



NEWSBRIEFS

Chili cook-off

On May 7th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Horizon City Texas Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI), will be hosting a Chili Cook-off at the American Legion Post 598 on 13000 Horizon Blvd. Entry fee for those who wish to register and compete is \$20.00 payable to "Pod of the Pass". Come taste the goodness of the Southwest. Entry fee for tasters is \$300 at the gate. Plenty of parking with dry camping available. Contact info: Carol Straughan at 915 852-3599 or cell 915 491-2766, email caroleptx@aol.com and Thomas Cavazos at 915 564-1332, email cavazos.thomas@yahoo.com.

Luncheon

The Southwest Character Council Monthly Luncheon will be Wednesday, May 11 from 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Great American Land & Cattle Company, 701 S. Mesa Hills, El Paso. The character quality for May is Discernment. The cost is \$10 per person for lunch, networking and training. RSVP to (915) 779-3551 to reserve your spot, and make sure enough meals are prepared. Cash or check only please.

– Kelly McCullough

Farmer's market

The Oz Glaze Senior Center will hold a Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Booth space is available for providers of garden produce and handmade crafts. Booth spaces (10' x 15') cost \$10.00 each. Providers of jams, jellies and local honey have signed up. There are plans to have a market on every third Saturday of May through October. For more information or to reserve a booth call 799-8194 or 852-0062. Email: wilopez47@yahoo.com.

– Fred Lopez

Pendell tapped

Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Jim Pendell of Clint as one of five members to the Texas School Safety Center Board for terms to expire Feb. 1, 2013. The board advises the Texas School Safety Center in San Marcos, which provides school safety information and resources for the prevention of youth violence, and promotes safety in the state. Pendell is a crop insurance agent at the Sherry Wegner Agency. He is president of the Clint Independent School District Board of Trustees, past president of the Far West Texas School Board



Jim Pendell

See BRIEFS, Page 5



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

ROCK ON – The Neon Desert Music Festival, the first of its kind in El Paso, attracted about 11,000 music lovers. Neon Desert Festival was the brainchild of festival organizers, Zach Paul, Gina Martinez and Brian Chavez. Above a crowd gathers in front of one of the performance stages to hear one of the 29 bands that perform during the 12-hour event.

Downtown festival drew out music lovers

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The day was hot, a just right hot for an El Paso spring day. And, as the sun slid westward the forecasted wind and gusts had not materialized; instead, a warm breeze streamed through the downtown streets cooling off El Paso's youth as they strolled-into the festival grounds in droves... lots and lots of teens and twenty-somethings walking, talking, smiling with music blaring in the background.

It was Neon Desert Music Festival's inaugural downtown showcase, and from the start all indications foreshadowed the creation of a great event. It was like this type of street festival was meant to happen in downtown El Paso – a music jam for entertainment-thirsty desert dwellers.

Thronges of girls in shorts and colorful blouses and hordes of dudes in t-shirts and jeans came together on this last Saturday in April among El Paso's historic downtown facades where otherwise it would have been another weekend with empty streets. The

promise of an array of musicians is what brought them to the festival, but old friends and new acquaintances kept them strolling, stopping for a cold drink at the beverage depot and a tasty snack from the food court.

Twenty-nine different bands blasted their sounds on one of four stages- two at San Jacinto Plaza and the other two near Cleveland Square Park – during the 12-hour celebration. Local bands, Austin groups, Mexican and South American conjuntos, California crews, and even a European bunch came to share their music.

The event seemed well-organized. The ample fairgrounds made everything inviting... the youthful crowds walked about making the four performance stages their destination sites. And a sense of calm excitement permeated throughout the spacious festival compound... no one rushed, no one shoved; everyone smiled intent on having a good time.

"I'm impressed. This is what progressive cities do. They involve the youth in coming up with great ideas like this. And, the downtown location is a perfect setting for this festival," said Dan Vaughn, of McAllen TX. "I've been to other big city music festivals, and this is comparable to any of them. The only thing

that is missing here when compared to those other places is the ridiculous scalping prices for food, drinks, and merchandise. Everything here is reasonably priced. That's a sign of good leadership," Vaughn added.

No major incidents were reported as security and emergency personnel were visibly present throughout the festival grounds. Plenty of city police officers patrolled the area and EMT personnel were prominently situated to address the needs of a mass of people that swelled to an estimated 11,000 partiers by the time the lights went out at around 11 p.m.

As for the organizers, a group of 1999 Coronado High School graduates – Gina Martinez, Zack Paul, and Brian Chavez, the year and a half of planning paid off.

"We were counting on the people of El Paso and the region to show up and support this event and they did just that," Paul said. "We hope to have the Second Annual Neon Desert in 2012."

Martinez added, "We are very thankful to all the wonderful people who helped us make the Neon Desert Musical Festival a big success. A big thank you also goes out to all the fans that attended."

Tornillo's Vranish attends, speaks at NSBA

Tornillo Independent School District (TISD) Superintendent Paul Vranish joined Trustees Rachel Avila, Bertha Brew, Joe Tittle and more than five thousand school board and state school boards association leaders, administrators and other education leaders attending the 2011 National School Board's Association's (NSBA) Annual Conference in San Francisco from April 9-11 in. NSBA's Annual conference offered school board members leadership development and opportunities for collaboration from a nationwide network of colleagues. Vranish gave a presentation TISD's nationally-recognized superintendent evaluation. "It is always a great



– Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

feeling to share some of our innovative methods when doing these various presentations. We

have so many really cool things going on in our district and many people at these conferences are

eager to bring some of our successful endeavors to their own districts," Vranish said.

There is hope for any man who can look in a mirror and laugh at what he sees.

– Quips & Quotes

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Without fail

I've written here before about the Freeport Flag Ladies. Perhaps you've visited their website – www.freeportflagladies.com – and looked at the long list of things they do for our service personnel in harm's way.

The ladies have hosted on their website thousands of photos taken when they meet with troops who have a stopover at the airport in Bangor, Maine. I don't have to tell you what it means to family members to have those last-minute photos, the final steps on U.S. soil, before the troops fly to hostile areas. The ladies make sure each one gets a special handmade lucky penny card, a smile and a hug.

They hold fundraisers; send weekly cards and care packages, with special ones going to the combat hospitals; make visits to veterans homes... the list of what these ladies do is very, VERY long. And for the most part the costs come out of their own pockets. Ask why they do it, and they'll tell you it's an act of love and gratitude for our military.

What touches my heart is that since Sept. 11, 2001, these ladies have stood on a corner in Freeport, Maine, each Tuesday morning without fail. Wind, rain, snow, blistering heat (yes, even in Maine), they've been out there with their flags, reminding us -- and honoring those who serve.

Now, with the coming 10th anniversary of 9-11, the ladies are going hold a three-day special event. To pull this off, they're hoping to get \$1 from each of 30,000 people to be able to pay for it.

For all they do, I think we can do better than one dollar each, don't you?

**The Freeport Flag Ladies
9-11 10th Anniversary
17 School St.
Freeport, ME 04032**

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) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

It's the law By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Protecting sensitive data after an internet security breach

Over the last two months, internet security breaches at public and private institutions have compromised Texans' names, addresses and Social Security numbers. Unfortunately, online security lapses can lead to identity theft.

As law enforcement officers know, personally identifying information – including names, Social Security numbers, and driver's license numbers – in the hands of identity thieves can damage Texans' credit. An identity thief may use this sensitive information to obtain credit cards and checking accounts in their victims' names.

Texans who believe an Internet security breach may have affected them should access the Attorney General's Identity Theft Victim's Kit online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. The kit is designed to help victims navigate the process of protecting their credit. It includes relevant forms and agency contact information that is necessary to help restore credit and prevent further financial harm.

Texans should carefully monitor their bank statements, credit card bills and any other statements relating to recent financial transactions. They should request a copy of their credit reports and examine them carefully for signs of fraud, such as unauthorized credit accounts. Potential victims should also check to see if there have been multiple inquiries on their credit report. If a thief is attempting to open up several accounts, an inquiry will be listed on a credit report for each of those attempts. Finally, Texans should check that their Social Security number, address(es), phone number(s)

and employment information are correct.

If Texans notice unusual activity on their credit statements, they should contact the fraud department of one of the three credit reporting agencies – Experian, Equifax or TransUnion – and request a fraud alert. When a person requests a fraud alert from one bureau, that company will notify the other two bureaus. The person's credit file will be flagged with a statement that says he or she may be a victim of fraud and that creditors should phone the person before extending credit. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), a person can place an initial fraud alert for 90 days at a time and may cancel the fraud alert at any time.

When a person establishes a fraud alert, he or she will receive a follow-up letter from each credit bureau. Each letter explains how the person can order a free copy of his or her credit report from that credit bureau. Texans who fear their personal information has been compromised by recent Internet security breaches should take advantage of this offer and order their credit reports soon. Identity theft victims will see evidence of it on their credit reports.

ID theft victims may also consider a security freeze. Texas law authorizes individuals to place a security freeze on their credit reports if they have filed an identity theft complaint with law enforcement. A security freeze is stronger than a fraud alert because it prevents anyone from accessing a credit file until and unless the person authorizes the credit bureaus to release his or her report. (Please note that it does not

affect existing accounts and includes other exceptions.) Texans should be aware that a security freeze might be inconvenient – particularly for anyone who is applying for new credit, an apartment, or employment involving a background check. For those credit checks in process, the affected individual will have to lift the freeze on their credit file. A freeze can be lifted for a certain period of time or for a specific creditor.

If credit reports indicate that a person is an ID theft victim, he or she should immediately file a police report. It is very important to complete this step because the report can be used as proof that the person is an ID theft victim.

Victims should report fraudulent accounts and erroneous information in writing to the credit bureaus and the credit issuers following the instructions provided with the credit reports. More than likely, the credit bureaus will ask for a copy of the police report.

In all communications with the credit bureaus, ID theft victims should refer to the unique identification number assigned to their credit report. They should send all communications via certified mail with return receipt requested – and be sure to save all credit reports as part of their fraud documentation.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has the authority to prosecute identity theft at the federal level. Texans can report ID theft to federal authorities and receive additional assistance with identity theft-related issues through the Federal Trade Commission by calling (877) IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or visit the agency's website at www.ftc.gov.

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2011 UTEP FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS ON SALE STARTING AS LOW AS \$75!

UTEP fans who renew or purchase football season tickets prior to June 1 will be entered into a special "30 Prizes in 30 Days" drawing. For each day in the month of June, a variety of prizes will be given away, including polos, t-shirts, back packs, jerseys, flags, footballs and more. The grand prize, to be awarded on June 30, is a trip for two to the Miners' game at UCF in Orlando. Award-winners will be contacted and posted on the UTEP Athletics Facebook page.

Call 747-6150 Today For Your Tickets!

2011 UTEP FOOTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

 09.03	 09.29	 10.22	 10.29	 11.12	 11.19
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– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

PULLING FOR SUCCESS – Alexandra Torres, front, joined other El Paso County migrant students in a tug-of-war at Indian Cliffs Ranch. The events were designed to give the seniors tools to progress in life after high school.

Life skills offered to migrant students

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Several Canutillo High School graduating seniors recently attended a Regional Graduation Summit for migrant students held at Cattleman's Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch in Fabens, Texas.

CHS students who attended the event include: Juan Beck, Jorge Campos, Leticia Carrillo, Ismael Cruz, Diana Gamboa, Ivette Labra, Loida Loe, Joseph Lopez, Adelaido Moreno, Nelly Nunez, Susana Pulido, Edgar Renovato, Erika Sonora, Oscar Torres, and Alexandra Torres, who was recognized as a top

10% student.

The summit provided valuable information for the students.

Topics presented to the students included Key Concepts of Personality Types, Money Management for Young Adults, College Assistance Migrant Program, and Circle of Influence.

The students also participated in team building activities such as tug-of-war, water balloons toss, potato relay race, and egg toss.

"These kinds of events are a wonderful opportunity for young adults to become aware of the possibilities available to them beyond high school," said Margarita Harneson, Canutillo Independent School District migrant education lead teacher.

Athletic Director steps in as Bulldogs' interim volleyball coach

By Daniel Escobar
Special to the Courier

This off-season a 29-year veteran with more than 500 career wins and a place in the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame – Socorro ISD Athletic Director Paula Gonzalez – is working out the girls on Socorro High School's varsity volleyball team.

Gonzalez took over the team on an interim basis this spring to keep the girls on track while a new coach is hired. "I've truly enjoyed the opportunity to get back on the court and work with a wonderful group of student-athletes," she said. "It will be hard to break away once their new coach joins the team."



Paula Gonzales

her dual role by practicing with the team before school and prior to reporting for the day as athletic director, earned her accolades as the head varsity volleyball coach at James Pace High School, in Brownsville, Texas, where she led her teams to more than 15 championship seasons. During her tenure, she was also selected as a "Coach Who Makes a Difference" by Fox News and Coach of the Year six times.

With a history of success in the classroom and with its decorated athletics programs, Socorro Principal Miguel Serrano is looking forward to the addition of a strong team player that will add to the school's legacy.

"Athletics play an integral

Gonzalez, who is managing

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 8

Socorro Independent School District

PUBLIC NOTICE Public Meeting to Review Federal Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct public information meetings to review the following Sisd Programs funded by Federal funds:

- Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C - Migrant Program
- Title I, Part D - SP 2 - Delinquent Youth
- Title II, Part A - Improving Teacher Quality
- Title III, Part A - Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- IDEA-Part B, IDEA Pre-School

The meeting will be held:

Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
in Meeting Room C at the District Service Center, 12440 Rojas Drive.

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AVISO PUBLICO

La junta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas federales:

- Título I, Parte A - Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C - Programa Migrante
- Título I, Parte D - Jovenes Delincuentes
- Título II, Parte A - Mejorando la Calidad de Maestros
- Título III, Parte A - Servicios de educación para estudiantes de segundo idioma
- IDEA-Parte B, IDEA Pre-Escolar

La junta se llevará a cabo:

miércoles, 11 de mayo, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
en el Salón de Juntas C, 12440 Rojas Drive.

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WTCC: 05-05-11

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was the multitalented Pierre Beaumarchais – born in the 18th century, he was a revolutionary in both France and America as well as a watchmaker, diplomat, musician, spy, inventor, publisher and arms dealer – who made the following sage observation: "It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them."

• If you live in Florida, you probably won't be surprised to learn that there are more than 3,000 different species of mosquitoes.

• The experts claim that roses don't really have thorns. Botanically speaking, thorns are considered to be modified branches and are difficult to break off the stem. What roses have are known as prickles, which are just outgrowths of the stem's outer skin – and they are, fortunately, much easier to break off.

• Statistics show that after having her first child, a woman's driving sees a measurable improvement.

• The name of the great state of Missouri comes from a Native American word meaning "town of large canoes."

• A man named Henry Budd, before his death in 1862, directed in his will that if his sons, William and Edward, grew moustaches they would receive nothing from his estate. In further discrimination against facial hair, one Mr. Fleming, a British upholsterer, left 5 pounds in his will to each of his mustached employees, but double that to those who were clean-shaven.

• Those who study such things say that the Atlantic Ocean is getting 1.2 inches wider every year.

• If you enjoy apricots, be sure you don't accidentally swallow the pits – they contain substances called cyanogenetic glycosides, which, once they reach the digestive tract, are converted to cyanide.

Thought for the Day: "Half of the modern drugs could well be thrown out of the window, except that the birds might eat them."

– Dr. Martin Henry Fischer

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Talent needed: Price needs to step up recruiting

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's no secret that the UTEP Miners football program has never achieved the status that most thought Mike Price would have it at by now.

After a quick start, the program can barely stay above the middle of the pack in the less-than-average Conference USA.

For years, sports fans and pundits alike have tried to figure out the reason for the stagnation.

Some say it's the coaching staff, some say it's the conference, some say it's El Paso's far away location.

When you really sit down and try to evaluate why the Miners have struggled so much on the field the last few years – it isn't difficult to come up with an answer.

It's a simple lack of talent.

The NFL draft concluded last week without a single UTEP player selected.

In the 15 hours and 8 minutes it took the NFL to conduct the draft, no Miner player was deemed good enough to be included among the 254 players chosen.

And that's not the worst of it. This marks the third straight year that no Miners were selected.

Now I don't know about you but that tells me that UTEP coaches are just not doing a good job evaluating talent.

Here's an interesting note. Some of the schools that did have a player drafted included Florida Atlantic, Lehigh, Hampton, Missouri State, Abilene Christian, Mount Union, Eastern Washington, Citadel, Portland State, Chattanooga, Slippery Rock, Yale, Stephen F.

Austin, Alabama A&M and Bethel.

Are you going to tell me that even those colleges are out-recruiting the Miners?

Even New Mexico State had a player drafted. If that doesn't get under the skin of UTEP football fans, I don't know what will.

If you remember past successful UTEP football teams, they had a number of players selected in those drafts.

Funny how the more talent you have, the better the results.

Everyone knows that coaching is essential, but if you take Phil Jackson off the Lakers' bench and make him the new coach of this year's Cleveland Cavaliers – they still lose over 60 games.

Why? No talent.

Price and the Miners are heading into a new era with the loss of quarterback Trevor Vittatoe, wide receiver Kris Adams and running back Donald Buckram.

Also, defensive coordinator Andre Patterson coached the Miners "D" to a rank of 91 in total defense among the 120 teams in the nation in his first season.

While that doesn't sound very impressive, the Miners had been averaging around 115th the last few years. Patterson will have to show steady improvement again this season.

Again, Price has nearly 40 freshmen on the roster for next season and once again we'll see how he and his staff did on the talent scale.

The clock is ticking on this program.

A lewd time at the old ballpark

Any one who has followed Major League Baseball over the last three decades remembers Roger McDowell as a free-spirited harmless

prankster with the Mets and a few other teams.

But I'd say his image took quite a turn for the worst last week.

The former major leaguer is now the pitching coach for the Atlanta Braves and though he's paid to instruct his staff, he should probably pay someone to teach him some manners.

At a game in San Francisco last week, one of the fans there with his wife and twin 9-year-old daughters said McDowell got into a verbal confrontation with some fans and asked, "Are you a homo couple or a threesome?"

McDowell then went on to make some crude sexual gestures with his hips and a baseball bat.

The offended fan, Justin Quinn, reminded

McDowell there were kids in the stands.

McDowell then allegedly said kids didn't belong in the ballpark and went into the stands with the bat and asked Quinn how much his teeth were worth?

For his stupidity, McDowell was suspended for two weeks and fined an undisclosed amount of money.

Of course, McDowell has apologized and said it will never happen again.

Here's a scoop – anyone who acts the way McDowell did has that kind of hatred and anger embedded deeply inside his persona. An apology accomplishes nothing.

Maybe a year's suspension without pay will give him enough time to consider what he did – especially in front of innocent children.



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Let 'em in

Zev Chafets files a gem of a story with "Cooperstown Confidential: Heroes, Rogues, and the Inside Story of the Baseball Hall of Fame" (Bloomsbury, \$15). Part memoir, part legend, part scholarly work and, in some cases, arguably libelous, Chafets goes where no other baseball writer would dare to go in peeking behind the curtain of baseball's kingmakers.

Lord knows I've used this blessed space on more than one occasion to assail the Baseball Writers Association of America, the baseball commissioner's office and the moneyball-changers inside the temple of Cooperstown. For far too long and far too often, this

triumvirate has treated baseball with the same sort of hypocrisy the major world religions are now accused of on a near daily basis.

Yes, baseball is religion in America, as well it should be. Like all of those "pastime" clichés that end up becoming so remarkably accurate, and so much of what lends so many to either connect with it at an early age as if it were some celestially chosen calling or fall in love with it in a born again-like fervor at a later point in time, it's what makes baseball worth revering.

I believe it is a baseball writer's job to spread the word of the mystical deeds of the diamond with their stories, and every columnist should take the preacher's stand with a little bit of fire and brimstone. But to play

the role of St. Peter standing at the pearly gates, to make like they're some arbiter of morality? No... not so much. We don't even hold priests and preachers to such lofty standards anymore.

But clergy also canned Latin at Catholic Mass years ago and recently allowed Matisyahu to rap a few verses of late. Maybe that's why Chafets, himself an Israeli expat who readily admits he won't be let into the good graces of the Hall or those currently lordling over the game anytime soon, feels free to burn a bush or two.

Dubious politics, former players, the commissioner's office and the Hall's ownership philosophies form an almost almost DaVinci Code-like shroud over the story. And while most of the scandalous and scurrilous stories are nothing new to beat reporters or beaten down fans (Babe Ruth may have been of

mixed-race, for instance), he spells out the math involved: the Hall translates into real money. Just ask Padre Dave Winfield or Expo Gary Carter about the commissioner's decision to deny an inducted player the right to choose what cap they were enshrined in.

"Shoeless" Joe Jackson died penniless, but not before the book relays the poignant scene of him, long since disgraced, working from

behind the clerk's counter at a liquor store and being recognized by Hall of Famer Ty Cobb.

"I didn't think you guys wanted to talk to me," he said.

Joe... we're still talking about you now.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter and publisher of *The Kansas City Luminary*. (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

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AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: A recent blood check showed that my potassium was high. I was told to stop eating bananas and drinking orange juice. I also was told to return to the doctor's office the next week. I did. They took another blood sample. They told me nothing more. What happens when potassium is high? – F.H.

Potassium has many important jobs. It keeps the body's electrical charges balanced. It's involved in transmitting nerve signals. It's needed to keep the heart beating and muscles contracting. It takes part in keeping the body neither too acid nor too alkaline.

High blood potassium raises blood sugar, weakens muscles, causes nausea and vomiting, and triggers erratic and dangerous heartbeats. When the level is very high, potassium paralysis and death occur. Your potassium must not have been all that high. You had no symptoms.

The causes of a high blood level include kidney illnesses, nonworking adrenal glands, a lack of insulin, sudden death of body cells, overuse of potassium supplements and medicines like beta blockers.

The blood level of potassium can be read erroneously as high when the patient, during blood collection, keeps clenching and unclenching arm muscles. It rises when blood cells break apart in their journey from a patient's arm to the laboratory. It could be your reading was high because of either of these situations.

It's hard to come up with an explanation that indicts an illness with raising potassium on one occasion and not keeping it raised for a short while.

The electrolytes – sodium, potassium, bicarbonate and chloride – are not well understood by most people. Yet they are responsible for many body ailments. Readers can read about these minerals in the booklet describing their function. Write

to Dr. Donohue – No. 202W, 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. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Swallowing became a real problem for me. Food would get stuck on its way to my stomach. I tried all sorts of over-the-counter medicines, but nothing worked. I saw a gastroenterologist, who put a scope down my swallowing tube. He discovered that there was a constricting ring of tissue at the bottom of it. How did I get it? He opened it with a balloon. Can it come back? – C.W.

You're talking about a Schatzki (SHOT-ski) ring. It is as you say – a fold of tissue encircling the lowermost part of the esophagus, and it does cause food to hang up there.

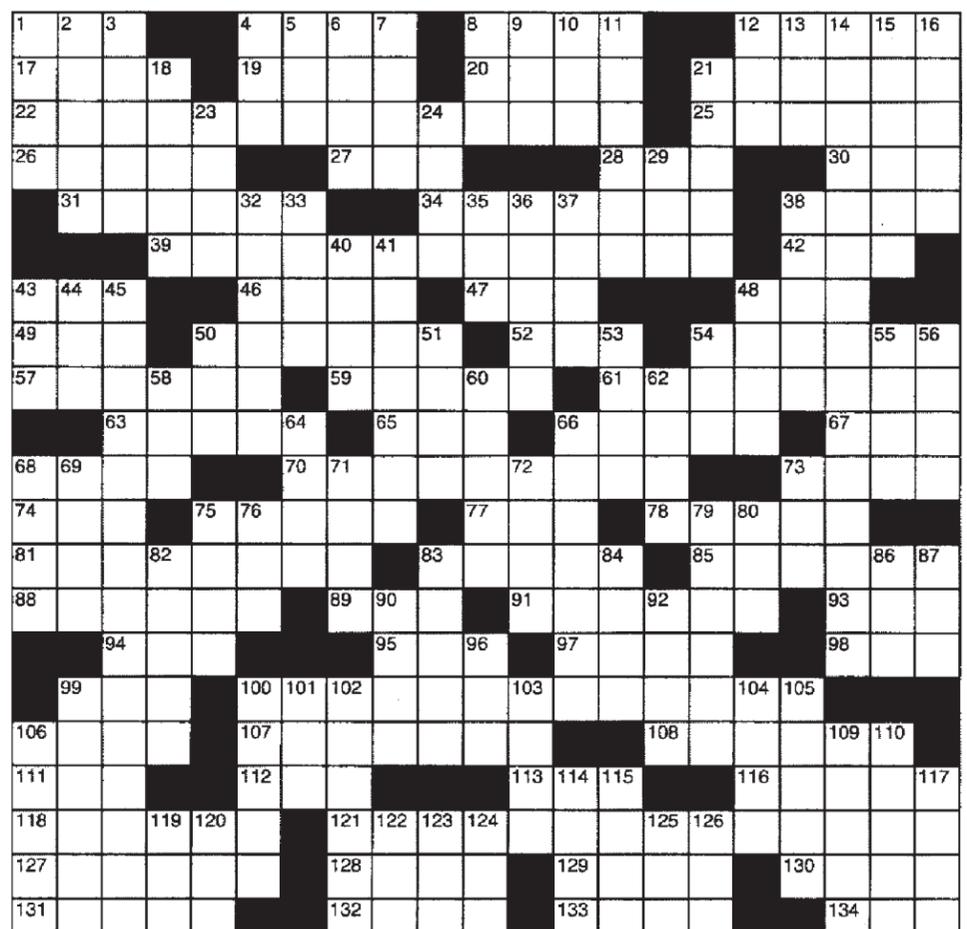
How did you get it? Some theorize that reflux of stomach acid into the esophagus explains why it developed. Acid reflux is a fancy way of saying heartburn. However, people can have reflux and a Schatzki ring but not have any heartburn symptoms. Meat and large pieces of bread are the foods most likely to get stuck.

Stretching the ring with a balloon or other device usually fixes the problem. However, it can come back, and it often does. Because recurrence is common, many doctors put their patients on medicines that suppress stomach acid production.

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) 2011 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| IN CHARGE | setting | Die For" | 24 Coup d'__ | 83 Sal of "Exodus" |
| ACROSS | 63 Crowded | 128 Columnist | 29 Part of NATO | 84 Irene of "Fame" |
| 1 Weaken | 65 "Just _ thought!" | Bombeck | 32 Sluggish sorts | fame |
| 4 O'Connor's "The _ Hurrah" | 66 Petite pest | 129 Notion | 33 _ Benedict | 86 La-la lead-in |
| 8 Composer Bartok | 67 Genetic info | 130 Silvers or Spector | 35 Like some TV channels | 87 Tasty tuber |
| 12 "Ad _ per aspera" (Kansas' motto) | 68 Actress Anna | 131 Hardened | 36 "Beau _" ('39 film) | 90 Coll. cadets |
| 17 Meadow mamas | 70 Tammany Hall | 132 "_ of the Cat" ('77 hit) | 37 "No dice!" | 92 Tree house? |
| 19 Pro foe | 73 Left open | 133 Side | 38 Bandit Belle | 96 Jacket part |
| 20 Sleep like _ | 74 Item in a lock | 134 _ Aviv | 40 City on 112 Across | 99 Lawrence's locale |
| 21 Wide belts | 75 Premiere | DOWN | 41 Polo's place | 100 "Archie" character |
| 22 Comic-book hero | 77 Baby butter | 1 Splinter group | 43 Shriver of tennis | 101 Great bird? |
| 25 "Oh, How I _ Get Up..." | 78 Fracas | 2 Cognizant | 44 Dothan's st. | 102 Dash of "Clueless" |
| 26 Error's partner | 81 Advance | 3 Charlemagne's dad | 45 '64 Shangri-Las hit | 103 Fast-food favorite |
| 27 Procure | 83 "This _ Moment" ('60 hit) | 4 Composer Francis | 48 Boy or boar | 104 Cleveland's lake |
| 28 - Paulo, Brazil | 85 Hut | 5 Sothern or Sheridan | 50 Cartoon canine | 105 Summarize |
| 30 Tons of time | 88 Van of "Shane" | 6 Forest father | 51 Lip lash? | 106 French bread? |
| 31 Box up | 89 Cycle starter | 7 Use a stopwatch | 53 Mayberry moppet | 109 Vision |
| 34 Masters | 91 Barely there | 8 Musical measure | 54 Marsh | 110 TV's "Kate & _" |
| Tournament site | 93 Baseball stat | 9 Lilly of pharmaceuticals | 55 New Rochelle college | 114 "M*A*S*H" Emmy winner |
| 38 Urban problem | 94 Pinnacle | 10 Rapper Tone _ | 56 General Bradley | 115 "The _ Is High" ('80 hit) |
| 39 Animated TV series | 95 _ roll | 11 '92 Wimbledon winner | 58 - Buddhism | 117 Say "Hey!" |
| 42 Hwy. | 97 Bailiwick | 12 Battery letters | 60 Alaskan city | 119 Low digit |
| 43 Bud | 98 TV's "My Sister _" | 13 Fast way to the UK | 62 "Against All _" ('84 film) | 120 Knight time |
| 46 Taj town | 99 "Gotcha!" | 14 O'Neill drama | 64 Recedes | 122 Hapsburg dom. |
| 47 Tallahassee sch. | 100 '80 Stevie Wonder hit | 15 Shot another photo | 66 Curative | 123 "_ Believer" ('66 hit) |
| 48 Rita _ Brown | 106 Worry | 16 For _ (cheaply) | 68 Frosh's superior | 124 Corn portion |
| 49 Tankard filler | 107 Result | 18 "Unsolved Mysteries" host | 69 Grocer's measure | 125 Grazing ground |
| 50 Step parts | 108 Singer Stratats | 21 Shallow area | 71 Eject | 126 Rin Tin Tin's mother |
| 52 Even if, informally | 111 Knock | 23 Jai _ | 72 Assumed manes? | |
| 54 Durango district | 112 Russian river | | 73 - standstill | |
| 57 Maestro Lorin | 113 Superlative suffix | | 75 Wet blanket | |
| 59 Rent | 116 Sans emotion | | 76 Velvet finish | |
| 61 "The Hustler" | 118 Lets up | | 79 Graceland, for one | |
| | 121 "F Troop" role | | 80 Yesterday's your | |
| | 127 Kidman of "To | | 82 Rub it in | |



TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore

May 3, 1693 – Don Gregorio de Salinas Varona, while on expedition to Texas, concludes that the land is unsuitable for development.



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.

	-		x		21
x		+		-	
	÷		+		4
-		x		x	
	x		+		23
23		18		20	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 8 9

Answer Page 5

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 5

★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

One more homework assignment

If you're one of the many teenagers or young adults planning to get a summer job or start a career this summer, you may be surprised to see what's deducted from your paystub. If you don't know already, it's time to learn what your Social Security taxes are all about.

By law, employers must withhold from a worker's paycheck Social Security taxes. While usually referred to on an employee's pay statement as "Social Security taxes," sometimes the deduction is labeled as "FICA taxes" which stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act, a reference to the original Social Security Act.

The taxes you pay now translate to a lifetime of protection, for retirement in old age or in the event of disability. And when you die, your family (or future family) may be able to receive survivors benefits based on your work

as well. Right now you probably have family members — grandparents, for example — who already are enjoying Social Security benefits which your Social Security taxes help provide.

Because you're a long way from retirement, you may have a tough time seeing the value of benefit payments that could be many decades in the future. But keep in mind that the Social Security taxes you're paying can provide valuable disability or survivors benefits in the event the unexpected happens. Studies do show that of today's 20-year-olds, about one in four will become disabled and about one in eight will die before reaching retirement.

Warning: if an employer offers to bend the rules and pay you "under the table," you should refuse. They may try to sell it as a benefit to you since you get a few extra dol-

lars in your pay. But you're really only allowing the employer to cheat you out of your Social Security credits. It's also illegal.

Another tip: don't carry your Social Security card around with you. It's an important document that should be safeguarded and protected. And it can be a valuable tool for an identity thief, if it's lost or stolen.

If you'd like to learn a little more about Social Security and exactly what you're building up for yourself by paying Social Security taxes, take a look at our online booklet, How You Earn Credits, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10072.html.

Do you prefer videos to reading? Check out our webinar, "Social Security 101: What's in it for me?" The webinar explains what you need to know about Social Security. You can find it, along with other informative webinars, at www.socialsecurity.gov/webinars.

You can also learn more by surfing the web at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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: B equals F

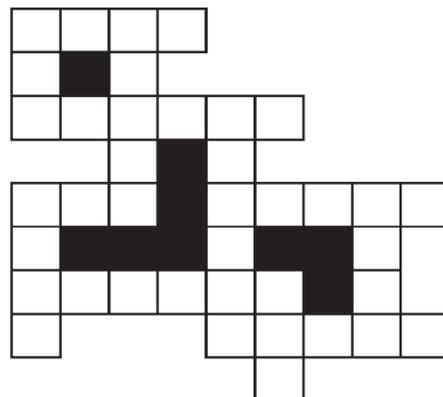
MB HAPOCHXMHZ EHCPAYMHXP
RCHZS PWBO RCMZSP, OTVK
PTWAXR EWPO XMSVXK YCVBVC
IWIH-SWHXH.

Answer Page 5

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- LIN
- TEBLIA
- UNTOU
- UPRO
- NELRIA
- ♥BDA
- ♥UNED
- RUBBL
- ♥PTO
- DUPNIA
- ♥PADET
- ♥OREB



Answer Page 5

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Volleyball

From Page 4

role in our mission of developing 21st century citizens," Serrano said. "Specifically the leadership and mentorship our students receive from our coaches, just as they do their classroom teachers, helps bring out the best in our student-athletes."

Socorro ISD is in the process of hiring a permanent head varsity volleyball coach.

Classified Ads

COUNSELING SERVICES

DAMIAN MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE ACCEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

WINDOW TINTING

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SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

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