



NEWSBRIEFS

EPCC winter break services

El Paso Community College (EPCC) will be open during the College's winter break at the Valle Verde Campus Enrollment Services Center, 919 Hunter. Staff will be available to assist students from the following departments: Admissions and Registration, Counseling, Financial Aid, Testing, Veteran's Affairs, Cashier's and Traffic. Offices will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21; Friday, Dec. 22; Tuesday, Jan. 2; and Wednesday, Jan. 3. You may also call 915-831-EPCC (3722) and speak to a college representative during these times. "We recognize the need to consistently provide our students, families, and community with on-going opportunities to achieve their personal and professional success, providing extended support services during the holidays aims to support these efforts," Dr. Marisa Pierce, EPCC Executive Director of Outreach and Transition Services said. All other offices will be closed for the winter break from Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017 through Wed., January 3, 2018. College offices will reopen for regular business on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018.

— Jim Heiney

San Eli ISD early release

All San Elizario ISD students will be released early on Friday, Dec. 22. The school bus schedule is as follows for each campus:

- The A.M. Session for Loya Primary will start picking up students at 6:30am and will take them home at 9:30 a.m.;
 - The P.M. Session will start picking up students at 8:45am and will take them home at 11 a.m.;
 - The ALL DAY Session will start picking up students at 6:30 a.m. and will also take them home at 11 a.m.;
 - For all Elementary schools – Alarcon, Borrego, and Sambrano – buses will start taking students home at approximately 11:45 a.m.;
 - For Garcia Enriquez Middle School and San Eli High School, buses will start taking students home at approximately 12:30 p.m.
- There is a possibility that some buses may run behind schedule due to the

See BRIEFS, Page 6

When you give some people an even break they feel cheated.

— Quips & Quotes

Children's hospital needs your vote

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Borderland residents have until Tuesday, December 19 to help the El Paso Children's Hospital Foundation win \$50,000.

The local hospital foundation is in the running to win the money in the nationwide *Vote for Miracles* contest that is based on the public's participation.

The contest is part of the Credit Unions for Kids *Vote for Miracles* campaign under the auspices of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, which raises funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals including the El Paso Children's Hospital.

The contest encourages individuals to go online to vote for their area's hospital. The children's hospital top four vote-getters will receive monetary awards. The three-week contest allows people to vote once a day online for their favorite Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

The hospital with the most votes receives \$50,000; second place will receive \$20,000; third place is \$15,000; fourth place is \$10,000; and fifth place gets \$5,000. The money would go to help sick or injured kids in the community, El Paso's hospital officials stated recently.

This area's hospital currently sits in third place out of more than a hundred participants. As of last weekend, the local facility had over 14,000 votes. Last year, the hospital finished in third place and dedicated the \$15,000 prize to the hospital's Child Life Program.

El Paso's facility is a 122-bed hospital that includes a neonatal intensive care unit,

pediatric intensive care units, a children's oncology group, a pediatric emergency department, and more. It opened in 2012 after voters in 2007 approved a \$120 million bond issue to build it.

Vote online at voteformiracles.org and click on Vote Now. You can vote once a day through Dec. 19, and your information will be auto-filled each time after your first vote.



— Photo courtesy of El Paso Children's Hospital

VOTE FOR MONEY – El Paso Children's Hospital is asking residents from throughout the border region for their vote, as they compete for a \$50,000 award. Vote at <http://voteformiracles.org> for epchfoundation.

Lopez is four time top Texas jazz bass player

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – A Montwood High School student has been named an All-State Musician by the Texas Music Educators Association for the fourth year in a row.

Guillermo Lopez, a senior at the school, was selected as first chair bass in the All-State Jazz Band. All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive, according to the TMEA website.

"I'm astounded to have been recognized as an All-State Musician by TMEA," Lopez said. "This really encourages me to continue my musical career at the University of North Texas where I will do my best to perform with their top ensembles."

The young bass player has earned a spot in the All-State Jazz band every year since his freshman year at Montwood. In addition, he also qualified for the All-Region band on tuba this season.

"To make all state is a tremendous accomplishment," said Janet Lynch, instrumental music specialist in the SISD fine arts department. "To earn this honor for four years in a row is a really big deal! We are all very proud of him!"

Lopez was selected through a rigorous process that began with him competing against five top musicians from the region who were contending for the honor. He was one of two students that advanced to the area competition where he competed against 25 other bass players from eight regions. Lopez was then judged at the TMEA area competitions



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

Guillermo Lopez

where he placed as the highest-ranking jazz bass musician.

"I couldn't be more proud of Guillermo's achievements," said Beto Perez, band director at Montwood High School. "His dedication to his instrument is a true inspiration to young musicians. He has a natural ability for music and is constantly refining his craft by diligently practicing. I am excited to see where music can take him if he decides to follow it as a career."

Lopez will be recognized at the annual state TMEA convention on Feb. 17 in San Antonio, where he will perform in front of thousands of event attendees.

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:
The *West Texas County Courier* office is closed. The office will open again on Monday, January 1, 2018.

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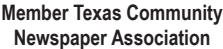
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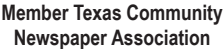


Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.





Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

OpGrad reaches a milestone

By the time you read this, Operation Gratitude will have surpassed 2 million packages sent to deployed service personnel, veterans, wounded warriors in hospitals and their caregivers at home, emergency personnel and the children of deployed service members.

Two million since 2003!

From its start as an idea at a kitchen table, OpGrat has grown to become one of the biggest support organizations in the history of donations to military personnel and veterans. It has never received a cent from the government, not even to help with postage. Do the math: Since each box costs approximately \$15 to send out, that’s \$30 million in shipping costs alone.

Not to mention all the goodies that go in each box: candy, CDs and players, hygiene products, small stuffed animals, handmade items, batteries, books, gum, small puzzles and much more. And sometimes there’s a special package containing the keys to a new vehicle that’s waiting for the service member back home. The packages for kids always contain a Battalion Buddy, a bear in a military uniform to keep the kids company until mom or dad come home.

The best-loved item, it seems, are the handwritten letters from Americans across the country. Each box contains a minimum of two.

The corporate support and sponsorship is phenomenal, and they give in so many ways, from outright donations to letter writing campaigns to volunteer packing events.

To learn more, go online to www.operationgratitude.com/ and sign up for the newsletters. (No, there aren’t too many. I promise.) While you’re on the OpGrat site, look around, especially at the photos and Mail Call letters from those who’ve received packages.

And while you’re looking around, consider whether you can make a donation, or even write a few letters for the packages.

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Donate live trees to county

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County residents, who buy living Christmas trees, are encouraged to give them to the county for its parks after the holidays are over.

County commissioners court voted recently to allow the Public Works Department to accept donations of live, potted Christmas trees after the holidays and plant them at the county parks and other county facilities.

Betsy Keller, chief administrator, pointed out that the county has some parks that have had irrigation added for park development and could use more trees. She said that the department will reach out to area nurseries to see if they are willing to participate in the project.

Brent Pearson, who owns Pearson Tree Farm in Canutillo, has already agreed to collect trees purchased from him and donate them to the county. Pearson said that he is offering to deliver and pick up Mondale pines for \$120. The pines are six to eight feet tall and can be brought inside and decorated with lights. He added that he does a similar program every year with different organizations. (To contact Pearson about a tree, call 877-3808.)

Norma Palacios, interim public works director, told commissioners that the program would be of great benefit to the county. County Judge Ruben Vogt asked that the department report back on how many trees were donated to the county.

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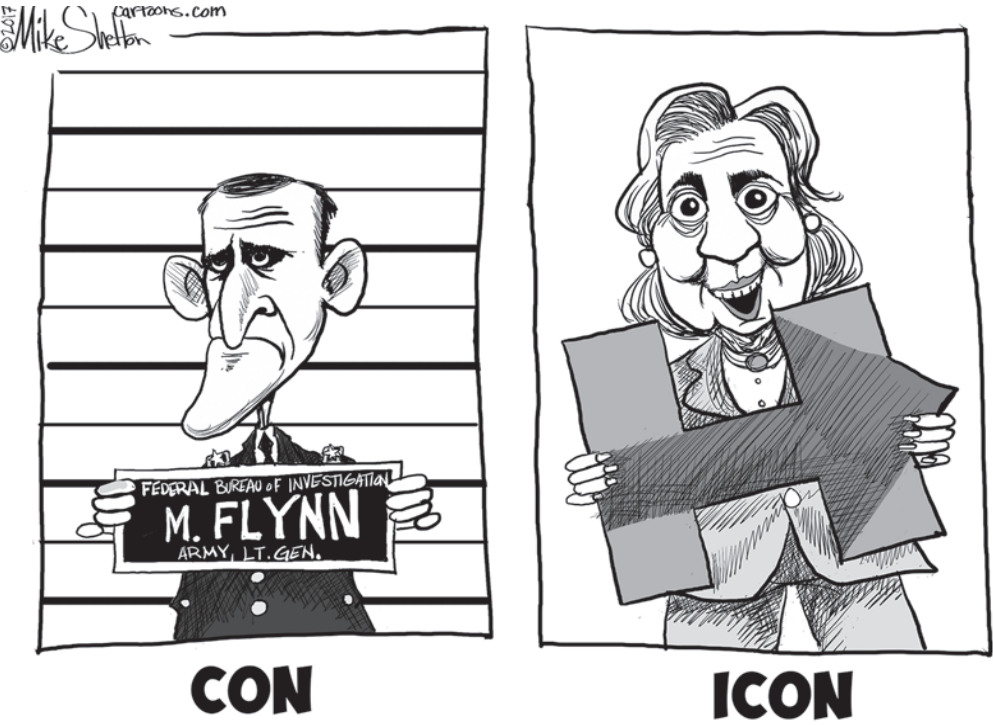




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Homelessness among senior citizens is a form of elder abuse

Here’s a startling statistic from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): “the homeless population is aging faster than the general population in the United States.”

Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), calls it “a shameful embarrassment in a country with a tradition of helping the needy. Growing old is a condition we all have to live with. But too many of America’s elderly are aging on the streets. They need our help.”

Weber points out that there are more than 300,000 seniors who are homeless. It is a daunting number, he says, but it is not hopeless and there may be solutions. He cites University of Pennsylvania Professor Dennis P. Culhane, a recognized expert on the homeless, who is a proponent of Permanent Supportive Housing.

“In other words, programs that provide housing assistance can significantly alleviate the impact of homelessness among the elderly. It’s a concept with a proven track record, according to HUD. Not only does it deal with the problem of putting a roof over the heads of the homeless but such programs are generally less costly quick fixes and they help deal with the serious health issues associated with chronic homelessness. The good news is that a variety of private sector initiatives are underway to alleviate chronicle homelessness,” the AMAC chief notes.

For example, numerous private philanthropic organizations such as the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Tipping Point Initiative have set aside tens of millions of dollars in recent years to fund sustainable solutions.

Weber believes that a permanent, cost-effective solution in aid of the elderly homeless is a must. He says government cannot do much more than provide Band-Aid approaches to the homeless emergency the country faces. Shelters and street outreach programs do not deal with the underlying issue-the need for a stable home environment.

Weber says “we need to wake up to the fact that more seniors are homeless than ever before and to take to heart the needs of these hapless lost souls. And, we need to focus on their plight and let the truth be told, loud and clear. Everyone needs to pitch in if we are to solve this problem, which only grows bigger with each passing day.”

He says that homelessness among senior citizens is a form of “elder abuse” and dealing with it needs to become a matter of urgency. “We must expand the availability of housing for low income seniors.”

Weber says that despite the strides that the economy has made over the past year, many citizens – particularly senior citizens – are still struggling with the impact of the Great Recession. “It is particularly difficult for those who are old because their prospects for recovering lost incomes can be futile. Some reports indicate that as many as 30% of people over 65 years of age in the United States have no retirement income or pensions.”

Professor Culhane, in an article he wrote for the publication, Aging Today, said that “among the more troubling aspects of contemporary homelessness is that the problem has been concentrated among people born between 1953 and 1965. This was true in 1990 when the peak age of adults who were homeless was 30, as it is today, with a peak age of 55. Adults who are homeless have a much reduced life expectancy compared to their housed peers, and can expect to live to a mere 64 years. That means that advanced aging-related illnesses and disabilities are confronting this population in increasing numbers, and end-of-life issues will soon come to the forefront of concerns.”

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

Archaeological Society hosts annual Christmas party

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The El Paso Archaeological Society (EPAS) will hold its annual Christmas party at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 16, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road.

EPAS members, family, and friends are set to gather together for the annual event and continue the custom of asking those attending to bring a main dish, salad, side dish, hors d’oeuvres or dessert to share. EPAS provides the plates, napkins, utensils, and cups as well as the punch.

EPAS officials stated that the Christmas

party is a good time to renew membership or become a new member as the fiscal year ends this month. Membership includes a monthly newsletter and a copy of the annual publication, *The Artifact*.

EPAS, founded in 1922, is a non-profit group. Membership is open to individuals and organizations interested in anthropology, archaeology and in the preservation of prehistoric and historic cultural resources that exist throughout the Southwest. Membership details may be found on the EPAS website, at <http://epas.com/membership.htm>.

For information about the upcoming Christmas party call EPAS’s media assistant, Fernando Arias, at (915) 449-9075, or send email to nando79935@yahoo.com.

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Position Open Business Manager

El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District accepting applications.

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TOWN OF ANTHONY, TX

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-1113

THE PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE 2017-1113 IS TO REPEL IN ITS ENTIRETY THE EXISTING NO PARKING ZONES ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 2013-484) AND REPLACE

IT WITH A MORE HARMONIOUS NO PARKING ZONE S ORDINANCE FOR ESTABLISHING AN AESTHETIC STANDARDIZATION AND BEAUTIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL STREETS AND RESIDENTIAL FRONT YARDS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF ANTHONY, TEXAS.

ANY PERSON WHO SHALL VIOLATE ANY PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR, AND UPON CONVICTION THEREOF, SHALL BE PUNISHED BY A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$ 5 0 0 . 0 0) . EACH DAY OF A VIOLATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE ENFORCED BY ISSUANCE OF A CITATION AND MAY INCLUDE THE IMPOUNDMENT OF OFFENDING VEHICLES.

PASSED AND APPROVED the 13rd day of November, 2017.

Mary Carter
Town Clerk

WTCC: 12-14-17

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Carrillo leads ESL classes in Fabens

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – While looking for a way to give back to the community, Fabens High School Principal Ruben Carrillo noted a need for students’ parents to learn English. This prompted Carrillo to begin hosting free adult English as a Secondary Language classes in the evenings.

Every Tuesday or Thursday, depending on the week, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. these students meet in a computer lab on campus and work with two programs geared at helping them learn English. The first hour is dedicated to *Memrise*, a self-paced, online program. The next hour is for learning phonetics as a group with the program *Johnny Can Spell*.

Having taught English as a Second Language for several



– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

HEAD OF THE CLASS – Principal Ruben Carrillo, standing, helps parents in the Fabens Independent School District learn English.

years at El Paso Community College, Carrillo felt comfortable enough to teach the class himself. “I enjoy it,” he said. “But more importantly, the parents are enjoying it.”

Plans to continue the class are in full effect as long as the need and interest are still present.

Nuñez, Chavez, inducted into NTHS

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – The National Technical Honor Society of the Center for Career and Technical Education inducted Fabens High School juniors Maite Chavez and Brittany Nuñez in a ceremony held at the Bowie Fine Arts Theater Wednesday, Dec. 6. Both girls attend the CCTE’s Veterinary Assistant program.

To be inducted into the National Technical Honor Society a student must maintain a 3.5 GPA and be enrolled in a career and technical education program. “I felt proud of myself that I met the qualifications,” Nuñez said. “It can be a lot of work at times to maintain my grades, but if I apply myself I can get it all done.”

Chavez and Nuñez began the program this year and are on course to graduate high school next year with certifications as Vet Techs. For Chavez,



– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

SMART LADIES – Brittany Nunez and Maite Chavez on stage of the Bowie Fine Arts Theater after their induction into the National Technical Honor Society.

induction into the NTHS means she is closer to fulfilling her childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian. “It’s an honor because there’s not a lot of these kinds of honor societies in the state,” she said. “I hope that

this opens up more scholarship opportunities for me.”

Both girls plan to use their certificates as soon as they graduate to work at Veterinary clinics while they pursue their college degrees.

Moments in Time

The History Channel

- On Dec. 25, 1914, just after midnight on Christmas morning, the World War I troops of Germany, Russia, France and Britain cease fire and come out of the trenches for singing carols, exchanging presents and even a game of soccer. It was one of the last examples of chivalry between enemies in warfare.
- On Dec. 26, 1973, “The Exorcist,” a horror film starring actress Linda Blair as a girl possessed by an evil spirit, makes its debut in theaters. It earned a reputation as one of the scariest movies in history.
- On Dec. 27, 1941, the federal Office of Price Administration initiates its first World War II rationing program: No driver would be permitted to own more than five automobile tires. To conserve rubber (and gasoline), the national “Victory Speed Limit” was set at 35 mph.

• On Dec. 28, 1869, The Knights of Labor hold the first Labor Day ceremonies in American history. First established as a secret society of Philadelphia tailors, it pushed for an eight-hour workday during the labor movement of the late 19th century.

• On Dec. 29, 1878, the Cuban professional baseball league holds its first game. Baseball was introduced in Cuba around 1864 by students returning home from studying in the U.S.

• On Dec. 30, 1803, Francis Lewis, signer of the Declaration of Independence, dies in New York City, at the age of 90. Lewis’ patriotism came at a high cost. The British army destroyed his Long Island estate and took his wife prisoner in 1776.

• On Dec. 31, 1968, the Soviet Union’s TU-144 supersonic airliner makes its first flight. In 1973 at the Paris Air Show, the TU-144 broke up from stress at 1,500 feet when a French Mirage spy aircraft photographing the TU-144 from above forced its pilot to abruptly level off.

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



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

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CryptoQuip Answer

Comic strip about a young waif girl with the ability to change forms: “Little Morphin’ Annie”.

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Strange
But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was noted American journalist, satirist and cultural critic H.L. Mencken who made the following sage observation: “Whenever ‘A’ attempts by law to impose his moral standards upon ‘B’, ‘A’ is most likely a scoundrel.”

• You’re certainly aware that the Middle East has large deposits of petroleum. It makes a kind of sense, then, that one of the first uses early discovers put the substance to was to treat their camels’ mange.

• As the holiday season approaches, there are some interesting traditions you might want to keep in mind:
– You’ll have bad luck on Christmas Day if you refuse mince pie on Christmas Eve.
– If you eat an apple on Christmas Eve, you’ll have good health throughout the following year.
– If you eat a raw egg before eating anything else on Christmas morning, you’ll be able to lift heavy weights.
– If you don’t eat plum pudding on Christmas Day, you’ll lose a friend within a year.

• Those who study such things say that Julia Grant, the wife of Ulysses S. Grant, our 18th president, initially refused when it was assumed that she would be interred beside her husband. She didn’t change her mind until she was assured that Grant’s Tomb would never be equipped with public restrooms.

• The first state to declare Christmas an official legal holiday was Alabama, back in 1836.

• You might be surprised to learn that the best-selling flowering potted plant in the United States is the poinsettia. You probably won’t be surprised to learn, however, that the best-selling Christmas song of all time is Bing Crosby’s “White Christmas.”

Thought for the Day: “The people of these United States are the rightful masters of both Congresses and courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.”
– Abraham Lincoln

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Covey receives national recognition

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) Valle Verde Early College High School’s (VVECHS) Principal Paul Covey was awarded the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership by the United States Department of Education. The announcement of the 2017 recipients was made by Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos.

“It’s a privilege to honor this year’s Bell awardees and to recognize them for their achievement,” Secretary DeVos said. “Through their work,

these principals show that when effective leadership is coupled with high expectations, we can expect great results for all of our nation’s students.”

Covey’s recognized initiatives include creating a “College Transition” course to support VVECHS students as they took classes at EPCC. The course covers time management, textbook reading, note-taking, handling college projects and communicating with college professors. He also modified the VVECHS schedule in accordance with the EPCC’s schedule, so that the high school students can be immersed in the college environment. Covey

credits these steps for figures such as 85% of seniors earning Associate of Arts degrees and 93% of seniors going on to four-year colleges and universities.

“Paul Covey and Valle Verde Early College High School continue to set the standard for early college high schools, not only in our region and the state, but nationwide.” Tonie Badillo, EPCC Dean of Dual Credit and Early College High Schools said. “EPCC congratulates Mr. Covey’s for this well deserved recognition.”

Covey was one of eight principals nationwide honored during the National Blue Ribbon Schools awards ceremony on November 6 in Washington, DC.



– Photo courtesy EPCC

Paul Covey

Canutillo Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 22,855,671	\$ 6,765,687	\$ 44,965	\$ 29,666,323
5800 State Program Revenues	31,783,155	790,955	644,941	33,219,051
5900 Federal Program Revenues	5,968,670	–	3,844,479	9,813,149
5020 Total Revenues	60,607,496	7,556,642	4,534,385	72,698,523
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	31,330,787	–	2,423,888	33,754,675
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	689,617	–	250,171	939,788
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	505,725	–	966,992	1,472,717
0021 Instructional Leadership	906,031	–	250,336	1,156,367
0023 School Leadership	3,536,035	–	44,207	3,580,242
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,923,220	–	80,543	2,003,763
0032 Social Work Services	150,838	–	–	150,838
0033 Health Services	775,005	–	–	775,005
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,870,241	–	–	1,870,241
0035 Food Services	5,130,550	–	47,823	5,178,373
0036 Extracurricular Activities	1,435,210	–	20,700	1,455,910
0041 General Administration	2,896,041	–	28,408	2,924,449
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	5,928,267	–	9,707	5,937,974
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	453,821	–	–	453,821
0053 Data Processing Services	1,637,502	–	–	1,637,502
0061 Community Services	29,656	–	395,850	425,506
Debt Service:				
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	265,897	2,398,292	–	2,664,189
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	111,658	4,541,485	–	4,653,143
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	223,610	–	223,610
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	6,000	–	328,250	334,250
Intergovernmental:				
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	376,335	–	–	376,335
6030 Total Expenditures	59,958,436	7,163,387	4,846,875	71,968,698
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	649,060	393,255	(312,490)	729,825
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	–	8,455,000	–	8,455,000
7915 Transfers In	3,613	–	–	3,613
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	1,437,985	–	1,437,985
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	–	–	(3,613)	(3,613)
8940 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	–	(9,687,400)	–	(9,687,400)
8949 Other (Uses)	(373,681)	(114,979)	–	(488,660)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(370,068)	90,606	(3,613)	(283,075)
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	278,992	483,861	(316,103)	446,750
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	12,303,817	3,799,895	4,287,871	20,391,583
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 12,582,809	\$ 4,283,756	\$ 3,971,768	\$ 20,838,333

Send Your
Newsbrief To:
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

Can any team save my NFL season?

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are some classic movies that I don't mind watching again every once in a while when the mood strikes me, and there's nothing else to watch.

But generally, I don't like watching the same thing over and over. I know how it's going to end and all the anticipation has been sucked out of the equation.

The National Football League is slowly advancing toward its playoff season and there are a bunch of new teams that appear headed for the postseason.

But the real question is whether anyone can stop me from watching the same thing all over again.

And of course by "the same thing" I'm talking about the New England Patriots.

Is it just me or am I joined by about 80 percent of the country who is sick and tired of Bill Belichick, Tom Brady, Rob Gronkowski, Robert Kraft and the Patriots.

Don't get me wrong, they're a great organization that wins consistently no matter what players are injured, or retire,

or are traded.

It seems that as long as those four names are involved, the Patriots are going to win their division and contend for another Super Bowl no matter what.

And this year is no different. The Patriots lead their division by a mile and are positioning themselves for home-field advantage in the playoffs.

It must be nice to compete in a division where you're guaranteed a 6-0 record every season. I mean c'mon – the Miami Dolphins, Buffalo Bills and New York Jets haven't posed a threat to the Patriots in a decade.

Anyway, I'm a huge Cowboys fan but it seems like the only outcome that will make my NFL season complete is seeing the Patriots walk off the field in a stunning playoff loss.

But which team has what it takes to take down such a fundamentally sound powerhouse?

If it's going to happen before the Super Bowl, it seems like only the Pittsburgh Steelers have a chance. Every other AFC team is mediocre at best.

The Steelers host the Patriots this

weekend in a game that will probably decide home field if they meet in the playoffs.

That's probably the only chance the AFC representative in the Super Bowl isn't wearing a New England Patriots' jersey.

But if the Patriots do make it to the big game, which NFC team has a legitimate chance to knock them off?

The Philadelphia Eagles, the Minnesota Vikings, the Los Angeles Rams and the Seattle Seahawks appear to be the favorites to make it all the way to the super game – which by the way, will be played in Minnesota this year.

The thing is, the Eagles and the Vikings and the Rams are new to this environment. They've all come out of nowhere to lead their divisions.

Only the Seahawks – having played in two Super Bowls just three and four years ago – know what all this is about..

I've got a feeling those other three new teams would run onto the field, see those Patriots uniforms and collectively assume the fetal position.

There's also a slim chance the Carolina

Panthers, New Orleans Saints and Atlanta Falcons could make a slight challenge, but not likely.

Of course it was the Falcons who had the Patriots down 28-3 in last year's Super Bowl and managed to lose it.

I've decided that I would like for Santa to bring me a Patriots-free Super Bowl. I'll tell him that I'm not particular about which other teams make it. He could choose his two favorite teams if he likes – but no Patriots!

I think most of you are with me on this, right?

Oh, and same thing with the Golden State Warriors, but that's a few months away.

Wasn't the World Series awesome with the Houston Astros and the L.A. Dodgers? Two new teams with fresh stories and faces.

The Patriots are good and consistent, but too mechanical and lifeless. I'm still not 100-percent sure Belichick is actually human.

Who knows, maybe I'll start an "Anyone but Patriots" movement and I'll take my message to the streets of America and get people fired up behind me in a quest for eventual victory.

After all, it worked so well against Donald Trump.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Gone in a New York minute

The firing of New York Giants head coach Ben McAdoo along with general manager Jerry Reese was both long overdue and a lesson for anyone who works in human resources.

In business, as in sports, there is such a thing called "the writing on the wall." For no coach in the NFL this season was that more apparent than in McAdoo's case. The Maras' old-fashioned stance of "we'll wait until the end of the season to make a decision"

backfired spectacularly, namely by letting McAdoo bench two-time Super Bowl MVP, team captain, Giants all-time leading passer, ironman, face of the franchise, former "Saturday Night Live" host and future Hall of Famer Eli Manning for, get this, Jets discard Geno Smith.

This is why, when the writing is on the wall, you have to make a decision. Does this relationship make sense? Do we see a long and prosperous future ahead of

us? Do the employees respect you? The answer in McAdoo's case was "no" to all three. If there were a corporate flow chart, the decision diamond would have clearly stated, "Fire the guy."

But the Giants didn't do that. Instead of handing him his papers, they let him stay in the office and mess everything up. This is precisely why human resources hands you a box, revokes your passwords, takes your clock-in card and parking pass, and escorts you out the door – so you can't do harmful things to the company. And mess things up he certainly did.

The benching of Eli Manning

was a travesty. I think I speak for most all Giants fans when I say that this was something they didn't ask for or want. The Maras can say that it was the coach's call all they like, but that explanation fails on so many levels.

Whenever I'm asked who the greatest quarterback of all-time is/was, I apply this simple test: Who would I want starting if my life depended on the outcome of the game? My choice is and remains Joe Montana. Out of the current year's quarterbacks, obviously Tom Brady. Granted those two weren't available for him, but McAdoo pinned his career on Geno Smith. Think about that. That's a bad decision and a decision Mara should have overruled.

You know it's a problem when even your local congressman

expresses disgust.

"Problems began when the Giants failed to draft a good offensive line last year," said Chuck Shumer. "McAdoo and Reese should pay the price, but not Eli."

An average professional football game lasts 3 hours and 12 minutes, but if you tally up the time when the ball is actually in play, the action amounts to a mere 11 minutes. That means Giants fans enjoyed 22 minutes of wins and 110 minutes of losses this season. In McAdoo's case, those fans couldn't take a New York minute more.

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

Briefs

From Page 1

high number of simultaneous routes. The schedules are also available at www.seisd.net. There will be no school starting on Monday, Dec. 25, 2017 through Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. Classes will resume at their regular time on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

– Hector Gonzalez

EPCC adopts two schools

El Paso Community College (EPCC) has adopted Canutillo Elementary School (Canutillo ISD) and Frank Macias Elementary (Clint ISD) as part of its elementary school adoption program. "A student is never too young to learn the importance of going to college," Dr. William Serrata, EPCC President said. "Reaching out to elementary school students and their parents allows

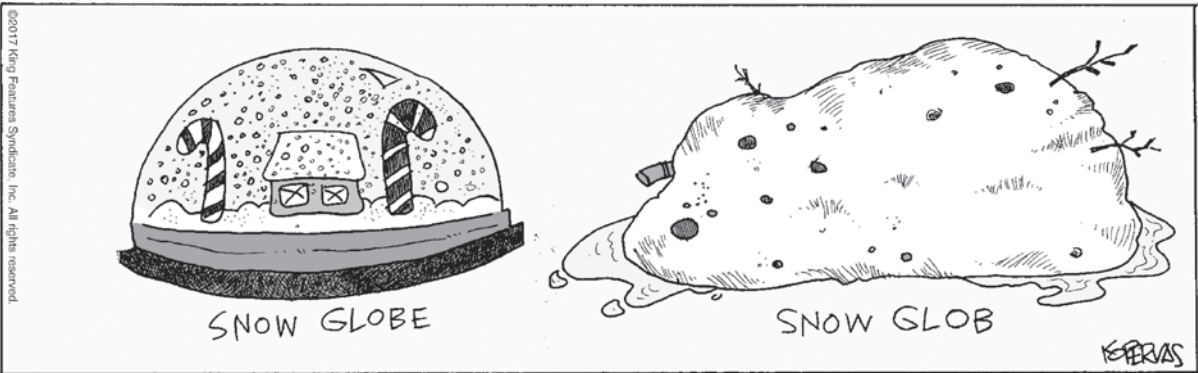
students to learn that higher education is within their reach and we build a college-going culture." Canutillo Elementary School and Frank Macias Elementary are the fourth and fifth schools, respectively, to be adopted by EPCC and each is the first in their district. "We are excited and invite this partnership with EPCC as it exposes our students at an early age to the future college opportunities available to them," Dr. Pedro Galaviz, CISD Superintendent said. EPCC is committed to increasing the number of students going to college in the region. EPCC is building a college-going culture where "college begins in kindergarten." EPCC representatives maintain strong elementary school and college connections through campus tours, workshops, presentations, outreach programs and parental involvement.

– Jim Heiney

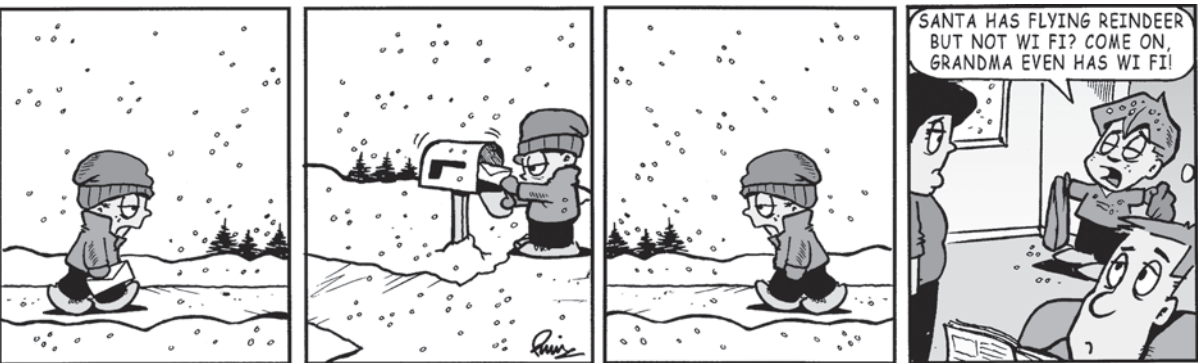


Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



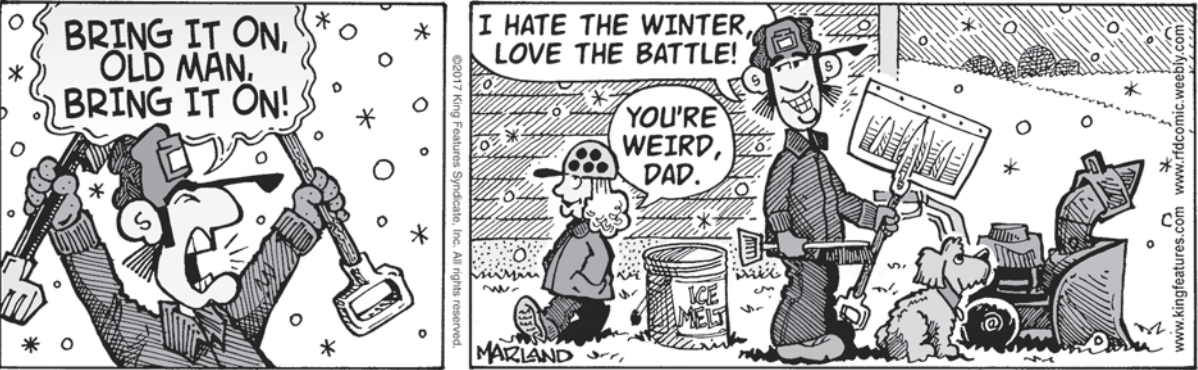
AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good healthBy Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 77-year-old woman. For as long as I can remember, my body temperature has been between 97.7 and 98 degrees F. If my temperature were 99, would that be a fever to worry about? My doctor does not seem to worry about it, even when I'm not feeling well at all. – B.C.

The average temperature for most people is not the 98.6 that I, at least, was taught growing up. Body temperature varies during the day – it's a bit lower in the morning and higher in the evening, but it averages about 98.2 degrees. Your observations show that your body temperatures are well within the normal variation.

A temperature of 99 is not, strictly speaking, a fever. Fever normally is defined as greater than 101.5, but can be lower in people with severe disease of the immune system. Most cases of fever are temporary viral infections, but fever can be seen with autoimmune and inflammatory diseases without infection, and as a result of some medications. Equally important, it's possible – and even likely in some cases – to have serious infection with no fever.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Years ago, my husband took Lipitor, and after taking it for quite a while, his muscles and limbs developed a profound weakness; he could barely hold up a shovel and had no muscle tone. The doctor switched him to Vytorin, and it went away. Now he is experiencing similar problems after taking Vytorin for many years – his joints ache, he feels like his body is slow to follow "orders" to move and his

feet hurt. Could Vytorin now be the culprit? – J.H.

Lipitor (atorvastatin) and simvastatin are cholesterol-lowering medications in the class called statins. Vytorin is a combination of simvastatin and another, nonstatin medication called ezetimibe. Muscle aches and even muscle breakdown are uncommon (but not rare) side effects of all statin drugs. The side effect usually happens in the first six months of taking the medicine, but still can happen even after years of taking the medicine. Given your husband's history, I would recommend talking with his doctor about stopping the medicine. Changing statins (as your husband did, from Lipitor to simvastatin) can relieve the problem sometimes.

There are other causes of joint and foot aches, and slowness in moving sounds like it might be a neurologic or rheumatologic issue rather than a side effect. But a trial off the medicine is still a good first step.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 79-year-old male with mild Parkinson's disease and Type 2 diabetes. I can walk about 10 feet before becoming terribly short of breath and weak. I have been this way for several years, and it has become increasingly worse. Can you help me? – K.C.

Neither Parkinson's disease nor Type 2 diabetes explains terrible shortness of breath on mild exertion. Severe shortness of breath can come from serious heart or lung problems (many

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

- LINKING VERBS
ACROSS

1 Defers (to)
5 Pretenders
11 Animistic religion of northern Asia
20 Adored star
21 How bed linens are often sold
22 Audio product introduced by Bose in 1993
23 CHARM
26 Spending jag
27 " _ ed Euridice"
28 "Ben- _"
29 SEE
34 Citi Field MLB team
37 Clothed very shabbily
38 Prefix with color
39 Fleecy beast
42 Lose vigor
43 Not difficult
44 HEIGHTEN
48 Grows older
50 Daisy cousin
51 California's Point _
52 Was of use to
56 See 29-Down
58 "Nothing _ it seems"
60 FALL
65 Suffix with host
68 Certify
69 Actress Ortiz or Gasteyer

70 Ghost shout
71 Marketing space in a newspaper, e.g.
74 "Li'l ol' me?!"
75 STEAL
79 Donne, e.g.
81 Lead-in to history
82 E.T.'s human friend
83 Ranch rope
86 Fizzy drinks
90 Holiday song
91 SUPPLY
95 "Aloha Oe"
instruments, for short
99 Crux
100 Czar's edict
101 See 103-Down
102 Mint-family herbs
104 Gets more narrow
107 CHANGE
110 "... _ mouse?"
111 Davis of "Hot Stuff"
113 Eventual oak
114 ERASE
122 Proper noun in an atlas
123 Ripped thoroughly
124 Huge-scale
125 Person on both sides of an issue
126 Treats with malice
127 Gas brand

DOWN

1 Spill-catching wear
2 Poem of laud
3 "Amazing!"
4 Ramp for accessing a ship
5 Gem sides
6 Ghostly pale
7 Jay-ell linkup
8 Psychic "gift"
9 Stimp'y's bud
10 Small porch
11 Small bird that builds edible nests
12 Visible air
13 Chevy's Sonic, before 2011
14 Many adults
15 Don Marquis' " _ and Mehitabel"
16 Poet Tate
17 "It really seems to me ..."
18 Moral failure
19 Pithy remark
24 Math subj.
25 Cave beings
29 With 56-Across, compete to obtain
30 Suffix with czar
31 LAX info
32 Madras "Mr."
33 Female sib
34 Turner of an insurrection
35 "Tall" story
36 Mil. officers
40 Rd. relative
41 Physicist Curie
44 Funny Foxx
45 English noble
46 Special time

47 Strikes (out)
48 Headly drinks
49 Docile
52 Actor Driver
53 "No" from a higher-up
54 Italian wine area
55 Luge surface
56 Arial, e.g.
57 Large elliptical fish
59 Not volatile
61 Flying British mil. branch
62 Ridesharing app
63 Stir
64 Curly's bud
65 Ferrari who founded Ferrari
66 Riverbed deposit
67 "Keep it in"
72 Secluded valley
73 Arm of Israel
76 "Don't worry"
77 _ dixit (unproven assertion)
78 Cat cry
79 Chi-omega linkup
80 Alley _
83 Gave temporarily
84 Kind of blue
85 Of the region just north of the Antarctic Circle
87 Female gametes
88 Catastrophe
89 Antarctic penguin
90 Scale part
92 Toys _ (chain for kids)

93 TV "Science Guy"
94 Ruhr article
95 Turnpike toll, e.g.
96 Takes for ransom
97 Wallach of "Nuts"
98 Old aviation inits.
102 What pull-ups work
103 With 101-Across, thus far
105 Actress Durance
106 Evaluated
108 Sends cell messages
109 Unclear
111 Kind of gel
112 Unchanged
114 Photo _
115 Deli staple
116 Cut off
117 Fizzy drink
118 Geller from Israel
119 Bottom-line
120 Prefix with gender
121 Prefix with friendly

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20						21						22								
23					24						25									
		26							27						28					
29	30						31	32	33					34					35	36
37							38				39		40	41				42		
43							44			45					46	47				
					48	49				50					51					
52	53	54	55					56	57					58	59					
60							61				62	63	64				65	66	67	
68							69				70				71	72	73			
74					75	76				77				78						
				79	80					81				82						
83	84	85				86	87	88	89				90							
91						92					93	94				95	96	97	98	
99					100						101				102	103				
104			105	106				107		108				109						
		110				111	112							113						
114	115					116						117	118	119					120	121
122										123							124			
125										126							127			

Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Dec. 6, 1832: Sam Houston first sets foot in Texas. The rest is history... Texas history.



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.

	÷		+		11
-		+		÷	
	+		+		15
×		+		+	
	×		+		12
10		11		10	

1 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Lerma is hall of famer

By Ismael de la Rosa
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Raul



– Photo courtesy EPCC

Raul Lerma

Lerma, El Paso Community College (EPCC) Interim Vice-President of Student Services, received the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Association (TASFAA) Hall of Fame Award on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 in San Antonio, TX.

“Mr. Lerma has been an outstanding advocate for our students. He has demonstrated commitment to EPCC’s mission to provide access to high quality and affordable education in our region,” Dr. William Serrata, EPCC President said.

The TASFAA Hall of Fame consists of an honorary group of current or former financial aid administrators who served in Texas. Recipients have been designated by TASFAA as having been exceptional in their dedication and service to TASFAA and the students of Texas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:
The *West Texas County Courier* office is closed. 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: A equals T

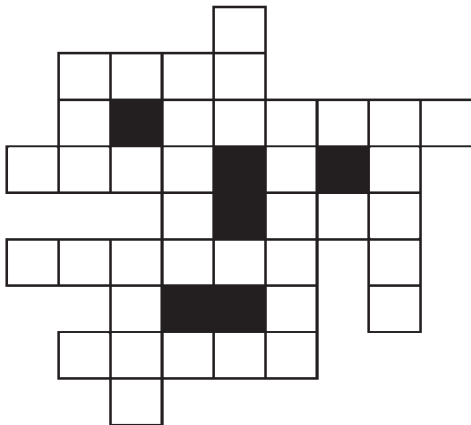
BKUOB RAI OG DFKEA D ZKEMW
SDOQ WOIT SOAC ACY DFOTOAZ
AK BCDMWY QKIUR: “TOAATY
UKIGCOM’ DMMOY”.

Answer Page 4

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YER
PEXIER
VATDI
♥ARDE
NORTIE
VXE
RYPA
♥STOIR
♥ERP
VITREN
♥DIENX
♥ITRE



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.

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

Here’s a Tip

By JoAnn Derson

• Most of my large family stays at our house on Christmas Eve. Although everyone knows where everything is located in the kitchen, it has been our custom to centralize snacks, disposable cups and silverware, canned drinks and other frequently needed items in one cabinet, so no one has to go searching. We also designate a low shelf in the refrigerator for pre-bagged kids’ snacks and juice boxes. This way the children can get a drink or snack without help. The kids love it, as it makes them feel all grown up.

– R. B. in Pennsylvania

• Here’s how to keep grease from building up on your range hood. First wash and dry the hood very well. Then apply a thin layer of car wax. Follow wax directions and buff off with a clean, dry towel. It will keep grease from adhering, plus leaves a great shine behind.

• I have an ingenious fix if you forget your reading glasses. Take out your smartphone and use the camera viewer as a magnifying glass. Just zoom in until the words are legible. My mom does this when she’s looking at ingredients on boxes at the grocery store.

– W.S. in Oregon

• To keep precious fresh herbs usable longer, add a good quality oil to an ice cube tray. Add herbs and freeze. When solid, pop out the cubes and transfer to a plastic baggie.

• Kitty cat or puppy dog up all night wanting to play? Schedule a play session of at least 30 minutes in the evening. It will tucker them out so you can both get some sleep.

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

types) or severe anemia. I can’t help: Get to your doctor right away.

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.