



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

CAMPSITE – Local officials of the Yucca Council of the Boy Scouts of America are talking to Texas Transportation Commissioners about leasing 222 acres of old quarry land which includes a small lake in its midst Scout leaders would like to convert the site that lies between Interstate 10 and Paisano Drive (north of Executive Center Boulevard and south of Sunland Park Drive) into one of the largest urban Boys Scout camps in the country.

Boy Scouts consider camp lease in El Paso

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County may soon be home to one of the largest urban Boy Scouts camps in the United States as the Texas Transportation Commission Chairman Ted Houghton announced recently that the transportation commission has given permission to lease state land in El Paso for use as a Boy Scouts camp.

The transportation commission voted to lease 222 acres between Interstate 10 and Paisano Drive to the Yucca Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The parcel lies north of Executive Center Boulevard and south of Sunland Park Drive.

According to news reports, Roland Tilden, of Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Real Estate Management Division, told commissioners that the scouts and TxDOT still must negotiate the lease, but that it will probably run for 25 years and include an option for another 25.

Plans are to have the transportation

commission lease the land to the Scouts for a nominal amount, and officials said that the state is waiving a requirement that it seek fair-market value for the property for social mitigation purposes.

Houghton stated that using the mostly

old quarry land for campgrounds is a marvelous idea. He said that El Paso-area Boy Scouts currently rent land to camp in the mountains of New Mexico. “Now they’ve got something local,” he added.

The property to be leased had been owned by Mexican concrete producer Cemex. It is part of a 494-acre parcel that was acquired a couple of years ago by TxDOT to build the Loop 375 Border West Expressway.

Financial aid night helps San Eli families get ready for college costs

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Over one hundred San Elizario families have started the process to begin accessing billions of federal student aid available to help pay for their children’s college education. On February 5, San Elizario High School hosted the annual Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Night where students and parents received assistance in completing the federal financial aid application.

FAFSA Nights is a month-long program held during February in high schools throughout El Paso County with the goal of increasing the number of students who



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

MONEY – EPCC representative Elida Rivas helps San Elizario High School senior Julissa Elorza and mom Esperanza Elorza with their online FAFSA submission. Julissa hopes to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio.

See AID, Page 5

*Between two evils, choose neither;
between two goods, choose both.*
– Quips & Quotes

Finances By Jason Alderman

Starting Roth IRAs for your grandkids

Many grandparents go above and beyond to offer financial help to adult children and grandchildren. If you're seeking to contribute to your grandkids' financial future, one option might involve opening a custodial Roth IRA (<http://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Roth-IRAs>) on your grandchild's behalf as soon as he or she starts reporting earned income.

While grandparents often find 529 college savings plans advantageous for their personal estate planning as well as supporting their grandchild's educational future, custodial Roth IRAs (<http://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Roth-IRAs>) may allow for more flexibility depending on the child's future needs. For example, a young adult may use tax-free Roth IRA proceeds to fund education expenses not covered by savings or a down payment on a first home. Roth IRAs may also be a useful and collaborative savings tool for important expenses young adults have, such as continuing education or a down payment on a first home.

Unlike traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs are funded with after-tax dollars. That means the account holder doesn't get a tax break at the time of initial or successive deposits, but the money grows tax-free and can be withdrawn tax-free – a benefit for a grandchild who may need a substantial sum in the years to come. Learn more about Roth IRAs by watching this Khan Academy video. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NF-x9hDZD7Y>)

Here's an example of how much an initial \$2,000 deposit in a Roth custodial IRA can grow. For an account opened at the time the child is 16, the \$2,000 opening deposit

– without any more money added to the account – could be worth roughly \$55,000 at the time the child reaches age 65 assuming a 7 percent expected rate of return.

What if the child needs to make a tax-free withdrawal sooner, such as at age 35, for example? Based on the same earnings calculation as above, he or she would receive a less impressive sum of roughly \$7,200. Of course, it remains a potential solution if there is a severe need for cash.

In 2015, the annual contribution limit for all IRAs is \$5,500. It is possible, though not that easy, for a minor to open a Roth IRA on his or her own, which is why it's good for grandparents – or any qualifying friend or relative – to shop for custodial accounts with low fees and low investment minimums to start. This is compounded annually.

As you evaluate a decision to open a custodial Roth IRA, check with the broker and the account administrator on any institutional or state rules on custodial accounts and what information you'll need to open one. Depending on those rules, there's a chance that grandparents may not be able to open the custodial account directly and you will have to work through their parents or legal guardian to get started.

Also, consider the following: **Make sure you're financially**

secure. The MetLife study notes that many grandparents tend to overextend their financial support when it comes to family members in need. Seek advice from financial, tax and estate professionals on how much you can reasonably afford to give and the best means to do so.

Coordinate with your grandchild's parents or guardian. It is important for family members to remain open about all money issues, particularly in relation to minors. Discuss what provisions the parents have made for the child and whether your idea complements financial strategies already in place. If not, keep talking and discuss other ways you can help.

Consider your grandchild's potential handling of the account. When your grandchildren reach legal age or meet other key requirements of the account, they can take control of the money. Will they be ready? If not, evaluate other investment vehicles that better meet your objectives.

Bottom line: Setting up a custodial Roth IRA may be a good way for grandparents and grandchildren to work on retirement or other financial goals.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

VA's prestige plummets

How we view the Department of Veterans Affairs depends on which survey we read.

Back in 2013, in a poll modeled after the American Customer Satisfaction Index, a majority of veterans approved of their care at the VA. Specifically, veterans rated their care at 84 for inpatient and 82 for outpatient, generally along the lines of civilian hospitals.

Recently though, a general population poll done by think-tank organization Pew Research concluded that the VA is the third most unpopular U.S. government agency. While the ratings for most agencies have stayed generally the same over the years, the favorable opinion ratings for the VA plunged 16 percent in one year.

What happened between the two? Likely it was all the bad news: the disclosure of schedule rigging at VA medical centers for the purpose of increasing bonuses, with the focal point being Phoenix; the resignation of Eric Shinseki, probably the best secretary the VA has ever had; and

allegations that the delays in treatment at Phoenix caused the deaths of 40 veterans.

While it could be said that we're comparing apples and oranges (veterans getting care versus the opinions of the general population), it should be noted that the ACSI veterans survey was not anonymous. Surveyors called veterans at their homes already having their names, phone numbers and addresses as provided by the VA. The Pew survey was dialed randomly.

A more recent survey of employee attitudes at the VA paints the most damaging picture of all. Employees voted the VA as the second-worst place to work out of 19 government agencies. Just one year before, the VA ranked as 13th out of 19.

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) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.



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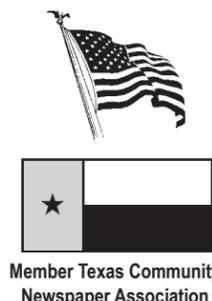
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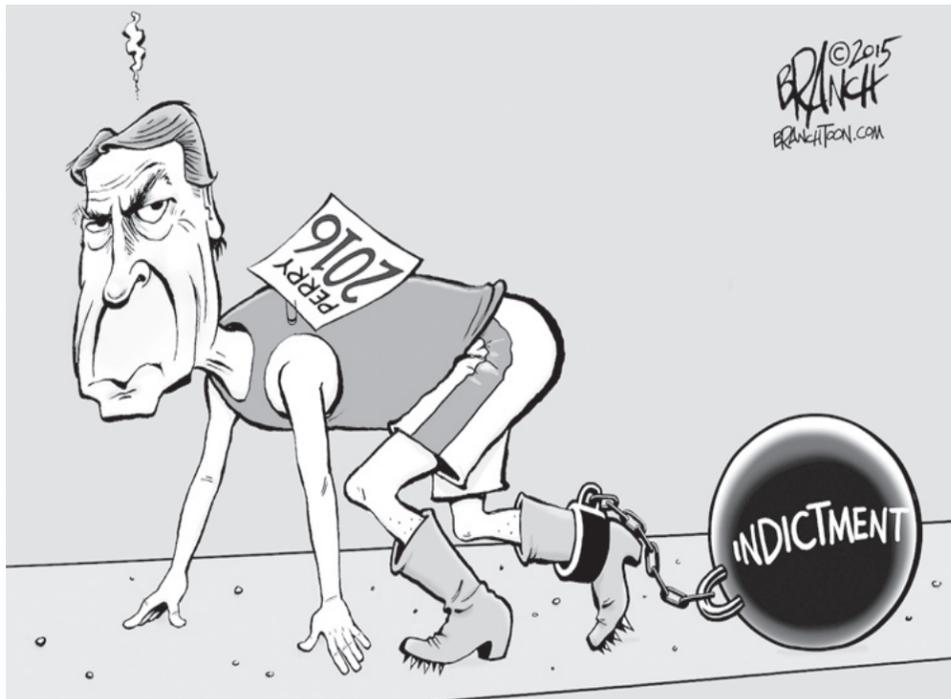
THURSDAY	FEB. 12	VS CHARLOTTE / 7 PM
SATURDAY	FEB. 14	VS OLD DOMINION / 7 PM

UTEP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

THURSDAY	FEB. 5	VS FLORIDA ATLANTIC / 7 PM
SATURDAY	FEB. 7	VS FIU / 2 PM



BIRD WATCHING WITH BiBi and BARACK.



View from here By Mac Clemmens

Net neutrality

If you're reading this online, thank net neutrality.

Net neutrality is the principle that all Internet content must be delivered equally. This article shouldn't be transmitted more slowly than another one. Your cat video shouldn't be given priority over a TED Talk. More importantly, your small business' website shouldn't be loaded slower than Amazon's. Put it this way: Net neutrality prevents preferential treatment; it is freedom from interference.

That freedom is crucial to businesses large and small. According to Fast Company, Amazon calculated that just one more second of page loading time could cost \$1.6 billion in sales each year. Amazon could probably handle that loss, but most small businesses probably couldn't, and some might not get off the ground. Imagine if Hulu or Netflix had, in their infancy, been forced to pay high fees or face tortoise-like loading speeds.

So when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a proposal that would have allowed Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to slow down traffic and charge a fee for higher speeds, small businesses took notice.

My company serves nonprofits – churches, domestic violence groups, educational institutions – groups that cannot afford to pay for faster speeds. Yet without Net Neutrality, commercially-sponsored content would be streamed in no time, while groups like these which are dedicated to helping people could see their speeds slow to a crawl. Our mission is to empower people who do good in the world. This proposal would be devastating to that goal, and the groups we work with.

As many as four million people commented on the proposal, with the vast majority supporting net neutrality and less than 1% opposed. Business groups like the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) joined in, helping to make the business case for net neutrality: too many businesses simply can't afford to have their communications slowed.

The FCC should understand that there's a sure-fire way to protect net neutrality: reclassify broadband to fit under Title II of the Telecommunications Act, thereby giving the FCC the power to ensure that consumers be protected.

The reclassification argument has

support from none other than President Obama. "For almost a century," he explained, "our law has recognized that companies who connect you to the world have special obligations not to exploit the monopoly they enjoy. It is common sense that the same philosophy should guide any service that is based on the transmission of information—whether a phone call, or a packet of data."

Small businesses need net neutrality – as does the economy as a whole. We can't have a system where established companies with deeper pockets play by a different set of rules. That runs contrary to the American entrepreneurial spirit. That's why net neutrality has strong support on both sides of the political aisle.

ISPs have argued that reclassifying broadband under Title II will harm consumers – that too much regulation would snuff out investment and innovation, and lead to larger bills. It is understandable that the industry would not want additional regulation. But in reality, reclassification would simply legally enforce the status quo. The Internet now is a place where content gets distributed equally, without forcing people to pay for the privilege. That's the way it should stay.

Yes, ISPs would lose a potential revenue stream. But, considering ISPs have already created an artificial scarcity in broadband by locking up a large percentage of metropolitan fiber in agreements with municipalities, that's a poor argument.

ISPs in many parts of the country already benefit from a near-total lack of competition, and our Internet speeds are slower – and cost more – than in many other countries. Letting ISPs interfere with traffic will only make matters worse – the Internet that works best is the one that works with the least interference.

We need an Internet that's open and free to all, and we must ensure that all American businesses can remain competitive, both domestically and globally. Covering broadband under Title II may not be ideal, but it's currently our best hope to ensure the Internet remains a place for innovation.

Clemmens is the Chief Executive Officer of Digital Deployment, a Sacramento-based web development company specializing in content management systems.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE
By Samantha Weaver

- It was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who made the following sage observation: "All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope."

- Though an electric eel is born with the ability to see, by the time it becomes an adult it is blind. This lack of sight is not a hindrance, though; the fish uses electricity to create an image of its surroundings in much the same way that we use radar. The electricity is also how the electric eel kills its prey, producing a 600-volt shock – five times more powerful than a shock from a household outlet.

- For reasons unclear today, in 18th-century England, bumblebees were commonly known as "foggy-toddlers."

- You might be surprised to learn that in 2011, a man by the name of Ignacio Marc Isperas was granted a U.S. patent for "apparatus facilitating the building of a snow man/woman." According to the abstract, "the spherically shaped body and adhesion surface form a building component for facilitating the construction of the snow man/woman."

- If you're a pickle-maker in Connecticut, you should know that your product cannot legally be considered a pickle unless it bounces when dropped.

- Philadelphia brand cream cheese was originally made in New York.

- According to a recent survey by the National Association of Convenience Stores, 11 percent of adult Americans have at some point in their lives worked at a convenience store or gas station. For 3 percent of adults, that was their first job.

Thought for the Day: "Once you can accept the universe as matter expanding into nothing that is something, wearing stripes with plaid comes easy."

– Albert Einstein

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INFORMATIVE MEETING

FM 258 (Socorro Rd.) – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

From 2.52 Miles west of FM 258 (Socorro Rd.)/SH20 (Alameda Ave.) Intersection to 2.39 Miles east of FM 258 (Socorro Rd.)/SH 20 (Alameda Ave.) Intersection

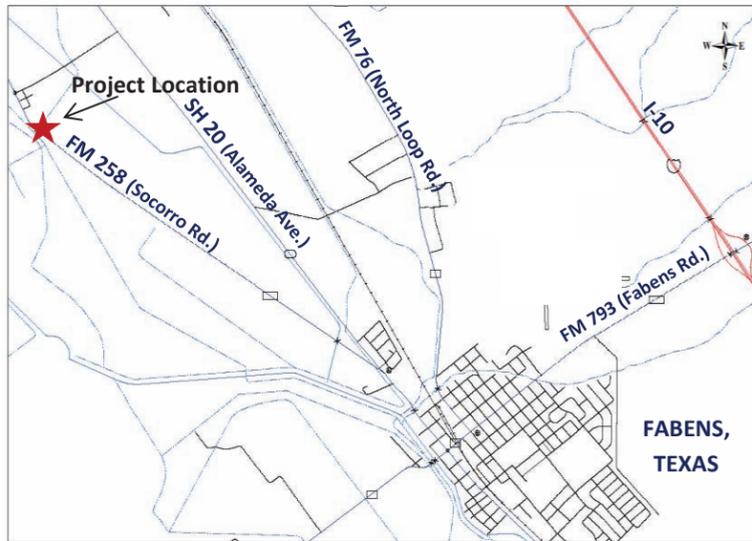
El Paso County, Texas
CSJ: 0002-14-042

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) El Paso District will conduct an Informative Meeting for the proposed improvement to Highway FM 258 (Socorro Rd.) at:

Fabens Middle School – Cafeteria
800 Walker Avenue
Fabens, TX 79838
Thursday, March 5, 2015
5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

This informative meeting will be conducted in an open-house format. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to do so at their convenience between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Plans and other displays will be available for review, and project staff will be available to answer any questions regarding the project. All handouts will be presented in English and Spanish. No formal presentation will be given.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the proposed project. The proposed project consists of the replacement of the FM 258 (Socorro Rd.) bridge. All of the proposed work is anticipated to occur within the existing TxDOT right of way and El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 (EPCWID) right of way, and would not result in any commercial or residential displacements.



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Persons interested in attending the Informative Meeting that have special accommodation or communication needs are encouraged to contact TxDOT El Paso District Public Information Office, Blanca Del Valle, at (915) 790-4200 at least two working days before the meeting. TxDOT will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate special needs as requested.

Written comments from the public regarding this project are encouraged. Comments may be submitted either at the Informative Meeting or within 10 days after the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the following address: **Texas Department of Transportation El Paso District, Attn: FM 258 (Socorro Rd.) Bridge Replacement, 13301 Gateway Boulevard West, El Paso, Texas 79928.** Comments must be postmarked on or before **Monday, March 16, 2015** to be included as part of the public record. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail, please contact Mr. Guillermo Garcia, P.E., TxDOT Project Manager, at (915) 790-4310.

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

Supposing I do something that really peeves a little kid, you might say it's tot-provoking.

1	+	5	×	3	18
×	×	×	×	×	×
9	-	4	+	8	13
+	-	-	-	-	-
6	÷	6	×	7	7
15	×	14	×	17	×

Aid

From Page 1

attend college by helping them complete and submit the FAFSA form. Representatives from El Paso Community College (EPCC), the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and Western Technical College as well as the San Elizario High School Counseling Department were on hand to help attendees complete the online submission process

Museum offers archery and atl-atl demos

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Archery and Atl-atl demonstrations at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology return this month to their regularly scheduled time- 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturdays, on the museum’s fairgrounds at 4301 Transmountain Road. The weekly demonstrations are open to the public.

The demonstrations are facilitated by the Citadel of the Southern Pass (SCA), a local chapter of the Society of Creative Anachronism for the Archeryin, in conjunction with the local archaeology museum.

SCA is an international organization with over 30,000 members residing in countries around the world dedicated to researching and re-creating the arts and skills of pre-17th-century Europe, stated George Maloof, the archaeology museum’s curator. “Members, dressed in clothing of the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods, attend events that feature tournaments, royal courts, feasts, dancing, and various classes and workshops,” he related.

According to Maloof, trained and authorized safety marshals assist with the demonstrations, so archers are welcome to bring their own re-curve and long bows as well as crossbows, but no compound bows or crossbows are allowed on the range. He added that museum staff members are available at the Atl-atl range to teach visitors how to use the spear-like weapon.

For more information about the demonstrations, contact Maloof, at (915) 755-4332 or send email to maloofo@elpasotexas.gov. For information about SCA’s local chapter visit its website at www.southernpass.org or on Facebook: Citadel of the Southern Pass. For information about the international organization go to its website at www.sca.org.

and answer questions about the application during the evening workshop held at the campus.

According to Bianca Tidwell, EPCC financial aid specialist, volunteers are recruited in collaboration with the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and then trained to be able to provide assistance to parents.

“The high school counseling staff also does a great job in making those personal calls and pushing seniors and their parents to come out to this event,” Tidwell added.

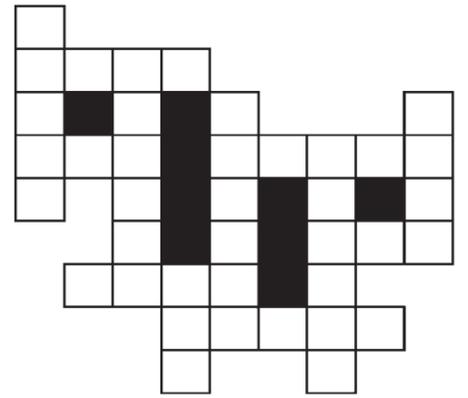
San Elizario High School counselor Paula Hernandez was impressed by the participation of seniors and their families and stated that many parents arrived early to the FAFSA night. Parents first had to sign in and wait for spot in one of the two computer labs available. While in the waiting area they could speak with college

representatives and even obtain any needed vaccinations for their students from Immunize El Paso. Hernandez stated that the federal aid application process went very smoothly. She encouraged San Elizario families to complete the FAFSA, if they did not have a chance to attend the financial aid workshop, as soon as possible in order to ensure that funds will still be available and to access other nonfederal aid available from higher education institutions that also use the FAFSA information to determine awards.

Every year about \$150 billion grants, work-study funds, and low-interest loans are awarded to more than 15 million students according to the U.S. Department of Education website. This federal student aid can pay for college expenses such as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation and other related expenses.



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- KNEVIO
- ADOLN
- ♥RYAT
- ♥TICDER
- RYC
- KENC
- ARVLO
- VAO
- ♥RETNAC
- ♥ECTRA
- ♥LOCD



See 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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Fabens Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2014

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 2014 Series Tax Notes	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,956,535	\$ 340,244	\$ 98	\$ 609,181	\$ 2,906,058
5800 State Program Revenues	18,144,206	1,415,488	-	195,245	19,754,939
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,413,190	-	-	2,677,095	4,090,285
5020 Total Revenues	21,513,931	1,755,732	98	3,481,521	26,751,282
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	12,448,767	-	-	2,538,017	14,986,784
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	271,989	-	-	2,317	274,306
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	96,430	-	-	167,119	263,549
0021 Instructional Leadership	192,738	-	-	404,338	597,076
0023 School Leadership	1,328,930	-	-	130,772	1,459,702
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	686,308	-	-	131,367	817,675
0032 Social Work Services	34,539	-	-	5,686	40,225
0033 Health Services	386,833	-	-	3,446	390,279
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	400,515	-	-	-	400,515
0035 Food Services	1,302,403	-	-	17,402	1,319,805
0036 Extracurricular Activities	901,356	-	-	1,288	902,644
0041 General Administration	1,104,425	-	-	-	1,104,425
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	2,583,020	-	-	2,573	2,585,593
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	297,728	-	-	-	297,728
0053 Data Processing Services	223,592	-	-	-	223,592
0061 Community Services	51,081	-	-	75,447	126,528
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	44,541	700,000	-	-	744,541
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	-	1,067,371	-	-	1,067,371
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	1,100	30,187	-	31,287
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	31,967	-	1,274,188	-	1,306,155
Intergovernmental:					
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	11,525	-	-	-	11,525
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	51,409	-	-	-	51,409
6030 Total Expenditures	22,450,096	1,768,471	1,304,375	3,479,772	29,002,714
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(936,165)	(12,739)	(1,304,277)	1,749	(2,251,432)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7913 Capital Leases	128,440	-	-	-	128,440
7914 Non-Current Loans	-	-	1,416,000	-	1,416,000
7915 Transfers In	352,609	-	-	-	352,609
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	481,049	-	1,416,000	-	1,897,049
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(455,116)	(12,739)	111,723	1,749	(354,383)
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	2,444,674	126,441	-	28,349	2,599,464
3000 Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 1,989,558	\$ 113,702	\$ 111,723	\$ 30,098	\$ 2,245,081

Really, let's focus on some important things

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We're a couple weeks removed from the Super Bowl and everyone has had their chance to give their opinion on the Seattle Seahawks' final play call of the season.

The one most responsible for keeping that subject alive is the man responsible for making the call, Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, who has seemingly gone on every talk show imaginable to explain his reasoning for the head-scratcher.

The decision was so bad that it not only cost them the championship, it completely made all that talk about deflate-gate go away.

So I guess it was a win-win for the Patriots.

As bad as it was and as memorable that play call will always be, it's time to move on and start thinking about the future.

And there was plenty of NFL news that came out after the Super Bowl was completed – most of it was very bad.

I don't know what it is about NFL players who just can't wait to make the

police blotters as soon as that final whistle blows on the final game. Here's a list of guys who have already been arrested in 2015.

Green Bay's Letroy Guion was arrested on marijuana and weapons charges. Also arrested was Dallas' John Randle, Indianapolis' D'Qwell Jackson, Andrew Jackson and Josh McNary, Baltimore's Terrance Cody, New York Jets' Chris Johnson and Chicago's Tim Jennings.

Heck, even Hall of Fame NFL player and now-former NFL Network commentator Warren Sapp was arrested for soliciting prostitution and assault.

But aside from all the bad seeds in the league are the many questions leading into next season.

Will Peyton Manning return next year and if he does, how effective will he be? And how will he get along with new Broncos' coach Gary Kubiak?

How about Adrian Peterson. Will he be reinstated? Will he still be with the Vikings? Will he still be the great runner he once was? Will he stop smacking his kid around?

How about all that talk surrounding deflated footballs in New England? The

air was definitely let out of the balls. If it is proven that Brady or Belichick gave the order, what kind of penalty will be in store for them or the team?

Then there is the most ferocious and dirty player in the league, Ndamukong Suh. Will he return to the Detroit Lions? Will he get into any kind of trouble during the offseason? Does the mailman have the courage to go anywhere near his house?

What will the Tampa Bay Bucs do with the first pick in the NFL draft? Everyone believes they will go with Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston, who has been a walking negative-headline-maker. But to be very honest, the former Heisman Trophy winner didn't have a very good season, throwing for 25 touchdowns and 18 interceptions.

But the loudest offseason talk has surrounded the Dallas Cowboys and their decision to keep either DeMarco Murray or Dez Bryant.

One is the reigning NFL Offensive Player of the Year and the other may be the best receiver in the league.

With both being free agents, the Cowboys will have to back up a Brink's

truck to AT&T Stadium if they want to keep both.

Of course there'd be little else to pay other key members of the team.

The common thought is that receivers like Bryant come along once every decade or so. But with the kind of offensive line the Cowboys now have, there would be many running backs available every year with the talent to have a big season.

So my guess is that the Cowboys will probably go for a running back in the first round of the draft. Though I believe the smart thing to do would be to go for a pass-rushing defensive end.

But before we go forward we should be thankful for all the incredible football playoff action we just had.

The Cowboys beat the Lions on an interference call that was then waived off. The Cowboys lose to Green Bay on a spectacular catch that was ruled good, then overturned. The Packers cough up their game to Seattle after committing every last-season mistake possible. And then the Seahawks mess up the final play of the Super Bowl.

Wow, I can't wait to see what happens next year.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Your life depends on it

You can talk to me all you want about metrics, but if you were inches from death, whom would you want under center?

Yeah, that's the question I readily quick-snap into the face of anyone approaching me with this "Tom Brady is the best quarterback ever" nonsense. If your life depended on it, who would you want to start the next game? Don't wait for the translation... answer the question with Joe Montana and move along.

This notion – the game of a lifetime – reminds me of Doug Williams, quarterback of the Washington Redskins, and how he found himself without a running back the evening before the biggest game of his life, Super Bowl XXII in 1988.

One can only imagine the anxiety Williams, the first black quarterback to start a Super Bowl, felt before the game.

The Redskins' opponent was the Broncos of Denver led by John Elway and Dan Reeves – two warriors still smarting over last year's humiliating loss at the hands of the New York Giants. To make matters worse, Williams had emergency root canal the day before the game. Still woozy from painkillers, he was told that the position of running back would be played by Timmy Smith.

Smith, a rookie out of Texas Tech, had touched the ball only 29 times that entire season. Williams barely knew who he was, but he made sure – damn sure – that Smith knew who he

was. He had been waiting for this game his entire life, and he imparted on the rookie that he'd better bring it the next day.

For his part, Smith wasn't even told he'd be starting – the Washington brass were too afraid he would have game-day jitters. They had every reason to be wary, and Elway didn't disappoint; the Broncos jumped out to a 10-0 lead in the first six minutes. All across America you could hear the refrain: "No way a team loses two Super Bowls in a row!" as if the Minnesota Vikings had never existed. (It should be pointed out that the Buffalo Bills had yet to start their early '90s run of nothingness.)

But like a shot, Washington sprang to life. Suddenly, Smith

was unstoppable and Williams was otherworldly. The second quarter began, and Washington exploded for five scores for 35 points, 356 total yards, including 228 passing by Williams (9 of 11), 122 yards on five carries by Smith, and 168 yards on five receptions by Ricky Sanders. The five touchdowns came in 18 plays covering less than six minutes. Washington would go on to crush Denver 42-10; Williams would go home with the MVP award.

Smith would finish the day with 204 yards (an NFL record) and two touchdowns, and dreams of a big-time career. It was not to

be. A bust in every sense of the word, Smith would last just 15 more games in the NFL, scoring only three touchdowns, barely doubling his workload from the Super Bowl in yards from scrimmage, turning in 476 yards before being cut by the Cowboys in 1990 after a single carry. In 2006 he was sentenced to prison for 2 1/2 years.

A cautionary tale? Not really, but an interesting one by any measure.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

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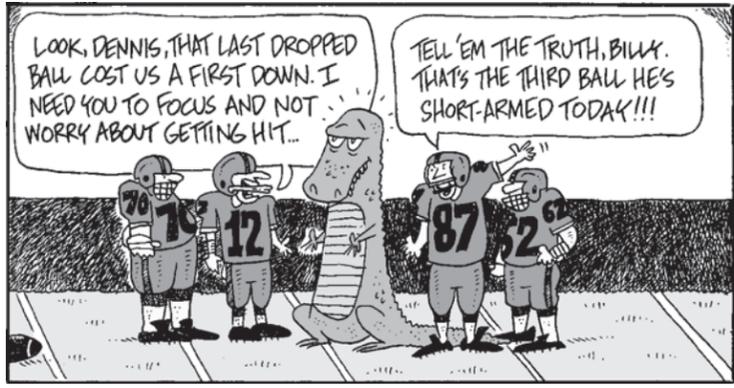
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OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



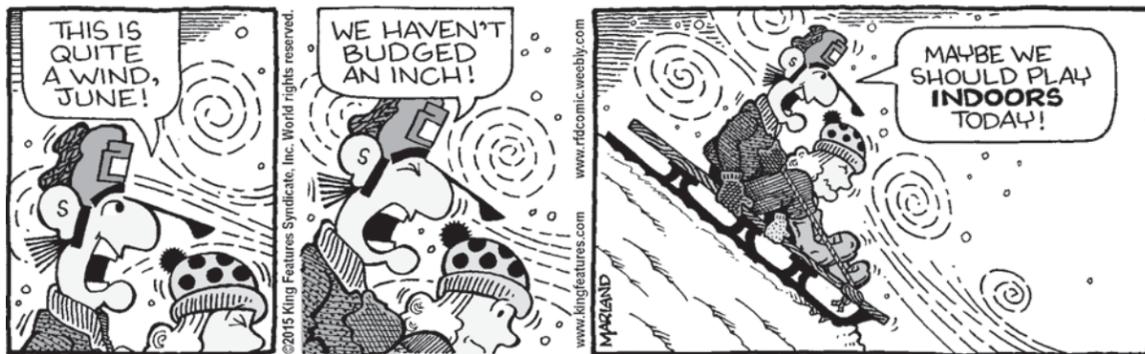
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I had surgery on my right wrist for carpal tunnel syndrome eight months ago. The numbness in my fingers has not changed. Now I'm faced with the same problem in my left hand. I'm going to forget surgery, seeing as it wasn't successful in my right hand. I decided to go to an acupuncturist for laser treatments. I also had a cortisone shot. Neither of these has helped. Do you know of a solution for my problem? – P.M.

treatment. If damage is not too severe, other treatments – such as splinting, medication, yoga or ultrasound – may be helpful. If advanced, surgery done quickly still may be your best bet.

DEAR DR. ROACH: There has been much reporting of the effect of not getting enough sun during the winter months. In your professional opinion, can some people get depressed from too much summer? When I lived in the Southwest, all that heat and sun from May to October seemed to really get to me. I wished often for a cloudy day. Is it because I was raised in the depressing North? – J.R.W.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is caused by compression on the median nerve, as it runs down the arm through a "tunnel" of bone and connective tissue deep in the wrist. It may cause pain, numbness and weakness of the wrist and hand. The thumb and middle three fingers are most often affected. In advanced cases, the hand muscles may become atrophied. The sooner the pressure on the nerve is relieved, the more likely there will not be permanent nerve damage.

It sounds to me like the first surgery was not done soon enough to prevent damage. If that's the case, then surgery on your left hand, done sooner after the onset of symptoms, might prevent the long-term numbness present in your right hand. However, it's possible that the diagnosis was wrong or that the surgery might not have been effective, even if done promptly.

At least one study of needle acupuncture showed that it is as effective as a cortisone injection. This study excluded people who already had fixed numbness in the fingers, who are less likely to be helped by any treatment. I have not found any evidence that laser treatment is effective.

My advice is to first be sure of the diagnosis. An EMG test is a study of nerve function, which can confirm the diagnosis and may be able to predict how much damage there is and provide guidance on

Seasonal affective disorder is a type of major depression with recurrent seasonal onset and remission. Although it usually is described as beginning in late fall and early winter, and going away in spring or summer, some people can have symptoms that begin in spring and go away in fall. People with spring-onset SAD more frequently have insomnia, poor appetite and weight loss.

Light therapy is used only for fall-onset SAD. Both medication and psychotherapy, especially cognitive behavioral therapy, are used for spring-onset SAD.

I don't know whether being brought up in the North predisposes one to the spring-onset form of SAD. I don't find the North particularly depressing.

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) 2015 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- DOING PR WORK ACROSS**
- 1 Maize
 - 5 1980s TV's "Kate & _"
 - 10 Bank acct. underwriter
 - 14 Resort isle near Naples
 - 19 Cock-_(mixed dog breed)
 - 20 Pencil end
 - 21 Prehistoric beast, briefly
 - 22 ALF or ET
 - 23 Pool hall champion?
 - 26 Flower calyx part
 - 27 Off_(sporadically)
 - 28 Small flycatcher
 - 29 Christmas songs
 - 31 Omega preceder
 - 32 Passover crackers
 - 34 Place where pizza dough is flattened?
 - 37 "We _ not amused"
 - 38 Ripken of the diamond
 - 40 Angriiness
 - 41 Actress De Carlo
 - 42 Get the shoe mender on the phone?
 - 47 Marine eel
 - 49 Poetic foot
 - 50 Pertaining to the sun
 - 51 Still wrapped
 - 52 In spite of the fact that, for short
 - 55 King Arthur's home
 - 58 Commercial in which all of one's fury is unleashed?
 - 62 Fido's sound
 - 65 Faced
 - 66 Phileas Fogg creator Jules
 - 68 Like a slob's bed
 - 69 Blowtorch the exterior of your launch vehicle?
 - 74 Wind section player
 - 75 Quaint oath
 - 76 Just a_(somewhat)
 - 77 Hissing snake sound
 - 78 Ice-skating food fish?
 - 80 Mexican menu items
 - 84 Blast maker
 - 85 "Mammal" has three
 - 86 "Thank you, Henri"
 - 87 Opra part
 - 91 PR concern
 - 94 Farmer's motto?
 - 97 Risen from sleep
 - 100 Seemingly endless time
 - 101 Park oneself
 - 102 Dwelling: Abbr.
 - 103 Tirades about the trials of being a mother?
 - 109 Not switched off
 - 111 Ace
 - 112 Art style
 - 113 Sofa
 - 115 Spanish for "queen"
 - 116 Wax theatrical
 - 118 Actor Moranis playing a garbage sweeper?
 - 121 12-inch stick
 - 122 Small toiletry case
 - 123 Pay the penalty
 - 124 First-aid plant
 - 125 Fencing blades
 - 126 Part of NYPD: Abbr.
 - 127 Tightly wound
 - 128 Give away temporarily
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Squid dish
 - 2 Expanse
 - 3 Sports squad that rarely has home games
 - 4 Vivarin rival
 - 5 Fourth mo.
 - 6 Belt holder
 - 7 Longtime con
 - 8 Split evenly
 - 9 Lucy's TV pal
 - 10 32nd pres.
 - 11 Actress Wiest
 - 12 Disguised, for short
 - 13 Alternatives to Pepsis
 - 14 Tapioca-yielding tree
 - 15 Hoppy drink
 - 16 1972-77 Broadway musical
 - 17 Explanation
 - 18 Queued up
 - 24 Tennyson's "Arden"
 - 25 More elusive
 - 30 Astron. distance
 - 33 Little pouch
 - 35 Like the vbs. "eat" and "lie"
 - 36 Tiny dog
 - 39 Get bested by
 - 43 TV network north of the USA
 - 44 Ty-D_(bathroom brand)
 - 45 Slo_(fuse type)
 - 46 Riga native
 - 47 Brawl
 - 48 Athena's bird
 - 51 Sam once in the Senate
 - 52 Trees yielding wood for ships
 - 53 Mythical hell
 - 54 Dramatist Clifford
 - 56 Collect
 - 57 Conductor Zubin_
 - 58 Cake icer
 - 59 Countryish
 - 60 Cell terminal
 - 61 Yukon maker
 - 62 Cut short
 - 63 Harp on gloatingly
 - 64 Anterior
 - 67 Cut short
 - 70 Suffix with neat or peace
 - 71 "_ tell ya!"
 - 72 Problems for vain types
 - 73 Tide targets
 - 79 Shin's place
 - 81 Noted coach Parseghian
 - 82 Bygone AT&T rival
 - 83 Slump
 - 86 Home of Monte Carlo
 - 88 Vehicle ownership certificate
 - 89 Get drunk
 - 90 Trapped
 - 91 34th prez
 - 92 Corporate marriages
 - 93 Avonlea girl
 - 94 Hide _ hair
 - 95 It's nothing
 - 96 Comical Cheri
 - 97 Current unit
 - 98 Pre-race stretch, say
 - 99 "King Ralph" actor Peter
 - 100 Ocular cleansing receptacle
 - 104 One way to mark debits
 - 105 Uninspired
 - 106 Like skim milk
 - 107 Mozart's "Cos fan"
 - 108 "Danke _"
 - 110 Prenatal
 - 114 Egg layers
 - 117 Golf gadget
 - 119 Model-making set
 - 120 "Annabel _"

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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

See Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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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.

	+		×		18
×		×		×	
	-		+		13
+		-		-	
	÷		×		7
15		14		17	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

See Answer Page 4

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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: R equals T

YVUUAYCPL C IA YAWFRGCPL
RGSR JFSKKQ UFFTFY S KCRRKF
HCI, QAV WCLGR YSQ CR'Y
RAR-UJATAHCPL.

See Answer Page 4

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