

VEST TEXAS COUNT

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SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

FEBRUARY 23, 2017

NEWSBRIEFS

Farmers' market

The Village of Vinton is seeking vendors for its monthly Farmers' Market at Dr. Applegate Park. Local growers and artisans are invited to register for the market at no cost. This is the first year the farmers' market will be held on a monthly basis on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon, except for holidays. The creation of the Farmer's Market was in response to the community's desire to have better access to fresh produce and to promote local growers and artisans. Arts and craft vendors must sell only homemade, handmade and handcrafted items. Each vendor is responsible for their own 10x10 setup. Food artisan and cottage vendors are asked to provide evidence of having successfully completed a basic food safety-training program for food handlers. If you have any questions or if you are interested in becoming a vendor call (915) 886-5104.

– Josh Luna

'Into the Woods'

El Paso Community College (EPCC) Theater Ensemble will offer its next play of the 2016-2017 season with Into the Woods. Performances will be held March 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11 at 8:00 p.m. and March 5 and 12 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. Into the Woods tells the story about The Baker and his wife that wish to have a child, Cinderella that wishes to go to the King's Festival, and Jack that wishes his cow would give some milk. When the Baker and his wife are visited by the neighborhood witch, that reveals to them she has placed a curse on their family, the two set off on a journey into the woods to reverse the curse. Everyone has gotten their wish and will seemingly live happily ever after, but the consequences of their actions haunt them in disastrous ways. EPCC Theater information: (915) 831-5056.

- Ismael De La Rosa

Up in the air

Self-driving cars are already a reality,

See BRIEFS, Page 3

Happy are the people that renounce everything that places a strain on their conscience.

— Quips & Quotes



- Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

WATER NEEDED - The Rio Grande stretches from southern Colorado, through New Mexico and Texas and into Mexico. In recent years portions of the river go dry for several months, usually from October through May. During that period just the parched gully, above, marks the river's path through El Paso County's upper valley.

Texas' water claim against New Mexico moves forward

By Alfredo Vasquez Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – There may soon be good news for El Paso, Hudspeth, and Dona Ana counties' water districts. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to ratify an interim report that could cost New Mexico millions of dollars in penalties and billions

shorting Texas since the signing of the Rio Grande Compact in 1938.

The original agreement requires New Mexico to relinquish control of Rio Grande water permanently once it reaches the Elephant Butte Reservoir. Officials in Texas, however, have complained for decades to New Mexico about water shortages under the river water compact.

New Mexico delivered Texas' share to of gallons of water that it is accused of Elephant Butte, but thousands of wells

along the river's course to El Paso meant that far less water was making it to the state line, Texas authorities claimed.

The federal government also weighed in on the New Mexico-Texas case. That report noted pumping north of the border was tapping a shallow aquifer that would otherwise drain back into the Rio Grande and flow to Texas and eventually to Mexico.

In attempt to settle the matter, the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), which encompasses New Mexico land downstream from the reservoir, agreed

See WATER, Page 5

Vinton prepares for 2017 cleanup campaign

By Josh Luna Special to the Courier

Beautiful (KVB) will be participating activities and the state of Texas' in the Great American Cleanup for signature community day - Don't the 9th year. KVB has organized Mess With Texas Trash Off. In 2016, Rio Grande river cleanups, highway KVB hosted 544 volunteers, removed

Photo courtesy Village of Vinton

KEEP IT CLEAN - El Paso County Commissioners Court passed a resolution on February 6, 2017 recognizing the Village of Vinton for its participation in Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) programs. Keep Vinton Beautiful has sponsored cleanup days, recycling programs, waste reduction and anti-littering campains. The Village has received Gold Star status from KTB six of the last seven years. In the photo, from left, are Manuel Leos, Mayor of Vinton; Vincent Perez, Commissioner Precinct 3; Lorena Quezada; Carlos Leon, Commissioner Precinct 1; Dr. Pedro Galaviz, Canutillo ISD Superintendent; Penny Ledezma; Veronica Escobar, County Judge; Andrew Haggerty, Commissioner Precinct 4; and David Stout, Commissioner Precinct 2. Quezada and Ledezma are holding the resolution.

VINTON - This spring, Keep Vinton cleanups, Arbor Day and Earth Day unwanted tires, litter, illegal dumpsites and planted more than 100 trees.

> KVB was established in 2007 and has received numerous state and local awards. volunteer awards and several businesses have been recognized for their partnership with KVB.

For the full event list visit the Village of Vinton website at www.vintontx. govoffice2.com. Look for KVB on Facebook or call (915) 886-5104 to register to volunteer or to get more information.

Every year Keep America Beautiful engages more than 20,000 communities and millions of volunteers across the country to renew parks, clean up trails, rivers, highways, promote recycling, and plant trees and gardens during the Great American Cleanup. The Great American Cleanup begins March 1 and runs through May 31.

Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

Having trouble paying your heating bill? LIHEAP could help

feels even better when snow and transportation often wins.

The chill of winter can be falls or rain patters against the offset with the pleasure of windows. Unfortunately, some curling up inside a warm home. families have to choose between Turning on the heat and settling paying high winter utility bills into your favorite chair to open and buying groceries or gas for a new book or watch a movie their cars. The necessity of food

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Rest in peace? Not at these cemeteries

Affairs National Cemetery remains are in the correct place. Administration earned high customer satisfaction, but on the state level, it's another story.

Rhode Island, under the control of the Department of Human Services, incorrectly laid out a row of graves in 2010, and interred in the wrong place. grave markers were installed, and markers were put in the wrong place on 21 graves. The mistake wasn't found until recently, when cemetery workers tried to make space was no room in the grave.

the burial site of your loved one and later learn you were in the wrong place, year after year?

There apparently were no procedures in place to prevent this kind of mistake, but there will be now. A second person (c)2017KingFeaturesSynd.,Inc.

The Department of Veterans will need to verify that the

It wasn't the first mistake of marks in a recent survey of this kind at the Rhode Island cemetery. One woman inquired about why the ground at her The VA cemetery in Exeter, mother's grave wasn't freshly turned. It was discovered that the woman, the wife of a former state senator, had been buried a few rows down and since then seven veterans were a few spaces over, instead of with her husband. Explanation: Even when the permanent human error. This is the same cemetery where piles of U.S. the problem wasn't noticed flags were discovered last year dumped like so much garbage, found and photographed by a son who came to pay his respects at his father's grave.

It's hard to pick out which for a veteran's wife, and there veterans cemetery is the worst, but this one is right up there: In Can you imagine? You visit Texas, a veteran's grave marker left off his middle name. The replacement marker had the word "united" misspelled, as in "Uinted" States of America.

programs. One such program, an average 45.9 percent of the federal Low Income Home recipients' annual heating costs. Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), helps low-income assistance. States, tribes and households with heating or territories have some control cooling costs, during an energyrelated crisis (such as a shutoff aid limits and application process notice from your utility) and with weatherization improvements.

If you, a parent or a friend are this winter, LIHEAP and similar programs might be able to help keep your home warm.

youthink you'll need assistance. The federal government provides the funding for LIHEAP, but the level. The money gets distributed first-come-first-served basis and states give priority to households with children, elderly or disabled members. Often the set amount of funds for the year, largest benefits are awarded to the homes with the most need.

States open their winter applications at different times, and you should apply for LIHEAP right away if you think you'll have trouble paying for heating.

LIHEAP won't cover your entire utility bill, but it can only intended to help you pay to heat your home. For example, if you're heating unit runs on your electricity bill.

You might only be able to receive a benefit once every 12 months, but it can make a big program information. difference for your finances. For the fiscal year 2014, the most process, you may need to recent data available, over 5.7 million households received information, including:

Fortunately, there are assistance heating assistance and it offset

Qualifying for LIHEAP over the services, qualifications, for the LIHEAP program in their

You can review each state's number; struggling to make ends meet income eligibility for the fiscal year 2017 on this table. The state or local organizations that distribute funds also consider Apply as soon as you can if applicants' utility costs, family size and location. Renters and homeowners could be eligible for LIHEAP assistance, but you programs are run at the state might not qualify if you have your state's website, or want to subsidized housing.

> Being qualified guarantee that you'll assistance. Each state receives a and on average only 20 percent 367-6228). of qualified household receive benefits.

Often you'll apply for LIHEAP have to suffer, and LIHEAP at a Community Action Agency (CAA),local organizations that help administer federal, state and local grant help keep your home warm. programs. Some states let you tool. Also look into state-based LIHEAP's heating benefit is complete the application online, programs and payment plans otherwise you may need to mail, or assistance from your local fax or hand in an application.

The Office of Community gas, the program will contribute Service's website has contact towards your gas bill, but not information for each state and territory, including a link to a website where you'll find statespecific eligibility guidelines and

share identifying and financial

• Recent utility bills;

- Recent pay stubs, or a profitand-loss statement if you're selfemployed;
- Documentation for other income, such as Social Security benefits;
- A lease or property tax bill as proof of your address;
- Your Social Security A list of people living in your
- home, their relation to you, dates of birth and incomes;
- Acopy of a utility termination notice, if you received one; and
- Your energy provider's information.

If you're having trouble with help someone who isn't computer doesn't savvy, you can call the LIHEAP Clearinghouse's National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) at 1-866-674-6327 (TTY: 1-866-

Bottom line: When the temperature drops, heating costs How to apply for LIHEAP. can quickly rise. You shouldn't could help provide much-needed non-profit financial aid. You can look for additional assistance programs using the Benefits.gov search utility.

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 As part of the application advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.



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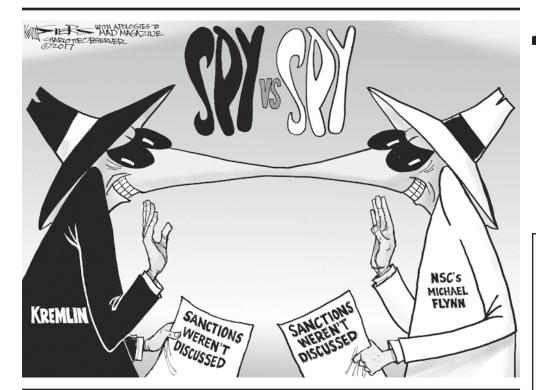
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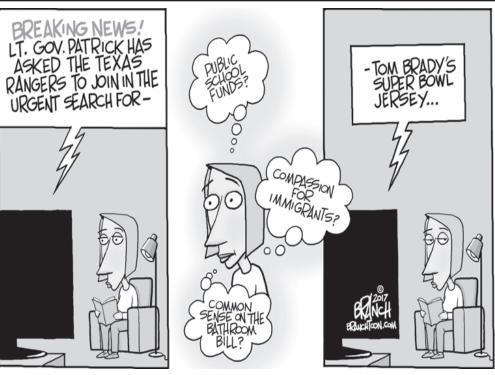






"OBAMA LEFT THE KEYS IN IT."





Briefs

From Page 1

though they may not be all they are cracked to be for the time being, but now there's an aircraft manufacturer that claims it will soon have a prototype of a self-flying car, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. Airbus recently announced that it hopes to start testing its so-called autonomous flying car as early as this year. As the company's CEO, Tom Enders, put it: "One hundred years ago, urban transport went underground, now we have the technological wherewithal to go above ground."

- John Grimaldi

Gonzalez

This month, just six days after being appointed to the powerful House Appropriations Committee, State Representative Mary E. Gonzalez (D - District 75) was appointed to the Education subcommittee. The subcommittee, known as the Article III subcommittee due to its location in the budget bill, is responsible for appropriating public and higher education dollars. "It is an honor to be placed on the subcommittee that shapes how our neighborhood schools and colleges and universities are funded," said Gonzalez. "We have a lot of hard work ahead of us but I look forward to working for El Paso area public schools and our colleges and universities."

In 2015, Gonzalez was noted for her expertise in the school finance debate. This subcommittee placement allows for Gonzalez to continue utilizing her knowledge in the ongoing conversation on how to properly fund Texas neighborhood public schools. The Education subcommittee is also responsible for funding Texas public colleges and universities, including the University of Texas- El Paso and El Paso Community Colleges. "As a former educator, this is an incredible opportunity to help influence the lives of millions of students from Pre-K to post-grad," added Gonzalez. "El Paso youth deserve a fair shot at a quality education. I intend to do all I can to give it to them."

– Roger Garza

Big dummies

Americans are overweight and so it comes as no surprise that automakers are starting to use obese car crash dummies, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. Trauma surgeon Stewart Wang, M.D. says it is simple logic. "You can't talk about injuries without talking about the person - it's individuals who are hurt. The condition, size and shape of an individual is hugely important in how severe their injuries are in any given crash." One manufacturer of crash dummies recently created one that weighs 273 pounds, 106 pounds heavier than the traditional model, according to Insurance Journal.

– John Grimaldi



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heart.org/start



American Heart Association Learn and Live

THC offers free publications

By Leah Brown Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The Texas Historical Preservation publications: Cornerstones and for free at www.thc.texas.gov.

Courthouse highlights Texas'

historic county courthouses and the accomplishments of THC's award-winning Texas Historic Courthouse Commission (THC) recently (THCPP). Historic courthouses sites and describes new com to download a free PDF of distributed two new, full-color in Texas are powerful drivers Courthouse of economic development, enhancements, new visitors Historic attracting heritage travelers to centers, significant restoration THCPP and state historic sites, Heights. Both are available now communities across the state. work, and dynamic community visit www.thc.texas.gov and The THCPP assists these efforts engagement programs. The download or view Courthouse Cornerstones by providing partial matching THC's state historic sites tell the Cornerstones iconic grants to Texas counties for real stories of real places in Texas Heights online.

the restoration of their historic through the eyes of prehistoric county courthouses. Visit www. Texas, Colonial Texas, the Texas thc.texas.gov/courthouses to Revolution, early statehood, download a free PDF of the the Civil War, Texas' western publication.

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frontier, reconstruction Historic Heights highlights prosperity, and the 20th century. the publication.

> For more information on the and

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

- It was world-renowned American photographer Ansel Adams who made the following sage observation: "It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."
- You might be surprised to learn that the blood of a grasshopper is white.
- Tacumbu prison Asuncion, Paraguay, notorious for its overcrowded conditions: 3,500 inmates are crowded into a space designed for half that number, and many of them sleep on cardboard directly on the floor. One inmate, however, recently enjoyed amenities that many outside the prison walls would love to have. Drug trafficker Chimenes Pavao bribed officials to look the other way, then set up a fully furnished, tastefully decorated threecomplete room suite, with air conditioning, a refrigerator, a library, a flatscreen TV, a DVD player and a treadmill. The luxury cell was discovered when a bomb threat caused police to search the entire prison.
- If you've ever been the victim of a purse-snatching, here's a discouraging bit of information: Those who study such things say that four out of five perpetrators get away.
- In 1804 our planet hit a milestone: a population of 1 billion people. It took 123 years to add another billion, then only 33 more to get to 3 billion, in 1960. We crossed the 4 billion mark in 1974, hit 5 billion in 1987, and got to 6 billion in 1999. In 2011 (or early 2012, depending on who's doing the estimating, the earth's population passed 7 billion, and those who study such things expect us to get to 8 billion sometime in the mid- to late 2020s.

Thought for the Day: "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

- Benjamin Franklin

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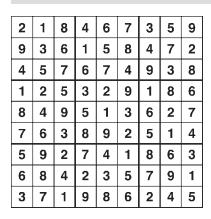
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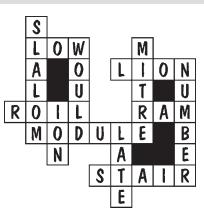
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or call 1-888-693-NDEP (6337);

TTY: 1-866-569-1162.



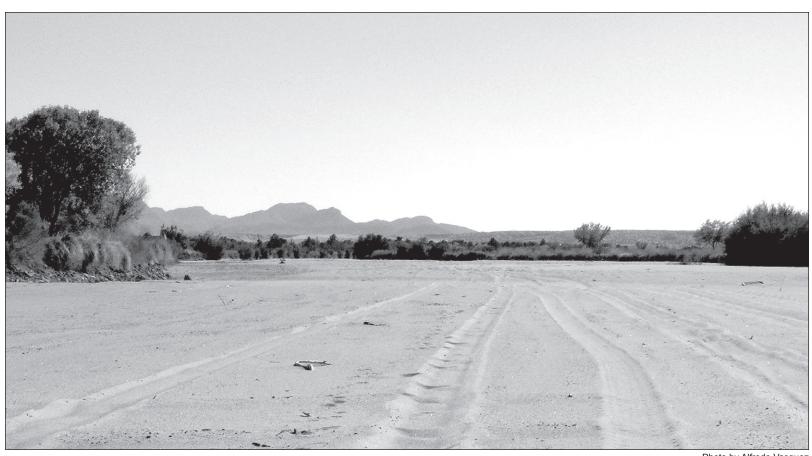




CryptoQuip Answer

Famed Hanna-Barbera cartoon animal who always preferred wearing no clothes: Yogi Bare.

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- Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

PART-TIME HIGHWAY - The dried out Rio Grande bed has served as a make shift road as evidenced by the tire tracks.

Water

From Page 1

to give up a share of its annual allotment to make up for what was being lost downstream. farmers on both sides of the state line reached an operating compromise with the federal government in 2008 that shared the water allotments, especially during a droughty period.

objected, and the State of New Mexico sued in federal court to stop the agreement. Former New Mexico Attorney General Gary King insisted that the deal was more beneficial to Texas. New Mexico wanted the case dismissed. Thus, the stage was set for Texas to take its complaints Grimsal concluded this month County Water Improvement five years to complete the case, to the U.S. Supreme Court.

claiming that New Mexico failed to deliver water as required under the compact that involved the water from the Rio Grande. The water serves more than six million people in several cities Irrigation districts that serve and irrigates more than 3,100 square miles of farmland in southern New Mexico, west Texas, and northern Mexico.

Subsequently, a special master was assigned by the Supreme Court to evaluate the case and come up But the City of Las Cruces with recommendations. Given the assignment was A. Gregory Grimsal. a commercial litigation attorney from New Orleans. The high court took the entire case, as opposed to its normal role of hearing appeals, and handed it to the expert lawyer.

Afterthreeyears of deliberation, that the high court should deny District (EPCWID) No. 1 gets government officials indicated.

In 2013, Texas filed a lawsuit New Mexico's motion to dismiss the other 43 percent. the case. He also agreed with a key claim made by Texas – that on surface water from the river New Mexico is not honoring the for irrigation. The river's water Rio Grande Compact because it also makes up as much as half is allowing irrigators to suck a lot of the City of El Paso's water of Texas' water out of the ground supply in a normal year. near the river before it gets to the state line.

> Mexico, EBID, nonetheless, viewed the special master's because they upheld the district's attorney fees. priority rights to Rio Grande recent news report.

irrigation districts in New

In El Paso County, farmers rely

Jesus 'Chuy' Reyes, general manager of EPCWID No. 1, Even though it's in New stated that he hoped the ruling would prompt New Mexico to negotiate a settlement so recommendations as a victory everybody can stop paying

Unless a settlement is reached, surface water, according to a the Supreme Court is expected to ratify Grimsal's report this year. Under the current terms of After that the special master will the 1938 compact, the major develop a case-management plan in which he will lay out Mexico below Elephant Butte how to proceed and whether or Dam gets 57 percent of available not compensation fines should water each year, while El Paso be assessed. It could take another

Moments in Time

The History Channel

- On March 6, 1951, the espionage trial of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg begins after the couple is accused of running a spy ring and selling top-secret atomic bomb technology to Russia. The Rosenbergs were convicted, and were the only American civilians to be executed for espionagerelated activity during the Cold War.
- On March 7, 1999, American filmmaker Stanley Kubrick, whose 13 feature films explored the dark side of human nature, dies in England at age 70. Kubrick was best known for his films "Spartacus" (1960), "Dr. Strangelove" (1964) and "2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)."
- On March 8, 1669, Mount Etna, on the island of Sicily in modern-day Italy, begins rumbling. Multiple eruptions over the next few weeks killed more than 20,000 people. Most of the victims could have saved themselves, but stayed.
- On March 9, 1943, Bobby Fischer, the only American ever to win the chess world championship, is born in Chicago. His last public match, in 1992 against Boris netted Spassky, Fischer the \$2 million prize. He then became a wanted man for tax evasion, and in 2000 renounced his U.S. citizenship.
- On March 10, 1969, James Earl Ray pleads guilty to the assassination of civil- rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and is sentenced to 99 years in prison. Ray later changed his story, claiming he had been set up by a mysterious man named "Raoul."
- On March 11, 1989, "COPS," a documentarystyle TV series that follows police officers and sheriff's deputies as they go about their jobs, debuts on FOX. "COPS" went on to become one of the longest-running shows in television history.
- On March 12, 1933, eight days after his inauguration, President Franklin Roosevelt gives his "fireside chat," a radio broadcast directly from the White House. Roosevelt explained his decision to close the nation's banks to stop mass withdrawals.

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Tell us about your upcoming event: wtxcc@wtxcc.com

This year the bracket is going to be hard to fill out

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

The pattern over the last few years is that the NCAA basketball tournament is getting harder and harder to predict.

Oh, I know that the Kentucky Wildcats, thanks to their one-and-done philosophy of recruiting the best players in the country to play for one year and then flock to the NBA, is guaranteed a deep run every year.

But even then, John Calipari and the happened. Wildcats have won only once in seven years though they're seemingly always considered one of the best four teams in the nation.

The fact is that the NCAA Tournament or "March Madness" as it is probably better known, has become the second most popular sports event, next to the Super Bowl, in the United States.

And the reason is that Americans love an underdog. And every year it seems there are at least a couple little schools who accomplish the impossible, by knocking off a major contender for the championship.

Southwest-Tech takes on a Kansas during the regular season, nobody cares because we all know Kansas will win by 30 in powers. front of their home crowd.

name for the tournament, big schools take on the little guys at neutral sites in front of hostile crowds – because Americans love an underdog.

And once in a while, a big school is taken down and they spend the rest of the summer wondering how in the world it

As we slowly creep into March, we know the "madness" isn't very far away.

And this is the time that self-proclaimed experts tell everyone what teams are going to make it to the final four and which team is eventually going to win it all.

The problem is, if you ask five different prognosticators to pick a winner this year, they may come up with five different team. answers.

of the rankings are still there. Teams Kentucky, Arizona, Louisville and Duke the college basketball world.

Dakota-Central-State- are expected to compete for the title.

But there are other schools who look as good – if not better – than the traditional

First of all, the top ranked team in the But in the "big dance," another popular country is the only undefeated team left Gonzaga.

> Gonzaga has made the climb from little guy, to good little guy, to dangerous little guy, to legitimate contender.

> But the Bulldogs have never been the top dog going into the tournament. This year there's a good chance they can be the top seed.

> Other teams who have very good chances to advance to the final four are Baylor, UCLA, Oregon, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Purdue and Cincinnati.

And these are all teams who have real chances of winning it all. That can make this year's tournament one of the best it's all said and done, that Arizona will ever, because there is no real powerhouse

All the little schools and the better mid-Don't get me wrong, many of the big major teams around the country have got schools you'd expect to see at the top to know that this could be the year of another Texas Western. Someone has a like Villanova, Kansas, North Carolina, chance to come from nowhere and shock

There are teams this year like SMU and Saint Mary's and Creighton and Notre Dame and Maryland and Wichita State who could spoil the party for the big

It seems like every year lately the experts say the tournament is "wide open."

But that seems especially true this year with so teams posting 20 wins with victories over top notch talent.

Barring any unforeseen injuries, all the teams mentioned above can make it to the final four. And though I usually make fun of the experts, I'll be the "expert" now so that you can make fun of me.

My picks for the final four this year are Villanova, Arizona, West Virginia and UCLA.

Like I said, it's wide open this year.

I've got this crazy feeling that when be the team hoisting the championship trophy.

What makes this year's tournament so compelling is that all four of those teams could lose in the first two rounds.

That's why we watch this event. It's so unpredictable... and because Americans love an underdog.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

A leader among men

It's part instinct, part intuition. while you're in it, you tend to gravitate to the people who will make living in it a little more comfortable.

Kevin Plank, the founder and CEO of Under Armour is just such a man. I know. He played softball for me.

Let me explain. I attended the University of Maryland, and first met Kevin Plank at the worldfamous Bentley's on College Park's Route 1. A childhood friend was dating a guy who lived with Plank, and when his house had a vacancy, at her urging, he

There are times when you meet vetted me at Bentley's. Plank a guy and just instantly like him. looked like a guy's guy – not a pretty boy, definitely a tough guy, Your bloodline has survived long smiled a lot, engaging, strong enough to see you into the world; handshake... emanated a sort of by Plank and his team. uncommon stature.

kid I had ever met, and living in his house with a motley crew of ACC wrestlers, football players, a baseball player (me), hockey player and potato chipsalesman's son, plus the women who loved us – all of us had girlfriends, so we were kept well in check – was as great an experience as I've ever had. But it's also where I had the privilege of witnessing Plank in action as a out of necessity. He was a stocky, businessman.

in great detail. Within a few days of the show, hundreds of T-shirts were delivered to our house, assembled accorded to size and sold at the next few Dead shows

Before Valentine's Plank was unlike any college he was the guy who drove to the docks of Baltimore and negotiated for a huge shipment of roses for pennies on the dollar. He came back to College Park, built a call-center in our living room (beer on tap), and hired us to take orders after he had plastered the campus with fliers touting \$19 roses by the dozen. The guy was 21.

He invented Under Armour Irish kid who played football My first night living there, very hard, and he sweated a

Plank grilled me about the lot... an awful lot. I think one jobs to Baltimore, to keep his Armour, and his salesmanship after graduation took him over world of sports.

> But when he expressed always have. enthusiasm for our president's economic agenda, a bunch of thing and tried to create uproar. This, to a guy that has done everything he can to return Synd., Inc.

Grateful Dead. He had heard day he weighed the T-shirt under company as American as ever... there was a marketplace in the his pads, and it contained about a guy who consistently gives parking lots, and I, no stranger 11 pounds of water weight. back to his community, a guy to the scene, explained it to him That led him to invent Under that shakes your hand and means what he says.

> Bashing Kevin Plank? Not on the top. Ever since, he has my watch. Plank said he wants done nothing but champion the to create jobs and thinks Trump American worker and add a can help. Personally, I can't wait great deal of excitement to the for the day he runs for president. Protect our house, Kevin. You

> people did the mindless #hashtag Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2017 King Features

Age

From Page 8

if you start them any time before full retirement age. For example, if you start receiving benefits in 2017 at age 62, your monthly benefit amount will be reduced permanently by about 26 percent.

On the other hand, if you wait to start receiving your benefits until after your full retirement age, then your monthly benefits will be permanently increased. The amount of this increase is twothirds of one percent for each month — or eight percent for each year — that you delay receiving them until you reach age 70.

If you decide to receive benefits before you reach full retirement age, you should also understand how continuing to work can affect your benefits. We may withhold or reduce your benefits if your annual earnings exceed a certain amount. However, every month we withhold or reduce increases your future benefits. That's because at your full retirement age we will recalculate your benefit amount to give you credit for the months in which we reduced or withheld benefits due to your excess earnings. In effect, it's as if you hadn't filed for those months. You can learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/ planners/retire/whileworking.html.

If you pass away, your retirement date can affect the benefit amount your surviving loved ones receive. If you started receiving retirement benefits before full retirement age, we cannot pay the full amount to your survivors. Their benefit amount will be based on your reduced benefits.

You can learn more by visiting our Retirement Planner at www. socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire.



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

TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas

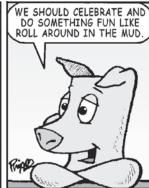
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT MILLENNIALS WORRY ABOUT AND WHAT BABY BOOMERS WORRY ABOUT ...





AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps









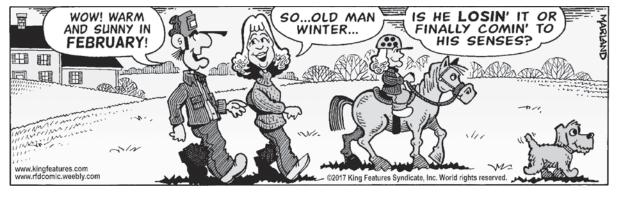
THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering







R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

aspirin for a seeming heart attack and went to the hospital, where I was asked if I had taken any meds. I answered "no," and was medicated; the result was panic for the doctors, as my heart rate slowed to a dangerous rate. With care and an extra day in the hospital, I was released. My ignorance about medicines was scary. I think that it should be emphasized that "meds" does not mean only prescriptions. Tell the doctor, "I took an aspirin!" --R.G.

Indeed, your doctors should know about all medications you are taking, including overthe-counter, vitamins and other supplements. Sometimes women forget to mention their oral contraceptives.

Aspirin is a powerful medicine, not to be taken lightly. That being said, I am not sure why your heart rate slowed to a dangerous rate. Beta blockers usually are given for suspected heart attack, and some people do have dramatic responses to beta blockers, and their heart rates slow way down. I can't explain why aspirin could heart rate. I also couldn't find any interaction between beta blockers and aspirin.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 78-year-old female who has had three orthopedic surgeries (hip repair, hip replacement and knee replacement) with spinal anesthesia in two years. Each time, your prescription medication the anesthesia has left me with and carefully evaluate their severe orthostatic hypotension requiring medication for months. If I should ever need surgery again,

DEAR DR. ROACH: I took an is there any other anesthetic that would be just as effective and not make me ill? -A.P.

> This actually is a very common problem, with at least half of people undergoing orthopedic surgery having some orthostatic hypotension (a lowering of blood pressure upon sitting or standing) immediately after surgery. You have had a very prolonged reaction. I spoke with an anesthesiologist at the Cleveland Clinic, who told me that the issue could have been any of the anesthetic and adjuvant agents that were used. He recommended more salt and water before any operation and longer time in progressively upright positions before trying to get up post-operatively.

Finally, your anesthesiologist could look at your preoperative and anesthesia records and try to figure out what agent you had that was most likely to have been causing this, so to avoid its use next time.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Two lab tests done in the past two years show that my kidneys are not functioning at 100 percent. Is there any have made that more likely, since action I can take (such as diet or aspirin shouldn't slow down the *medication*) to keep these figures *from worsening? – L.M.*

> Kidney function tends to decrease with age, but kidneys also can be damaged from high blood pressure, diabetes, some medications and many other causes. If kidney function is low, your doctor should look at dosing. Also, anti-inflammatory

> > 22

42

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

19

20

INTERNAL CAPITAL **ACROSS**

- Seer's "gift," for
- 9 Tosses out
- women
- 20 Tree-toppling ax 21 Expiate, with "for"
- 23 African beast submerged?
- 26 Ranch rope 27 Unit of Time
- 28 Park or Fifth: Abbr. 29 Like partially spoiled oil?
- 31 Five-alarm, for one?
- 35 Mao _-tung 36 British isle 37 Slyly derisive
- 38 Mocked by imitating 41 Humdrum
- 44 Amor or Eros 47 Magic lamp owner's language?
- 51 Purpose 52 Property unit 54 Hereditary unit
- 55 Daphnis' lover
- 56 Tan-colored door
- security feature? 62 Banknotes 64 Wichita-to-Akron

- 65 Fueled (up) 66 Tennille or Braxton 67 "Mistv" crooner Johnny 69 Hero of Sophocles' "Flectra"
- 14 Some choir 71 It's hidden in this puzzle's 10 longest answers "Such gall!" 73 Native of Cuba's
- capital 77 Fail to do as promised 22 Statue of Liberty 79 Watson of "The
 - Bling Ring" 81 Texas border city 82 "The Simpsons' clerk
 - 85 Q-V link 86 Snap-on parts of a tot's tote? 88 Friend of the Lone Ranger
 - 90 Tenderfoot 92 Do injury to 93 Jockey (for) 94 "Farewell, Ms.
 - Clooney!"? 98 Wading birds 103 Israel's Fhan
 - 102 Raccoon relative 104 Texas city near Dallas 105 Dick _ Dyke 106 Washroom.
 - informally 109 Thoroughly clean some sour fruit? 114 Tune about

Houdini?

- 119 Several eras 120 Flat piece of microfilm 121 Flat, as pop 122 Cause Reagan to diaress?
- 126 By itself 127 Without _ (worry-128 Sandbank
- 129 Thigh's place 130 Fiery feeling 131 Faked out, in ice hockey 132 Utilized a keypad 133 "What _ the odds?"

DOWN 1 Set of values

- 2 kebab 3 Giant in soda
- 4 Providing with footwear 5 Modern in
- Muenster 6 Rent-to-7 Adjust on a
- timeline 8 _ Fountain (Rome landmark) 9 Skull bone
- 10 Great Salt Lake's state 11 _ moment too soon
- 12 Honored a king maybe 13 Bondmen
- 14 Razor name 15 Pork cut
- 16 Like phone calls

- and outlines 17 1 followed by 27 zeros 18 Like arbors
- 24 Living proof? 25 Relating to the kidnevs 30 McEntire of
- country 32 Grande 33 Confound 34 Scholastic meas.
- 39 Sword part 40 Pres. before JFK 42 Of a large store of data 43 Opposite of "vep"
- 44 "Hasta!" (Spanish "Later!") 45 Often-quoted Wilde 46 Sonnet, e.g. 47 In one's own
- house 48 Peruvian of vore 49 Below, in a 46-Down 50 "Meh" mark
- 53 Decide 57 Pre-'91 emnire 58 Fade away 59 Xanadus 60 Lover of Lennon 61 Top part of some
- forms 63 Intend to 67 "Well I declare!" 68 Actress Mia 70 Brawl
- 72 Diplomat's bldg. 74 See 19-Across
- loss for words 83 Many a Net radio host 84 Teamster ID 86 Utterly fail 95 Annoy them 97 Slot car, say 99 Kilmer of "Top Gun" 100 Not divided into parts 104 Forceful 1051 ine of motor scooters 108 Verhalize 110 Be sweltering 112 N.J. Devil, e.g. 113 Swamp plant 115 As well 116 Look keenly 118 Actor Richard

75 Allow to enter

80 Toothpaste box

76 Spoots

78 Fellas

87 Toothbrush brand 89 Pekoe, e.g.91 Irish actor Stephen 96 Crunches crunch 101" Thro' the Rye" 107 President of Syria 111 City NNF of Tampa 117 Neighbor of Mont. 123 TV's Turner 124 Keystone policeman 125 Carly _ Jepsen Answer Page 4

45 60 | 61 83 85 93 92 99 104 106 107 108 111 | 112 | 113 110 120 121 122 124 125 126 127 129 128 130 131 132 133

39

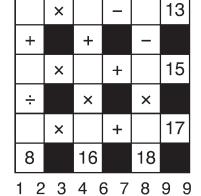
Moore Texas by Roger Moore

Feb 13, 1913: LA PRENSA, a Spanish language newspaper aimed at Mexicans living temporarily in Texas, is founded



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!

©2017 King Features Syndicate, Inc Answer Page 4

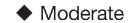
Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ◆





♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

2017 brings retirement age bump

Every worker's dream is having a secure retirement to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Social Security is here to help you secure today and tomorrow. Part of that commitment is ensuring you have the most up-to-date information when you make your retirement

"Full retirement age" refers to the age when a person can claim their Social Security benefits without any reduction, even if they are still working part or full time. In other words, you don't actually need to retire from your work to claim your full benefits. Also note that waiting until you're 70, if you can, will bring you a higher monthly benefit. The choices you make will affect any benefit your spouse or children can receive on your record, too. If you claim benefits early, it will reduce their potential benefit as well as yours.

As the bells rang in a new year, they also rang in changes in 2017 for people considering claiming Social Security retirement benefits. For people who attain age 62 in 2017 (i.e., those born between January 2, 1955 and January 1, 1956), full retirement age is 66 and

Full retirement age was age 65 for many years. However, due to a law passed by Congress in 1983, it has been gradually increasing, beginning with people born in 1938 or later, until it reaches 67 for people born after 1959.

You can learn more about the full retirement age and find out how to look up your own at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/

There are some things you should remember when you're thinking about retirement.

You may start receiving Social Security benefits as early as age 62 or as late as age 70. The longer you wait, the higher your monthly benefit will be. Your monthly benefits will be reduced permanently

See AGE, Page 6

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.

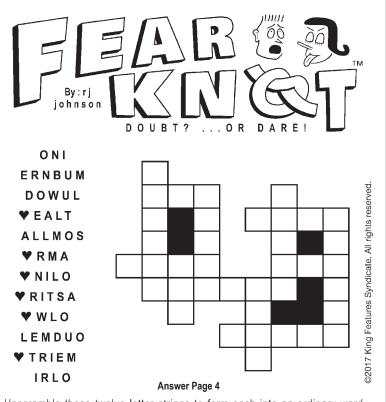
Clue: A equals B

ETLIC DTGGT-ATVAIVT FTVMNNG TGQLTK HDN TKHTJX OVIEIVVIC HITVQGY GN FKNMDIX:

JNYQ ATVI.

Answer Page 4

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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

Here's

By JoAnn Derson

- · Start seeds in the cups of an egg carton, the kind that are made from paper. You can get them going on a windowsill inside. When it's time to plant in the ground, score the bottom of each cup and plant it - paper and all – in the dirt.
- "I found a decorative cardboard box that is big enough to hold a power strip. After installing it in the box so it looks pretty, I made holes out the side for different kinds of chargers (Apple, Android, etc.). The cord can be stored in the box or pulled out enough to charge a device. It looks nice on the side table instead of a mess of cords." - W.L. in Alabama
- · "Cheese can be grated, then frozen. The frozen cheese can be used in casserole dishes without even defrosting. I find it convenient to freeze my mozzarella in batches because we make a lot of individual pizzas. I can get a big block, grate it and freeze. It keeps for a long time." -J.M. in Pennsylvania
- Lipstick and lip gloss (including lip balms) shouldn't be kept for more than a year. You can extend the life of your favorite lip wear by shaving a bit off and using a brush to apply it from the cut-off portion. If it touches your face, it can collect and breed bacteria. Be sure to replace mascaras every six months at minimum, and clean brushes regularly.

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

Health

From Page 7

medicines like ibuprofen or naproxen should be minimized. Even Tylenol can cause longterm kidney damage in high doses for long periods of time. Managing any chronic illnesses and avoiding toxic drugs are the most important actions.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions 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.