



NEWSBRIEFS

Annexation on hold

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal and City of Socorro officials agreed to a temporary restraining order and an order setting a hearing of temporary injunction that will delay the City of Socorro's annexation plans. 34th District Court Judge William E. Moody signed the orders on Feb. 13. A hearing will be held Friday, Feb. 22 and the question before the court is whether or not an injunction will be issued that will stop Socorro from annexing land. There have been objections to Socorro's plan from surrounding communities. The key issue will be whether or not some of the current City of Socorro council members are legally seated. A change in election dates caused some of the terms to run past the term limits. Other members of the council resigned because of this issue.

Walk with Ancestors

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology will present a tour of the exhibit, Walking with the Ancestors: From Mesoamerica to the Southwest, beginning at 3 p.m., Saturday, March 2, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road. Admission is free and open to the public. Dr. Yolanda Chávez Leyva, chairperson of the History Department at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and the exhibit's guest curator, will lead the tour through the displays that she helped create in collaboration with the History Department and Museo Urbano (a public history project) at UTEP. According to Leyva, the exhibit is designed to show the connections across time and space among people of this continent. The exhibit consists of various pottery wares, photographs of ancient images on stone, folk stories, and other artifacts. She stated that the displays draw on themes of hearth, corn, rain, macaw parrots, the rabbit in the moon, and the peyote cactus to trace the movement of ancient people between Mesoamerica and the American Southwest. Included in the exhibit is a "Día de los Muertos" altar that illustrates the nine levels of the journey to Mictlan, the place in Aztec beliefs where most people go after death. The exhibit will be open through March 24. For more information, call 915-755-4332, send email to guidamr@elpasotexas.gov or visit the museum's website at www.elpasotexas.gov/arch_museum/

— Alfredo Vasquez

Villa appointment

Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Cynthia Villa of El Paso to the Texas Department of Information Resources for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2019. The department is charged with improving technology decisions and ensuring appropriate use

See BRIEFS, Page 8

There are no illegitimate children — only illegitimate parents.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

MAKING PLANS — The Village of Vinton was selected recently to participate in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Assistance with Sustainable Strategies for Small Town and Rural Areas program. The assistance program is designed to help communities identify which issues and concepts are most relevant for their existing conditions and interest. The outcome will be the basis of strategies and next steps aimed at improving the environment in these communities.

EPA to help Vinton with economic strategies

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

VINTON — The Village of Vinton TX, a rural town of nearly 2,000 residents in El Paso's Upper Valley, is among 43 communities in

27 states that will receive technical assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to pursue sustainable growth that encourages local economic development while safeguarding public health and the environment.

EPA officials announced recently that

EPA staff and national experts will conduct workshops in Vinton that will focus on the Sustainable Strategies for Small Town and Rural Areas and Green Building toolkits as part of the EPA-funded assistance program. The workshops will be held in April.

Workshop participants will explore with EPA staff and private-sector experts the tools available to Vinton for making progress toward its community goals. The workshops' intent is to promote environmentally responsible, economically healthy development, according to a Village of Vinton news release.

The assistance will give village officials the opportunity to review a menu of improvements that rural and small-town governments can make to their zoning codes and planning documents to protect community character and quality of life, as well as identify policies that support compact development of sustainably-built homes and buildings, the news release stated.

"Vinton was awarded the assistance after responding to an open request for technical assistance for the Community Building Blocks program in October, and the assistance will be provided at no cost to Vinton", said Jessica Garza, village clerk for Vinton.

"The consultants being provided by the EPA will guide our Planning & Zoning Commission through the process of updating Vinton's local subdivision, zoning and building ordinances which have not been comprehensively update since 1997," Garza said.

"It is important to note, that this assistance is being provided due to a partnership with the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and its Center for Environmental Resource Management. Patricia Juarez, PhD. was instrumental in assisting with the preparation of the letters of interest. We look forward to future collaborations with UTEP," Garza added.

EPA selected this year's recipients from 121 applicants through a competitive process in consultation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). To date, EPA's assistance through these programs has reached 141 communities. Together, the three agencies form the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which coordinate investments in housing, transportation, and environmental protection to get better results for communities and use taxpayer money more efficiently.

In addition to Vinton, the selected communities for the Sustainable Strategies for Small Town and Rural Areas Tool

Gonzalez opens El Paso office

By Robert Grijalva
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Freshman legislator Mary Gonzalez held an open house on Saturday, Feb. 16, at the new district office for House District 75. It was an opportunity for visitors to also meet her chief of staff and district director.

By winning the primary election last summer, she was on the November general election ballot. Having no opponents in the race, she was elected handily and was sworn in as State Representative District 75 on January 8 at the state capitol on the first day of the legislative session.

Gonzalez is the 7th resident of El Paso County to be elected to District 75. The first was Allen Blacker who served from 1881 to 1883. Of special historical significance is the fact that she is the first woman to represent that district. She succeeded Representative Chente Quintanilla.

During the first month of the session, there is no work on new laws before the members are appointed to their committees. Gonzalez was appointed to the House Committee on County Affairs and the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock.

At this point, she has filed 14 bills dealing with education, the dairy industry, and work place



— Photo by Robert Grijalva

OPEN FOR BUSINESS — State Representative Mary Gonzalez (seated) is flanked by her Chief of Staff, Roger Garza; and her District Director, Arlina Palacios. Gonzalez has opened her El Paso office at 11200 Santos Sanchez. A phone for the new office is pending.

issues in addition to others. For El Paso County, her two bills on re-establishing dairy farms in the county are of paramount importance. This and other bills will be reviewed in later articles.

Gonzalez has appointed her two most important staffers: chief of staff and district director. She does have volunteer interns who will also assist her in Austin.

Gonzalez appointed Roger Garza as her Chief of Staff. Garza has been involved in the Texas House as a staffer since 2007. His

name is well known there as a result of his involvement in the Democratic Caucus. The Caucus is the nerve center for House leaders of the Democratic Party in their effort to benefit the needs of their constituents. He last worked for Representative Farias.

Garza has visited El Paso on several occasions. He provided candidate Joe Moody assistance in the race for District 78 on the west side of the county.

See GONZALEZ, Page 6

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Finances By Jason Alderman

Should you hire a tax preparer?

The U.S. tax code grows more complicated every year and currently spans thousands of pages – even government experts can't agree exactly how long it is. So it's not surprising that millions of Americans hire professional tax preparers to complete their returns. Relinquishing the onerous task of calculating your taxes to a

professional may save you time and give peace of mind – they know more about tax law than you do, right? But remember: You're still legally responsible for all information on the return. So if the preparer makes a mistake or intentionally defrauds the government, you'll be on the hook for any additional taxes, interest and penalties – even possible prosecution.

The IRS notes that although most tax return preparers are professional, honest and serve their clients well, taxpayers should use the same standards for choosing a preparer as they would for a doctor or lawyer, and be on the lookout for incompetence and criminal activity.

There are several basic types of tax preparers: certified public accountants, IRS-designated enrolled agents, tax attorneys, storefront agents (think H&R Block) and self-employed preparers.

The first three types must meet their own licensing agency's continuing education and licensing requirements and are bound by ethical standards; they're also the only professionals authorized to represent you before the IRS on all tax matters, including audits, collection and appeals. Others may only represent you for audits of returns they actually prepared. Always ask whether they belong to any professional organizations with continuing-education requirements.

Here are tips for choosing the right tax return preparer:

- Request an initial free consultation at which you can share last year's return and discuss how

your situation has changed.

- Ask how their fees are determined – some charge by the number of forms (schedules) filed, others by the hour. You might pay anywhere from \$100 to many thousands of dollars, depending on the complexity of your situation, where you live, the agent's credentials, etc.

- One good way to get a sense of fees is to ask what they would have charged to complete your last year's return.

- Be wary of tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers. No one can estimate your refund without first reviewing your financial information.

- Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the refund.

- Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the return months or years after it's been filed.

- Check their credentials and find out if any complaints have been filed with the Better Business Bureau.

- Reputable preparers will ask to see receipts and will ask multiple questions to determine whether expenses qualify for deduction.

- Ask whether your return's preparation will be outsourced, which means your personal information could be transmitted electronically to another firm, possibly outside the U.S.

- Ask about their experience with IRS audits and what their fees would be to represent you in an audit.

- Ask their policy for reimbursing you for fines, penalties and interest if it turns out you owe back taxes on a return they prepared – many have insurance for that purpose.

And finally, don't muddy the waters by linking your tax-return fee to buying another product the preparer may be trying to sell, such as a refund-anticipation loan or check, retirement savings account or insurance policy.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

New record keeping system close to rollout

Remember the elaborate plans to hook up computer systems between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs so that all medical records were instantly available? One set of records would follow an individual from active duty all the way through veteran status. It was to be ready in 2017 and was called the integrated electronic health record (IEHR).

That proposed plan has been dumped.

Now the idea, officials say, is to get as much of this system in place as quickly as they can. Instead of going with the full program, a pilot program will begin this summer at a few rehab centers. By December, they hope to standardize the data between the VA and DoD and create real-time data exchanges.

Veterans will be able to access all of their information, including lab tests, notes and prescriptions, and take it to any doctor. Doctors will be able to access health records at any VA or DoD facility.

By the end of the year, they'll have finished the upgrade to the graphic interface across both the VA and DoD systems. By early next year, a system will be used that will allow veterans to download their medical records in a format that can be read by both the DoD and VA.

When finished, the system will have medical records on 18 million active-duty personnel and veterans.

In a meeting with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said, "Some have argued that we should build a perfect system. Some argued that we'll never be able to do this. But for the first time, both DOD and VA have come together to say we can get this done."

This is a positive step forward.

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.

Vinton

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are: Bowling Green, Fla.; Brattleboro, Vt.; Maui, Hawaii; Murray, Ky.; New Castle, Del.; Williamson, N.Y.; Yurok Tribe, Calif.; and Zolfo Springs, Fla. The selected communities for the Green Building Toolkit were Vinton and Boise, Idaho.

The Sustainable Strategies for Small Town and Rural Areas Toolkit, which is tailored to fit the needs and capacity of each community, focuses on identifying specific strategies to address key goals common to small towns and rural communities, such as supporting the rural landscapes, helping existing places thrive, and creating great new places, EPA officials stated.

The Green Building Toolkit is based on EPA's Sustainable

Design and Green Building Toolkit, a publication that features a discussion of green building techniques and strategies at the local government level. This toolkit focuses on actions that communities can take for evaluating their green building practices, EPA officials stated.

"If we want a healthier environment and a stronger economy, sustainable practices must be part of community development across the country," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "The EPA's Building Blocks program helps communities invest in sustainable growth techniques, so they can plan for a better future. The short-term, targeted assistance we are providing will help stimulate local economies, while protecting people's health and safeguarding the environment."

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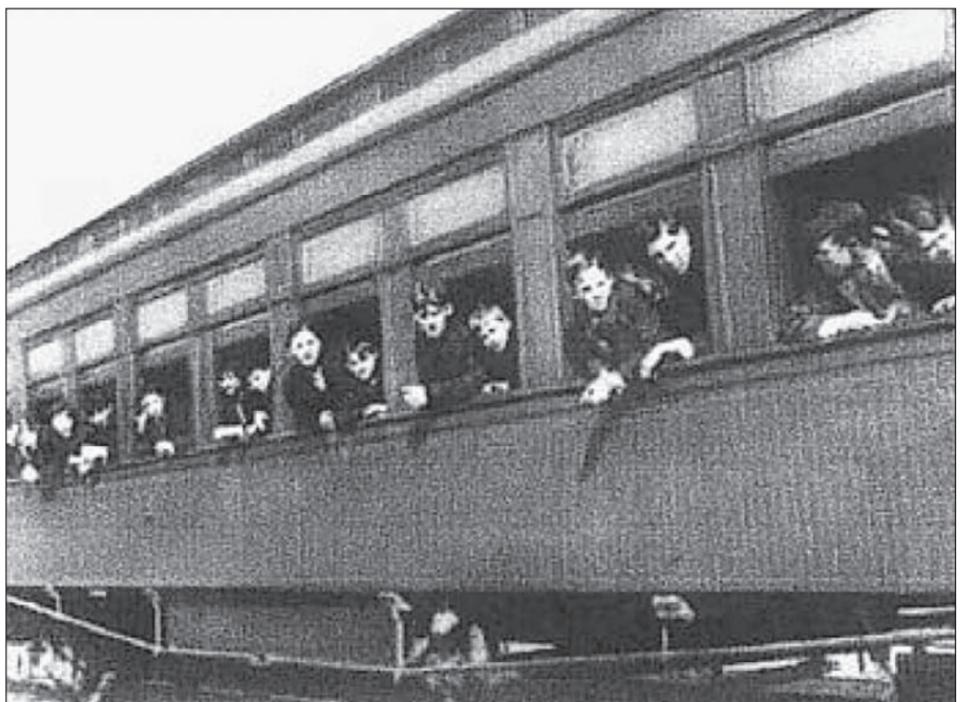
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— Photos courtesy of Allison Moore and Phil Lancaster

SHIPPED OUT – The *Riders on the Orphan Train* presentation tells the story of 250,000 orphans and unwanted children who were placed on trains in New York between 1854 and 1929 and sent all over the United States to be given away.

‘Orphan Train’ brings to life untold chapter in American History

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – “Riders on the Orphan Train”, a multi-media production about the largest child migration in American history, will be presented at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, at the El Paso Museum of History, 510 N. Santa Fe Street. Admission is free and open to the public.

Through literature, music, archival photographs, film interviews, informal lecture and storytelling, presenters Alison Moore, a writer, and Phil Lancaster, a musician, will bring to life a virtually untold chapter in this country’s history.

The multi-media presentation tells the story of 250,000 orphans and unwanted children who were placed on trains in New York between 1854 and 1929 and sent all over the United States to be given away. An estimated 1,200 came to Texas, such as Sarah Lousina Parks who came to El Paso around 1910, according to Sue Taylor, an El Paso Museum of History representative.

As part of the presentation, Moore will read excerpts from her forthcoming historical novel about the orphan trains. The book is a project funded by a grant from the Texas Institute of Letters and the Dobie/Paisano Foundation of the University of Texas at Austin. An informal discussion led by Moore and Lancaster will follow the reading.

Moore, MFA, is a Humanities Scholar in Texas and former assistant professor of English/Creative Writing in the Creative

Writing Program at the University of Arizona. She lives in Austin where she is completing the *Orphan Trains* novel.

Lancaster, a musician with the Arkansas Arts on Tour, was born in Texarkana and studied art and music at L’Ecole De Beaux Arts in Angers, France. He was a member of a bluegrass band that toured throughout France and produced an album, entitled *Bluegrass Oldies Ltd./Traveling Show*. Lancaster received an Arkansas Arts Council fellowship for Music Composition in 2007. He currently lives in Austin.

The multi-media event is co-sponsored by a Humanities Texas grant. For more information or to reserve a seat for the program, contact Sue Taylor at 351-3588 or send email to taylorsl@elpasotexas.gov.



HISTORY LESSON – Writer Allison Moore (right) and musician Phil Lancaster will present the origin and demise of the largest child migration in history and the part it played in the formation of the American Dream.

Moore Texas by Roger Moore Did you know that Texas produces 3 times as much electricity from windmills than any other state ?



STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was former heavyweight champion and social activist Muhammad Ali who made the following observation: "A nation is only as good as its women."

- During World War I, fully one-third of all men in England between the ages of 17 and 35 were killed.

- The 20th century saw some profound changes in society, and here is one of the more striking examples: Between 1900 and 1990, the lifespan of the average American man increased from less than 47 years to more than 72 years.

- You might be surprised to learn that 20 percent of American families don't have bank accounts.

- It was in the late 1930s when Harry Reeves, a writer for the Donald Duck cartoon, decided that introducing three nephews would open up a lot of story lines. At a loss for names for the characters, Reeves asked Jim Carmichael, who also worked on the cartoons, for suggestions. Carmichael was busy with his own work, but in glancing down at the newspaper on his desk he noticed Thomas E. Dewey and Huey P. Long were both mentioned in headlines, so he suggested Huey and Dewey. A friend named Louie Schmitt stopped in to say hello at that moment, so he added Louie as the third nephew.

- Jack Nicholson has been nominated for an Academy Award 12 times (more than any other actor in history) and has won the award twice. He also appeared in two episodes of "The Andy Griffith Show."

- In 1974, a Gallup poll found that the most admired man in America was Henry Kissinger.

Thought for the Day: "Show me a great actor and I'll show you a lousy husband; show me a great actress, and you've seen the devil."
 — W.C. Fields

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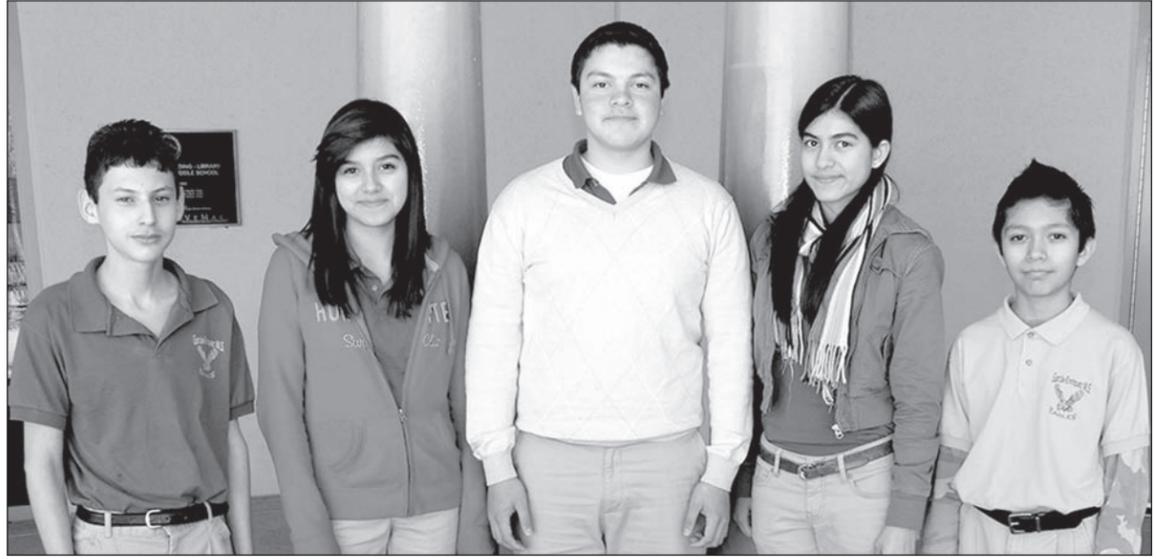
Contest pushes creativity of San Eli GT students

By Cynthia P. Marentes
 Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Students from the San Elizario Independent School District participating in the Gifted and Talented program are expected to excel academically at school. During a typical day their abilities may not be easily noticeable but given the opportunity to experience educational challenges beyond their regular school curriculum, their talents and strengths flourish. Such is the case with San Elizario ISD students who competed in the Adventures in Learning Team Quest Regional Competition from February 5-8.

Teams of Gifted and Talented (GT) students in grades 3-12 competed in different contests working in groups by grade levels to solve a problem based on a specific topic. According to Beatriz Briones, instructional officer, the competition serves as a component of the district's GT program.

"It provides students with out



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

SMART COOKIES – Robert Reyes, Dayanna Huerta, Andres Calderon, Cynthia Reyes and Ramiro Estrada. These are 7th and 8th grade students from Garcia-Enriquez Middle School who earned high scores in the Team Quest Regional Competition held in early February.

of school experiences that allow them to participate in activities that interest them while also meeting program standards," Briones said.

Briones added that the focus of Team Quest is on developing the creativity skills of students and

incorporating those skills into the high levels of rigor that the contest demands. The teams from San Elizario first competed in December and earned some of the highest scores in the region. The theme for this year's regional competition

held this month was "A Journey Through the Rainforest" and again San Elizario students were able to post impressive scores.

"Our first experience has been

See SAN ELI, Page 8

Fabens Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2012

| Data Control Codes | 10 General Fund | ESEA I, A Improving Basic Program | 50 Debt Service Fund | Other Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| REVENUES: | | | | | |
| 5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources | \$ 1,674,441 | \$ - | \$ 295,147 | \$ 320,922 | \$ 2,290,510 |
| 5800 State Program Revenues | 16,685,772 | - | 1,469,199 | 376,194 | 18,531,165 |
| 5900 Federal Program Revenues | 1,586,890 | 1,866,299 | - | 1,766,137 | 5,219,326 |
| 5020 Total Revenues | 19,947,103 | 1,866,299 | 1,764,346 | 2,463,253 | 26,041,001 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | |
| 0011 Instruction | 11,329,524 | 1,334,188 | - | 1,894,611 | 14,558,323 |
| 0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services | 284,336 | - | - | - | 284,336 |
| 0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development | 106,387 | 245,996 | - | 5,692 | 358,075 |
| 0021 Instructional Leadership | 216,230 | 144,158 | - | 168,003 | 528,391 |
| 0023 School Leadership | 1,230,740 | 112,236 | - | 33,734 | 1,376,710 |
| 0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services | 608,556 | - | - | 212,731 | 821,287 |
| 0032 Social Work Services | 39,377 | - | - | 73,487 | 112,864 |
| 0033 Health Services | 334,996 | - | - | 606 | 335,602 |
| 0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation | 377,532 | - | - | - | 377,532 |
| 0035 Food Services | 1,252,580 | - | - | 15,722 | 1,268,302 |
| 0036 Extracurricular Activities | 707,671 | - | - | - | 707,671 |
| 0041 General Administration | 1,126,124 | - | - | - | 1,126,124 |
| 0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations | 2,673,624 | - | - | 1,356 | 2,674,980 |
| 0052 Security and Monitoring Services | 276,783 | - | - | - | 276,783 |
| 0053 Data Processing Services | 219,550 | - | - | - | 219,550 |
| 0061 Community Services | 51,108 | 29,721 | - | 36,609 | 117,438 |
| Debt Service: | | | | | |
| 0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt | - | - | 645,000 | - | 645,000 |
| 0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt | - | - | 1,123,571 | - | 1,123,571 |
| 0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees | - | - | 600 | - | 600 |
| Capital Outlay: | | | | | |
| 0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction | 111,805 | - | - | - | 111,805 |
| Intergovernmental: | | | | | |
| 0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges | 24,456 | - | - | - | 24,456 |
| 6030 Total Expenditures | 20,971,379 | 1,866,299 | 1,769,171 | 2,442,551 | 27,049,400 |
| 1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | (1,024,276) | - | (4,825) | 20,702 | (1,008,399) |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES): | | | | | |
| 7915 Transfers In | - | - | 5 | 844,337 | 844,342 |
| 8911 Transfers Out (Use) | (844,337) | - | - | (5) | (844,342) |
| 7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses) | (844,337) | - | 5 | 844,332 | - |
| 1200 Net Change in Fund Balances | (1,868,613) | - | (4,820) | 865,034 | (1,008,399) |
| 0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning) | 6,049,051 | - | (76,564) | (774,185) | 5,198,302 |
| 1300 Prior Period Adjustments | (38,453) | - | 181,691 | (45,740) | 97,498 |
| 3000 Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending) | \$ 4,141,985 | \$ - | \$ 100,307 | \$ 45,109 | \$ 4,287,401 |

Another useless debate fills the basketball world

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

You would think that all the latest talk surrounding the NBA would concentrate on the tight playoff races.

Will the Miami Heat repeat as champs? Will the Oklahoma Thunder take revenge and win it all? Are the Los Angeles Clippers the new big kids on the block? Will the Lakers make the playoffs at all?

Or you would think the talk would surround potential trades. Are the Lakers going to trade Pau Gasol or Dwight Howard? Are the New York Knicks going to keep Amare Stoudemire? Could the Boston Celtics really be thinking about moving Kevin Garnett?

Those topics are touched on from time to time but the real talk surrounding the league at the current time involves two players who will never ever play against one another.

For some reason, all the talking sports heads are asking the question, who is the better player – Michael Jordan or LeBron James?

You see it everywhere. It's like the government suddenly set up a task force to

study this question of all questions.

Some reporter went out of his way to ask Jordan if he thought James was better than Kobe Bryant.

Jordan, who usually gives pretty insightful answers, said that five was more than one. Meaning that he thought Kobe was better because he played on five championship teams while LeBron played on one.

The real insightful answer was given my James when he was asked about MJ's response.

JeBron said using that analogy, he would have to be forced to say that he would take Bill Russell (who won 11 titles) over Michael Jordan (who won 6). But James said he would never do that.

He said you can't just judge the greatness of a player by the number of championships he's been a part of. There are just too many other factors.

And this whole LeBron vs. Jordan thing is so ridiculous. It seems like sports guys today believe the NBA started only 20 years ago while they were alive to see it.

When you talk about the best of all time you have to include players like Russell and Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West and Oscar

Robertson and Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Larry Bird and Magic Johnson and Elgin Baylor, and many others.

And you have to consider many things. Did this guy rebound, could he shoot, could he defend, could he pass, was he a leader, did he make his teammates better, could he handle the ball, did he make his free throws, could he make the big shot to win games?

Being flashy and dunking on the ESPN highlights every night doesn't make you the best ever. But that seems to be the main criteria nowadays.

How many of you out there believe that Robert Horry was better than Michael Jordan?

I don't see any hands raised so I'll assume none of you believe that. But Horry won seven NBA championships (2 with Houston, 3 with the Lakers and 2 with San Antonio).

The notion that a player is better than another because he's been fortunate to win more titles is silly.

Last I saw, teams win championships.

The star of the team

Back in 1959, I entered the world without much fanfare.

During that same year the Dallas Cowboys were born. They didn't start playing football games until 1960, but the franchise was actually born the same year I was.

Of course the Cowboys' first incredible move was hiring Tom Landry as their head coach.

One of Tom Landry's first moves was to hire an equipment manager by the name of Jack Eskridge.

It was a masterful hire. Oh, I don't know how good of an equipment manager he was, though he did stay with the team until 1973.

But Mr. Eskridge will always be associated with the Cowboys. In fact, everybody sees his handiwork every time they look at a Dallas Cowboys player.

You see, it was Eskridge who designed the famed Dallas Cowboys' star. The same star you see on the helmet and on everything associated with the team.

Unfortunately, Eskridge died last week at the age of 89.

And though he is no longer around, his logo – probably the most recognized sports logo in the world – will be around for decades to come.

And that's one whale of a legacy.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The winning formula

I was watching a basketball game the other day with a friend, and as friends are wont to do, we started talking about the game. I remarked that I didn't like the style of play being employed by one of the teams.

"Why don't they just play regular basketball? The coach is treating his team like a hockey team. What's this, their checking line?"

My friend disagreed.

"They're trying to make it work," he said.

Well, yeah... I didn't think he was trying to make them fail, but whatever it was it wasn't leading to much success on the court that afternoon.

"They need to pick a starting five," I said. "Pick five and get a shooter off a bench. The end."

"But you can't pick a starting five when you can't find five decent players," he replied.

I've long maintained that the "formula" for a winning basketball team – particularly at the college level, goes something like this:

1. You start with the coach. There's a reason that coaches like Bill Self, Coach K, Roy Williams and so on win every year. They are able to recruit better because they know the holes to plug in their very successful systems. More often than not, they do not fit their system around the player, the player falls in line with the system. Winning, of course, leads

to better recruits and revenues, and that's how dynasties are made.

2. Then, in no particular order you would like a Gibraltar-esque center who is immovable in the paint and can shoot a nice jump shot when needed. You need a power forward who can rebound and score off the rebound, too. A small forward who slashes to the net, gets to the line and falls back on defense. The point guard has to be the best ball-handler, a slick passer and somebody who can drop in the three-point money shot to win the game when needed. The shooting guard should, you know, be able not only to shoot but actually score, too. Off the bench, a three-point specialist would not hurt and a paint-protector for defense. Then, you fill out the rest with shooters.

See? Not so hard, right?

The conversation veered to other sports.

The winning formula for a

baseball team was deemed to be, in order, the following:

1. A starting pitcher... a real stopper who can give you innings.
2. A fielding shortstop that can hit.
3. A second and third starter, again innings being key here.
4. A center fielder.
5. A catcher with a strong arm (negates the stolen base, helps the pitcher relax when a guy is on first).
6. A home-run hitter (hopefully he's one of the previous two).
7. A lefty reliever.
8. A closer.
9. A manager who doesn't drink too much and isn't overly concerned with the stolen base. (Apologies to Billy Martin.)

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



F-22 scheduled for 2013 Amigo Airsho

The Air Combat Command's F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team from Langley Air Force Base will perform during the 2013 Amigo Airsho according to Amigo Airsho Board President Roxie Samaniego. It is the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft. "This will be the first time that the F-22 Raptor Demonstration [Team] will perform at the Amigo Airsho," said Samaniego. The F-22 Raptor performance will feature precision aerial maneuvers to demonstrate the unique capabilities of the world's only operational fifth-generation fighter. Its combination of stealth, super-cruise, maneuverability, and integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability, represents an exponential leap in war-fighting capabilities. The Raptor performs both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions allowing full realization of operational concepts vital to the 21st century Air Force. This year's Amigo Airsho is scheduled for October 12 and 13.

– Pancho Mangan

Gonzalez

From Page 1

"The visits that I have made to El Paso County have allowed me to understand the unique problems here as opposed to central Texas. My visits to colonias educated me about the problems this and other counties are experiencing," Garza said.

Arlina Palacios was appointed as the District Director for Gonzalez. Palacios is known throughout the valley for her civic activism. Palacios

has a degree in Anthropology and History. Her family has been established in Fabens since the mid 1800s. Recently, she showed her skills in advocating issues by her opposition to the proposed Yarbrough international bridge. She had this to say about her position: "I am very proud to work for Mary Gonzalez who is a strong and intelligent woman. I see great things in the future from this office."

The District Office is located at 11200 Santos Sanchez. The street is actually on the property of the

Tigua Indians just off of Socorro Road where they have their new entertainment center and health and wellness center. Although a telephone number for the district office was not available, calls can be made to the Capitol office for more information: 512-463-0613.

Regarding the location, Gonzalez had this to say, "I am happy and honored to work in collaboration with the Tigua Indians in this office. I welcome any constituent to visit me here or speak with my staff regarding issues or assistance."

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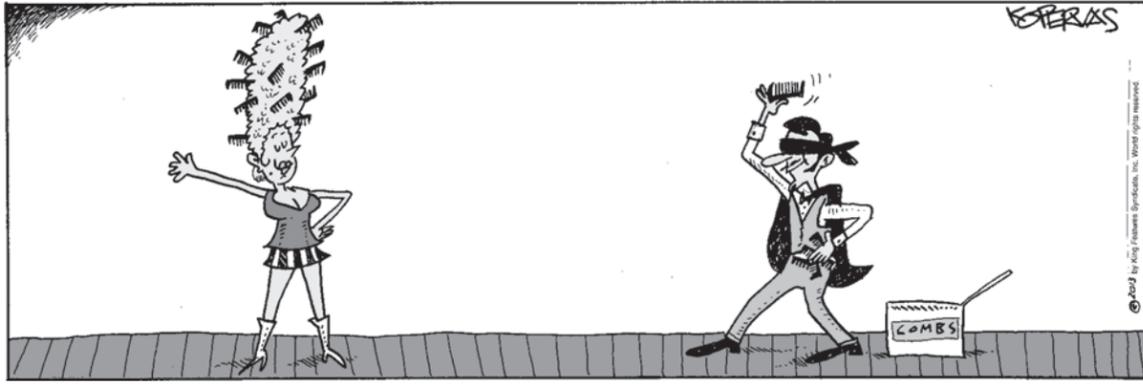
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My husband and I are in our 50s. Both of us had an exam this year from different doctors. Blood tests showed that we both have hepatitis C. Neither of us feels sick, and neither of us ever remembers acquiring this infection. Our doctors say we don't need any treatment. What is the treatment if we ever do? Are we infectious to others? – K.K.

acquiring hepatitis C virus is rare, and, that's why you and your husband didn't realize you were infected. The virus can be transmitted through blood transfusions (no longer a threat), sharing needles for drug injections, rarely through sexual relations and household contact, but more possibly through promiscuous sex and in ways yet to be determined. You're not a threat to others.

In North America, hepatitis B and C are the two most common kinds of viral hepatitis. In the United States, about 1.25 million are infected with hepatitis B virus. Five percent of infected people go on to develop a chronic infection, one in which the virus remains in the liver, and these people face the possibility of coming down with liver cirrhosis or liver cancer. A vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis B is available.

The booklet on hepatitis describes these infections and their treatment, not including the latest treatments. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No 503W, 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.

Hepatitis C infects around 3 million Americans. In contrast with hepatitis B, around 70 percent to 80 percent will have a chronic infection. A sizable number will come down with liver cirrhosis or cancer, but that doesn't happen right away. It takes 20 or more years before those complications arise.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My brother cracks his knuckles. It gives me the shivers, and I know he does it to annoy me. Can you give me any information that will scare him, like coming down with arthritis? – L.C.

When treatment of hepatitis C is advised, two medicines have been given simultaneously for many years. Those drugs are peginterferon and ribavirin. About 50 percent of chronic hepatitis C patients respond well to this regimen. However, blacks have a poorer response, with only 25 percent achieving viral suppression.

I'd love to give you some information that would stop your brother from cracking his knuckles. It bothers me, too. I can't come up with any. It doesn't cause arthritis.

A true breakthrough has arrived in the treatment of hepatitis C. Two new drugs, telaprevir (Incivek) and boceprevir (Victrelis) have had a huge impact in improving treatment success. Either of these drugs, given in conjunction with the standard treatment of ribavirin and peginterferon, greatly increases the cure rates for blacks and whites.

To produce the cracking sound, a person pulls his finger in such a way that it creates a bubble in the joint fluid. Then the bubble bursts and makes a cracking noise when it does.

An initial sickness after

I can't understand why people do this.

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) 2013 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| CLACKING CAT ACROSS | 61 Cast _ for | capital) | 29 More strange | 77 Question from |
| 1 "My dear," in Milan | 63 Pops | 120 Six Flags attractions | 32 Berlin Mrs. | Judas |
| 8 Early calculators | 64 Cuts short | 121 Unable to tear oneself away from | 33 Hit for the Jackson 5 | 78 Stand for a canvas |
| 13 Miser visited by ghosts | 70 LeBlanc of "Friends" | 122 Most tightly packed | 34 Really irk | 80 The sun, in Spain |
| 20 Protective plastic film | 73 Reminiscent of | 123 At _ of (priced at) | 35 Smelting residues | 81 " _ shall come to pass..." |
| 21 _ rex (cat breed) | 74 First Hebrew month | 124 Energy-draining things | 36 _ pin drop | 83 Pistol or rifle |
| 22 Chewed the fat | 75 Bovine milk pitcher | | 37 Places of exile | 84 Meadowland |
| 23 Start of a riddle | 79 French buddy | DOWN | 41 "King" Cole | 88 Clear, as a chalkboard |
| 25 Thaws again | 80 Blowup, in photog. | 1 Crows' calls | 42 Show a deficit | 89 Dubs anew |
| 26 Procedure: Abbr. | 81 _ Lingus | 2 In need of a massage | 43 Albania's capital | 90 Russian city or region |
| 27 Muscle fitness | 82 Elk's call | 3 Thinks through logically | 44 Albanian | 92 Sacs |
| 28 Sport _ (4WD vehicle) | 85 Rebs' gp. | 4 "Boston Legal" fig. | 45 Purple bloom | 97 Shows grief |
| 29 Galley tool | 86 Paw bottom | 5 Tiki bar drink | 47 Melodies | 99 Like fictitious tales |
| 30 A number of | 87 Riddle, part 5 | 6 "The show's starting" | 49 Melody | 100 Big name in stretchy swimwear |
| 31 Riddle, part 2 | 91 Sharp insults | 7 Cigna rival | 50 Alternative to a 401(k) | 101 Rebel as a group |
| 36 Painter Rousseau | 93 Municipal reg. | 8 Suffix with lime | 51 Twistable little treats | 102 Sacked |
| 38 In another country | 94 Verdugo or Kagan | 9 Desensitized | 52 "Nothin' " | 103 Not solidified |
| 39 Vision problem | 95 Repetitious learning | 10 2009 film set on Pandora | 60 Frequently, to a poet | 104 Mop & _ (cleaning brand) |
| 40 Klensch of fashion | 96 Moroseness | 11 Show up at | 62 Held the deed to | 105 Karaoke selections |
| 41 Terse denial | 98 Hopes that one will | 12 Ending for Benedict | 63 Strip bare | 106 Fran and Ollie's friend |
| 44 _ Aviv | 101 Lube again | 13 "Scat!" | 64 Slithering swimmer | 112 _acte (play break) |
| 46 "Ad _ per aspera" (motto of Kansas) | 102 End of the riddle | 14 Second-order angel | 66 Narrow road | 113 Parts of psyches |
| 48 Riddle, part 3 | 107 Apple line | 15 Cup top | 67 "Feel free to send me" | 115 Pittsburgh-Boston dir. |
| 53 Fifth of XV | 108 "A," in Arles | 16 Baby bodysuits | 68 Hanging Gardens city | 116 Chorus syllable |
| 54 Novelist Santha Rama _ | 109 _ offensive (1968 attack) | 17 Like films not shot in a studio | 69 Comply with | 117 Suffix with lobby or hobby |
| 55 In _ (before birth) | 110 Gehrig and Gossett | 18 Tie the knot | 70 Atlas filler | 118 Counterpart of "nope" |
| 56 Table crumb | 111 Very little | 19 Ford dud | 71 Merge into a single body | |
| 57 "Viva _ Vegas" | 114 Bacon slices | 20 2009 film set on Pandora | 72 Artificial inlet subject to ebbs and flows | |
| 58 On top of, to bards | 116 Riddle's answer | 21 Show up at | 76 Affecting the entire college, say | |
| 59 _ Martin (British auto) | 119 Saint_(Loire's | 22 Ending for Benedict | | |

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San Eli

From Page 5

positive and students have done really well competing against larger school districts," Briones concluded.

Campuses prospering in the event include San Elizario High School whose students swept the Team Quest Regional Competition against another local school placing 1st through 4th and accumulating record-breaking scores. Three teams from Garcia-Enriquez Middle School (GEMS) also earned top marks with five students qualifying for the finals.

GEMS teachers Brenda Jara, Manuel Aldaco and John Jara devoted plenty of time and personal commitment to preparing students for several months prior to the contests. Brenda Jara who teaches 8th grade English stated that she was elated at her students' accomplishments at Team Quest. She was especially pleased that

they scored exceptionally high in the engineering component of the challenge and advanced to the next level of competition. Aldaco, a 7th grade English teacher, stated that GT students from GEMS who advanced to the Team Quest finals represented all the efforts made by everyone involved with the program at the district over the years.

"From the faculty to parents to administration to the district's vision, I am proud to see the anticipation and recognition our GT students are receiving as part of their commitment in striving towards academic excellence," Aldaco said.

The mission of the San Elizario ISD GT Program is to direct efforts at engaging the intellectual, social-emotional and creative capacities of students with the collaboration of educators, parents and the community. Team Quest is just one example of a fun and ambitious activity that meets the needs of GT students as well as the goals of the program.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Cards and numbers

Do you know where your Social Security card is located? Hopefully, it's in a safe place, tucked away securely with your other important papers. It certainly should not be in your purse or wallet and should not be carried with you every day since it can be more valuable than cash to an identity thief.

Do you know your Social Security number? Chances are you have it memorized. If you know your number, you may never need your card again. It is the number, not the card, that is most important.

In the event that you lose your Social Security card and really need a replacement, you can find out all the details on how to obtain a replacement card and what specific documents you need to provide at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. Each situation is unique, but in most cases you simply need to print, complete, and either mail or bring the application to Social Security with the appropriate documentation (originals or certified copies only).

If you need to apply for a Social Security card and number for your child, you can do that the same way, and get the specific information at the same website. In almost all cases, though, an application for

your infant's Social Security card and number is taken in the hospital at the same time that you apply for your baby's birth certificate.

Why does a baby need a Social Security number? There are a number of reasons, but the main one is so that you can claim your child as a dependent on your tax return. Social Security numbers are also needed for children to apply for certain government and social service benefits.

As you prepare for tax season, just around the corner, make sure the kids (and all the dependents) that you list on your annual tax return have Social Security numbers. If you want to claim your child as a dependent on your tax return (and who doesn't?) your child will need a Social Security number. Note that all dependents listed on your federal tax return will need Social Security numbers, including a dependent parent who lives with you and receives support from you.

Learn more about Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov. And learn more about your Social Security card and number at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber, where you can print out an application and find out everything you need for your specific situation.

Briefs

From Page 1

of information resources. Villa is a certified public accountant and vice president for business affairs at The University of Texas at El Paso. She is a member of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), past chair of the NACUBO Comprehensive and Doctoral Institutions Council, and a member, past president and past executive committee member of the Texas Association of State Senior College and University Business Officers. She is an ex-officio board member and institutional review board advisory committee chair of the El Paso Children's Hospital, and board vice chair and finance committee chair of Bienvenir Senior Health Services. She is also a past board member of the Texas Connection Consortium and a graduate of Leadership El Paso. Villa received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in educational leadership from The University of Texas at El Paso, and is a graduate of the Western Association of College and University Business Officers Business Management Institute. Her appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

- Lucy Nashed

Crime Stoppers

An East El Paso convenience store is burglarized twice within 24 hours. Detectives from the El Paso Police Department are asking for your help in finding these burglars through Crime Stoppers. Just after 4 a.m., on Saturday Dec. 29, 2012, Officers responded to a burglar alarm call at the Valero located at 3001 Yarbrough. Once at the scene the Officers found that two men had forced their way into the business by breaking one of the doors to the store. The men took several packs of various beers and fled the scene. The following day, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012, at about 3:40 a.m., two men again break into the business by kicking in the glass to the front door. In this case the men made out with 3 packs of beer. Investigators through surveillance video observed the first suspect to be wearing a black hoodie, black pants, and dark shoes. The second suspect appears to be wearing a brown and white striped hoodie, dark pants, black shoes and a dark baseball cap. The business is next to several apartment complexes and homes and detectives are certain that someone knows who these two men are. If you have any information at all about the identity of the persons involved in this crime, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-TIPS(8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward up to \$1,000.

- James Klaes

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.

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DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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: L equals I

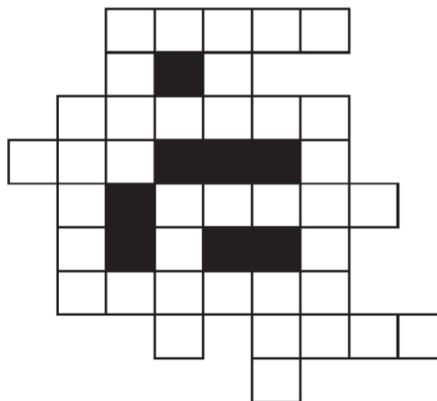
L CHBCQN NWPN LE P DLUM
UV NLICV DLTCK P ALHCV LM
LNK KVLMTX, LN ALIWN BVCECV
P QPN-P-NUMLQ.

Answer Page 4

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- EIV
- PIGRSN
- ♥ YEARP
- GISH
- TORTOG
- PYS
- ♥ ERPI
- OVRAS
- ♥ ISP
- ♥ GASSET
- NUISS
- NOYP



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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