



## NEWSBRIEFS

### San Eli health fair

San Elizario ISD, in partnership with local agencies, will offer free vision, hearing, blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings, as well as immunizations on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at San Elizario High School, 13981 Socorro Rd. There will also be entertainment, games, and other fun activities for children. For more information contact Laura Rodriguez, R.N. at lhrodriguez@seisd.net or 872-3926.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

### Conservation workshop

The El Paso Conservation Leadership Institute will sponsor its first Conservation Leadership Workshop on Saturday, December 7. The Institute will accept reservations for the workshop through November 15. The workshop is designed to show participants how to become effective conservation leaders. Presenters will include Susie Byrd, former El Paso City council member; Jim Tolbert, El Paso environmentalist and elpasonaturally blogger; Rick LoBello, El Paso Zoo education curator; and Robert Hii, a sustainable business consultant from Toronto who writes for the Huffington Post. The leadership institute was established as an informal group of community leaders dedicated to helping El Paso achieve international recognition for successful preservation of this region's Chihuahuan desert heritage. For more information and an application, send email to epconservationleadership@gmail.com.

— Alfredo Vasquez

### Dance

The Artistic Stylz Dance Studio is holding tryouts for their Street Kidz squad on Saturday, Nov. 2 at noon. The studio is located at 9401 Carnegie, Ste. 2K. Information: 355-4235 or 920-7509.

— Dorothy Heredia

### Winners

The El Paso Community College (EPCC) men and women won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region V and the Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC) Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Oct. 26 in Levelland, Texas. The Tejanas won the Region and Conference championship with 25 points. Andrea Amaro won the 5K race with a time of 18:49.07 followed very closely by teammate Shannon Luevano who finished in 2nd place at 18:49.95. This was the third time that a Tejana has won the Region and Conference meet; Viviana Contreras in 2008 and Florence Ngetich in 2010. This was the sixth time in 14 seasons that the Tejanas have won the Region and Conference meet.

— Jim Heiney

*It is possible to learn from an enemy things we can't learn from a friend.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**IT'S A HIKE** – The Cristo Rey peak is the site of the borderland's largest pilgrimage each year on the last Sunday in October, the traditional Feast Day of Christ the King. The pilgrimage (a journey to a holy place, undertaken for religious reasons) annually attracts thousands of worshipers, many of whom begin their trek at dawn. The four-story-tall statue of Christ on the cross tops the mountain, 4,576 feet above sea level, in the United States in Sunland Park, NM, near the junction of Mexico, Texas and New Mexico. Built in 1938-40 by sculptor Urbici Soler, the monument is accessible off McNutt Road (Highway 273) in Sunland Park near the Rio Grande.

## Thousands trek to one of the region's most famous sites

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Barefooted, with shoes under their arms, women with infants in arm, men, women and children – over 20,000 of them – marched for hours up the winding path to the top of Mount Cristo Rey to honor Christ the King.

Behind the thousands to make the ascent, came the formal procession of clergymen and pilgrims, parish by parish, carrying banners and stopping at the Stations of the Cross that were intermittently spaced along the trail. The procession wound into the heavy shadows of the mountains and out into the glaring sunlight

of the early afternoon.

The annual pilgrimage to Mount Cristo Rey, which is held the last Sunday of October in observance of the Feast of Christ the King, has attracted thousands of believers every year since 1933, that's when Monsignor Lourdes F. Costa, priest of San José del Rio Church in Smeltertown at the time, first visualized a cross on the rugged mountain peak that overlooks three states and two nations.

On October 28, 1933, on the eve of the Feast of Christ the King, Costa and about 100 parishioners climbed the Cerro de Muleros (originally known as el Pico del Rodadero del Cerro de Muleros) and vowed to erect a cross dedicated to Christ the King on top of the mountain, according to Janine Young, author

of the Centennial History of the Diocese of El Paso.

Young stated that the parishioners built the monument to honor Pope Pius XI's request of parishes throughout the world to build spiritual monuments to mark the nineteenth Centennial of the Redemption. They also wanted it to serve as a response to the persecution of Catholics in Mexico during that period and as a sign of support for President Franklin Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy with Latin America.

First, the parishioners built the four-mile trail to the peak that is still used today. In February 1934, they placed a temporary wooden cross at the top which was replaced

See TREK, Page 4

## Texas receives waiver from No Child Left Behind standards

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – U.S. Department of Education (DOE) approved recently Texas's request for a waiver from the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability standards. In exchange, however, the state must develop plans to prepare all students for college and career, focus aid on the neediest students, and support effective teaching and leadership initiatives.

Under key components of the state's NCLB waiver, Texas schools will no longer be designated as having met or made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Instead of federal designations for all schools in Texas, only the lowest performing 15 percent of schools will be identified as Priority or Focus Schools. Those schools will be subject to a series of federally prescribed interventions.

Texas joins 41 other states and Washington, D.C. that have been relieved from federal standards. This year, NCLB requirements would have called for more than 90 percent of students in each school and district to

pass the state's standardized tests in reading and math. The following year, those requirements would have gone up to 100 percent of students.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner Michael Williams estimated that 95 percent of Texas school districts would not have cleared that bar. Missing the standards for consecutive years can lead to sanctions such as replacing a school's teachers and principal.

"The underlying message throughout our negotiations with the federal government has been Texans know what's best for Texas schools," Williams stated in a recent news report. "I believe our school districts will appreciate the additional flexibility this waiver provides while also adhering to our strong principles on effective public education."



— Photo courtesy of TEA

**Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner Michael Williams said that he initiated the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver process to give TEA and more than 1,200 school districts and charters additional flexibility.**

Texas must now create an evaluation system for teachers and principals that is tied to standardized test scores. Guidelines for states seeking waivers also focus on closing achievement gaps for student groups and monitoring progress on college readiness standards.

In order to keep the waiver for the 2014-15 school year, Texas will have to launch a 40-district pilot program to test the new teacher and principal evaluation system. DOE officials expect the program to be used statewide by the following year, and Williams committed that the system will be fully implemented at that point.

An added advantage for the waiver is that it gives school districts more freedom in

See STANDARDS, Page 4



Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Scammer finally goes to trial

The wheels of justice grind slowly. It was May 2012 that the capture of “Bobby Thompson” was detailed in this column. Thompson had spent the previous eight years scamming people who donated \$100 million to the U.S. Navy Veterans Association. A reporter in Florida uncovered the scheme when he discovered that none of the supposed partners and participants of the charity organization could be located. Now his trial finally has begun.

“Thompson” was a real piece of work. He made sure to send lots of money to political campaigns, thus ensuring himself photo ops with the candidates. If you put his name in an Internet search box, you’ll find lots of images of him posed next to important people at fundraisers.

Except his name wasn’t Bobby Thompson. His name was John Donald Cody. He was finally identified when his 1969 military fingerprints were located. Cody was an attorney who’d been in one type of scheme or scam or another for many years ... starting when he went underground, vanishing from Arizona in 1984.

Among other things, he was allegedly wanted for:

- Espionage and theft of client money in Virginia;
- Skipping out in Arizona after taking client money; and
- Theft of charity money in Ohio and 40-plus other states.

In the height of arrogance, he once hired a former state attorney general to represent the fraudulent Navy charity.

The sheer length of time this guy evaded the authorities and the amount of money he scammed presses home a serious point when it comes to making donations: Check, check, check before you donate to veterans causes. Here are some of the best sources:

- GuideStar: [www.guidestar.org/](http://www.guidestar.org/)
- Charity Navigator: [www.charitynavigator.org/](http://www.charitynavigator.org/)
- Charity Watch: [www.charitywatch.org/](http://www.charitywatch.org/)

Be sure to check the percentage of donated funds that actually go to a cause, as opposed to administrative costs.

*Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to [columnreply2@gmail.com](mailto:columnreply2@gmail.com). (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.*

Finances

By Jason Alderman

GI Bill eases college costs for military families

As Veteran’s Day approaches, this is a good time to remind our active duty service members and veterans about the many education assistance benefits available to them through the G.I. Bill and other government programs.

Here’s a rundown of a few of the more commonly used programs:

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is more flexible and generally offers more generous benefits than earlier GI Bills. It provides up to 36 months of support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of active duty after September 11, 2001, or those with a service-connected disability after 30 days. An honorable discharge is required.

Approved training includes undergraduate and graduate degrees, and vocational/technical/on-the-job training, among others. You will be eligible for benefits for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.

This program covers 100 percent of tuition and fees for in-state students at public institutions, paid directly to the school. For those attending private or foreign schools, it will pay up to \$19,198.31 per academic year (sometimes more in certain states).

If you attend a costlier private school – or a public school as a non-resident – you also may be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program, where schools voluntarily fund tuition expenses exceeding the highest public in-state undergraduate rate. The institution can contribute up to 50 percent of those expenses and the Veteran’s Administration will match the amount.

The 9/11 GI Bill also will pay a books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 per year, and a monthly housing allowance generally comparable to the military Basic Allowance for Housing for a military pay grade E-5 with dependents, based on the ZIP code for your school.

Another advantage of this newer GI Bill: Armed Forces members with at least six years’ service can transfer some or all of their benefits to their spouse and/or children. Here are the basic rules:

- You must agree to four additional years of service. (Special rules apply if standard policy precludes you from serving four more years or you’re eligible for retirement).
- Because the clock starts ticking from the date you elect to participate – and you can’t enroll additional beneficiaries after leaving the military – it’s best to sign up all family members right away. You can always go back and change allocation percentages or remove beneficiaries at any time until the benefits are used.
- Spouses may begin using transferred benefits right away; however children must wait until you’ve served the full 10 years.
- You and your spouse must use the benefits within 15 years of your leaving the military; children must use them by age 26.

Montgomery GI Bill. This older version of the GI Bill may still be available if you didn’t already opt for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. You’re eligible if you started active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985, served continuously for three years, are honorably discharged and had your pay reduced by \$100 a month for the first 12 months. (There’s a separate plan for reservists.)

For most people, this program is less generous than the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Benefits typically expire 10 years after military separation and are not transferrable to family members; plus, you pay tuition and fees upfront and are later reimbursed. The VA website has a tool to compare benefits under the two GI Bills.

To learn more about the GI Bill, visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). Other VA-sponsored educational financial aid programs can be found at [www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/other\\_programs/index.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/index.html).

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

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Students help keep Canutillo clean

By Kim Guzman

Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Bill Childress Elementary School’s Science Squad members are doing their part to keep the community clean and planet healthy – all while raising much needed funding.

Fourth grade students Carlos Guevara, Jessie Porras, Amber Herrera, Joselyn Ortega, Olivia Matta, Mercedes Pena, Aileen Breceda, Alondra Parra and Joshua Juarez, as well as fifth graders Alma Gomez, Kelly Gutierrez, Damaris Guerrero and Celeste Sandoval are collecting empty Capri Sun pouches as they participate in a nationwide recycling program called the Brigade Programs.

The BCE Science Squad collects and ships waste items to TerraCycle, a recycling and upcycling company, and earns two cents for each item in the process. The waste is then recycled into a variety of affordable, environmentally-responsible products such as plastic decking, watering cans and even recycling bins.

“Helping the planet by recycling more is an awesome project for our students,” said Laura Moreno, Science Lab Aide. “But even better is the fact that our students learn about doing their part to keep our community clean are able to raise money in the process.”

According to Moreno, the science squad meets every day before school with the goal to motivate Bill Childress eagles to love science.

– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

**DOING THEIR PART –** The Bill Childress Elementary School Science Squad entered the “Box That Rocks Design Contest”, showing their creativity in design using recycled materials. From left, fourth graders Joselyn Ortega, and Amber Herrera are proud to display their recycled creation.

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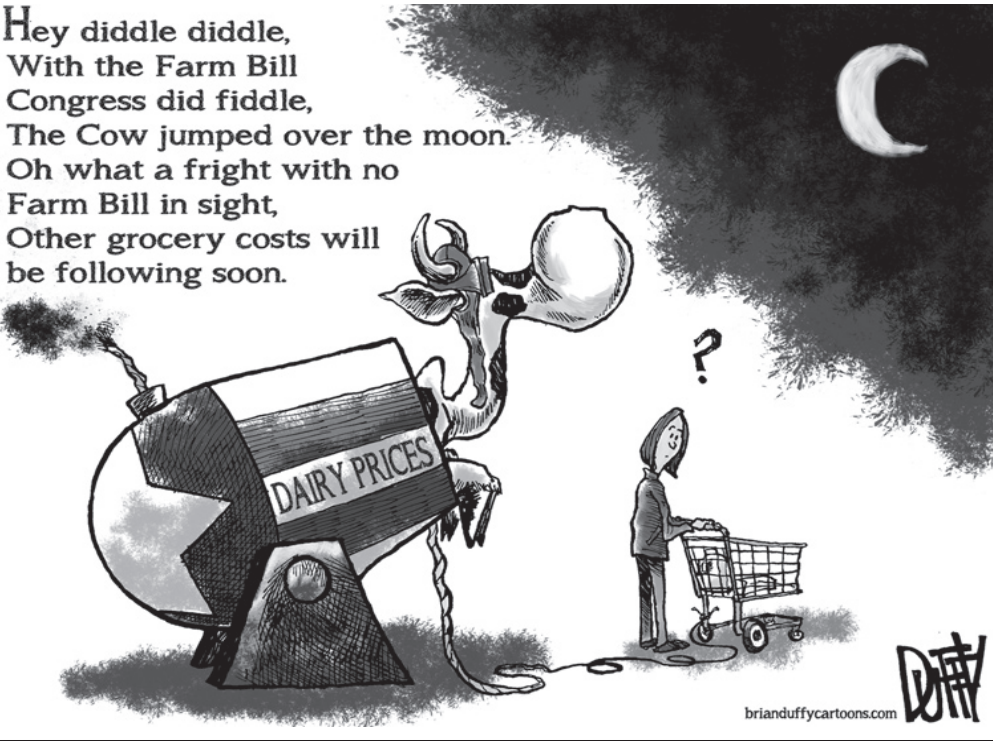
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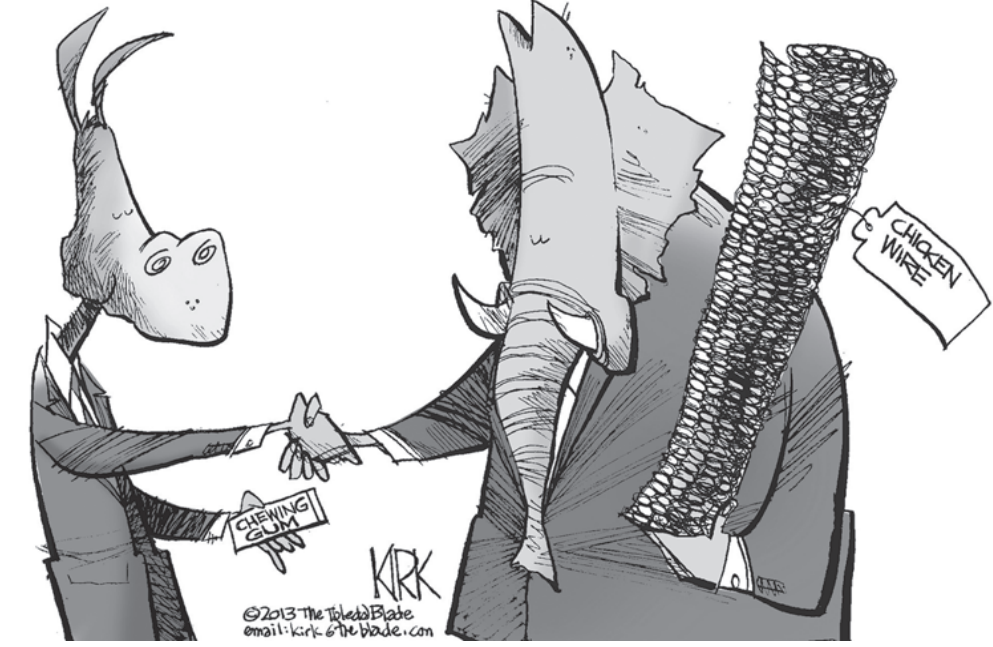
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It's the law

By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Know your renting rights, responsibilities

The annual fall migration of students to college towns and cities across Texas can be intimidating for students who are renting their own place to live for the very first time. Knowledge about the legal protections afforded to renters can help protect their pocketbooks and take some stress out of the process.

Most landlords require a tenant's signature on a lease. Renters should read their leases carefully before they sign them. Real-estate agents who know the rental market may be able to help and typically do not charge renters for their services because landlords pay the agents' fees.

Renters who want to change a part of their lease should discuss the changes with the landlord. If the landlord agrees, the two should decide how they want to phrase the change and write it into the agreement. Both parties should then initial the agreed-upon change. For example, while many standard leases prohibit pets, some landlords may be willing to accept a pet if the tenant pays an extra security deposit.

Once renters have signed their leases, moved in and unpacked, they can expect to enjoy certain rights which include:

- Peace and quiet – A landlord cannot evict renters without cause nor can they disturb tenants' right to enjoy their residence.
- Privacy – Tenants should study their leases carefully to determine the circumstances under which a landlord may enter their homes. Unless a lease agreement says that the landlord can enter the unit, the landlord has no right to do so, except perhaps in case of emergency or to conduct repairs the tenant has requested.
- Locks and security – Although there are some specific exceptions, under Texas law, a residence must be equipped with security devices such as window latches, keyed dead bolts on exterior doors, sliding door pin locks and sliding door handle latches or sliding door security bars. These devices must be installed at the landlord's expense. If these devices are missing or are defective, a tenant has the right to request their installation or repair.
- Smoke detectors – The landlord must provide smoke detectors. A tenant may not waive that provision and may not disconnect or disable the smoke detector.
- Freedom from discrimination – Landlords are clearly prohibited from discriminating against renters because of their race, national origin, religion, gender, familial status or disability.
- Freedom from retaliation – Under Texas law, it is illegal for a landlord to retaliate within six months against a tenant who complained in good faith about necessary repairs.

Tenants also have a number of responsibilities of their own. These obligations may include:

- Paying rent in full and on time in accordance with the lease agreement.
- Appropriate upkeep of the rental property. The landlord may not charge the renter for normal wear and tear on the premises and may only charge for extraordinary damage.
- Notifying the landlord of necessary repairs in writing. If the landlord fails to make repairs that materially affect tenants' health, safety or security, and tenants follow the procedures required by law, tenants may be entitled to end their lease, have the problem repaired on their own and deduct the cost of the repair from their rent. Tenants also could take legal action against a landlord who refuses to make required repairs. If possible, renters should consult with an attorney or legal aid clinic before deciding how to proceed.
- Giving notice of a tenant's intent to move out. Many leases require 30 days' notice as a condition of returning a renter's deposit – though some agreements require more than 30 days' notice.
- Giving a landlord notice of a tenant's forwarding address. Landlords are required to return tenants' security deposits or explanations of deductions within 30 days of their departure.

Property codes can be confusing. Texans who have questions about their specific situations

See RENTING, Page 4

# EPCC FALL FESTIVAL

Carnival Rides

Thursday October 31, 2013  
6:00 pm - 10:00pm  
EPCC Valle Verde Campus  
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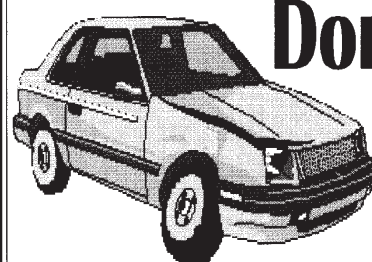
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PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso County Housing Authority

SECTION 8 COORDINATOR POSITION SUMMARY

Under the intermediate supervision of the Executive Director, the Section 8 Coordinator will ensure the efficient operation of the Section 8 Rent Assistance Program by interviewing clients and performing eligibility determinations and related functions. Applicant must be able to communicate in English and Spanish, have considerable knowledge of Section 8 existing regulations and policies and have at least two years experience in Federal Public Housing Administration. Salary commensurate with experience. To apply, please call our office at 915 764-3559 to pick up an application.

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TOWN OF ANTHONY, TX

PUBLIC NOTICE

TXCDBG CONTRACT NO.711010

The Town of Anthony will conduct a public hearing to review the performance and to obtain citizens comments on its completed Texas Community Development Block Grant Program – Community Development Fund TxCDBG Contract No. 711010 Street Improvements Project. The public hearing will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at the City Hall Council Room located at 401 Wildcat Drive in Anthony, Texas.

Persons with disabilities who may require auxiliary aids or services to attend this meeting should contact the Office of the Town Clerk at (915) 886-3944 at least two days before the meeting to make arrangements.

Luis Vela Mayor

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Standards

From Page 1

how they spend federal Title I money earmarked for academic intervention. The law had required school districts to spend 20 percent of their money with specific federally approved tutoring companies.

Commissioner Williams announced the state’s intent to file for a waiver from certain federal NCLB requirements shortly after assuming office last year. TEA submitted its initial waiver request in February after seeking input from superintendents, educators, business leaders and the general public on the scope of the waiver request.

Since fall 2011, 45 states, D.C., Puerto Rico and the Bureau of Indian Education have requested waivers from NCLB in order to implement next-generation education reforms that go far beyond the law’s rigid, top-down prescriptions. The Education Department has now approved requests from 42 states and D.C., with other applications still pending.

Federal education law has been due for Congressional reauthorization since 2007. In the face of Congressional inaction, President Obama announced in September 2011 that the administration would grant waivers from NCLB to qualified states.

The NCLB waiver granted to Texas does not affect any student assessments currently required under federal law. The waiver is effective for the 2013-2014 school year.

Renting

From Page 1

can contact their local tenants’ councils or other resources. The following organizations provide additional information on tenants’ rights, including brochures:

- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (800) 525-0657 [www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us)
- Austin Tenants’ Council 1619 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin, Texas 78702 (512) 474-1961 [www.housing-rights.org](http://www.housing-rights.org)
- State Bar of Texas P.O. Box 12487 Austin, Texas 78711 (800) 204-2222 [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com)
- Texas Apartment Association 1011 San Jacinto Blvd., Ste. 600 Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 479-6252 [www.taa.org](http://www.taa.org)
- Office of Attorney General (800) 252-8011 [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov).

Trek

From Page 1

within a few months with a metal cross built by students at the Smelter Vocational School.

The present-day Mount Cristo Rey statue was unveiled on October 29, 1939, by Urbici Soler, the statue’s sculptor, and the San José del Rio parishioners. After construction of the monument, parishioners appealed to Washington, D.C. to change the name to Sierra de Cristo Rey and a national dedication of the monument took place October 17, 1940.

The creation of Mount Cristo Rey was a remarkable engineering feat. Soler and the project’s engineer, A.J. Slogeris, faced many challenges. Part of the mountain had to be dynamited away, an incline railroad to transport the heavy stone to the top had to be constructed, and the monument had to be built to withstand winds in excess of 100 miles per hour.

Soler began work on the monument in 1938 with the help of 70 men who provided the labor to move 30 tons of sandstone to the peak. The cross is 33.5 feet high on a nine foot base for an overall height of 42.5 feet.

To firmly anchor the structure and secure it against the wind, Soler and Slogeris drilled a steel support 30 feet into the mountain so that the entire monument is like a knife with the monument itself being the handle.

Soler struggled to carve the face of Christ since there was not enough room at the top to get the distance needed to estimate the proper proportions. Soler solved the problem by standing down the slope of the mountain and shouting instructions to an assistant who sketched the face on the stone. The face itself is elongated so that it looks in proportion to a person standing at the base.

After completing the project, Soler, who lived in Mexico City prior to working on the statue, remained in El Paso and taught art at Texas Western College. He built a house and studio in Anapra at the foot of the monument where he lived until his death in 1953. His friend, Monsignor Costa, passed away in December 1965.

In 1982, Mount Cristo Rey was placed under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Las Cruces NM. In 1989, a marker was placed at the monument to honor Costa and Soler for their roles in building Mount Cristo Rey.

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						R	I	N	S	E	S		P	L	A	X		S	L	E	E	P	S	O	F	F	
						A	N	N	E		I	A	K	E	N	T	O	H	A	R	T		I	C	E	R	
						L	E	A	R	N	A	L	O	T		R	U	E	D		C	E	N	T	R	O	
						I	S	L			C	A	R	R	I	E	O	N	B	A	G	S					
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						S	L	O	E	S		E	R	N	E	S	T	A	T	T	E	M	P	T			
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						S	I	R		R	O	O	M	I	E		P	E	S	O	S		Y	E	N	S	

CryptoQuip  
Answer

Because our outfit designer was almost infallible, we would say “The costumer is always right!”

7	×	3	+	1	22
+		+		+	
9	×	2	−	8	10
÷		×		÷	
4	×	5	−	3	17
4		25		3	





– Photo by Acavias Largo

**GOOD SHOW** – The Montwood High School marching band made the top 10 at SISD Marchfest.

# Socorro ISD Marchfest showcases the best area bands

By Paula R. Diaz  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District’s Marchfest welcomed 24 bands to the Student Activities Complex on Oct. 19 marking its 21st year of the annual competition.

Marchfest is one of the premier band competitions in the area and it featured bands from Southern New Mexico and West Texas, including SISD’s five high schools.

“This festival represents the best this area has to offer,” said SISD Fine Arts Director Donald Rominsky. “The dedication and enthusiasm of the kids is wonderful. Everyone wants to be the best they can be. But everyone wants to help everyone else. The performances we saw two weeks ago at the Region UIL Marching Contest is even better today.”

The Marchfest is the tune-up for the UIL area marching contest at the SAC on Oct. 26, featuring District 4-A bands. Eastlake High School, the only SISD band in that category, will participate in the area competition.

“Keep an eye on Eastlake,” Rominsky said. “They are phenomenal.”

One group of people who feel the same way is the Montanez

family. On Saturday night, they were out in full force to support 15-year-old Eileen Montanez, an Eastlake sophomore who plays flute with the band.

“We are so proud of her,” her mom, Cecilia Montanez said. “She practices so hard all week. I am glad they are continuing their competition.”

Grandmother, Rosa Montanez, who grew up in Mexico, said marching band was something they never saw in her native country. It wasn’t part of the school curriculum.

“Even though this is new to me, I never miss a competition,” said Rosa Montanez, 62, as she awaited her granddaughter’s performance. “No matter the weather — hot, rain, wind, snow — we are always here.”

Coronado High School Principal Marielo Morales said Marchfest is one of the best fine arts programs in the area.

“I never miss it,” Morales said. “It has grown so much throughout the area. What Don and his team have done is tremendous. It’s so nice that we can all support each other.”

## Top 10 Finalist at 2013 Marchfest

1. Oñate High School
2. Americas High School
3. Coronado High School
4. Eastlake High School
5. Eastwood High School
6. Hanks High School
7. Franklin High School
8. Montwood High School
9. Del Valle High School
10. Bel Air High School

It takes about 60 plus SISD employees to put on the daylong show, from those directing parking to the people who clean up after the event is over, he said.

SISD Board of Trustee President Cynthia Najera said the event is the jewel in SISD’s crown.

“To be able to highlight this amazing talent in this setting makes this one of my favorite events every year,” Najera said. “I am extremely proud of the staff who can pull this off and do such an amazing job.”

What is her favorite part of the show?

“When all the participating bands stand up and cheer for the band that is about to perform,” Najera said. “It gives me goose bumps every time I see it. This is what this is all about. Yes it is a competition, but you can see good sportsmanship, too.”

SISD Trustee Anthony Ayub agreed.

“This is the 10 best of the best,” Ayub said, while watching the next band perform. “You won’t see a show of higher quality than this anywhere else in the state.”

AT SHOPPING MALLS, PARKING LOTS, THEATERS, APARTMENT COMPLEXES & CITY STREETS

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# The Chihuahuas – it’s the team name, controversy and all

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

A long time ago a guy by the name of Bill Shakespeare asked the question, “what’s in a name?”

In El Paso over the last week we’ve learned that the answer is “nothing,” ... and yet, “everything.”

The never-ending saga that is El Paso’s triple-A baseball franchise took yet another contentious turn when the name of the team was revealed.

I have to admit that when I first heard that El Paso’s new team would be known as the Chihuahuas, I literally felt sick.

I hated the name with the passion of a thousand suns! Okay, let’s just say that I wasn’t happy.

But something happened to me in the 24 hours following the announcement.

It began to grow on me. I started to think about how the kids just loved the name and the little growling Chihuahua face, and it all started to make sense.

Though the majority of El Pasoans hated

the name because they felt it was either self-deprecating, or non-intimidating, or just plain racist, one fact cannot be ignored.

We’re all still talking about it.

Everywhere you go, everybody is talking about the Chihuahuas.

Good or bad, love it or hate it, fan or naysayer, people are talking about the Chihuahuas.

And for an organization trying to make a name for itself, isn’t that the whole idea?

I spoke to one of the representatives for the organization about four days after the announcement and she told me that she had heard the same story over and over.

That people, who had initially hated the name, were not only beginning to accept it, they were beginning to like it.

And now I am too.

What’s in a name right? The name really doesn’t matter – it’s what you make of the name.

Let’s be honest, is “Miners” really all that great of a name? It doesn’t matter – El Paso has made it their own and a part of who they are.

Think about some of the other minor

league baseball mascots out there. Fans around the country are cheering for their Tin Caps and Sand Gnats and Isotopes and Flying Squirrels and Biscuits and Lumber Kings and Storm Chasers and Mud Hens and Iron Pigs.

Those are real mascot names and some of them will make trips to El Paso to get bitten by the Chihuahuas.

The reality is, people in those areas complained about their stupid names as well. But as time went on they came to love their mascots and made them their own.

What’s in a name, right?

Another truth is that many El Pasoans are upset that a San Diego-based group was put in charge of marketing the name Chihuahuas.

Locals felt that they didn’t know anything about El Paso, so how could they do the city justice?

Well not only have the people in charge of naming the team done a great job of choosing something that just won’t go away, the guys at Brandiose, who are in charge of creating the look for the team name, have done such a great job that team merchandise is flying off the shelves.

As of last weekend, orders from nearly 40 states and several countries had already been made for Chihuahuas’ t-shirts, caps, hoodies, jackets, jerseys and even baby apparel.

In fact, internet and store sales of Chihuahuas gear is setting records for any new minor league franchise. Kind of makes you wonder whether the name is really as bad as many would like you to believe.

Don’t be surprised if you start to see people walking around the city with mean-looking Chihuahuas on their chest.

Oh, and for those of you who are upset at the name because it isn’t menacing enough. Have you ever put your finger near an angry barking Chihuahua? Me either!

So what truly is in a name?

If a name is attracting interest from people all over the country. If a name is mentioned over and over and over. If a name is enhanced by great artwork and slogans.

Then what difference does the name make? It’s a success, and that’s all that matters.

If the name had been something safe like the Bears or the Hawks or even Desert Gators - we’d still be talking about the government shutdown.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Ghosts of the gridiron

Some 40 minutes north of Kansas City lies the quaint town of Excelsior Springs, MO. Since the Chiefs are on a roll this season, the town is attracting more traveling fans from Nebraska and Iowa this year than in years past – and if there’s one thing the residents of Excelsior Springs know about, it is the past.

Native Americans would travel from many miles away to use the mineral springs that bubbled through the clay and sands of the area,

believing they had mystical healing powers. Sometime in the 1800s, a man in Excelsior Springs told the newspapers when his daughter, who had been on her deathbed from tuberculosis, had been healed. The news went... well, viral; hotels were built and the visitors began rolling into town.

The most famous of them all – and the only one that still remains a resort attraction – is the magnificent Elms Hotel. Al Capone used to host

marathon gambling tournaments in one of the boardrooms, and heavyweight boxing champ Jack Dempsey used to train here. Harry Truman used it as a hideaway whenever he had to make big decisions.

And yes... The place is haunted. The Ghost Hunters TV show as well as amateur paranormalists stop by regularly. The words “ghost” and “Mulder and Scully” are frequently dropped into conversation.

An older gentleman, who claims to have worked in Excelsior Springs most of his life, says that most of the occurrences happened during the recent renovation of the Hotel, which has burned down twice.

“During reconstruction, I was making the early-morning rounds when I heard the circular saw going. But it wasn’t even plugged in. And when I went to leave the metal bar that hangs from the emergency fire extinguishers – the one you use to break the glass with? It was pointing straight out at me.”

He goes on: “They are friendly ghosts, but they like to play. Well, mostly friendly... We have a maid in a 1920s uniform who likes to scold the staff... She might also be the one who slaps the men who bring women into room 204 who are not their wives. They run out of the room.

“There’s the woman screaming in your ear in the lobby, looking for her son... And Michael, in the Truman Suite... he likes to play. Moves stuff around.”

That night, the Minnesota Vikings played the New York Giants in a

game of horrors. Bored, I went to the library. The Giants haunt this place, too. In 1948, the Giants decided to give the waters and their purported healing properties a chance by conducting a training camp there. Also, they gave a guy named Emlen Tunnell a chance there, a guy with a broken neck out of college who went on to become the first African-American elected into the Hall of Fame and all-time interception leader. Tunnell died in 1975 of a heart attack at training practice. He haunts the Elms, too: one day, his picture mysteriously appeared in the library. Most nobody knows who it is in the picture, and nobody knows who put it there.

The truth is out there.

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

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MEN VS SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA | 7:05 PM

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WEBB VS UTPB | NOVEMBER 8 | 7:05 PM

MBB VS LOYOLA (N.O.) | NOVEMBER 9 | 7:05 PM

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2013

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good healthBy Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

*DEAR DR. DONOHUE:* Two years ago, I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation. For one year, things were fine, but the atrial fib returned. After five months of hell and reactions to meds, I agreed to have ablation. I was told it was 80 percent effective; I'm in the 20 percent. Now the doctors recommend a repeat ablation. I hesitate, because I have gotten worse since the first procedure. Would you recommend a second try? – K.S.

Atrial fibrillation is near the top of the list when it comes to heartbeat disturbances. It's a rapid and erratic beat. The speed of the beat compromises heart pumping, and its irregularity sets the scene for a stroke. The upper heart chambers – the atria – are not contracting; they're squirming. Blood stagnates in the atria and forms clots. Pieces of the clots can be swept into the circulation to the brain, where they cause a stroke.

Sometimes, if a normal beat can't be restored, slowing the fib restores adequate blood pumping, but the stroke threat remains. That's the reason for putting people on the anticoagulant Coumadin.

Catheter radiofrequency ablation is an attractive choice for restoration of a normal heartbeat. A thin, flexible tube – a catheter – is inserted into a groin blood vessel and carefully advanced to the heart's left atrium, where the irregular beat originates. The catheter is equipped to emit high-frequency current that ablates tissue responsible for fibrillation. "Ablation" means "destruction."

One ablation treatment restores a normal beat 80 percent of the time. You fell into the 20 percent group. A second attempt achieves success 90 percent of the time. With those odds, I would jump at the chance of a second go with ablation. The odds are greatly in your favor. If a normal beat is restored, you can stop taking

medicines, with their potential for side effects. You also can stop taking the anticoagulant, since the stroke threat will have gone.

The booklet on heartbeat irregularities explains what happens in atrial fibrillation and its treatment. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 107W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

*DEAR DR. DONOHUE:* I have been active all my life. In high school, I played three varsity sports. I am now 60. My doctor told me I have a dropped uterus. Do you think all that physical activity caused it? – B.A.

At your age, many, many women have dropped pelvic organs – uterus, bladder or rectum. It's called pelvic prolapse. Genes (the go-to reason for just about everything), the number of vaginal deliveries, obesity and the normal diminished production of estrogen at menopause are some of the causes of pelvic prolapse. The most important factor is aging. I don't believe your active life had a role in it.

The pelvic organs are held in place by muscles and ligaments. With aging, those muscles and ligaments become lax, and organs drop.

If the prolapse isn't causing symptoms, no treatment is necessary.

*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

- PEOPLE BY THE SOUND ACROSS

1 Peter the Great, e.g.

5 Actor Haas

10 Illuminated like 1890s streets

16 Criminalize

19 Make sharp

20 Came \_ (Mexican steak dish)

21 Mysterious matters

22 "So that's it!"

23 Senior Manilow?

25 One looking for Bridges?

27 Monte \_\_, Monaco

28 Not difficult

30 Car grille protector

31 "Goodness!"

32 Dillon in a headlock?

37 Head of monks

39 "My gal" of song

40 Stu of early TV

42 Magazine printings

45 Pepsi, e.g.

49 "CD" part

52 Severinsen living in San Francisco?

54 Inner self, to Jung

56 Cartoonist

58 Pod veggie

59 Off. aides

60 One jumping over Rains?

63 EMT's treatment

65 Uses 66-Across, say

66 Dental care brand

67 Gets rid of while snoozing

73 Melodious Murray

74 Brought before Crane?

77 Pastry bag

78 Gain much knowledge

80 Felt regretful about

81 El \_ (Cher's California birthplace)

83 Java, for one: Abbr.

84 Fisher standing atop a stack of sacks?

86 Exit an egg

90 Java locale

93 Stepped on it

94 Boat-lifting device

95 Pickford acting too quickly?

98 Perplexed

100 Fiddle duet?

101 Prophecy giver

102 Grinders

104 3-D med. scan

106 Sour plums

108 Endeavor by Borgnine?

115 Motrin target

117 It glistens on grass

119 Choir part

120 Bugle sound

121 Bitingly sarcastic Williams?

125 Henning further down?

128 Hightail it, old-style

129 Hun head

130 Radical sort

131 Crooner Campbell

132 What to call a knight

133 Bunkmate

134 Mexican money

135 Urges

DOWN

1 "Gossip Girl" network

2 \_\_plexus

3 Poet Breton

4 Fishing line holders

5 Chem class component

6 D.C.'s country

7 Crooner

8 Carpenter

9 "What \_!" ("How boring!")

9 "I declare it, that's who!"

10 Chatter idly

11 "My hands - tied"

12 Picket line crosser

13 Actress Linney

14 Dwell within

15 Greek letter after sigma

16 Fixtures to soak in

17 Subtle "Yo!"

18 \_ a one (zero)

24 Deteriorates

26 Loops with slipknots

29 .9144 meter

33 Stripling

34 Peter \_ Tchaikovsky

35 \_ more (at least a couple)

36 Mite's cousin

38 Note that sounds like C

41 Hide-hair connector

43 Chow down

44 The "S" of TBS: Abbr.

45 Kind of nerve or vertebra

46 Over the Internet

47 "Glee" actress

48 Toy, to a tot

50 Wisconsin-based retail store chain

51 Coated pill

53 Person confronting

55 Fruity beverage

57 Year, e.g.

61 "Cómo \_?" (Spanish "How are you?")

62 Accessory

64 Chain for dogs and cats

67 Himalayan guide

68 Peeresses

69 "Arabian Nights" sailor

70 Eight-note interval

71 Black Eyed Peas singer

72 Decorates, as a cake

75 Mosque God

76 " \_ is not to reason why"

79 Ex \_ (from nothing)

82 Stop

84 Provide the spread

85 Plant swelling

86 Med. plan option

87 Bern's river

88 More sleazy

89 Rode a bike

91 Used a tuffet

92 "Got it"

96 Must

97 Volcano near Catania

99 Monet works

103 Delayed

105 "Let \_ Me"

107 Brief quarrel

109 Filched

110 Tipsters

111 Lamentation

112 Sappy tree

113 Get all prettied up

114 Shore fliers

115 Oohs and \_

116 Nero's 202

118 Caprice

122 Cup handle

123 "Y" student

124 "Norma \_" (Field film)

126 Miracle\_ (plant food)

127 Bonn article

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	
19					20						21							22			
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**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore **WIND is a huge part of life in West Texas .In 1925,Dorothy Scarborough even wrote a book about it called “The Wind “.**



**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.

	×		+		22
+		+		+	
	×		−		10
÷		×		÷	
	×		−		17
4		25		3	

**DIFFICULTY: ★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 3 4 5 7 8 9

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**Social Security Q&A** By Ray Vigil

**Q:** I've been working for about ten years and haven't given much thought to the Social Security taxes I've been paying. How do I earn Social Security credits?

**A:** A "Social Security credit" (sometimes referred to as a "quarter of coverage") is the basic unit for determining whether a worker is insured under the Social Security program. The amount needed for a credit increases automatically each year as average wages increase. For 2013, workers receive one credit for each \$1,160 of earnings. A worker can receive a maximum of four credits for any year. Generally, you need 40 credits to be eligible for retirement benefits. Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/QC.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/QC.html)

**Q:** I'm applying online for disability benefits. What is the difference between the disability application and the disability report? Do I have to complete both?

**A:** Yes, you will need to complete both when you apply for disability benefits. To receive Social Security disability benefits, you must file a disability application. A disability report provides information about your current physical or mental condition and we need this to process your disability application. You should complete a disability application, a disability report, and an authorization to release medical

records to file a claim for disability benefits. To learn more, and to apply online, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability).

**Q:** I miss working. If I go back to work, will I automatically lose my Social Security disability benefits?

**A:** No. Social Security has several work incentives to help you ease back into the workforce. You may be able to continue receiving benefits during a "trial work period," and in most cases your medical coverage will continue after you begin working. We may be able to help you return to work without losing your benefits. These work incentives are like a safety net for people who want to go to work but aren't sure they can. For information about Social Security's work incentives, visit our website, the Work Site, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work) or read the online *Red Book on Work Incentives* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook). For additional information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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.

**CryptoQuip**

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: L equals W

IASDPMA RPH RPECOE KAMOVUAH  
LDM DGJRME OUCDGGOIGA, LA  
LRPGK MDB "EXA SRMEPJAH OM  
DGLDBM HOVXE!"

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

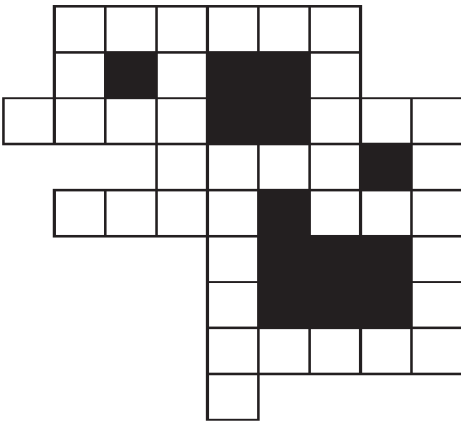
**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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ITH  
♥ DEFRIN  
MURRO  
KAOR  
♥ RICHO  
♥ NKI  
ALRO  
♥ HERET  
♥ AFR  
♥ CATERK  
KHACL  
♥ OTMA



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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.

**STRANGE BUT TRUE**

By Samantha Weaver

• It was much-loved Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw who made the following sage observation: "It is dangerous to be sincere unless you are also stupid."

• If you find brushing your teeth to be tedious, you might want to check out the Blizzident. The makers of this new product use a 3D scan of your teeth to create a custom toothbrush that looks like a mouthpiece lined with bristles. Supposedly, all you have to do is insert the Blizzident in your mouth, bite down and release 10 times, and – voila! – clean teeth in 6 seconds. Be prepared to pay for the convenience, though; a Blizzident of your very own will set you back \$299. The toothbrush will last for a year, though, and replacement bristles are \$89.

• Those who study such things say that by the year 2020, more data will be created in a single hour than had been created in the entire world over the 30,000 years leading up to the 21st century.

• Here's an experiment for you: Find a piece of paper and write the word "suns." Turn the paper upside down. It still says "suns."

• There are more public libraries in the United States than there are McDonald's restaurants. For the moment, at any rate.

• You might think that once gloves were introduced to the sport of boxing, it became safer to be a boxer. You'd be wrong. After the introduction of boxing gloves, death rates actually went up. It seems that when bare-knuckle boxing, hardly anybody would get hit in the face – the one who threw the punch was too likely to end up with a broken hand.

Thought for the Day: "The graveyards are full of indispensable men."

– Charles de Gaulle

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