



NEWSBRIEFS

Food for fines

The El Paso Public Library will be accepting canned food donations in exchange for overdue fines through Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013. Patrons will be able to pay down \$1 worth of fines for every can of food or non-perishable food item donated, up to \$5 per account, provided that their materials are also returned in good condition. The food donations will then be collected, sorted and distributed to organizations that serve the less fortunate as part of the 13th Annual MLK Canned Food Drive. Patrons need to simply bring in their overdue materials and up to 5, canned or non-perishable, food items to any branch. The Library staff will then take their food donations and apply up to \$5 in credit to the patron's account. The El Paso Public Library is encouraging their customers to donate canned goods to benefit people in El Paso that don't have enough to eat. It is estimated that 1 in 3 children in El Paso struggle with hunger every day. Hunger makes it more difficult for kids to stay engaged and focused on activities important to their development such as studying. The food collected as part of the Food for Fines program, as well as that collected through the MLK Canned Food Drive, will be used to replenish depleted pantries of organizations that serve the less fortunate. For more information call 543-5468 or visit www.elpasolibrary.org.

— Jack Galindo

Motorcycle Madness

Motorcycle Madness: A History of Motorcycles, which is currently on display at the El Paso Museum of History, enters its final week. The exhibit contains over 50 motorcycles from the surrounding region, including street bikes, dirt bikes, choppers, and a special section on Harley Davidson motorcycles. This is a rare glimpse into the motorcycle culture of the Southwest. Visitors are encouraged to view the exhibit before it is gone forever. The exhibit is set to close Wednesday, Jan. 23. Admission to the exhibit is \$5 for ages 6 and above. Museum members and Active Military are free. General admission to the Museum and its permanent exhibits is free. Proceeds benefit future exhibits. For more information contact the museum at 351-3588.

— Alfredo Vasquez

Crime Stoppers

A man with a bag in each hand walks into a central department store, pulling out what witnesses described as a "sawed off shotgun" and demanded money, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Saturday, October 13, 2012, just before 3:00 p.m., the man entered Family Dollar

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The family that stays together probably has only one car.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

MEN AT WORK – Work progresses steadily on the Lhakhang building, above. It is scheduled to be completed in time for UTEP's Centennial celebration in 2014. The beautiful hand-carved and hand-painted Lhakhang, the centerpiece of Bhutan's participation in the Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival in Washington D.C., was presented by the people of Bhutan to the people of the United States for permanent installation on the UTEP campus in 2008. The unique temple's presence on the UTEP campus underscores the university's strong ties to Bhutan and mission to expand the global perspective of its students. The Lhakhang is located at the northwest edge of Centennial Plaza between Magoffin Auditorium and the Geological Sciences Building.

Lhakhang building goes up at UTEP

Campus undergoes transformation for centennial celebration

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – A \$25 million University of Texas at El Paso campus transformation initiative is well underway as the university prepares to celebrate its centennial anniversary next year. UTEP was founded in 1914 as Texas Western College.

"We think it's going to completely change the feel of this campus," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio during a recent campus

luncheon.

The changes will restore an arroyo currently buried under a parking lot, remove tons of heat-trapping concrete and asphalt, create public park areas shaded by drought-tolerant trees, and connect the campus with pedestrian and bicycle paths.

The centerpiece of the eight-project effort will be Centennial Plaza, a large green space located in the middle of the campus between Union Building West and the Geological Sciences Building.

All the roads and parking lots in the center of campus will be removed, pushing vehicular traffic to the perimeter. Parking structures already are popping up on both sides of campus and more are planned, according to UTEP officials.

Centennial Plaza is scheduled to be finished for the university's 100-year celebration in 2014 with all of the projects expected to be completed by the end of 2014. But the projects will not be paid for out of the school's budget.

According to Natalicio, the university is raising the funds through contributions. "Once Centennial Plaza is complete, it will give potential donors a chance to see the benefits for themselves," Natalicio said.

On the plaza's northwest edge will be the Lhakhang, a hand-carved, hand-painted temple donated by Bhutan. The campus is known for its Bhutanese architecture, which Natalicio said will be showcased by the new look.

The Psychology Building will receive a

See BUILDING, Page 4

San Eli HS seniors earn early UTEP scholarships

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Eventhough graduation is still months away, three San Elizario High School seniors already have a little money in their pockets to pay for college expenses. Just before the holidays Veronica Alvarez, Beatrice Alvidrez and Chelsey Jurado were notified that they had been selected as first round recipients of scholarships from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Counselors from San Elizario High School invited their families to the campus to be part of a surprise reception for the students who were called in to the campus counseling center where they discovered they had won a UTEP Scholars Excellence Program scholarship. Representatives from UTEP's Office of Scholarships as well as the Office Admissions



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

SHOW THEM THE MONEY – Beatrice Alvidrez (from left), Chelsey Jurado, and Veronica Alvarez were selected to receive scholarships from the University of Texas at El Paso.

See SCHOLARSHIPS, Page 4

Finances By Jason Alderman

Keeping funeral costs affordable

Anyone who's put a loved one to rest knows that death is not cheap. According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the average adult funeral cost \$6,560 in 2009 (their most current data). That doesn't include such common add-ons as a cemetery plot, headstone, flowers, obituaries and limousine, which can add thousands to the bill.

Because death is a frequently avoided topic, many people aren't armed with information about the many variables – and costs – involved in planning a funeral. Thus, just when survivors are grieving and most vulnerable, they're bombarded by decisions that must be made quickly, often without even knowing what their loved one would have wanted.

The key message for the living is to decide on preferred funeral arrangements ahead of time and to convey those wishes to your family – ideally in your will.

Another important lesson: Know your legal rights and what funeral-related goods and services cost so you – or your survivors – don't feel pressured into buying things you don't want or need. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) oversees "The Funeral Rule," which regulates how funeral providers must deal with consumers. Among its provisions:

- Upon request, funeral homes must provide an itemized price list of all their goods and services, whether you call (even anonymously) or visit in person.
- You have the right to choose among their offerings (with certain state-mandated exceptions) and are not required to purchase package deals containing unwanted items.
- Prior to purchasing a casket or outer burial container from a funeral home, they must share descriptions and prices before showing you stock on hand.
- Providers that offer cremations must

make alternative containers (besides caskets) available.

- Note: The Funeral Rule does not apply to third-party sellers such as casket and monument dealers, or to cemeteries that lack an on-site funeral home.

If your beliefs don't require following specific funeral protocols, here are a few ways to reduce costs while still honoring the deceased and their survivors:

- Veterans, immediate family members, members of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and certain civilians who've provided military-related service may be entitled to burial at a national cemetery with a grave marker. Burial is free, but families are responsible for funeral home expenses and transportation to the cemetery.
- A \$255 lump-sum death benefit is available to surviving spouses or minor children of eligible workers who paid into Social Security.
- For many, cremation is a viable, less expensive option to burial. If you plan to

hold a viewing first before the cremation, ask whether you can rent an attractive casket for the ceremony.

- Some families prefer not to hold a public viewing. For them, "direct cremation" or "immediate burial" may make sense. Because the body is promptly cremated or interred, embalming and cosmetology services are not necessary, which saves hundreds of dollars. Also, with direct cremation you can opt for an unfinished wood coffin or heavy cardboard enclosure for the journey to the crematorium.
- You can purchase a casket or cremation urn from a source other than your funeral home. The funeral home cannot assess handling fees or require you to be there to take delivery.

The death of a loved one is always upsetting, but you may be able to ease your family's emotional and financial burdens by planning ahead.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

the write stuff

Editor:

I am writing to you and hope you will publish this very urgent matter. This matter will greatly affect the Far East side residents and will have a very negative impact on our community and families. There is a proposed site for a power plant to be built behind the Longhorn Pipeline fuel tankers located at the intersection of Montana and Zaragosa. This plant will consist of approximately 150 acres of the area and is going to be intrusive with pollutants, lights, and toxins as well as being so close to hazardous, volatile fuel containers. Is this truly the best location for the plant with our limited resources and volunteer fire department? This plant will

harm the nearby neighbors and being a parent of two small children this is very disturbing. My family will be within a 1-mile radius of the plant and the nearest home is 1,000 feet away. The negative impacts far outweigh the positive impact if any exist at all. The plant should be built where there are no homes nearby, such as the Newman plant which this plant will be modeled after. This information can be gathered through the EPA websites and is stated on the El Paso Electric plant website as well. Please print this information as concerned citizens will be informed and contact their local representatives.

- District 6: Eddie Holguin, Jr. 915-541-4182

- district6@elpasotexas.gov
- District 5: Dr. Michael Noe 915-541-44701
- district5@elpasotexas.gov
- County Commissioner 3: Vincent Perez 915-546-2144
- County Judge: Veronica Escobar 915-546-2098

*Sincerely,
Eddie Martinez
El Paso*

(Publisher's note: The Courier told Mr. Martinez that El Paso Electric would be contacted regarding his concerns. Their response follows. Thanks to both parties for their concern and letters regarding their community.)

Editor:

El Paso Electric is committed to investing in the region's economic

growth and serve growing local energy needs, EPE plans to build the Montana Power Station, a state-of-the-art generating facility that will be located on undeveloped land in east El Paso. The new generating station will be capable of powering 80,000 homes. The new power plant will use natural gas, the cleanest fossil fuel available, and feature the latest cost-effective and efficient generation and the best available environmental control technologies.

The site is located on undeveloped land in east El Paso County, adjacent to Montana Avenue near Zaragoza Avenue. It was strategically chosen to complement and balance EPE's other local generation facilities in the west, northeast and central El Paso. It is bordered by Fort Bliss on the north, Montana Avenue on the south and just over one mile east of the El Paso city limits.

This investment ensures that EPE has sufficient energy to meet our region's growing needs for reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible electric service, which benefits all our customers.

EPE's application for the site meets all current environmental, noise, and air quality standards, as required by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). TCEQ's technical reviewers have confirmed that the Montana Station is controlled with the "best available control technology" and that it will not adversely affect public health or welfare.

EPE is committed to keeping the community informed. If customers have questions or concerns, they can contact us at (915) 543-5887.

As the project progresses, EPE will post important information on its website at www.epelectric.com. The Montana Power Station page is available in the "About El Paso Electric" section.

*Marybeth Stevens
Assistant Vice President, External
Affairs and Public Relations
El Paso Electric*

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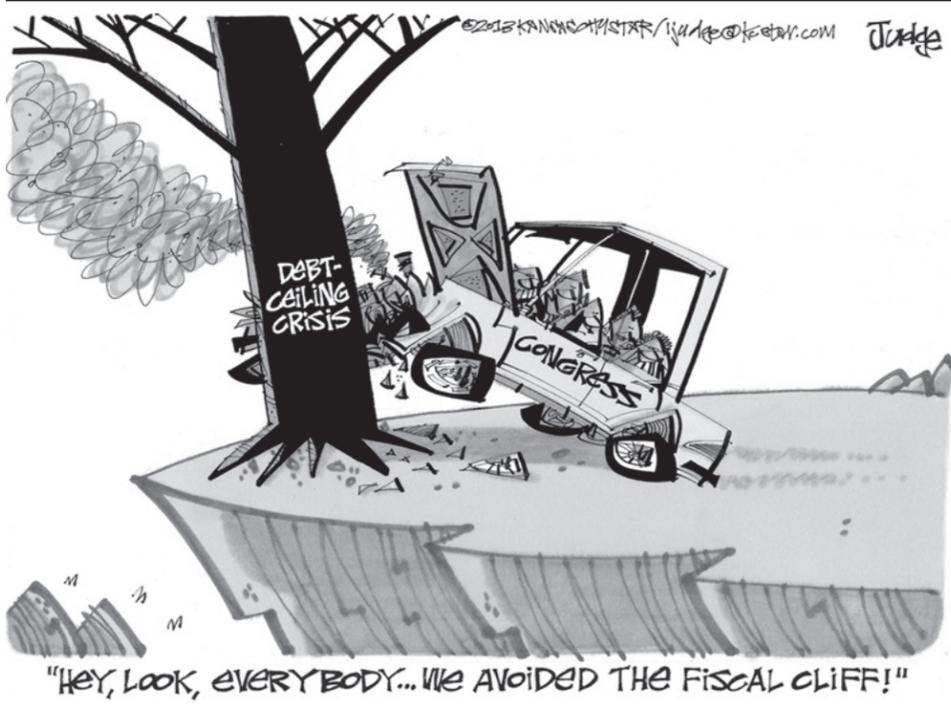
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Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Vets lose a friend

We've lost someone who was always in our corner, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii. Unlike too many of our elected officials, Sen. Inouye was one of us.

In World War II, serving in Italy in 1945, Inouye fought in an action that can only be described as horrific: After being shot in stomach, he continued fighting and leading an assault against a German stronghold. He was holding a primed grenade that he was about to throw when he was shot in that arm, leaving the grenade in his no longer functioning fist. Somehow he managed to grab the grenade with his other hand and toss it into a bunker. With his arm mostly severed, he continued fighting until he was shot in the leg and collapsed.

Once in a field hospital, his arm was amputated. For this action he received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster and Distinguished Service Cross. That Cross should have been the Medal of Honor, but wasn't, likely due to Inouye's race. Inouye was a Nisei, a Japanese American born in Hawaii to Japanese

parents who had immigrated before he was born. It wasn't until President Bill Clinton upgraded the Cross in 2000 that Inouye received his long-overdue Medal of Honor, along with 19 others on his all-Nisei combat team.

Inouye had been a senator since 1963, the second-longest serving senator, and had served in other public positions before then. It's said that in 58 years, he never lost an election.

One bill he reintroduced in the Senate time and time again was to restore Memorial Day to its historical correct date, May 30, instead of the one-size-fits-all last Monday in May. The bill never made it, but he kept trying because he believed in it.

Whoever replaces Inouye in a 2014 special election in Hawaii will have some big shoes to fill.

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) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.

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— Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

Professor receives award

El Paso Community College (EPCC) Associate Professor of English and Chicana/o Studies Program District-Wide Coordinator, Mauricio Rodriguez, has been awarded the Distinguished Community College Faculty Award from the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE). Rodriguez will receive his award at the 38th TACHE Annual Conference, January 27-30 in Austin, TX. Rodriguez has been with EPCC since 2003. Rodriguez is committed to advancing Chicanos in higher education through efforts both inside and outside the classroom. As a professor, he seeks to inspire, challenge and engage his students. He was a leader in forming the Chicana/o Studies Program at EPCC. Rodriguez currently serves as TACHE Regional Representative for Far West.

— Jim Heiney



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

UPGRADES – The Campus Transformation Initiative will aid recruitment and retention at UTEP as it works toward becoming a tier-one research university according to UTEP President Diane Natalicio. The changes will create public park areas shaded by drought-tolerant trees, and connect the campus with pedestrian and bicycle paths. It also will provide outdoor areas where students can study or discuss the issues of the day.

Building

From Page 1

redesign. Circle Drive – where Old Main, the university’s original building, is located – will be removed to create a pedestrian concourse that will connect to other spaces.

Leech Grove, a traditional

gathering place for students, will receive a stage and a fountain that can be converted into a second stage. And, entrances on the western and eastern sides of the campus also will get a makeover.

After the arroyo, which is under Memorial Triangle, is restored, it will open a natural path through the campus that runs from Arroyo Park on the northeast to Parker Brothers Arroyo on the southwest. Parker Brothers Arroyo is slated for restoration as part of the Asarco cleanup. That arroyo was buried under tons of slag, a smelting by-product.

Also planned are subsurface irrigation and water harvesting, which traps storm runoff that can be used to water plants during extended dry periods. The new areas will be linked by “terraces and seamless pathways” for pedestrians and cyclists.

Although 556 parking spaces

will be lost when the projects are completed, they have been more than replaced by the 1,138 spaces in new parking areas on both sides of campus, university with the parking garages paid for mostly through fees, officials stated.

“I just think it’s a very exciting time for UTEP,” said Ed Escudero, co-chairman of the UTEP 2014 Commission in a recent news report. “We’re trying to lead the transformation, at least the pedestrian transformation,” he stated.

The project is designed to strip away pavement and reveal “the beauty of the rock structures and arroyos that make our campus so distinctive,” Natalicio said. And there are other areas that can undergo a similar transformation in the future, she related.

“We want to leave a legacy that 100 years from now people will remember,” Natalicio asserted.

Scholarships

From Page 1

and Recruitment were on hand to present the students with each of their award packages.

The UTEP Scholars Excellence Program consists of four levels of scholarships each renewable for up to three years with different financial awards and requirements. The President’s Leadership Scholarship is an annual award of \$6,000 specifically for valedictorians and salutatorians from El Paso area high schools. The Presidential Excellence, Presidential and the Academic Scholarships are the other three types of scholarships each with different and incremental criteria for high school GPA, class ranking, and SAT or ACT scores.

Veronica Alvarez and Chelsey

Jurado were awarded a Presidential Excellence Scholarship in the amount of \$4000 annually while Beatrice Alvidrez received a Presidential Scholarship for an annual award of \$3,000. Although Veronica and Beatrice continue to weigh their college options, Chelsey has already decided that UTEP is the best university for her to pursue a degree in either computer programming or business.

“I’ve already been on the campus and when I saw it, I felt it was the right place for me,” Chelsey added.

There will be another round of UTEP scholarships awarded in the spring and counselors at San Elizario High School urge seniors to finalize their applications and submit all required documentation before the March 1 deadline in case of funding limitations or delays.



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CryptoQuip Answer

If several insects are found on a movable window cover, might those be shutter bugs?

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Briefs

From Page 1

at 5018 Alameda, placed one bag on the floor and pulled the sawed off shotgun out of it. He told the cashier to give him all the money in the cash register. The cashier tried to run away, but was not able to. The suspect pointed his shotgun at a customer and told the cashier in Spanish not to jeopardize customers as he was only interested in getting the money. The cashier returned to the register and gave him the money. The suspect ran out of the store, going west on Alameda and then south on Concepcion. He was seen getting into a blue or green Ford Windstar with sliding doors on both sides. The suspect is a Hispanic male in his 20s, 5'6" to 5'8", and about 135 to 150 pounds. He was wearing a black cap with a white San Francisco 49ers logo and white trim, a white polo shirt with dark stripes, blue jeans, and white tennis shoes. He was carrying a black bag with black and white straps and a camouflage gym bag. If you have any information about this suspect, please call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You can remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— James Klaes

Wanted

Peter Calzada, 53, is this week's Manhunt Monday target. He also uses Pete and Peter Castillo. He is 5'6" tall and is guessed to be 250 or more pounds. He has black hair, brown eyes and a scar on his right wrist. Calzada is a former Sheriff's Deputy who has been on the run for 10 years.



Peter Calzada In 1997, Calzada and another former Deputy Sheriff kidnapped and raped a woman while on duty. Both men were later convicted. In 2003, just before his sentencing Calzada failed to appear in court for sentencing and has not been seen since. Information received in 2009 indicated Calzada had gained weight and was wearing his hair long. It was also mentioned that he was hiding in deep Mexico making a living as an instructor teaching English. There have been many tips on Calzada's whereabouts including possible sightings in the Borderland and most recently in Arizona. He knows he is wanted. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Calzada please contact Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of Calzada.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

Archaeological Society presents Real Family Stories of Sacred Hueco Tanks

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Program will present Real Family Stories of a Sacred Place: Hueco Tanks, at 2 p.m., Sunday, January 20, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology,

4301 Transmountain Road. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The storyteller will be Alex Mares, who will share, in storytelling fashion, historical events and actions that took place at or near Hueco Tanks, which is considered sacred to local Native American tribes. Mares said that all of his stories he either witnessed or were told to him by family and friends from Native American, Mexican American, Anglo American, and African American communities.

Mares stated that none of these stories have been previously shared with the general public and remain

the intellectual property of the storyteller including the characters within the stories. So, out of respect to the oral tradition of these people, recording of the stories during the presentation will not be allowed, he said.

Alex is nationally accredited as a Certified Interpretive Guide and Certified Interpretive Planner through the National Association for Interpretation. He has served 24 years as a park ranger in both Texas and New Mexico. Mares said that he is an advocate for both the sacred nature of Hueco Tanks and the special relationship between the site and various cultural affiliations.

The special storytelling event is presented by the El Paso Archaeological Society in partnership with the El Paso Museum of Archaeology. For more information, call 755-4332 or send email to Marilyn Guida, the archeology museum's education curator, at guidamr@elpasotexas.gov.



— Photo courtesy of El Paso Museum of Archaeology

STORYTELLER – Alex Mares (above) was born in El Paso and says he feels fortunate to live in the Southwest. He stated that he draws unique knowledge and wisdom from relatives and close friends native to this region- both north and south of the border. Mares earned anthropology and sociology degrees from El Paso Community College and the University of Texas at El Paso.

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www.YourDiabetesInfo.org

A message from the National Diabetes Education Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hall of Fame voters choose integrity over statistics

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Last week, the voting was held for the annual additions to its Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Only problem is nobody was invited to the party.

For the first time since the mid 1990s, no players received the 75 percent of votes needed to get into the exclusive club.

And everybody knows the reason why... steroids.

Some of the heavy hitters of the steroid era are coming up to the plate, and the Hall of Fame voters are striking them out one-by-one.

Some of the names who were up this year would have been first-ballot inductees had they not taken the needle.

Players like Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa have joined the likes of Mark McGwire and Rafael Palmeiro as cheaters who are now paying the ultimate price.

The big question surrounding sports commentators these days is whether the steroid-era players should be allowed into the

Hall or not.

Some say they cheated the game and the fans and should not be let in. Others say they were great enough before they started juicing, so on that note alone they should be voted in.

There is yet another group of individuals who have the very strong opinion that the steroid-era guys should not be allowed in the Hall of Fame.

And that comes from many Hall of Famers, themselves.

Former greats like Goose Gosage, Al Kaline and Dennis Eckersley made no secret of their feelings concerning the voting shut out.

"If they let these guys in ever - at any point - it's a big black eye for the Hall and for baseball," Gosage said last week.

It seems that many of the players in the Hall resent the fact that these players cheated to elevate their numbers. And we all know how important numbers are to the history of baseball.

It's hard to disagree with the notion that steroids did elevate numbers.

In his prime, from age 21-34, Barry Bonds never hit more than 46 home runs in any year.

In those first 14 years in the league he hit a total of 445 home runs and averaged 31.8 per year.

But in the years in which a players' numbers naturally decline because of age, in this case age 35 to 39, Bonds hit 258 homers which comes out to an incredible average of 51.6 per season.

By the way, these five years came from 2000-2004, right in the middle of the steroid era.

It was in 2001, at age 36, that Bonds hit his record of 73 home runs.

He never had any more than 49 in any other year of his career.

Does anyone still believe he would hold the all-time home run record if he hadn't taken the drugs?

Examples like that are the reasons many still believe that Hank Aaron is the true home run champ.

And many of the players in the Hall feel that the privilege of being in their fraternity comes with certain rules and responsibilities.

Can anyone honestly say that these guys followed the rules?

The players who didn't use the stuff are

another casualty of the steroid era.

They are almost all guilty by association. They played during the era so they must have done something wrong.

Players like Craig Biggio and Mike Piazza and Jeff Bagwell were high in the voting but didn't get the needed votes.

"I think it's kind of unfair, but it's the reality of the era that we played in," Biggio said soon after the vote. "Obviously some guys are guilty and others aren't, and it's painful for the ones that weren't."

The most difficult job for the Hall voters is determining who is guilty and who is not.

Rather simple, if a player wasn't linked to steroids then you can't assume that he might have been.

Just like Pete Rose, who was kicked out of baseball for gambling on games and Lance Armstrong, who was stripped of all his Tour de France titles for doping, the guilty players of the steroid era must be made an example of.

Why, because what is the use of a game if the playing field isn't a fair one?

Shouldn't adults play the game the way they taught their kids to play it?

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

An odd coupling

I'm not here to say "I told you so." I am here to give you hyper-accurate insight about your favorite sporting events before they happen... if at all.

Regular readers of this column could have known - if they were wise regular readers - that purchasing a ticket for the BCS Championship game in Miami was a waste of their hard-earned money. It was a bad

matchup between Alabama and Notre Dame, particularly if you were on the Irish Catholic side of the equation.

Whenever there's a marked disparity between any two parties, doesn't hilarity, in turn, often ensue? Isn't that why you need two sides of the magnet, the opposite polarities in life. Every Abbot needs a Costello and unto every Martin may

there be a Lewis. Jack, meet Diane. Gryffindor guy, you go have fun over there, flying around the sky on your broom with those Slytherins.

For me, my favorite odd coupling, if you will, was Oscar Madison and Felix Unger, two more-authentic-than-fiction guys played by Jack Klugman and Tony Randall on stage and screen. They used to call them "The Odd Couple."

The story goes like this: Felix was kicked out of his house and divorced by his wife... a divorce Felix did not want. Felix, a photographer, turns to his friend, newspaper sports writer Oscar Madison (also recently

divorced), and Oscar agrees to let him crash at his apartment for a while. Felix was anal retentive; Oscar was a slob. Felix was effeminate, while Oscar was the living embodiment of masculinity because he was a sports writer (duh).

The storyline almost always followed the formula of Oscar not necessarily saying he told Felix so... but that Felix would have been better off if he had been a little more, you know, regular. And since the playwright, Neal Simon, was said to take particular pride in basing his stories on real-life events, the part where the sports writer is always right would seem plausible always.

According to The New York Times, an esteemed daily newspaper who paid somebody to look into the matter, Oscar's three-bedroom apartment in the 14-story walkup at Central Park West and Park Avenue would be worth \$4 million in today's

money. Oscar was likely renting at the monthly rate of \$30,000. Again... \$30,000 per month - and that's before utilities and the party-line phone with the Pigeon sisters. All of that, plus nightly poker games, on newspaper sports writer and photographer's salary!

But, you regular readers know, as you do get a little more wise, you make your way a bit further down the authentic South Beach experience, you learn that maybe guys like Felix weren't all that different from the regular guys after all, and that his story maybe rang a bit more true than Oscar's. Does that say you shouldn't listen to a sports writer when he tells you so? Of course not. It merely underscores the fact that you should never trust a playwright.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Village of Vinton

of Housing and Community Affairs under its Amy Young Reservation System and HOME Reservation System Programs. The City is seeking to contract with a qualified individual/management firm to administer the contracts.

The Village of Vinton has recently received a Contract award from the Texas Department

RFP packages are available at the Village of Vinton City Hall, Monday-

Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on the website: <http://www.vintontx.gov/office2.com/BidOpportunities> link. Please submit your request for proposal package to the Village of Vinton City Clerk at 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton Texas 79821. Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 pm, January 22, 2013 at Vinton

City Hall to be considered. The Village reserves the right to negotiate with any and all firms or consultants that submit proposals as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act.

The Village of Vinton, Texas is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

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Jessica Garza
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For sale: Silver flute with carrying case by Armstrong. In excellent condition. If interested call 851-0514 and leave a voice mail.

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OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have back discomfort upon lying down. It doesn't matter where I lie or what position I'm in for my back to hurt and often one or both hips. Getting out of bed in the morning is hard and uncomfortable. Once I have had my morning shower and am up and around, I'm fine. We have thought of replacing our mattress, but how do we find something that will help? What would you recommend? – M.W.

invisible blood vessels. When one of those delicate vessels breaks, blood covers that part of the eye.

Coughing, sneezing or straining causes the breakage. Sometimes it happens for no apparent reason. The eye looks awful, but no real harm is done. The blood is absorbed in about a week. You can hurry it up by putting warm compresses over the closed eye.

You need to see a doctor if the eye begins to pain you, if the blood stays for longer than a week or if it happens time and again.

I strongly recommend that you see your family doctor before you invest any money in a mattress.

Some of what you describe fits the picture of osteoarthritis – stiffness upon wakening, difficulty getting out of bed and relief of symptoms after taking a hot shower. Before you spend a penny on a mattress, have your back examined and the problem diagnosed.

The booklet on the different kinds of arthritis explains each and how it is treated. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 301W, 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: I looked in the mirror this morning and couldn't believe what I saw. My right eye was bright red. It looked like someone had punched me. When my husband saw it, he asked if he had hit me while he was asleep. He didn't. It doesn't hurt. My vision is perfect. My eye looks frightful. Do I need to see a doctor? – Y.T.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: How good are prunes for constipation? I am often constipated and have unsuccessfully tried many remedies. They might work for a short while, but then I am constipated again. I'd like to try the prune way, if you say that it works. – M.A.

It works for many, but I can't give you a guarantee.

Five to six prunes twice a day can change your bowel habits in a week or so.

Prunes have fiber, one reason why they exert a laxative effect. Fiber keeps food waste moist on its passage out of the body. Prunes also contain sorbitol, a natural laxative.

In addition to the laxative action, prunes have antioxidants, substances that counter the bad effects coming from cell chemistry.

Prunes have undergone a name change; they are now called dried plums.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2013 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Your question is asked repeatedly. My long-distance guess is a subconjunctival hemorrhage. The conjunctiva is a cellophane-like covering of the eye. Beneath it is a network of

Super Crossword

- IT'S A SMALL WORLD ACROSS**
- 1 Pizza-topping fish
 - 8 Troglodytes
 - 15 Drang's partner
 - 20 University of Wyoming city
 - 21 Smelter input
 - 22 Kayak's kin
 - 23 It includes a nucleus
 - 25 Run up, as debt
 - 26 Jet that last flew in 2003
 - 27 Penta- plus three
 - 28 X-ray dosage units
 - 30 Injure with a horn
 - 31 That fellow's
 - 33 "No _ traffic"
 - 35 Publisher owned by Random House
 - 38 "ER" co-star La Salle
 - 40 "Start the tune!"
 - 42 "The Lady _ Tramp"
 - 43 Shoelace-receiving hole
 - 44 What a very thorough description is given in
 - 47 Snow glider
 - 48 Fencer's cry
 - 49 Earth heater
 - 50 Stair support
 - 52 Left-winger, for
- DOWN**
- 1 Made in the manner of
 - 2 "King" Cole's first name
 - 3 Points of intersection
 - 4 Radio buffs
 - 5 Fail to use
 - 6 "Alice" actor
 - 7 "That's right!"
 - 8 Motherboard components
 - 9 In _ (going nowhere)
 - 10 Word stock, informally
 - 11 Suffix with differ
 - 12 Expresses grief
 - 13 List of typos
 - 14 "I _ nap!"
 - 15 _fi flick
 - 16 Did a certain ballroom dance
 - 17 Like nerds
 - 18 Mickey of movies
 - 19 Most minimal
 - 24 Rich dessert
 - 29 Scent
 - 31 Virile guys
 - 32 Ice skater
 - 33 Old Vegas casino
 - 34 Baseballer Irabu or Matsui
 - 36 Feel ill
 - 37 "Toodles!"
 - 39 Sine _ non
 - 41 T, in Greece
 - 45 Betrayer
 - 46 Complicated
 - 47 Punjabi believer
 - 50 Resurrected
 - 51 Largest city in Ghana
 - 52 Like bums
 - 53 "Oh, so that's it"
 - 54 Epic poet
 - 58 Actress Sofer
 - 59 Rodents in research
 - 60 _ Lewis & the News
 - 61 Filly's mother
 - 62 Love, in Nice
 - 63 Swinlike animal
 - 64 "QB VII" author
 - 65 Dead-end street sign
 - 66 Rock concert gear
 - 67 Early stringed instrument
 - 68 Nasty
 - 72 Golfing need
 - 73 "Note _..."
 - 77 Web site
 - designer's specification
 - 78 Early pope
 - 79 Push
 - 81 City in Italy
 - 83 "_ the ramparts..."
 - 84 Soda bottle size
 - 86 On the _ (hiding out)
 - 87 Use a parachute
 - 88 Fly snarer
 - 89 "The Raven" writer
 - 90 "Fallen" actor
 - Koteas
 - 91 Helmet parts
 - 92 Cardin of fashion
 - 93 Back to back
 - 94 Diminisher
 - 95 Vacant, as a stare
 - 99 1993 Nannygate figure
 - Zoe
 - 100 Costly dark brown fur
 - 106 The "L" of "SNL"
 - 107 Go in circles
 - 108 Vocalist Eartha
 - 110 Article in Ulm
 - 112 1903, for Bob Hope: Abbr.
 - 113 Off-candied tuber
 - 114 _pitch softball
 - 115 Kay follower
 - 116 San Luis _, CA

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore Jan 21, 1879:

At well over 300 pounds Richard Hubbard likely qualifies as our heftiest Governor. He left office on this date...it was a BIG event.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: My only income is Supplemental Security Income (SSI). My sister recently died and left me a little money. Will this extra money affect my SSI benefits?

A: It depends on the amount. You must report the inheritance to Social Security by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). SSI is a needs-based program for people 65 or older, blind, or disabled who have limited income and resources. We consider your inheritance as income for the month you received it. Accordingly, we may have to adjust your benefit for that month. If you keep the money into the next month, the money then becomes a part of your resources. A person with more than \$2,000 or a couple with more than \$3000 in total resources cannot receive SSI, although there are exceptions. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: I need to apply for disability benefits. Where do I start?

A: Begin by looking at our Disability Starter Kit. You can find it online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm or you can request a copy by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). The Disability Starter Kit will help you prepare for your application and interview.

When you are ready, you can apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability or make an appointment to apply in person at a local Social Security office. And remember: Our online disability application is convenient and secure. Don't stand in line, go online, at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: I applied for a Social Security card for my baby at the hospital, but the card came back with a misspelled name. What should I do?

A: Find at least two original documents proving your child's U.S. citizenship and identity, as well as one proof of your identity as the parent. Then go to your local Social Security office or card center to ask for a corrected card. The documents you show us must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. To find out more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

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.

	÷		+		15
-		+		÷	
	x		-		23
x		+		x	
	x		-		25
20		16		10	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4 © 2013 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4 ★★ HOO BOY!

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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: V equals R

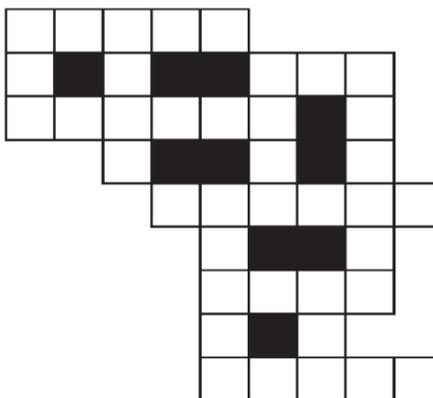
EJ XGPGVWZ EYXGBSX WVG
JFIYM FY W LFPWUZG HEYMFH
BFPGV, LEDKS SKFXG UG
XKISSGV UIDX?

Answer Page 4

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- ALD
- ♥ TANDER
- EDILY
- YIRW
- NAYTID
- KWO
- ♥ DEWL
- LAWYR
- ERY
- ♥ ELKDIN
- TWYRA
- KRNA



Answer Page 4

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

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was Martin Luther King Jr. who made the following sage observation: "Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will."

• Are you a dromomaniac? If you travel compulsively, you are.

• The famed statue Venus de Milo was lost to history for nearly 2,000 years. No one knew of its existence until 1820, when a Greek peasant tilling a field on the island of Milos hit stone – several carved blocks of stone, to be specific. Within a few weeks, archaeologists arrived and took the statue of Aphrodite to France. King Louis XVIII dubbed it the Venus de Milo and donated it to the Louvre, where it remains today.

• You might be surprised to learn that Humphrey Bogart wasn't the producers' first choice for the role of Rick in "Casablanca." An actor named George Raft was originally offered the part, but he turned it down because he didn't like the script.

• In 2010, a new species of slug was discovered in the mountains of Borneo. It is distinguished from other species of slug by its novel method of mating: It shoots its mate with a so-called love dart made of calcium carbonate and containing hormones. The researchers nicknamed the gastropods "ninja slugs."

• If you're traveling to Kansas anytime soon, be sure to remember that it is against the law in that state to catch fish with your bare hands.

• During the original run of the classic 1960s TV series "Gilligan's Island," some viewers took the show rather too seriously. Several telegrams were sent to the U.S. Coast Guard asking why the poor people hadn't yet been rescued.

Thought for the Day: "I want a man who is kind and understanding. Is that too much to ask of a millionaire?"

– Zsa Zsa Gabor

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