



NEWSBRIEFS

Water money for Village of Vinton

The USDA Rural Development has approved a water and waste disposal loan in the amount of \$2,909,000 and grant of \$4,805,000 to the Village of Vinton. Rural Development funds will be used to purchase four privately owned water systems. Improvements to these systems include the installation of a looped water system to purchase treated potable water through a wholesale purchase agreement with El Paso Water Utilities. The Village will begin providing service to approximately 249 connections for Phase I. Phase II will include an additional 171 connections. The Village has a population of 1,971. "Having safe and reliable water and waste disposal services is vital to the health of rural communities," said Daniel Torres, USDA Rural Development Texas Acting State Director. "Rural Development is pleased to offer funding to improve water services for the Village of Vinton."

— Erika Archie

Do you have the flu?

It's that time of year when the flu can strike out of the blue. But now there appears to be a quick way to find out if you have a cold or influenza, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. A professor at the University of Texas says he has built of device that can diagnose the flu by analyzing your breath. It works like the Breathalyzers that police use to catch drunk drivers. The inventor, Professor Perena Gouma, is quoted in a UT press release as saying: "This technology could be used by ordinary people to quickly and accurately diagnose illness."

— John Grimaldi

Where's the beef?

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Special Ranger Ben Eggleston and local authorities are seeking information regarding the theft of 62 head of cattle from a feed yard west of Stratford, Texas. *Operation Cow Thief*, an anti-theft initiative led by TSCRA, along with the Sherman County Crime Stoppers are offering a cash reward of up to \$2,000 for

See BRIEFS, Page 3

Nothing makes a person the boss of the house like living alone.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

HANGAR HANGOUT – El Paso County Commissioners Court recently approved a lease agreement with the University of Texas at El Paso for the use of the Fabens Airport. The airport's main hangar facility, above, will house the university's initial research projects.

Fabens Airport research center may be economic driver for county

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Can you imagine... an University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) technology research complex in Fabens, TX where work would be underway on projects for NASA, the U.S. Department of Energy, Lockheed Martin, the Missile Defense Agency, and other aeronautical companies?

Such a development could be possible, and it would be an economic boon for the lower valley communities, according to Pat Adaauto, El Paso County's public works director.

Adaauto shared her vision at a recent El Paso County Commissioners Court

meeting during which the court approved an agreement between the county and UTEP for use of facilities at the Fabens airport, located in the far east part of the county. (The entrance to the airport is a couple of miles south from the Interstate-10 Fabens exit ramp.)

Adaauto projected that the partnership between UTEP and the county could evolve into a great opportunity to expand the airport and promote the economic development of the area by attracting corporations. She said that this is an exciting project for the county because it brings into play the county airport land with the University of Texas system to create a technology research center and to attract big aeronautical companies, like Boeing and NASA. She added that

the project is also intended to encourage students in the county's lower valley schools to pursue careers in science and engineering.

The airport lease contract is for 10 years with two-10 year automatic extensions. UTEP will pay the county \$1,500 a month in rent starting April 1. Under the agreement, however, the county will continue to manage the airport, officials noted.

Running the daily operations of the airport for the county will be Olivas Aviation, the same company that has leased the airport from the county for 40 years. Alfredo Olivas, owner of the company, will be the Fixed-Base Operator (FBO) at the county airport.

In order for counties to qualify for funds from The Texas Department of Transportation's Aviation Division, airports are required to have a FBO- a commercial business that maintains the airport grounds and provides aeronautical services. Commissioners recently authorized county staff to re-negotiate an FBO contract with the Olivas company.

Olivas and his wife, Lucy, are both natives of Fabens. "We grew up in Fabens; our children grew up here, and the airport is a big part of our lives," said Lucy Olivas. She related that together they have been managing the Fabens airport for the past forty years. Lucy takes care of the office. Her husband performs a variety of tasks that include conducting aircraft inspections, providing fuel to transient air traffic, fixing and restoring planes, offering pilot training, and making the runways available for private planes, crop dusters, and government agencies', like the Border Patrol and military, aircrafts.

Lucy Olivas said that the biggest adjustment that they will have to make, now that UTEP is on-board, is that of

EPCC named top community college for Hispanics in nation

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) was listed first among the Top 25 Community Colleges for Hispanics and was also ranked number one in the nation for granting associate degrees to Hispanic students by two-year schools in the current issue of *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* magazine. The publication annually surveys two- and four-year institutions in their serving of Hispanic students. EPCC ranked

second in enrollment for all students at community colleges.

The magazine's February issue features EPCC on the cover along with a feature story on pages 20-21. The rankings are on page 18 and all can be viewed in the digital edition (https://issuu.com/hohost/docs/digitalho-02-00-2017_).

"The lessons I learned from EPCC and my professors prepared me for the real world. To have that kind of support and see an institution striving for excellence in the Hispanic community, you can't

See EPCC, Page 5

See AIRPORT, Page 4

Prepare your budget for closing costs when buying a home

A catch-all for the fees and

- **Homeowners insurance.** You may need to pay several

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has an interactive example of a standard loan estimate form with explanations and definitions of terms. On the second page,

Bottom line: Estimating your closing costs, and budgeting accordingly, can help ensure you're looking for homes within your price range. That's important because you want to be able to move quickly when you find a home you love. However, don't move so fast that you miss out on savings opportunities. Shopping mortgage lenders and service providers could help you minimize your closing costs.

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.

By Freddy Groves

While you're on the website, The Center for Women Veterans has a full list of resources and programs. Check

Did you know there's a call center just for women veterans? See www.womenshealth.va.gov. The WVCC staff is specially trained to help women veterans. You can either call them Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET, and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET, or click the Chat button on the right side of the screen. The trained staff members are women as well, and so far, they've helped 33,000 veterans.

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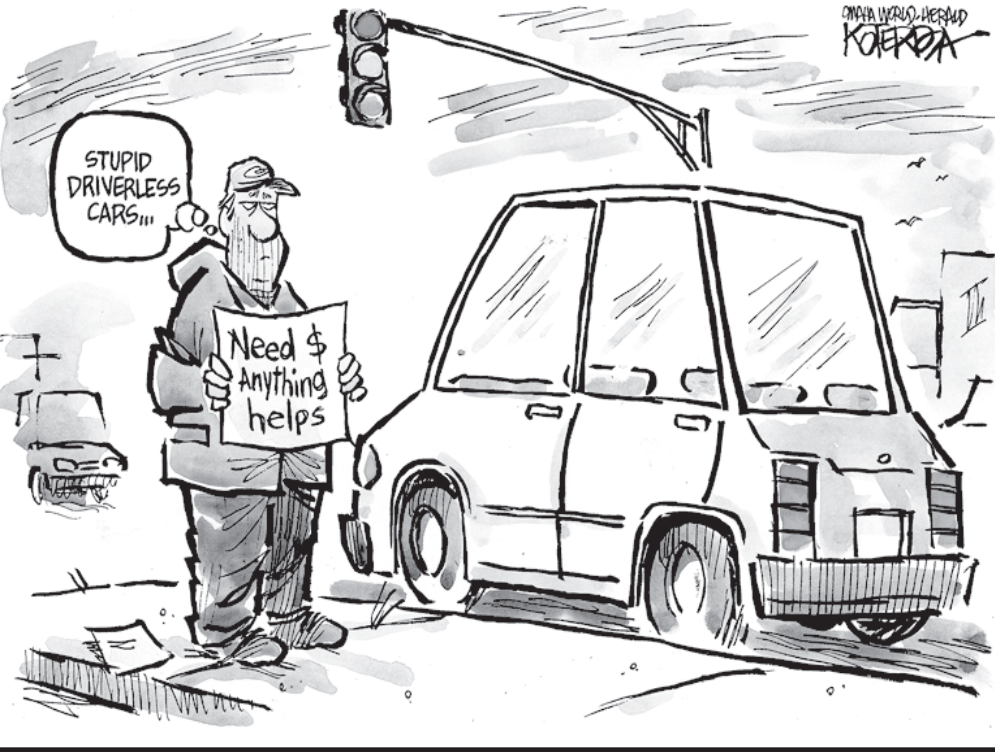
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Briefs

From Page 1

information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person or persons responsible for the crime. Sometime between the months of Oct. and Dec. 2016 an unidentified suspect or suspects made entry into the Cold Water Cattle Feeders facilities outside of Stratford and removed 62 head of cattle. The stolen cattle are steers and heifers weighing from 325 pounds to 775 pounds. The case is being investigated by the Sherman County Sheriff's Department with the assistance of TSCRA's Special Rangers. Anyone with further information leading to the recovery of the items or the arrest of a suspect or suspects should call TSCRA's

Operation Cow Thief hotline at (888) 830-2333 or Special Ranger Ben Eggleston at (806) 852-4741. All information is kept confidential and tips may be provided anonymously.
— *Jeremy Fuchs*

The smart crook edge

Smart criminals can get a shorter sentence and many of them can beat the rap if a new study proves accurate, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. Researchers at the University of Texas studied cases involving 115,674 prisoners charged with federal crimes. They found that High School grads were 10 percent less likely to be sent to prison and those that were locked up received 1.4 percent shorter sentences than those without a diploma.
— *John Grimaldi*

EVEN TEXTERS
AND DRIVERS
HATE TEXTERS
AND DRIVERS.

STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG





– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

MULTI-PURPOSE – Fabens Airport, above, currently provides various services – from being a fueling point for cross country fliers and performing inspections, repairs, and restorations to providing a safe landing strip for private planes, crop dusters, and government agency aircrafts.

Airport

From Page 1

giving the university program use of the main hangar building, which is where Alfredo did all of his work. Nonetheless, Lucy said that if the new agreement helps improve the Fabens community then they are in support of the upcoming changes.

Having a FBO in place and with

a TXDOT aviation division’s satisfactory review, the county could receive about \$150,000 a year from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to support improvements to the airport, county officials reported.

Meanwhile, UTEP officials stated that they will initially use about four acres of land within the airport’s nearly 400-acre property and occupy the main hangar as the basis for their

plans to build a new technology research and acceleration park in the area. They reported that the agreement is part of a new strategic initiative for UTEP’s Center of Space Exploration and Technology Research.

According to Ahsan Choudhuri, chairman of UTEP’s mechanical engineering department and director of the Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research, the Fabens expansion

has a clear intent. “This is to transform the east gateway of El Paso. We want to send a clear message to the rest of the country that El Paso is not a destination if you are looking for low-wage labor, rather this is the place where frontier technologies are being developed and the next generation of engineers and technology are being created,” Choudhuri asserted in a recent interview.

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Fee Scale

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State law now requires both adults and children to be buckled up in the front or back seat. A child less than 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat. Most children between 4 and 8 years old will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Fines range from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs. TexasClickItorTicket.com

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was beloved 20th-century English novelist, journalist and critic Eric Arthur Blair – better known as George Orwell – who made the following sage observation: “Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed; everything else is public relations.”

• In August of last year, Charles City, Iowa, saw an over-the-top display of irony when a local bar named DeRailed was struck by – you guessed it – a derailed train car.

• Thanks to Peter Jackson’s films, you’re probably familiar with J.R.R. Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings” series, even if you haven’t read the books. There’s been quite a lot of scholarship about the novels. Most of the research focuses on literary analysis and historical analogies, and understandably so; a work of fantasy doesn’t seem to lend itself to scientific analysis. However, the Journal of Interdisciplinary Science Topics recently published an article titled, “Simply Walking into Mordor: How Much Lembas Would the Fellowship Have Needed?” In it, Skye Rosetti and Krisho Manaharan make public their calculations of the caloric intake that would have been necessary for the Fellowship to walk 92 days to Mordor: precisely 1,780,214.59.

• A survey from retailer Long Tall Sally found that 40 percent of American women own shoes that they know they can’t walk in, but wear them anyway. The average woman claims she can last two hours in painful shoes.

• You probably know that “fuzz” has been a common slang term for police, but did you ever wonder why? It began in the United Kingdom, where police officers in London sometimes wore fuzzy hats.

Thought for the Day: “There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.”
– William J. Clinton.

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CryptoQuip Answer

Old TV series about a family hopelessly trapped among flavor-enhancing substances: “Lost in Spice.”

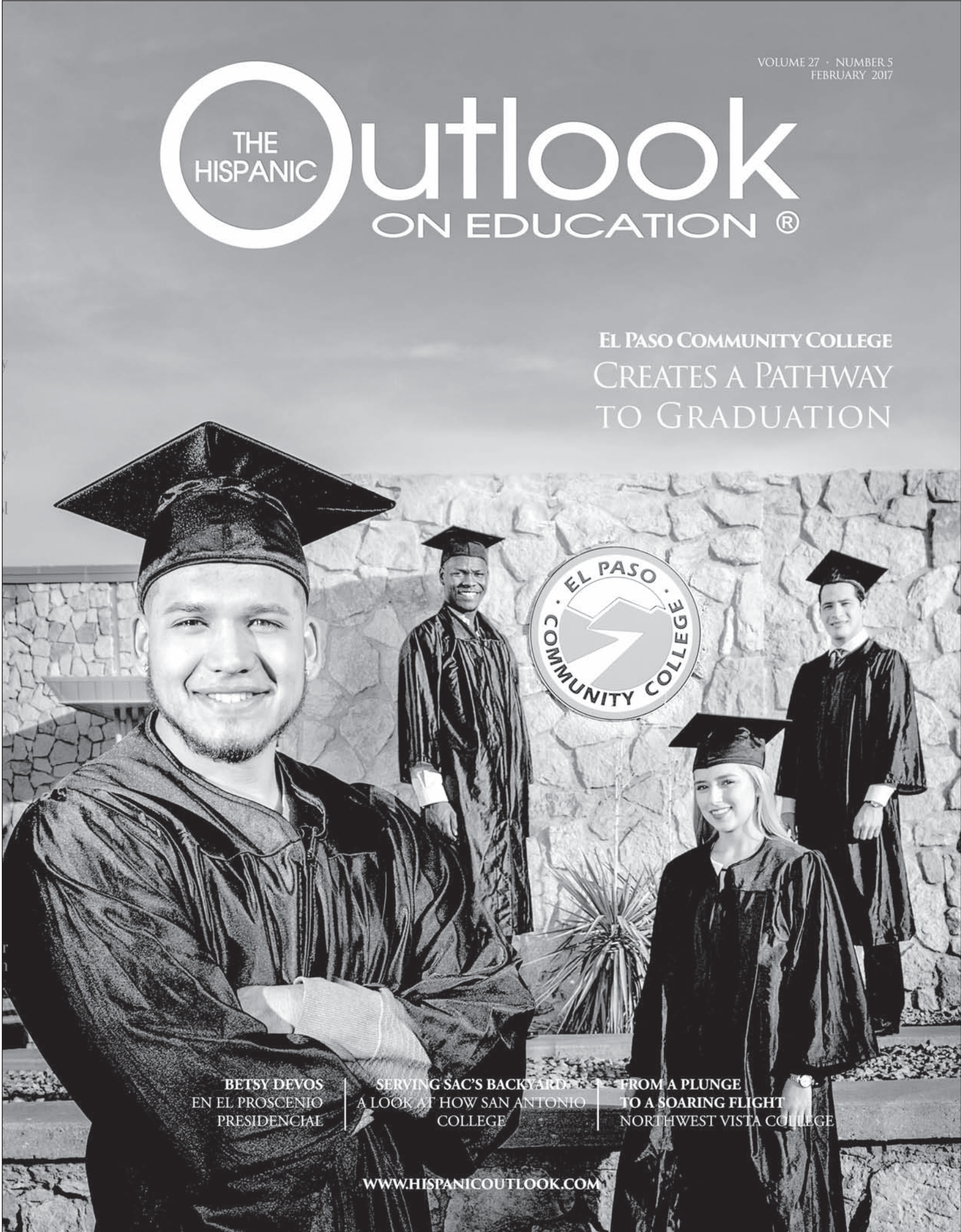
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Moments
in Time

The History Channel

- On March 13, 1781, astronomer William Hershel discovers Uranus, the first new planet to be found by use of a telescope. In 1986, the spacecraft Voyager 2 visited Uranus, discovering 10 additional moons to the five already known.
 - On March 14, 1879, Albert Einstein is born in Germany. Einstein's theories of relativity drastically altered man's view of the universe, and his work in particle and energy theory ultimately helped make the atomic bomb.
 - On March 15, 1972, "The Godfather" – a three-hour epic chronicling the lives of an Italian-American crime family led by the powerful Vito Corleone (Marlon Brando) – is released in theaters. "The Godfather" was adapted from the best-selling novel by Mario Puzo.
 - On March 16, 1926, in Massachusetts, American Robert H. Goddard successfully launches the world's first liquid-fueled rocket. The 10-foot rocket traveled for 2.5 seconds at a speed of about 60 mph.
 - On March 17, 461 A.D., Saint Patrick – Christian missionary, bishop and apostle of Ireland – dies in Ireland. Much of what is known about his legendary life comes from the "Confessio," a book he wrote during his final years. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held not in Ireland, but in New York City in 1762.
 - On March 18, 1852, businessmen Henry Wells and William Fargo join with other New York investors to create Wells, Fargo and Company to serve and profit from the economic boom in California. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1849 spurred a huge demand for shipping.
 - On March 19, 1916, eight Curtiss "Jenny" planes of the First Aero Squadron take off from Columbus, New Mexico, in the first combat air mission in U.S. history. The squadron flew in support of U.S. troops who invaded Mexico to capture Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa.
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NATIONAL NEWS – The photo used for the front cover of the February issue of *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*, above, was taken by El Paso Community College’s Fernie Garcia.

EPCC

From Page 1

help but feel a sense of pride,” said Sean Diaz, EPCC graduate who successfully transferred to and attends Western Kentucky University.

Since the first degrees were awarded in 1972 until December 2016, EPCC has granted 70,842 degrees. Hispanic students earned nearly 80 percent or close to 55,000 of those degrees.

“EPCC is focused on engaging students, growing community partnerships and fostering a culture of excellence with measurable outcomes,” said EPCC President, Dr. William Serrata. “We are proud to be a nationally-recognized leader in

getting students on a pathway to graduation.”

This is the tenth year in a row that EPCC has been recognized as the top associate degree grantor for Hispanics. For more than 25 years, The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine has been a top information news source and the sole Hispanic educational magazine for the higher education community.

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Miners showing heart, playing inspired basketball

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Back in 1980, Al Michaels asked the world if it believed in miracles. And then he answered the question.

Let’s face it, the guy was right.

On the days leading to the election, how many of you gave Donald Trump any chance at all of winning the presidency?

Down three games to one, how many of you gave the Cleveland Cavaliers a chance to win the NBA title over Golden State?

In the third quarter, how many of you gave the New England Patriots a chance to come back and win the Super Bowl?

Not only do we believe in sports miracles, on rare occasions, we’ve actually witnessed them.

And El Paso sports fans are in the midst of witnessing one of those sports miracles as we speak.

There was a time this season that a strong argument could be made that the UTEP men’s basketball team could be the worst in the nation.

Think I’m over exaggerating?

Not only did the Miners start the season with a 2-13 record, they lost 12 in a row at one stretch. And not only did they lose 12 in a row at one stretch, four of those losses came against the likes of Southeastern Louisiana, Northwestern State, Northern Arizona and Maryland Eastern Shore.

Of course the prevailing thought was that if they couldn’t beat those cupcakes, the Miners would certainly be eaten alive once Conference USA play started.

And that was the case. UTEP started 0-3 in the league and the calls for head coach Tim Floyd’s head got louder and louder.

The angry mob started bringing their signs to the games. The signs called for the school to fire Floyd.

The mob inundated local sports radio talk shows with the chants of “fire Floyd.”

But then it happened.

On a cold Thursday night in January, the Miners were on the verge of ending their 12-game slide with a 14-point lead over Florida International with just seven minutes to go.

But sometimes when things are going bad, there seems to be no end in sight.

The Miners blew their lead and the game went to overtime.

Then it went to a second overtime.

Down by four with 46 seconds left, the the Miners were looking squarely at #13 in a row. But then Al Michaels’ voice could faintly be heard among the crowd.

And Dominic Artis hit a fade away jumper as the buzzer sounded and UTEP came away with a miraculous 88-87 victory.

Two nights later, the Miners went to overtime again and outlasted Florida Atlantic 66-65.

And since then, the Miners have been the hottest team in C-USA winning 11 of their last 13 games.

The team that couldn’t beat teams that few had even heard of is now sitting in a tie for third place in the conference at 11-5.

With just two games left in the regular season, both at home this Thursday and Saturday, the Miners could actually be one of the four teams that receive a first-round bye in the league’s postseason tournament.

What makes things especially exciting is the fact that the Miners are tied with

Old Dominion for third place, and that’s the team they play this Thursday night at the Don Haskins Center.

We’ve seen UTEP teams rebound from a bad season before. But this is the first time that we’ve seen such a 180 in the middle of the season.

The way things were going, this team and coaching staff could have packed it in weeks ago and called it a season – a miserable season.

But to their credit, they’ve never stopped believing and they’ve never stopped working.

And it’s amazing – the signs and calls for Tim Floyd’s firing have completely disappeared.

I guess it goes to show that the thousands of so-called experts around the city have some more studying to do.

I personally hope that the usual 6,000 fans who show up for the home games will be joined by another 6,000 to fill up “The Don” this week.

People need to come out and thank these players and coaches for rising up against such incredible pressure and ridicule.

And then a packed house can answer Al Michael’s question all at once – YES!

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

NOPE

I have a friend who runs a high-end retail business. Every day, one of the things she does is check the rungs inside of the clothes racks. Occasionally, she will find an article of clothing stashed behind, say, a rack of dress shirts. The next time the sneaky person goes to check on the item, there’s a post-it note with the word “NOPE” in its place.

Major League Baseball is sneaky, too. It’s the only game

where you’re allowed to steal – the other manager’s signals, the catcher’s signals... an actual base or two – not to mention all of the even sneakier stuff some guys try to pull. Vaseline under the cap, nail files in their back pocket, spit and rosin, to name a few. But nothing is more egregious than when baseball tries to sneak in a new rule.

Home-field advantage being decided by the winner of the All-Star Game? Stupid, when it’s a game based upon mutual participation and can theoretically

end in a tie. The new one-game play-in playoff games? The worst. The designated hitter – good idea in theory, kind of worked out for guys like David Ortiz, Reggie Jackson, Jim Thome and Edgar Martinez, but really hasn’t made watching games any more enjoyable. The most exciting plays in baseball are the defensive ones anyway.

But now they’ve come up with a real doozy. The proposed rule change would affect extra-inning ballgames. The proposed idea is start an extra-inning game with a runner on second base, in scoring position. Now just think about how idiotic that rule would be for a second.

The Sabremetric guys will tell

you that with no outs and a man on second, a team has a very good probability of scoring a run. With nobody on base, your chance of scoring drops to about 40 percent. That’s a pretty big swing... except it isn’t a swing at all. The player never earned the right to be on the field.

So the manager picks a player, more than likely his preferred base-burning pinch runner. Does he get a hit for that? A walk? No. That’s not fair to the pitcher. Does it affect his on-base percentage? It would have to... how would you account for the run? And why should the pitcher be given such a handicap? If that guy scores, is it an unearned run? Hey, why not just have ghost runners?

And get this: The smart people at Forbes just did the math and figured out it would shorten only about 6 percent of extra-inning games.

The Major Leagues should have stopped when they got it right: banning the spitball and the infield fly rule (the game’s only flaw). If you want to shorten games, you make the batter stay in the batter’s box, period. You’re up there to hit. If the pitcher takes too long to throw, you give him two warnings, and the third time he stalls you boot him from the game.

But trying to ruin the game with that sneaky little second-base runner rule? Nope.

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



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Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain

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Moore Texasby Roger Moore
March 2 ,1836, Washington on the Brazos: The first draft of the Texas Declaration of Independence was so full of errors that a new copy had to be signed the next day.



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: ★★
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Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
Answer Page 4 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!
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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Women’s history and Social Security

March is Women’s History Month – a time to focus not just on the past, but on the challenges women continue to face. Nearly 60 percent of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women, and in the 21st century, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation’s history. Knowing this, you can be the author of your own rich and independent history, with a little preparation. Social Security has served a vital role in the lives of women for over 80 years. With longer life expectancies than men, women tend to live more years in retirement and have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. With the national average life expectancy for women in the United States rising, many women will have decades to enjoy retirement. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a female born today can expect to live more than 80 years. As a result, experts generally agree that if women want to ensure that their retirement years are comfortable, they need to plan early and wisely. You can start with a visit to Social Security’s *Retirement Estimator*. It gives you a personalized estimate of your retirement benefits. Plug in different retirement ages and projected earnings to get an idea of how such things might change your future benefit amounts. You can use this valuable tool at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. You should also visit Social Security’s financial planning website at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. It provides detailed information about how marriage, widowhood, divorce, self-employment, government service, and other life or career events can affect your Social Security. Your benefits are based on your earnings, so you should create your personal *my Social Security* account to verify that your earnings were reported correctly. Your account also can provide estimates of your future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. If you want more information about how Social Security supports women through life’s journey, Social Security has a booklet that you may find useful. It’s called *Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know*. You can find it online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10127.html.

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: D equals S

BQX CN DSUFSD MIBLC M AMOFQV
GBYSQSDDQV CUMYYSX MOBWJ
AQMNBUSWGMWKFWJ DLIDCMWKSD:
“QBDC FW DYFKS.”

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNOT
By: rj johnson
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

NPU
♥ STAMLE
♥ ESDIA
♥ TLSA
♥ ARPNEW
♥ NDE
♥ EDLI
P METT
M DO
E L E N E D
♥ DANME
♥ A W S T

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

- Use coffee filters to separate snacks in a dish, or to separate plates in a stack, particularly ones with gold paint or a raised pattern.
- “For pin holes in the wall, many people know the old renters trick to use white toothpaste to fill. Did you know that you also can use toothpaste to level slight dents? Apply toothpaste to the wall, filling the dent. Scrape a spatula or flat plastic card over the dent to remove any excess paste, leaving a flat spot. Wait for it to dry, and reapply if needed. This only works for small dents, like, say, the one left behind by a doorknob (oops!).” – M.W. in Washington
- To make your own freezer gel packs, simply mix one part rubbing alcohol to two parts water. Use a freezer-safe plastic bag, add the mixture and close, being careful to release all the air from the bag. Take that bag and put it in another freezer-safe bag, and seal (in case the first bag leaks). Freeze and enjoy. You could use it for a lunch bag, or slip inside a small sock to ice boo-boos.
- It’s spring-cleaning and summer insulation time! Forty-four percent of home energy dollars are spent on heating and cooling costs. Check for leaks in windows, doors and the chimney. But don’t forget outlets, plumbing fixtures, power boxes and the attic. If you felt it over the winter, you’ll likely feel it in the heat of summer, too. Prepare now.

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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time, since neither gravity nor the swallow reflex helps it down. With the head elevated, there is some gravity acting against reflux and getting it back into the stomach.

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.