



NEWSBRIEFS

History Happy Hour

El Paso Museum of History will host its monthly History Happy Hour, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 14, at the museum (510 N. Santa Fe Street). Talks, music, dancing, finger foods, cocktails, and mingling will be part of the event's festivities. The museum-style happy hour's theme for August is Caribbean Islands: Puerto Rico, Cuba and Dominican Republic. The party will include salsa, merengue and bachata music provided by Contratiempo, performances by the El Paso Ballroom Dance Academy, delicious finger foods from Mesa Street Grill, cocktails from the Leo's Cantina cash bar, and interesting discussions with Caribbean natives. Participants must be 21 years or over to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages. Admission fee is \$6, but free for El Paso Museum of History members (bring membership card). RSVP is required. Interested individuals may get tickets at the museum's gift store. For more information and to RSVP, call 915-351-3588.

— Alfredo Vasquez

Senior discounts

There are benefits to growing old. For example, many restaurants, including both franchise and local stand-alone eateries, offer discounts to seniors, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. But, too often, they don't advertise the fact, so ask your waiter or waitress when placing your order. Even those establishments with no specific policies regarding senior discounts are apt to make an on the spot decision to reduce your final bill by five to ten percent if you ask. Restaurants thrive on repeat business and offering a break to seniors is one way to turn you into a repeat customer. It's the same at supermarkets and other chain stores, says AMAC. Some even have special days when seniors get discounts. Meantime, you can go online and search the Web for "senior discounts" before you go out; you'll be amazed at the variety of reduced price offerings that are out there for older Americans.

— John Grimaldi

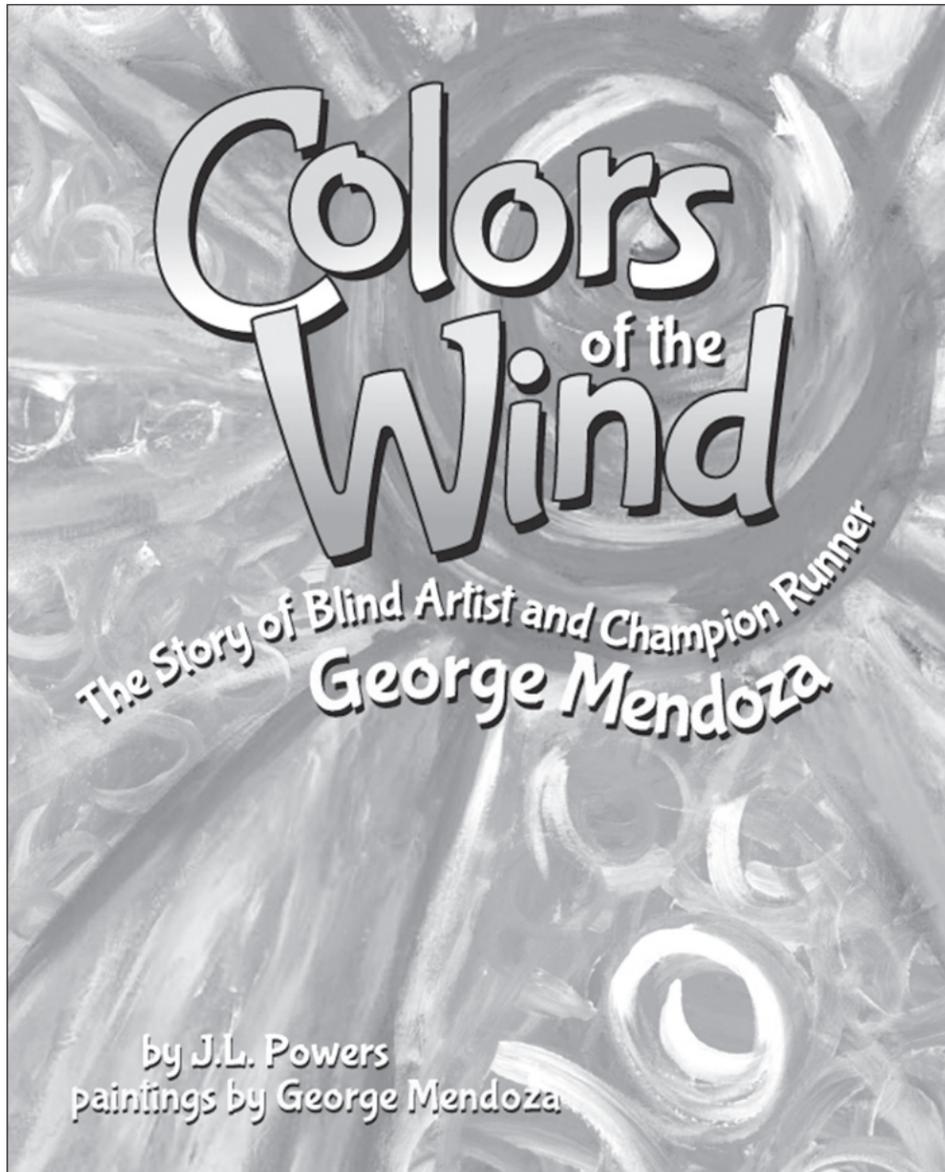
Fresh air

Did you know that the U.S. Geologic Survey, the government agency that focuses on the country's natural resources, offers seniors aged 62 and older a lifetime pass to more than 2,000 outdoor recreation facilities throughout the U.S. for just \$10.00? The Association of Mature American Citizens suggests you fire up your computer and visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html#benefits> to discover how you can plan an exciting out of doors holiday anytime it's convenient.

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The chief hazard of jumping to conclusions is the high percentage of misses.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy of J.L. Powers

MOTIVATIONAL WORK – The book, *Colors of the Wind*, will be officially released to bookstores on September 1. The story is a reminder that a person's biggest burden is often his or her greatest gift. Author J.L. Powers and artist George Mendoza will promote their book in El Paso and Las Cruces— first, from 1 to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 9, at the El Paso Museum of History; then from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Branigan Library in Las Cruces; lastly, from 10 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 23, at Gems Are Books bookstore, 7744 North Loop.

Museum features local artist, author of inspirational book

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Meet the man who broke a world record as a blind runner, went to the Olympics twice, and now paints these beautiful, bold paintings that he cannot see.

EL PASO COUNTY – The public will be able to get a sneak peek and buy an early copy of the picture book that tells the inspirational story of a blind-artist from Las Cruces, New Mexico that was written by an author who is a native El Pasoan.

The free event will feature the artist George Mendoza and author J.L. Powers of the soon-to-be-released book *Colors of the Wind*. Participants will have an opportunity to meet both the artist and the author at a special preview event that will be held from 1 to 2 p.m., Saturday, August 9, at the El Paso Museum of History, 510 N. Santa Fe Street.

Mendoza, a native of Las Cruces, started going blind at age 15. He lost his central vision and started seeing things that weren't there. He describes this condition as having "kaleidoscope eyes", according to museum

representative Marilu Valenzuela Aleman. Mendoza triumphed over his blindness by setting the world record of 4 minutes and 28 seconds in the mile race for blind runners in 1980, and later competed in the 1984 Olympics for the Disabled, she stated.

Today, Mendoza is a full-time artist, who paints what he sees and tells his story through his artwork. His collection of paintings, also titled *Colors of the Wind*, is a National Smithsonian Affiliates traveling exhibit. Mendoza is also the founder of Wise Tree Foundation, a nonprofit corporation that promotes the arts.

The author is a native of El Paso and a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso's (UTEP) Master of Fine Arts program in Creative Writing. Powers collaborated with Mendoza to produce the picture book that is illustrated with Mendoza's paintings.

Colors of the Wind is Powers' first picture book. An award winning author of young adult novels, she has published "The Confessional," "This Thing Called the Future" and "Amina". Powers has also edited two collections of essays, "Labor Pains and Birth Stories" and

See BOOK, Page 5

County commissioners create new administrator positions

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County Commissioners Court voted recently to create two new county administrator positions that will be designed to help commissioners supervise the multiple departments and get a better handle on the budget.

In a split 3-2 vote, County Judge Veronica Escobar, Commissioners Vince Perez and Pat Abeln voted to add a chief administrator and a budget executive director.

County officials explained that the chief administrator will be the supervisor for all of the county departments that are currently assigned to the commissioners' court, and the director will oversee the budget but will still need approval from the court in all matters requiring funding.

County officials estimate that the two new positions and department restructure will cost the county about \$254,000 more a year. Salaries for the chief administrative officer and budget director have not been set.

During the recent meeting when the measure was approved, the county judge stated that the new positions are tools that the entire commissioners' court can use to accomplish its goals and save money in the long run with more efficient management.

"I feel very passionate about this only because after eight years (on the court as commissioner and judge) I feel we can finally accomplish a lot more going into the next four years," Escobar stated.

Commissioners Carlos Leon and Sergio Lewis voted against the motion and had earlier tried to pass an alternative motion that would have created a Department of Budget and Administration, with a director and chief budget officer. The motion, which was struck down 2-3, would have given commissioners control of the budget and expanded the court's ability to create administrative and funding policies. The cost would have been about \$114,521, according to a recent news report.

"The decision has been made by the county court to go with the county manager and I will work 100 percent towards making that successful," Leon said after the meeting. "We have disagreements, we have our own opinions, but once a decision is made by the court, I think it's very critical, and it's incumbent upon each one of our commissioners and the judge that we move in the direction that the county court has voted on."

Commissioners directed the county's human resources department to come up with a plan to establish the new positions and a timeline on how long the process is going to take. The recommendations will be presented to commissioners' court before the final budget is approved in September. The new budget becomes effective October 1, and the new implementation is expected to take place by the end of the year, reported county officials.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, August 21, 2014 in the High School Cafetorium, 430-D Oil Mill, Tornillo, Texas 79853. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax 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.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.090100/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.213600/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	0.94% Increase
Debt Service	0.87% Increase
Total Expenditures	0.93% Increase

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	\$ 75,605,050	\$ 76,859,372
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 1,465,966	\$ 1,307,333
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 61,625,153	\$ 62,685,583
Total taxable value**** of new property**	\$ 993,476	\$ 1,265,545

* "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.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$11,461,996

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.090100	\$ 0.213600*	\$ 1.303700	\$ 567	\$ 6,671
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.063110	\$ 0.203220*	\$ 1.266330	\$ 561	\$ 7,243
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.090100	\$ 0.213600*	\$ 1.303700	\$ 577	\$ 7,336

*The Interest & 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.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 43,852	\$ 44,274
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 28,665	\$ 29,141
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.303700	\$ 1.303700
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 373.71	\$ 379.91
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 6.20

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 1.303700. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.303700.

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)	\$4,208,304.87
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 243,143.91

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Adaptive sports get VA grant

The Department of Veterans Affairs is putting up \$8 million for grants to providers of adaptive sports opportunities for disabled veterans and members of the armed forces.

A lot goes into providing events and opportunities: training, supplies, coaches, equipment, recreation therapists, program development and more, right in the veteran's community. For more advanced athletes, there are the Paralympic and adaptive sport programs on regional and national levels. The grant money will be very welcome and might even result in additional programs being created across the country. (In addition, when training for the Paralympics, there's a monthly training allowance.)

A few examples of upcoming events: Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego, Sept. 7- 12; Tee Tournament in Iowa City, Iowa, Sept. 8-11; Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., Sept. 28-Oct. 4; Creative Arts Festival in Milwaukee, Oct. 27-Nov. 2.

To learn more about these events, go online to www.va.gov/adaptivesports.

If you wonder if one of the

adaptive sports programs is for you (or someone you know), go to the website and click around. Look at the Mission Re-Defined video. (Warning: There is a 3-second IED explosion at the 25-second mark on the video. It passes quickly.)

To find ongoing activities and sports clubs near you, click on Search by Location and put in your ZIP code. (Don't search by your state because I found at least one that was misfiled.) You'll see a list of clubs along with contact information, including phone and email. Click on each entry to see which activities are offered and which disability groups are supported.

The variety of available activities is wide ranging: paddle sports, basketball, shooting, wheelchair tennis, rugby, water skiing, cross-country skiing and much more. There's something for everyone.

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)

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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$10 for 25 words, \$15 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$25 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

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2014 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Emergency Services District #1

This notice concerns 2014 property tax rates for the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes _____ \$ 1,053,537
 Last year's debt taxes _____ \$ 461,494
 Last year's total taxes _____ \$ 1,515,031
 Last year's tax base _____ \$ 1,515,031,000
 Last year's total tax rate _____ \$ 0.100000 /\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____ \$ 1,498,111
 ÷ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____ \$ 1,600,629,041
 = This year's effective tax rate _____ \$ 0.093595 /\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____ \$ 1,041,772
 ÷ This year's adjusted tax base _____ \$ 1,600,629,041
 = This year's effective operating rate _____ \$ 0.065085 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate _____ \$ 0.070291 /\$100
 + This year's debt rate _____ \$ 0.030235 /\$100
 = This year's total rollback rate _____ \$ 0.100526 /\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 adopts a 2014 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.093595 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2013 taxes by \$63,796.

SCHEDULE A – Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Funds	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$ -0-
Debt Service (I&S)	\$ -0-

SCHEDULE B – 2014 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
2008 Pierce Ladder	\$ 37,188	\$ 18,961	\$ 0	\$ 56,149
2013 Pierce Pumper	\$ 33,000	\$ 6,386	\$ 0	\$ 39,386
Fire Station	\$ 223,000	\$ 134,242	\$ 0	\$ 357,242
2015 Pierce Heavy Rescue	\$ 39,987	\$ 17,278	\$ 0	\$ 57,265
Total required for 2014 Debt Service				\$ 510,042
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				\$ -0-
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$ -0-
- Excess collections last year				\$ -0-
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2014				\$ 510,042
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2014				\$ -0-
= Total Debt Levy				\$ 510,042

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 500 E. Overland Ave., Suite 101, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Name of person preparing this notice: **Victor A. Flores, R.T.C.**
 Title: **El Paso County Tax Assessor-Collector** Date prepared: **July 30, 2014**
 (915) 546-2096 www.epcounty.com

2014 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Emergency Services District #2

This notice concerns 2014 property tax rates for the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes _____ \$ 696,954
 Last year's debt taxes _____ \$ 2,226,388
 Last year's total taxes _____ \$ 2,923,342
 Last year's tax base _____ \$ 2,923,342,000
 Last year's total tax rate _____ \$ 0.100000 /\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____ \$ 2,897,288
 ÷ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____ \$ 2,742,793,419
 = This year's effective tax rate _____ \$ 0.104603 /\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____ \$ 690,742
 ÷ This year's adjusted tax base _____ \$ 2,769,793,419
 = This year's effective operating rate _____ \$ 0.024938 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate _____ \$ 0.026933 /\$100
 + This year's debt rate _____ \$ 0.071943 /\$100
 = This year's total rollback rate _____ \$ 0.098876 /\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 adopts a 2014 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.104603 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2013 taxes by \$39,376.

SCHEDULE A – Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Funds	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$ 248,738
Debt Service (I&S)	\$ -0-

SCHEDULE B – 2014 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Clint	\$158,466	\$114,785	\$0	\$273,251
Fabens	\$271,883	\$ 84,764	\$0	\$356,647
Montana Vista	\$221,695	\$100,506	\$0	\$322,201
San Elizario	\$303,802	\$ 87,145	\$0	\$390,947
Socorro	\$321,372	\$152,578	\$0	\$473,950
West Valley	\$139,303	\$ 81,390	\$0	\$220,693
Total required for 2014 Debt Service				\$ 2,037,689
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				\$ -0-
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$ -0-
- Excess collections last year				\$ -0-
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2014				\$ 2,037,689
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2014				\$ -0-
= Total Debt Levy				\$ 2,037,689

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office, located at 221 N. Kansas, Ste. 300.

Name of person preparing this notice: **Maria O. Ramos, RTA**
 Title: **Tax Deputy Administrator** Date prepared: **July 28, 2014**

Finances By Jason Alderman

Consumer reporting agencies follow your moves

By now, you've probably heard (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion), and issue credit reports and credit about the Big Three credit bureaus which monitor your financial history scores to potential lenders. But did

you know that there are dozens of other specialty consumer reporting agencies that track your history for activities that may not appear on your regular credit reports – things like bounced checks, late utility payments, insurance claims and prescription orders?

clean track record. But what if their files contain mistakes; or worse, what if someone has hijacked your identity and is poisoning your record with their own bad behavior?

Fortunately, you do have recourse. Under federal law, you can request a copy of your report once a year from each agency, generally for free. You're also entitled to a free copy whenever an "adverse action" is taken against you because of something in the report. (For example, if you're turned down for a checking account.)

Most people never hear about these companies until they're suddenly turned down for an apartment, checking account, insurance policy or even a job or promotion. But you need to know that potential landlords, banks, insurance companies and employers are very likely ordering specialty reports to help them assess the risk of doing business with you.

Unfortunately, there's no central clearinghouse for these specialty agencies so you need to contact

That's fine if you've got a squeaky-

See FINANCES, Page 5

**Canutillo Independent School District
2014-2015 Meal Policy**

The Canutillo Independent School District will provide free meals to students enrolled in the districts at no charge, under the Provision II program, regardless of income, through the academic year of 2014-2015.

The U.S Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Política sobre Alimentos para 2014-2015 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo proporcionar alimentos a todos los estudiantes inscritos en el distrito sin costo alguno, durante todo el ciclo escolar 2014-2015 sin importar el ingreso familiar, bajo el programa Provision II

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (por sus siglas en inglés "USDA") prohíbe la discriminación contra sus clientes, empleados y solicitantes de empleo por raza, color, origen nacional, edad, discapacidad, sexo, identidad de género, religión, represalias y, según corresponda, convicciones políticas, estado civil, estado familiar o paternal, orientación sexual, o si los ingresos de una persona provienen en su totalidad o en parte de un programa de asistencia pública, o información genética protegida de empleo o de cualquier programa o actividad realizada o financiada por el Departamento. (No todos los criterios prohibidos se aplicarán a todos los programas y/o actividades laborales).

Si desea presentar una queja por discriminación del programa de Derechos Civiles, complete el USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (formulario de quejas por discriminación del programa del USDA), que puede encontrar en internet en http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, o en cualquier oficina del USDA, o llame al (866) 632-9992 para solicitar el formulario. También puede escribir una carta con toda la información solicitada en el formulario. Envíenos su formulario de queja completo o carta por correo postal a U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, por fax al (202) 690-7442 o por correo electrónico a program.intake@usda.gov.

Las personas con dificultades auditivas, o con discapacidad del habla pueden contactar al USDA por medio del Federal Relay Service (Servicio federal de transmisión) al (800) 877-8339 o (800) 845-6136 (en español).

EIUSDA es un proveedor y empleador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

**San Elizario Independent School District
Public Notice of Non-Discrimination**

It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The San Elizario Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent Sylvia Hopp, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; or Section 504 Coordinator, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3960. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Notificación Publica

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de San Elizario prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de San Elizario esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VII del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, del Acta de la Discriminación por Edad de 1975, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con la Coordinadora de Título IX: Superintendente Sylvia Hopp, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; o Coordinadora de Sección 504, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3960. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC: 08-07-14

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T E C H S T O S S E R E R G O E S P

**CryptoQuip
Answer**

This person told me about how he breathed in air. I must say, it was an inspirational story.

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Finances

From Page 4

each individually. However, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has taken some of the legwork out by compiling a list of the most commonly used agencies, along with instructions and contact information for ordering your reports. (Search "Specialty Consumer Agencies" at www.cfpb.gov.) Another great resource is the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse's fact sheet on specialty reports at www.privacyrights.org.

Specialty consumer reporting agencies collect information about you from various sources and share it with creditors and other businesses, including:

- Public records of criminal and civil cases;
- Credit history;
- Bankruptcy filings;
- Companies with which you have an existing or prior relationship;
- Medical information; and
- Driving records.

Typical inquiries might include:

- Check-writing history – for banks, credit unions and businesses that accept payments by check. They'll look for things like bounced or returned checks and fraud.

- Medical conditions and prescription drug history – if you're applying for an individual life, long-term care or disability insurance policy. (Note: Health insurers can't deny coverage or charge higher premiums because of preexisting conditions.)

- Residential – landlords checking your tenant history, credit, criminal background, etc.

- Auto or homeowner/renter's insurance – insurers will screen your records for things like traffic violations, claims and property losses.

- Payday lending – creditors investigating people who don't use traditional financial services (banking, credit cards, etc.) might evaluate payday loans, check-cashing services, prepaid cards, etc.

- Utilities – If you're trying to open a new utility, phone, cable or Internet account.

- Employment background – By law, employers must obtain your permission to run a background check. Unfortunately, they're generally not required to identify which company they're using unless they decide not to hire you – it doesn't hurt to ask ahead of time, though.

Note that when you dispute information in your reports, agencies are legally obligated to investigate and correct any inaccurate or outdated information. Also, they must give you an update on the status of your request to view your report. However, there is no time limit on when your request must be processed.

Bottom line: You might not realize there's false or potentially damaging information being reported about you, so get in the habit of ordering specialty consumer reports along with your credit reports.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Book

From Page 1

"That Mad Game: Growing Up in a Warzone".

For more information about the museum's upcoming book

presentation, contact Alemán @ 915-351-3588 or send email to alemanmg@elpasotexas.gov. For information about the artist visit his website at www.georgemendoza.com, and for information about the author visit her website at www.jlpowers.net.

Briefs

From Page 1

For example, go paddling on the Little Calumet River Water Trail in Porter, Indiana or visit Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park in Key Biscayne where you can go sunbathing, swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking and kayaking. AMAC notes that senior pass holders get a lifetime of free access to locations such as these throughout the U.S. along with on-site discounts at campgrounds and other on site facilities.

– John Grimaldi

Crime Stoppers

A 19-year old is killed at the hands of a hit and run driver. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department's Special Traffic Investigation Unit are asking for the public's assistance in finding the person responsible through the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On the early morning hours of Saturday, July 12, 2014, 19-year-old Joe Anthony Hernandez was walking along the area of Lomaland and Gateway West, when a vehicle struck him and fled the scene. Based on evidence at the scene, investigators

believe the vehicle to be a 1999 Ford Mustang, with damage to the hood area and windshield. Investigators have also learned that, there was a dark colored truck, and a small light colored car with several individuals that parked at the Whataburger. The occupants of these vehicles attempted to aid the victim, but left the scene before emergency crews arrived. Investigators are also asking that any witnesses come forward and contact police immediately. Anyone with any information on the whereabouts of the vehicle and drive involved in this hit and run that left a 19-year-old teen dead is asked this case 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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 20, 2014 in the Anthony ISD Board Room, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax 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.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.040000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.174194/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	0.02% Increase
Debt Service	2.53% Increase
Total Expenditures	0.12% Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, tax Code)

	<u>Preceding Tax Year</u>	<u>Current Tax Year</u>
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 242,291,736	\$ 242,664,833
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 11,028,173	\$ 5,571,811
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 178,311,776	\$ 178,080,312
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 9,945,409	\$ 5,357,573

* "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.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$5,715,868

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	<u>Maintenance & Operation</u>	<u>Interest & Sinking Fund*</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local Revenue Per Student</u>	<u>State Revenue Per Student</u>
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.040000	\$ 0.158200*	\$ 1.198200	\$ 2,766	\$ 7,083
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.079960	\$ 0.111630*	\$ 1.191580	\$ 2,725	\$ 7,101
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.040000	\$ 0.174200*	\$ 1.214200	\$ 2,783	\$ 6,898

*The Interest & 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.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 92,430	\$ 94,547
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 77,430	\$ 79,547
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.198200	\$ 1.217300
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 927.77	\$ 968.33
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 40.56

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 1.214194. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.214194.

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)	\$ 2,035,355
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 34,233

Police blotters, poor judgment overshadow college sports

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's amazing to me how much college football players resemble professional football players these days.

Oh, I know the college guys can throw and run and catch and kick, but I'm not talking about that.

Where collegiate players have made the leap toward their paid counterparts is in police blotter statistics.

We all hear of NFL guys getting into some kind of major league trouble with the law almost every day. Well it seems to me that the older guys have absolutely nothing on the younger dudes.

All pro football fans hear the news concerning guys like Baltimore's Ray Rice treating his wife like a piñata and Cleveland's Josh Gordon's affinity for drugs and driving under the influence of them.

It's difficult to understand how guys, with the opportunity of making all that money without having to go through the daily grind of having a real job, can jeopardize it so cavalierly.

But just as bad is the college football player who says goodbye to a life-altering career before even giving it a chance.

Players from colleges all over the nation are being kicked off teams or suspended for a number of games because they don't know right from wrong, or they know what's right and make the conscience decision to do wrong.

Some recent examples include the two Texas wide receivers who were both kicked off the team for sexually molesting a female student, the Auburn quarterback who paid a fine for drug possession, the Washington quarterback who has been suspended from the season-opener for fighting, there's the Georgia defensive lineman who was dismissed from the team after two arrests this summer for theft and aggravated assault.

These are just some of the examples. Of course the list goes on and on and the variety of arrests is massive. It's getting to where the NFL guys have to invent things to get arrested for just to keep up.

But if you think things are getting out of hand with the college athlete – you haven't heard anything yet.

Things in college athletics have absolutely hit rock bottom when news comes out

that a band director is the topic of a police investigation.

Ohio State fired its band director last week following a two-month investigation into sexual harassment of students, according to the Columbus Dispatch.

A university investigation report concluded that marching band director Jonathan Waters knew or should have reasonably known about this culture but failed to eliminate the sexual harassment.

Wait... what... the band director is accused of sexually harassing the entire marching band?

And you know who turned him in? Some of the parents learned about this guy's antics and took action.

According to the report, witnesses described a "Midnight Ramp," a longstanding tradition of band members marching into the stadium wearing only their underwear.

First of all, these are college kids. I don't know how many of them really minded the underwear. The bigger problem is the weather. Do you have any idea how cold it gets in Ohio in the fall?

Let's hope some of the band members had the sense to wear thermal underwear.

Anyway, the report stated that Waters was present for this tradition. Witnesses also said rookie band members were given sexually explicit nicknames, and told to perform "tricks" related to them.

Maybe the best thing about all this came when Waters tried to explain his actions.

According to the report, Waters said that sexual harassment is not a part of the band's culture, and that "sexual innuendo is found in much of what college students do."

Let's be honest, that much is true. But that is between the college students and the other college students. It shouldn't include the supposed adult band director.

Things are pretty bad when college and NFL players are probably thinking this band director went too far.

We all know that the marching bands have tons of fun and enjoy acting a little nutty. And that's their job; they're young kids for goodness sake.

But I sure wouldn't want to be this band director and have to go to the home of one of his female student's and explain his reasoning to her father.

What's next, mascots begin knocking over liquor stores?

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Let it go, Jack

I'm a sports fan. Man, I'm practically soaking in it, and as such, I'm usually down with a good rivalry. Who wouldn't admit to caring a bit more when there's the added factor of longtime blood lust between two factions pitted against one another in Capulet and Montague style?

Like, say, when Michigan plays THEE Ohio State University, or Green Bay plays Detroit at home... no, scrap that... whenever the gods of the gridiron demand the Packers battle the Lions on the icy tundra of

Lambeau Field. That's good stuff.

But there's one rivalry that's started to truly sour me – albeit it in a brisk, zingy way and with just a touch of honey. I am, of course, talking about the Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Eisenhower Interstate, Idlewild Airport era rivalry that, like the Corleone family's Sicilian thing, has grown a bit long in the tooth. Theirs is an old country/old country club fight. It featured the handsome, meticulously manicured, fashion plate of a Don – in this case a "King"

with a standing army – Arnold Palmer, versus the unruly, unkempt outsider with revolutionary tactics of sluggy the bear, Jack Nicklaus.

And now, like old granddads at a two-family get-together in the backyard, they're literally fighting at the picnic table, courtesy of the Arizona Beverage company, which in this analogy, is the instigating, opportunity-knocks uncle who orchestrated the whole deal.

Look, we get it. Arnold Palmer has a drink named after him, the aptly named "Arnold Palmer." Every bartender in America knows how to make this famed, yet brazenly obvious cocktail. Like Arnold, it keeps you cool and keeps you from losing your cool because it's non-alcoholic and easy to produce – a clean glass,

fresh ice and two shots off the bar gun – and it costs as much as

a Manhattan. And just like Arnie's ventures into the celebrity-designed golf courses and clothing lines before this, he's been banking off the drink since the start of the past decade.

Today, it's the most famous cocktail named after a celebrity, or at least the most serviceable one. When compared to the Shirley Temple cocktail, it immediately benefits just by having a living, breathing namesake in Arnold Palmer, the man himself.

Contrast that against the living, seething brand of just-released "Jack Nicklaus Golden Bear Lemonade Original with Ginseng and Honey" line of beverages. I mean, it's no doubt a tasty beverage... in fact, I'd go so far as to say that it's the best tasting of all three cocktails.

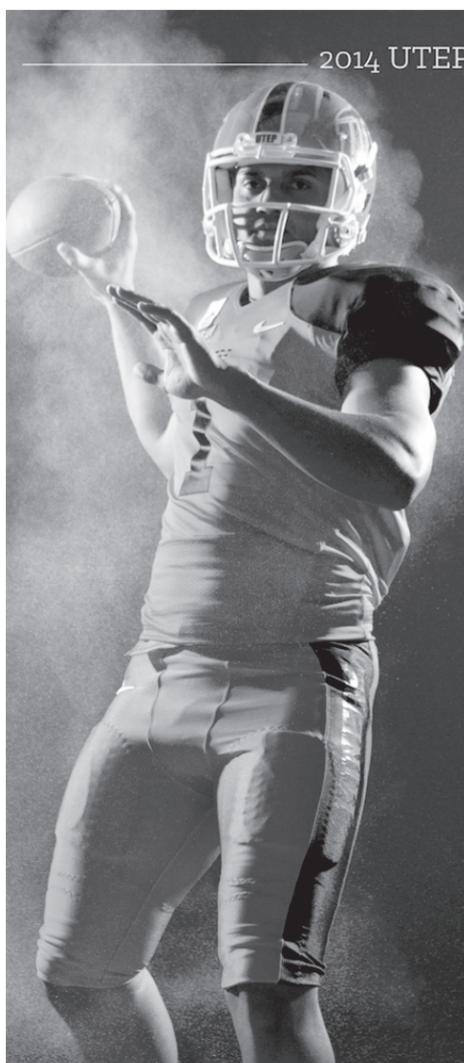
But Jack, listen... bartenders are already flummoxed by the grenadine component in the typical Shirley Temple, to say nothing of the fresh

orange slice and maraschino cherry medley that must come speared on a functional, souvenir toy cocktail umbrella. How are they going to acquire the batches of arcane Chinese exported herbs your beverage calls for? To say nothing about the costly required amount of honey in the midst of honeybee colony collapse disorder?

So, Arnold, you sit over there... yes, we know, you didn't do anything other than be so much cooler... just rise above it. And Jack... JACK! You sit over there. Actually, come sit by me and mother. We need you both to calm down now anyway because the kids have been slamming John Daly's and Tiger Force Gator-drivers all afternoon, and we need you BOTH TOGETHER to set a good example. Let it go, please.

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

2014 UTEP FOOTBALL



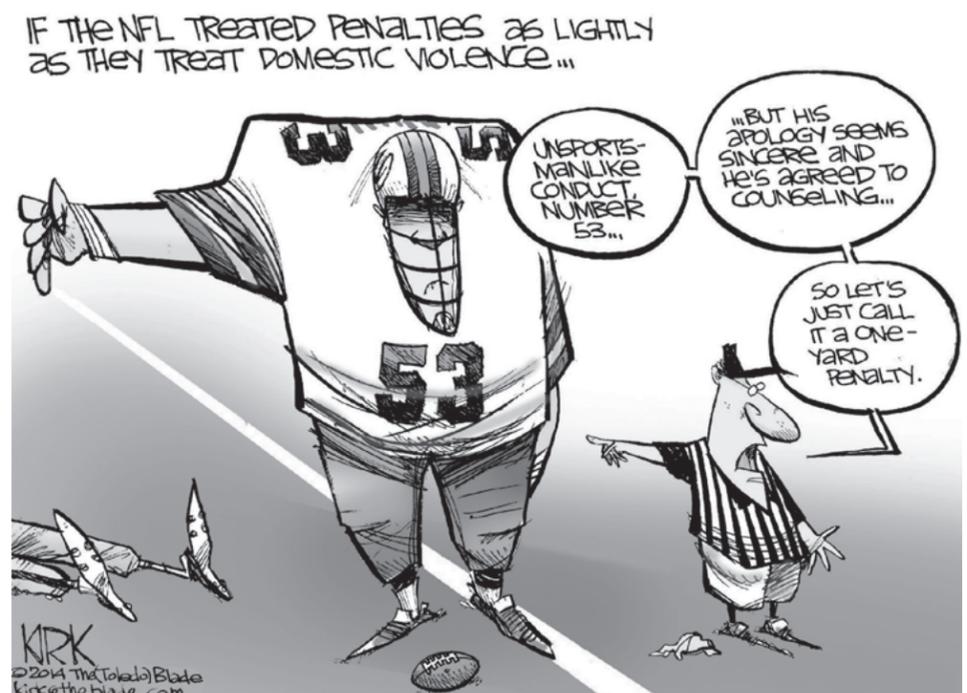
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THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife suffered from spinal stenosis. She had a cortisone shot, which helped for 90 days. She had regular physical therapy meetings. She was in constant pain, but insisted on playing tennis (against her doctor's wishes). Then, we happened to vacation for a month in Florida, and one of the offered activities was a "stretch" workout. She insisted that she wanted to try it. After the very first time she thought she felt a little better. She went to several of the sessions, and finally asked the trainer what she could buy to keep it up at home. The trainer suggested a stretching DVD. It takes about an hour to complete, and she now does it three times a week. She plays hard tennis five days a week, hasn't complained about pain since 2010, and hasn't needed any physical therapy. Certainly this kind of therapy can't hurt anyone, since you do it only to your personal comfort levels. Perhaps you might mention this type of therapy in your column sometime. It worked miracles for us at virtually no cost. – R.M.

address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. ROACH: We recently lost a dear relative to cholangiocarcinoma. He had served in the Navy in Vietnam. The probable cause of his cancer was from a parasite, a river fluke, which is common to that region. The diagnosis came way too late to save his life. How can veterans be tested or diagnosed early enough for a possible successful cure? Are there any current tests available? – J.A.E.

I am sorry to hear about your relative. Cholangiocarcinoma is cancer of the bile duct, a rare cancer. Liver flukes are a risk factor, and so is a condition called primary sclerosing cholangitis, a condition associated with ulcerative colitis. The cancer is rare but highly lethal, because by the time symptoms show up, the cancer usually is advanced.

Also because of its rarity, screening for the cancer in a general population won't be effective. However, for people at high risk, such as those with PSC or a history of liver parasites, at least one study has shown that screening with a blood test (CA 19-9, CEA) or by endoscopy can be effective. It would be reasonable to speak with the expert taking care of this problem, usually a gastroenterologist, about screening.

Spinal stenosis is caused by pressure on the nerves at the level of the spinal column. Physical therapy is one effective treatment, and one I always recommend prior to considering surgery. I thank you for taking the time to point out that gentle stretching can help, probably by opening up the spaces in between the vertebrae to allow the nerve more room.

The booklet on back problems gives an outline of some causes of and treatments for the more-common back maladies. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 303W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and

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. To view and order health pamphlets, visit 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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SHOOTING ACROSS | 64 Bicker | 127 Psychic's gift | 38 Velvet or Hallow ender | 85 French "the" |
| 1 "Got it!" | 67 Uno plus uno | DOWN | 39 Actor Culkin | 86 The "D" of ETD: Abbr. |
| 4 Defraud | 68 Riddle, part 4 | 1 Circle portion | 40 "Kitchy _!" | 87 Suffix of nationalities |
| 8 Ice hockey footwear | 72 Bargain basement container | 2 That lady's | 41 URL ender | 88 Scot's "not" |
| 14 "L _!" (toast in Hebrew) | 74 " _ La Vida Loca" (1999 hit song) | 3 Pub beer | 42 AOL or Juno | 89 Carrere of "Jury Duty" |
| 19 Trusts in | 75 Fighting fish | 4 Steak, say | 46 Passing vote | 94 French port |
| 21 1960s-'70s Ford model | 76 They're in some pods | 5 Fails to be | 47 Language of medieval literature | 95 Manning the quarterback |
| 22 Giant in life insurance | 79 Frittata, e.g. | 6 _ Ness monster | 48 Enthusiastic about | 96 Satisfy |
| 23 Believability | 81 Sheltered from the wind | 7 Leg joint | 49 Head swellers | 97 Michael formerly of Disney |
| 24 "Gone" star | 82 Celtic tongue | 8 Like clear night skies | 51 Study of wealth: Abbr. | 98 Hoopster Smits or comic Mayall |
| Seyfried | 83 Riddle, part 5 | 9 _ dragon (giant lizard) | 52 Bankrupted company of 2001 | 99 Goes the distance |
| 25 Step | 90 Purveyed | 10 Oman man | 53 "Phooey!" | 100 Fat-shunning Jack |
| 26 Start of a riddle | 91 Swerve | 11 Editor Brown | 54 Fit for the skillet | 101 Lunar stage |
| 29 Doofus: Var. | 92 Go via ship | 12 Outer limits | 55 Armstrong of jazz trumpet | 102 Of a charged particle |
| 32 Suffix with dull or drunk | 93 "First Blood" director Kotcheff | 13 Long bath | 56 Mad as _ hen | 103 Arrive at |
| 33 On the whole | 94 End of the riddle | 14 Diversion for Fluffy | 61 _Lay | 107 Cross off |
| 34 Riddle, part 2 | 100 Helix shape | 15 Spices' kin | 62 Tyler of films | 108 El _ (kind of current) |
| 43 Diamond legend | 104 52, to Cato | 16 Wore away | 63 9mm gun | 109 Makeup of Polynésie |
| Mel | 105 Termite lookalikes | 17 Including everything | 64 One _ (short show) | 110 Dec. holiday |
| 44 Factual | 106 Riddle's answer | 18 One way to fall in love | 65 Fink | 111 Scruff |
| 45 "XXX's and _" (Trisha Yearwood country hit) | 115 Rushed, as to attack | 20 "In the red," for one | 66 H.S. transcript no. | 112 Aide of Frankenstein |
| 46 French female friend | 116 J. Paul Getty or J.R. Ewing | 27 Pooch's foot | 69 Baldwin of "The Aviator" | 113 Drano target |
| 50 Riddle, part 3 | 117 Sparkling | 28 First-aid expert, briefly | 70 Trickle | 114 Prefix with byte or gram |
| 57 Clapton and Carmen | 121 Cold _ (very unfriendly) | 29 Overhead bin user, e.g. | 71 Imitated | 118 Sports draw |
| 58 _ a scratch (no damage) | 122 Discomfort | 30 Prefix for "different" | 72 Submits (to) | 119 Harris and Wood |
| 59 Due | 123 Where folks in lounge chairs might get splashed | 31 Inherited via the mother's side | 73 Modest | 120 Sales agent, informally |
| 60 Chocolate-and-caramel candy | 124 Geek Squad guys, say | 35 Gambling parlors, for short | 77 Authorization | |
| 61 Commotion | 125 One flinging something | 36 Celibate brother | 78 Sunglasses | |
| | 126 It follows that | 37 Celibate sister | 80 "Inc." kin | |
| | | | 81 " _Ca-Dabra" (1974 tune) | |
| | | | 82 Join securely | |
| | | | 84 T-X link | |

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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Reportedly San Antonio has a law against washing or repairing your car on Sunday.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: My dad receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. He soon will be coming to live with me. Does he have to report the move to Social Security?

A: Yes. He should report any change in his living arrangements within 10 days. The change may affect his benefit amount. Also, we need his correct address so we can send correspondence when needed, even if he receives his payments electronically. He can report the change by mail or in person at a Social Security office. Or, have him call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Changes must be reported promptly or a penalty may be charged and held from future benefits. For more information about the kinds of changes that need to be reported, read the publication *What You Need To Know When You Get SSI* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

survivors benefits because benefits are generally retroactive only up to six months. You can apply by calling Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our toll-free TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. For more information, read our publication *Survivors Benefits* available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Q: How long does it take to complete the online application for retirement benefits?

A: It can take as little as 15 minutes to complete the online application. In most cases, once your application is submitted electronically, you're done. There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed. There's no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. To retire online, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline.

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 French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre who made the following sage observation: "Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do."
- Those who study such things say that of all teenagers who wear braces, at least 60 percent have matched the rubber bands on their brackets to their outfits.
- Mary Todd Lincoln's half-sister, Emily Todd, was married to Confederate Gen. Benjamin Helm. When her husband died in 1863, Emily crossed Union lines to visit her sister in the White House. Newspapers in the North created a furor over incident, speculating that the general's widow could be a spy. After taking an oath of loyalty to the Union, Emily Helm was granted amnesty.

- John Lennon appeared on the first cover of Rolling Stone magazine.
- Do you go to action movies just to see the car chases? Here's a real-life doozy for you: In 2002, after a bank robbery in Wrestedt, Germany, the culprits led law-enforcement officials on a 620-mile chase through several countries. After two days, the criminals were finally apprehended in Rivne, Ukraine.

- The original Mickey and Minnie Mouse were voiced by Wayne Allwine and Russi Taylor. The human pair also were married in real life.

- If you're like 37 percent of Americans, you feel a sense of satisfaction when you finish vacuuming. If you're like the rest of us, you just hope the kids wait a few hours before spilling cereal on the carpet again.

- According to historians, Roman emperor Caligula once declared war on Neptune, the god of the sea. After his soldiers ran into the ocean and stabbed at the water, Caligula declared victory and ordered the men to collect seashells as war trophies.

Thought for the Day: "In the end, everything is a gag."
- Charlie Chaplin

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	x		-		2
+		÷		-	
	-		x		8
÷		+		÷	
	-		x		10
1		9		1	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 5 6 7 7 8 9

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	4			6		8		9
		5	7			6		
2					1			5
9			3					8
	1				4			3
5		2		7		9		
		6	1	5				7
7					6			9
	8		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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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: W equals T

WJKX ZSOXIE WlQU CS YHIRW

JIB JS HOSYWJSU KE YKO. K

CRXW XYL, KW BYX YE

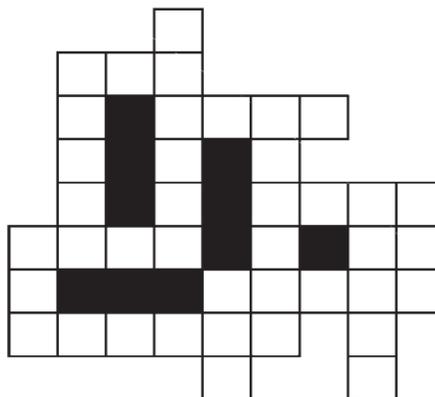
KEXZKOYWKIEYQ XWIOL.

Answer Page 4

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- DAH
- OBIBING
- LIBOR
- ♥ERBA
- TERIPY
- ♥ABG
- ♥ERGA
- TISHO
- UYB
- PENDBA
- SEALI
- EGLE



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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