



## NEWSBRIEFS

### EPCC children's summer programs

The Summer Books and Beyond Program at the Jenna Welch and Laura Bush Community Library (El Paso Community College [EPCC] Northwest Campus Library) begins June 9. This year, there are 68 activities, including 14 special reading programs to motivate children and teens. The Library is especially excited about the teen reading clubs: *Wrestlemania*, *Shakespeare Graphic Novels* and *Read Along-Banned Books*. For young children, some of the most popular programs from last year are returning: *Crazy About Horses*, *Dog Stories*, *Hello Kitty* and *Gotta Love Bugs*. Children and teens from across the borderland are invited to join in on the fun at the Summer Books and Beyond Program. The Jenna Welch and Laura Bush Community Library is located on the EPCC Northwest campus, 6701 South Desert Blvd. For more information, call 831-8840 or visit <http://www.epcc.edu/library/nw>.

— Jim Heiney

### Wanted

A couple attempted to steal a computer from an east El Paso store, and they were recorded on video. Detectives from the El Paso Police Department are asking for your help in identifying them through the Crime Stoppers "Crime Spot." The incident took place around three in the afternoon on January 9, 2014, at the Walmart store located at 10727 Gateway West. According to security personnel at the business, the couple walked through the store and began to select a few clothing items and placed them in a shopping cart. The couple then walked to the electronics section, where they selected a Hewlett Packard computer and placed in the cart. The pair then walked to the front of the store, where the cash registers are and walked out of the store. Security personnel managed to stop the couple and took them to the security office. During that time security personnel was unable to learn or confirm the identity of the two. The female was released by the security personnel and moments later, the male suspect managed to run out of the store to an awaiting car.



Do you know them?

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*Past experience should be a guidepost – not a hitching post.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**MORE HEALTHCARE** – The sprawling desert landscape on the northwest side of the Franklin Mountains, near the intersection of Transmountain Road and Resler Drive will be the site of a new \$120 million hospital that is being built by Tenet Hospitals Limited. El Paso city council recently awarded Tenet a property tax rebate, which means that the hospital network will pay 65 percent of its appraised value during its first 15 years.

## Healthcare network, medical school partner in new northwest hospital

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso's northwest communities will have their own hospital soon as El Paso city council approved recently a \$14.2 million incentive package so that Tenet Hospitals Limited can construct its \$120 million teaching hospital near Transmountain Road and Resler Drive.

Tenet, which owns and manages the Sierra Providence Health Network, will run the 108-bed, full-service hospital that will eventually expand to 140 beds. The hospital is expected to break ground this fall and open in the fall of 2016.

The northwest medical facility will serve as a teaching hospital for medical and nursing students as well as house resident physicians and faculty from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso's Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.

Medistar Corp., a real estate company that

specializes in medical facilities, will develop the 110,000 square-foot hospital and its adjacent medical building.

Dr. Jose Manuel de la Rosa, founding dean of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, said in a recent news report that Texas Tech was approached by Medistar a few years ago to collaborate on the northwest hospital project. He stated that a national search for a hospital chain to run the new facility was conducted, and out of 18 hospital groups interviewed Tenet was selected.

De la Rosa added that third- and fourth-year medical students would begin rotations at the new hospital as soon as it opens. University Medical Center now serves as a teaching hospital, but De la Rosa said that most medical schools join with both public and private hospitals to provide the best experiences for medical students.

According to city officials, the project is estimated to have a direct economic impact of more than \$87.5 million in construction alone, and more than \$30 million in direct

employment.

Under the incentive agreement, Tenet is to spend at least \$120 million to build the facility, including \$105 million for the hospital itself. The remaining \$15 million would be for a medical office building. The hospital chain will also be required to create and maintain at least 300 full-time jobs that pay an average \$45,000 a year during the agreement's 15-year term. Additionally, it would be required to retain all of its 2,991 existing full-time positions at its three other hospitals.

If the hospital does not meet the employment requirements, its incentives could be reduced or eliminated, stated city officials.

The city is awarding Tenet as much as \$14.2 million in tax breaks, grants, and other incentives through the Chapter 380 Economic Development Program Agreement. That includes waiving an estimated \$100,000 in permits and fees and a \$300,000 a year payment for five years for its economic development impact fund.

Chapter 380 of the Local Government Code authorizes municipalities to offer incentives designed to promote economic development such as commercial and retail projects. Specifically, it provides for offering loans and grants of city funds or services at little or no cost to promote state and local economic development and to stimulate business and commercial activity.

After the incentive package was approved by city council, Eric Evans, CEO of the Sierra Providence Health Network's hospitals in El Paso, told reporters that as a company it is investing in El Paso in a big way and that it will continue to grow with the community by providing services where they are needed.

El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser said that he doesn't believe the hospital would have been built as proposed without the tax and other incentives.

### Campers learn about region's prehistoric cultures

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – An Archaeology Day Camp will be offered for youths in grades second through seventh, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology (4301 Transmountain Road).

The camp will be offered in three different sessions. The first session, June 24-27, will be for youths ages 10 to 12; the next session, July 8-11, will be for 7 to 9 year-olds; and the last session, July 15-18, will be for 10-12 year-olds.

"The Archaeology Summer Day Camp is an interactive, hands-on course held on the museum's grounds and in the galleries with a field trip to Hueco Tanks State Park," stated George Maloof, the director of the archaeology museum.

"The program is designed to educate participants about the science of archaeology, its tools, and the prehistory of the Americas, especially the El Paso-Juárez region, from

See CAMP, Page 3



Finances

By Jason Alderman

# Explore Medicare before you turn 65

Each day, approximately 10,000 Baby Boomers turn 65 – and thereby become eligible for Medicare.

But becoming eligible for and actually enrolling in Medicare are two very different things. In fact, if you miss the initial window to sign up for certain parts of Medicare and later decide to enroll, you could wind up paying significantly higher premiums for the rest of your life.

If you’re approaching 65, get familiar with these Medicare basics now:

- Medicare provides benefits to people age 65 and older (and those under 65 with certain disabilities or end-stage renal disease). For most people, the initial enrollment period is the seven-month period that begins three months before the month they turn 65. If you miss that window, you may enroll between January 1 and March 31 each year, although your coverage won’t begin

until July 1.

Medicare offers several plans and coverage options, including:

- Medicare Part A helps cover inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility and hospice services, as well as home health care. Most people pay no monthly premium for Part A, provided they or their spouse have paid FICA taxes for at least 40 calendar quarters.
- Medicare Part B helps cover medically necessary doctor’s services, outpatient care, durable medical equipment and many preventive services. It’s optional and has a monthly premium. For most people there’s a \$147 yearly deductible; after that’s met, you’ll be responsible for 20 percent of the

Medicare-approved amount of the service, provided the doctor or other provider accepts Medicare.

- Medicare Part C (Advantage) plans are offered by Medicare-approved private insurers as alternatives to Original Medicare Parts A and B. Most cover prescription drugs and some include additional benefits such as dental and vision coverage for an extra cost. You’re usually required to use the plan’s doctor, hospital and pharmacy provider network, which may be more restrictive than providers you can access through Parts A and B.
- Medicare Part D helps cover the cost of prescription drugs. It’s optional and carries a monthly premium. These privately run plans vary widely in terms of cost, copayments and deductibles and medications covered. If you’re enrolled in a Part C plan that includes drug coverage, you don’t need Part D.
- Many people purchase additional Medigap (or Medicare Supplemental) insurance, which is offered by private insurers and helps pay for many items not covered by Medicare. Medigap plans can vary widely in terms of cost, covered benefits and states participating so compare your options carefully.

Keep in mind:

- For all Medicare plans, deductibles, copayments and coinsurance may apply, depending on the service provided.
- With Parts B and D, you’ll often face sizeable penalties if you don’t enroll when first becoming eligible – Part B premiums could increase 10 percent for each 12-month period you were eligible but didn’t sign up (the Part D penalty is more complicated); however, if you’re currently

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Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

# Deported veterans

Put yourself in this scenario: You’re a small child, maybe 3 years old. Your parents bring you to America from a foreign country. You grow up, go to school, lose whatever smattering of your original language you ever knew, play basketball, graduate from high school and then, in a gesture of gratitude to the only country you’ve ever known, you enlist in the military as a green-card holder, a permanent legal resident of the United States.

Fast-forward a few (or many) years, and suddenly you’re a U.S. military veteran. Maybe you marry, have a couple of kids, maybe start a business or go back to school on the GI Bill. Life is good.

Or, maybe life isn’t so good and you commit a crime. Maybe you get into drugs to fight the PTSD you don’t understand, and end up in jail. Maybe you steal some food for your kids. When you finish serving your time, having paid your debt to society, you’re told you will be deported – back to the country where you were born, the country where you don’t know anyone and don’t even speak the language because you haven’t been there for 20 years or more.

It’s mostly ignored by the mainstream press, but hundreds of U.S. military veterans, maybe thousands, have been shipped off to foreign countries this way. They’re either put on a plane or taken to the border and dumped – with nothing more than the clothes on their backs – without legal counsel or anyone to help them with their rights or benefits. Some of them are highly decorated; some of them are ill. There’s an enclave in Mexico right now, supporting these service members who served our country... and then were deported.

We’ll continue this story next week.

*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) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.*

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY  
COURIER

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Published:

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**"I have never been able to think of the day as one of mourning. I have never quite been able to feel that half-masted flags were appropriate on Decoration Day. I have rather felt that the flag should be at the peak, because those whose dying we commemorate rejoiced in seeing it where their valor placed it. We honor them in joyous, thankful, triumphant commemoration of what they did."**

**--Benjamin Harrison**

KIRK

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THE SECRET TO QUITTING FOR GOOD?  
NEVER QUIT ON YOURSELF.



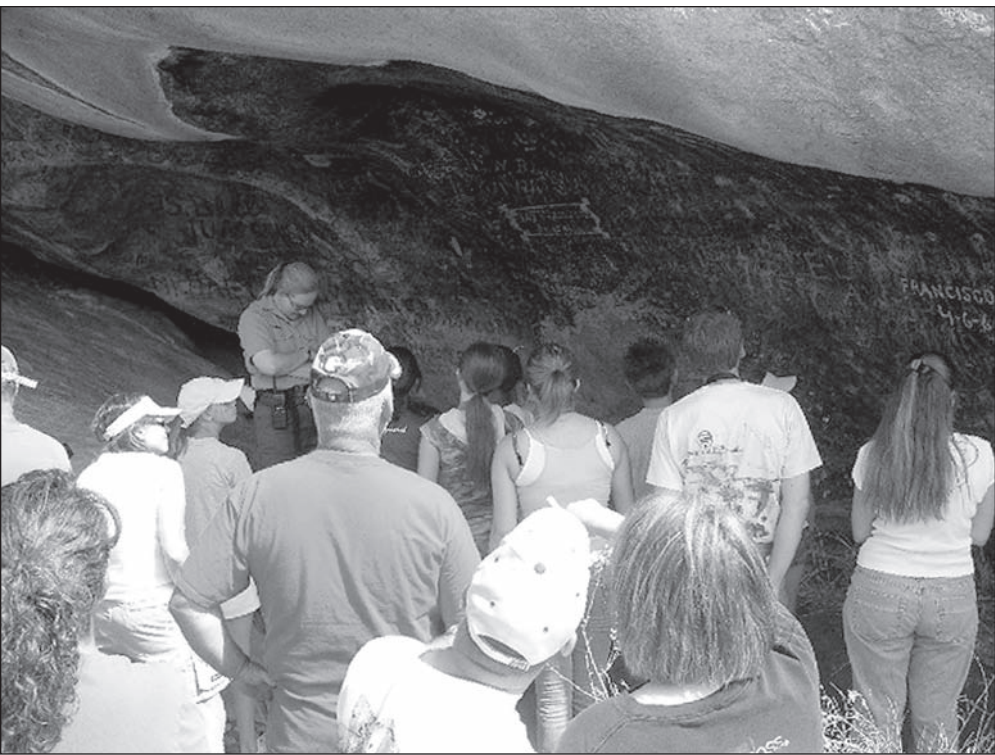
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– Photo courtesy of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology

**ROCK ART – Archaeology Camp participants take a field trip to Hueco Tanks State Park.**

## Camp

From Page 1

the last Ice Age to European contact," Maloof stated. "Activities include learning to identify artifacts and then conducting a survey and a mock excavation."

The museum holds the annual archaeology day camp for children seven to twelve years old every summer. "Camps fill quickly; so, those interested should contact the museum as

soon as possible, because the choice of dates is subject to availability," stated the museum director.

Registration fee for camp is \$55 for El Paso Museum of Archaeology members and \$70 for non-members. Registration is accepted on a first-come first-served basis as attendance is limited to twelve students per camp, Maloof explained.

For more information and camp registration form, contact the museum at 755-4332, or send email to [maloofgo@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:maloofgo@elpasotexas.gov).



– Photo courtesy of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology

**HANDS ON – Students learn how to excavate a site during camp.**

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An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that's about to change. TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data, which immediately tells law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who's driving without insurance. • So, if you're not covered, better get insured! To learn more, visit: [www.TexasSure.com](http://www.TexasSure.com)

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Briefs

From Page 1

Anyone with any information on the identity of the couple involved in this attempted theft is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at [www.](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org)

[crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://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).  
– Javier Sambrano

Wanted II

A man turns a theft into a robbery

after pushing down a store employee at an east El Paso convenience store. The man was recorded by the store’s security camera. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department’s Pebble Hills Regional Command Center are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying the man responsible through the Crime

Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On the afternoon of Sunday, April 27, 2014, just minutes after three, a man walked into the Seven Eleven Store located at 10026 Montana. The man asked to purchase some electronic cigarettes and tried to pay for them with a check and then a debit card, which were both declined. At that point,



Do you know him?

according to witnesses the man began to act nervous. The man then reached over the counter and grabbed the items and ran out of the store. The employee ran outside after the man and ordered him to stop. The man then pushed a bicycle towards the employee causing her to fall to the ground and receive minor injuries. The suspect is described as a thin build white or Hispanic male, with a goatee and was wearing a gray tee shirt with logo on the front. Anyone with any information on this robbery is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at [www.](http://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

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If you have a family history of type 2 diabetes, you are at risk of the disease.

**It’s about small steps:** Lose a small amount of weight by walking or biking for 30 minutes 5 days a week, and by making healthy food choices, to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. In fact, these small steps work even better for people over 60 than for any other age group.

For free information about preventing type 2 diabetes, visit [www.YourDiabetesInfo.org](http://www.YourDiabetesInfo.org) or call 1-888-693-NDEP (6337);  
TTY: 1-866-569-1162.



[www.YourDiabetesInfo.org](http://www.YourDiabetesInfo.org)

A message from the National Diabetes Education Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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CryptoQuip  
Answer

If a senator needs to admit his sins, might he head to the Congressional confessional?

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## Finances

From Page 2

covered by an employer’s plan you can enroll later without penalty.

- Terms of Advantage and Part D plans such as premiums, copayments and covered medications can change from year to year, so carefully review enrollment materials from your current plans to make sure they still match your needs.

Understanding and choosing the right Medicare options for

your individual situation can be a complicated and time-consuming process. For assistance, call 1-800-633-4227 or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), where you’ll find “Medicare & You 2014,” a detailed guide that explains Medicare in easy-to-understand language, and tools to compare prescription plans, hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies and Medigap plans in your area.

*Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs*

### Tornillo Independent School District Noticeof2014SummerFoodServicesProgram

The Tornillo Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided free of charge to children 1 year to 18 years of age at the **Tornillo ISD Junior High School Cafeteria** (300 Oil Mill Rd.) and **Tornillo Elementary** (10200 Cobb Ave.), Tornillo, Texas. The program will begin June 9, 2014 through June 26 July 10, 2014 at both locations, with serving days as follows: **Monday, June 9, 2014 through Thursday, June 27, 2014** breakfast being served from **7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.** and lunch being served from **11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Tornillo Elementary** will also serve meals **July 7 to 10, 2014**. Daily menus for the Summer Food Service Program will be available on May 26, 2014.

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### Aviso da Programa de Servicios para Comida en el Verano 2014 para el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo anuncia el patrocinio del programa de servicios para comida en el verano. Almuerzo y comida de se serviran en la cafeteria de le **escolar Secundaria del distrito de Tornillo y en la Elementaria de Tornillo**. Es gratis para todos los niños de 1 a 18 años de edad. El programa de servicios para comida en el verano empieza **el 9 de Junio a el 26 de Junio, 2014**. Almuerzo se servira de **7:00 a.m. a 8:00 a.m.** y comida se servira de **11:00 a.m. a 12:30 p.m., Lunes a Jueves. La escuela Elementaria de Tornillo** también servira comidas **7 y el 10 de Julio, 2014**. Los menus van estar listos el 26 de Mayo, 2014.

En acuerdo con las leyes federal y la polizas de U.S. Departamento de Agricultura, esta institucion esta prohibida de discriminacion en los fundamentos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, o discapacidad.

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TAX RATE

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 4, 2014 in the SEISD Administrative Office, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas.

**The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

**The school district has elected to adopt a tax rate before receiving the certified appraisal roll from the chief appraiser(s) of the appraisal district(s) and before adopting a budget. In accordance with Texas Tax Code, Section 26.05(g), the chief appraiser(s) of the appraisal district(s) in which the school district participates has (have) certified to the assessor for the school district an estimate of the taxable value of property in the school district as provided by the Texas Tax Code, Section 26.01(e). In accordance with the Texas Education Code, Section 44.004(j), following adoption of the tax rate, the school district will publish notice and hold another public meeting before the school district adopts a budget.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

<b>Maintenance Tax</b>	\$1.108900/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>	\$0.051800/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)		
	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value** of all property	\$ 219,606,533	\$ 245,436,652
Total appraised value** of new property***	\$ 8,501,324	\$ 17,474,986
Total taxable value**** of all property	\$ 184,522,939	\$ 206,898,791
Total taxable value**** of new property***	\$ 8,379,022	\$ 17,304,424
<small>* All values identified are based on estimate(s) of taxable value received pursuant to Section 26.01(e), Tax Code. ** “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code. *** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code. **** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.</small>		

Bonded Indebtedness	
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$1,242,000	
<small>* Outstanding principal.</small>	

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.108900	\$ 0.051800*	\$ 1.160700	\$ 521	\$ 8,461
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.220250	\$ 0.047100*	\$ 1.267340	\$ 526	\$ 8,603
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.108900	\$ 0.051800*	\$ 1.160700	\$ 590	\$ 8,621
<small>*The Interest &amp; Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.</small>					

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 57,901	\$ 60,812
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 42,386	\$ 45,022
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.160700	\$ 1.160700
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 491.97	\$ 522.57
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 30.60

**Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.**

**Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.160700. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.160700.**

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 4,406,127
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 41,035



# NBA playoff games surprising for wrong reasons

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

I have to admit that I’m not the biggest regular season NBA fan, but then again, who is?

Oh, I’ll occasionally stop and watch if LeBron James has 46 points with two minutes to go, to see if he reaches 50. Or maybe I’ll tune in if I hear that the lowly Philadelphia 76ers are up on the Oklahoma City Thunder 102-99 with 37 seconds left to see if they can pull off the upset.

But other than that, I find the NBA regular season the same as many NBA players treat it – boring and unimportant.

I do, however, follow the playoffs closely and I watch some or all of the action every night because now you have the best players on the best teams playing the best basketball.

I’ve watched every night and I’ve found out one important thing – boy was I wrong when I said I was watching the best of the best of the best.

Have you tried to sit through some of the

playoff action?

This is without a doubt some of the worst basketball I’ve ever watched – and I remember sitting through my son’s peewee league games.

First of all, teams try to position themselves for the postseason, which means getting the home field advantage for the playoffs.

And let’s face it; it’s always tougher to steal a win on the home team’s court.

Throughout the league’s history we’ve seen road teams melt under the constant pressure put on them by the home fans.

But this postseason those road wins are coming with shocking regularity. I’ve seen home teams be edged out at the buzzer to lose games in past years, but this year they’re getting blown out.

And some of the home teams like Indiana, Washington, Portland, New Jersey, Oklahoma City and the L.A. Clippers have shown a home-court lethargy that can’t be comprehend.

Even when teams are home in a series-clinching game, they’ve come up totally empty in the “heart” department.

Another glaring deficiency this playoff

season is the inability of teams to close out games.

Too many times teams have had big leads in the fourth quarter, and I mean “change the channel this game is over” type of leads and before you know it – it’s gone.

Now I’d love to say it’s because the trailing team played outstanding defense to get back into the game. No, teams with the games seemingly in their pockets have made some of the worst decisions I’ve ever seen, reminiscent of football teams going to a prevent defense.

Suddenly teams have trouble passing the ball, managing the clock, taking 30-foot jump shots three straight times down the court and hitting free throws when the game is on the line.

And what about the talent, these are the greatest basketball players on the planet.

The Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde of the NBA, Roy Hibbert, has only been consistent about his inconsistency. In one game he’s a force in the middle and in the next game he’s got that deer-in-the-headlights look about him.

The normally reliable Chris Paul was

horrible late in games, John Wall was too fast for his own good, Kevin Garnett was awfully good – a few years ago, Deron Williams has got to lose some weight and even Kevin Durant has been shooting like a mere mortal.

We certainly can’t let the officials off the hook now could we. Just like the players, the best NBA referees are supposed to be calling these games.

Whether it’s an out of bounds calls, a charge or a block, or phantom fouls, the officiating has been atrocious.

And could we please stop the game a few more times to decided whether a clean, hard play is either a flagrant one or two?

And don’t get me started on Joey “the game evolves around me” Crawford.

Oh, I think Clippers coach Doc Rivers was right when he said we might as well get rid of instant replay when referees get to see a replay, in slow motion, from different angles – and still get it wrong!

Well, let’s hope that the NBA Finals bring us top caliber basketball because what we’ve seen so far rivals those peewee teams.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Curious in Cleveland

Have you ever had your palm read?

It’s kind of a dicey proposition. Typically, you turn your hand over to a captivating woman inside a tent or small shack at a fair, carnival or tourist spot, and then, if you still have your wits about you, hope for the best. Actually, you hope for lots of things once you’re seated, but most prominent among those hopes is that you don’t get ripped off. After all, it’s not often that you come face

to face with someone who claims to look into your soul for a sawbuck.

One wonders how Jimmy Haslam, owner of the Cleveland Browns, would fare at the typical county fair. Haslam, it has been reported, drafted “Johnny Football” Manziel at the behest of a random homeless person sitting on the curb outside a restaurant Haslam was about to enter.

“Draft Johnny Manziel,” said the non-salaried Cleveland Browns

executive.

Done.

The encounter convinced Haslam that the fans in Cleveland wanted Manziel, and even though Manziel has had his share of off-field troubles and on-field questions, that apparently was good enough for him.

And that homeless guy didn’t make a dime on the deal. Maybe Haslam slipped him a few bucks, but either way, he didn’t get fairly compensated if it all works out. Cleveland fans certainly approved of the deal...when it was announced at the draft, they went nuts. Manziel is a star right out of the gate. He is the kind of player who sells tickets

out of sheer personality. What could go wrong?

Well, whatever you do, don’t call it potluck. For as soon as Manziel was picked, word leaked that the Browns’ best receiver, Josh Gordon, faces a full-season suspension after failing yet another drug test. Gordon, as history shows, has a marijuana problem, and that problem has cost Cleveland, Manziel, Gordon and Haslam dearly.

Now, I can’t speak for this homeless man, but I wouldn’t be surprised if substance abuse or poor choices in an attempt to self-medicate or other mental issues led to his current situation. And regardless, being homeless and alone is pretty much the worst-case scenario for any person. Either way, he has problems.

And he is, for all intents and purposes, Cleveland’s lead scout and assistant general manager. So you would be justified in thinking that Cleveland has (new) problems. Or

maybe just the same old problems.

Smoke on this: Gordon is now the poster boy for anti-marijuana campaigns... and wouldn’t you know it, just as marijuana is starting to gain mainstream, or at least decriminalization, acceptance. A look back shows that Gordon basically lost his college career because he fell asleep on a table at a fast-food joint for (maybe) smoking pot. At present, he will likely lose more than a million dollars for failing to NOT smoke pot.

Now what can the future hold? I mean, who can be the soothsayer who can look at the hands of Gordon and Manziel and not see the full picture (like the ones shared freely online) and predict the future?

It doesn’t take a crystal ball to read into the future of this franchise. Better saddle up, folks.

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

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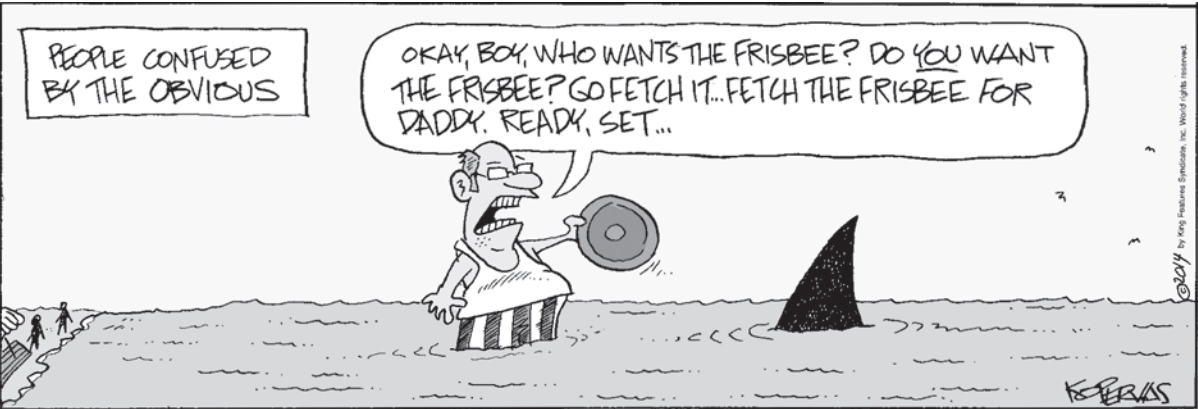
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a strange question to ask and hope you can answer it in your newspaper article. Every time I stand up from being in bed, I get hiccups that last about a minute or so (at least a dozen hiccups). I was wondering if there is a medical reason for this, or is it something that is just a fluke that happens to me? – N.C.

It's not just you; I have heard of several cases, and I suspect it's not that rare. It's thought to be brought on by a change in position of the stomach, which causes a reflex in the diaphragm. Esophageal irritation, especially from reflux disease (stomach acid going backward into the esophagus), also might be a cause. The booklet on heartburn explains reflux disease. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 501W, 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. ROACH: I am an 85-year-old woman living in a nursing facility. A little before my arrival here, I began experiencing night sweats. I have seen my doctor regarding this, and he said he cannot help me. I feel weak when I wake in the morning, and I need to constantly change the towels I put under myself. This is a big concern. – A.M.

I take night sweats seriously. Tuberculosis is the classic cause of night sweats, which is of immense concern in a nursing facility, where most people are tested for TB yearly. But other chronic infections, high thyroid levels and even blood and marrow diseases like lymphoma can show up with night sweats. Most of the time, a

chest X-ray and blood tests, along with a careful exam, can make the diagnosis. Other times, it's harder to find. More often, it goes away as mysteriously as it came. But it is worth another look.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Several months ago, I developed a hernia on my right side, but with no pain. My doctor said I do not need an operation, because there is no pain. Do you agree? I am 74 and in exceptionally good health.

A hernia is a weakness or defect in the abdominal wall, through which abdominal structures can pass. Watchful waiting is a reasonable choice for an asymptomatic hernia – one that causes no symptoms – since only a minority of people with a diagnosed hernia will need surgery due to development of symptoms. The biggest risk is part of the intestine coming through the hernia and becoming stuck, which is called a strangulated hernia, and is a surgical emergency. Since most people do very well with surgical repair, many surgeons recommend surgery even on hernias with no symptoms in order to prevent this complication.

How YOU feel about it is the critical issue. If you feel more comfortable getting it fixed now to prevent the chance of future problems, tell him so, and ask to see a surgeon.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). To view and order health pamphlets, visit [www.rbmamall.com](http://www.rbmamall.com), or write to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2014 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- FIRST LANGUAGES ACROSS**
- 1 Occasions to use tubs
- 6 Really dislike
- 11 Animal's nail
- 15 Composer Khachaturian
- 19 Igloo builder
- 20 Believer in God, of a sort
- 21 Mortgage adjustment, for short
- 22 "Vincent & \_" (1990 film)
- 23 Firm bigwig, in a first language?
- 26 Not "for here"
- 27 Misprint list
- 28 With 100-Down, did an axel or a lutz
- 29 Hold the title to
- 30 Coiled about
- 32 Gave temporarily
- 33 2002 Bond film, in a first language?
- 36 Illuminated
- 38 Pollster's prediction
- 39 Heinz canful
- 40 Gust, in a first language?
- 47 "\_ see" ("Evidently")
- 49 Actor Sean
- 50 Tostada kin
- 51 Z, to Brits
- 54 Painter \_ del Sarto
- 59 Straighten up

- 61 Oval circuit specialty, in a first language?
- 64 Pop or rock
- 66 \_ lump sum
- 67 Severeness
- 68 Right, to left: Abbr.
- 70 Without uncertainty, in a first language?
- 75 Thick \_ brick
- 76 "I \_ vacation"
- 79 Plague
- 80 Meat dish
- 83 Bailiff's cry, in a first language?
- 88 Lay to rest
- 91 Directs
- 92 Dot-com address
- 93 Collect, as benefits
- 95 Charity recipient
- 96 Pig product
- 98 Keying-in skill, in a first language?
- 100 Win a point
- 104 Past chunky
- 108 Form a hole
- 109 Very jealous, in a first language?
- 114 Packed down firmly
- 119 "What a Girl Wants" star Bynes
- 120 Yes, to Luc
- 121 Archer's need
- 122 Melodic
- 123 Teepee
- 124 1725 Vivaldi work, in a first language?

- 128 Fringe
- 129 Falco or McClurg
- 130 Tree that's a source of chocolate
- 131 Prefix with 30-Across
- 132 Like many Easter eggs
- 133 Animal pouches
- 134 "Revenge is \_ best served cold"
- 135 Obstinate equines
- DOWN**
- 1 Deli offering
- 2 Olds of 1999-2004
- 3 \_ cotta
- 4 Earthling
- 5 Places for "Welcome to..." signs
- 6 Big flap
- 7 Suit adequately
- 8 Snag
- 9 Milo of stage and screen
- 10 I-85, e.g.
- 11 "Larry \_" (2011 Tom Hanks film)
- 12 Rest against
- 13 One of the seven conts.
- 14 Side-to-side
- 15 Raiment
- 16 Beach Boys title
- 17 Naxos' sea
- 18 Big name in bond credit ratings

- 24 Comaneci of gymnastics
- 25 Wild tusker
- 31 Live online lecture
- 34 "\_ be nice if..."
- 35 NFL stats
- 37 Blasting inits.
- 40 Did a dash
- 41 Practice
- 42 Pasture peril
- 43 In \_ (as first placed)
- 44 Infant's cry
- 45 Here, to Luc
- 46 Prefix with interference
- 48 Crew tool
- 51 Element in brass
- 52 Sci. of the environment
- 53 Fyn citizen
- 55 Roman 601
- 56 Ribbed pasta
- 57 Cain's nephew
- 58 Home of the Taj Mahal
- 60 Zilch
- 62 Inflicted on
- 63 Back
- 65 Lacks what it takes
- 68 Burden
- 69 Impudent
- 71 Waikiki's island
- 72 New \_ (artist like Enya)
- 73 Table salt, symbolically
- 74 Mass of eggs
- 77 Yet to be paid

- 78 Ditz
- 81 "The Lost City" director and co-star
- 82 Arrest
- 84 Top-secret gp.
- 85 S. Amer. country
- 86 On Soc. Sec.
- 87 Tic- \_toe
- 89 Grown boys
- 90 Solicit alms
- 94 Prof's deg.
- 97 Manicure, as a lawn
- 98 Subpar mark
- 99 Cronus, e.g.
- 100 See 28-Across
- 101 Humor
- 102 Like carrots
- 103 Chartered
- 105 Like the "Six Million Dollar Man"
- 106 Pianists' dexterity improvers
- 107 Actor LaBeouf
- 110 Specifies
- 111 Greek water nymph
- 112 "The Da \_ Code"
- 113 Some urban rec facilities
- 115 Bearings
- 116 PC jacks
- 117 Socialite Lauder
- 118 They may be slammed
- 125 Tooth doctor's org.
- 126 JVC rival
- 127 "Lo-o-vely!"

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**MOORE TEXAS**  
by Roger Todd Moore

A May 1985 thunderstorm in Ft. Worth dropped 34 fish into one back yard... it was NOT raining cats and dogs !



**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!

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+		×		÷	
	+		×		15
÷		-		+	
	+		+		25
1		1		11	

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Answer Page 4

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

## Faster benefit decisions for military veterans

On Memorial Day, as we pay tribute to the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, we also share some news about Social Security disability benefits for veterans with disabilities: a new expedited disability process.

We believe it is important to recognize those who currently serve in the military as well as those injured in the line of duty and consider it an honor and a duty to serve them. Whether the injury is physical or mental, getting a decision about Social Security disability benefits from your government shouldn't add to the problems faced by the injured.

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, recently unveiled a new initiative to expedite disability applications from veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent and Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way we currently handle disability claims from wounded warriors.

"Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and it is only right that we ensure they have timely access to the disability benefits they may be eligible for and deserve," said Acting Commissioner Colvin.

Learn more about the new expedited process for veterans at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/pr/2014/expedited-dib-process2-pr.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/pr/2014/expedited-dib-process2-pr.html).

Read about this new service at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm).

Also, you'll want to visit our Wounded Warriors page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors). There you'll find informative webinars, a *Disability Planner*, an overview of our disability programs and the convenient online disability application.

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

## 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: **G** equals **H**

DM O YLIOKUC ILLJY KU OJVDK

GDY YDIY, VDSGK GL GLOJ KU

KGL XUISCLYYDUIOA

XUIMLYYDUIOA?

Answer Page 4

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**FEAR KNOT**  
By: rj johnson  
CONQUER THE WHIRLED

♥ FOF

♥ EDEREF

DERHO

♥ ESRO

RHISFE

♥ EOW

♥ ORDO

♥ WRESC

SEH

♥ WROFLE

RHFTI

LHWO

Answer Page 4

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was beloved "Peanuts" cartoonist Charles Schulz who made the following sage observation: "Life is like a 10-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use."
- If you're like the average American, you will consume 22 pounds of lettuce this year.
- You might be surprised to learn that some fish can hibernate. During the long, dark winters, the Antarctic cod will burrow under the seabed and stay there for days at a time, cutting its metabolism by two-thirds.
- The name of the state of Wyoming comes from the Algonquian word *chewamink*, which translates as "at the big river flat."
- If you pay attention to politics at all, you've almost certainly heard the term "gerrymander" used to describe the practice of carving up electoral districts in such a way that one party has an advantage. You probably don't know, though, how that term entered the lexicon. In 1812, a new district in Essex County, Massachusetts, was created, and a journalist thought the twisting boundaries caused the district to resemble a salamander. A cartoon highlighting the resemblance was created, and because the party that did the redistricting was led by Gov. Elbridge Gerry, the practice was dubbed "gerrymandering."
- Even the world's best high jumper is unable to stay in the air for more than a single second.
- Before he became a comedian and actor, Bob Newhart worked as an accountant at the Illinois State Unemployment Office.
- Those who keep track of such things say that Elvis Presley had 18 TVs at Graceland. One of them was installed in the ceiling over his bed.

Thought for the Day: "It is far better to grasp the universe as it really is than to persist in delusion, however satisfying and reassuring."

— Carl Sagan

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