand when he called for an investigation of voter fraud. Former president Barak Obama even called it “fake news.” So why does the respected and widely quoted Pew Center on the States say that there is “susceptible to fraud.” Pew concluded that there is “evidence that America’s voter registration system needs an upgrade.”

The fact of the matter is that Pew’s research showed that “approximately 24 million-one of every eight-voter registrations in the United States are no longer valid or are significantly inaccurate. More than 1.8 million deceased individuals are listed as voters. Approximately 2.75 million people have registrations in more than one state.”

Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens, says he is dismayed to see that there is opposition to finding out “just how extensive is voter fraud in the U.S. We ignore the fraud potential at great peril to the nation. Whether you are a Republican, a Democrat or an Independent voter we need to at least be concerned by the threat. Thus, Mr. Trump’s call for an investigation is, indeed, a legitimate one.”

Weber cites numerous reports from authoritative sources that the fraud is real. Most recently The Detroit News found voting scanning machines at 248 of the city’s 662 precincts – 37 percent – tabulated more ballots than the number of actual voters counted in the poll books. The discovery was made when Green Party 2016 presidential nominee Jill Stein’s called for a recount in Michigan.

“Bear in mind, it was election officials who conducted the recount,” Weber notes. He points out that a few years back the Wall Street Journal reported “coercion and chicanery are made much easier by the excessive use of absentee ballots. Most of the elections thrown out by courts-Miami, Florida’s mayoral election in 1998, the East Chicago, Indiana’s mayor’s race in 2005-involved fraudulent absentee votes.”

The AMAC chief points out “there are some who want to suppress an investigation of voter fraud because it is, indeed, widespread. But, whether that is true or not is not the issue. The issue is that our election system is vulnerable and only a broad-based investigation can find the vulnerabilities. We need to know who is perpetrating the fraud and why. We are a democracy in which every vote counts, but we must have fair and honest elections. It is a sacrosanct tenet of our national culture that must be protected at all costs.”

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.

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Fabens Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2016						
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	ESEA I, A Improving Basic Program	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capitol Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:						
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,068,702	\$ –	\$ 481,097	\$ 13,124	\$ 316,125	\$ 2,879,048
5800 State Program Revenues	19,069,052	–	1,158,460	–	348,847	20,576,359
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,556,803	1,434,144	–	–	1,269,830	4,260,777
5020 Total Revenues	22,694,557	1,434,144	1,639,557	13,124	1,934,802	27,716,184
EXPENDITURES:						
Current:						
0011 Instruction	12,505,149	1,270,157	–	223,153	1,339,194	15,337,653
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	271,273	–	–	–	–	271,273
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	88,577	137,579	–	–	24,772	250,928
0021 Instructional Leadership	190,177	26,408	–	–	266,315	482,900
0023 School Leadership	1,355,032	–	–	–	43,329	1,398,361
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	771,197	–	–	–	213,537	984,734
0032 Social Work Services	33,652	–	–	–	–	33,652
0033 Health Services	298,493	–	–	–	2,114	300,607
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	400,377	–	–	–	–	400,377
0035 Food Services	1,273,529	–	–	–	18,095	1,291,624
0036 Extracurricular Activities	990,275	–	–	–	–	990,275
0041 General Administration	1,134,178	–	–	–	–	1,134,178
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	2,614,609	–	–	–	–	2,614,609
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	291,501	–	–	–	–	291,501
0053 Data Processing Services	254,606	–	–	–	–	254,606
0061 Community Services	15,989	–	–	–	68,296	84,285
Debt Service:						
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	42,833	–	736,000	–	–	778,833
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	1,708	–	1,164,794	–	–	1,166,502
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	–	252,284	–	–	252,284
Capital Outlay:						
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	57,000	–	–	2,278,969	–	2,335,969
Intergovernmental:						
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	30,623	–	–	–	–	30,623
6030 Total Expenditures	22,620,778	1,434,144	2,153,078	2,502,122	1,975,652	30,685,774
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	73,779	–	(513,521)	(2,488,998)	(40,850)	(2,969,590)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):						
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	–	–	12,095,000	1,795,000	–	13,890,000
7915 Transfers In	–	–	–	765	–	765
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	–	1,294,294	205,000	–	1,499,294
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(765)	–	–	–	–	(765)
8940 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	–	–	(13,130,653)	–	–	(13,130,653)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(765)	–	258,641	2,000,765	–	2,258,641
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	73,014	–	(254,880)	(488,233)	(40,850)	(710,949)
1300 Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	1,450,465	–	514,831	5,001,360	65,153	7,031,809
3000 Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 1,523,479	\$ –	\$ 259,951	\$ 4,513,127	\$ 24,303	\$ 6,320,860

Miners, Kugler looking for lightning to strike twice

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Since I was a little dude contributing mightily to my dad’s accumulation of gray hair, I’d always heard the phrase, “lightning doesn’t strike twice in the same place.”

I’ve never been struck even once by lightning so I’m hardly an expert on the subject. But the saying makes sense.

I mean the odds must be infinitesimal.

But does that mean the phrase is true and it never happens? Or, maybe, on the rarest of occasions, two strikes of lightning can inexplicably find the same location.

That’s exactly what UTEP head football coach Sean Kugler is counting on.

It isn’t often, but once every decade or so, a local kid comes out of high school to make a major mark on the UTEP football program.

And once every quarter-century or so, a local kid comes out of high school to make a major mark on the national college football scene.

Burges High School’s Aaron Jones

always looked the part with the Mustangs and everyone thought he’d have a successful college career. But no one had a clue he’d be as dominant as he turned out to be.

He is now easily the best running back in school history, was in the top five nationally in nearly every running category and he’s currently getting himself ready for the NFL combine later this month and eventually, will wait to see what NFL team drafts him in late April.

Now let’s face it, how often does that happen in El Paso? Not very.

I think lightning may actually strike the ground somewhere around here more often than some El Paso kid goes to the NFL.

Well, like I said earlier, coach Kugler is hoping that second lightning strike is on the horizon, in the form of Americas Trailblazers’ tailback Josh Fields.

Fields, like Jones, has spent his prep school years running around and through would-be tacklers using his lightning-quick speed and deceptive strength.

Fields, who is the younger brother of former Americas running star Jack Fields (who went on to play for Boise State), has

put up some amazing numbers.

As a sophomore, Josh rushed for 1,016 yards and scored 11 touchdowns. His junior year he gained 1,658 yards and scored 15 touchdowns. Saving the best for last, Fields put together a senior season to remember, rushing for 2,477 yards and scoring 32 touchdowns.

That’s why all signs pointed to Fields leaving El Paso for one of the bigger football programs elsewhere.

But in the end, just like with Aaron Jones, the 5-9, 195-pound Fields decided to stay home and take his chances with Kugler and the Miners.

It’s obviously too early to say whether his decision will turn out to be the right one, but the fact that local talent is deciding to stay home instead of rushing off to more established venues bodes well for UTEP.

It used to be that local talent would only stay home if no other football teams showed any interest. And with the Miners perennially spending their time at the very bottom of the conference standings who could blame them?

But though the Miners are still searching

for consistency, let alone winning, local players are learning they won’t just make the squad, they’re actually playing vital roles on the team.

It’s doubtful Fields will see a lot of playing time during his freshman season but the hope is that by the time he graduates, he’ll be going through the same process Aaron Jones currently is.

So can lightning strike twice in the same place? Can a kid from the same unlikely town go to the same unlikely school and put up the same kind if unlikely numbers?

The odds are certainly against it. But then again, the odds were overwhelmingly against it happening the first time.

Just like with Jones, all UTEP fans will have their eyes on Fields, waiting for him to break into the secondary and outrace slower defenders into the end zone.

It’s the kind of Hollywood script everyone loves. Local kid grows up and does good... great... better than anyone could have imagined.

Though UTEP fans just watched that movie, I think they’re waiting anxiously for the sequel.

A sporting view

By Mark Vasto

When a King bows to a Sir

Charles Barkley has a big mouth, which is appropriate considering he also has a very large head. He used to get paid for bouncing a ball, but for the past 10 years he’s gotten paid to break them as a game-day analyst for TNT.



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Nobody knows this more than the King – LeBron James.

Barkley was one of the first to rip James’ decision to leave Cleveland for Miami in his “The Decision” telecast that needlessly cuckolded a fan base that only loved the guy. “Punk move” was how Barkley put it out there.

This year he made a comment about how James will never be considered in the top five of basketball’s all-time players (for the record, Barkley counts them as Michael Jordan, Oscar Robertson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Russell). Last week Barkley called him “inappropriate” and “whiny” after James openly complained about the Cavs’ inability to sign another playmaker for their anticipated title defense.

“The Cleveland Cavaliers, they have given him everything he wanted,” Barkley expounded. “They have the highest payroll in NBA history... he’s the best player in the world. Does he want all of the good players? He don’t want to compete? He is an amazing player. They’re the defending champs.”

Well, LeBron James has had enough. When an ESPN staff writer reached out to him after a loss for comment, James did another thing Barkley is pretty good at: He teed off.

“I’m not going to let him disrespect my legacy like that,” James said. “I’m not the one who threw somebody through a window. I never spit on a kid. I never had unpaid debt in Las Vegas. I never said, ‘I’m not a role model.’ I never showed up to All-Star Weekend on Sunday because I was in Vegas all weekend partying. All I’ve done for my entire career is represent the NBA the right way. Fourteen years, never got in trouble. Respected the game. Print that.”

And that’s exactly what we’ll do. There’s James’ take on Barkley. James had every right to pursue championships in Miami. He has professional pride; he may become the all-time leading scorer, winner of championships... who knows? He’s certainly in the top 10. He has represented the NBA the right way. He was great with Amy Schumer in “Trainwreck.” And why shouldn’t he be concerned with Golden State returning with a vengeance – this time with Kevin Durant in tow?

Problem is, Barkley said nothing wrong. “The Decision” was a punk move. LeBron James isn’t on the NBA’s Mount Rushmore plus one, at least not yet. And Barkley was right, complimentary even, when he called him the “best player in the world.”

James asked why Barkley is even relevant in today’s game. The answer is because James, the King, deigned to get into a mudfight with a lowly “Sir,” so quit your whining!

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

Commissioners

From Page 1

Sheriff’s Office. Specifically, the court wants to know if the Sheriff’s Office has the resources to patrol the area and cite violators?

Residents in those areas have reported for many years that stray bullets have struck their homes. And increasingly, recreational shooting, unsafe riding of all-terrain vehicles, and underage drinking have been reported in the desert near homes in the growing East Montana and Red Sands communities. According to news reports, two men were seriously injured after they were hit by a pickup truck at the Red Sand dunes this past Fourth of July, and one person died in an ATV rollover the year before.

Currently, the Sheriff’s Office and the county are limited as to what they can do in

unincorporated areas, officials acknowledged. They stated that the Sheriff’s Office presently does not have the legal authority to tell people not to shoot their guns in the desert area; although, officers have cited individuals for disorderly conduct or aggravated assault. With the signs in place, deputies could enforce criminal trespassing regulations, they stated.

By posting the signs, however, the county also would be closing the areas off to people who ride ATVs, motocross bikes or other off-road vehicles in the open desert, particularly in the popular Red Sand dunes.

A nearby business owner stated that he is fine with the signs but that he would rather see the red sand dunes be turned into a county or state park and let the public enjoy this amazing landscape.

Commissioners final say on both proposals will be announced in the coming months, officials reported.

Fabens Independent School District Public Notice of Meeting

Fabens Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2015-2016 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 in the Fabens Independent School District’s Board Room at 821 N.E. “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (915) 765-2600, x2102.

Junta Pública

Distrito escolar independiente de Fabens celebrará una audiencia pública para discutir el informe de rendimiento académico 2015-2016 Texas del distrito (TAPR). La reunión se celebrará a las 6:00 p.m. el miércoles, 15 de febrero de 2017 en la sala de juntas de Fabens ISD, 821 N.E. “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

El público está invitado a asistir. Para obtener más información, llame al (915) 765-2600, x2102.

WTCC: 02/09/17

Moore Texas by Roger Moore

Feb. 6, 1879: The first Czech newspaper debuted... aptly named "THE TEXAN".



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!

		-		x			10
x			+		x		
	x			÷			16
-		x			+		
	x			-			15
17			15			16	

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

LEGALS

Village of Vinton, Texas

PUBLIC NOTICE

The VILLAGE OF VINTON will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on February 15, 2017, before the Regular Council Meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas regarding the approval of an updated Comprehensive Master Plan.

The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the updates done to the plan before approval, which includes future land use. The Village of Vinton encourages citizens to participate in and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Manuel Leos, Mayor, at Vinton City Hall.

Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the Vinton City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aid or services for this meeting should contact the Vinton City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Para mas informacion en español, comuniquese con Andrea Carrillo al 915-886-5104.

Jessica Garza
Village Clerk

WTCC: 02-09-17

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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: **V** equals **R**

KW U OKGGL QHJJIBFL PCGQ GP

ZUOI U QPHBJ, RPHFJ LPH RUFF

GXUG U CHVV-PW-GXI-ZPZIBG

JIRKQKPB?

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

TTI
TOCBBA
WINTA
EBWR
RETISH
♥NOE
♥ASET
♥ERTBU
♥NBI
HARWIT
BANGE
♥NUTA

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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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Here's a Tip

By JoAnn Derson

- To make a deliciously flaky pie crust, use a normal cheese grater to grate butter in to the flour mix. The butter will stay cold, and it will come out tender and flaky.
- "I like to make a big presentation, so I use sliced fruit, nuts and fresh herbs for garnishes. I prepare them ahead of time and store them in the fridge to take dishes from stove to table quickly. I have found that if you use a little lemon juice on apple slices, they won't discolor and you can cut them up ahead of time, too." — T.C. in California
- Because fabric softeners can leave residue on the dryer's lint trap, clean yours out at least every other month. Just scrub with plain old soap and water.
- Create your own nonslip hangers for your closet with your glue gun. Run a thin bead along the top sides of your hanger. Allow to dry thoroughly and you will be able to hang the flimsiest of tops on the hanger without them falling off. No glue gun? Try wrapping a pipe cleaner tightly around each side; this works well for tank tops!
- "Print out recipes and tape them to your kitchen cabinets, or hang from a door pull with a pants hanger. You could even stack a week's worth of recipes on a clipboard and add a dedicated hook for them in your kitchen." — T.Y. in North Carolina
- To save time making potatoes, try microwaving instead of boiling. Follow the manufacturer's directions on your microwave.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

Health

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OSA, in addition to oral devices, CPAP or BiPAP devices, and surgery.

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) 2017 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.