

NEWSBRIEFS

Polo Real 2014

El Paso Museum of History Foundation announced recently that the Polo Real 2014 will be held Saturday, May 17, at the Rancho Santa Maria Polo Club in Anthony TX. The foundation will recognize Mr. and Mrs. Paul Foster during the celebration which will include a polo match, dinner, champagne, dancing, mariachis, and other entertainment. For additional information, contact Liz Uribe Sinclair, at (915) 850-5448 or Jim Murphy (915) 351-3588.

— Alfredo Vasquez

Wanted (PIC)

A man is believed to be responsible for at least two armed robberies in El Paso's eastside. The crimes were captured on video by security cameras, and Investigators from the Pebble Hills Regional Command Center are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the suspect involved through the Crime Stoppers "Crime Spot." One of the robberies took place on the night of Monday, March 24, 2014, just before 11 p.m. The suspect walked into the Seven Eleven store located 6680 Montana and purchased a lighter. As soon as the cash register opened, the suspect pulled out a large knife and threatened the clerk. The suspect took money from the cash register and fled the scene. The second robbery was just hours later on Tuesday, March 25 at 3:05 a.m. This time the suspect went to the Seven Eleven store located at 10026 Montana. The suspect purchased an energy drink and like in the previous case, as soon as the register opened the suspect produced a knife and threatened the clerk. The suspect took money from the register at this store as well and fled the scene. The suspect is described as a black male, in his 50s, about 6' in height, short hair. In the last case he was seen wearing a blue flannel shirt, blue denim jeans with holes and a dark colored knit beanie. Anyone with any information on the identity of this suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word "CRIME1" (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— Javier Sambrano

Crime Stoppers

A man uses a knife to rob a Central El Paso convenience store. Detectives from the Central Regional Command Center are asking for your help in identifying this robber through the Crime Stoppers "Crime

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Before borrowing money from a friend, decide which you need more.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

FLICK TRIP — Canutillo High School seniors, including from left, Nancy Mares, Celeste Alvarez, Lupe Cordova with Justin Gonzalez behind them, were treated to a showing of *Cesar Chavez* last week. The movie is a biopic about the iconic labor and civil rights leader. The tickets were courtesy of Community en Acción, a local group that aims to increase leadership skills among Hispanics.

Canutillo High seniors go to movie

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Nearly 200 Canutillo High School seniors went on a movie date Friday to watch the *Cesar Chavez* biopic, all courtesy of a local organization that aims to increase leadership skills among Hispanics.

Community En Acción donated 200 tickets for a morning screening of the Diego Luna film about the work of labor and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez, a man considered iconic in the struggle for equal rights for laborers and the Hispanic community.

The organization aimed to reinforce the importance of learning the impact that Chavez had in U.S. history, especially after several states have dwindled their ethnic studies programs in public schools.

"We learned about Cesar Chavez in school and we know he was a very important person, but this movie really helped me realize that the work he did was very noble and that more people should know his story," said

Javier Villela, a CHS senior. "I am thankful for [Community en Acción] for giving us the tickets. This was a great way to learn more about Cesar Chavez."

The students who attended the movie were given another opportunity to reflect on the lessons Chavez imparted. They were asked to write an essay to explain how the movie, as well as their lessons on Cesar Chavez had impacted their lives.

Community en Acción will select the top three essays and award them a monetary prize.

"This is such an amazing opportunity for our students to delve deeper into the life of Cesar Chavez, one of the greatest figures in American history," said Community en Acción board member Aliana Apodaca. "It's our goal to instill leadership qualities among Latinos, and there's no better place to start than with our students."

Canutillo High Principal Dino Coronado said the students who attended the screening of the movie were selected after demonstrating strong leadership and good character skills.

Local teacher debuts tasty treat at downtown baseball stadium opening

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — What a local area teacher started as a homespun fundraiser for his 9-year-old son's basketball team now has him positioned to make a big hit when the Chihuahuas' baseball stadium (Southwest University Stadium) opens this spring.

Kenneth Cooper, a physical education teacher at Canutillo Middle School, has convinced the new stadium's concession general manager Jeff Hanauer, of Ovations Food Services-El Paso Chihuahuas, to let him debut his unique Slush'ae product at the stadium's upcoming baseball games.

Using his mother's secret recipe for the Slush'ae, Cooper started last fall making

See TREAT, Page 3

Vinton seeks volunteers for tire dumpsites cleanup day

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

VINTON — Keep Vinton Beautiful (KVB) members announced recently that they are currently recruiting volunteers to help them team up with tire company Bridgestone for a tire dumpsites cleanup day on Saturday, May 17.

As part of their One Team One Planet program, Bridgestone representatives have volunteered to be in Vinton on cleanup day to take the 1,200 tires that are expected to be collected from illegal tire dumpsites in and around Vinton.

Call
886-5104
to help

KVB is asking that community residents take an active role in protecting their environment by reporting illegal tire dumpsites in the Vinton area- from Transmountain Road north to the Texas state line.

"We are also asking community agencies, businesses, volunteer groups in schools and churches to sign up for specific dump site locations then collect the tires and bring them to our collection site," stated Jessica Garza, city clerk for the Village of Vinton.

"We will identify dump site locations up until May 14th, but we can't guarantee that we will get to all of the locations. It will depend on how many volunteers we have signed up," Garza stated. "Last year our volunteers collected 1,052 tires, and our goal this year is to max out the trailer," she added.

In 2013, 40 KVB volunteers also took part in the Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off event, collecting 1,980 pounds of litter and debris, cleaning 2 miles of Doniphan Drive. Recycling efforts during the highway cleanup collected 460 pounds of litter and 20 scrap tires.

The city clerk emphasized that this program is not a tire amnesty day and is not intended for individual tire collections but for illegally dumped tires at identified sites.

Interested persons can join the cleanup effort by volunteering either individually or as a group, by becoming a sponsor of the event, or by donating water and lunch for the volunteers. Garza noted that volunteers must provide their own transportation.

KVB is a community organization whose mission is to engage its citizens and surrounding neighbors to take responsibility for improving their community's environment by participating in programs such as the upcoming tire collection day.

For more information about the tire dumpsites cleanup day, contact Garza, at (915) 886-5104.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

The long arm of the VAOIG

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) has, as usual, been busy investigating allegations of wrongdoing in the VA. Here are some recent highlights:

- A Pennsylvania man, head of a veterans support group, defrauded the VA for seven years, taking \$178,000 in healthcare and pension benefits he wasn't entitled to. He stole a veteran's identity to pull off the theft. He'll get three years of supervised released and must pay back the entire amount.

- At the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA medical center in South Carolina, VAOIG responded to allegations that there were high instances of surgical infections. They determined that infection control was "fragmented and inconsistent."

- In West Haven, Conn., inspectors found that lack of staff, incomplete and inconsistent procedures and poor training resulted in operating rooms that weren't necessarily clean. Additionally, safeguards weren't in place for safe handling of infectious patients at the same time as noninfectious patients.

- A former director of a medical center in Ohio was guilty of 64 charges. A two-year investigation uncovered fraud, conspiracy

and money laundering, which resulted from taking bribes from contractors and providing inside information. The loss to the government was approximately \$20 million.

- A Florida VA medical center police officer was found guilty of using law enforcement's computers to get personal information on a military servicemember. He threatened to post explicit photos on social media unless the victim paid money.

- A pharmacist at the VA medical center in Nashville diverted a large amount of drugs while working on the night shift.

- In Pennsylvania, a contract employee filed fraudulent time sheets, claiming to work 100 hours a week when no work was actually done. The contract company reimbursed the VA for \$78,000.

I hope the VAOIG has an adequate budget to keep doing what they do. They deserve every dime they get, and more.

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. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Finances By Jason Alderman

Demystifying credit scores

One of the few positive outcomes of the 2008 financial crisis was that it helped shine a light on the importance of understanding and staying on top of your credit profile. Along with that heightened visibility, however, has come a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding — particularly around the all-important credit score.

"The consequences of not maintaining a sound credit score can be very costly," says Anthony Sprauve, senior consumer credit specialist at FICO. "A low score can bar you from getting a new loan, doom you to higher interest rates and even cost you a new job or apartment."

Five factors are used to determine your credit score: payment history (usually around 35 percent of your score), amount owed (30 percent), length of credit history (15 percent), newly opened credit accounts (10 percent), and types of credit used (10 percent).

Fortunately, if your credit score has taken a hit, you can initiate several actions that will begin improving it almost immediately. Just be aware that it can take many years to recover from events like bankruptcy or foreclosure.

First, find out where you currently stand by reviewing your credit reports from each major credit bureau (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). Look for negative actions your creditors might have reported as well as errors and fraudulent activity, which you can challenge through the bureau's dispute resolution process. You can order one free report per year from each bureau through the government-authorized site, www.AnnualCreditReport.com; otherwise you'll pay a small fee.

You might also want to order your credit score. Lenders use credit scores to supplement their own selection criteria to determine whether you are a worthy credit risk. Several types are available, including FICO® Score, VantageScore (a competing model jointly created by Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) and proprietary credit scores from each of the three bureaus, among others. Scores typically cost from \$15

to \$20 each.

Note: You may see offers for free credit scores, but they're usually tied to expensive ongoing credit-monitoring services you may or may not want. Read the contract carefully.

Here are a few tips for improving your credit history:

- Always pay bills on time and catch up on missed payments.

- Set up automatic payments for recurring bills and automatic minimum credit card payments if you often miss deadlines.

- Sign up for text or email alerts telling you when your balance drops or payments are due.

- Never exceed credit card limits.

- Monitor your credit utilization ratio (the percentage of available credit you're using). Try to keep your cumulative utilization ratio — and the ratios on individual cards or lines of credit — below 30 percent.

- Transferring balances to a new card for a lower rate will slightly ding your credit score — although it won't take long to recover. But be careful the transfer doesn't increase your utilization ratio on the new card.

- Make sure that card credit limits reported to the credit bureaus are accurate.

- Don't automatically close older, unused accounts; 15 percent of your score is based on credit history.

- Each time you open a new account it slightly impacts your score, so avoid doing so in the months before a major purchase.

- Pay off medical bills, as well as parking, traffic and even library fines. Once old, unpaid bills go into collection, they'll appear on your credit report.

"Bottom line, don't lose hope," says Sprauve. "The negative impact of past credit problems will gradually fade as recent good payment behavior begins to show up on your credit reports."

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

FOOTBALL

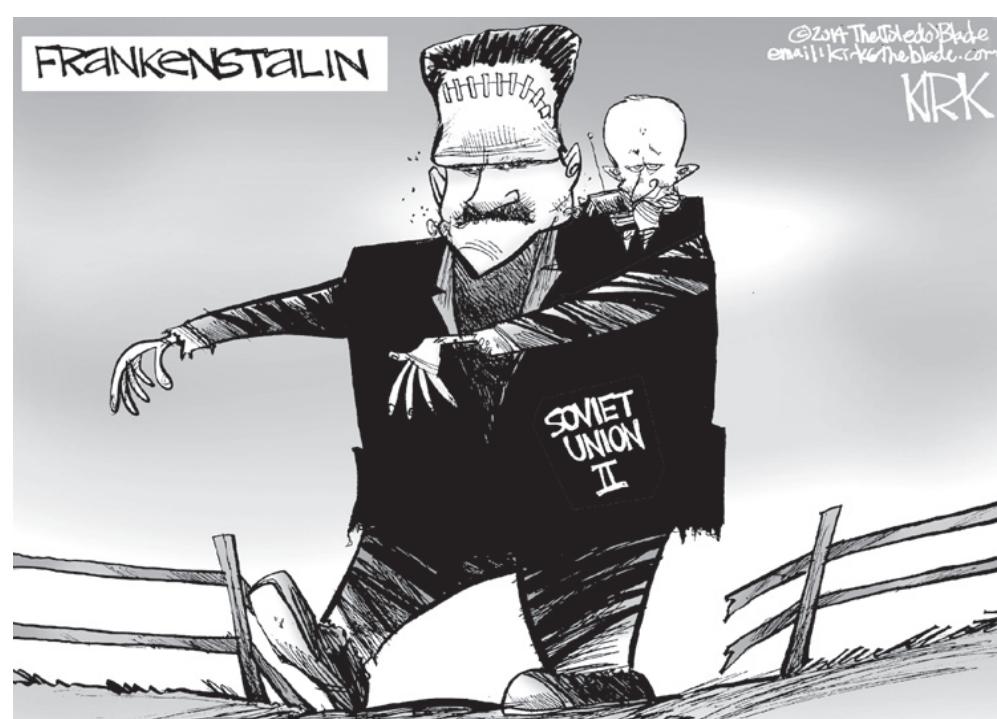
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The bullet he swore to take for the president



— Photo Courtesy of Kenneth Cooper

YOU'LL LIKE IT — Kenneth Cooper, left and his business partner, Christina Galindo, man their Slush'ae concession stand at the recent Women's Expo in the Las Cruces Convention Center. "Christina has helped me from the beginning and is helping me build Slush'ae into a household brand," Cooper stated.

Treat

From Page 1

the special refreshment — a mix between a snow cone and slushy but with a secret ingredient — and selling them to friends and at small gatherings. And, the response has been great, according to the teacher. So much so that he is gearing up for a similar response when the Chihuahuas' fans try his mother's tasty treat.

Cooper's plans are to introduce his delicious product, which comes in different flavors, at the downtown ball park and eventually market it to other venues throughout the region and possibly throughout the country.

According to Cooper, Slush'ae is a gourmet home style slushy that was created nearly 15 years ago by his mother, Jessie Mae Cooper, 76, who lives in Plant City, Florida. "Having 21 grandchildren (Cooper has three brothers and two sisters), my mother wanted to make something in her kitchen for them that would put a smile on their face and cool them off during the hot Florida days," Cooper said.

"The grandchildren took their special treat outside and the kids who were playing with them would want some as well. Soon the entire neighborhood was talking about it," Cooper proclaimed.

related. "Then, the parents of the children in the neighborhood started going to my mom's house and asking for a slushy. When she first let them try it, they would usually say, 'Wow! It's so full of flavor. How do you make this, can you make some for me, and what's your recipe?'" Cooper recalled.

"The next thing you know," Cooper added, "neighbors started calling her the Slushy Lady. That's how I came up with the name Slush'ae, by keeping part of the name that everyone still calls her, 'Slush', then adding the 'ae' from her middle name," he explained.

Now, Cooper wants his adopted hometown community to try Jessie Mae's delicious creation. The 37 year-old teacher, who moved to El Paso in 1997 when he was offered a University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) scholarship to play football for then head coach Charlie Bailey, is confident that his mother's Slush'aes will be a big hit with the stadium's visitors.

"Our product's name originated from my mother's name, and so our slogan stems from the many positive reactions to the love that my mother shared with all her children and neighbors in Plant City and now with children and adults of El Paso: Slush'ae... So Full of Flavor... So Full of Love!" Cooper proclaimed.

Maybe It Wasn't That Heavy Shopping Bag.

Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain

but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/texas

American Heart Association 

Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

9-1-1
HEART ATTACK & STROKE
Read the signs. Raise a flag.



- Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

SMARTIES – In the back, from left, are Luis Alanis, Christopher Hernandez, Hector Mendoza, Alan Rascon, Luis Martinez, Rodolfo Nunez, Edna Portillo, Valerie Dominguez, Orlando Ferando, Tomas Chavez, Armando Rodriguez, Gabriel Salido, Abel Acosta, Jesus Lopez, Manuel Luna. In the front row from left are Karla Ceballos, Alejandra Murphy, Grecia Acosta, Mariel Gaytan, Karla Morales, Deidrah Carrillo, Bernice Lujan, Jacquelyn Cera, Sarahi Gonzalez, Vianey Rueda, Kimberly Cano.

San Elizario High School students do well at state SkillsUSA

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – A dozen their technical achievements students from San Elizario High and workplace know-how after School earned recognition for competing in the SkillsUSA Texas

Leadership and Skills Conference March 27-29 in Corpus Christi. Three of them, seniors Deidrah Carrillo, Jesus Lopez and Arleen Solis were awarded 1st place in the Career Pathway Showcase category qualifying to advance to the National Leadership and Skills Conference to be held in Kansas City, MO June 23-27, 2014.

The three seniors that received a top rating at state competition are all career and technology students in Rafael Cardoza's construction trades class. They were required to work on a project display and then

deliver a presentation and answer questions about it in front of a panel of judges. Carrillo, Lopez, and Solis were part of a group of 55 students from San Elizario High School who traveled to Corpus Christi for the SkillsUSA state competition. All of them are enrolled in career and technology courses at San Elizario High School and participate in extra-curricular activities and competitions with SkillsUSA.

"This year has been a very

See SKILLS, Page 6

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Briefs

From Page 1

of the Week." The robbery took place on Monday, Jan. 27, 2014,



Know him?

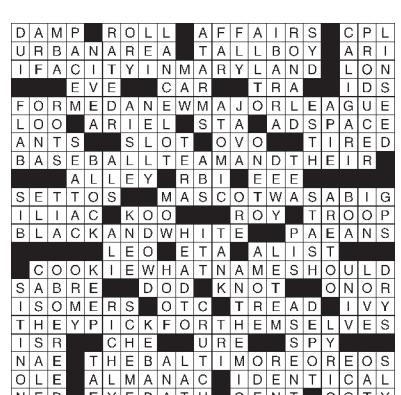
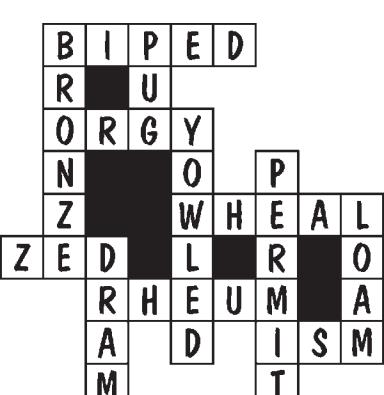
just minutes after one in the morning, at the Seven Eleven Store located at 2000 N. Piedras. The suspect also used a blue colored bandana to cover his face. Anyone with any information on this armed robbery is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestopperselpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word "CRIME1" (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous, and if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

- Javier Sambrano

boxes of Newport cigarettes. The suspect is described as an Hispanic male, in his early 20s, average build, medium complexion, and was wearing a black baseball cap, a blue long sleeved shirt, blue denim jeans and blue shoes. The suspect also used a blue colored bandana to cover his face. Anyone with any information on this armed robbery is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestopperselpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word "CRIME1" (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous, and if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

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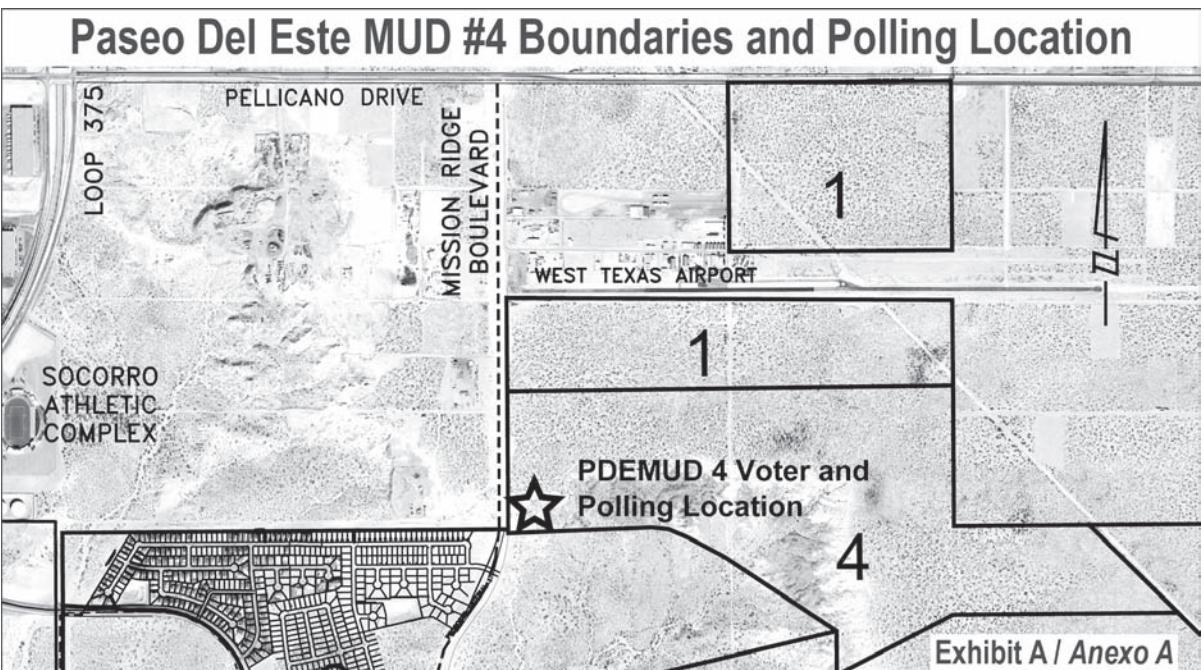


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NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION ELECTION, DIRECTOR ELECTION, BOND ELECTION, REFUNDING BOND ELECTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TAX ELECTION, AND SPECIAL CONTRACT ELECTION

TO THE DULY QUALIFIED RESIDENT ELECTORS OF PASEO DEL ESTE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 4 AND TO ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 4 (the "District") will hold an election within the District on Saturday, the 10th day of May, 2014, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., at the location shown on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A (above), for the purposes of confirmation of creation of the district; electing five (5) members of the Board of Directors of the District; authorizing the issuance of bonds of the District; authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds for the District; authorizing the levy of a tax on taxable property within the District for operation and maintenance purposes; and authorizing the levy of a tax on taxable property within the District for the purpose of making payments related to a special contract between the District and Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 1.

The election is being held by order of the Board of Directors of the District. Voting in said election shall be by the use of paper ballots which shall conform to the requirements of the Texas Election Code. The boundaries of the District are hereby designated as and shall constitute one election precinct and the following persons are hereby appointed officers of said election:

Presiding Judge: Patrick Munoz
Alternate Presiding Judge: [To be named, if possible]
Clerk: [To be named, if possible]

Early voting in the election by personal appearance shall occur on each day from April 28, 2014, through May 6, 2014, which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or an official State holiday. The early voting clerk shall be Patrick Munoz, and the place at which early voting shall be conducted is at the place shown on Exhibit A (above) attached hereto, Patrick Munoz is appointed judge of the early voting board and he/she may appoint two clerks to assist.

The early voting clerk's mailing address to which ballot applications and ballots to be voted by mail may be sent is to Freeman & Corbett, 8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite B-104, Austin, Texas, 78759. The early voting clerk shall keep the early voting place open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., on each day for early voting which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or an official state holiday.

The election shall be held and conducted and returns made to the Board of Directors of the District in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as modified by Chapters 49 and 54, Texas Water Code.

All qualified resident electors of the District shall be entitled to vote in the election.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WTCC: 04-10-14

AVISO DE CONFIRMACIÓN DE ELECCIÓN, ELECCIÓN DE DIRECTOR, ELECCIÓN DE BONOS, ELECCIÓN DE REEMBOLSO DE BONOS, ELECCIÓN DE IMPUESTOS DE OPERACIÓN Y MANTENIMIENTO, Y ELECCIÓN DE CONTRATO ESPECIAL

A LOS VOTANTES CALIFICADOS, RESIDENTES DEL DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES Nro. 4 DE PASEO DEL ESTE Y A TODAS LAS DEMÁS PARTES INTERESADAS:

Se notifica por el presente que el Distrito de Servicios Públicos Municipales Nro. 4 de Paseo del Este (el "Distrito") celebrará una elección dentro del Distrito el sábado 10 de mayo de 2014, en el horario de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. en el lugar se muestra en el mapa que se adjunta como Anexo A (arriba), con el fin de confirmar la creación del Distrito; elegir cinco (5) miembros de la Junta Directiva del Distrito; autorizar la emisión de bonos del Distrito; autorizar la emisión de bonos de reembolso del Distrito; autorizar la imposición de un impuesto sobre propiedad gravable dentro del Distrito con fines de operación y mantenimiento; y autorizar la imposición de un impuesto sobre propiedad gravable dentro del Distrito para efectuar pagos relacionados con el contrato especial entre el Distrito y el Distrito de Servicios Públicos Municipales Nro. 1 de Paseo del Este.

La elección se lleva a cabo por orden de la Junta Directiva del Distrito. La votación en dicha elección será mediante el uso de boletas de votación de papel las cuales cumplirán con los requisitos del Código Electoral de Texas. Por medio del presente los límites del Distrito son designados como un y constituirán un precinto electoral y las siguientes personas son designadas oficiales de dicha elección:

Juez Presidiendo	Patrick Munoz
Juez Sustituto Presidiendo	[A ser nombrado, si es posible]
Secretario	[A ser nombrado, si es posible]

La votación anticipada en persona en las elecciones será todos los días desde el 28 de abril de 2014 hasta el 6 de mayo de 2014, excepto sábados, domingos y días feriado oficiales del estado. El oficial de votación anticipada será Patrick Munoz, y el lugar en el cual se llevará a cabo la votación anticipada es en el lugar que se indica en el Anexo A (arriba) se adjunta a la presente. Patrick Munoz es designado como juez del consejo de boletas de votación anticipada quien podrá designar dos funcionarios para que los asistan.

La dirección postal del oficial de votación anticipada a la cual se pueden enviar las solicitudes y las boletas para votar por correo es Freeman & Corbett, 8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite B-104, Austin, Texas, 78759. El oficial de votación anticipada deberá mantener abierto el lugar de votación anticipada de 8:00 a.m. a 11:00 a.m., cada día de votación anticipada que no sea sábado, domingo ni día feriado oficial del estado.

La elección se llevará a cabo y los resultados serán entregados a la Junta Directiva del Distrito de acuerdo con el Código Electoral de Texas, según modificado por los Capítulos 49 y 54 del Código de Agua de Texas.

Todos los votantes calificados residentes del Distrito tendrán derecho a votar en las elecciones.

POR ORDEN DE LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA.

WTCC: 04-10-14

To strike or not to strike, that may be the question

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Watching the UTEP women's basketball team accomplish what they did over the past few weeks has reminded everyone about the shear beauty of college sports.

I'm not too sure about the guy's game anymore, but the women really seem to put the term "student athlete" back into the discussion.

The whole idea of young athletes having the opportunity to compete for their school – and only for their school – is the purest expression of love for the game.

And with it comes the opportunity to earn a free education that could pay off for the rest of their lives.

But over the last decade the whole concept of compensating athletes for play has gained in popularity.

There have been different ideas thrown around about how to get more money in the pockets of the

players who put more money in the pockets of the colleges and universities.

And just like both sides of any state or federal legislature, those for and against the idea of paying college athletes are boisterous and determined.

Though the thought of paying student athletes in one way or another has been tossed around for years, the recently announced action of Northwestern University athletes has taken an unprecedented step.

In what many sports fans would categorize as unfathomable, Northwestern is on track to unionize.

Yes, I said unionize. You know what I mean, AFL-CIO, Jimmy Hoffa, Norma Rae, United Steel Workers, NFL Players' Association, Teamsters, George Meany, United Auto Worker's... unionize!

What everyone figured could probably never happen is about to become a reality. Thanks to a judge's decision, the football team is on the verge of actually forming a union.

And the team will vote on April 25.

So the obvious question is whether this is a good idea or a bad idea?

The answer is... who knows? But one thing is for sure – Northwestern University must be a huge fan of worms.

You know, worms – earthworms, ringworms, wormholes, Dennis "the worm" Rodman, tapeworms, inchworms and every other worm known to man.

Northwestern is about to open up a gigantic can of them if their football team forms a union.

The school's union organizers claim that the idea behind the change is not solely a chance to get paid for their efforts. They claim it has more to do with a student's say in the process. They say that things like working conditions and securing medical help are the main reasons for the action.

Those are not unrealistic situations that could need some tweaking from time to time, but is forming an all-out union the way to go?

Unionizing brings with it many unforeseen circumstances.

The first thing anyone thinks about when it comes to unions is the dreaded work stoppage.

If players ask for something and don't get it – they would essentially have the power to refuse to play until both sides come to an agreement.

Big can of worms.

If the players vote to unionize and negotiate some kind of pay for play agreement, do you pay all the players?

Do you pay the third-string center the same as the starting quarterback? What about the other student athletes? Doesn't the swimmer, the wrestler, the tennis player, the volleyball player, the golfer, the gymnast and the lacrosse player also qualify as an employee of the college?

Also, if the players unionize and become official employees of the college, won't they have to pay tax on that full-ride scholarship they're receiving?

I'll bet mom and dad will love that expensive can of worms.

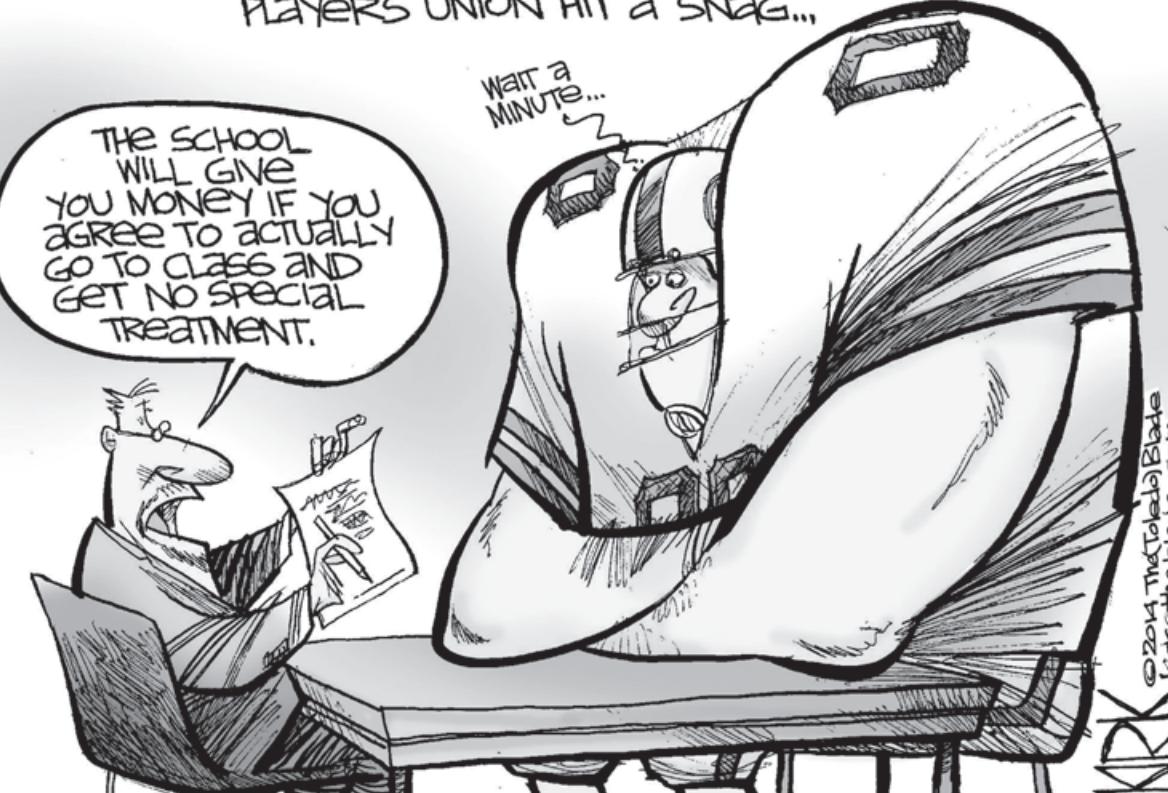
Last season the Grambling players refused to play a game because of the deplorable conditions at their school. Since then, the college has begun to fix all the things the players were complaining about – and it didn't take a union to get it done.

Players can have an affect on their environment if their complaint is legitimate. If they get nowhere at the school, all they have to do is go to the media.

The college system is far from perfect, but just like Obamacare, there's got to be a better way to go.

Unionizing college athletics is absolutely the wrong way to go. That is, of course, unless you have an infatuation with worms.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS UNION HIT A SNAG...



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Got to get you into my life

If you're like me, besides having my sincere sympathies, you are constantly bemoaning the lack of sporting endeavors in your life.

By this I mean you used to play sports, competitively. Maybe you played on a team for a school or company or an organization, and after games you would play more games. And then one day, it all dried up. Maybe you changed jobs and they didn't have leagues, or you simply got too busy with work and the kids.

And hey, maybe some of you have been able to keep sports in your life. Well, good for you. Go read the comics, renew your gym membership, make a smoothie or do whatever it is you do while I discuss a few things with my target audience ... not you.

Sports are healthful... even the ones where you punch each other in the face. The mix of adrenaline, the burning of calories, the expansion of your lungs and the release of endorphins makes it clear to you and your sweat-soaked shirt that

your body is a machine. But you hate the gym, you don't like to run on treadmills because you're not a hamster. But you don't want to just wear black for the rest of your life either. Here are several ways to bring health back into your life... and sports.

Play Tennis

Tennis can be played at any age, and you also can play doubles. The equipment is relatively inexpensive, and there is a racquet club or court closer to you than you think. Haven't played in a while? Why not rent a ball machine for a half hour and get back into the swing of things.

Buy a bicycle

Just like cars, the world of biking comes with its own assortment of snobbery and class issues. But if you live in a relatively flat environment, the simple joy of an evening bike ride or using it as an alternative form of transportation will invigorate you more than you know.

Go Bowling, Dude

This is a two-part exercise. Part one entails renting or buying the Coen Brothers classic movie "The Big Lebowski" (and be forewarned... it's a very blue movie that is rife with curse words and sexual themes, so it's not for kids or the ultra-conservative set), and then whenever you have 20 minutes to kill, stop into your local bowling alley and bowl a few frames. Grab some inexpensive drinks and food, and slather yourself in Purel before you leave, too. Bowling is king.

Hit the Cages

You've got a baseball bat in your car. You're never going to use it in a fit of road rage. Face it: You're just not the type. Instead, stop at your local batting cage and take a few hundred cuts one afternoon. Remember why hitting things in this way is even better than the reason you stuck it in your wheel well in the first place.

You can do this on the cheap, but believe me, you'll find that these simple tips add immensely to your overall enjoyment of life.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

Skills

From Page 4

successful year for San Elizario students due to great participation at the SkillsUSA district competitions," San Elizario High School Assistant Principal Patricia Franco stated.

SkillsUSA is a student organization that works in partnership with industry professionals to help enhance the business and leadership skills of students so that they are better prepared to succeed in the workplace. SkillsUSA students are

enrolled in at least one career and technology course offered at San Elizario High School such as graphic design, CISCO, cosmetology, law enforcement, automotive technology, or construction technology.

"San Elizario High School career and technical programs continue to excel in their efforts to produce the leaders of tomorrow," Franco added.

Other San Elizario High School students who also placed at the SkillsUSA Texas Leadership and Skills Conference were Vianey Rueda, Kimberly Cano Humberto

Marquez, Manny Luna, and Armando Rodriguez who received 2nd place in the Chapter Display contest. Senior CISCO student Jonathan Martinez earned a 2nd place rating in the Technical Applications contest. Senior and graphic design student Grecia Acosta received 2nd place in the Texas Memorial Scholarship contest. Alejandra Murphy, Edna Portillo, and Valeria Dominguez earned a 3rd place finish in the Career Pathway showcase contest. Finally, Sarahi Gonzalez and Kimberly Yanez placed 5th in the Promotional Bulletin Board contest.

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37	38	39	40

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Comix**OUT ON A LIMB** By Gary Kopervas**AMBER WAVES** By Dave T. Phipps**THE SPATS** By Jeff Pickering**R.F.D.** By Mike Marland**Your good health** By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My family and I took a seven-day cruise more than six weeks ago. I still am feeling like I am on the ship – all day, it feels as though I am walking on a swinging bridge. I did not even notice the movement while on the ship, nor did I get sick. I did not take any motion-sickness medicine while on the cruise. No one else in my family is having this problem. I am a 50-year-old female. Is there any treatment for this? What kind of doctor would I see? How long would you expect this to last? – T.S.

address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I look down in the toilet and see that my urine is white and foamy. What is this, what causes it, and is there anything I can do? – A.V.R.

Foamy urine raises concern of excess protein. High amounts of protein in the urine could result from nephrotic syndrome, an indication of a serious kidney condition. Any doctor can do a urine test for protein; if it's positive, your doctor will have you collect all the urine you make in 24 hours to see how much protein there is.

You have the classic symptoms of disembarkment syndrome, also called mal de debarquement. Whereas most people getting off a boat or ship will have the sensation of moving for a few hours, in people with this syndrome, the symptoms may continue for months or even years. It seems to be more likely in women, and may have an association with migraine headache. Interestingly, going back on a boat can make it better in the short term, but worse later.

One treatment is clonazepam, which provides some short-term relief. Standard treatments for vertigo usually do not help. Fortunately, most cases do get better after some weeks or months, but 18 percent still have symptoms even a year later. An expert in balance problems, often an ENT doctor, would be most likely to be familiar with this condition.

The booklet on vertigo explains dizziness in detail and outlines its treatment. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 801W, 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

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm wondering about the commercials regarding eating ice cream. The way they sound, it's OK to eat it without fear of fat. I'm a male in his 70s, in fine health, and I am wondering if eating it is fine, but just once in a while. Thank you. – A.A.

Ice cream has more saturated fat and sugar than is good for you. People who want to be super-healthy don't eat ice cream at all. However, I am a believer that it's OK to indulge yourself once in a while in something that might not be the healthiest for you. Just make sure it's something closer to once a month than it is to once a day.

Dr. Roach 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) 2014 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

SWEET SQUAD		ACROSS	70 Cole Porter's "Hitchy-_"	71 Lawyer Cohn	72 Army unit	73 Riddle, part 5	74 Songs of praise deg.	75 Fifth sign of the zodiac	76 Zeta follower	77 Best guests	78 Riddle, part 6	79 Brit's fencing blade	80 Pentagon's govt. division	81 Macramé creation	82 Around (circa)	83 Chemical cousins	84 Available with no Rx	85 Trample (on)	86 Trellis plant	87 End of the riddle	88 Med. country	89 Guevara in "Evita"	90 Ending for press	91 CIA figure	92 No, to a kilt wearer	93 Riddle's answer	94 Go, torero!"	95 It's fact-filled	96 Very same	97 "The Simpsons" neighbor Flanders	98 Ocular cleansing cup	99 Bit of a dollar	100 Old French president René
1	A little wet																																
5	Dice throw																																
9	Bureau of Indian																																
16	USMC rank																																
19	Downtown, say																																
21	High chest of drawers																																
22	Jackie's husband																																
#2	Start of a riddle																																
25	Chaney of old horror																																
26	Eden mother																																
27	Lexus, e.g.																																
28	"La-la" lead-in																																
29	B o u n c e r s ' demands																																
30	Riddle, part 2																																
39	Lav. in Soho																																
40	Prankster in "The Tempest"																																
41	Train stop: Abbr.																																
42	Column inches sold to sponsors																																
43	Crumb-toting colonists																																
45	Reno fixture																																
47	-lacto vegetarian																																
49	Sleepy																																
50	Riddle, part 3																																
56	Narrow road																																
57	Slugger's stat																																
58	Wide shoe specification																																
59	Sharp quarrels																																
62	Riddle, part 4																																
69	Of a pelvic bone																																

DOWN		37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121</th

MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Buffalo bones brought a pretty penny from fertilizer companies, thus creating a boom around Sweetwater, Albany, Baird, Abilene and the general Big Country area.

**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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		13
+		×		÷	
	×		÷		8
×	×		+		
	×		-		2
20	20		11		
1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9				

Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I currently receive Social Security disability benefits. I now have a second serious disability. Can my monthly benefit amount be increased?

A: No. Your Social Security disability benefit amount is based on the amount of your lifetime earnings before your disability began and not the number of disabling conditions or illnesses you may have. For more information, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Q: We adopted a baby girl overseas and brought her home with us to the United States. We need to get a Social Security number for her. What do we do?

A: In general, to apply for a Social Security number for your child you must:

- Complete an *Application For A Social Security Card* (Form SS-5), which you can find online at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber;
- Show us documents proving your child's:
- United States citizenship or immigration status;
- Adoption;
- Age; and
- Identity.
- Show us a document proving your identity; and
- Show us evidence that establishes your relationship to the child if your

name is not noted as the parent on the child's evidence of age. The adoption decree or the amended U.S. birth certificate will suffice. In most cases, you can mail or take your application and original documents to your local Social Security office. Remember, all documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. You may not yet have proof of your child's citizenship, but we can assign a Social Security number based on documentation issued by the Department of Homeland Security upon the child's arrival in the United States. When you do receive documentation of your child's citizenship, you can bring it to us, and we will update your child's record. We will mail your child's number and card as soon as we have verified your documents with the issuing offices.

Q: Why is there a five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits?

A: Social Security provides only long-term disability, so we can only pay benefits after you have been disabled continuously for a period of five full calendar months. Social Security disability benefits begin with the sixth full month after the date your disability began. You are not entitled to benefits for any

month during the waiting period. Learn more at our website: www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

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

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Benjamin Franklin who made the following sage observation: "It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it."

- If you're like 87 percent of American adults, you use the Internet. The only thing I find surprising about this statistic is that there are 13 percent of adults who don't use it.

- In a recent survey, more Americans said they would have a hard time giving up the Internet than said they'd have a hard time giving up TV.

- Those interested in maritime history (and practically everyone else, for that matter) are familiar with the story of the Titanic, which struck an iceberg and sank on the night of April 15, 1912. It's interesting to note, though, that in 1898 a book called "Futility," by Morgan Robertson, described an almost identical scenario: The ship in the novel was called Titan, and, like the Titanic, it was trying to break a speed record for crossing the Atlantic. The Titan was declared to be unsinkable, and it didn't have enough lifeboats for all the passengers. On its fictional voyage in the month of April, it struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean and sank, resulting in the deaths of almost all the passengers.

- In Ireland, the police do not carry firearms. Their only weapons are batons and pepper spray.

- In 1943, then-chairman of IBM, Thomas Watson, went on the record saying, "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

- If you're afraid of sharks, you might want to consider this tidbit: Every year, more people are killed by bees than by sharks.

Thought for the Day: "In this world, you must be a bit too kind to be kind enough."

— Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux

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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: Z equals T

XSQPBLIS GH KBLXPCJ VENN

MCNH ECYSLZ EC LZMQRL, E

LBDDMLS GECS EL P NMYS ZKPZ

RCMVL CM XMCJL.

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

CONQUER THE WHIRLED

DEZ

DEYLLOW

EMHUR

ALMO

NOZBER

GPU

MADR

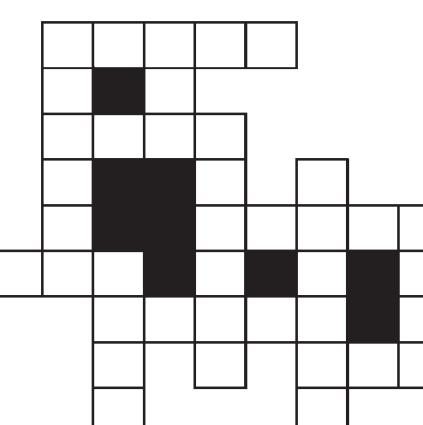
♥ HALEW

MSI

EMTRIP

DIPBE

♥ RYOG



Answer Page 4

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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.

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