



NEWSBRIEFS

GED tests

The Rotary Club of West El Paso recently presented a check for \$2,000 to the El Paso Human Services, Inc./PRIDE Center. The funds are earmarked for GED (General Equivalency Diploma) tests. The cost of each test is \$150. Persons accepting the check were Susana Reza, Director El Paso Human Services, Inc. and Santiago Gonzalez, PRIDE Program Director.

— Alfredo Vasquez

Youth group

Bond Memorial UMC in Clint is sponsoring a Youth Ministries Group. If you are between the ages of 10 to 14 years old, we invite you to come and participate in our 3-D Youth Group: Dedicated, Determined and Driven. The group meets every Sunday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Activities include games, movie night, projects and pizza parties. The church address is 201 McKinney (corner of McKinney and Bonito). Please call (915) 851-8144 if you have any questions.

— Rick Shrum

Retirement ain't what it used to be

In the good old days dreams of retirement almost always had us picturing a place where heavy coats were not required, where you could bask in the warmth of the sun-and had all the time in the world to do just that. But, as we got closer to the day when we thought we could make those dreams come true the, economic realities of growing old rudely awakened us, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. The fact is that in this day and age not many of us old timers are confident that we can afford retirement, says AMAC. A new survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that too many of us who are still in the workforce are stressed at the thought of retirement yet we “are not taking steps to prepare for it.” The poll also concluded that there is a great deal of financial insecurity in the workplace causing workers to have lower levels of retirement confidence.

— John Grimaldi

You should bear with people because they have to bear with you.

— Quips & Quotes

Texas bans texting while driving

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Motor vehicle deaths topped 40,000 nationwide last year, and according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, distracted driving of one kind or another caused one in 10 driving fatalities.

Texas lawmakers finally decided to do something about this new-technology nightmare. They passed a bill during this session’s closing days to outlaw texting while driving in Texas, after having to stave-off several efforts to kill the bill or gut it. The ban takes effect September 1.

The measure, House Bill 62, prohibits the use of “a portable wireless communication device to read, write, or send an electronic message while operating a motor vehicle.” It would not overrule local ordinances that impose stricter controls on using cell phones and smart phones while driving.

State Rep. Tom Craddick, the Midland Republican who in his fourth attempt put

a texting-while-driving ban in the Texas law books, said, “I think texting (while driving) is bad. It causes problems, whether you’re going 1 mile an hour or (faster).”

The bill sets the fine for violating the texting ban at \$25 to \$99 for a first time offense. The bill does contain exceptions for drivers reporting emergencies and for drivers checking GPS to assist them on their routes.

Craddick had to fight off repeated attempts to derail it. Some Libertarian-leaning Republicans, led by Jonathan Stickland from the Fort Worth area, attempted two parliamentary maneuvers to kill it on a technicality. Both failed.

During the debate, state Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, argued that police might use a texting ban as an excuse to unfairly target members of minority groups. Dutton also questioned whether a police officer could tell whether someone was texting or simply checking GPS.

When the bill was heard in committee, Craddick brought in witnesses who

highlighted the dangers of texting at the wheel, including emotional testimony from a Denton man whose wife and daughter were killed in a head-on collision when someone veered into oncoming traffic while writing a text.

Dutton expressed concern that the bill would hand law enforcement too much power. “One of the things that government does to take your freedoms is to scare you,” he said. “That’s what this bill does. It attempts to scare you.”

Craddick managed to guide a texting bill through the House every legislative session since 2011. That year, it also passed the Senate but was vetoed by then-Gov. Rick Perry. Perry’s objection at the time was that a texting ban would be government overreach. Or, to paraphrase: Texting while driving doesn’t kill people, drivers do. In 2013 and 2015, Craddick’s bills died in the Senate, according to news reports. (Texas Legislature convenes every two years.)

This year Craddick got his texting ban passed into law.

New moths discovered at White Sands

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

WHITE SANDS – Amazing discoveries in Southern New Mexico of a previously unknown desert moth species have conservation researchers aflutter.

The findings were reported last year by Eric Metzler, the Adjunct Curator of Lepidoptera at Michigan State University and a Research Collaborator at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian), as part of his study in the Tularosa Basin of Southern New Mexico.

Working with the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns National Park and White Sands National Monument, Metzler discovered and described several species of moths, new to science, in these national parks.

In 2006 White Sands National Monument invited Metzler to conduct a 10-year study of moths with the purpose of compiling an inventory of moths and describing new species in habitats within and immediately adjacent to the white gypsum dunes in the Monument.

Prior to Metzler’s study, 20 species of moths were recorded from the Monument back in 1950. None of the reported species, however, included certain lepidopteran specimens until this most recent study.

Lepidoptera is the scientific name for insects including butterflies, moths, and skippers. As adults, they have four broad or lance-shaped wings usually covered with tiny overlapping and often brightly colored scales; and as larvae,



— Image courtesy of Eric Metzler

NEW TO US – This newly-identified moth specimen was discovered in the White Sand National Monument region.

they are caterpillars.

Metzler stated that from 2007 through 2016, he collected more than 600 named species (unpublished data) of Lepidoptera from the Monument plus approximately 40 undescribed species of moths.

Metzler surmised that the lack of information about these newly-discovered moth specimens could probably be attributed to the dearth of insect collecting in the gypsum dunes ecosystem in New Mexico because the dunes were private property and are under the control of the U.S. National Park Service and the U.S. Army.

The White Sands National Monument protects 284.9 km² (110 square miles), about 40 percent, of the

world’s largest snow-white gypsum dune field. The remainder of the 275 square miles formation is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army’s White Sands Missile Range.

The white dunes formation is part of the northern-most portion of the Chihuahuan Desert which encompasses sections of lands in Southern New Mexico, West Texas, Southern Arizona, and Northern Chihuahua.

Metzler, who received the National Park Service Regional Director’s Award for Natural Resource Research in 2014, talked about his discoveries at a recent meeting sponsored by the Greater Big

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

Safely cut the cost of elective medical expenses

Whether it's a matter of comfort, appearance or safety, there are many medical procedures that you may want or need, but your health insurance won't cover. Laser eye surgery may fall into the want category for most people and it can be a hefty

investment with each eye costing several thousand dollars. For those wanting to start a family, infertility treatments, which can cost over \$10,000, may be closer to a need. Yet most states don't require health insurance to cover treatments.

Considering the lasting impact that these and other procedures can have on your life, you may not want to seek out the least expensive option. However, that doesn't mean you should forgo attempts to save altogether. From tax-advantaged accounts to comparison shopping doctors, there are many approaches to safely cutting costs.

See if you could get a tax break. Although tax breaks don't lower a medical procedure's price, tax deductions can decrease your taxable income and by using a tax-advantaged account you may be able to pay for some medical procedures with income-tax-free money.

- Take a medical expense tax deduction. If you itemize your tax deductions, you can get a deduction for your qualified medical expenses that exceed 10 percent of your adjusted gross income. Laser eye surgery and some fertility enhancement treatments may qualify. However, cosmetic surgery doesn't unless it's related to a congenital abnormality, disfiguring disease or an injury resulting from trauma or an accident.

- Use an employer-sponsored flexible spending account (FSA). Some employers offer FSAs as an employee benefit. You can make tax-deductible contributions to the account each

year and withdraw the money tax-free to pay for qualified medical expenses, including health insurance deductibles and copayments. However, this approach could require planning as you may forfeit remaining FSA money at the end of each year.

- Enroll in health insurance with a health savings account (HSA). An HSA account is similar to an FSA in that you can contribute pre-tax money and withdraw funds to pay for eligible medical expenses tax-free. HSAs don't have the use-it-or-lose-it requirement, but to qualify for an HSA account, you need to enroll in a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) and can't be eligible for Medicare.

Ask your health insurance company about discounts. Even when a health insurance provider doesn't cover a procedure, members may still be able to save money by going through their insurance.

For example, health insurance generally won't cover the cost of laser eye surgery, but your provider may offer a 5 to 15 percent discount if you get the surgery at partner eye care centers.

Health insurance requirements can also vary from one state to another, and you should double-check your benefits before assuming something isn't covered. Infertility treatment is one of these gray areas, as some states require health insurance plans to provide coverage while others do not.

Compare costs from different providers. Varying medical costs sometimes make headlines when

patients find out that a \$3,000 medical procedure at a hospital could cost several hundred at a nearby clinic. If it's not an emergency, there are websites that you can use to comparison shop nearby medical centers and get estimated prices.

Some people also look for savings in other countries. Medical tourism is a growing industry, and millions of people travel outside their home countries seeking lower costs, higher-quality services, treatments that aren't available at home, a relaxing environment to recover in or a combination of several of these factors. While the U.S. is a destination for some medical tourists, Canada, Southeast Asia, Latin America and parts of Europe are also popular.

Bottom line: Although you may not be able to convince your health insurance company to cover what it considers an elective procedure; you can turn to other methods to save money. As with other large expenses, you can take a dual big- and little-picture approach by looking for tax breaks that lower your effective cost and savings opportunities that can reduce a procedure's price.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered health, 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.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Explore PTSD options online

The Department of Veterans Affairs has come up with an online resource that will help those with PTSD decide which type of treatment might be best for them.

Treatment Decision Aid, found at www.ptsd.va.gov, is a question/answer program to help you decide how you want to approach getting better. At each step are videos of other veterans talking about their experiences, and more information as you learn, compare treatments and act to get help.

This is one treatment exploration that might actually work.

Under the Learn section, you'll find out about PTSD and what this decision helper can do.

The Compare section, however, is likely where the best help begins, as you answer questions about what you want in a treatment. Both the Psychotherapies and Medications on-screen bubbles contain sub-bubbles with more information. Mouse over everything. On the Medication side you'll see antidepressants and sub-bubbles of those. Don't

miss the areas at the bottom showing which therapies have significant, some or no benefits.

Next come six questions: Choose between psychotherapy and medication, and see the explanation chart at the bottom. Are you open to talking about trauma? How about individual versus group treatment? How often do you want treatment? Are you up for doing homework between sessions? Do you care what the studies say? At the end, you'll be given recommendations about which treatment might be what you're looking for.

In the Act section you'll get a summary you can print and take to your doctor. That's where the rubber meets the road, and you step up and take responsibility for your treatment.

After answering the questions multiple ways, I think you'll get the most options if you indicate that you're willing to try different things if they might help you. You can narrow down the options later, if necessary.

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View from here

By Jim Grimaldi

The threat to America is real

“The barbarians are at the gate and yet there are those among us who argue that there is no need to bar the gate. It doesn't make sense. The threat of radical Islamic terrorism has accelerated since 9/11 at a rate that should send shivers up and down our spines. But, we can't do anything about it until we acknowledge the danger and do something about it,” says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

Weber says that he is “perplexed by the politically-motivated, mindsets of too many individuals identifying themselves as loyal, caring Americans. The latest manifestation of this uncaring attitude toward the dangers we face came from Senator Chris Murphy, D-CT soon after the massacre on London Bridge last Saturday night, which killed eight people and wounded another 48. He felt compelled to tweet a message that read: ‘@ POTUS has no idea that the goal of terrorists is to instill a level of fear in the public disproportionate to the actual threat.’ The implication seems to be that there is no need to use tactics such as extreme vetting at our borders of individuals from nation's where radical Islamic terrorism thrives.”

But, Weber adds, fear of ISIS and its ilk is

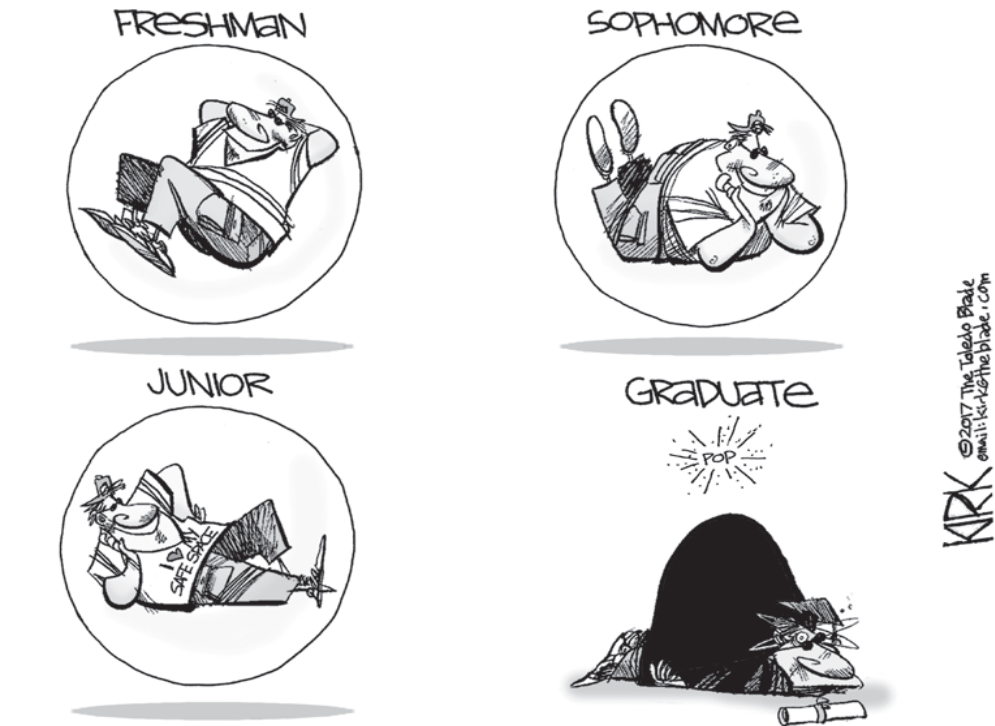
based on the massive loss of human lives around the world at the hands of terrorists. It poses a real threat to the lives of Americans as witnessed too many times over the past few decades. It warrants stricter rules of entry at our borders.”

President Franklin Roosevelt said after the attacks on Pearl Harbor that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. “But, as Uri Friedman, who writes on Global Affairs at The Atlantic magazine, put it: before fear can be feared, it has to be reckoned with,” says Weber.

Friedman noted in his article that former President Barak Obama avoided connecting terrorism directly to extremist interpretations of Islam. “After attackers killed 130 people in Paris, for example, Obama scoffed at reporters' questions about whether the bloodshed would change his ISIS strategy.”

President Trump directly links terrorism with radical Islam and is upping the ante in the civilized world's fight to destroy ISIS, according to Weber. “His so-called travel ban is not a ban, at all. It is a common sense approach to protecting

See THREAT, Page 4



KENTUCKY BOUND – Beatriz Guerra, Vice President of SkillsUSA Chapter 3205; and Jonathan Coronado, Texas District 1 SkillsUSA President are ready to travel to Louisville to compete in SkillsUSA.

San Eli HS team heads to SkillsUSA nationals

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – On June 18 the San Elizario High School (SEHS) SkillsUSA team will travel to Louisville, KY to compete at a national level in the SkillsUSA Chapter Display competition. The SEHS team is the only team from Texas competing in this event.

Each year, SkillsUSA chooses a different theme for the projects to be built on and this year’s theme is “Preparing America’s Skilled Workforce.” Students are responsible of putting something together that relates to that particular topic.

“In order to have a project that is well put together, students need to incorporate a variety of skills to include Math, Science, Mechanics, Engineering, and Graphic Design,” said Michael Rodriguez, Career & Technology Education Coordinator for San Elizario ISD. “We always encourage

our students to think outside the box and deliver something that stands out because creativity also plays a big role.”

“This is my first time going to nationals and I am excited to be representing SEHS and the San Elizario community at the highest level,” said Jonathan Coronado, Texas District 1 SkillsUSA President. “I am curious to see what the other teams from other states have in store.”

All projects will be judged on cleanliness, organization, colors used, and most importantly, detail. “It is all about the detail,” said Beatriz Guerra, Vice President of SkillsUSA for Chapter 3205. “Detail is everything in these types of competitions and for that reason, the team and I made sure we crossed all our Ts and dotted all our Is. We want to make sure our project is perfect and I can honestly say that we are ready to deliver one heck of a presentation.”

The team aims to bring home some SkillsUSA gold. The competition begins on Thursday, June 22.

Here’s a Tip By JoAnn Derson

• “When packing for the kids to go to camp, here’s a tip we’ve used over and over again: Put all elements of each outfit (top, bottom, undergarments, socks, etc.) folded into a gallon-size zipper-close bag. I add a plastic grocery bag as well. Each day, the child puts on a fresh outfit, then puts yesterday’s clothes into the plastic grocery bag. You can tell what’s been worn, and it’s all ready at the start of day – no looking for socks or underwear!”

– M.H. in North Carolina

• When Mom or Dad travels for work, it can be hard on the parent and kids staying home. Try this trick: Record yourself reading a story. The child can play the recording as he or she follows the story in the book. Or, make a video

for younger kids.

• Need a quick travel cup or kids’ sippy cup? Use a plastic cup, then cover it with a square of plastic wrap secured with a rubber band. Finally, insert a straw through the plastic. There you go!

• “Here is a guaranteed no-scrub tip for a clean coffeepot: Fill coffeemaker with water, drop a dishwasher pod in the carafe, and brew the hot water right on top of it. After brewing, let sit 10-15 minutes, and it’ll be clean as a whistle.”

– C.L. in Oregon

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

Moments in Time

The History Channel

• On June 26, 1956, the U.S. Congress approves the Federal Highway Act, which allocates more than \$30 billion for the construction of some 41,000 miles of interstate highways, the largest public construction project in U.S. history to that date.

• On June 27, 1976, a storekeeper in Sudan becomes ill and dies five days later. It was the start of the world’s first recorded Ebola virus epidemic. By the time the epidemic was over, 284 cases were reported throughout the area.

• On June 28, 1928, 26-year-old Louis Armstrong walks into a Chicago recording studio with five fellow jazz instrumentalists and walks out having changed the course of music history. Armstrong and his Hot Five recorded “West End Blues,” which would make him an international sensation.

• On June 29, 1613, the Globe Theater, where most of Shakespeare’s plays debuted, burns down. The Globe was built by Shakespeare’s acting company, the Lord Chamberlain’s Men, in 1599 from the timbers of London’s very first permanent theater, Burbage’s Theater, built in 1576.

• On June 30, 1936, Margaret Mitchell’s “Gone with the Wind,” one of the best-selling novels of all time, is published. By the time Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1937, a movie project was already in the works.

• On July 1, 1984, the Motion Picture Association of America, which oversees the voluntary rating system for movies, introduces a new rating, PG-13. The MPAA created the rating to better help parents determine whether a movie was child-appropriate.

• On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signs into law the historic Civil Rights Act, which prohibited racial discrimination in employment and education and outlawed racial segregation in public places such as schools, buses, parks and swimming pools. It would help pave the way for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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Send Your Newsbrief To
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was beloved English author J.R.R. Tolkien, best known for fantasy tales “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings,” who made the following sage observation about his chosen genre: “I have been a lover of fairy-stories since I learned to read. Why should a man be scorned if, finding himself in prison, he tries to get out and go home? Or if, when he cannot do so, he thinks and talks about other topics than jailers and prison walls?”

• You might be surprised to learn that thieves, too, have a patron saint: Saint Dismas. Incidentally, he’s also the patron saint of prisoners and funeral directors.

• You’re probably aware that nocturnal animals are active at night and that diurnal animals are active during the day. But what about creatures that prefer the twilight hours? Yep, they have a name, too: They’re crepuscular.

• Those who study such things say that ecdysiasts – those performers better known as stripteasers – are likely to be first-born children.

• In a recent survey of Americans and Britons, conducted on behalf of meditation app Calm.com, respondents reported that they get their best sleep of the week on Thursday nights, while Sunday night is the worst for sleeping.

• In India at one time, it was believed that eggshells held clues to the future. Fortunetellers would smash a hen’s egg against a special board, then interpret the pattern made by the fragments of shell.

• Add this to the list of America’s puzzling small-town festivals: Every June, the town of Ainsworth, Nebraska, puts on the Middle of Nowhere Celebration.

Thought for the Day: “The true test of a civilization is, not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops – no, but the kind of man the country turns out.”
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM. on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 in the Board Room in the Central Administration Building, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, Texas 79932. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.170000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.360000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	4.02%	Decrease
Debt Service	2.60%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	3.86%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 2,940,714,916	\$ 3,030,777,708
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 128,426,193	\$ 184,261,498
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 1,987,684,293	\$ 2,096,452,737
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 125,187,131	\$ 170,207,762

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$101,530,499.40
* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.170000	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.530000	\$ 4,373	\$ 5,272
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.126400	\$ 0.325330*	\$ 1.451730	\$ 4,695	\$ 5,115
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.170000	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.530000	\$ 4,692	\$ 5,115

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 153,519	\$ 154,885
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 128,519	\$ 129,885
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.530000	\$ 1.530000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,966.34	\$ 1,987.24
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 20.90

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.5300000. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.5300000.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 9,884,396
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 4,236,416

Miners, fans, could be in for another long season

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Don't look now, but believe it or not, college football teams can begin practicing in just two short months.

I know it's 100 degrees out there and we're in the middle of the Chihuahuas' baseball season and the NBA championship is still on our minds, but college football is closer than you think.

And it always brings with it a certain feel. It's the time that the leaves end their short lives, it's the beginning of school after a nice break, and it's the feeling you get when every team has the same 0-0 record and you believe that this could be the season.

That's pretty much the way everybody around here felt this time a year ago. The talk was that UTEP was going to have a team that could contend for a Conference USA title, or at least certainly qualify for a bowl game.

Even qualifying for one of those meaningless smaller bowl games is almost better than nothing.

But the positive vibes were put to rest right away and the Miners had one of those typical Miners football seasons, chock full of disappointment and unrealistic hope once again for next year.

After taking the season-opener over NMSU, UTEP went on to lose their next five in a row, being outscored 204-56 in the process.

In the immortal words of the late Bill Paxton, "game over man!"

Well, next year will be upon us in less than three months and there isn't much talk about a successful season this time around.

The 2017 season schedule was put out recently and for the second time in the Sean Kugler era, the Miners will only play five home games and seven out-of-town games.

Talk about throwing the head coach under the bus. A team of UTEP's caliber should be arranging seven-home and five-road game schedules.

I don't want to say that three of this year's first five games are totally out of reach, I mean... we all thought that Hillary had it in the bag, right? Weird

things can happen.

In the immortal words of Jim Carrey, "so you're saying there's a chance?"

Well, no, not really. The Miners open the season at Oklahoma. Yes, that Oklahoma – the perennial chaser of national championships.

Oh, and the Sooners would normally not give UTEP a second thought, but legendary coach Bob Stoops retired and Lincoln Riley is taking over. And you guessed it, his first game as head coach of the Sooners is in El Paso on Sept. 2.

You know Riley is going to want to make a statement in his first game as the new guy?

In game three the Miners take on Arizona.

The Wildcats struggled to a 3-9 record last season and this year's game is in the Sun Bowl but Arizona is used to the likes of UCLA, Utah, Washington, USC, Stanford, Colorado and Oregon.

It's safe to say that the Wildcats' size and speed will eventually wear down the Miners in the second half - if UTEP can stay competitive in the first.

Then the Miners' fifth game is at Army,

which put 66 points on the board in the Sun Bowl last season. That was the one that felt like another road game for the Miners with the fans cheering emphatically after Army's every score... and score... and score.

It isn't that difficult to see why UTEP will struggle once again this season.

Coach Kugler's biggest goal, and rightfully so, was to drastically improve the defense. And he has improved it, but not drastically.

The Miners have been underwhelming on offense since he took over. And now the Miners will go into the season without one of the best running backs in the nation and a senior quarterback who averaged 125 yards passing a game. Oh, and three of their top receivers are gone.

Since 1972 – that's the last 45 years – the Miners have had exactly six winning seasons.

It may not be easy to hear, but I do sense a trend.

In the immortal words of Leslie Neilson, "the truth hurts, oh maybe not as much as jumping on a bike with the seat missing... but it hurts."

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Court of public opinion

I was born on May 13, and sometimes I remember to actually look at the part of the newspaper that tells you who was born or what significant event occurred on that same day.

Turns out, it was a pretty significant day. Formula One started on that day in 1950. Stevie Wonder, the world's blindest basketball-game-attending fan, was born on that day. Other things occurred: In 1917, three kids said they received a visit from the apparition of Jesus' mom

at Fatima, Portugal. In 1940, it was the day Germany conquered France (I know, I know... that could have happened any day, but it just so happened). Also, it was the day that Bobby Riggs – a washed-up, 55-year-old tennis-playing hustler – destroyed Margaret Court in *straight* sets (emphasis soon will become clear), 6-2, 6-1.

At the time, this was a big deal. Court was the No. 1-ranked woman's player in the world. Her loss did absolutely nothing

to advance women's rights. This was a time when women athletes barely had running water in their locker rooms, let alone anything approaching equal tournament pay. The fact that Court curtsied to Riggs before the match made the loss even more cringe-worthy to women players like Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert.

The record shows that Court won 24 grand slam singles titles. (A "grand slam" means you won the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open in a single calendar year.) This is kind of a big deal. Players like Evert and Navratilova won 18. Steffi Graf had 22; Serena

Williams has 23 of them. The International Tennis Hall of Fame plaque for Court says that "for sheer strength of performance and accomplishment there has never been a tennis player to match her." The Melbourne Herald Sun called her the greatest female tennis player of all time.

And then last week, we learned that Margaret Court, who played in the 1960s and '70s, makes no sense in today's world.

Look around your town. Chances are, many of you haven't a clue as to why your town has its name, particularly if it ends in "ville" or "burg." Bet many of you live on a street or drive named after a person you haven't the slightest

inkling about. But that's really how the majority of people in the world will leave a legacy, they will get something or someplace named after them after a vote by the local city council. Very few people leave lasting impressions on the world without getting either assassinated or blown up to epic proportions (I'm looking at you, Johnny Appleseed). Think of Carnegie Hall. Or Cermak Boulevard. Wrigley Field. The problem tennis has is that the Australian Open named an arena after Court, and Court has turned out to be a pretty terrible person.

I won't dignify Court by

See SPORTS, Page 8



– Photo courtesy of Eric Metzler

ALL ABOUT THE HUNT – Eric Metzler, right, deferentially referred to as “White Sands’ Moth Man” spoke about his discoveries at a Greater Big Bend Coalition meeting held recently in El Paso.

Moths

From Page 1

Bend Coalition (GBBC), a conservation organization based in El Paso.

According to organization

officials, GBBC members' goals are to help protect the desert lands, rivers, mountains and wildlife of the Greater Big Bend Ecosystem of Texas and northern Mexico. Their region of concern stretches across the US/Mexico Rio Grande border and includes

nearly 8,000 square miles of protected lands in US National Parks, Texas State Parks, and Protected Areas in Mexico.

For information about GBBC visit its website at greaterbigbend.org or contact Rick LoBello at (915) 474-1456.

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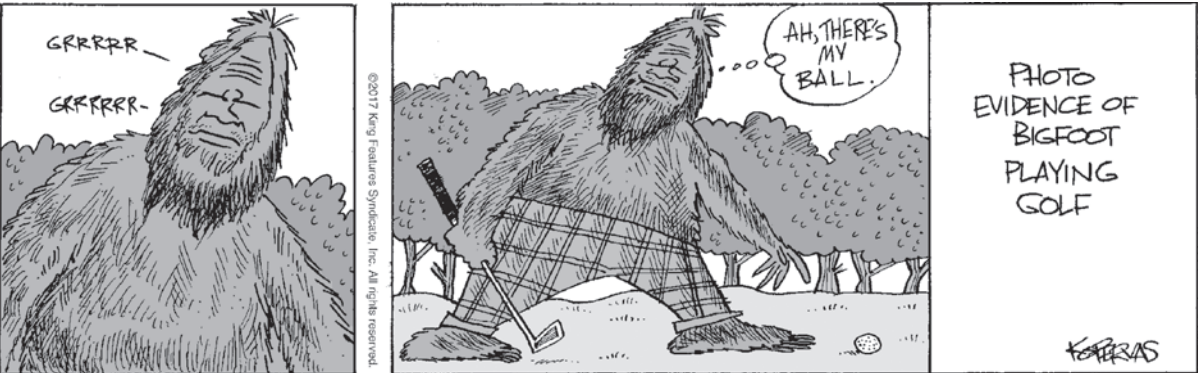
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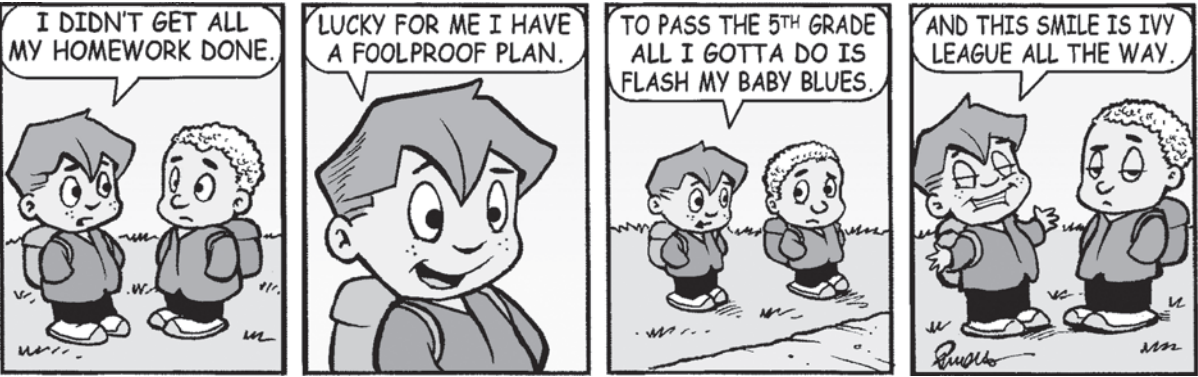
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



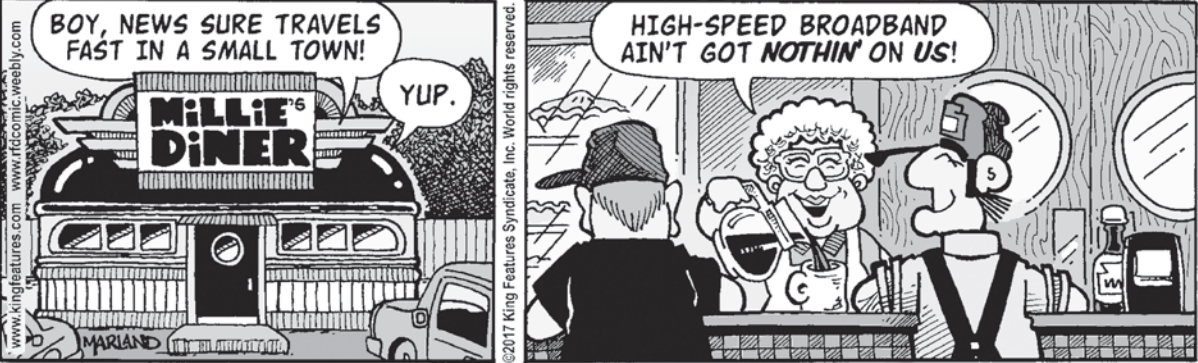
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am fair-skinned and have had sunburns in the past, so I have been diligent about looking for rough, scaly skin patches that might turn into cancer and dark irregular patches that might be melanoma. But I had not read anything about watching for a pore that bleeds, heals and bleeds again. I have a place like that on my nose and just thought it was thin skin. There was no bump, no redness, no scaling; just occasional bleeding. Then it would heal and everything seemed fine. Now I find out from my dermatologist that it is basal skin cancer, it grows down into the skin, and I will have to have Mohs surgery to remove the cancer and plastic surgery to repair it. I want everyone to know to watch for this kind of symptom and get to a doctor immediately if they have it. – W.R.

exposure, should be evaluated by a professional. Any nonhealing sore or one that periodically bleeds is particularly at risk. Although BCCs rarely, if ever, spread outside the skin, they can grow locally and be disfiguring. Once one has occurred, additional skin cancers are much more likely, so a periodic total skin exam by a dermatologist is essential.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I developed a ganglion cyst in the palm of my hand virtually overnight. Where did it come from, and how do I get rid of it? It's very annoying. – V.L.

A ganglion is a cystic structure that is associated with a tendon sheath or joint. They most commonly occur in the wrist. It's not clear why they occur: One theory is that they are from the tissue around a joint that makes joint fluid, the synovium.

They often go away by themselves, but a surgeon can remove fluid from them with a syringe, and sometimes inject medication to keep them from recurring. Surgery is occasionally necessary for painful ganglia that keep recurring.

I urge you to resist the advice you will get to whack it with a book (traditionally, a Bible). That can cause many small ones.

A basal cell carcinoma is a skin cancer, probably the most common cancer in the U.S., and is most common among light-skinned people. It's unusual in people with very dark skin. It is more common in men, and increases in frequency with age. As you note, sunlight is the major risk factor, although sunburns aren't necessary to develop BCC. Use of tanning beds also greatly increase the risk for skin cancer, and I strongly discourage their use.

BCCs can appear in several different forms. They often appear as a nodule on the face, with dilated blood vessels that can bleed and ulcerate (causing a shallow pit). On the trunk, they can appear as a superficial red patch. They also can appear as firm, deeper, scar-like lesions.

Because they can appear in such a varied manner, ANY new skin lesion, especially in a light-skinned person with sun

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.

Super Crossword

PLANE PEOPLE

ACROSS

1 Charlotte of "Diff'rent Strokes"

4 Champion

10 Insect feeler

14 Slight smell

19 North Dakota's tree

20 Farewells

21 Regal Norse name

22 Sharpening device

23 Talk show host with three Emmys

25 Best Actor nominee for "Hotel Rwanda"

27 Giant in retail furniture

28 " _ be my pleasure"

29 Cold cubes

30 Childishly trivial

31 "Quantum Healing" author

35 Cause a floating log to spin by walking on it

36 Direct (at)

37 Sorority letters

38 Apt. units

39 30-day mo.

40 Writer Rice

41 Very familiar (with): Fr.

44 Irked greatly

46 He played Clark Kent on "Lois & Clark"

48 Ending of some pasta names

49 Gestures from 4-Acrosses

51 Start to fall

53 Juice brand

54 "Designing Women" co-star

57 Kickoff prop

59 Catholic leaders

63 Univ. helpers

64 MD's gp.

65 Jim who played Gomer Pyle

67 Psychic glows

68 Rats on

70 Jet airliner model that's an apt alternate title for this puzzle

71 Talks glibly

73 Zones

74 Fit for _ (regal)

76 Small, like Abner

77 Building wing

78 They bray

79 Slimy stuff

80 Sixth actor to play James Bond

84 Pop music's _ Lobos

86 Ending for Brit

88 What you might call a cool cat

89 4 p.m. social

90 She played Frenchy in "Grease"

94 _ski party

96 Landscaping tools

98 Kiwi cousins

99 " _ cool!"

100 "Kill bill" vote

101 Brit's prison

102 Red Cross skill, for short

103 Big birds of myth

104 "How to Win Friends and Influence People" author

110 Selma locale

112 32nd prez

113 Cur's threat

114 Nada

115 "Wayne's World" co-star

117 She played Alice in "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice"

120 _ nous

121 Snack

122 Breathing problems

123 USN officer

124 Navigate

125 Zoomed

126 E. Sicilian volcano

127 King, to Juan

DOWN

1 Made over

2 Not different

3 Show host

4 Dust buster, for short

5 Boise loc.

6 Social studies class

7 Canines, e.g.

8 Defeat

9 Pre-U queue

10 Shows to be downloaded

11 Burn soother

12 PC linkup

13 Many a sewer-line tube, briefly

14 Tire holder

15 Winter frost

16 Gary's state

17 Filmmaker Federico

18 Ex-slaves

24 Sorority letter

26 Cry from a 4-Across

29 Old TV's "My Friend _"

32 " _ always said..."

33 Tastelessly artistic

34 Being there

35 Harass

40 Equip

41 Give relief

42 Ally makers

43 Obsesses

44 Farming-related prefix

45 Leveling stuff

47 Attack like a playful pup

50 Sean Penn drama

52 Slews

55 Galilee residents

56 Assessed

58 Eyed

60 High-ranking cleric

61 Previously

62 Mil. draft gp.

66 Sudafed alternative

68 Goat's call

69 Pt. of NBA

70 Threads

72 Not closing seasonally

75 Five womb-mates

76 Pan covers

81 Scot's denial

82 Nucleotide triplet

83 With 118-Down, fuel container

85 Wine region in California

87 Like batik fabric

90 Century parts

91 Embed firmly

92 Comic Jimmy

93 Extreme diet rule, perhaps

95 Jack of early TV

97 Beck of radio

101 January gem

103 Relay athlete

105 Nile locale

106 Heavy lifter

107 Lost cause

108 Hole _ (ace)

109 Itsy-bitsy

111 Undecorated

112 Gala

116 Big shot

117 Beaver work

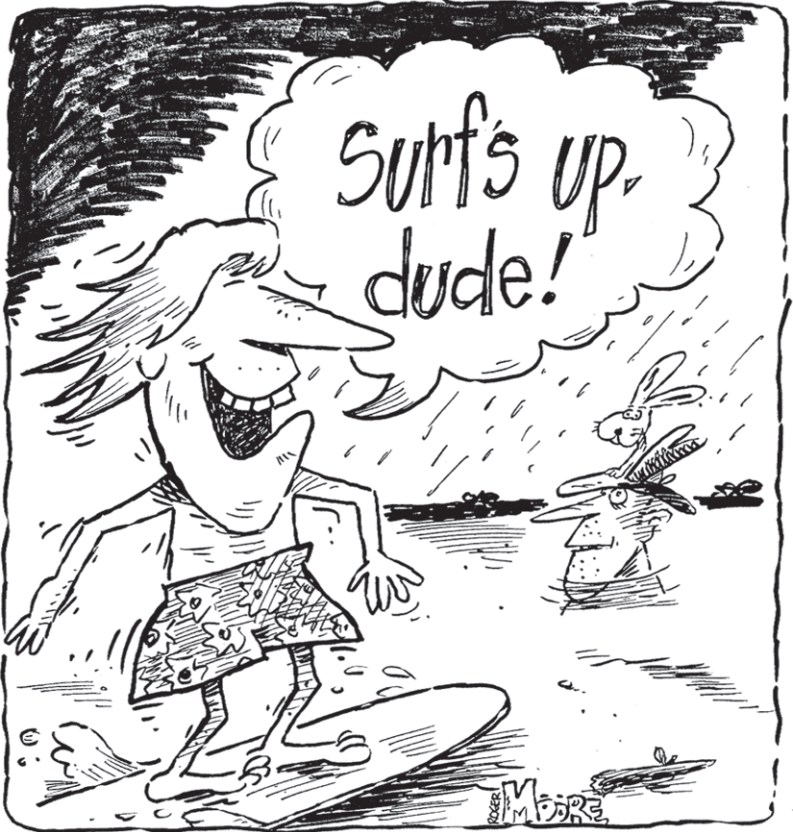
118 See 83-Down

119 Simile part

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Answer Page 4

True Texas Facts by Roger T. Moore
June 17, 1899 - A severe flood on the Brazos River lasts 11 days.



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!

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÷		+		-	
	×		+		13
+		+		×	
	×		-		22
13		18		15	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	1		4					8
		7			2	3		
2				5				9
7			1					2
		6		3		4		
	9				6		8	
	3		5				7	
		1			3			9
5				4		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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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Be secure online every day

Being safe online is important every day. There may be days devoted to internet security awareness, but you need to be careful every time you go online.

Do you know what it takes to be safe online? You probably connect daily to get information, shop, socialize, or work. Every time you go online, you need to avoid the risk of theft or fraud. Here are some tips to use while visiting the Social Security website and the other websites you use.

• **Use Strong Passwords** – Strong passwords have at least eight characters and include capital letters, numbers, and non-letter characters. These passwords make it harder for someone to hack your account.

• **Don't Recycle Passwords** – Although it requires effort to think of new passwords constantly, it provides safety when you do. What if you use the same password for every site and you lose your password? If someone finds it, they could get access to all your accounts.

Many people choose to reuse — don't be one of them.

• **Take Advantage of Multifactor Authentication** – Many websites offer the option to use a second factor—or method—in addition to just a username and password to ensure that only you access your information. Using more than one factor to establish identity makes it harder for someone to get into your account and steal your personal information. Beginning June 10, 2017, Social Security requires multifactor authentication to access a my Social Security account. Customers choose whether to receive a one-time security code to either their phone or email in order create a new account or sign into their account. Visit this link to find out more about how to secure your personal my Social Security account: www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/verifyandprotectid.html. Consider using multifactor authentication whenever it's offered to protect your information.

• **Read Scam Alerts** – For information about fraudulent activities related to Social Security, you can find information at our blog Social Security Matters under the Newsroom section at blog.socialsecurity.gov. One way to avoid identity theft is to create your own my Social Security account, if you haven't already. When you have an account, no one else can set up an account using your information. Social Security's Office of the Inspector General investigates fraud involving Social Security and they publish Fraud Advisories at oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/news-release. The Federal Trade Commission website publishes information about scams that appear in the news at www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts. You'll want to be aware of current scams to avoid being tricked.

• **Review Your Online Accounts and Credit Reports** – Just as you review your earnings record with Social Security for accuracy at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount>, you should review your bank and credit card accounts for accuracy. Get a free copy of your credit report available annually from the three credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax, and Transunion) at www.annualcreditreport.com/ and check it for incorrect entries.

Protecting your identity can be daunting. Guarding your personal information requires investing some time, but is worth it. Discourage theft and fraud by adopting these security practices when you use the internet.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: P equals L

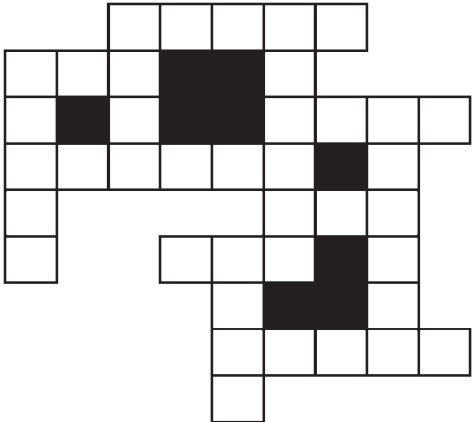
YTNS GKJPA HKJ GNPP N DZNVVH
HNZA WR YTWGT STWRDV VXXO
SK CXZCXSNPPH DK YZKRD?
OJZCTH'V PNYR.

Answer Page 4

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LIL
COMYIP
NEGIS
♥RYOG
♥CLASRA
♥AMR
♥PISL
♥LERGA
AYG
MIGNIA
MERGA
♥LMSA



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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Sports

From Page 6

repeating what she said about the lesbian community, but I'll make a psychic prediction: There'll be an arena looking for a new name in Australia in the next few days. Sorry, Margaret... we're going forward, not backward. You are NOT the greatest female tennis player of all time.

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

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