



NEWSBRIEFS

Sports festival

The Town of Anthony, Texas and the City of Anthony, New Mexico in conjunction with the Anthony TX/NM Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the first annual "Anthony, TX/NM Family Sports Festival." The festival will promote outside sports activities with softball, soccer, sand volleyball, and skateboarding tournaments. A kids' tent with clown performances will entertain the children while the older generation can enjoy food, beer, and arts and crafts booths along with the traditional "Lucha Libre." The senior citizens can show off their dance moves during the "Senior Citizen Dance-A-Thon" and win cash prizes. A motorcycle run by the Placas LEMC, Choir Boys LEMC and Los Carnales will originate in Northeast El Paso and end at the Anthony Municipal Park. For the car aficionado there will be a car show on Sunday with eight different categories to include motorcycles. Seven live bands will perform during the day topped off with a performance by the "Rodhuiz" on Sunday night and every two hours a raffle for outdoor and recreational equipment will be held. Gates will open at noon daily and entrance fee is \$3 for adults, \$2 teens, kids 12 and under are free. Active military are also free and will receive a five dollar coupon good at any festival booth. Information: Town of Anthony, TX, (915) 886-3944 or 726-6788 or City of Anthony, NM (575) 882-2983.

— Art Franco

Incorporating funds

The San Elizario Incorporation Efforts Group is accepting donations to further incorporation efforts in the community of San Elizario. Checks or money orders made out to San Elizario Incorporation Efforts Group (no abbreviations) can be mailed to :
San Elizario Incorporation Efforts Group
P.O. Box 435
San Elizario, TX 79849
Donations in person or by mail to the credit union can be made at:
Security Service Federal Credit Union
545 N. Americas Ave.
Loop 375
El Paso, TX 79907
The account number, 5802617071, should be noted on all checks or money orders.

— Paul Johnson, Jr.

Health fair

The 31st Annual Lower Valley Health Fair will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Socorro High School (10150 Alameda Ave.). All children's immunizations will be available through age 18. The cost is just \$10 for one or more shots. No one will be denied services for inability to pay. Bring your immunization card. Adult

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The sincere man suspects that he, too, is sometimes guilty of the faults he sees in others.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Robert Grijalva

COMING ATTRACTION – A banner in the placita in front of the San Elizario Presidio announces the First Thanksgiving festivities. In the background is the famous Adobe Horseshoe.

Mission Trail Association asks for support

By Robert Grijalva
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The El Paso Mission Trail Association is seeking the support of the community for the Annual First Thanksgiving Re-Enactment. The Association is having a

luncheon on April 21 to raise funds that will benefit the annual event.

Connie Carbajal, the President of the Mission Trail Association is inviting the public to attend and enjoy the afternoon at the Adobe Horseshoe on April 21 starting at 11 a.m. and continuing through the afternoon until five.

"The fundraiser will help fund our annual First Thanksgiving event which commemorates the arrival of the explorer Juan de Onate on his first expedition north of Mexico," said Carbajal. "The date of his arrival was April 16, 1598. In addition to the

See MISSION TRAIL, Page 2

Texas lawmakers recognize Diocese of El Paso milestones

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier



THE ANCHOR – Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in downtown Ciudad Juarez is the mother of the El Paso Valley missions. Until 1692, the pass of the North was the most northern outpost in colonial Spain in the New World. Shown in the photo is the old mission on the left and the larger edifice to the right is the Cathedral, which was completed in 1954.

EL PASO COUNTY – To signal the beginning of the Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso's centennial celebration,

State lawmakers recently passed a resolution that recognizes the diocese's storied history on the West Texas border that actually dates back more than 400 years.

In resolutions adopted by the House and Senate, the El Paso Diocese was honored for a list of milestones including the first Spanish missions in Texas, the first hospital in El Paso (Hotel Dieu), the first entrance of the Jesuits and Sisters of Loretto into Texas, the first Council of the Knights of Columbus in Texas, the first diocese in the United States to be led by a Hispanic, and its work in helping fund the creation of Mount Cristo Rey,

which is considered one of the largest statues of Christ in the world.

The Diocese of El Paso was created by Pope Pius X in March 1914 from portions of the Dioceses of Dallas, San Antonio, and Tucson and initially encompassed 68,394 square miles and 15 counties in Texas and six counties in New Mexico. In 1961, the Diocese of San Angelo was established from portions of the El Paso, San Antonio, and Dallas dioceses; and in 1982, Las Cruces became its own diocese, leaving El Paso with its current size of 26,686 square miles in 10 counties of far West Texas.

Of course, the history of the Catholic Church in this region dates back much further than 100 years with the arrival of Spanish conquistadors and Franciscan missionaries in the

See DIOCESE, Page 3

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

VA abruptly axes Golden Age Games

If you've signed up to participate in the Golden Age Games in Buffalo, N.Y., a heads up: The games have been suspended. The announcement on the Department of Veterans Affairs site says that "because we are committed to serving as good stewards of taxpayer dollars... we evaluate each event, program and initiative for alignment with the department's core mission and priorities."

To me, that means other events might be in danger as well. (It's rumored that more than \$400,000 in civilian donations were made toward this one event. Where'd the money go?) For more info, call Interim Director Amy Will at 314-894-6549.

Keep an eye on these other events if you're signed up to go:

- The Valor Games (May)

Of the four Games listed for this year on the VA page, the first one, in Durham, N.C., has a link that doesn't work. The link goes to the September Games in San Antonio. If this Game is canceled, there is nothing that says so, but there also is no information available.

- The Wheelchair Games in Tampa, Fla. (July)

Sports & Recreation Program: Mary Hobbs, 800-424-8200, ext. 752

- Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego (September)

Event director: Tristan Heaton, 858-642-6426

- TEE Tournament in Iowa City, Iowa (September)

Event director: Kirt Sickels, 319-358-5963

- Creative Arts Festival in Reno, Nev. (October)

Event Director: Elizabeth Mackey, 320-255-6351

If you'd rather hook up with a sports club near you than risk an event being canceled, check the "Sports Club Finder" at www.va.gov/adaptivesports. There are lots of adaptive sports under the following categories: Amputees, the Blind and Visually Impaired, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Traumatic Brain Injury; Spinal Cord Injury; plus Paralympic Sport Competition.

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.

Finances By Jason Alderman

An inheritance is no sure thing

Most people who grew up during the Great Depression and World War II learned to scrimp and save as a matter of necessity. Many also gained financial security during subsequent decades when pension plans were more common, homeownership became the norm and government programs like Social Security and Medicare expanded. For a time, it seemed their Baby Boomer children stood to inherit amounts unheard of for previous generations.

However, many economic factors have taken their toll on seniors' nest eggs in recent years. Thus, if you were counting on a sizeable inheritance to help finance your own retirement, you may want to rethink that strategy.

Here are several reasons why many seniors are revising their estate distribution plans:

Most people who invested heavily in the stock market during the Great Recession watched helplessly as their accounts lost significant value. Although the market has mostly recovered, many people — especially those in or approaching retirement — stashed their remaining balances in safer investments earning very low interest, worried the market might plunge further. Many likely will have to draw on their account principal to make ends meet, thereby depleting their savings (and estates) much more rapidly than planned.

Many seniors expected their home's equity would help fund retirement. But after the housing market crashed, they instead found its value drastically reduced. Fortunately, the housing market has begun to recover. But many tapped-out seniors have turned to reverse mortgages and home equity loans to draw on their home's equity to cover living expenses, thereby lessening their estate's future value.

As average life spans increase, so does the period we'll need to survive on our retirement savings. A 65-year-old man today will live until 83 on average; for women it jumps to 85. Many people never imagined their savings would have to last that long and didn't

plan accordingly.

Even if they buy Medicare prescription drug and Medigap coverage, seniors, like everyone else, spend an ever-increasing percentage of their income on medical care. Such costs usually far outpace benefit cost-of-living increases and interest earned on investments.

Baby Boomers have begun tapping Social Security and Medicare benefits; and far fewer younger workers now fund those programs, so it's possible that benefits will decrease, premiums will rise or taxes will increase — or a combination of all three; all options would strain fixed incomes.

When the market was booming, many people retired early, assuming they could afford to bridge the gap before receiving Social Security and Medicare. But plummeting home equity and reduced 401(k) balances have forced many retirees to aggressively withdraw from savings, trim expenses or even return to work.

Many seniors help their children and grandchildren pay for high-ticket expenses like home down payments and college. Although such gifts reduce the eventual value of their estate, there are certain tax advantages (lower estate taxes, state tax deductions for 529 Plan contributions, etc.). If you're the recipient, don't take such assistance as license to take on additional debt.

Unless they've purchased comprehensive long-term care insurance, your parents will likely burn through most of their savings should they ever require assisted living. And keep in mind that Medicaid will only pay for a nursing home once they've exhausted most of their assets.

Bottom line: With seniors facing increasing financial challenges, don't depend on an inheritance to provide your financial security.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

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Mission Trail

From Page 1

luncheon, which is catered by the Cattleman's, the public can enjoy live music and re-enactments of historic events," she said.

After departing from Zacatecas, the Onate expedition traveled weeks northward through the hostile Chihuahua desert land. Water and food were both scarce so it was with great relief that the travelers came upon the Rio Grande. The plentiful water and wildlife provided the replenishment

that was badly needed.

His expedition is an important part of the history of El Paso and New Mexico. Onate claimed all of New Mexico beyond the pass of the north for Spain. Although only in this area for a very few days, the expedition constructed a small structure in which the explorers held mass.

Part of the charge to Onate was to establish the Roman Catholic Church throughout his explorations as the official religion. Eventually, Catholic missions were constructed in the area. The Mission in Juarez is among the first. The Ysleta and Socorro Missions followed over time.

The Presidio in San Elizario was also constructed hundreds of years ago. Along with the missions still standing, the remains of an older mission exists in Socorro close to the intersection of Socorro Road and Buford. The foundation dates back to 1682 and is recognized by the Texas Historic Commission.

Eventually, the trail from Zacatecas that Onate traveled became a very wealthy trade route. The trade route stretched from Mexico City to Santa Fe New Mexico. The route also stimulated the growth of the community then known as El Paso del Norte.

The First Thanksgiving re-enactments have been held since 1986. The event in that year was held at the Chamizal National Park. To celebrate the 450th anniversary of the Onate expedition, the event was held in Socorro in 1998.

According to Carbajal, both the city and county are promoting the Mission Trail and supporting it. Just recently the Diocese of El Paso announced a series of events to raise significant funds to continue the renovation and maintenance of the missions and Presidio.

The Mission Trail Association is encouraging a good showing at the fundraiser on the 21st and the First Thanksgiving event on the 27th. "These events help connect our community to its origins. By supporting the Association, the history of El Paso and Juarez will continue to grow as a major economic event," said Carbajal.

The fundraiser is April 21 at the Adobe Horseshoe, 1500 Main St. in San Elizario. Admission to the event is \$40 which includes the lunch. Outdoor activities are provided at no charge.



the children's hour

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CHAOS THEORY: HOW THE BEATING OF BUTTERFLY WINGS CAN CREATE TORNADOS...



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MEMORIAL – The bronze sculpture in downtown El Paso depicts Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission founder Fray Garcia in the act of building his mission. In his right hand he holds the lintel beam carved by the Manso Indians and bearing the name of the mission and year of its founding. At his feet is a cluster of grapes in a Manso basket, which represents the grape vineyards and other agriculture that he helped introduce into the area.

Diocese

From Page 1

16th century. The Spanish first entered the El Paso frontier in the early 1500s – just 40 years after Christopher Columbus landed in the Americas.

According to historians, during the 1580s, Spain made several attempts to settle New Mexico before Don Juan de Oñate was successful in establishing Santa Fe. Oñate arrived in the El Paso region on April 30, 1598, and claimed for King Phillip II of Spain and God all the territory watered by the Rio Grande. On May 4, the expedition crossed the river and named the site where they crossed El Paso del Norte. The Oñate expedition continued northward to found the capital of Santa Fe, which was the first permanent settlement in New Mexico and is today the second oldest city in the United States.

After a wave of immigration flowed through El Paso del Norte as a consequence of the settlement of New Mexico, Franciscan Friars established the mission of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in present day Ciudad Juárez.

On December 8, 1659, Fray Garcia de San Francisco, accompanied by Fray Juan de Salazar and ten families of Christian Indians, built a temporary prayer hut out of branches and mud and a monastery with a roof of straw. On January 5, 1662, the new church of the Mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe was inaugurated. One hundred natives were baptized that day.

The Guadalupe Mission in Ciudad Juarez is the oldest church in the region, and from it the Franciscans sent missionaries to Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Texas. In Texas, the first permanent missions were the Ysleta and Socorro missions established in 1680 and 1682 as a consequence of the Pueblo Revolt in northern New Mexico.

Subsequently, through the pass have traveled Native Americans, Spaniards,

Mexicans, Texans, conquistadors, soldiers, settlers, traders, priests, and women religious; people in search of gold, land, souls, economic opportunity, personal safety, or simply a better life for their families. And, today's El Paso Catholic Diocese reflects all of these people's heritages.

The present day diocese serves approximately 700,000 Catholics in 10 West Texas counties including El Paso, Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Presidio, Reeves, Ward and Winkler. It consists of 55 parishes, 20 missions, and a pastoral center and has 43 active diocesan priests, 31 retired priests, 49 religious priests, 12 brothers, and 121 sisters serving its congregation, according to the El Paso Diocese's website.

To receive the resolution from the Texas Legislature, Rev. Anthony C. Celino, chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso, led a delegation of officials from the diocese to the state capitol. In addition, Father Celino served as Pastor for the Day in the Texas House of Representatives and gave the invocation to open the daily session.

"This is a wonderful honor for the Diocese of El Paso as we mark the beginning of our centennial celebration that lasts through March 2014. We have figured prominently in the history, culture, and spiritual development of the people and communities of West Texas. We look forward to serving the region for another century and beyond," stated Father Celino in a recent news report.

The resolutions in the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives were sponsored by Senator Jose R. Rodriguez of El Paso and Representative Joe C. Pickett of El Paso, as well as other legislative co-sponsors from West Texas.

Other members of the Diocesan delegation from El Paso traveling to Austin to receive the honor were Deacon Carlos E. Rubio, vice chancellor of the diocese; Tracy Yellen, chief operating officer of the Foundation for the Diocese; and Deacon José Luis Sánchez of Saint Patrick Cathedral in El Paso.

EPCC celebrates National Community College Month

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

April is annually recognized as National Community College Month. El Paso Community College (EPCC) has much to be proud of at the national and local level. EPCC has once again been recognized by Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine as the number one community college in the areas of Hispanic student and instructor population, as well as the number one grantor of associate's degrees to Hispanic students.

EPCC will reach out to our military community during National Community College Month by honoring outgoing Fort Bliss Commanding General, Dana J.H. Pittard. The ceremony will take place April 9th at the Centennial Club. General Pittard has been instrumental in the planning of our new Fort Bliss campus. The lease of the Fort Bliss property has been approved. Phase two of the project, hiring of an architecture firm to

design the campus, is underway. The proposed grand opening is 2016.

El Paso local governments will honor EPCC during the month. The El Paso City Council will proclaim April as National Community College Month at their meeting on April 9. The El Paso County Commissioners will put forth the resolution to name April as National Community College Month on April 15.

EPCC will also honor its own during the month. The annual Employee Recognition Luncheons will take place in the Boardroom at the Administrative Services Center. Employees celebrating 5, 10 and 15 years with the college will be recognized at a luncheon on April 12. Employees with 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of services will be in the spotlight on April 26. For the first time, EPCC will have employees with 40 years of service. Congratulations to Juliana Bustamante, Leon Blevins, Jeffrey Coles and Fidel De Leon.

Get to know EPCC during April at www.epcc.edu.

Rodriguez, Medina take case to Austin

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo Independent School District trustees Armando Rodriguez and Adrian Medina traveled to Austin on Wednesday to speak with legislators about student assessment and its impact on recent immigrants with limited English proficiency. The two Canutillo board members met with several key state lawmakers and members of the House and Senate Public Education Committee to discuss important school issues.

During their trip, Rodriguez and Medina also met with some members of the El Paso delegation to the Texas Legislature to urge them to support legislation that, if approved, would reduce the number of End of Course exams, infuse testing alternatives like the SAT or ACT, suspend state accountability ratings for the 2012-13 school year and prohibit the use of End of Course exams for student class rank or admission into a Texas college.

Rodriguez and Medina also spoke to legislators about the need to re-think the way Texas assesses students who have recently moved into school districts from foreign countries, and asked that a



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

ON THE ROAD – From left, CISD Trustee Adrian Medina, State Rep. Joe Moody and CISD Board President Armando Rodriguez met in Austin to discuss state assessments and their impact on districts like Canutillo. CISD trustees are seeking changes in the way recent immigrants are tested by the state.

reprieve be provided to districts like Canutillo who serve large numbers of students who have been in American school systems for a very short period of time and may not be proficient in English.

“Every year we deal with so many students who have just made the transition from Mexico to the United States. Students who come here with a deep desire to learn but with limited English skills, or even no English skills at all,” said Rodriguez, CISD’s board president. “The state, as it stands right now, expects us to fully prepare these students to take

the rigorous End of Course exams in just one year. Those expectations are unrealistic.”

CISD Trustees have tackled this issue before. In December, the Board drafted a letter to Texas Commissioner of Education Michael Williams and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan asking for cooperation on the issue of English proficiency and assessment for recently immigrated students.

To this date, neither the state nor federal education offices have responded to CISD’s requests.

Ledesma receives Keep Texas Beautiful award

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

VINTON – Penny Ledesma, of ArcelorMittal Vinton (AMV),



COMMUNITY MINDED – Penny Ledesma, of ArcelorMittal Vinton, will be among the award winners honored during Keep Texas Beautiful’s 46th Annual Conference, which is scheduled for June 17-20, in San Antonio.

was named recently the third place winner of the 2013 Volunteer of the Year award by the Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) organization. The award honors Ledesma for her efforts with the Keep Vinton Beautiful (KVB) committee to help protect the Texas environment and support the organization’s mission – to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation.

KTB is a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement nonprofit organization that strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their communities’ environment, stated a Village of Vinton press release.

According to the release, KTB annually acknowledges deserving individuals, businesses, community groups, civic organizations, media, government entities and law enforcement officials for their commitment to an array of environmental issues, including litter prevention and community beautification, volunteerism, illegal dumping enforcement and education.

See LEDESMA, Page 5

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CryptoQuip Answer

I'm surprised fish can be so dumb. After all, they usually spend lots of time in schools.

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×		×		+	
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Briefs

From Page 1

vaccines will also be available. Free screening will also be available for cholesterol, blood sugar, pap smears, hearing and blood pressure. A Kids Korner will provide additional services for children including hearing, vision and dental. There will also be a Family Fun Walk at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

— Rebecca A. Cummings

Energy tips

As you're doing your spring cleaning and getting your air conditioner, as well as your house, ready for the hot weather, consider making some changes around the house that will help save energy dollars this summer. El Paso Electric recommends:

- When cleaning windows, check to see if they're in good condition. Loose, leaky or single-paned windows allow heated or cooled air to escape, taking hard-earned dollars with it. Repair existing windows or replace them with energy-efficient models.
- Clean/replace the air conditioning system's filter. And if you have a programmable thermostat, set it to 78 degrees for times when someone is

home and at 85 degrees when the house is vacant.

- If you leave your windows open to enjoy the weather, remember to shut off the heating or cooling system. A thermostat will call for heat or cool air when it's set to a temperature higher or lower than the outside air.
- Clean under and in back of the refrigerator. Dust can build up in those hard-to-reach areas, causing the refrigerator to run less efficiently. If you have an old refrigerator that is more than 15 years old, consider replacing it with a new Energy Star-qualified model that uses one quarter the energy. El Paso Electric will pick up your old refrigerator, recycle it and give you \$30. Just call 1-877-643-1956.
- Thoroughly dust computers, CD/DVD players and TVs. Connecting them through a power-strip enables you to turn them on-and-off more easily when not in use (the programming

settings on some appliances may be affected).

- Dust or wipe light bulbs and lamp shades. Clean bulbs provide more light for the money. Install compact fluorescent bulbs.
- When washing clothes, adjust the water level to match the load size, and use cold water whenever possible. Use the dryer's moisture sensor option that automatically shuts off the machine when the clothes are dry, and clean the lint filter before every load. Consider hanging clothes outside to dry instead.
- If you have a swimming pool or hot tub, set the pool filter and sweeper operations for early morning or late evening hours. Also, consider replacing pool pumps and motors with energy-efficient equipment.
- Set the thermostat in your water heater back so that the hot water is at exactly the temperature you want for a shower. Dish washers have their own water heating

elements so the water heater can be adjusted downward.

— Teresa Souza

Wanted

Ricardo Nunez, 21, who also goes by Macias, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He is 5'6" tall and weighs 195 pounds. He has black hair and blue eyes. In late March 2013, Horizon Police Officers were called to a service station located in the 14000 block of Horizon Blvd. regarding a disturbance. HCPD officers met with an the victim who told officials he was exiting the store walking towards the gas pumps when he suddenly heard a loud engine accelerating near his location and observed a black pick-up truck drive towards him at a high rate of speed. The victim managed to lunge out of the way to avoid getting struck. The truck circled the gas pumps and left a short time later. Further investigation revealed the driver

of the truck to be Nunez. The entire incident was apparently over a female acquaintance of both men. Charges have since been filed against Nunez. The



Ricardo Nunez

Nunez knows he is wanted and is believed to remain in the Borderland. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Nunez they can contact Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of Nunez.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

Ledesma

From Page 4

"Through her position at AMV, Ledesma has been instrumental in the implementation of programs and projects in the Vinton area and in obtaining financial support for many of those programs," stated Jessica Garza, Village of Vinton clerk.

"Her dedication to the environment is noticeable not only through her leadership but through her presence at all of the events and her hands on participation in projects. She encourages her co-workers to volunteer for cleanups, beautification projects and mentoring programs at the local elementary schools and high school," Garza stated.

Among the activities that Ledesma has coordinated is an open house event at AMV to showcase environmental programs at the plant including its recycling program, reforestation efforts, and environmental awareness and training sessions.

Ledesma is also credited with gathering financial support and volunteers to assist Bill Childress Elementary School students, of the Canutillo Independent School District, in creating their native garden and wildlife habitat, as well as constructing an outdoor garden and patio for students to learn from and enjoy. Additionally, Ledesma is a volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and a member of Vinton's Community Relations Board.

Ledesma will receive her award during KTB's 46th Annual Conference, which is scheduled for June 17-20, in San Antonio. A full list of winners and award descriptions, as well as information about the conference, is available online at www.ktb.org.



**EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT
2013 Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures**

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or special appraised value placed on your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the jurisdiction in which you are being taxed
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the Chief Appraiser, Appraisal District or Appraisal Review Board (ARB) that applies to and adversely affected your property

Informal Review

The El Paso Central Appraisal District has a trained staff to assist you with this process. For information on this process call (915) 780-2131.

In order to have an informal review or ARB hearing, **you must file a written protest before your deadline** (see below for deadlines).

If you wish to protest, complete the form, sign it, and return it to the El Paso Central Appraisal District.

You may be able to appeal your property value on-line. Please visit our website at www.epcad.org for more information.

If you do not receive a notice of appraised value and want to appeal the 2013 value of your property, you should send a letter or postcard no later than **May 31, 2013** stating that you wish to protest your property value. Be sure to include your name, mailing address and the address or location of the property you are protesting.

After your written protest is received, the Appraisal District will send you a letter notifying you of the date and time of your informal and/or ARB hearings. You are entitled to a postponement of your ARB hearing for any reason. You may receive additional postponements if you have reasonable cause. All requests for postponements must be made to the ARB before the date of the hearing.

If you file your appeal electronically (on-line), all communication will be by e-mail.

If you have questions about exemptions, procedures, or anything not related to a protest, call **(915) 780-2131**.

Review by the Appraisal Review Board

If you cannot resolve your problem at the informal hearing with the Central Appraisal District (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the Appraisal Review Board (ARB). The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews appraisals or other concerns listed above.

The ARB may direct CAD to make the necessary changes to resolve your dispute. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a Notice of Protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You will receive written notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing on Saturday or Sunday or in the evening. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD will use to uphold their determination. The CAD may ask you for a copy of the evidence you plan to present. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence, or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. The CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented. You can get a copy of a protest form at:

www.epcad.org

or the Appraisal District office — 5801 Trowbridge Drive

Note: You should not try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court or an Arbitrator or SOAH

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. In certain cases, as an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may file, not later than the 45th day after you receive notice of the ARB order, a request for binding arbitration with the county appraisal district. In certain cases originating in certain counties, as an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may appeal to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). An appeal to SOAH is initiated by filing with the chief appraiser of the county appraisal district a notice of appeal with the applicable filing fee not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order.

Tax Payment

If you appeal and your case is pending, you must pay the lesser of the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information

Information is at our website: www.epcad.org or by contacting the El Paso Central Appraisal District, 5801 Trowbridge Drive, El Paso, Texas 79925-3345, (915) 780-2131. Guidelines describing how to prepare a protest are available from the Appraisal District or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

Requests for Evidence

You can request to review evidence to be used by the CAD in your formal ARB hearing by addressing it to the ARB at the El Paso Central Appraisal District office. The envelope should be labeled "**Request for Evidence.**"

***Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB:**

Usual Deadline

On or before May 31, (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. Late protests are due the day before the Appraisal Review Board approves the records for the year.

Military personnel on active duty outside the United States and property owners employed on offshore oil drilling, production facility or vessel, have until the date the taxes are due to file a protest.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

Special Deadlines

For change of use (the Appraisal District informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is no later than 30 days after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change did not result from a protest you filed), the deadline is no later than 30 days after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

If you believe the Appraisal District or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received your tax bill. The ARB will decide whether you were due a notice and if the notice was mailed to you.

Contact the Appraisal District for more information.

Florida Gulf Coast who? Florida Gulf Coast Eagles!

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The end of March Madness is almost here and the final four teams are set to go at it in Atlanta this weekend.

There were 68 teams invited to this year's tournament and that means a lot of intense win-or-go-home basketball games.

Well I've got to tell you that most of the games in this playoff have been downright awful.

Very little drama has been displayed and the quality of basketball has been really lacking.

The tournament has been plagued with teams who struggled to get anything going offensively.

The shooting and the passing have been very disappointing.

I guess the reason has to be the fact that very few teams have any veteran experience.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s, college teams were stocked full of talented seniors. Teams stayed together and everybody knew two, three and even four players on a single team.

Before this tournament started, how many players could you name from any team

participating?

Good players leave too early and college teams, though they may have good athletes, don't play like well-oiled machines.

Many of them appear to need a tune-up and a few quarts of fundamentals.

But thank goodness for the guys in blue and green.

Just imagine what this tournament would have been like without the Eagles of Florida Gulf Coast University.

I have to admit that I had no clue where this program was from and that they even had a basketball team.

No matter what happens this weekend and whomever holds up the championship trophy Monday night, the high-flying Eagles have been the soul of this tournament.

Like Tiger Woods drawing tons of interest whenever he sets foot on a golf course, this team had the whole nation watching and rooting for them.

And what a story.

It includes a young-looking unknown coach with a beautiful ex-model for a wife and a flamboyant player who sticks out his tongue in jubilation and hangs around to hug the

announcers after the game.

The breath of fresh air swooped into the "Dance" with shocking victories over Georgetown and San Diego State before falling to Florida.

One of four teams will win the championship this week but just like Butler a few years ago, this tournament will be remembered for what Florida Gulf Coast did to remind us that a little guy with big dreams can accomplish amazing things.

Making ends meet

One of my pet peeves is when sports commentators argue that this player or that player is being disrespected because he's not being offered big money.

And this is when the player is being offered about \$15 million a year for five years.

I'm not the math wiz I used to be but I believe that comes out to \$75 million.

And I'm supposed to feel sorry for the guy because he has to try to eke out an existence with that miserable sum.

The fact that these guys feel that their teams are obligated to pay them that kind of money really strikes me the wrong way.

Today, even guys who never get into the games earn close to a million bucks a year.

Making that kind of money for doing nothing really makes you envy those guys and gals in congress.

If you really don't think professional athletes get paid way too much, listen to this.

What if I told you there was a guy who was only going to play half of the season, is not even half the player he used to be and is getting paid more than another entire team.

It's true, and his name is Alex Rodriguez.

That's right. A Rod is making \$29 million bucks this season and the entire payroll for the Houston Astros team is \$25 million.

Not since Paris Hilton have I seen someone have so much money without earning it.

I have to admit that if I were offered that kind of money I would certainly take it. I'm not saying it's all the players' fault.

I just can't stand it when commentators lose track of reality.

Quit feeling sorry for the poor athlete who only receives the \$4 million contract.

Believe me, even if he can only afford five BMWs to put in his \$1.5 million estate - he'll adjust to the hardship.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Off the radar

I was watching the NCAA tournament, and I wanted a sandwich.

I had no cold cuts, nor did I have any bread in the house. Well... actually, that's not entirely true. We had the bread my wife makes our kid eat that's made out of bird seed and sticks and some sort of

tofurkey nonsense in the fridge, but I would rather eat glass than that stuff. So I picked up the phone to order a sandwich from the local sandwich shop that advertises very fast delivery.

But since we got rid of the land line and went "cellphone only," that can sometimes be problematic. You

see, my cellphone has a battery with the lifespan of a mayfly and never works. So, after charging it in a wall outlet for a few minutes, it woke up, and 15 minutes later, after it helpfully "synched" and downloaded the 70 inane text messages sent from friends at sports bars (who were no doubt enjoying sandwiches), I was finally able to make the call and order my sandwich.

"The GPS says you're not there," said the order taker.

"I can assure you, I am here," I replied in the assured manner

of someone who existed and had just ordered a sandwich. I further explained I lived less than a quarter mile away, on the main thoroughfare and was the sole house on top of the hill... impossible to miss.

He was still befuddled. I still wasn't showing up on his GPS, even after ordering pickles and chips. After suggesting he take out his crayon and write the directions down, he went to work spitting in my sandwich, and I went back to the games.

Gonzaga got wrecked by Wichita State. I haven't seen a team play so scared in my entire life. Wichita State played street ball, couldn't miss and the players were getting tattoos during TV timeouts, it seemed.

Minnesota lost, and responded by firing Tubby Smith. Tubby Smith, the guy who had a .610 winning percentage and took them to the tournament seemingly every year. The powers that be, they said, wanted a "fresh pair of eyes" for the

program. They're nuttier than the bread my kid eats. I can't wait to see where Tubby goes next.

The delivery driver calls. "Om... you're not on my GPS," he said.

I asked for his name, and his name was Luke. Perfect.

"Luke," I intoned. "SHUT THE GPS OFF. Luke Skywalker turned off his targeting device and blew up the Death Star in one shot! You can do this!"

He laughed and promised to be "right there."

Still sans sandwich and with expectations low, I went back to the games. Wow. Florida Gulf Coast University made it to the Sweet Sixteen.

Some things you just don't see coming.

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

2013 TENNIS & SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

VS. HOUSTON | 4.13.13 | 2 PM & 4 PM
 VS. HOUSTON | 4.14.13 | NOON
 VS. TULSA | 4.27.13 | 2 PM & 4 PM
 VS. TULSA | 4.28.13 | NOON

TENNIS

VS. UTAH STATE | 4.11.13 | 2 PM

FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE CALL: 747.6150

1973 **40 Years** 2013 **WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER**

CLASSIFIED AD FORM
 25 words - \$10 per week; 40 words - \$15 per week

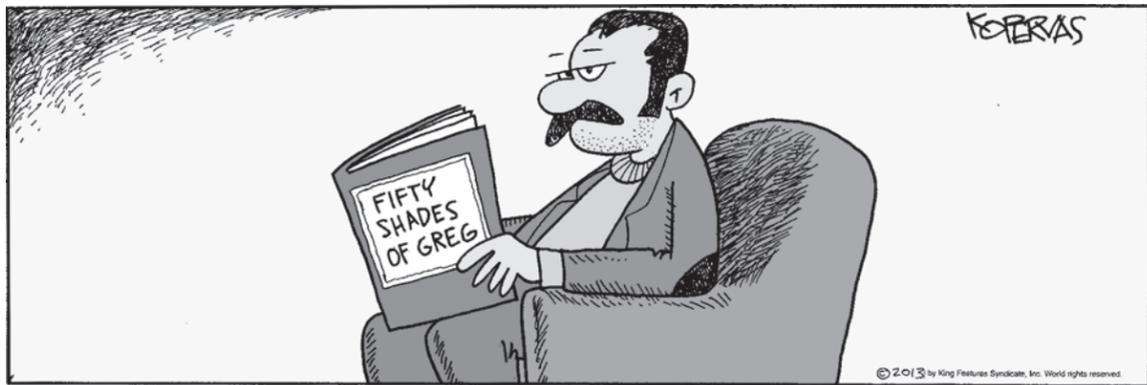
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Deadline: Mondays
 Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
 West Texas County Courier
 15344 Werling Ct.
 Horizon City, TX 79928

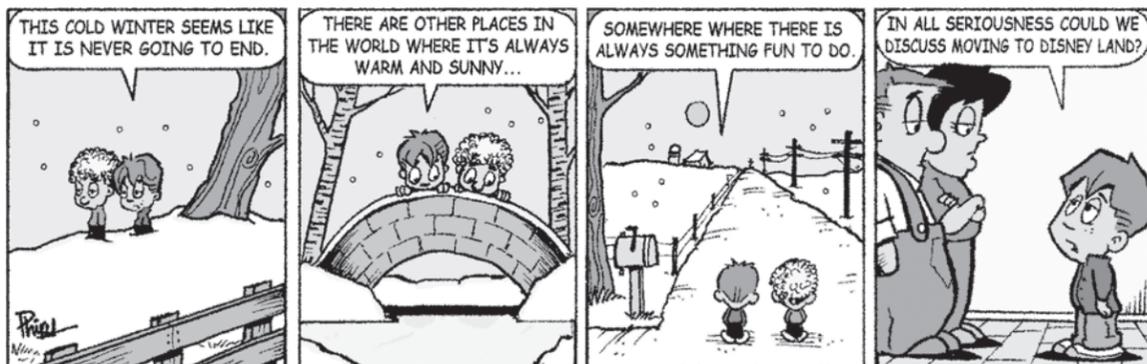
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 Phone: _____

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



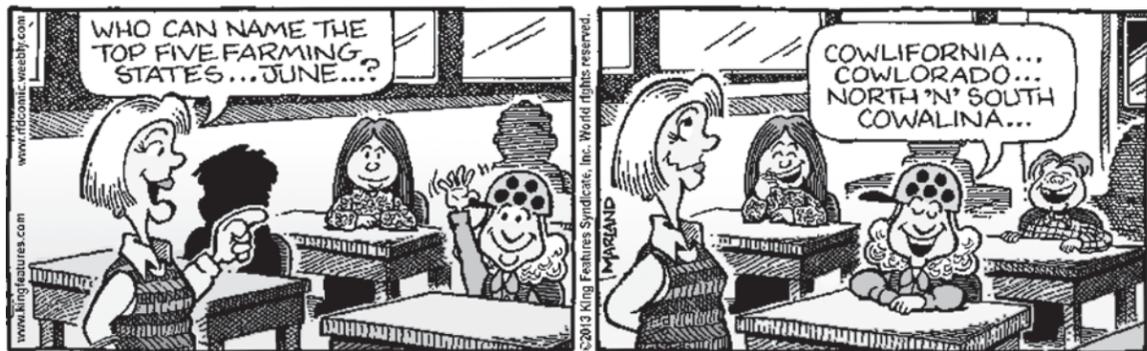
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I recently got into a discussion about circumcision with my granddaughter, who recently gave birth to our great-granddaughter. She mentioned that if her next child were a boy, she would choose not to have him circumcised. She claims her husband made a study of the procedure and says it is mutilation, the same as is practiced on women in some countries. She states it is a religious ritual only. Is circumcision of males considered the same as mutilation of females? - P.H.

It is not on a par with female circumcision. I believe the parents of infant boys are the ones to make the decision.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: What does the gallbladder do? I'm going to have mine out. How does losing it affect life? - J.M.

The gallbladder is 3 to 4 inches long and holds about an ounce of bile. Bile is a product of the liver. The gallbladder lies beneath and closely adherent to the liver on the right side of the abdomen.

The debate on male circumcision is one that generates heat on both sides. It is not the same as female circumcision. That is truly a mutilating procedure.

Male circumcision for cultural and religious purposes is one thing, and I'm not talking about the procedure in those circumstances.

The benefits of male circumcision include a reduction in urinary-tract infection in infancy. It is said to reduce the transmission and acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases. It has been shown convincingly to decrease the transmission of the HIV virus, the virus that causes AIDS; the male acquisition of herpes virus; and the transmission of human papillomavirus, the cause of genital warts in men and women and cervical cancer in women. If readers want a reference for these claims, they can find it in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Oct. 5, 2011, page 1,479.

When people eat a fatty meal, the gallbladder contracts to shoot a stream of bile into the digestion of fat. Without a gallbladder, bile drips into the small intestine directly from the liver. Fat digestion goes on almost as it did with a gallbladder.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: After 18 holes of golf, the tendons on the back of my heels hurt. What should I do? - C.K.

The likely cause is inflammation of the Achilles tendon, the tendon of the calf muscle. It attaches to the heel. Don't play golf for two weeks. Take Aleve if there's no reason for you not to use it. Put warm compresses on it for 15 minutes three times a day. Try heel inserts, obtainable in every drugstore. When you start playing again, ice the tendon for 10 to 15 minutes after you're through playing.

The arguments against male circumcision are that it is unnecessary, doesn't markedly affect the health of men or women in developed countries and can lead to serious complications, rare but possible. The actual complication rate is 0.2 percent to 0.6 percent, and most of the complications are minor. Furthermore, some feel strongly that it is a mutilating

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

- SMASH HIT FROM "TITANIC" ACROSS
- 1 Blouse, e.g.
- 6 Mountain lion
- 10 Part of Mao's name
- 13 Modern
- 19 Wood-turning tool
- 20 Of the 123-Across
- 21 List-ending abbr.
- 22 Skilled public speaker
- 23 Baffled
- 24 Fatherly
- 26 Series of church petitions
- 27 Start of a riddle
- 30 Ballet outfit
- 31 Male wig
- 32 Fanciful desire
- 36 Alert to squad cars, briefly
- 39 Riddle, part 2
- 44 Rural retreat
- 46 Plural "is"
- 47 Catch sight of
- 48 _ Polo
- 49 Southern Sioux
- 50 Full of negatives
- 53 With 96-Across, fruity rum cocktail
- 55 Gullible type
- 56 Riddle, part 3
- 62 Barrett of the original Pink Floyd
- 63 Crooner _ "King" Cole
- 64 Franklin with soul
- 65 H-bombs and the like
- 66 Reel partner
- 68 Riddle, part 4
- 72 Miss _ mile
- 73 Cast off, as feathers
- 75 Shops
- 76 _ kwon do (martial art)
- 78 Memphis-to-Chicago dir.
- 81 Riddle, part 5
- 87 _ Mae Brown (Whoopi Goldberg's Oscar-winning "Ghost" role)
- 88 A Stooze
- 89 Shearer and Talmadge
- 90 Gambler's IOU
- 91 Wyoming's _ Range
- 93 "How awful"
- 96 See 53-Across
- 97 Savoir- _
- 98 End of the riddle
- 104 _ capita
- 105 "Star Wars" sage
- 106 Typos, e.g.
- 107 Curling tool
- 109 Riddle's answer
- 117 Reason
- 120 Mall rat, typically
- 121 Amazed
- 122 Eye piece?
- 123 Lobe locale
- 124 Rice-A- _
- 125 Signs over
- 126 In the hub of
- 127 Rd. crossers
- 128 Wet blanket
- 129 Artery insert
- DOWN
- 1 Diner side
- 2 Doth own
- 3 _ "trap!"
- 4 Butler of "Gone With the Wind"
- 5 Olympics squad in red, white, and blue
- 6 Kid's pistol
- 7 Orem site
- 8 Goalie glove
- 9 _ deuce
- 10 Lacking a sound basis
- 11 Regulation
- 12 Sun block?
- 13 Flick director's cry
- 14 One of the Great Lakes
- 15 American Indian or wine
- 16 Homer's H
- 17 Prefix with proliferation
- 18 Take a crack at
- 25 Old paper section
- 28 "Who am _ say?"
- 29 Jazz saxophonist
- 33 Equestrian skill
- 34 Bouncer's door request
- 35 Nearsighted people
- 36 Asserts
- 37 Succinct, as a saying
- 38 Like kinfolk
- 40 Missies
- 41 Wall St. mavens
- 42 Lover boy
- 43 Radiate
- 45 Old NASA lander
- 50 Alias letters
- 51 Beatles hit
- 52 Lures
- 53 Title for Gandhi
- 54 _ low ebb
- 57 Plus
- 58 Notable time period
- 59 Mystery novelist Josephine
- 60 Bklyn. _, N.Y.
- 61 Numbered rte.
- 67 Keats feat
- 69 Without a _ (penniless)
- 70 Opp. of departure
- 71 Spy novelist Deighton
- 72 Stinger
- 73 Not uniform
- 74 Signature line of Cab Calloway
- 75 Airport northwest of LAX
- 77 "Six-pack" muscles
- 79 French for "black"
- 80 Step into
- 82 1970s-'80s Dodge
- 83 Post-it item
- 84 Steffi of tennis
- 85 Jannings of old films
- 86 Sony rival
- 92 Inclined (to)
- 93 Increases the value of, as a benefit
- 94 Eye angrily
- 95 Milliners
- 97 Plays friskily
- 99 Warm up again
- 100 Prior to, in 67-Downs
- 101 Songwriter Sammy
- 102 Well-drilling equipment
- 103 Part of NOW: Abbr.
- 108 Trio tripled
- 110 Fashion's Saint Laurent
- 111 Hospital unit
- 112 Assistant of Frankenstein
- 113 Musical Home
- 114 Roe v. _
- 115 "Zoolander" actor Wilson
- 116 It's bird-built
- 117 Major record label, once
- 118 _ pah band
- 119 Cycle or angle starter

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore In Texas, 1.7% of our legislators are full time... in California, 80% of their state's lawmakers are full timers... hmmm.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I've been turned down for disability benefits. How do I appeal?

A: Visit www.socialsecurity.gov and click on the "Appeal a disability decision online" link in the left-hand column. This is the starting point. There you can ask us to review our medical decision. There are two parts to the Internet appeal process: 1) An Appeal Request Internet form; and 2) An Appeal Disability Report, which gives us more information about your condition. You can complete both forms online. To appeal online, the only form you are required to submit is an appeal request (Part 1). However, we encourage you to submit an Appeal Disability Report (Part 2) because it will give us more information about you and help us process your appeal more quickly. The place to start is www.socialsecurity.gov.

those payments. The review also will make sure you are receiving the correct amount in benefits. We could be paying you too much or too little. To learn more about SSI, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.

Q: I applied for my child's Social Security card in the hospital but have not received it. How long must I wait?

A: On average, it takes about 4-5 weeks from the time you apply in the hospital until you receive your child's Social Security card in the mail. However, it can vary depending on the State where you live. If you have not received your child's card within six weeks, please visit your local Social Security office. Be sure to take with you proof of your child's citizenship, age and identity as well as proof of your own identity. And remember, we cannot divulge your child's Social Security number over the phone.

Q: I got a notice from Social Security that said my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) case is being reviewed. What does this mean?

A: Social Security reviews every SSI case from time to time to make sure the individuals who are receiving payments are still eligible and should continue to receive

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
By Samantha Weaver

- It was pioneering British director of suspense films Alfred Hitchcock who made the following sage observation: "The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder."

- If you're an arachnophobe, you probably don't want to know that a tarantula can live for up to two years without eating a single thing.

- If you're like the average American man with a job, you spend 8 minutes per day cooking. If you're like the average American woman who works, you spend 50 minutes a day preparing meals.

- There are four times more astrologers than astronomers in the United States.

- You may not think it significant that in 1921, Earle Dickson's wife had a tendency to injure herself while working in the kitchen. He kept bandaging her wounds with gauze and adhesive tape, but the bandages always seemed to be slipping off. Finally, in exasperation, he put a small piece of gauze in the center of a piece of adhesive tape, which worked beautifully. None of this would have made any difference to us today, except that Dickson was an employee of Johnson & Johnson. He took some samples of his invention into work, where the owner, James Johnson, loved the idea. The Band-Aid went into production shortly thereafter.

- In the 1979 gubernatorial election in Louisiana, a man named Luther Knox was fed up with the candidates on the ballot. In order to give like-minded Louisianans an option, he ran for the office himself - after legally changing his name to "None of the Above."

- You might be surprised to learn that rock star Elvis Presley's idol was General Douglas MacArthur.

Thought for the Day: "The hardest thing in the world to understand is income taxes."

- Albert Einstein

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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.

	÷		+		11
+		+		÷	
	+		×		18
×		×		+	
	×		-		27
30		21		11	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 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: **D** equals **S**

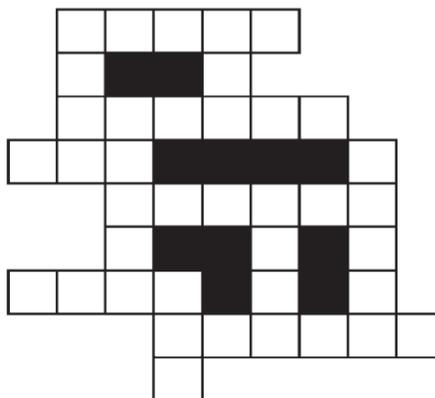
R'L DHCICRDKJ NRDP ZEU GK
DF JHLG. ENSKC ETT, SPKM
HDHETTM DIKUJ TFSD FN SRLK
RU DZPFSTD.

Answer Page 4

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- ENF
- ♥ SIBDER
- WRABL
- WPLA
- LORDAL
- OLX
- ♥ EBDA
- FACTR
- ♥ RWA
- PEATIO
- ♥ DWEON
- ♥ OCLI



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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