



NEWSBRIEFS

Protect your pipes

With the coldest temperatures of the season expected to arrive this week, El Paso Water urges you to “Protect Your Pipes” to avoid costly repairs to your home or business. “The average home loses about 10,000 gallons a year due to leaks,” said Alan Shubert, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services. “Customers should be proactive with protecting their home and pocketbook.” Outdoor plumbing and faucets are vulnerable to severely cold temperatures. EPWater recommends these tips to avoid broken pipes:

- Insulate exposed pipes and faucets outside and around your home, including those in unheated areas like basements, garages, attics or crawl-spaces.
- In severe cold only, let cold water drip from faucets served by exposed pipes. Running a drip of water through the pipes helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water is above freezing.
- If a pipe does break on your property, know where your water meter is and how to turn water off immediately to avoid further damage and water waste.
- If you will be away for several days, turn off your water at the meter or ask someone to monitor your home in your absence.
- EPWater also urges customers to inspect their outdoor plumbing and monitor their water meter to ensure they are not dealing with any unknown leaks, which could increase their bill and make their pipes even more vulnerable to the cold.

Remember, property owners are responsible for water pipes that start at the meter and run throughout your property. If customers have abnormally high water usage as a result of a water leak, you may qualify for a leak adjustment and get a partial credit on your bill. Call EPWater Customer Service at 594-5500 to learn more about the program. Customers can visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g25YqGZpvgY&t=2s> to see some of these tips in action here.

— Josh Moniz

Political appointment

Blanca S. Trout, a Canutillo ISD Trustee, was recently appointed as Vice-Chair of the El Paso County

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The one book that really tells you where you can go on your vacation is your pocketbook.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

COLLEGE DOLLARS – A \$25,000 scholarship fund has been established in the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) in the name of Sylvia Hopp. Hopp retired from her job as SEISD superintendent after last school year. From left are SEISD Associate Superintendent Ruben Cervantes, Hopp and current SEISD Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez. The plaque reads: SYLVIA HOPP – In recognition of your commitment to providing outstanding educational attainment to all students – CREED 2017.

Scholarship fund for SEHS graduates

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED) established a new scholarship known as the *Sylvia Hopp San Elizario College Scholarship Fund*, that will support a San Elizario High School (SEHS) graduating senior in pursuing a college degree.

The fund will award a total of \$25,000

in scholarships over the next eight years to help students cover their college tuition or other costs associated with attending and completing college.

“Sylvia Hopp spent more than 40 years strengthening our education system so more students could graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in college and the workforce,” said Richard A. Castro, Chairman of the CREEED Board. “We could not think of a better way to honor her legacy than by establishing this scholarship.”

Lorena Robledo, a senior at SEHS, says that this scholarship is another way to motivate students to continue their education and pursue a college degree.

“For most students like myself, we want to attend college but money can be an issue,” said Robledo. “In some cases, students only receive enough financial aid to cover their college tuition but not for books so this scholarship will definitely help take care of that or other college necessities,” said Robledo.

The first scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior in spring of 2018.

First Chance could waive pot charges for community service

Program follows similar policies in Dallas and Harris counties

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County and city’s new First Chance program will provide first-time offenders, who are found with four ounces or less of marijuana, with a second chance. However, anyone caught with the small amount of marijuana in addition to facing another charge will not be eligible.

El Paso County commissioners

approved the new program unanimously in October. El Paso Sheriff Richard Wiles publicly stated that his department is in full support. Wiles noted that the program will give first-time offenders the chance to prevent a future of illegal drug use and added that it will also free up police resources.

The City of El Paso followed suit a couple of weeks later, when the El Paso Police Department and City Manager Tommy Gonzalez signed a

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FIRST CHANCE – First time offenders that are caught with four ounces or less of marijuana in El Paso County could face community service hours instead of criminal charges. The First Chance program will only apply to the sole misdemeanor charge of marijuana. People who are caught with marijuana in addition to another charge will not qualify, El Paso County Sheriff Richard Wiles, above left, said. City of El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen is on the right.

Chance

From Page 1

memorandum of understanding with the county to participate in the First Chance program.

El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen stated that he is looking at the program from an “efficiency point of view.” Allen commented that he is not for any legalization or legitimization of marijuana, but he explained that it was time-consuming and burdensome to have a police officer spend a large portion of his or her shift booking someone into jail on “an arrest that has no end result of a conviction because of jury nullification”.

The memorandum formally establishes the First Chance program procedures between the county and the city. The program means that first time offenders, who are caught with four ounces or less of marijuana by El Paso county sheriffs or city

police, could face community service hours instead of criminal charges. The program includes a fee of \$100.

District Attorney Jaime Esparza pointed out that there were more than 2,600 cases of possession of small amounts of marijuana in 2016. “Of those 2,600 cases, we have 700 people who we would classify as first offenders,” he said. “These are people who are arrested solely on a possession of marijuana charge, nothing more.”

The program only applies to the sole misdemeanor charge of marijuana. People who are caught with marijuana in addition to another charge will not qualify, county and city officials emphasized.

The memorandum also mandates that the El Paso District Attorney’s office provide the attorneys and clerical staff necessary to operate a 24-hour unit that will be accessible to the police department to support the

program. The Texas Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies are not yet participating in the program, but Esparza expressed that he hopes to expand the program to include them in the future.

Esparza explained that the program will be across the board for both El Paso Police Department and the El Paso Sheriff’s Department. He stated that officers will offer the program at the time of the offense to the offender, who will then have the option to accept it or be arrested.

“This program will provide an educational opportunity to first time offenders with the intent to prevent their future use of illegal drugs. It will eliminate minor drug convictions that could have long lasting negative effects on their ability to pursue certain types of employment and higher education opportunities,” Esparza asserted.

“Additionally, it will result in a savings to taxpayers by freeing up police officers and deputies to handle more important law enforcement duties, prevent unnecessary bookings into the county jail, and prevent a long and costly court process,” Esparza stated.

First time offenders who qualify will have five business days to report to the CJC Department (Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology) in the county, pay the administrative fee of \$100 and do eight hours of community service within 60 days,” Esparza explained. Those who do not report to the CJC department or do not complete

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Vietnam parasite is killing vets

A year ago, bile duct cancer seen in Vietnam veterans was a hot topic in the news, briefly. Now it’s fallen out of the headlines – but it hasn’t stopped affecting veterans, and a U.S. senator is calling for a federal study.

Bile duct cancer in veterans who served in Vietnam (or Korea, Thailand or Laos) no doubt comes from eating fish contaminated with a water-borne parasitic worm called a fluke, from being in or washing with fresh water, or from drinking river water. Decades later, the presence of the worm in the liver bile ducts causes cancer (cholangiocarcinoma) that has nearly no initial symptoms. It’s only when the cancer is very advanced that symptoms appear.

The www.publichealth.va.gov website lists “jaundice (yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes), pain in the abdomen, dark urine, light or ‘clay’ colored stool, fever, itchy skin, nausea and vomiting, and unexplained weight loss” as symptoms of bile duct cancer. Additionally, the disease is rare in the United States. If

you have any suspicions at all, tell your doctor, ideally a doctor with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If you have cancer, file a claim. More claims for bile duct cancer have been approved:

- www.va.gov/vetapp15/Files4/1528691.txt;
- www.va.gov/vetapp13/Files1/1301261.txt;
- www.va.gov/vetapp12/files1/1206119.txt; and
- www.va.gov/vetapp11/files5/1144474.txt

The first veterans (or their spouses, after the veteran died) who applied for benefits were turned down. That is slowly changing. But it’s going to be a long haul to have the disease classified as a presumptive – just like Agent Orange.

One step toward getting the cancer listed as a presumptive is to get the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to look at the correlation between the cancer and the flukes, as Sen. Chuck Schumer has requested. His number is (202) 224-6542.

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Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss Canutillo Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 19, 2017 in the boardroom of the Canutillo ISD Administration Facility, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Canutillo Independent School District’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system.

WTCC: 11/30/17 & 12/07/17

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Years
2017

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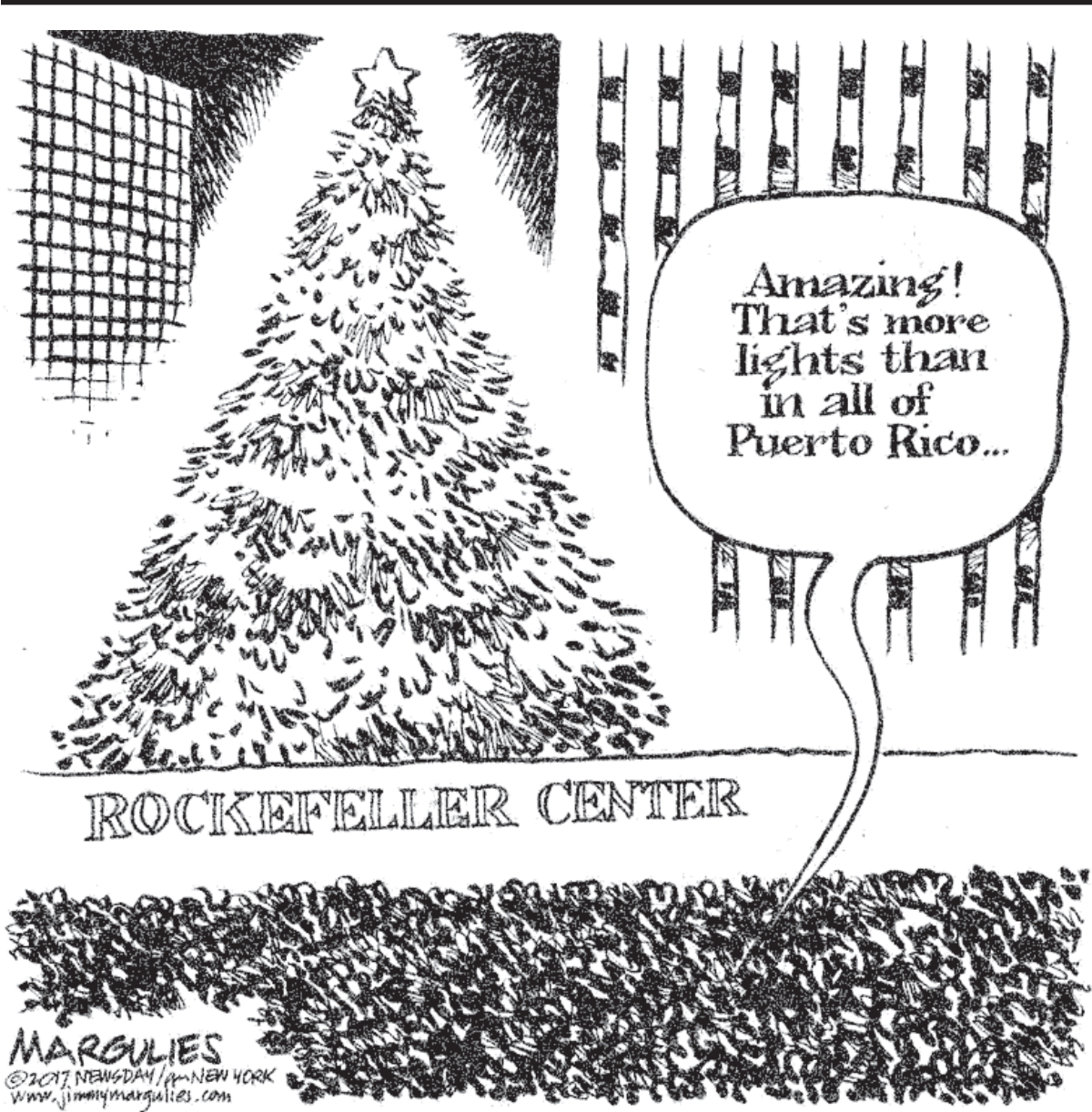
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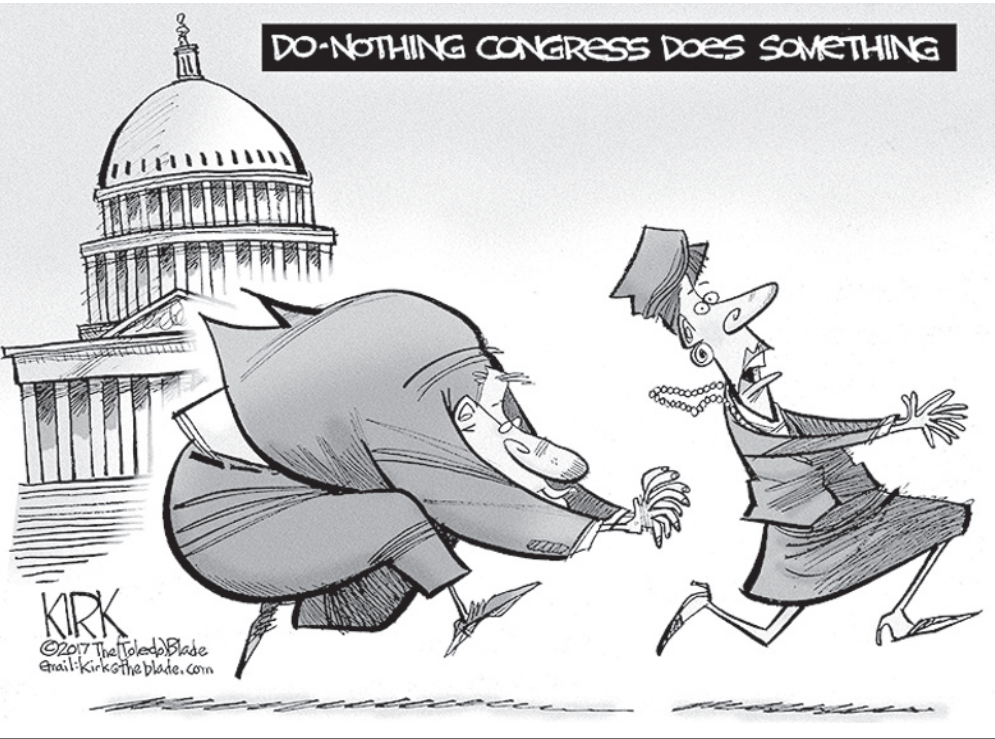
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Briefs

From Page 1

Republican Party. Blanca Trout has been an active member of the El Paso GOP serving as Deputy Voter Registrar, Voting Poll Election Clerk, Alternate Election Judge and Judge. As a Delegate, she participated in the El Paso County Republican Convention and the Texas Republican Convention in Dallas. Mrs. Trout says she believes in the country’s political system and community activism. “I was honored to accept the appointment as Vice-Chair of the El Paso County Republican Party,” she said. “I am happy to serve in this capacity and assist anyone who seeks interest in elevating the strength and the potential in our community.” Mrs. Trout encourages students and everyone of both political parties to get involved in the political process and make their voice be heard. “We are a country of individuals with diverse opinions and beliefs,” she added. “I encourage

everyone to take a more active role in the democratic process, reaching out to all individuals wishing to serve their community, state or country.”
– Andrew Reynoso

Commuting to work can be a hassle

When temperatures drop below freezing, drivers face the danger of skidding on icy roads. However, on a recent frigid morning in the U.K., commuters discovered there was more to fear than the ice, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. Police throughout England reported that the country’s car thieves were out in droves. In fact, car owners who popped indoors while their motors were running to de-ice their windshields were calling in to report car thefts at an alarming rate of one every five minutes. It is difficult, at best, to “hot wire” new cars; you need a key. As one wag put it: “to car thieves, frosty mornings are a Christmas gift.”
– John Grimaldi



Public Notice
Village of Vinton, TX

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Vinton City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas, 79821 to provide an opportunity for residents and interested parties to comment on a proposed Phase II Water System Improvements Project. The Phase II project is part of an overall water and wastewater systems improvement project within the Village.

An application for funding the Phase II project has been filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and will have a total cost of approximately \$2,936,109, consisting of \$2,614,876 for construction and \$321,233 for design for the improvements. Phase II will consist of approximately 15,200 linear feet of 6 and 8-inch water line, 171 connections, 30 fire hydrants and one master meter. The Phase II water lines will tie into the existing El Paso Water’s system at Vinton Road and AP Ramirez Street to serve customers north of Vinton Road in the Vinton Hills and Vinton Village subdivisions.

The current water service rates for residents within the Village of Vinton varies based on private wells, private water system and public water systems. It is estimated the initial rate following the improvements will increase to approximately \$30 per month per connection.

One of the purposes of the public meeting is to discuss the environmental impacts and proposed alternatives to the project. An Amendment to the Environmental Report for the Village of Vinton Proposed Water Improvements dated August 10, 2012, has been prepared by Kelley Environmental Consulting. This Amendment will be available for public review at the Vinton City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, TX, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for 30 days following the publication of this notice. Written comments regarding the proposed project may be sent to the City Hall address marked “Attn: Water Systems Improvement Project”. Written comments may also be provided directly to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at (4050 Rio Bravo Suit 100 El Paso, TX 79902).

Persons with disabilities that wish to attend the meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or service to be able to attend the meeting should contact City Hall at least 48 hours before the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Andrea Carrillo
Interim Village Administrator

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was 20th-century American author and journalist Emily Kimbrough who made the following sage observation: “Remember, we all stumble, every one of us. That’s why it’s a comfort to go hand in hand.”

• In Finland, it is traditional to pay a visit to the steam baths on Christmas Day. Nice and clean, Finns then put on new clothes before enjoying their Christmas dinner, which is served in the evening.

• The nation of Canada has the longest coastline in the world.

• Lots of people dislike lawyers, right? You might be surprised to learn, though, that it isn’t a new phenomenon. In fact, in 1641 the Massachusetts Bay colony made it illegal for anyone to earn money by representing another in court, and in 1658, the legislature of Virginia passed legislation expelling all lawyers.

• Most people – even word nerds like yours truly! – aren’t aware that the plural

form of Sphinx is Sphinges.

• You might not be surprised to learn that the only bones to be found in a shark’s body are in its jaws and teeth.

• Hardly anyone in Greece has a Christmas tree. Instead, most homes have a wire suspended across a shallow wooden bowl with water in the bottom. A cross wrapped in a sprig of basil is suspended from the wire, and the water keeps the basil fresh. Every day during the holiday season, a family member dips the cross and basil into some holy water and sprinkles each room of the house. In addition to the religious significance, this ritual is said to keep away the kallikantzeri, mischievous goblins that appear during the 12 days of Christmas.

Thought for the Day: “What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist.”
– Salman Rushdie

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Moments in Time

The History Channel

• On Dec. 18, 1912, two skulls that appear to belong to a primitive hominid and ancestor of man are discovered in England. In 1953, the fraud was exposed after the remains were found to be only 600 years old, not up to a million years old as claimed.

• On Dec. 19, 1732, Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia first publishes “Poor Richard’s Almanack,” a book filled with proverbs preaching industry and prudence. It became one of the most popular publications in Colonial America and was published continuously for 25 years.

• On Dec. 20, 1989, Michael Moore’s documentary “Roger & Me” opens in theaters. The film chronicled Moore’s unsuccessful attempts to meet Roger B. Smith, the head of General Motors, which had closed 11 factories in Flint, Michigan.

• On Dec. 21, 1967, “The Graduate” opens. The film was an uneasy exploration of what it meant to be young and adrift at a time of extraordinary

upheaval. It made a star out of Dustin Hoffman, as well as his car, an Alfa Romeo Duetto Spider.

• On Dec. 22, 1956, a baby gorilla named Colo is born at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, becoming the first-ever gorilla born in captivity. Colo went on to become a mother, grandmother and in 1996, a great-grandmother. She died at age 60 in January 2017.

• On Dec. 23, 2009, Richard Heene, who told authorities his 6-year-old son Falcon had floated off in a helium balloon, is sentenced to 90 days in jail. The boy was found hiding at home. The hoax had been staged to help the family get a reality TV show.

• On Dec. 24, 1979, the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan with three divisions of 8,500 men each. The tide of the war turned with the 1987 introduction of U.S. shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles. The last Soviet soldier left in 1989.

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Archives: www.wtxcc.com

Socorro Independent School District					
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance					
Governmental Funds					
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017					
Data Control Codes	General Fund	Child Nutrition Program	Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 90,187,828	\$ 3,483,055	\$ 27,135,428	\$ 356,820	\$ 121,163,131
5800 State Program Revenues	256,390,821	124,999	19,097,008	5,481,211	281,094,039
5900 Federal Program Revenues	6,204,576	23,838,898	–	21,580,377	51,623,851
5020 Total Revenues	352,783,225	27,446,952	46,232,436	27,418,408	453,881,021
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	210,123,021	–	–	18,388,910	228,511,931
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	5,292,397	–	–	247,890	5,540,287
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,794,275	–	–	2,934,597	5,728,872
0021 Instructional Leadership	3,964,976	–	–	383,446	4,348,422
0023 School Leadership	24,097,692	–	–	10,157	24,107,849
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	10,235,505	–	–	2,995,527	13,231,032
0032 Social Work Services	1,670,142	–	–	612,500	2,282,642
0033 Health Services	3,988,483	–	–	183,668	4,172,151
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	14,084,520	–	–	–	14,084,520
0035 Food Services	–	28,078,049	–	–	28,078,049
0036 Extracurricular Activities	10,564,377	–	–	241,712	10,806,089
0041 General Administration	8,528,664	–	–	149,458	8,678,122
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	45,014,841	–	–	2,371	45,017,212
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	7,855,109	–	–	1,956	7,857,065
0053 Data Processing Services	6,378,434	–	–	–	6,378,434
0061 Community Services	811,004	–	–	1,336,836	2,147,840
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	681,803	–	12,447,785	–	13,129,588
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	32,004	–	32,773,151	–	32,805,155
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	–	14,376	–	14,376
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,697,150	223,983	–	2,160,886	4,082,019
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,616,428	–	–	–	1,616,428
6030 Total Expenditures	359,430,825	28,302,032	45,235,312	29,649,914	462,618,083
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(6,647,600)	(855,080)	997,124	(2,231,506)	(8,737,062)
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	128,250,469	6,466,142	45,515,904	28,757,787	208,990,302
1300 Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	–	–	–	(180,000)	(180,000)
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$121,602,869	\$ 5,611,062	\$ 46,513,028	\$ 26,346,281	\$ 200,073,240

1	x	9	+	7	16
+		+		–	
2	x	8	+	4	20
+		+		x	
4	x	6	–	5	19
7		23		15	

CryptoQuip

Answer

These days I prefer sculpture over painting. I guess you could say I’ve had a change of art.

Send Your

Newsbrief To:

wtxcc@wtxcc.com

San Eli ISD board, superintendent, form ‘Team of Eight’

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – It is rare for a local school district to have its school board members along with their superintendent come together as a full team to participate in the annual team-building session facilitated by ESC Region 19. In the case of the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD), that rarity has become a reality.

SEISD Board of Trustees, with Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, successfully completed the team-building session. The session’s purpose is to enhance the effectiveness of the school board-superintendent team and assess the continuing education needs of both parties.

The session lasted about three hours and included a review of the roles, rights, and responsibilities of the Board as well as key topics such as curriculum and instruction, business and finance operations, and district operations.

“These orientations and sessions are important because they are designed to improve the relations between the Superintendent and Board of Trustees to further improve the leadership of the school district,” said SEISD Board President Irene D. Jaquez.

“I could not be more elated that we had full participation in this essential activity in my first year leading San Elizario ISD,” said Meza-Chavez. “This shows the high level of potential we have to continue to build the best educational opportunities for our students.”

Meza-Chavez considered this moment a big deal. “What can I say – times are great when you have the ‘Team of Eight.’”



SEISD’s TEAM OF EIGHT – From left are board members Becky M. Romero, Irene D. Jaquez (Board President), Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez (SEISD Superintendent), Sandra E. Licon, Fernie Madrid (Secretary), Ramon Holguin, Armando Martinez, Antonio Araujo (VP).

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

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UTEP athletics could really, really, use some good news

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There’s an old saying that I’ve heard since I was just a little sports fan and it goes like this, “no news is good news.”

I was never really sure if that was true or not, but after observing UTEP athletics over the last few months, I believe in those words more than ever.

There has been a ton of news coming out of UTEP sports lately and it seems like none of it has been good.

We’ve all finally awakened from the nightmare of a football season in which the Miners lost all 12 games they played. They were so bad that all their losses, except one, were by double digits.

The usually reliable basketball team has lost six of its first eight games.

Attendance at both the football and basketball games has been abysmal, and fan interest, except for the few diehards still among us, has been severely lacking.

And all that is just the news coming from the play on the field.

The more upsetting news has come from developments off the field.

First, the athletic director, Bob Stull, announces that he is retiring and leaving the program as soon as the school can find a replacement.

Second, after constantly saying he was going nowhere, football coach Sean Kugler resigned just five games into the season.

Then, on the same day Stull’s successor is introduced to the crowd, basketball coach Tim Floyd announced that he has had enough and is retiring immediately just six games into the season.

I wonder what UTEP would give right now for one of those “no news” weeks.

So at the moment, UTEP is without a head football coach or any recruits for next season. Assistant Phil Johnson has taken over the basketball team on an interim basis, and maybe most important of all, Jim Senter has taken over as the new athletic director.

Senter has been saddled with the difficult task of making UTEP sports great again. Just “competitive” would be nice.

Talk about a tough situation. While

Senter was in El Paso a couple weeks ago he was able to witness a Sun Bowl that was just 20-percent full for UTEP’s final home game and he saw about 7,500 empty Don Haskins Center seats in the Miners’ loss to Lamar.

Senter accepted the UTEP job knowing his first order of business was to hire a new football coach. He had no idea he would lose his basketball coach too.

Now everyone is wondering whether Senter is up to the task. What he said while he was here was encouraging. Especially about going out into the community and marketing the program.

It’s no secret that UTEP has severely lacked in any imaginative marketing strategies or fun gimmicks to get fans to attend. They even struggle to get their own students to show up.

Senter said he wants to hold a series of town hall-like meetings in different parts of El Paso to hear what fans think should be done to improve things.

I think that’s a great idea. If nothing else, for the first time in ages, El Pasoans will at least feel like they’re being heard and

that some of their concerns may actually be considered.

Of course everyone knows that the instant fix for lagging attendance is always winning.

But look at the Chihuahuas; fans flock to the stadium every night whether the team is winning or losing – because they put out a product that is chocked full of family fun.

The Chihuahuas go out into the community and listen to their customers.

Fans are constantly complaining on local talk shows that there is a disconnect between UTEP athletics and its potential customers.

Let’s face it – the news coming out of UTEP sports recently has almost all been bad. But whenever things get this bad they only have one other direction to go.

Whether it’s salaries, or marketing, or recruiting, or facilities, or coaching, or geographic location, Jim Senter’s job is to survey all of it and then fix it.

If Mr. Senter is the kind of guy that enjoys a challenge he’s come to the right place.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Out of the Woods and into the fire

We live in a time where we expect our athletes to be exceptional, to become “human cheat-codes” in the video-game parlance, and not simply adequate or even effective. For perhaps no other professional athlete, that sentiment rings far too true for one golfer – Tiger Woods, the King, one might say, of heightened expectations.

As the PGA Tour’s so-called 2017 November-December Challenge Season (or as some refer to the official-ish slate of shootout and skins tournaments

that don’t count toward a player’s official earnings, the “Silly Season”) begins, Tiger Woods has signaled he is all in. The problem is, he doesn’t know what that means quite yet.

The embattled former champion who once seemed destined to break every one of Jack Nicklaus’ records, the player who even made Augusta National reconfigure (read “Tiger-proof”) its hallowed links, now is looked upon as a larger-than-life curiosity. Never mind wondering if the man can win

another major when the question now is: Can he even walk?

Since his late May DUI arrest, where we learned his search for a cure from back pain included taking copious amounts of pills – Ambien, Dilaudid, THC, Vicodin and Xanax were found in his system – Tiger has been in hybrid pain and pill management. After his fourth back surgery in July fused together portions of his spinal cord, Tiger immediately set his sights on the course.

In late November, the legend himself returned to the Hero

World Challenge, where he cautioned anyone looking for heroics.

“I don’t know how hard I can hit it, what shots can I play. ... I’m still learning this body,” Woods said. “Once I get a better understanding, I can give you a better answer.”

The Hero World Challenge was just the third tournament Tiger Woods has played in for the past two years. His exodus has been neatly filled by the arrival of Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas, Hideki Matsuyama, Justin Rose and Rickie Fowler. Unsurprisingly, the competitor who finished 15th in a field of 17 last year, who hasn’t won a tournament since

2014, who hasn’t played an official round in 10 months, still shows plenty of spark when their names come up.

“In an ideal world, I would like to have them feel what some of them had to go against all those years,” Woods said.

Can Tiger win back his awe-stricken fan base and return to anything remotely like his championship form? All we know is that he’s not out of the woods yet, and that’s the real challenge.

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

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Village of Vinton, Texas

PUBLIC NOTICE

ApublicHearingwill be held at 6:30p.m. on Thursday, December 14th 2017, during the Planning & Zoning C o m m i s s i o n Meeting at the Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed items:

Consider and take action on request for Special Permit to allow wholesale and retail sale and auction of used and damaged operable and inoperable a u t o m o b i l e s ,

trucks, other vehicles, trailers and construction e q u i p m e n t , with accessory, office, temporary inventory storage, shipping/receiving and customer parking on Maria Rodriguez SURV 35, ABST 167, TR 6-L, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas. (200 Valley Chile Rd.)

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Andrea Carrillo, Village Secretary at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915)886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for

this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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

Andrea Carrillo
City Secretary

WTCC: 12-07-17

Village of Vinton, Texas

Positions Open

- Village Administrator
- Accounting and Budget Supervisor

The Village of Vinton is looking for candidates to fill the positions of Village Administrator and Accounting and

Budget Supervisor.

For more information on the positions please visit our website <http://www.vinton.tx.govoffice2.com/>. Please submit letter of interest and resume in person to our office at 436 E. Vinton Rd. or to Ms. Andrea Carrillo at acarrillo@vinton.tx.us.

Positions are open until filed.


Equal Opportunity Employer

WTCC: 12-07-17

MOTORCYCLE

2005 Harley Davidson Road King Classic. Like new - 8,800 miles, \$7,500. Clear title. (915) 472-6975.

dot...dash dash...nother dot.
dash dash...
dot...



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Nov. 25, 1919, College Station: First play by play football coverage-Aggies and Longhorns-sent by Morse Code and translated to fans around Texas by Ham Radio operators.

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



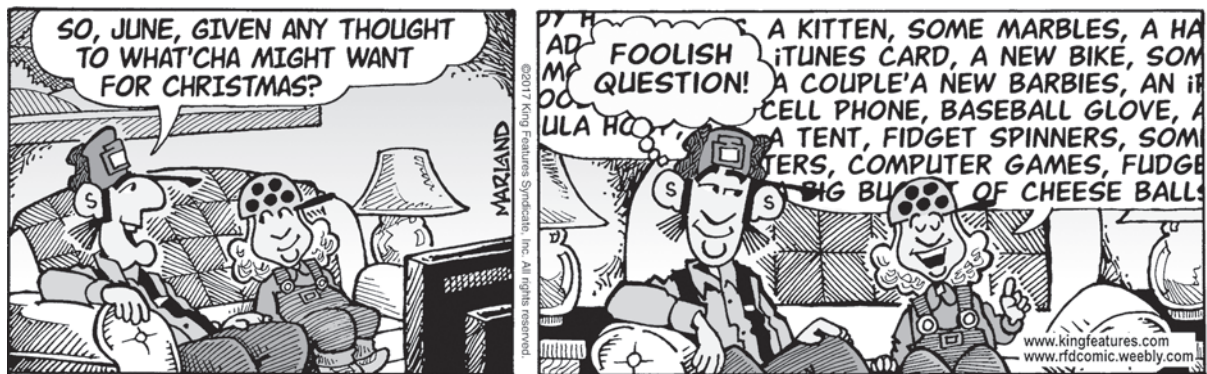
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Most health professionals agree that one should follow a "healthy diet," yet no one ever says exactly what that is. I have low thyroid, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes. Some of my meds cause chronic constipation. I and hundreds of others would be most appreciative if you could print a structured diet to follow for a week or two, and then we could repeat it. — F.G.

NOT mean is taking the joy out of eating. If I have a patient who really, really enjoys a less-than-healthy dish, I recommend that the patient eat it, without guilt, but infrequently, so that it becomes a special indulgence. For most people, it's easy to make some changes in the diet in order to feel better, get healthier and maybe live longer.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter recently was operated on for a large tumor in her head. They called it a paranasal sinus cancer, and said that it is very rare, with only a few other known cases. Can you help me know what caused this? – F.W.

This is a question I get often, but I have been reluctant to answer it. I certainly could print a diet that I think is healthy, but depending on your medical conditions, it might not be precisely right for you. You have diabetes, so avoiding sweets is particularly important, and since you have high blood pressure, it's more important for you than it is for others to keep your sodium intake low.

However, the most important reason I can't publish a healthy diet that would work for everybody is that food choices are intensely personal and relate to your upbringing and locale. With my own patients, I don't try to give them a diet they should change to, but instead get a careful diet history and work with them to try to make their diet healthier.

Paranasal sinus cancers are very rare. They usually have no symptoms until they get large enough to invade other structures, and so can be very advanced when diagnosed. They often present as pain in the teeth or face, bleeding or persistent nasal obstruction. They also can press up against the eye, causing double or blurry vision.

Treatment depends on the type of tumor cell, but it usually involves surgery and may include both radiation and chemotherapy.

As far as what caused it, there is no way for me to tell for your daughter. However, factors that increase risk for paranasal cancers include air pollution, tobacco smoke and occupational exposures, especially for leather, textile and wood workers. Human papillomavirus may be the cause in some people.

For most people, that means reducing red meat and choosing other good protein sources, like legumes, fish, nuts or tofu. It usually means increasing vegetables and fruits, reducing sugars and substituting whole grains for processed ones. It often means removing unhealthy snacks and sugary drinks entirely.

What it emphatically does

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

STICKING TO THE GOAL ACROSS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Roman god with a bow | William |
| 5 Knotting craft | 66 With 13-Down, giant in internet service |
| 12 Move like a kangaroo | 69 Sports org. with the eight teams featured in this puzzle |
| 15 Overquick | 71 Trip to a rain forest, maybe |
| 19 Be a wanderer | 73 Vicious |
| 20 Moral | 74 Eban of Israel |
| 21 Actress Gasteyer | 77 Foreboding |
| 22 Comical Kett | 80 Shimon of Israel |
| 23 Jack London novel | 81 2011 Jim Carrey comedy |
| 26 Dumbfound | 86 Head sweller |
| 27 Flynn of films | 87 Tie up again, as shoes |
| 28 Prone (to) | 88 Don't skip, as an event |
| 29 Big name in credit cards | 89 Oaf's cry |
| 30 Cake coater | 93 Waters off Eritrea |
| 31 Writer Verne | 95 2007-13 pickup truck model |
| 33 Easy targets to attack | 99 Clearasil treats it |
| 36 Lacking a musical key | 101 Designer Saarinen |
| 38 Writer Bellow with a Nobel | 102 Old TV tube |
| 40 Mystery novelist _ Stanley Gardner | 103 Be engulfed in fire |
| 41 Relative of soul | 109 Ate |
| 46 Infuse with oxygen | 110 Writer Bret Easton |
| 50 Sphagnum, e.g. | _ |
| 51 Cookie with a "Thins" line | 111 Know _ fact |
| 52 One-masted sailboats | 112 Actor's help |
| 54 Chic, '60s-style | 114 The blahs |
| 55 Really, really quick | 117 Rake feature |
| 59 Drive off | 118 Hawaiians and Tongans |

- 122 Tennis' Lendl
123 TV producer
124 In a very angry
way
125 Filmdom's _ Lund
Lazslo
126 Bird setting
127 Sinuous fish
128 Vilify
129 Gambol

DOWN

- 1 Johnson of
- 2 "Laugh-In"
- 3 Comic actor Jay
- 4 Elates
- 5 Tells in detail
- 6 Ex-Giant Ott
- 7 Gazetteer
- 8 shelfmate
- 9 Hew
- 10 Falling-out
- 11 Masquerade
- 12 _jongg
- 13 Chosen few
- 14 Papa Doc's place
- 15 See 66-Across
- 16 Inflate falsely
- 17 Hero, often
- 18 Top-floor storage
- 19 site
- 20 Reeked
- 21 With 56-Down,
- 22 surfs like a pro
- 23 24 God, in Islam
- 25 Clever type
- 26 Most lazy
- 27 "St. _ Fire" (1985
- 28 film)

- 33 Hero in a deli
34 Fluish, say
35 Shown with explicit
detail
36 It has biceps
37 However,
informally
38 Golf's Sam
39 _ of one's own
medicine
42 Dog cry
43 Naval vessel abbr.
44 Fitzgerald of song
45 Loam, e.g.
47 Key of "Fuer Elise"
48 Mouth organ
49 Lawn care tools
53 Eye creepily
55 _ Baba
56 See 18-Down
57 "... woman who
lived in _"
58 Evening, casually
59 Rear-ending car,
e.g.
60 Arise
61 Natural legume
case
62 Cube maker Rubik
67 Peninsula
northeast of Boston
68 Brother in Genesis
70 Pre-O trio
72 Mil. missions
75 Bric-a-_
76 Yiddish writer
Sholem
78 Actress Samantha
79 Italian for "new"

- 82 Summary
83 16th letter
84 "Don't make _
habit"
85 Nick of "Warrior"
89 Potato chip
topping
90 Singer Helen or
actor Jerry
91 Univ. award
92 Envision
94 Wise
96 22nd letter
97 "Indubitably"
98 "Grease" actress
Eve
100 Erase
103 Gain entry
104 Drab color
105 Forelimb bones
106 Close-by
107 "Exodus"
protagonist
108 Don's group
109 Cuts down, as a
tree
112 Refer to
113 Tech support
seeker
115 Bear, celestially
116 "By Jove!"
118 Adolescent
leader?
119 Taxing org.
120 Beret, e.g.
121 Senate vote

Answer Page 4

[illegible]

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Social Security online offers you in control

Taking control of your future is the first step in planning a long and happy retirement. Social Security is making it faster and easier to do this with *my Social Security*. With your own personal *my Social Security* account, you'll get immediate access to your personal *Social Security Statement* that has your earnings record and an estimate of your retirement benefits at age 62, at your full retirement age, and at age 70. While you are online, you should verify that your earnings are correct, since we base your future benefits on your earnings record. You can do all of this and more at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When you open a *my Social Security* account, we protect your information by using strict identity verification and security features. The application process

has built-in features to detect fraud and confirm your identity. Your personal *my Social Security* account can help you figure out how much more you might want to save for your future, but it can do a whole lot more. For example, in the District of Columbia and more than 20 states, you can request a replacement Social Security card online – find out if you can at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. Remember, we have many other valuable resources on our website. If you're thinking about retiring at an age not shown on your Statement, take control by using our *Retirement Estimator*. The *Retirement Estimator* allows you to calculate your potential future Social Security benefits by changing variables such as retirement dates and future earnings. You may discover that you'd rather wait another year or two before you retire, to earn a higher benefit. Or, you might see that this is the season for you to kiss that work stress goodbye and retire right now. To get instant, personalized estimates of your future benefits, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. Being in control means steering your future in the direction you want. Social Security's online resources are here to help, day or night. Check out your own personal "control panel" at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices.

For more information on the article above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will not publish during the last two weeks of December. The first issue of 2018 will be January 4. The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Wednesday, December 13, 2017. The office will open again on Monday, January 1, 2018.

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: L equals R

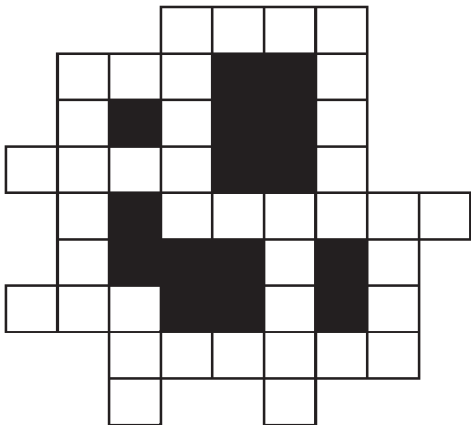
CIPXP BQZX V DLPOPL
XNGKDCGLP SHPL DQVUCVUM.
V MGPXX ZSG NSGKB XQZ V'HP
IQB Q NIQUMP SO QLC.

Answer Page 4

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ZAD
COZDEY
TRYID
ALBO
DALPEY
PIZ
POCO
PEACA
♥LPA
♥NIPEST
TIBZL
RDTA



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

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!

	×		+		16
+		+		-	
	×		+		20
+		+		×	
	×		-		19
7		23		15	

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 5

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Here's a Tip

By JoAnn Derson

• Trying to open a stuck jar? Tap the sides of the lid on the counter or floor on all sides, and the jar will magically open. Don't "tap" too hard or you might break the jar.

• "Every year, we host a Christmas party. To make the house more accessible, and to make guests more comfortable, we put little tags on the door to the bathroom and whichever room we are using to hold coats, etc. I close all the other doors, so when a guest walks down the hall, they can easily figure out what door leads where. No more confused people looking for the restroom."
– Arianna B. in Michigan

• Invest in a meat thermometer this gift-giving season. Food safety is important, but really, why guess when the technology is so easy and accurate?

• "Since we start cooking Christmas dinner almost as soon as we get up on Christmas morning, I noticed that the kids seemed to be breakfasting on cookies exclusively. Last year, while we were waiting for Santa to arrive on Christmas Eve, I put out boxes of cereal, bowls, spoons and a pitcher for milk. I also bought a fruit tray, which I just put out in the morning. The kids ate a proper breakfast, and I still had the kitchen to myself to start preparations. It worked great!"
– Sharon L. in Florida

• To keep beverages ice-cold for your party, just save a 2-liter soda bottle or a rinsed half-gallons milk jug. Fill most of the way with water and freeze. At party time, nestle sodas, beers or water bottles around these mega ice blocks to chill drinks.

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

the cell type. With rare cancers, it is very hard to make a general statement. I hope she has a good outcome.

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