



NEWSBRIEFS

Beware the 'Click Jackers'

Move over all you computer hackers, the "click jackers" are here, intent on becoming the crime bosses of the Internet. Hackers break into your private digital information so that they can use it for all sorts of nefarious purposes. The jackers trick you into allowing them to actually take over your computer. Here's how they do it, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. There you are, innocently surfing the Web or checking your email, when suddenly your eye is caught by an interesting link. It takes your fancy because you are interested in the topic the link suggests. Perhaps it's the latest news about your favorite movie star or a chance to win big bucks just for clicking. If you do that, you might almost hear the click jackers shouting "gotcha!" Your click enables the bad guys to use your computer to do all sorts of fraudulent business like online shopping and banking, leaving you holding the bag. So, make sure your computer security applications can detect this new type of threat. In addition, advises AMAC, don't fall for the scam in the first place. Ignore all messages that mysteriously pop up on your favorite Web site and delete – don't open those odd, unexpected emails that arrive in your inbox.

— John Grimaldi

Wanted

Two men are suspected of forging checks from out of town victims and passing the checks at El Paso businesses. The men were recorded by surveillance cameras. Detectives from the El Paso Police Department, are asking for the public's assistance in identifying them through the Crime Stoppers, "Crime of the Week." On the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 29, 2014, one of the suspects passed a check using a checking account from a victim in Georgia. The check was used at the Wal-Mart Store located at 12230 Montana. That same checking account was used just days later, on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014. This time, the check was passed at the Wal-Mart store located at 1850 N. Zaragoza. On Thursday, Sept. 4, one of the subjects is captured on video using a check of a victim from Pennsylvania. This last check was passed at the Wal-Mart store located at 4530 Woodrow Bean in Northeast El Paso. One of the suspects appears to be a Hispanic male, in his 40s, with a thick mustache and uses eyeglasses. The other suspect appears to be a bald male in his 40s or early 50s. Anyone with any information on the identity of these thieves is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.com.

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Politics is like inflation. The more we have of it, the more things cost.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

MAKING A PITCH – Seniors Karla Murillo and Jenifer Lara listen to high school admissions representative Joe Esparza from Vista College.

Colleges visit San Elizario HS seniors

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Before they graduate all San Elizario High School seniors will have to apply for admission to at least five colleges. That is the goal that the San Elizario High School Counseling Center is determined help all 12th grade students achieve and on October 23, the campus hosted a college fair to further assist students in that application process.

Representatives from over 40 colleges and universities were at San Elizario High

School that Thursday providing students information on admissions, financial aid, academic programs and answering questions. Most of the schools that participated in the event are members of the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRAO).

"This is a great opportunity for our students to get information directly from the representatives from the colleges that they are interested in," counselor Angie Ramirez said.

The college fair is open to all San Elizario

See COLLEGE, Page 5

El Paso County Commissioners approve 2015 budget, tax increase

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – 311 million dollars... that is how much it will take to run the El Paso County government in 2015.

El Paso County Commissioners voted recently 4-to-1 to approve the new budget, which went into effect in October. The 2015 budget is nearly three percent higher than last year's budget.

In a previous meeting, commissioners' court ratified the tax rate of about 45 cents per \$100 property valuation, which is approximately 2 cents higher than last year's rate, but less than a penny higher than the effective rate (the rate needed to raise the same amount of tax revenue as the prior year).

The county's effective tax rate is about 44.6 cents per \$100 property valuation and is higher than last year's rate because its property tax base decreased, county budget officials explained.

Under Truth in Taxation laws, tax rate changes are calculated based on the effective rate. Consequently, the county's portion of property tax bills will go up about \$6.90 next year on a \$100,000 home. If calculated

See TAXES, Page 2

Team Socorro ISD leaders attend FEMA emergency training

By Christina Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

ELPASOCOUNTY – In support of the Socorro Independent School District's top priority of providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students, a team of administrators are attending a FEMA emergency preparedness training last week at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD.

The 12 Team SISD leaders are receiving instruction on emergency operations procedures to ensure school and community safety.

"Student, staff and community safety is extremely important in Team SISD. This multi-hazard training for school employees is incredibly beneficial and is giving us the knowledge and skills necessary to be highly prepared for an emergency," said Marivel Macias, SISD Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. "Our team is gaining great information and we are cultivating a great partnership with the city and state to keep our students and schools safe."

Deputy Chief Rafael Reyes, Emergency Management

Coordinator in El Paso's City and County Emergency Management Department, and Carlos Carmona, District Coordinator with the Texas Division of Emergency Management in the Texas

Department of Public Safety, are attending the training with the SISD administrators in order for the entities to work together and coordinator in the case of an emergency.

"This is great training and I have learned a lot to incorporate into our existing plans and to better support each other – our school districts and the city – in the event of a crisis," Reyes said.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

PREPARATION – Socorro ISD administrators, with other city and state officials, traveled to Emmitsburg, MD to attend a FEMA emergency training seminar.

Finances

By Jason Alderman

Flexible spending accounts, commuter benefits cut taxes

For millions of Americans, 2015 open enrollment for employer-provided benefits is right around the corner. While it may be tempting to simply opt for the same coverage you have this year, doing so could cost you hundreds – or thousands – of dollars in tax savings.

Have I captured your attention? Find out if your employer offers flexible spending accounts (FSAs). They let you pay for eligible out-of-pocket healthcare and/or dependent care expenses on a pre-tax basis – that is, before federal, state, local and Social Security taxes have been deducted from your paycheck.

Also look for a commuter benefit plan, where you can pay for certain workplace mass transit and parking expenses with pretax dollars. By contributing to an FSA or commuter plan to cover expenses you would have paid for anyway, you reduce your taxable income by

that amount, which in turn lowers your tax bill.

Here's how it can add up: Say you're married, jointly earn \$90,000 a year and contribute 5 percent to a 401(k). If you contribute \$2,000 to a healthcare FSA and \$4,000 for dependent care, your resulting net income, after taxes, would be roughly \$1,700 more than if you had paid for those expenses on an after-tax basis. Use the FSA calculator at www.dinkytown.net to evaluate your own situation.

And, with a commuter plan, you can use pretax dollars to pay for up to \$130 a month in transit expenses (bus, train, vanpool, etc.) and \$250 a month in qualified parking expenses and reap the same kind of tax benefit.

You can use a healthcare FSA to pay for any IRS-allowed medical expenses not covered by your medical, dental or vision

plans. This includes deductibles, copayments, orthodontia, glasses, prescription drugs, chiropractic, smoking cessation programs and many more. Note: Over-the-counter medications, except for insulin, require a doctor's prescription to be eligible. (See IRS Publication 502.)

Dependent care FSAs let you use pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible expenses related to care for your child, spouse, parent or other dependent incapable of self-care. Eligible expenses include:

- Fees for licensed daycare and adult care facilities.
- Amounts paid for services provided in or outside your home so that you and your spouse can work, look for work, or attend school full-time.
- Before- and after-school programs for dependents under age 13.
- Babysitting by relatives over age 19 who aren't your dependent.

For some lower-income families, the federal income tax dependent care tax credit is more advantageous than an FSA so crunch the numbers or ask a tax expert which alternative is best. Note: You cannot claim the same expenses under both tax breaks.

Keep in mind these FSA restrictions:

- The IRS limits employee contributions to healthcare FSAs to \$2,500 a year.
- The dependent care FSA contribution limit is \$5,000 if you're single or married filing jointly.
- Healthcare and dependent


care account contributions are not interchangeable.

- Outside of open enrollment, you can only make mid-year FSA changes after a major life or family status change.
- You must re-enroll in FSAs each year.

You'll also need to estimate planned healthcare FSA expenses carefully or risk having to forfeit your unused account balance. Employers may choose to either: offer a grace period of up to 2 ½ months after the plan year's end to incur expenses; or allow you to carry over up to \$500 to use in the following year.

With commuter plans you can change contribution amounts throughout the year whenever your needs change; you can also carry over unused funds from month to month.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs



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Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

VA chief seeking top-notch doctors

To cut patient wait times, Department of Veterans Affairs chief Robert A. McDonald is touring the country to recruit doctors, dentists and nurses for the VA health-care system. He's looking for 30,000 more medical personnel.

So far, the VA secretary has made his pitch at Johns Hopkins, University of Vermont and UC Davis. On the schedule are Harvard, Howard and Tufts. Top drawer, all of them. To show he means business, at one recruiting location, McDonald even handed out his personal cellphone number and email address.

There are benefits to hiring on as a doctor with the VA.

- The first is the eye-catching sum of \$120,000 that will go toward paying student-loan debt, double the amount it used to be. The VA earmarked \$5 billion for just this purpose.
- New doctors and other medical staff will know they're practicing cutting-edge medicine.
- In September, it raised the starting pay rates for doctors dentists just coming in to the VA by an additional \$20,000 to

\$35,000. That's a necessary step: Most private sector doctors make more than those working for the VA.

- Students can do clinical rotations and get a foot in the door that way. Former combat medics and corpsmen can hire on as clinicians. They'll add 1,500 residencies across the VA system.

Meanwhile, the VA isn't waiting on hiring. In Maryland, a dozen physicians have been hired and a contract with outside health care will hopefully allow patients to be seen within a week for primary care. White River Junction, Vermont, has brought on more than 50 people and needs more for their new programs.

So, opportunities are there for graduating medical staff, and ideally better, faster health care is coming to veterans across the country.

Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

Taxes

From Page 1

using last year's rate, however, that increase is closer to \$19.50 a year.

According to Commissioner Pat Abeln, the court voted on six-tenths of a cent increase, but the impact will be closer to two cents. He stated that the increase was needed to bring the county's fund balance, which is similar to reserves, to \$34.1 million. The County Auditors' Office had recommended the fund balance be at \$37.9 million.

County Judge Veronica Escobar stated that the adopted budget will pay for the current operations and future projects including two new positions- a chief administrator and a budget executive director.

Also in the new budget is an increase of \$2.67 million due to the collective bargaining agreement with the El Paso County Sheriff's Officers Association. Commissioners approved a tentative agreement recently, but the deal is still being reviewed for final adoption by the association.

Commissioner Vince Perez voted against both- the proposed tax rate and budget- stating that he disagreed with the amount of money in the county's reserve fund and the impact it had on the tax rate. He stated that he believed the county only needed \$31.5 million in its fund balance, which would have meant a lower tax rate.

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TOUCH #259

Rosie Alarcon-Vigil

Lower Valley Water District Board of Directors

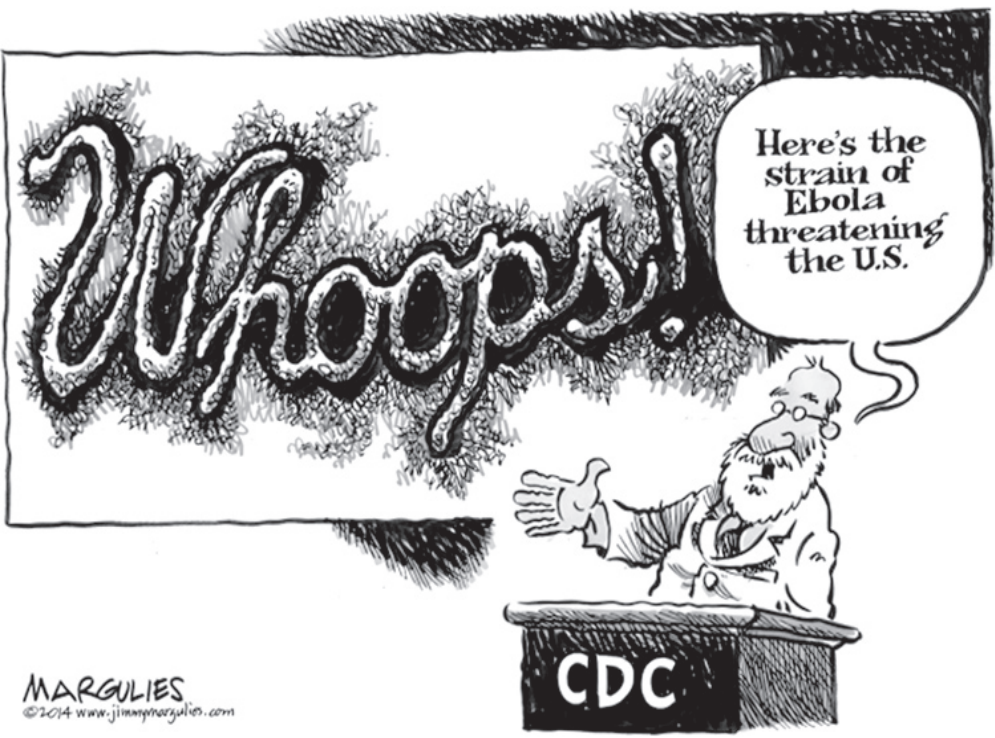
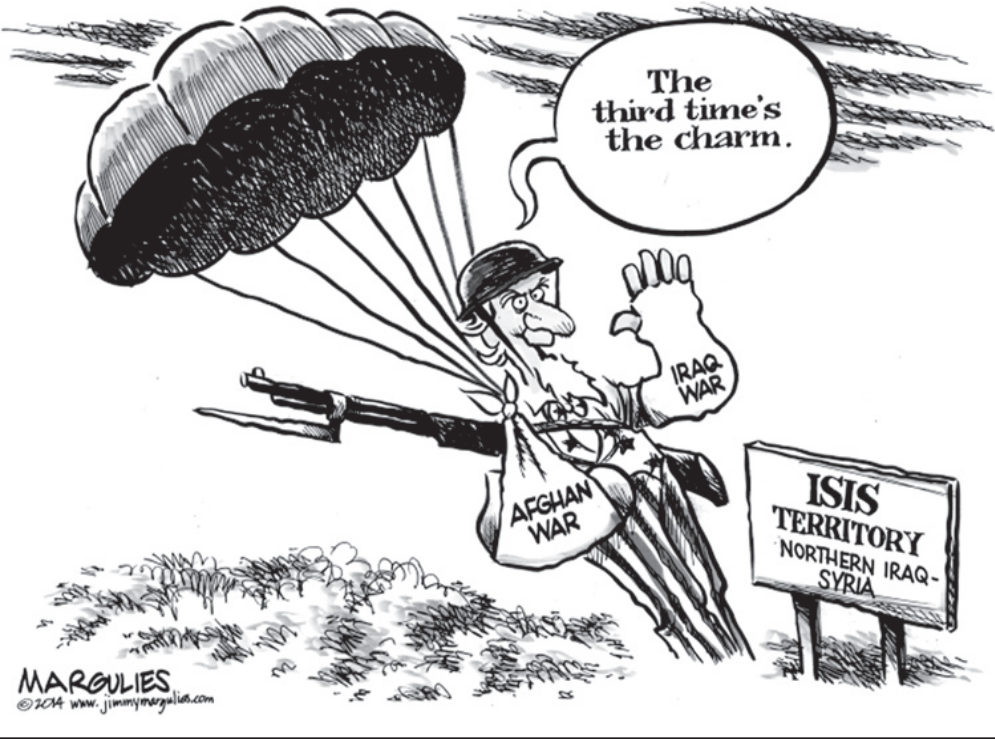
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By Lee H. Hamilton

Viewing political corruption more broadly

Earlier this year, veteran political writer Thomas Edsall reported an eyebrow-raising fact about Americans' views toward government. Polling by Gallup, he noted, found that the proportion of Americans who believed that corruption is "widespread" in government had risen from 59 percent in 2006 to 79 percent in 2013. "In other words," Edsall wrote, "we were cynical already, but now we're in overdrive."

Corruption is hardly a negligible issue. Americans rightly have very little tolerance for public officials who are on the take. Officials who violate the law in this regard should face criminal prosecution and incarceration.

But what's notable about our corruption laws is how narrow they've become. This point is driven home by Fordham Law School Professor Zephyr Teachout in her new book, *Corruption in America*. "As a matter of federal constitutional law," she writes, "corruption now means only 'quid pro quo' corruption."

Teachout argues that our Founders were quite sensitive to ways in which public behavior might promote private interest. As late as the second half of the 1800s, American society was alarmed by the notion that private individuals might seek to influence government on their own or others' behalf. "If any of the great corporations of the country were to hire adventurers... to procure the

passage of a general law with a view to the promotion of their private interests, the moral sense of every right-minded man would instinctively denounce the employer and the employed as steeped in corruption," the Supreme Court declared in 1874.

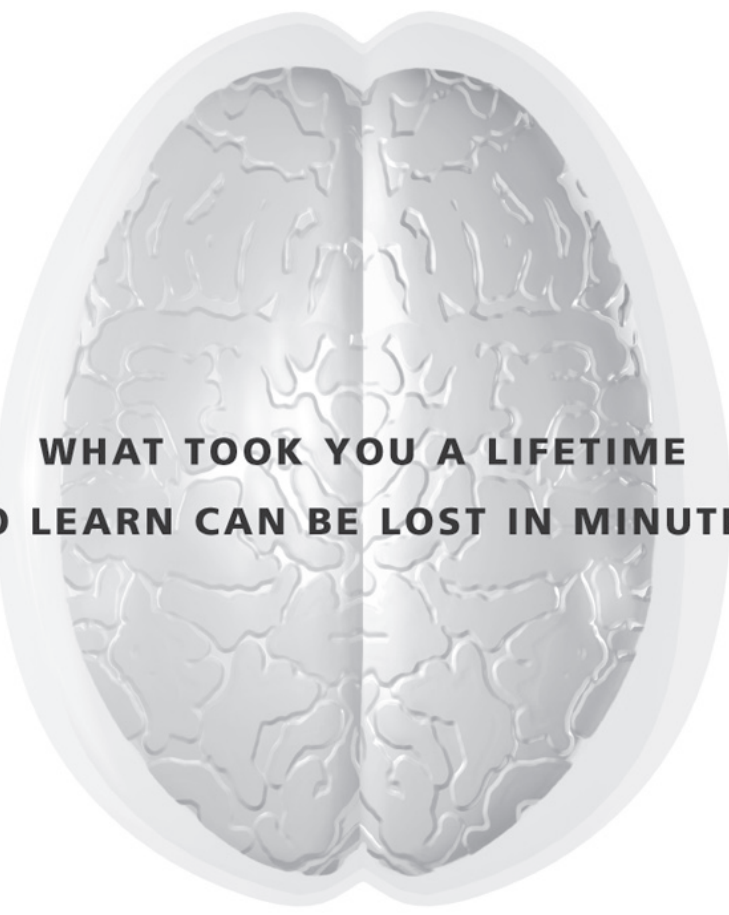
We have another word for "adventurers" these days. We call them lobbyists.

I would hardly contend that all who seek to promote their private interests are corrupt. But I do think the Founders had a valuable insight when they saw that a focus on private concerns could lead to neglect of the common good.

I have the uneasy feeling that too many politicians are self-absorbed, failing to put the country first, and using their office to promote their private interests. Our Founders had very firm ideas about the importance to the nation of "virtue" in a public official – and they were thinking expansively about the basic standards of public accountability.

Maybe it's time we looked to them for guidance, and not think of corruption only in the narrow sense of violations of specific laws or precepts, but more broadly in terms of failing to pursue the common good.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.




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Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry Troop F honored with sculpture

By Al Borrego
Special to the Courier

The 9th Cavalry, Company F, was recognized with the 5th Sculpture of the San Elizario Historic Sculpture Series on October 19, 2014. The Sculpture, by sculptor Guadalupe Jacquez Calderon, was placed on Alarcon Road on the southwest side of the Presidio, facing the Presidio Chapel.

The Buffalo Soldiers comprised one of the most interesting military aggregations in post-war Texas. On July 28, 1866, the U.S. Congress authorized six regiments of black troops – two of cavalry and four of infantry – to be added to the U.S. Army. The nickname “Buffalo Soldiers” was given by Indians, who thought that the tightly curled hair of the black soldiers resembled the curly hair on a bison’s face. Since the bison was revered by the Indians, the nickname was considered a term of respect, and the Buffalo Soldiers proudly featured a bison on their regimental crest. The Ninth Cavalry came to Texas in 1867 and set up camp in forts along the frontier.

In later years, Buffalo Soldiers fought in the Spanish-American War and both World Wars. They served their country with strength, courage and determination. Separating units by race came to an end in 1948,



– Photos courtesy San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society

The Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of El Paso attended the ceremony and posed with the sculpture.

thanks to President Harry Truman. Today, men and women of all races serve in these historic regiments.

The proud black troops built and renovated dozens of forts, strung thousands of miles of telegraph lines, and escorted wagon trains,

stagecoaches, railroad trains, cattle herds, railroad crews and surveying parties. They opened new roads and mapped vast areas of the West. They recovered thousands of head of stolen livestock for civilians, brought dozens of horse thieves to

justice, and pursued Indian raiders, often having to stay on the move for months at a time.

When the Army closed the Fort Bliss post in 1876, the Soldiers were happy to leave it. A year later, a large element of the 9th Cavalry Regiment returned to San Elizario, TX, near El Paso, from New Mexico to quell the violence known today as the San Elizario Salt War. A military board convened to investigate the reopening of the Fort Bliss post as a result of the violence and the board recommended in 1878 that Fort Bliss be reestablished. The post was reopened, this time in the downtown El Paso area, and the soldiers called it Garrison Town.

What began in 1866 as a political and legal struggle among Anglo-Texan politicians and capitalists gave rise to an armed struggle waged in 1877 by the ethnic Mexican inhabitants living in the communities

See SCULPTURE, Page 5



Al Borrego welcomes the crowd to the unveiling of the sculpture.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Hungarian mathematician Paul Erdős who made the following sage observation: “Problems worthy of attack prove their worth by fighting back.”

- Board games date back at least 5,000 years, when people were playing on a board that looks like an ancestor to backgammon.

- The next time you're overwhelmed with emotion and find yourself passionately kissing your partner, you probably won't remember that one word to describe what you're doing is "deosculation."

- It was in 1958 that the first stereo phonograph record went on sale.

- The soft drink 7-UP was originally called Bib-Label Lithiated Lemon-Lime Soda – and it contained lithium, which is now prescribed to treat manic depression. That ingredient (which continued to be part of the formula until the 1940s) probably helped spur the drink's success, since 7-UP was introduced just before the Great Depression. The new name was derived from the size of the soda bottle (7 ounces) and “bottoms up,” which is presumably what many people did during the difficult years of the Depression.

- A man in Orange County, California, stole a diamond worth \$25,000 and, despite being arrested for the crime, was able to smuggle it into prison with him by swallowing it. He then managed to hide the gem in a shower drain in hopes of retrieving and swallowing it again before his release. All that effort was in vain, however; prison guards found the diamond and returned it to the jewelry shop.

- If you're using an average brand-new pencil, you'll be able to draw a line about 35 miles long before running out of lead (though you'll have to stop for sharpening breaks, of course).

Thought for the Day: “Try to learn something about everything and everything about something.”
– Thomas Henry Huxley

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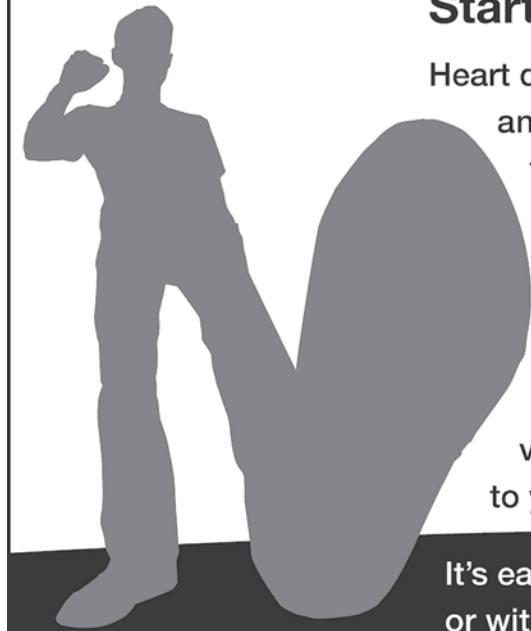
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CryptoQuip Answer

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Ninth Cavalry Troop in 1877.

– Photo courtesy DCC

Sculpture

From Page 4

on both sides of the Rio Grande near El Paso, TX against a leading

politician, supported by the Texas Rangers. The struggle climaxed with the siege and surrender of about 20 Texas Rangers to a popular army of perhaps 400 men in the former El Paso county seat, San Elizario,

TX. The arrival of the Buffalo Soldiers, 9th Cavalry and a sheriff’s posse of New Mexico mercenaries caused hundreds of Tejanos to flee to Mexico, some in permanent exile. The right of individuals to own the salt lakes previously held as a community asset was established by force of arms. Company F remained at the Presidio until April 1878.

In 1878, the Bureau of Indian Affairs determined to place the Moache Utes and Jicarilla Apaches on reservations away from the Cimarron Agency. Initially, the agent at Cimarron thought a military escort would be needed to assure that each group went to its assigned reserve (the Moaches to the Southern Ute Agency in Colorado and New Mexico and the Jicarillas to the Mescalero reservation in southeastern New Mexico). Plans were laid to make



– Photo courtesy San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society

An unidentified Buffalo Soldier reenactor posed with the sculpture.

the move in June.

Thus, on April 22, 1878, two companies of the Ninth Cavalry (Company F from San Elizario and Company L from Fort Bliss) were ordered to travel to Fort Union to be outfitted to assist with the removal of the Indians. On May 10, General Pope directed that the removal of the Indians at Cimarron was to be suspended by order of the secretary

of war until Congress had voted on a bill to provide compensation to the Utes and Jicarillas for moving. The two companies of Ninth Cavalry that had been ordered to Fort Union were already on the way and arrived at the post about two weeks later. They were directed to turn around and directed Company F to Fort Stanton and Company L to Bliss, which they did in early June.



The 9th Cavalry, Company F troop insignia.

College

From Page 1

High School seniors and juniors. According to Ramirez, the college fair benefits seniors because they can speak to any of the colleges that they have applied to in order to get answers to any last minute questions, receive assistance in completing any final paperwork and continue considering other schools that are in attendance. Meanwhile for juniors, the experience allows them to get a first hand look at different colleges and academic programs.

“It is hard for many of our students to go visit these colleges and universities and the fact that they come to them is great because our students get to learn about their campuses and the programs they offer,” Ramirez added.

The college fair is an important resource for the approximately 222 students finishing their last year at San Elizario High School and preparing for college life. Seniors such as Jesus Barraza stopped at each college table to receive information on the length of academic programs, tuition and financial aid, and housing.

“I thought it was a good experience I learned a lot about different universities,” Barraza said.

Another student Jenifer Lara was pleased to learn about scholarships and transfer opportunities.”

“They (colleges) offered me a scholarship for nursing and that’s

what I needed to know and about how to transfer from a two-year college to a four-year college,” Lara said.

This year all San Elizario High School students registered to receive a bar code that each college representative could then scan to automatically enter the students’ contact information into a database. Counselors Paula Hernandez, Angie Ramirez, and Guadalupe Castro visited with students prior to the fair to guide them on how to enter their information electronically. Colleges and universities are now able to contact the students who expressed an interest in their institution directly. College admissions and recruitment officers will continue to visit San Elizario High School throughout the year on an individual basis to meet with students.

San Elizario High School has been fortunate to be able to host the TACRAO College Fair for the past several years and invited students from Fabens, Clint and Fort Hancock to receive information at the event as well. The TACRAO representative for the region that includes San Elizario High School coordinates with all the higher education institutions to schedule college fairs at various high schools throughout El Paso County. Before the college representatives headed off to their next college fair at a nearby high school campus, San Elizario High School administrators treated them to lunch prepared by the cafeteria staff.



SAN ELIZARIO VETERANS COMMITTEE

18TH ANNUAL

VETERANS PARADE

AND CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 8, 2014

PARADE ROUTE: STARTS 9:00AM ON SOCORRO RD. AT THOMPSON RD, THEN EAST TO THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA, VIA MAIN STREET IN THE SAN ELIZARIO HISTORIC DISTRICT. HONOR CEREMONY WILL FOLLOW AT THE PLAZA.

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THOSE WHO SERVED

SAN ELIZARIO, TEXAS

Miners can have winning season, shot at bowl game

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Every UTEP football season tends to open the same way, with the hope of success and the fear of total failure.

And if anyone on the planet knows the definition of “total failure” it’s a UTEP football fan.

After last year’s 2-10 debacle in coach Sean Kugler’s first season, it was figured that this year’s team could go nowhere but up.

A season-opening road win at New Mexico and a narrow loss to Texas Tech (a game the Miners should have won) indicated the team had turned a corner.

But as in Miner-years past, the ball inevitably started bouncing the wrong way.

The Miners had high hopes when they traveled to take on national power Kansas State. It wasn’t realistic to believe the Miners could win the game, but this certainly was not going to be one of those wipeouts UTEP fans have grown accustomed to over the last five decades.

To quote the Surfaris in their 1963 hit

song... “Wipeout.”

The Miners lost to Kansas St. 58-28 in a game that wasn’t even that close. The Miners trailed 31-0 at halftime and were down 45-0 before they scored their first points of the game.

If that wasn’t bad enough, UTEP would next take on Louisiana Tech in their Conference USA opener. Tech was favored but unlike Kansas St. the Miners were taking on someone their own size.

In a game that was very reminiscent of many disastrous performances of the past, the Miners seemed to just lay down and die in a 55-3 loss.

Now anyone who knows the history of the UTEP football program knows that consecutive efforts likes those against Kansas St. and Louisiana Tech mean only one thing – consistency.

Consistency like in the Miners will go on to give the same poor effort and lose the rest of their games in similar fashion.

But a fascinating thing has happened.

Just when it seemed that Kugler was about to lose control of his team and join the amalgam of countless unsuccessful UTEP coaches, he’s

somehow pulled them from the abyss.

Like in the movies when it’s rather obvious to everyone that all is lost, John McClane or Jason Bourne or Martin Riggs figures something out to save the day just in time.

Now coach Kugler may not possess the physical attributes of a McClane, Bourne or Riggs, but his accomplishment is no less impressive.

Any UTEP team in the past would have called it a season and El Pasoans would once again be looking forward to basketball season to save the school’s sports reputation.

But the Miners have bounced back to win consecutive conference games against Old Dominion (42-35) and UT San Antonio (34-0).

Don’t look now but the Miners actually have a winning record at 4-3 overall and 2-1 in their league.

With just five games left in the regular season and three of those at home, there’s suddenly realistic talk about the Miners being considered for a bowl game.

All UTEP has to do to qualify is win six games. If they can hold home court in their three Sun Bowl games, the Miners will finish

with seven wins.

Coach Kugler said when he took over the team that he was going to make the Miners bigger, stronger and tougher, not just of body but of mind as well.

It’s obvious that he’s well on the way to accomplishing both. The UTEP offensive and defensive lines are vastly improved from years past and it all starts there for any football team.

They control the line of scrimmage which means they control the football which means they keep the other team’s offense off the field.

That formula has turned the team’s fortunes around more than anything else.

As much as UTEP fans love their basketball, they may have to keep an eye on the football team a little longer than they normally do.

How often is local college football in El Paso still relevant in November?

Competing on the field is one thing, but Kugler has done something even more impressive, he’s kept his team from giving up on themselves.

No amount of Xs and Os is more important than that.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Give Romo a home

The next time you travel to Dallas and decide to stay awhile by choice and not due to government-enforced quarantine, take a look at your rental car and hotel taxes, particularly if you’re staying in nearby Arlington. See the extra 7 percent tacked onto your bill (two for the car, five for the room)? Those funds are collected on visitors so that the area’s beloved Dallas Cowboys – also referred to as “America’s team” in days past –

may have a home.

A humble house on the range, it is not. “Jerry World” – a moniker so named after the team’s owner, Jerry Jones – was always envisioned as “Texas big.” “The world’s largest entertainment venue” was how Jerry spoke about it in press and private circles.

Jerry, as Dallas fans have come to know, does a heckuva lot of talking. Jones was a good high-school

running back and was the co-captain of the national championship winning Arkansas Razorbacks in 1964. Also on the team were Jimmy Johnson and Barry Switzer. (They figure into this story later). Jerry worked for his dad’s company out of college, but he made his fortune wildcatting for oil, gas and other natural resources. With those proceeds he was able to purchase the Cowboys in 1989 for \$140 million and play ball for the rest of his life.

He did so by firing the legendary Tom Landry and Tex Schramm as head coach and GM and supplanting them with Jimmy Johnson and himself. After engineering a

brilliant trade of Hershel Walker, then considered the only bright spot on the team, Johnson and Jones engineered a team that had most football pundits scratching their heads. But they won. It didn’t take long until Jones started to say over whiskey that anyone could win with the teams HE built – and soon, Johnson was replaced by Switzer.

The Cowboys have won one playoff game since 1997. Considering the new stadium cost \$1.5 billion to build – that comes to, well – \$1.5 billion per playoff win. But who’s counting? Just about everybody in Texas. They’ve had it with Jones. Most don’t begrudge a guy spending his money and getting in on the action, but to the fans, it’s their team. Their love, too. It’s bigger than one man. They’re tired of losing. And they’re not sure about this guy, Tony Romo, who seemingly holds

all the records but will never be an Aikman or Staubach... at least not until he wins Super Bowls.

This season, Romo had to resort to hand signals because the opposing Houston Texan fans were too loud. And he was playing against them at home. Maybe those Houston fans had a lot of energy because they just drove up for the day. Romo complained bitterly about the lack of Dallas fans at the game. But maybe he can take solace in the fact that while fans may not have been at the stadium (it costs \$400 for a family of four pinching pennies to attend a game), that doesn’t mean they still aren’t watching your every move.

You’ve already built them a house. Keep winning, and they will come.

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

2014 UTEP FOOTBALL

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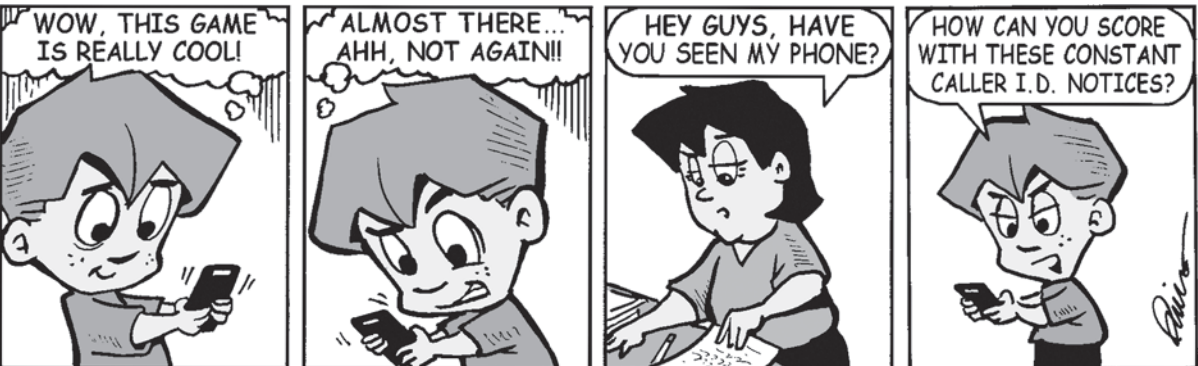
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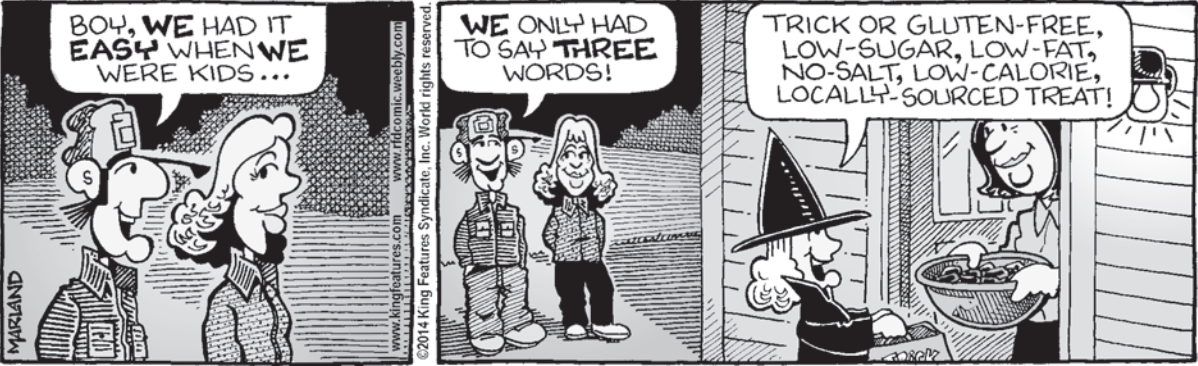
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DR. ROACH WRITES: In January I wrote about cluster headaches, and many readers took the time to write in with what had been helpful for them. Among the treatments recommended were the antidepressant Zoloft, and the anesthetic lidocaine administered in the nose. Several readers wrote in to tell me that acupuncture cured them. Mold and food sensitivities also were frequently mentioned, with an antihistamine and avoidance of offending agents being helpful. Botox, commonly used for migraine, was the key for at least one reader. Finally, several people said chiropractic manipulation cured their headaches.

It is easy to say, “If it worked for someone else, it will work for me.” However, the body is vastly complex, and it takes a great deal of judgment to know what is right for a given person. I don’t pretend to have all the answers, but I wanted to share my readers’ experiences. What is certain is that none of these treatments will work for everybody.

Many headache questions reach me on a regular basis. For a general explanation of headaches and their treatment, consider the booklet on that topic. It presents a comprehensive view. To order a copy, write: Dr. Roach – No. 901W, 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 days for delivery.

DEAR DR. ROACH: We spent a considerable amount of money on our teen daughter’s laser hair-removal procedures, but the poor thing takes after her swarthy father, and the treatment seems to have no effect. Is there any real science behind this treatment? – S.O.

There certainly is real science, and laser hair removal is effective, but its effectiveness is limited, and it’s important to have realistic

expectations. Laser treatment usually doesn’t remove hair entirely, forever. Most people will have less hair, thinner hair and lighter hair.

About two-thirds of people will have at least a 50 percent reduction in the treated areas after a single laser course. With multiple courses, 90 percent of people will get up to a 50 percent reduction. Lasers tend to work best for light-skinned people with dark hair. Even people with apparently complete results usually get hair regrowth after six to 12 months.

Your daughter appears to be among those who have a poor response to laser. Besides shaving or plucking, other options include chemicals to remove the hair, medications to prevent hair growth and electrolysis, which is the only permanent hair-loss method – and even that depends on the technique of the technician. A dermatologist can help guide the right treatment for your daughter.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Faced with the higher-priced time-release medication for hypertension, my physician said, “Just cut them in half.” I have been doing this for about two years. Is this a viable solution or too simplistic? – P.T.

It might be a problem. Some time-release medicines work by the pill dissolving slowly or other methods that rely on an intact pill. Breaking them can cause all the medicine to release at once. Ask your pharmacist whether it is safe to break a pill or capsule in half.

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

- PUZZLING BEHAVIOR ACROSS**

1 Stored up

8 Redirects

15 A little off

20 “I was wrong... big deal!”

21 Single-issue publication

22 First extra inning

23 Place to stay apart from others

25 Aquarium growth

26 Store away

27 Swine

28 X-ray cousin

29 Furrow

30 Cities, informally

32 Schubert’s

“Trout,” e.g.

35 Select for jury duty

39 City near Cologne

40 “Fee, fi, fo, _!”

41 Certain job lineup for a computer

43 R&B legend Marvin

45 Ultimate

49 Cry from churchgoers

50 Robotic rock group

51 Office missive

52 This or that

54 Ten: Prefix

55 Irish New Ager

57 Lifted-out, boldfaced article excerpt
- 59 _ Jeanne d’Arc: Abbr.

60 Ski lift

63 Like some hygiene

65 Appropriated

66 Something often dodged

69 Camp David _

72 Brother of Fidel Castro

73 Sidelong look

74 PC screen type

77 Tiara-winning teen

79 Emmy-winning Falco

81 Catch wind of

82 De-intensify

83 Ascend

85 “The Waltons” actor Will

88 Sleek, briefly

89 Place for GIs

90 Jenny Craig regimen

91 Schoolroom surprises

93 Make mad

94 As blind as _

96 Throws from a saddle

97 Spat

103 Puente or Jackson

104 Island greetings

105 Always, in verse

106 Fissure

107 Soprano Tetrizzini

112 Less wild
- 113 Fitting exhortation to someone solving this puzzle?

117 Harsh

118 In the best case

119 Prizes highly

120 Responses of consent

121 Frightful flies

122 Wear

DOWN

1 Vipers

2 Humorist Sahl

3 Oman locale

4 Yukons and Xterras

5 Old Lloyd Bridges TV series

6 911 agt.

7 IBM’s old chess-playing computer

8 Illusionist Henning

9 With 81-Down, confused

10 Mice and lice

11 Make hostile

12 Köln’s river

13 Rocky peak

14 Rd. crossers

15 Game maker since 1972

16 Casaba, e.g.

17 Gold block

18 Ward (off)

19 Bed cover

24 Sue Grafton’s “_ for Quarry”

29 Breath mint alternative

31 Not optional: Abbr.
- 32 “The Raven” writer

33 “I Get a Kick Out _”

34 Juan’s “what”

35 2010 Apple debuts

36 Citi Field mascot

37 Fragment

38 Faris of films

39 “_ giorno!”

42 Tennis great Chris

44 Plentiful

45 Booze

46 Take _ for the worse

47 Galleria unit

48 Head, in Québec

51 Place for movie titles

52 Decorator de Wolfe

53 Like ketchup

56 “Star Wars” guru

58 Guitar’s ancestor

60 Rotational force

61 Raise in price by successive offers

62 “As I Lay Dying” father

64 The _ Sod (Ireland)

66 Apples and pears

67 Baseballer Banks

68 Doze

69 Chest beater

70 Curmudgeon

71 _ Nostra (Mafia’s kin)

74 Gibbons of TV talk

75 Insertion mark
- 76 Smelting waste

78 Eleniak of “Baywatch”

80 Jim Croce’s “_ a Name”

81 See 9-Down

84 Eyed intently

86 Accoutered

87 Smallest litter member

90 R&B’s _ Hill

91 Good buddy

92 Put in solitary

93 High figs. for Einsteins

95 Green gem minerals

97 “Crazy” singer Cline

98 Give a big lift

99 Very big books

100 “Voilà!”

101 Knitting balls

102 Adorée of silent films

103 Road crew goo

106 Dudes

108 Les _ (French for “some”)

109 _ of March

110 640-acre unit: Abbr.

111 The “A” of PTA: Abbr.

113 “Good Will Hunting” sch.

114 Age-verifying docs.

115 Corrida holler

116 Bygone Russ. state

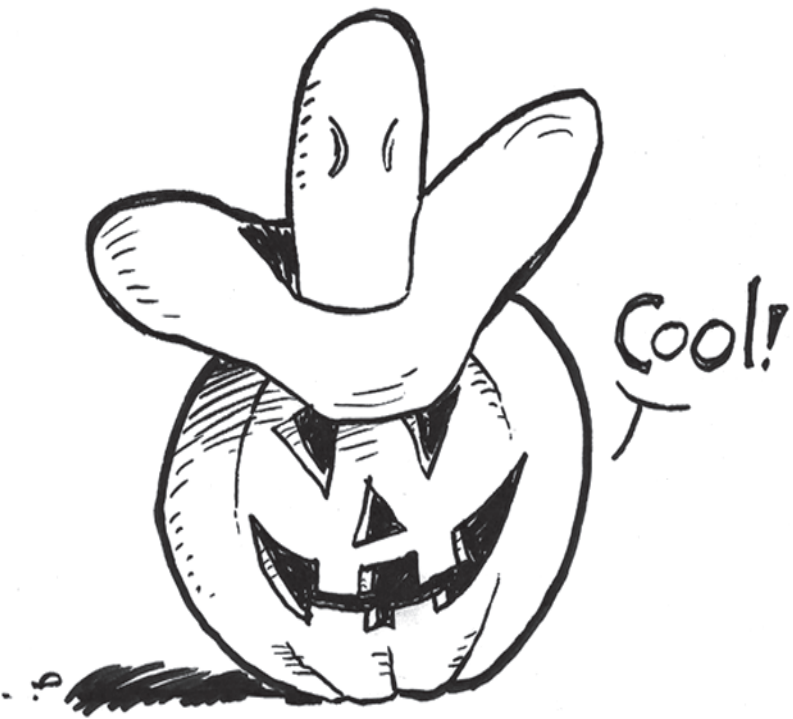
Answer Page 4

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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Speaking of Halloween... among all states, Texas is 4th in the nation in pumpkin production .



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!

	×		÷		14
+		×		+	
	-		×		1
+		÷		×	
	÷		×		10
23		14		20	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

Answer Page 4 © 2014 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4 ★★★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I am applying for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs. Can state agencies help with my Medicare costs?

A: When you file your application for *Extra Help* with Medicare prescription drug costs, you can start your application process for the Medicare Savings Programs – state programs that provide help with other Medicare costs. When you apply for *Extra Help*, Social Security will send information to your state unless you tell us not to on the application. Your state will contact you to help you apply for a Medicare Savings Program. Learn more about how Social Security can provide *Extra Help* with your Medicare prescription drug costs by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp.

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

A: In general, to apply for a Social Security number for your child you must:
• Complete an *Application For A Social Security Card* (Form SS-5), which you can find online at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber;

- Show us documents proving your child’s:
 - United States citizenship or immigration status;
 - Adoption;
 - Age; and
 - Identity.
- Show us a document proving your identity; and
- Show us evidence that establishes your relationship to the child if your name is not noted as the parent on the child’s evidence of age. The adoption decree or the amended U.S. birth certificate will suffice.

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

Q: I noticed that my date of birth in Social Security’s records is wrong. How do I get that corrected?

A: To change the date of birth shown on our records, take the following steps:
• Complete an *Application For A Social Security Card* (Form SS-5);
• Show us documents proving:

- U.S. citizenship (if you have not previously established your citizenship with us);
- Age; and
- Identity.

• Take (or mail) your completed application and documents to your local Social Security office. Note that all documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. For details on the documents you’ll need, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ss5doc.

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

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: X equals G

EJYQV YNQ GHHL NEU E
AODNER TNOIQ AELOWX EW
HAQIQY, DNQ THFWU FR TOYN
QXX HW NQV JEGQ.

Answer Page 4

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Briefs

From Page 1

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

JJAT awards

The Juvenile Justice Association of Texas (JJAT) has named 4 employees with the El Paso Juvenile Probation Department among the best in the state during a special ceremony held on October 21, 2014, in South Padre Island, TX. The four El Paso Juvenile Justice professionals won statewide awards for their service and dedication in the field of juvenile services. The recipients of the awards are as follow:

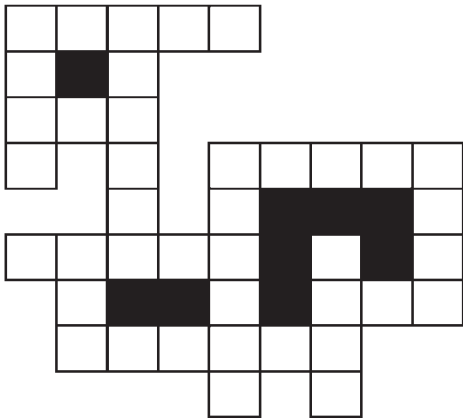
- Michelle Ramirez (Special Programs Unit) – Winner of the “Outstanding Achievement in the Probation Field” Award.
- Cosme Gallardo (Probation Services Unit)– Winner of the “Outstanding Achievement in Support Services” Award.
- Carlos Figueroa (Detention Unit) – Winner of the “Outstanding Achievement in the Detention Field” Award.
- Daniel Ornelas (Challenge Academy) – Winner of the Outstanding Achievement in the Corrections Field Award.

Every year a special committee of the JJAT receives nominations from all over the state and chooses the officers who receive the awards at a semi-annual conference.

– Roger Martinez



- DHO
- HEWLIA
- ♥ CATHE
- DESH
- ♥ STIESH
- ♥ WLO
- LDEH
- ♥ SIBLA
- ♥ TAE
- ♥ TESDAL
- DEEGH
- ♥ LOBT



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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