



NEWSBRIEFS

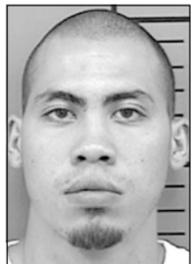
Democratic banquet

The El Paso County Democratic Party will hold its annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Wyndham Hotel beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Honorable U.S. Congressman Xavier Becerra from the 31st Congressional District of California will be the Keynote Speaker at the Banquet. Becerra serves as Vice Chair of the House Democratic caucus and is a senior member and first Hispanic of the powerful Committee on Ways and Means. His committee is responsible for formulating our nation's tax, Social Security, Medicare, trade and income security laws. He is widely recognized as a national leader on issues affecting the Hispanic community and former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. The six El Paso County Democrats that will be honored are JoAn C. Lopez, Kenneth F. Sutherland, Veronica Reyes Cintron, Donald L. Kirkpatrick, PattiLee Pinon and Jim Scherr. Cocktails and Silent Auction will be at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.; cocktail attire. Tickets are \$500 per table or \$50.00 per person. The Silent Auction will have some great items such as White House Memorabilia. For more information call 533-2141 or 533-1100.

— Jan Engels

Wanted

The hunt is on for James Sebastian Montez, 21. He also goes by James Herrera, Sebastian Herrera, Sebastian Montez and Scrappy. He is 5'6" tall,



J. S. Montez

weighs 165 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. He is wanted for Escape while in police custody. Montez has multiple tattoos including CHUQUENO, a clown, a face, EP and a 915 outline of El Paso on his right arm. He has CSX3 on his right hand, S on the left hand and a clown on his left calf. On August 11, 2008 at about 4:00 p.m., El Paso Police Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle driven by male subject. Further investigation by EPPD officers revealed the vehicle was stolen. The driver was placed under arrest, identified as Montez. As officers were escorting Montez to their marked unit, Montez fled on foot while handcuffed but was apprehended by EPPD officers about 1/4 of a mile from the location of the stop. Montez has since failed to show to court for the mentioned offense and is now on the run. The 243rd District Court has issued a warrant of arrest for the apprehension of Montez for the offense of Escape. Deputies from the Sheriff's Office Warrants Division have been hot on the trail of Montez who has managed to elude capture. Montez, who was born in

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Experience is what helps you make an old mistake in a new way.

— Quips & Quotes

Clint ISD employees receive H1N1 vaccine



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM — Hoping employees and their families will have a happy and healthy holiday season, the Clint Independent School District was able to secure 300 H1N1 vaccines for employees just before the Thanksgiving Holiday. The vaccine distribution, organized by Immunize El Paso, was held on Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Central Administration building. After all interested employees received the vaccine; the shots were also made available to employee dependents and community members. The District offered the regular seasonal flu shots to all employees and their dependents in early fall as well. Clint ISD Superintendent Dr. Edward L. Gabaldon, above, receives the H1N1 vaccine from an Immunize El Paso employee.

Hot check writers can pay up online

Program saves residents a trip to downtown

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

Last Wednesday, Nov. 25, El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal announced the launching of "Hot Check E-pay," a new service that will make it easier for County residents to pay outstanding hot checks.

The County Attorney's Office offers free hot check collection services to all county residents and businesses that have problems locating check writers. During the last decade, the Hot Check Department has received on average 14,000 checks for collection every year. During 2009 our office has received 6,560 checks. Currently the County Attorney's Office is attempting to collect 3.24 million dollars in worthless checks.

One of the obstacles hot check writers faced while trying to take care of outstanding amounts was they had to pay in person on the fifth floor of the County Courthouse. In the past, some had expressed their fear of coming to the courthouse and getting arrested before they could take care of the outstanding

amounts. Other hot check writers no longer live in El Paso and, until now, were not able to pay online or over the phone.

El Paso Commissioners Court recently approved a contract that allows County departments to receive credit card payments online. As soon as the decision was taken, the County Attorney's Office started working with the IT Department to develop a secure site to receive hot check payments via internet.

Bernal explained that offering free collection of hot checks is an effective way to support the local economy.

"Hot checks hurt not only the business owners, but all the consumers as well. They increase the cost of doing business and merchants usually transfer those costs to consumers by increasing prices," Bernal said.

"We understand how important this service is for the community and that is why every day we are exploring new ways to increase hot check collections in El Paso County," Bernal finalized.

Individuals with outstanding hot checks can make online payments with credit cards by visiting the County Attorney's web page at www.epcounty.com/ca.

San Elizario students gain leadership qualities

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

Walking the hallways of San Elizario High School are many emerging leaders still developing the abilities and talents that will be essential to their success as adults in the future. Recently however, three San Elizario students already gained an important jumpstart towards becoming empowered women by being selected to participate in El Paso's Terrific Ten Conference Scholarship Program. The program

is sponsored by the University of Texas at El Paso's Center for Civic Engagement and the Women's Fund of El Paso. Each year, ten outstanding girls from the region are chosen to attend the Texas Conference for Women hosted by Texas Governor Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry. The goal of the El Paso Terrific Ten Conference Scholarship Program is to provide girls who are excelling as high school students the opportunity to gain valuable leadership development by experiencing the personal

See STUDENTS, Page 5

Employers given incentives to hire

Two new groups added to Work Opportunity Tax Credit program

EL PASO COUNTY — Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken was in El Paso this week to promote hiring that helps both the employer and job seekers that sometimes are passed over in the hiring process. Federal and state programs



Tom Pauken

are in place that give tax breaks to employers when they hire people from specific group classifications. Employers who hire unemployed veterans or eligible 16- to 24-year-olds are now entitled to receive up to \$2,400 in tax savings for each member of those groups added to their payrolls in 2009 and 2010. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, these groups now are included among Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) target populations.

In order for employers to qualify for WOTC, new hires who are unemployed veterans must have been receiving unemployment benefits for at least four weeks and youth must not have been regularly employed or regularly attending school for six months prior to being hired.

"WOTC gives employers an incentive to hire from groups that face extra challenges in their efforts to find work," said Pauken. "It's particularly encouraging to me that unemployed veterans now are included in this program. By hiring job seekers from any of these groups, employers are able to receive tax credits and tax savings for their businesses."

The TWC assists employers by certifying the eligibility of individuals for this federal employer tax benefit.

Other groups eligible for WOTC include:

- disabled veterans;
- veterans receiving food stamps;
- ex-offenders;
- residents living within empowerment zones, renewal communities or rural renewal communities;
- vocational rehabilitation referrals;
- youth who live in empowerment zones or renewal communities and are hired for temporary summer work;
- food stamp recipients;
- supplemental security income recipients; and
- temporary assistance for needy family benefit recipients.

Within each group, including the two new ones, additional conditions must be met. The tax credit amount is between \$1,200 and \$9,000 per employee, depending on which group the newly hired worker represents.

The addition of the two new eligible groups is retroactive to January 1, 2009 and employers have until October 17 to apply for certifications from TWC for applicants hired prior to September 17. More information on WOTC, including all the eligibility requirements and the forms employers need to apply for certification is available online at: www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/wotc/wotc.html, or by calling the TWC WOTC unit at (800) 695-6879.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Phony baloney

Another phony has been busted. Steve Burton of Palm Springs, Calif., was arrested and charged under the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 for wearing a Marine uniform and medals he didn't earn. Burton had a Web site too, where he compounded his errors and told tall tales of his exploits, including four tours in Iraq.

You've got to wonder about the ego of someone who'd do something like this. In one published photo he was a Master Gunnery Sergeant with a chest full of medals. At his high-school reunion, he'd upped the stakes to colonel. He was busted because a former classmate — a Navy officer — recognized that the medals were a problem and turned Burton in to the FBI.

To would-be phonies who are thinking about donning a uniform and slapping on some medals you didn't earn, here are some things you might want to think about.

It's against the law.

You're going to get caught.

When you are arrested, the in-

vestigating agent's affidavit will hit the Internet. The paperwork on Burton included his home address. Courtesy of Google, it took about three seconds to pull up satellite photos of where he lives. The affidavit includes the type of vehicle he drives as well as the tag number, and the name and location of the company he works for.

You'll probably lose your job, especially if you're arrested at work. Any decent company isn't going to want you around. You could have a problem getting another job, because you'll have an arrest record.

You'll go to jail if convicted.

It's says a lot about Burton that when he went to court, he didn't even man up and admit to wearing the medals. He pleaded not guilty.

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com. (c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Dumping must stop

Hola, mi gente. I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was blessed with happiness and health. We can now work on the last month of the year to make it a great year.

Our open areas in the east county are some of the most beautiful areas in Texas. We have high plains, valleys, mountains and many arroyos. And in this area, one can probably uncover many valuable historic items left behind over hundreds of years.

Just recently I was informed that there are many ancient Native American campsites that have yet to be uncovered. Perhaps we need to get our great university to work to uncover those sites.

Even though we have such beauty and history, pollution is what most people see in the open areas. In the past, the biggest problem in our desert was dumping by county or city residents. Now the problem is exacerbated by business dumping on a grand scale.

Just prior to Thanksgiving, my office received a call from a responsible resident who informed us about the scale of dumping just east of the Clint Landfill. It is rather pathetic that just three miles from where the trash was dumped, the proper facility for disposing of waste is located.

My chief of staff phoned our state agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), to ask that an enforcement agent accompany him on a drive through the area. They did the following morning and pretty much confirmed what the caller had described. Then they spotted a truck loaded with about forty tires driving on a dirt road. They followed the truck expecting the driver to pull over and dump the tires. Instead the truck pulled into what appeared to be a residence.

Both my staffer and the enforcement agent were astounded to see that the lot upon which the residence was located contained upwards of 20,000 improperly (perhaps even criminally) dumped tires. Not only was this a big dump, it was also going to be a very big cleanup along with some major fines. As you know, you pay a certain tire disposal fee when you get a new set of tires. The fee is to finance the proper disposal of the tires. This operation may have been pocketing the money you pay and just dumping those tires on the premises.

That was a major dump site. There are dozens of smaller tire dumps throughout the area. Unless the tire industry takes true responsibility for the safe and legal disposal of tires, this may not stop.

Tires are not the only problem.

Perhaps the second biggest blight in the east desert is roofing material. We were informed that somewhere off the main roads exists a huge roofing dump. We will investigate that very soon as well. Unscrupulous business people are accumulating wealth at the expense of our beautiful deserts.

Tire businesses must be the ones who make sure their disposed tires are taken to the land fill or deposited with licensed tire dumps. If not, you can be sure that we will pass legislation imposing more administrative paperwork on those businesses.

Homeowners who have roof repairs or replacements done need to make sure the material that is disposed goes to the dump and not the desert. You can make the difference. Perhaps payment can be withheld until you confirm that the old roof tiles and tar buckets are taken to the landfill. We must all do something to discourage the illegal dumping.

Every day I drive from the farthest part of El Paso County to my office or into the city. The desert I see is beautiful. Not far behind that is the desert that too many people consider a free dump. That is an detestable way to reduce business costs. Let's keep El Paso County beautiful.

Gracias, mi gente, and I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.

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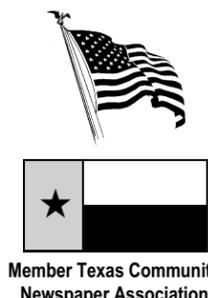
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View from here By Robert Romano

Climategate: Falsified research scandal rocks the UK

"[T]he criterion of the scientific status of a theory is its falsifiability, or refutability, or testability."

— Karl Popper

"Science as Falsification," 1963.

Karl Popper must be rolling over in his grave.

As world leaders prepare to meet in Denmark next month to discuss the implementation of the Copenhagen Protocol (the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol designed to cap carbon emissions in industrialized nations) one

topic certain to be the buzz amongst attendees — at least unofficially — will be the growing "Climategate" scandal that currently rocking the United Kingdom.

Apparently, computer hackers broke into the servers of the University of East Anglia's (UEA) Climatic Research Unit. There,

they found and published emails showing that researchers deliberately manipulated climate "change" data to hide the actual decline of the Earth's temperatures.

What makes this highly significant is that, according to UEA's website, the Climatic Research Unit's data sets are "widely used in climate research, including the global temperature record used to monitor the state of the climate system."

The site also boasts that the "Climatic Research Unit is widely recognised as one of the world's leading institutions concerned with the study of natural and anthropogenic climate change." At least, they were.

According to the UK Telegraph, "Around 1,000 emails

and 3,000 documents were stolen from UEA computers by hackers last week and uploaded on to a Russian server before circulating on websites run by climate change sceptics. Some of the correspondence indicates that the manipulation of data was widespread among global warming researchers."

The hackers also published an anonymous note alongside the emails: "We feel that climate science is too important to be kept under wraps. We hereby release a random selection of correspondence, code, and documents.

Hopefully it will give some insight into the science and the people behind it."

Amongst the gems released is one email from the Unit's director Phil Jones in 1999: "I've just completed Mike's Nature [the science journal] trick of adding in the real temps to each series for the last 20 years (ie,

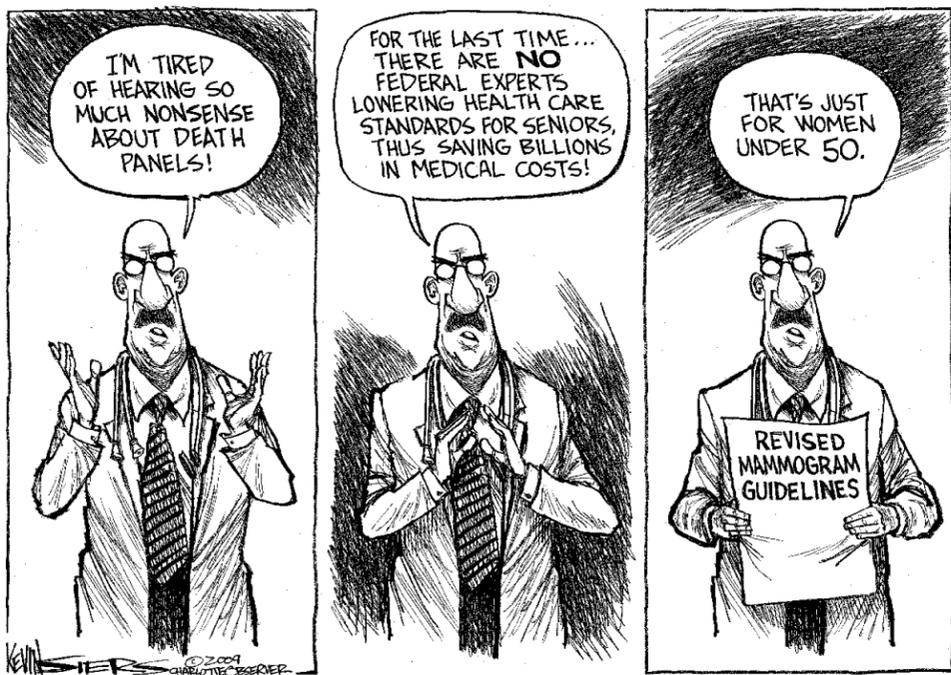
from 1981 onwards) and from 1961 for Keith's to hide the decline." Apparently, the agenda is more important than the facts.

Lord Nigel Lawson, a Conservative politician and journalist, and long-time critic of the "science" used to justify radically reducing the carbon emissions of industrialized nations, has called for a public inquiry into the Unit's practices. "They should set up a public inquiry under someone who is totally respected and get to the truth," said Lawson.

The UK Climategate scandal comes on the heels of



"...PEOPLE JUST AREN'T DRINKING IT ANYMORE."



"Among the latest layoffs are twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords-a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids-a-milking..."

What's up, doc? By Albert Balesh, M.D.

Turkey trot: Home alone for the holidays

You've lost your last friend, you're down in the dumps, the planets are not aligned correctly, the holidays are fast approaching, and you're home alone. There is nothing more depressing than the sense of utter helplessness one feels at the hands of a perceived abandonment forcibly endured during the festivities of Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is especially true when financial figures dip into the red, when family members are far away, when loved ones are no longer with us, and when television, magazines, the Internet, and other forms of mass communication show us those cozy fireplaces, warm and loving households, and smiling faces that we'd just love to punch in. While it can be normal to feel somewhat subdued and sad during the holidays, when those feelings become tantamount to downright depression, then we have problems. It is usually the elderly that bear the brunt of those "Thanksgiving turnarounds" or "Christmas crises," due to a plethora of real or imagined factors ranging from financial limitations and being home alone to a loss of independence, eyesight, or mobility. No one is immune, however, and even the young can feel blue, as chestnuts roast on an open fire and mistletoe catalyzes self-embrace, for lack of a suitable partner to share a touching of lips. We know the problem, or do we? We have all felt it at one time or another, what with parties, shopping, baking, cleaning, and entertaining during the holidays taking their toll on sleep, exercise, and self-love. So, I guess my gift to you this holiday season is to come up with a primer or set of instructions for halting, or at least making bearable, that annual mad dash or stampede that leaves us feeling drained and devoid of healthy cheer between that last Thursday of November and the first of the New Year.

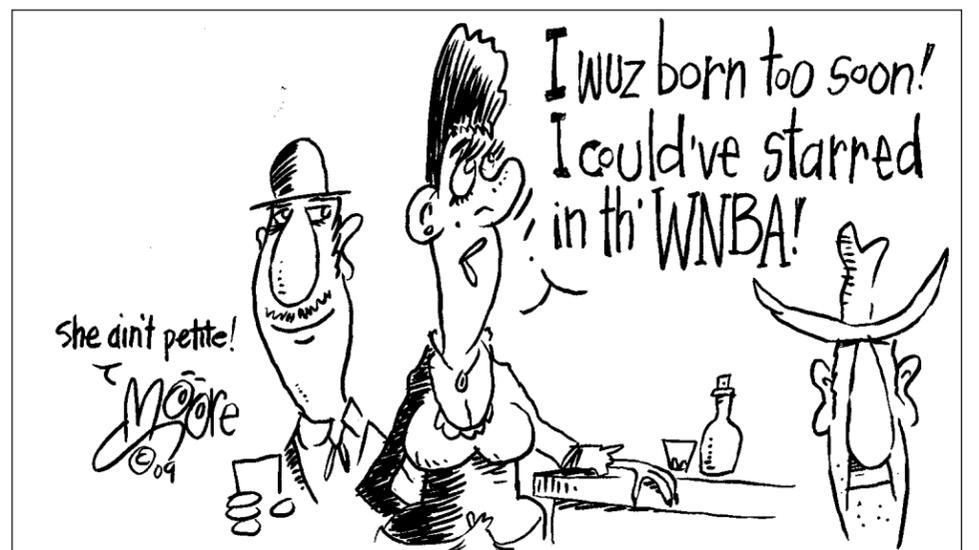
Our so-called quest to tame the turkey trot could not begin if we were unable to state categorically that before a cure can be prescribed, an accurate diagnosis must be made. What is it that actually causes us to wallow in self-pity during the most joyous time of the year? Are doldrums a normal sign of aging or are the social obligations, mad hatter shopping, financial difficulties, work-related angst, and sleeplessness of the holidays something greater than the sum of their parts but much less than incurable? Three things are certain at this crossroads of the year, that family can be a burden as well as a blessing, that overspending can mean financial worries for months to come, and that exhaustion, lack of sleep, and exercise deprivation increase stress in a vicious cycle from which it is difficult to extricate oneself. And let's not forget those vodka spiked egg-nogs, peppermint hot chocolates, or Christmas martinis that do little to raise low spirits, rather

they have an opposite effect. Adding alcohol to imposed social obligations is a recipe for self-flagellation, when saying "no" to liquid amenities or social outings without pangs of guilt or a need to explain becomes an exercise in willpower that many of us are ill-equipped to muster.

While we have accurately presented this annual rite of remorse, which is new to no one and further complicated by "selection psychosis," with incapacity to choose the right gifts for family and friends, and "tradition tampering," with failure to duplicate the conscious and unconscious holiday ceremonies of a happier past, we have done nothing to solve the problem. The good doctor will now make amends, and give you his take on the remedies, which, by the way, are free of charge. The premise here is that we have all gone through this, and, rather than reinventing the wheel, we must adopt what is tried and true. While we cannot force ourselves to be happy during the holiday season, we can certainly reach out to the individuals and community organizations around us. The holidays don't have to be perfect to be enjoyed, and new friends and traditions can provide an excitement lacking from the usual seasonal rigamarrow. Now, the name of the game is to also set aside family grievances for peace of mind, stick to a realistic shopping budget for obvious reasons, and plan ahead. Running around like chickens without heads was not something envisioned by the inhabitants of Bethlehem many moons ago, and, what was good for the founders, is most certainly good for the rest of us. Learning to say "no" to social activities that can leave us resentful and overwhelmed follows suit, or perhaps attending them only briefly to make an appearance or a surgical "hit-and-run." Sound realizable? Then let's put the finishing touches on this work in progress. Don't forget to get plenty of sleep and physical activity during this holiest time of the year, as well as direct greater attention to stuffing the turkey instead of oneself. Alcohol, sweets, and cheese are fine, but everything in moderation, and, remember, "breathers," in the form of moonlit walks, stargazing, or soothing music are good. Finally, when all else fails, irritability, hopelessness, and insomnia may warrant a trip to your doctor or mental health professional. There is no shame in asking for help. A perceived loss of face in no way compares with a loss of mind.

Cheers! Things could be worse. I could have mentioned that turkey not only contains more cholesterol than ham, but that it has also been known on occasion to give one the "trots."

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore **Sarah Burgett a restaurant / Brothel owner in Saltillo during the Mexican War aided the American cause on the battlefield as well as being a nurse. At over 6 feet tall she was dubbed "The Great Western".**



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

NO CARTOONS ON THIS TV — Fourth grade students at Deanna Davenport Elementary School in Canutillo ISD exchange information through teleconference with students from Garcia Elementary School. The exercise teaches students both class lessons and business communication techniques.

High tech lesson plans

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Fourth grade students at Davenport Elementary School (DDE) and Garcia Elementary School (GES) connected recently via long distance learning technology as they exchanged information about the state of Texas.

Jesus Hernandez, fourth grade bilingual teacher at DDE and Laura Schenk, gifted and talented teacher at GES developed a social studies lesson for the classroom collaboration project. This educational experience, known as the digital classroom, allowed the two schools to simultaneously share information about the lesson, while creating a unique

learning environment.

The ongoing project, which continues with once a week lessons, enables students from two different campuses to interact with each other. In their first lesson, students exchanged facts about the state of Texas as they took turns answering questions posed by the two teachers.

“This project creates a bridge between two communities using Teleconference equipment in which distance, time, space, or social background does not have any importance, except the importance of learning and knowledge,” said Hernandez. “This experience is opening classrooms digitally from around our community and the world, making knowledge the center of our universe,” he added.

Research

From Page 2

the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suppressing a paper by Dr. Alan Carlin highly critical of the “science” behind the “global

warming consensus”.

According to Carlin’s paper, “the EPA’s “Technical Support Document for Endangerment Analysis for Greenhouse Gas Emissions under the Clean Air Act” (TSD) uses data that is out-of-date and ignores the decade-long decline in the earth’s tem-

perature despite CO2 levels rising and CO2 emissions accelerating.

The EPA’s official findings, Carlin reported, are based largely on the International Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) AR4 report published in 2007. That report’s data, according to Carlin, “is at best three years out of date in a rapidly changing field.”

Carlin wrote that the “IPCC projections for large increases [in temperature] are looking increasingly doubtful” in light of “recent substantial decreases in global temperatures”.

Making matters worse for the Hot Earthers, the bulk of the data that has been used by the International Panel on Climate Change in its computer

models projecting “climate change” has repeatedly (and conveniently) been destroyed.

And that data was compiled by none other than the UEA’s Climatic Research Unit, as was revealed by National Review’s Patrick J. Michaels in September.

In the real scientific field, there is a principle called “falsifiability,” pioneered in 1963 by Karl Popper. It asserts that “the criterion of the scientific status of a theory is its falsifiability, or refutability, or testability.” Therefore, the only way to prove that a theory is not true is to show that it is false. For example, the only way fully reliable way to prove that all swans are not white is produce one that is black.

It is now clear to all that the folks at the Climatic Research Unit took a decidedly different slant on “falsifiability.” They decided that the only way to prove that their theory was true was simply to falsify the facts. And in so doing, they exposed themselves — and their adherents — to be nothing more than shameless frauds of the highest order.

Naturally, that renders the Copenhagen Hot Earthers’ love fest a groundless exercise in contrived futility — unless, of course, they intend to falsify their findings there, too. Which is likely the precise protocol they have in mind.

Robert Romano is the ALG Senior News Editor.

Briefs

From Page 1

Tucson, AZ, knows he is wanted and is believed to remain in the Borderland hiding with friends and family. The El Paso County Sheriff’s office urges anyone who

knows the whereabouts or has seen Montez to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of the individuals featured.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

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TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY AND THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

Students

From Page 1

and professional insights shared by a number renowned conference speakers.

Out of the ten girls picked to attend the 2009 state conference, three of them are San Elizario High School students. Senior Perla De La Torre found the conference to be very enlightening. "Just to see so many women getting together to share common interests and to hear speakers talk about topics like personal value, self worth and being strong women was inspiring," De La Torre added. De La Torre, who is 17 years old, wants to pursue a college education in public relations and communication in order to some day have her own public relations agency.

Juniors Karina Rocha and Cynthia Paez were the other two students who went to the conference as well. For 16 year old Rocha the event also marked the first time she ever traveled on an airplane. She plans on studying criminology and attending law school after graduation. Paez was impressed by the lineup of speakers presenting at the conference. "It was very inspirational to see important women talk about how you can make changes and tell you that you have a lot of

possibility," Paez said. Paez, who is 16 years old, hopes to major in sports medicine and become an athletic trainer.

San Elizario High School not only had the majority of students chosen for the El Paso's Terrific Ten Conference Scholarship Program it also had the most applicants. A total of 70 girls from San Elizario applied for the opportunity to attend the women's conference. The application includes an essay portion which is the most important of the selection criteria. The San Elizario High School counseling and English departments collaborated to assist the girls with the application submission process.

According to counselor Laura Harper, the program sponsors were so impressed by the level of interest shown by San Elizario High School that they invited other students to attend a different conference in February. This event will be held locally featuring prominent speakers and the girls will be encouraged to bring along their mothers as well. Harper considers these conferences to be beneficial tools for the students and their mothers in their journey to become empowered. "A lot of girls who have never had anyone support them will learn how to become empowered through this experience," Harper added.

Tapped to participate in the



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

LEARNING TO LEAD — San Eli students are benefitting from conferences designed to empower young women. The El Paso's Terrific Ten Conference Scholarship Program sends young women to conferences designed to teach leadership skills. The program is sponsored and travel costs paid for by the University of Texas at El Paso's Center for Civic Engagement and the Women's Fund of El Paso. This November, front row from left, Cynthia Paez, Perla De La Torre and Karina Rocha attended a leadership conference in Houston. In February, back row from left, Beatriz Guzman, Evelyn Rivera, Ashley Rodriguez, Marisol Salado, Itzel Murrillo and April Macias will attend a similar conference in El Paso.

conference to be held February 21-22 are seniors April Macias and Ashley Rodriguez, and juniors Beatriz Guzman, Itzel Murrillo, Evelyn Rivera and Marisol Salado.

The Texas Conference for

Women was held November 12 in Houston and featured notable speakers including literary icon Isabel Allende, finance expert Suze Orman, and Olympic gold medalist gymnast Nastia Liukin.



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CryptoQuip Answer

If a desktop publisher were looking at the wrong font, maybe he'd say "You're not my type."

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Sometimes professional teams can't even win by accident

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I'm not the biggest NBA fan but I naturally follow the sport — I have since the days of Willis Reed, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Rick Barry, John Havlicek and the tail end of Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Russell's careers.

I remember the great Boston Celtics of Russell and Cousy, and then Havlicek and Cowan, and then Bird and McHale.

There was the Los Angeles Lakers of West and Chamberlain, and then Magic and Kareem, and then Kobe and Shaq.

But no matter how good a team you were, in the NBA, any team could beat any other team during the regular season on a given night.

You have teams that traveled overnight for a game the next day. You have teams that are missing their best player for a game or two due to injury.

And quite frankly you have teams that are clearly better than their opponent but are overconfident and believe you can put an "X" on their win column just by showing up to the arena.

But so as long as you have the human factor anything can happen.

However, I'm very confused. If I'm not mistaken the New Jersey Nets have humans on their roster — right?

Then why has the team failed to win a single game this season? The Nets tied the league mark by losing their 17th straight game to open the season.

How in the world can an NBA team lose 17 games in a row? You would think they'd win a game at least by accident — a tip in at the buzzer, a bad call by the refs, the opposing team's bus breaks down.

And it's not like the Nets have been absolutely horrible. New Jersey finished 34-48 the last two seasons and were 41-41 in 2006-07.

So where did this come from? The first names you notice missing from the Net's roster are Vince Carter (now with Orlando) and Richard Jefferson (now with San Antonio).

Obviously New Jersey is tightening its financial belt by letting go of two multi-million dollar superstars and sometimes, like the adage goes, you get what you pay for.

And the truly ironic fact in all this is that

coach Lawrence Frank set an NBA record by winning 13 games in a row after taking over the team five years ago.

The Nets are just a game from setting a new consecutive loss record to open a season, that is unless they can knock off the Dallas Mavericks (12-5) at home on Wednesday.

Is it possible?

Well, let's put it this way — for those who say anything is possible — I simply ask them to go out and dribble a football.

Miners a disappointment

The Miners ended their very forgettable football season with an unforgettable effort last Saturday.

As has been the case for most of the Conference USA season, UTEP knocked off another bowl-eligible team, Marshall, by the impressive tally of 52-21.

Oh what could have been for the Miners. They lost to every conference foe they should have beaten and defeated three of the four teams considered better than them.

I can't explain it. Not even coach Mike Price can't explain it.

How does a team score 52 on Marshall, then another 58 on Houston, and then score in the game's final minute to upset Tulsa on national TV — and then lay an egg against four light-weight league members with a combined 12-36.

The one silver lining for the Miners was running back Donald Buckram, who gained just under 1,600 yards and scored a UTEP-record 21 touchdowns this season.

Even better news for UTEP is that Buckram will be back next season, along with quarterback Trevor Vittatoe, who threw for a career high 3,308 yards.

Not bad for a guy who saw his touchdown passes drop from 33 last year to 17 this year and his interceptions go up from 9 to 13.

The one constant that haunts the Miners year in and year out is the defense — or the complete lack of it.

Out of 120 college teams, the Miners' defense ranks down the list at 111.

It's funny, C-USA members Memphis, Rice and Alabama-Birmingham all ranked even worse than UTEP defensively — and yet they all beat UTEP!

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Perfect season on the plains

When The New York Times' Joe Drape, a Kansas native, wrote a feature story on the Smith Center Redmen, a team that had won four straight Kansas state championships and hadn't lost a game in all that time, he was astonished at the amount of feedback he received from readers.

Assigned the story after the Redmen scored 72 points in the first quarter of a game — a national record in place since 1925 — the charm of Smith Center affected Drape in a way that convinced him to write a book, "Our Boys: A Perfect Season on the

Plains with the Smith Center Redmen" (Times Books) chronicling their 2008 season and fifth straight championship.

At the center of Smith Center's success was Coach Roger Barta, a coach for whom the game of football meant more than scoring points on the gridiron. His mantra: hard work, patience and love.

The boys on the team know that everyone in town is watching them. They can't drink, smoke tobacco or use drugs, and if they're caught doing any of those things, the penalty

is severe. In Smith Center, every member of the team is given a football card, and those cards are distributed to the elementary-school classes, which are filled with kids who idolize the team. When a player breaks the code, his card is revoked in a school assembly, where he is made to apologize for letting the town down.

Throughout the book, Barta espouses his worldview on the team. They work extremely hard, both in the farm fields and on the football field. They run a wishbone. They average more than 9 yards per play. They never kick extra points or field goals unless they are trying not to run up the score. The outgoing seniors had outscored opponents 702-0.

Off field, as one of the locals put it, they are "the ambassadors of our

town ... you ask anyone in Western Kansas, and they'll tell you they can recognize a Smith Center kid." In the summer, the boys can be found at the high school lifting weights. During the harvests, their schedules are sandwiched around work hours. If there's a school dance, Barta reminds everyone on the team to dress impressively for their dates, look the adults in the eye when they shake hands and to treat their dates like the ladies, daughters and future mothers they are.

"Do what a good man does," Barta says.

Because to Barta, it's about preparing the boys of Smith Center for a life's worth of experience: "None of this is really about football," Barta tells Drape. "What I hope we're doing is sending kids into life who know that every day means something."

Mark Vasto is a veteran sports-writer and publisher of The Kansas City Luminary. (c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

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OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



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R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I went to the doctor because of headaches. On examining my eyes, she discovered that my pupils don't constrict and dilate. She sent me to an eye doctor. He said I have an Adie's pupil. Is this a disease or a syndrome? Can this be causing my headaches? He told me it was nothing. My headaches feel like there's a tight cap on my head. Please enlighten me on these things. — G.S.

is as bad as too little. Popular tension headache medicines are aspirin and Tylenol (acetaminophen). If they aren't effective, tablets that combine them with caffeine can be. Caffeine enhances their painkilling properties. Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naproxen (Naprosyn) and Ketoprofen (a prescription drug) have a good batting average against these headaches. Don't overuse medicine. Constant use promotes constant headaches.

An Adie's (AID-ease) pupil is one that is slightly larger than the other pupil and it narrows very slowly when a bright light is shined on it. It's not an indication of illness and has nothing to do with your headaches. If other signs are present, like a loss of the knee-jerk reflex when the knee tendon is struck with a rubber hammer, then you call the mix Adie's syndrome.

The headache booklet deals with the common headaches and their treatment. To order a copy, write: Dr. Donohue — No. 901W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Allow four weeks for delivery.

Your headaches fit the description of tension headaches, the most common kind of headache. People who have them say they feel like a tight band encircles their head or that a weight is on their head or that their head is squeezed or, as you say, that they are wearing a tight cap. Pain is felt on both sides of the head, and rarely is it throbbing pain, as it is with many other headaches. The pain lasts from half an hour to seven days.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My son is almost 3. He reaches for everything with his left hand. I want to train him to use his right hand. Being left-handed is such a drag. What are your thoughts? — G.S.

These headaches are called tension headaches because at one time they were believed to result from contraction of the scalp muscle. Now the explanation is that innocent brain signals are misinterpreted by the brain as pain signals. If that explanation helps you, it doesn't do much for me.

Who says being left-handed is a drag? The 10 percent to 15 percent of the population who happen to be left-handed adjust to it without any great physical or psychological trauma. Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, J.S. Bach and Sandy Koufax were lefties. They did all right for themselves. I'd let your son accept what nature has dealt him.

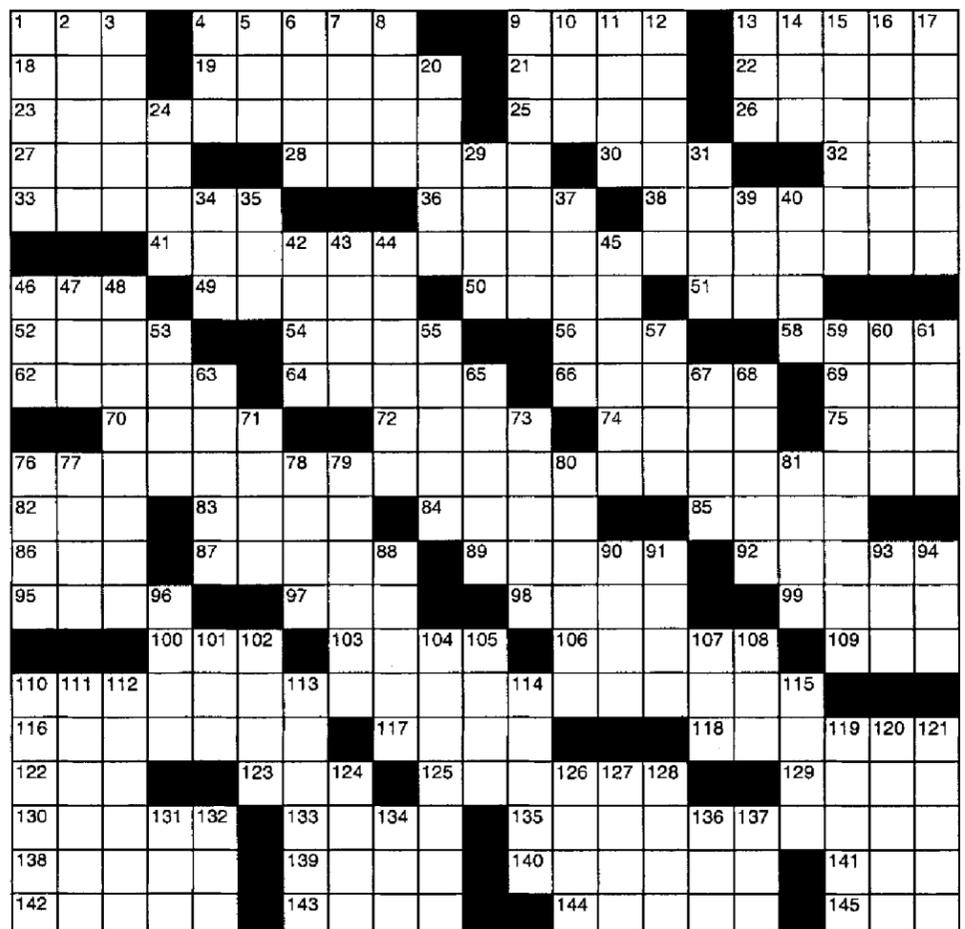
Start treatment of your headache without drugs. Heat packs to the neck or head might ease them. If heat doesn't do the trick, try ice. Massage sometimes work, especially neck massage. Get enough sleep, but not too much. Too much

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2009 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

King Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ICE-OMETRICS | 64 Blazer part | 135 End of remark | 35 Allen or Reed | 101 _ tai |
| ACROSS | 66 VCR button | 138 Register | 37 Use rollerblades | 102 First name in fashion |
| 1 Wine word | 69 Pipe cleaner? | 139 Burdon or Idle | 39 Concealed | 104 Loyal |
| 4 Hardy hog | 70 "A Doll's House" heroine | 140 Change | 40 At a distance | 105 Frigga's fellow |
| 9 Metric weight | 72 Protection | 141 First zoo? | 42 Lab item | 107 Bankbook abbr. |
| 13 Meeting place | 74 Sweet sandwich | 142 Poor | 43 Grasso or Wilcox | 108 Tokyo, once |
| 18 "... of You" ('84 hit) | 75 Geologic period | 143 Salt serving | 44 Swung a sickle | 110 Occur |
| 19 Speak freely | 76 Part 2 of remark | 144 Subdued Simba | 45 "Goldfinger" character | 111 Natural gas component |
| 21 Designer | 77 Part 2 of remark | 145 "Brand New ..." ('71 hit) | 46 Stout relative | 112 Actress Hall |
| Gernreich | 82 Diminutive suffix | | 47 Basilica feature | 113 Cleared the slate |
| 22 Meyerbeer | 83 Overwhelm | | 48 Cupid, for one | 114 Turn of phrase |
| masterpiece | 84 Pound of poetry | | 49 Feel certain | 115 Navy warrior |
| 23 Speaker of remark at 41 Across | 85 Story | DOWN | 50 Move smoothly | 119 Dagger's partner |
| 25 Orenburg's river | 86 "Holy cow!" | 1 "Wheel of Fortune" host | 51 Withered | 120 Put on a pedestal |
| 26 Munchausen's title | 87 Actress Berger | 2 Split and splice | 52 Put on a pedestal | 121 Famous p-p-p-pig |
| 27 Lhasa _ | 89 Eisenhower or Perot | 3 Necklace part | 53 Apollo's instrument | 124 Actress Sorvino |
| 28 Strut | 92 Busybody | 4 Rimsky-Korsakov's "Le Coq ..." | 54 1492 or 1776 | 126 Item of True Value |
| 30 "Mamma ..." ('76 song) | 95 Collie's concern | 5 News org. | 55 Sward stuff | 127 Singer James |
| 32 Cephalopod's squirt | 97 Dadaism founder | 6 Guns the engine | 56 Hungarian composer | 128 Mock |
| 33 German astronomer | 98 Drained | 7 Recruit-to-be's status | 57 Penny | 131 Poet McKuen |
| 36 Blows away | 99 Singer Redding | 8 AKC rejects | 58 At present | 132 TV Tarzan |
| 38 Increase | 100 Carter or Vanderbilt | 9 Cheeseboard choice | 59 Relative of pre-73 _ throat | 134 "M*A*S*H" extras |
| 41 Start of remark | 103 In addition | 10 Capek play | 60 Grant or Laurie | 136 When Pierre perspires |
| 46 Cal. page | 106 Chemist Marie | 11 Faith or Sandler | 61 Salad ingredient | 137 Nourished |
| 49 Napoleon's fate | 109 Savvy | 12 Sphere | 62 Set up for a fall | |
| 50 Show the way | 110 Part 3 of remark | 13 Sampras stroke | 63 Zapotec's home | |
| 51 Mrs. Eddie Cantor | 116 Studio | 14 _ -Locka, FL | 64 Marge in the fridge | |
| 52 Welsh symbol | 117 Port _ , Egypt | 15 Sea or strait | 65 Excellent grade | |
| 54 "Oh, woe!" | 118 Shoe part | 16 Rodeo horse | 66 Grad | |
| 56 QB's stats | 122 _ Beta Kappa | 17 Pulled hard | 67 Caligula's nephew | |
| 58 Depend (on) | 123 Director | 20 "Fie!" | 68 Constrain | |
| 62 Basketball's Patrick | 125 Joins forces | 21 _ me tangere | 69 Nile slitherer | |
| | 129 Moro of Italy | 29 Army offender | 96 Author Roald | |
| | 130 Clerical title | 31 Pro foe | | |
| | 133 Indication | 34 Compass pt. | | |

Answer Page 8



People know Pueblo for its...



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In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Statements help you plan

If you're age 25 or older, pay Social Security taxes and are not yet receiving monthly benefits, you should get an automatic Social Security Statement in the mail each year about two to three months before your birthday. The Statement is a valuable tool to keep track of your annual earnings, as well as to help you plan your financial future.

But if your earnings don't meet the threshold for filing a federal tax return, you might not be receiving your annual Social Security Statement. Social Security would like to make sure that you know you're entitled to one.

Everyone who has worked and paid Social Security tax is entitled to receive a Statement. So, if you don't

get one automatically in the mail, you can request one from Social Security — and the easiest way to do that is online

Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement and select the "Need to request a Statement?" banner. You'll need to fill in the following information to make your request:

- Your name as shown on your Social Security card;
- Your Social Security number;
- Your date of birth;
- Your place of birth; and
- Your mother's maiden name — last name only (to help identify you).

You also can provide the following information to make your estimate more accurate:

- Your last year's earnings and an

estimate of your current and future earnings; and

- The age you plan to stop working.
- Once you make your request, Social Security will mail you a Statement, which you should receive within two to four weeks. Give it a careful look to make sure your earnings and information are reported correctly, and contact Social Security if you find anything amiss.

After you review your Statement, it's a good idea to keep it with your other important papers. And if you'd like to go one step further in your retirement planning, visit our online Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator, where you can get an instant estimate of your future benefits based on your earnings record and plug in various retirement age scenarios.

Whether retirement is just around the corner or a long way down the road, Social Security is ready to serve you at www.socialsecurity.gov.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was American comedian Joey Adams who made the following sage observation: "If it weren't for the fact that the TV set and the refrigerator are so far apart, some of us wouldn't get any exercise at all."

- A butterfly's sense of taste is located on its feet.

- You know that smoking is hazardous to your health, but you might not realize all the different types of damage it can do. For instance, a shop in Great Britain required more than \$400,000 in repairs to its roof due to a fire from a cigarette. A fire from an inadequately extinguished butt isn't at all unusual, but in this case it wasn't because the owner — or any other person — was careless. It seems a sparrow that had been building its nest in the store's eaves liked to use cigarette butts. The bird evidently picked one up that was still burning, eventually setting the building alight.

- Someone with too much time on his hands once determined that there are 293 different combinations of coins that will make change for a U.S. dollar.

- Every year, doughnut-maker Krispy Kreme uses a whopping 1 million pounds of sprinkles on its pastries.

- Coffee is one of the most-traded commodities on earth, second only to oil.

- If you, like many others, are trying to figure out how to meet that special someone, you might want to reconsider the use of personal ads. Those who study such things claim that approximately 35 percent of people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

- The shortest complete sentence in the English language is "Go."

Thought for the Day: "My way of joking is to tell the truth. It is the funniest joke in the world." — George Bernard Shaw

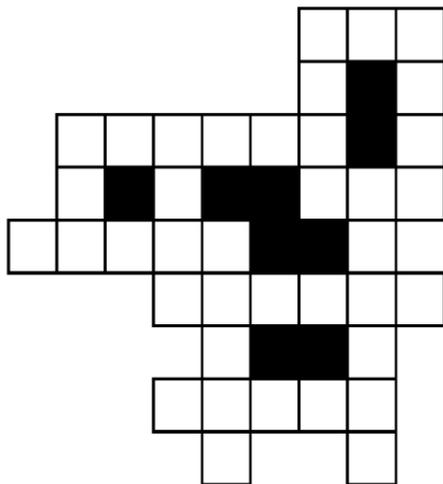
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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

CONQUER THE WHIRLED

- GPU
- LAOGHS
- ♥EXIRM
- PHAR
- SUENUR
- ♥XSI
- OGGA
- CAIMN
- ♥SAH
- ♥CRASPE
- MIOXA
- GOSN



Answer Page 5

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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.

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: Q equals Y

RJ E VOGZSIF FWXARGYOU
 COUO AIIZRTN ES SYO CUITN
 JITS, KEQXO YO'V GEQ
 "QIW'UO TIS KQ SQFO."

Answer Page 5

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

★★★ HOO BOY!

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Maybe It Wasn't That Heavy Shopping Bag.

Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

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

but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/tx



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke



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Read the signs. Raise a flag.

