



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Easter service

The fourth annual non-denominational Lower Valley Community Easter "Sonrise" Service will be held Easter Sunday, March 31, 2013, 6:30 a.m. at the Clint Junior High School Stadium (old high school). Following this celebration service, you are invited to a Continental Breakfast at the Clint Community Center, 211 San Elizario Rd. in Clint. 851-3145.

— Erma Nelson

### Palacios appointed

Gov. Rick Perry has reappointed El Pasoan Raymond Palacios Jr. to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Board for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2019. The board administers and enforces statutes relating to certificates of title and registration of vehicles, identifying markings on commercial motor vehicles, motor carrier registration, single state registration, motor transportation brokers, foreign commercial motor transportation, sale or lease of motor vehicles, and salvage vehicle dealers. Palacios is president of Bravo Chevrolet Cadillac. He is a member and past district director of the Texas Automotive Dealers Association, board member of the Borderplex Alliance, past president of the El Paso New Car Dealers Association, past vice chair of the General Motors Minority Dealer Advisory Council, and a past member of the National Chevrolet Dealer and Hummer Dealer Advisory councils. He is a member of the Dona Ana Community College and Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Dean's Advisory councils, a board member of the Medical Center of the Americas Foundation and CommUNITY en Acción, and a graduate of Leadership El Paso and Leadership Houston. He is also a founder and past president of the Mexican American University of Houston Alumni Association, past president of the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, and a past board member of Leadership Houston, the University of Houston Alumni Association, Yucca Council Boy Scouts of America, and El Paso Better Business Bureau. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Palacios received a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston. His appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

— Josh Havens

### Crime Stoppers

A woman is found dead in the back yard of her home in the northeast, with signs of foul play, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On Wednesday, March 6, 2013, about 12:30 p.m., officers from the Northeast Regional Command were called to the 10600 block of Onyxstone about a

See BRIEFS, Page 6

*It's easy to misconstrue the actions and words of those we dislike.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**WORKING CEMENT** – TXDOT's Transmountain Road construction project progresses gradually as freeway columns can be seen popping up along I-10 and Loop 375 between Desert North Boulevard and Northwestern Drive. The freeway's expansion is also visible while driving along Transmountain Road. The contractor is Sundt Construction, Inc. of Tucson.

## Transmountain Road spur links I-10 to Doniphan

*Spur 276 will ease Northwest congestion*

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Construction of an exit ramp at Interstate 10 and Transmountain Road is moving forward after the El Paso Public Service Board (PSB) agreed to sell 26 acres near Canutillo High School to connect Transmountain Road from Interstate 10 to Doniphan Drive and the El Paso City Council approved the sale recently.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) will pay about \$793,000 for the land to build Spur 276, a connector that will bypass Talbot Avenue in Canutillo. Officials said the project will cost \$22 million.

The proposed Spur 276 will consist of a four-lane divided road with bicycle lanes and sidewalks from I-10 at Talbot Avenue – near the outlet mall, the Westside Sports Complex, El Paso Community College (EPCC) Northwest Campus and Canutillo High School – to Doniphan Drive. Talbot Avenue also will connect to the spur.

Blanca Del Valle, a TXDOT spokeswoman, stated in a recent news release that the proposed road will improve mobility in

Northwest El Paso and relieve congestion in the Canutillo area.

"Overall traffic flow will increase for the residents in that area, shoppers going to the Outlet, EPCC, Canutillo sports complex and Canutillo High School," she stated.

Del Valle also stated that PSB is working with TXDOT to conserve the area as a natural arroyo. She stated that hiking and biking trails will be built along the arroyo that will follow the road.

The new spur, which will connect with Doniphan Drive near Borderland, will have an immediate impact on EPCC, Canutillo High School (CHS), Northwest Early College High School and the ESC Region 19 Head Start program. Presently, to get back to Canutillo from these facilities, one must travel in the opposite direction to Arcraft, then turn around and head back. Now, Isela Rubalcava Boulevard, which runs between CHS and EPCC Northwest campus, will connect to the spur.

"This appears to be a well-planned project that will greatly ease traffic congestion, and will also add to the recreational amenities in the area," said Jose Quinones, a long-time resident of the area.

Meanwhile, Northwest El Paso drivers are dealing with detours and closures on the other side of Transmountain Road. In December, crews started work on the Loop 375 Transmountain extension. The project will connect the Loop 375 that ends at Dyer to U.S. highway 54 and Transmountain Road. Additionally, TXDOT started the Transmountain Loop 375 West project to expand the part of the highway that is two lanes to four. The plan also includes other improvements to the area. Both projects are expected to be complete at the end of 2013 or early 2014.

Transmountain Road's west-side expansion will affect a 3.6-mile portion of Loop 375 and will also include two direct connector ramps to Interstate 10. The new freeway will affect the

## Cancer prevention options available for low-income women

By Robert Grijalva  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Women in low-income households fear the diagnosis of breast and cervical cancer because of the economic consequences as well as the physical. The Chronic Disease and Cancer Consortium (CDCC) in El Paso can assist those women in preventing the disease as well as getting early examinations.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services website:

*"Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among women in Texas. Cervical cancer ranks seventh of the leading cancers diagnosed among Texas Women. Surviving breast and cervical cancer depends on how early the cancer is detected. The best method to detect breast or cervical cancer in its early stages is through regular screening."*

The CDCC has a dual approach toward

combating the death rate due to breast and cervical cancer. The CDCC actively assists many women in getting breast examinations, mammograms, pelvic examinations and Pap tests. Also, participants are encouraged to live healthier through educational programs that promote better diets and exercise.

In its effort to increase early detection, the CDCC has teamed with the Susan G. Komen Foundation along with state grant money to provide screening for low-income women. The state funds are from the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services program. The program provides the clinical breast examinations, mammograms, pelvic examinations, and Pap test throughout the state at little or no cost. Eligible women must have income of 200% below the state poverty level and not have been examined in the past two years.

"As part of its mission, the CDCC advocates for cancer patients and families

See CANCER, Page 5

**Finances** By Jason Alderman

# Insurance you can probably do without

I'm a big believer in having the appropriate amount of insurance, especially when it comes to your health and personal liability. But if money is tight and you want to get the most bang for your buck, there are a few types of insurance you can probably do without – or that may duplicate coverage you already have elsewhere:

- **Extended warranties.** When you buy a car, appliance or electronic device, the salesclerk usually will try to sell you an extended warranty. These policies often duplicate coverage already provided in the manufacturer's warranty. Plus, many credit cards provide an additional warranty on items purchased with the card.

- **Smartphone insurance.** After shelling out big bucks for a smartphone, you might be tempted to buy replacement insurance. Just be aware that you'll probably pay a hefty deductible and likely receive

a refurbished phone, possibly not even the same model. My advice: Keep your old phone to reactivate in case you drop or lose the new one.

- **Flight accident insurance.** The risk of dying in a plane crash is miniscule and already covered by regular life insurance. Also check your credit card cardholder agreement, since many cover such accidents for tickets purchased with their card.

- **Child life insurance.** Life insurance is intended to provide economic protection for a person's dependents, so unless your children are movie stars supporting you, this coverage is probably unnecessary. You can better protect their future by stowing those monthly premiums in an emergency savings account or buying additional term life insurance for yourself.

- **Pet insurance.** With veterinary treatments now rivaling human medicine (organ transplants,

chemotherapy, etc.), you could easily spend a small fortune keeping Fido alive. Before buying pet insurance, however, compare plan features carefully and weigh the expense you'd pay out over your pet's lifetime. For example, monthly premiums increase with your pet's age, deductibles and copayments are typically higher than for human coverage and there are usually predetermined per-year and per-condition caps. Plus, preexisting and hereditary conditions usually are not covered.

- **Rental car insurance.** In most cases, the optional insurance offered by car rental agencies duplicates existing coverage you already have. However, before automatically rejecting agency coverage, ask your insurance company and credit card issuer whether you are fully covered for rental cars. A few considerations:

Coverage through your auto policy often expires after 30 days or less of renting the car. Sports cars, luxury models, SUVs and trucks are often excluded.

Travel outside service areas typically is forbidden – especially across foreign borders or in rough terrain. If you don't carry

comprehensive and collision coverage on your own car, your insurance may not cover a rental. Also, ask whether such coverage is limited to your own car's value, since most rentals are new.

Ask what happens if you violate rental agreement terms (e.g., driving recklessly or allowing unauthorized drivers).

- **Specified disease insurance.** Some people take out supplemental health and life insurance against specific conditions such as cancer, heart disease or stroke. Before buying, make sure you have

adequate major medical insurance, which already covers such conditions. And carefully review the policy for restrictions. For example, many cancer insurance policies won't pay for outpatient care or cover skin cancer, and impose fixed-dollar limits on specific procedures.

When it comes to your budget – and your family's security – it pays to know which insurance is essential and which you can probably skip.

*Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.*

## Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

### Agent Orange: Gagetown

I'm very disappointed, and I can only imagine how Sen. Susan Collins feels. Last year, the senator from Maine asked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to investigate the use of Agent Orange and other chemicals at training base Gagetown in New Brunswick, Canada.

Over the years, many American service personnel, specifically National Guard and Reservists, did training at that location. Collins asked for an investigation to determine whether veterans were exposed to toxic herbicide and defoliant chemicals between 1956 and 1986. While the U.S. apparently sprayed only between 1966 and 1967, the Canadians had been spraying for decades, likely from 1956 to 2004.

The Department of Health and Human Services sent Collins a letter in July 2012 saying that the CDC and ASTDR had concerns about Gagetown and would be sending away for documents from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Consumer Produce Safety Commission and the CDC's National Center for

Environmental Health as part of "a thorough investigation" of the Agent Orange situation.

The report from the CDC came back recently. What it actually did – and this is what disturbs Senator Collins – is review the 2007 Canadian report. It didn't do its own research, and it apparently didn't talk to medical personnel who are treating the veterans who have illnesses that could well be tied to the time they spent at Gagetown.

The CDC's determination: Americans who trained there "suffered no health risks from exposure to Agent Orange and other chemicals."

The ATSDR requested full documentation from the Canadian Forces Health Services Group, and seems to believe it got "complete reports." I wonder if it's checked the copies of original documents at [www.agentorangecanada.com](http://www.agentorangecanada.com).

*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](mailto:columnreply@gmail.com). (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.*

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**VS. EAST CAROLINA | 3.30.13 | NOON**  
**VS. HOUSTON | 4.13.13 | 2 PM & 4 PM**  
**VS. HOUSTON | 4.14.13 | NOON**  
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ITEM: APPLYING FOR OBAMACARE "AS DAUNTING AS DOING YOUR TAXES"



### View from here By Billy Hamilton

## Forward thinking tax policy Give Texas a competitive tech edge

When businesses look to Texas, they see a leader among the states economically. Our job creation and business-friendly climate is legendary.

Other states yearn for the Texas advantage, but in many cases, twenty states plus the District of Columbia, our competition is well ahead of the game when it comes to attracting the engine of the new economy – technology investment. And that’s all because of the way Texas chooses to tax the manufacturers of technology and telecommunications networks.

Most Texans know the sales tax because they pay it on many of the items they buy – such as clothing, furniture, cable, Internet, and phone service. But in fact, 45 percent of all sales taxes are paid by not by individuals, but by businesses on the items they buy.

For example, Texas is one of 30 states that apply sales tax to business purchases of telecommunications network equipment and one of 31 states plus the District of Columbia that taxes cable network investment, according to the Broadband Tax Institute.

Texas has the eighth highest tax rate for wireless and wireline telecommunications and the 7th highest rate for cable investment. Other states are able to lure greater technology investment because they don’t subject that investment to a 6 percent state sales tax, as Texas does. That means those states offer lower costs and better investment returns, and as a result attract better telecommunications networks and coverage for their residents and customers.

Think wireless smartphones. Think broadband connectivity for your homes and businesses. Think of the infrastructure that delivers the health care, education, transportation, communications and consumer innovations that you enjoy each and every day. All of these things rely on wireless and wireline networks to “power” them.

That’s why House Bill 1133 by Representative John Otto of Dayton and SB 1330 by Senator Craig Estes could be game changers in this respect. SB 1330 and HB 1133 would remove a hurdle in our state’s ability to remain competitive when it comes to technology and telecommunications infrastructure.

SB 1330 and HB 1133 extends the current exemption from state sales tax for manufacturing equipment to the investments companies make to build and maintain our crucial networks.

The current manufacturing exemption was enacted in the 1980s, and it fit the shape of the economy back then – a time before the Internet, the tech revolution, mobile broadband and the apps economy swept the globe. The idea is that you do not tax capital investment that is used to make the products and deliver the critical technology services we use every day.

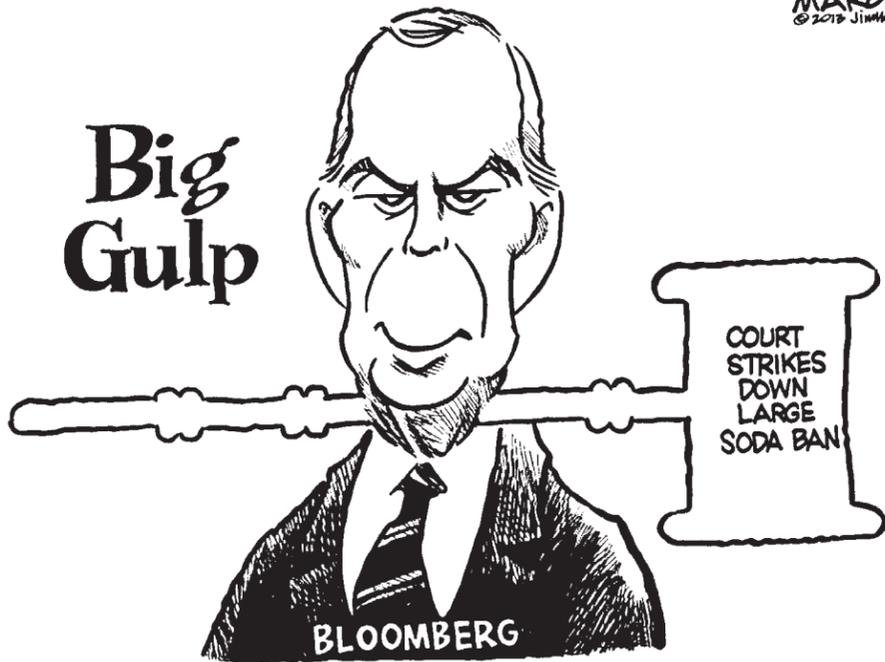
But that’s exactly what we’re doing: saddling investment in new economy equipment under an antiquated tax policy built around what manufacturing meant 30 years ago, not today.

That’s a problem because Texas effectively imposes a 6 percent state sales tax on investment that we should be trying to encourage and that we need to attract to remain competitive on the job, at home and around the globe.

Rep. Otto’s and Sen. Estes’ legislation represents the kind of forward thinking policy that will put Texas back on top in leading the charge for investment and innovation in this fast-paced, dynamic and highly competitive economy driven by tech. It’s a job creating, investment spurring powerhouse bill. And, that’s something we can and should all get behind.

*Billy Hamilton is a former deputy comptroller for the State of Texas.*

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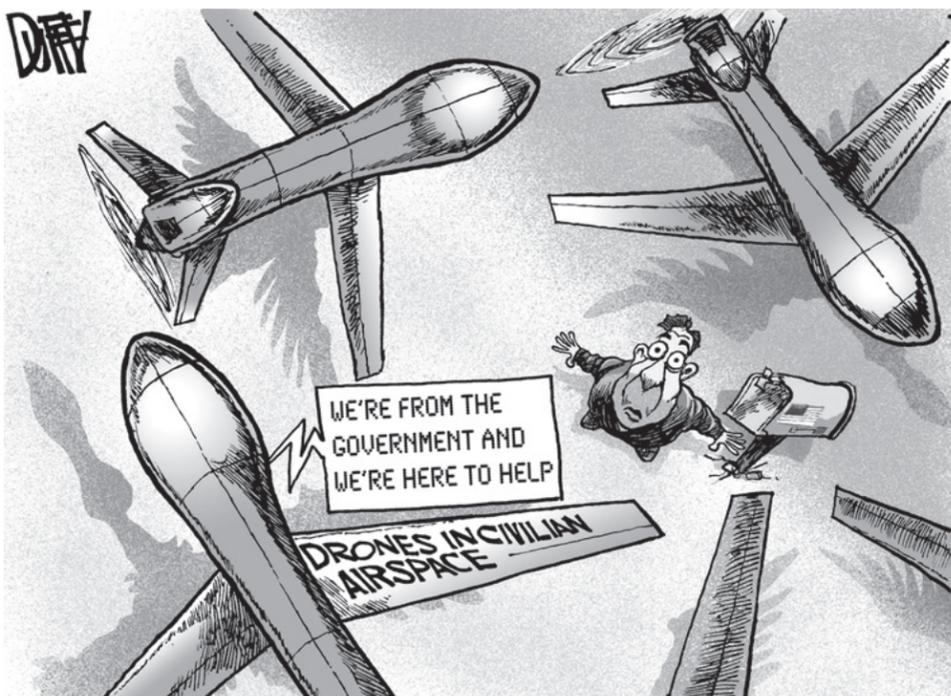
### Spur

From Page 1

current entrance to Franklin Mountain State Park. The new entrance will be a country road that will intersect with the proposed Paseo del Norte Road to the west.

The enhanced roadway conversion, from

the current two-lane country highway, to a full-fledged freeway with two lanes in each direction will cost approximately \$61 million, TXDOT officials reported. Also included are two lanes of frontage road in each direction, hike and bike trails along the length of the project, and overpasses at Northwestern Drive, Resler Drive, future Plexxar Road, and future Paseo del Norte Road.



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**KICKING UP SOME DUST** – The El Paso Public Service Board agreed to sell 26 acres near Canutillo High School to connect Trans Mountain Road from Interstate 10 to Doniphan Drive, and El Paso City Council approved the sale recently. Earth-movers, above, are preparing the land for the planned Spur 276.



Image by Raul Martinez

— Image courtesy El Paso Community College

### EPCC showcases student art

El Paso Community College (EPCC) Student Art Society will host its 36th annual Student Art Exhibition as part of the college's Spring Arts Festival. Event entries are open to all EPCC students. Presentation of jury-selected pieces will be on display at the EPCC Administrative Services Center Building A Foyer, 9050 Viscount Blvd. The display is open to the public weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., April 5 through April 30. An award presentation and reception, open to the public, will be held in the ASC Building A Foyer Friday, April 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monetary awards will be presented for first, second, third place and honorable mention in the categories of two-dimensional and three-dimensional, as well as Best of Show. Awards are made through the EPCC Student Government Association. The work above was done by Raul Martinez.

— Jim Heiney

### All new softball stadium & first home stand.

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- March 29 Doubleheader vs. Clarendon 11:00 a.m.
- Plus:
- April 5 – Grand Opening Celebration Doubleheader vs. Midland 1:00 p.m.
- April 6 Doubleheader vs. Midland 11:00 a.m.

Complete schedule available at [epcc.edu](http://epcc.edu)



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— Photo by Robert Grijalva

**A FAMILY THAT WORKS TOGETHER...** – The Ramirez Pecan Farm store is truly a family business. The entrepreneurs are from left to right Daniel Ramirez, Cruz Ramirez, Esther Gutierrez, Norma Ramirez and Lupe Ramirez. Not included in the photo was son Lupe Ramirez Jr., Lupe's son who manages the farm and daughter Monica Ramirez who is the business administrator.

## Farm survives 2006 floods, battles 2013 drought

By Robert Grijalva  
Special to the Courier

CLINT – Lupe Ramirez had a very successful pecan farm that produced up to 30,000 pounds of pecans annually. His fortunes changed tremendously when the 2006 monsoon season hit El Paso.

On the night of July 27, 2006, the Ramirez family was asleep unaware that thunderstorms in the area were producing heavier than normal rain. When they awoke the next morning, they were astonished to see that a massive mudflow had

covered their farm.

His neighbors had also been affected by mud, up to a foot on those farms. According to Ramirez, most of the mud ended up on his farm. "On parts of my farm, the mud was six feet high and we could only see the tops of the pecan trees," said Ramirez.

The family, however, was fortunate because their home was missed by the flow of mud. "A wall that bounded our neighbor diverted the flow just enough to make it miss our house," he said.

He, and his neighbors, wasted no time in attacking the mud. Several people joined in helping him move the dirt off of the farm but with little success. "At first I thought it was not that bad because we had experienced mudslides before. I rented a tractor and worked 30 days continuously pulling the sand out but we did not put a dent in the sand," he said.

In the farm's best year, the crop yielded \$678,000 in revenues. The 2006 crop survived but he could not harvest because the trees could not be shaken. There were no pecans for years.

The effort to revive the orchard is about 75% successful, according to Ramirez. "We have 30% of the trees unable to produce, 30% producing substandard and the rest is good crop," said Ramirez.

His pecan production stopped because of too much rain. Now Ramirez faces the current drought that plagues the southwest. The

process will be slow but eventually he sees a recovery. The canal will have to be cleared and wells will need to be drilled. Ramirez will have to postpone those improvements until the orchard produces revenues.

He and his family have jointly pursued other opportunities to sustain them until the orchard is revitalized. They opened the Ramirez Pecan Farm confectionary store in Basset Place. Since starting as a pecan store, the family has diversified by offering other nuts, cakes, pies and gift baskets.

They are very proud that their products are freshly made and comparable in price to bakery chains. Esther Gutierrez and Norma Ramirez bake tres leches cakes and pecan pies on location. The inventory is small to insure freshness.

Ramirez says he is especially grateful to the Salopek family farms in Las Cruces for their assistance and support. "In addition to supplying pecans at a very fair price, they allow me to store pecans in their silos for year round inventories," said Ramirez.

He is also very grateful to his clientele. They continued to shop at the Ramirez store in Clint immediately after the flood and continue to this day.

Perhaps most important to him is that his family stayed united and bonded even stronger after the mudslide.

The Ramirez Pecan Farm store can be reached at 851-2003.

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## Archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)

### CryptoQuip Answer

Supposing a shellfish is driving a fast vehicle, I imagine one could call it a mussel car.

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— Photo by Robert Grijalva

**MAKING PROGRESS – Adriana Valdez on the left and Pat Morales, Co-Executive Directors of the Chronic Disease and Cancer Consortium, are very pleased with results from their programs. Since it began in 1985, the CDCC has served over 52,500 women with education, diagnostics and treatment.**

## Cancer

From Page 1

to overcome barriers and utilize community resources,” said Pat Morales the Co-Executive Director. Through its community outreach and affiliation with Komen and other groups, CDCC has become the second highest screening provider in the state.

In its fifth year, CDCC began utilizing Promotoras (an outreach worker responsible for raising awareness of health and educational issues) to improve patient access. According to Adriana Valdez, Co-Executive Director, “the Promotoras’ efforts nearly doubled early stage cancer diagnosis and reduced the incidences of late stage diagnosis within the first two years of the program.” “The Promotoras programs include prevention for cancer and other chronic diseases, case management, and community building via leadership in training and mass communication of health information,” Valdez said.

Through its affiliation with the

Rio Grande Cancer Foundation, CDCC was able to outreach and provide case management to 353 people from December to February. There were 845 educational pieces of literature distributed to the participants in presentations, health fairs, and community events.

Although the majority of its services are provided within the city of El Paso, CDCC has recently provided services to 50 Montana Vista residents, 22 San Elizario residents and 24 Fabens residents.

Morales encourages women in Tornillo, Fabens, San Elizario, Montana Vista, Canutillo, Vinton and Anthony to participate in the educational programs provided by the CDCC. If anyone has not had a cervical exam in the past two years and are eligible under the income limits, they should call to arrange an examination. Morales said “They can call our office at 915-771-6305 so that we can refer them to a clinic that is close to their home.” Morales repeated the important message that early detection with breast and cervical cancer is the key to surviving the cancer.

## COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Community and Human Development  
PO Box 1890  
El Paso Texas, 79950-1890  
915-541-4478

West Texas County Courier  
March 28, 2013

**This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.**

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

**On or about April 15, 2013 the City of El Paso, Community and Human Development will submit a request to the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Ft. Worth, Texas for the release of SHOP funds to purchase 60 residential lots by the Lower Valley Housing Corporation (LVHC), to undertake a project under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended through December 31, 1998, land purchase of two (2) separate projects, (a) \$375,000 land acquisition of 30 lots on Rio Bravo Subdivision Unit One, Clint, TX 79836; (b) \$375,000 land acquisition of 30 lots on Piemonte Subdivision Unit One/Replat “C”, Horizon City, TX 79928, for the purpose of developing self-help housing. The total expected amount to be funded is \$750,000 in SHOP funds from HAC for both projects. The projects will be located in El Paso County, Texas.**

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**The City of El Paso, Community and Human Development has determined that the projects at (a) Rio Bravo Subdivision, Clint, TX and (b) Piemonte Subdivision, Horizon City, TX, have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at City of El Paso, Community and Human Development, P.O. Box 1890, El Paso, Texas 79950-1890 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of El Paso, Community and Human Development, P.O. Box 1890, El Paso, Texas 79950-1890. All comments received by April 15, 2013 will be considered by the City of El Paso, Community and Human Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenter’s should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.**

### RELEASE OF FUNDS

**The City of El Paso, Community and Human Development certifies to HUD/Ft. Worth Texas that Ms. Joyce Wilson in her capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD/Ft. Worth, Texas approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of El Paso, Community and Human Development, Housing Programs Division to use Program funds.**

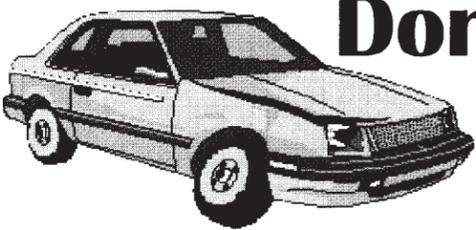
### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

**HUD/Ft. Worth, Texas will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of El Paso, certification received by April 30, 2013 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of El Paso approved by HUD/Ft. Worth, Texas; (b) the City of El Paso, has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/Ft. Worth, Texas; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD/Ft. Worth Texas grant administration office) at U.S. Department of Housing And Urban Development, Fort Worth Regional Office, Region IV, Office of Community Planning and Development, 801 Cherry Street, P.O. Box 2905, Fort Worth, Texas 76113-2905. Potential objectors should contact HUD/Ft. Worth, Texas to verify the actual last day of the objection period.**

**Mr. Fernie Arellano, Environmental Compliance Specialist**

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# Clint Lions' Vasquez invited to play Down Under

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

In El Paso, the common way of saying hello could be "how's it going," or "what's up," or an enthusiastic "hola."

But in a few months, Clint Lions' running back Daniel Vasquez may start greeting everyone he sees with a hearty "G'day mate."

That's because the Clint High School junior has an opportunity to represent the state of Texas in some exhibition football games in Sydney, Australia this summer.

Down Under Sports, which was founded by International Sports Specialists, Inc. in 1989, was established to promote American football to the people of New Zealand and Australia.

Players from the U.S. are recruited by the organization to participate in the games.

"This is literally like a one-in-a-million opportunity and I'm really looking forward to it," said Vasquez. "It's the kind of thing you dream about but I never thought I would have the chance."

Vasquez was a big reason Clint won it's district title last season, rushing for 1,005 yards, averaging 8.4 yards per carry and scoring 12 touchdowns.

"My coaches told me that Down Under Sports contacted them about me," explained the 5-5, 145-pound Vasquez. "As far as they know, no one else around here has ever participated in the program before."

The program, which guarantees two games for every football team, also holds competitions for 14 to 19-year-old students in other sports including cheerleading, basketball, volleyball, golf, cross-country, track and field, free style wrestling, and swimming.

Of course the chance to travel to Australia doesn't come cheap and Vasquez' mother is leading the efforts to raise the funds.

"It costs about \$5,500 for the trip and uniform and the other things involved," said Debra Vasquez. "I really believe that through the community we can do this and then make it a tradition around here for other athletes in the future."

"We just found this out a couple weeks ago and the payment deadline is June 1," she explained. "What we've been doing is looking for business sponsors and people throughout

the community who would be willing to donate out of the kindness of their heart.

"We've collected about \$1,200 so far."

Vasquez' mother added that the response around the community has been very positive and that the hard work connected to an effort like this is totally worth it.

"This gives the kids a great opportunity to experience other places, people and cultures," she said. "It is truly the chance of a lifetime."

The younger Vasquez has even been selling candy around the area.

"People are buying the candy," he said. "They buy especially because they want to help me."

Anyone wishing to donate to help Vasquez make the trip can call (915) 490-4361 or go online to [www.downundersports.com](http://www.downundersports.com) (click on Sponsor Athlete, name: Daniel Vasquez; Team: TX; Event: Football Athlete, Payment Type: Sponsorship Payment).

According to their website, International Sports Specialists' main goal is to give athletes the opportunity to experience the

culture, beauty and grandeur of the land down under, all within the framework of spirited and intense competition in many different sports.

And in case there's any doubt that the program has any national appeal, some youngsters who took the trip down under have risen to some impressive heights.

Past participants of the Down Under Bowl football games include Former Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer and Green Bay Packers running back Ahman Green.

Because they recognize the importance of this rare opportunity, Vasquez is receiving help from more than just his family.

"My coaches and teammates have been great about the whole thing," he said. "They've all told me that they are willing to support in any way they can. And they really want me to go."

"I'm very anxious to see how different that part of the world is from here."

The football games in Australia are schedule for the second week of July and include players from across the United States.

"This really means a lot to me," said Vasquez. "It's such an honor to have someone from another country invite you to go and play there and have the opportunity to maybe get a scholarship to get somewhere in life."

"If I get the opportunity, it's something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Where nice teams finish last

Kentucky was not merely "snubbed" by the NCAA selection committee; it was royally screwed.

I'm not sure whom the admittedly volatile Wildcat coach John Calipari managed to anger, or what scandal lurks just below the surface at the program (mere speculation on both counts), but here's a team

that won the NCAA tournament last year, had a winning record in its conference and more than 20 wins – the traditional bar most teams must meet in order to make the tournament – and rather than getting a chance to defend its title, UK has been sent packing to the National Invitation Tournament.

And I mean "sent packing" in the literal sense, too: Traditionally the first two rounds of the NIT are played at the higher seed's home court. This year, an NCAA first-round bracket will be played on Kentucky's home court, so the reigning champions – college basketball royalty – will be forced to mingle with the common folk outside the walls of Lexington's 23,500 seat Rupp Arena castle on their way to the 3,000 seat Sewall Center in Coraopolis, Pa. This is not taking anything away from the fine Robert Morris squad or the

suburban Pittsburgh university, but even the student body (about 5,000 strong) has to see the awkwardness of the situation.

Interestingly enough, though I have lived in or have family ties in many major "barbecue towns," whenever I'm asked, I always say the best BBQ I've ever had was Moonlight in Kentucky, and the girl who operates the sandwich stand in front of a classic dive bar somewhere in Pittsburgh that I wish I could remember the name of. The sandwich was the size of my head (which can get pretty big at times), and if I could have eaten half of it at one sitting, I'd have gotten another for the road.

Back to the tournament scene... it is nothing short of carnage and dismay – March lunacy, if you will. Virginia, Maryland, Alabama – all

similarly screwed by the selection committee – round out the top seeds in the land of misfit teams. I'm not going to knock other programs and the at-large bids from other programs, but seriously... only three teams from the SEC? You'd rather watch a mid-major instead of the team that lit up the NCAA's little darling Duke twice (that'd be Maryland). Arizona State, Stanford, Baylor, Tennessee... really, names like St. John's and Providence, these are nice programs.

And this year, the nicest of them all will win it all at Madison Square Garden, the most famous arena in the world, for the chance to celebrate the fact that they finished last.

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

### Briefs

From Page 1

woman with no signs of life. There they found the victim, 53-year-old Nora Kim Lorts, laying face down in her back yard. Detectives from the Crimes Against Persons unit were called to the scene to assist with the investigation. Preliminary details revealed

that the death was suspicious. An autopsy was completed on Friday, March 8. As a result of the autopsy Crimes Against Persons is now investigating the death of Lorts as a murder. Further investigation has not revealed the identity of the suspect or suspects who committed this crime. They are asking for assistance from the public in solving the case. If you have any information at all about a suspect in this case,

contact Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-TIPS (566-8477), on-line at [www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org) or you can send a text message by entering the key word CRIME1 (no space) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

– James Klaes



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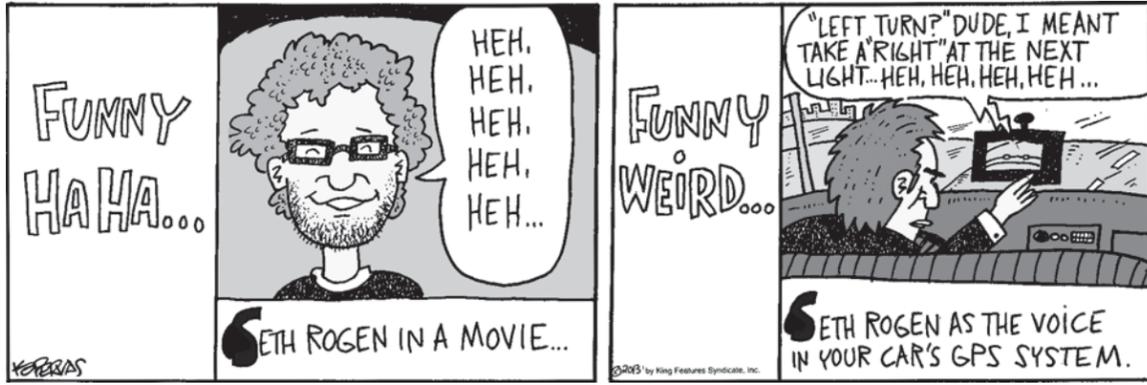
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Contact Information:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# 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. Donohue, M.D.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** My son, 57, salts most every food in his diet. He told me that his doctor said, "Eat all the salt you want." I looked him in the eye, and it was hard not to believe him. I did say I found it hard to believe. My son gets regular checkups every five years. Personally, there's no salt on my table. I eat very little processed foods. Please set my son straight. - P.

day. It's found in baked potatoes with skins, sweet potatoes, bananas, orange juice, milk, kidney beans, cantaloupe, avocado and prunes. Salt substitutes are usually potassium. They can be used by most people if they're not taking blood pressure drugs like ACE inhibitors and ARBs, angiotensin-receptor blockers.

Most doctors for most of the recent past have told their patients to go easy on salt. Official medical advisory committees composed of the most knowledgeable scientists - The American Heart Association is one example - have and still do recommend that our intake of salt (sodium) should be limited to 1,500 mg a day. In some instances, an intake of 2,300 mg is permitted. This is far lower than our present salt use.

The booklet on sodium and potassium discusses these two minerals and their uses. To order a copy, write: Dr. Donohue - No. 202W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

Most of our dietary salt comes from processed foods like pizza, meats such as corned beef (500 mg of sodium in two ounces), hot dogs (more than 500 mg of sodium in one hot dog), commercial soups, frozen dinners, breakfast cereals, some breads and baked goods. People have to become readers of the nutrition labels put on all foods.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** In a prior column you advocated drinking a daily amount of water that would satisfy one's thirst, not a set amount of water as some people believe. I agree with you. However, when I travel to Colorado, I am urged to drink glass after glass of water to allay the effects of altitude. Do you think this is valid advice? - D.K.

Reducing the intake of sodium lowers blood pressure and reduces the chances for a heart attack and stroke.

I do. Mountain air is dry. Altitude makes a person breathe more rapidly than normal. Fluid is lost from the lungs when a person breathes fast. You can become dehydrated if you don't increase your fluid intake. After a few days of acclimatization, you can ease off on your water intake.

I have to add that a few voices have been raised recently to champion diets with no limitations on the amount of salt. These researchers say that low-salt diets are not healthy. I am sticking with the authorities who recommend salt reduction until the majority of nutritional experts change their minds. I don't think that's going to happen.

*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.*

You sent a little item on potassium. Potassium, unlike sodium, lowers blood pressure. We're told to get 4,700 mg of it a

# Super Crossword

- |                                  |                               |                                |                                |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>HEX NUTS ACROSS</b>           | 63 Dueling swords             | 116 This puzzle's theme        | 28 Stopped sleeping            | 79 Arctic people                  |
| 1 Epitaph start                  | 64 Swarm (with)               | 119 Toward a nation's interior | 31 Dept. of Justice org.       | 80 Quartet minus one              |
| 5 Spoke from a soapbox           | 65 Alley _                    | 120 Wallop                     | 32 Sown thing                  | 85 Strike callers                 |
| 11 Inner city, e.g.              | 66 "I'm all _!"               | 121 Descartes or Lacoste       | 33 Metal mixture               | 87 _-di-dah                       |
| 20 Crease remover                | 67 From Zurich, e.g.          | 122 Slob's quality             | 34 Ryan or Tatum               | 89 Las Vegas' _ Palace            |
| 21 "The _ Supremacy" (2004 film) | 68 61-Down purchases, e.g.    | 123 Corrects, as a manuscript  | 35 Irritate                    | 90 Explanatory drawing            |
| 22 In touch with who one is      | 69 61-Down (Pacific nation)   | 124 River of Belgium           | 37 Mushroom parts              | 91 Cook, as onion rings           |
| 23 Billiards targets             | 70 Oahu, e.g.                 | <b>DOWN</b>                    | 38 Tony winner                 | 92 Slow absorptions               |
| 25 Astonishing                   | 71 _ New Guinea               | 1 Rose's fruit                 | Kazan                          | 93 Red Bull ingredient            |
| 26 Gazes                         | 72 Oahu, e.g.                 | 2 Gully creator                | 42 Singes                      | 94 Title for a knight             |
| 27 Opera house                   | 73 Water, to Fifi             | 3 Audibly excited fans         | 43 Jeered                      | 96 Actor Chuck or singer Lila     |
| 29 "...there _ Santa Claus"      | 74 Salve plant                | 4 Make bigger                  | 44 Jeered                      | 98 Hound breed                    |
| 30 Twice DI                      | 75 Most plain                 | 5 Mitch Miller's antennae      | 45 Spirit of a culture         | 101 Small intestine division      |
| 31 Flaming                       | 76 Things to pick or pluck    | 6 Legendary birds              | 47 Protective wall             | 102 "_ diem!"                     |
| 32 George Lucas collection       | 77 Things to pick or pluck    | 7 Diving shorebird             | 48 Make trite                  | 103 Heroic poems                  |
| 36 Tennis' Björn                 | 78 Fiduciary                  | 8 Yummy tidbit                 | 49 Having feeling              | 104 Kunta _ ("Roots" role)        |
| 37 Attend (to)                   | 79 Thing to pick              | 9 Catches in a web             | 51 Rife                        | 105 Demi of film                  |
| 39 Norman Vincent _              | 80 "Told ya!"                 | 10 Yearn for                   | 53 Cleave                      | 106 Quartet minus two             |
| 40 Boise-to-Billings dir.        | 81 Crawler with antennae      | 11 Letters on a battleship     | 55 Hands out                   | 110 K.P. veggie                   |
| 41 Some thorax attachments       | 82 Wall art                   | 12 Person on a pension         | 56 Court case                  | 111 Baking qts.                   |
| 44 Swiss artist Paul             | 83 Décor option               | 13 Fashion designer            | 57 Competence                  | 113 Canon camera option           |
| 46 Big fairs                     | 84 Rights gp.                 | 14 Ski chalet style, often     | 58 Attack from all sides       | 114 "_ bono" ("To what purpose?") |
| 50 Literary 67-Across girl       | 85 Some pips                  | 15 Rebellious Turner           | 60 Stephen of "Bad Behaviour"  | 115 Fleur-de- _                   |
| 51 Vintage Olds                  | 86 Supply with guns           | 16 Puncturing tool             | 61 Popular pop                 | 117 Capacious vase                |
| 52 Lead-in for la la             | 87 Perp's out                 | 17 "The Gift" director         | 62 Loved ones                  | 118 Gen _ (post-'65 arrival)      |
| 54 "Hello, Hadrian!"             | 88 Seal school                | 18 Golf's Els                  | 64 Talk up                     |                                   |
| 55 Mobile site                   | 89 Morales of "Mi Familia"    | 19 Patronage                   | 68 Olympic figure skater Cohen |                                   |
| 59 1970s sitcom siblings         | 90 Stanley Cup contenders     | 20 Snoop                       | 69 Math class: Abbr.           |                                   |
|                                  | 91 Hesitate due to doubt      |                                | 70 Kramer of "Seinfeld"        |                                   |
|                                  | 92 Race unit                  |                                | 71 São _                       |                                   |
|                                  | 93 "_ for Cookie"             |                                | 73 Important time              |                                   |
|                                  | 94 Starchy pudding ingredient |                                | 75 Trademark                   |                                   |
|                                  | 95 Lethargic state            |                                | 77 "No man is _ to his valet"  |                                   |
|                                  | 96 Waterway with many locks   |                                | 78 Come from behind to win     |                                   |

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## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** I thought I'd be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and I was going to apply until I talked to my neighbor. She said I would be turned down because I have children who could help support me. Is this true?

**A:** Whether you can get SSI depends on your own income and the things you own. If you have limited income and few resources, you may be able to get SSI. However, if you are receiving support from your children or from anyone else, it could affect your monthly benefit amount. Support includes any food or shelter that is given to you, or is received by you, because someone else pays for it. For more information, visit our website about SSI at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi)

**Q:** I heard recently that it was open season for Medicare Part D enrollment. Is there still time to

apply?

**A:** Yes – but act fast, because open season ends soon! If you're a Medicare beneficiary who has not enrolled in the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program, you may do so during the open season, which began October 15 and ends December 7. If you are covered by Medicare and have limited income and resources, the *Extra Help* available through Social Security can help ease the burden of Medicare prescription drug costs. You can apply for the *Extra Help* anytime – not just during open season. To learn more about the *Extra Help* and to apply, visit Social Security's website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp). For Medicare Part D information, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

**Q:** What can I do if I think someone has stolen my identity?

**A:** You should do several things, including:

- File a report with the local police or the police department where the identity theft took place, and keep a copy of the police report as proof of the crime;
- Notify the Federal Trade Commission (1-877-ID-THEFT or 1-877-438-4338);
- File a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov); and
- Contact the fraud units of the three major credit reporting bureaus: Equifax (800-525-6285); Trans Union: (800-680-7289); and Experian: (888-397-3742).

Learn more by reading our publication, *Identity Theft And Your Social Security Number*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html).

**Q:** I am trying to save up for a truck. I have \$1,200 in the bank now and need a little more. How much cash can I have in the bank without affecting my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility?

**A:** The resource limit is \$2,000. Unless you have other valuable resources, this means you could save up to \$2,000 before you would become ineligible for SSI. We generally do not count your primary car, the home you live in or certain

amounts set aside for burial expenses as resources. In some cases, if the vehicle you're saving for is part of a plan to return to work, you can have higher resources – but Social Security would need to approve your plan in order to exclude those resources. For more information, you can visit our webpage about SSI at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi).

**Q:** I'm reaching my full retirement age and thinking about retiring in early 2013. When is the best time of year to apply for Social Security benefits?

**A:** If you are planning to retire in early 2013, you can apply *now*. You can apply as early as four months prior to when you want your monthly benefits to begin. To apply, just go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoiretire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoiretire). Applying online for retirement benefits from the convenience of your home or office is secure and can take as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy!

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://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.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was world champion race-car driver Mario Andretti who made the following sage observation: "Everything comes to those who wait... except a cat."

- Those who study such things say it takes three apples to make one glass of apple cider.

- You might be surprised to learn that John Denver – best known for singing "Take Me Home, Country Roads," an ode to West Virginia – was not actually from the Mountain State. He didn't write the song, either. Interestingly, the two people who did write the song, Bill Danoff and Taffy Nivert, had never been there at the time that they wrote it. They were on their way to Maryland when Danoff started writing a tune about the lovely countryside they were driving through. West Virginia was put in because Danoff had been sent several postcards from the state and was impressed.

- Politics has always been a dirty business, with candidates through the years saying whatever was necessary to get elected. Take the 1950 senatorial campaign in Florida, for example. In the Democratic primary, incumbent Claude Pepper was being challenged by George Smathers, a sitting congressman. Taking unfair advantage of the lack of education in some parts of the state, Smathers sent campaign materials to rural areas accusing Pepper of, among other things, having a brother who was a "practicing Homosapien" and a sister who was a "thespian." The charge against Pepper himself was that he had "matriculated" with young women. In a victory for sleazy politics, Smathers did, in fact, win the primary.

- Some species of penguin can jump as high as 6 feet in the air.

Thought for the Day: "If you want to give up the admiration of thousands of men for the disdain of one, go ahead, get married."

– Katharine Hepburn

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	-		x		8
x		x		+	
	÷		+		8
-		+		÷	
	-		x		10
3		9		2	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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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: F equals S

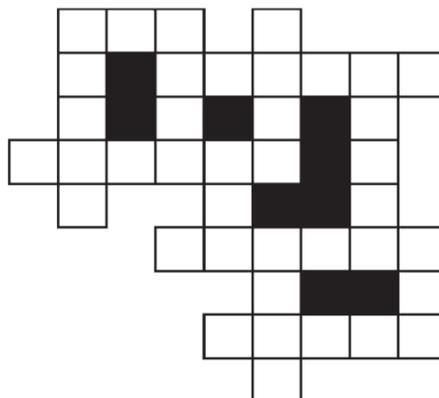
FORRPFSCJ T FZGAABSFZ SF  
VSMSCJ T BTFW MGZSLAG, S  
SDTJSCG PCG LPOAI LTAA SW T  
DOFFGA LTV.

Answer Page 4

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- GDU
- GEYCAN
- VOCEL
- RONC
- WHERDS
- RWO
- LEDG
- ♥ROGNW
- ♥NWO
- ♥HIDNEC
- ♥HITRG
- VEAW



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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