



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Gotcha!

Most bad guys haven't a clue that police now have access to technology that can provide a "Snapshot" of those who commit crimes even if there were no witnesses, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. Parabon Nanolabs located in Reston, VA developed the "Snapshot" process, which is already in use by several police departments in the U.S. and abroad. The police provide a DNA sample found at a crime scene and the company puts it through a process known as phenotyping. "Snapshot translates this raw genetic code into predictions of physical traits. These are combined to create a highly accurate composite profile, or 'digital mugshot' of an unknown suspect," according to the company.

— John Grimaldi

### SISD pre-registration

The Socorro Independent School District will have pre-registration for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students for the 2015-2016 school year from 8 to 11:30 a.m. March 9 to 12 at elementary campuses. In order to register for pre-kindergarten, students must be four years old by Sept. 1 and they must meet economic, language, homeless or military (active) requirements as established by the state.

Please make sure to bring your child and the following to the registration site:

- Immunization record;
- Current utility bill (gas, water or electric);
- Identification for the parent/guardian registering the child (driver's license, ID card, passport, military ID); and
- Social Security Card.

SISD Pre-K hub schools for next school year will be O'Shea Keleher Elementary, Myrtle Cooper Elementary, Horizon Heights Elementary, Hurshel Antwine Elementary and Chester Jordan Elementary. The designated Pre-K hubs will serve as the home campus for Pre-K students for the 2015-2016 school year:

- O'Shea Keleher will serve Pre-K students from O'Shea Keleher, Bill Sybert, Jane Hambric, Benito Martinez, Helen Ball and Elfida P. Chavez.
- Myrtle Cooper will serve Pre-K

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*The man of the hour spent many days and nights getting there.*  
— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**EYES ON THE BORDER** – A key component of the state's revamped border security strategy is to saturate the Texas-Mexico border with thousands of new surveillance cameras, like the camera tower shown in the photo above. The cameras are part of a plan to replace the National Guard troops who currently man dozens of observation posts along the border.

## Border security strategy includes more cameras, funding

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

ELPASOCOUNTY – Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) currently uses about 1,300 cameras stationed along the border with Mexico to help detect illegal entry into the United States. The cameras are part of an operation to secure the border that was launched in 2012. The cameras are motion-sensitive, monitored around

the clock, and produce still photos.

Now, an additional 4,000 new cameras are being installed across the entire border, from El Paso to Brownsville. According to a DPS news release, the placement of the cameras are being located strategically along the Texas-Mexico border. Each camera costs approximately \$300.

Funding for the cameras came via state legislators, who recently approved injecting another \$86 million to continue the surveillance. State officials said that

the bulk of that money is being directed to keep the increased DPS presence along the border through August. According to DPS reports, the agency has spent about \$25 million to date on the operation.

The new surveillance cameras were approved by the Texas Legislative Budget Board, a committee that develops budget recommendations. The \$86 million approval will appropriate about \$64.9 million to DPS; the rest will go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Military Department.

The 4,000 cameras are an expansion of DPS's 2012 Operation Drawbridge, a partnership with the Border Patrol and border sheriffs aimed at curbing narcotic and human smuggling. The operation has been responsible for the apprehension of more than 50,000 people and more than 85 tons of narcotics, according to DPS reports.

DPS director Steve McCraw, who is from El Paso, told reporters recently that the cameras are being installed as quickly as possible. McCraw added that his department is in the process of transitioning from the overarching surge strategy of deterrence to one of interdiction, a stage that also will include an expansion of aircraft surveillance and overtime payments for DPS officers across the state equivalent to about 600 additional state troopers.

The director stated that saturating the border with those thousands of new surveillance cameras is a key component of the strategy shift, which is also intended to be part of the replacement for the national guard troops who currently man dozens of observation posts along the Rio



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**KICKING IT UP** – The Golden Starlettes dance team from San Elizario High School is already shining on the national stage. The dancers earned a first place trophy in the kick division.

## San Elizario HS Golden Starlettes shine at national dance contest

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
*Special to the Courier*

SAN ELIZARIO – In only three years of existence, the Golden Starlettes dance team from San Elizario High School is

already shining on the national stage. The dancers earned a first place trophy in the kick division and second place in the pom routine in the Contest of Champions held in Orlando, Florida

See STARLETTES, Page 5

See SECURITY, Page 5



Finances

By Jason Alderman

FAFSA primer: How to navigate through the college aid maze

If you're worried about paying for your child's college education, keep this statistic in mind: during the 2011-12 school year, the U.S. Department of Education reported that 85 percent of all full-time, four-year college students were receiving some form of financial aid.

Consider planning way ahead of time to develop a college savings strategy that fits with your finances. If you need more resources to cover additional costs, get to know the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as FAFSA (<https://fafsa.ed.gov>).

FAFSA is the universal application for current and prospective U.S. college students to receive college financial aid. It is the gateway to grants, student loans and work-study programs on the federal and state level.

If you have a kid headed for college, it's a good idea to learn about the FAFSA as early as possible. The universal form is the first step for any current or prospective student who needs help paying for higher education. For the 2014-15 academic year, the College Board reported that annual tuition, room and board (<http://trends.collegeboard.org>) averaged \$18,943 at in-state public universities, \$32,762 for out-of-state students and \$42,419 at private, nonprofit schools.

Students fill out the FAFSA, but if your child is a dependent student, you should gather the information together. Dependent students are generally under 24, unmarried and not working full-time, and they will need your financial data to complete the filing. Students with special family circumstances (including absent parents) may still qualify for federal and state aid under certain conditions, but should check directly with financial aid representatives at target schools for specific options.

The process starts with the student choosing a personal information number (PIN) that gives them multi-year access to the financial aid system. They will follow up with their own Social Security, contact and address information. Parents will submit their most recent federal income tax data and other proof of income; Alien Registration Numbers are required from parents who are not U.S. citizens. More detail is available on the FAFSA site.

FAFSA filing opens after January 1 every year with June 30 as the final deadline. Keep in mind, though, that a student's current or target school financial aid deadlines (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm>) can be significantly earlier based on the state in which they plan to attend college.

Before this process begins, however, tax and financial advisors should be consulted to discuss the full range of savings and investing options that can minimize the need for student borrowing. For assistance in completing the FAFSA form, parents and prospective students should consider contacting financial aid administrators at prospective schools or where the student has been accepted for admission. Some schools offer workshops in filling out the form and organizations like College Goal Sunday (<http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org/>) offer that assistance in 39 states.

Parents and students should also check their own networks for help. Employers, professional organizations (related to the student's field of study), fraternal societies and private foundations are great potential resources for no-strings scholarships and grant money. If a dependent child works a summer job at a major company (fast food, retail and beyond) he or she can check if the employer offers scholarships or education benefits to part-time workers. It is also important to keep an eye on the news for the latest changes to federal and state financial aid and student loan rules.

Bottom line: Knowing as much as possible about college financial aid now can help parents and students make the best plans for covering those expenses. Whether college is months or years away, it's never too early to start planning and saving.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

VA starts phasing out paper benefit claims

If you've been getting ready to file a paper benefit claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs, a deadline is looming that will force you to make a change.

The VA has tried recently to go paperless, meaning that veterans open and fill out a claim online. It says that speeds things up. The effective date becomes the date the file is first opened electronically, with one year to finish the details.

If you've wanted to stay with the old-school method and submit your claims via paper (even a letter or back of an envelope would suffice), you've been able to do that, with the effective date when your file is deemed complete. Starting March 24, though, the VA is limiting your options. You can file online, or you can complete one of two paper forms. Form 21-0966 will be required as your Intent to

File. This is the first step while you gather the balance of your supporting information. Then use Form 21-526EZ for officially filing your claim. That's it, period. If you don't follow the new rules, your claim will languish and you'll lose benefit time because nothing happens until you use the correct form, which is Form 21-0966. That one starts the clock running. And no, don't expect the VA to send you the right form, at least not quickly.

If don't own or use a computer, find someone who will help you file your claim electronically. Or talk to your VSO, who ideally will have a stack of Intent to File forms already printed out. You might even get your library to pull up the form and print out a few for you. Just put Form 21-0966 in Google.

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Texas retired educators may have to pay higher health care premiums

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Texas Teacher Retirement System (TRS) officials told a Texas Senate committee recently that the health care plan for as many as 200,000 retired public education employees could become insolvent during the 2016 fiscal year and faces a \$768 million shortfall by the end of the 2017 fiscal year if no new money is received from the state, this is according to news reports coming out of the state capitol.

TRS officials stated that the main reason behind the shortfall

is that health care costs have outpaced growth in the payroll of active public educators.

TRS is the public pension plan of the State of Texas that was established in 1937. It provides retirement and related benefits for those employed by the public

See PREMIUMS, Page 2

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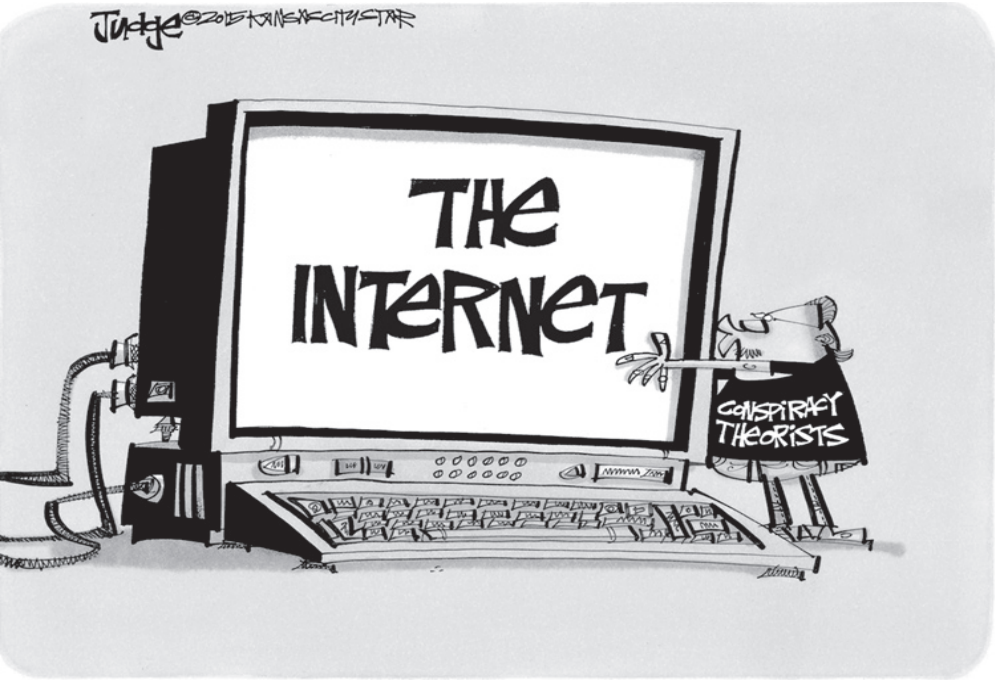
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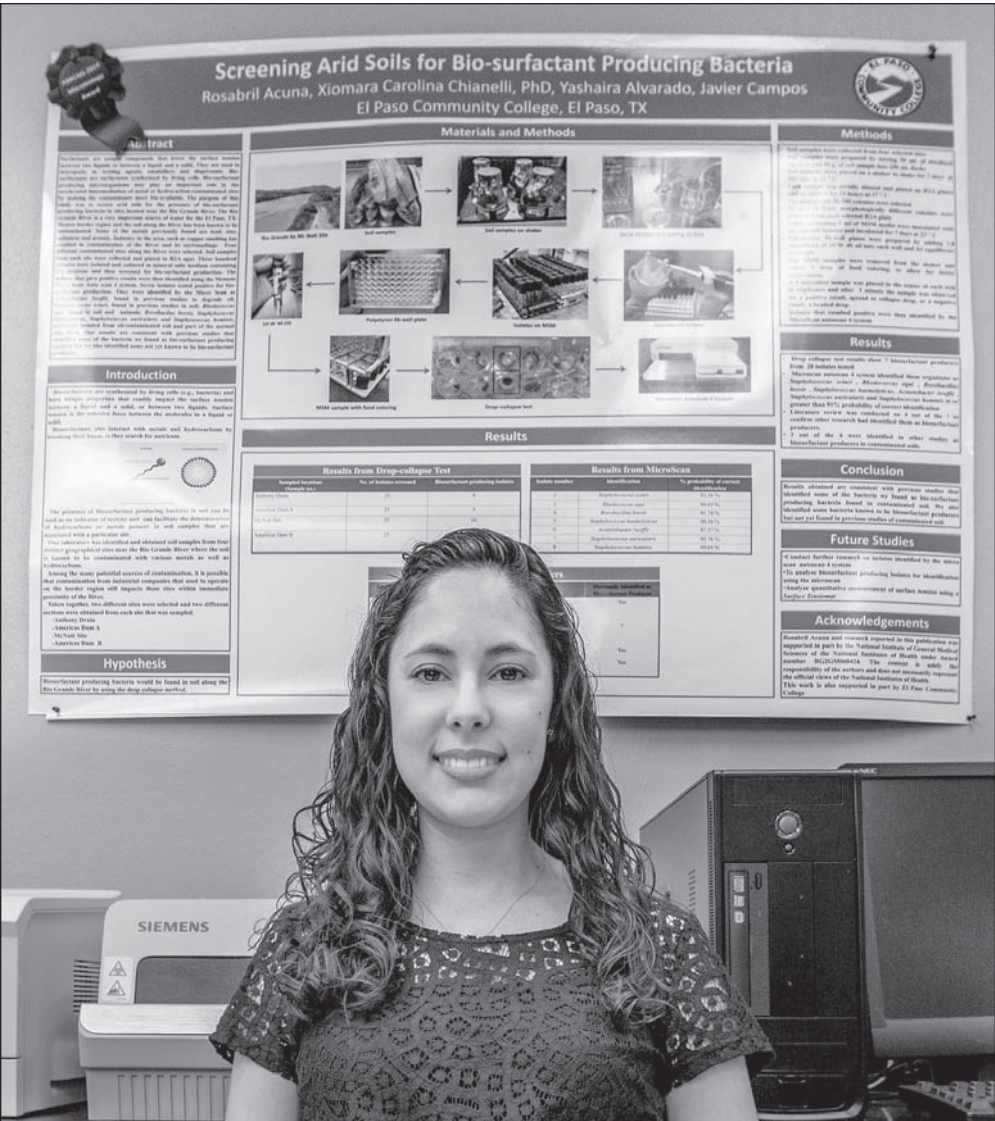
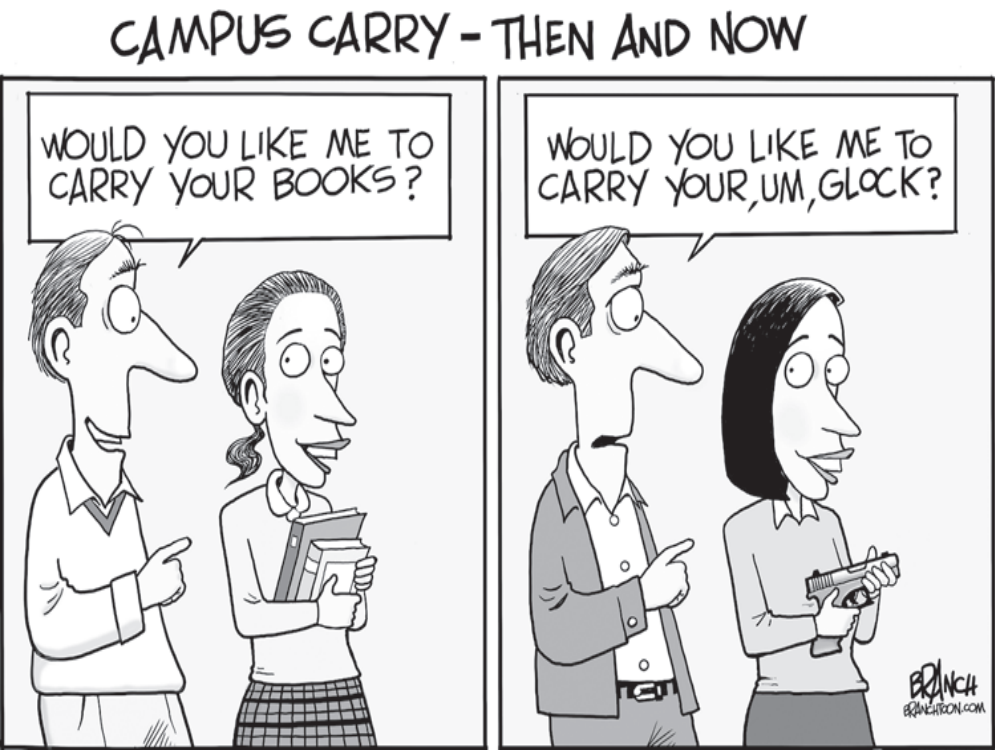
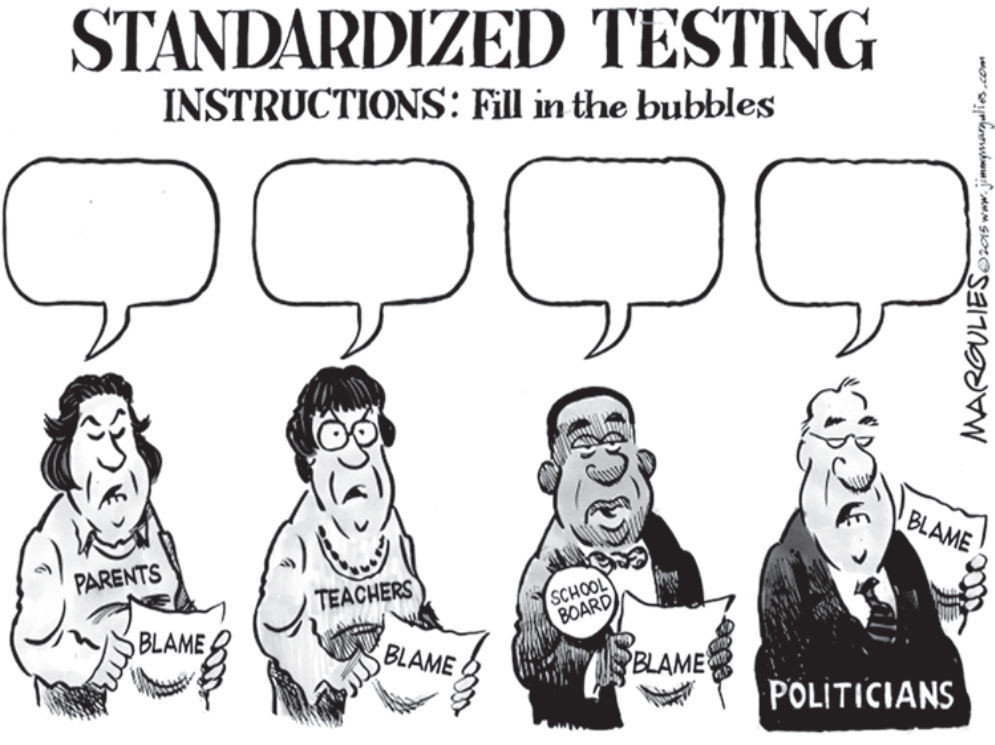


**Where:** San Elizario High School Auditorium 13981 Socorro Rd,  
San Elizario, Texas 79849  
**Dates:** March 16, 17, & 18 at 6 pm-7pm  
March 23 & 24 at 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
**Admission Fee:** \$ 2.00





THE SAME PEOPLE WHO DON'T TRUST THE GOVERNMENT.



– Photo courtesy El Paso Community College  
Rosabril Acuna stands in front of her award winning poster.

# Acuna receives national recognition

By Jim Heiney  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Rosabril Acuna, El Paso Community College (EPCC) graduate and former member of the EPCC Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) program, has won a national award for microbiology research in which 1,700 students participated. The award was given by The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). All undergraduate and post baccalaureate presentations were evaluated by active-researcher scientists in which the students with the highest scores in each scientific discipline and for each educational level received a \$250 monetary award. Acuna made a detailed poster

presentation in the topic Microbiology explaining how bacteria breaks down heavy carbons and other pollutants. The poster presentation was named Screening Arid Soils for Bio-surfactant Producing Bacteria. Majoring in Biology, Rosabril received an associate's of science degree in December 2014 from EPCC and is now attending the University of Texas at El Paso studying Bio-chemistry. EPCC's RISE Program is funded by a grant from the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS)-RISE Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The RISE Program consists of student, faculty and community development activities. All activities are aimed at providing underrepresented students with the tools to succeed in college and pursue a biomedical research career and a Ph.D.

## Premiums

From Page 2

schools, colleges, and universities supported by the state. A TRS board of trustees manages the multi-billion dollar trust fund that is designed to finance members' benefits. The board is composed of nine trustees who are appointed by the governor to staggered terms of six years. The teachers' health plan is funded primarily by contributions from the state, active teachers, and school districts, plus retiree premiums. The state currently gives an amount equal to 1 percent of payroll, that amounted to \$495 million in 2014 and in 2015. For each of the next two years, the initial budget proposals from the House and Senate include \$562 million to cover the state's statutory obligation. Both two-year spending plans, however, include contingency clauses for TRS

board of trustees to not increase retiree health insurance premiums. Nonetheless, retirement system officials want legislators to pay the shortfall, while either cutting benefits or upping contributions from the state, active public educators, and school districts. The budget board staff has recommended sharing the projected deficient, with the state paying 50 percent, retirees paying 25 percent, and active teachers and school districts splitting the rest. Nearly 1.4 million public education and higher education employees and retirees participate in the system. TRS is the largest public retirement system in Texas in both membership and assets and the sixth largest public pension fund in the U.S. So this anticipated shortfall is a big deal, and state legislators now have until June 1st, the last day of the current legislative session, to come up with a solution on how to shore up the almost insolvent health care plan.





# IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PREVENT DIABETES



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



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

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

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### CryptoQuip Answer

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# STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw who made the following sage observation: “There is no sincerer love than the love of food.”
- You might be surprised to learn that the fastest flying insect is the dragonfly; it’s been clocked at speeds up to 35 mph.
- In Japan, a black cat crossing your path is considered to be good luck, not bad.
- If you have trouble getting along with your in-laws, you might dream of getting payback someday. A man named Charles Webb did just that – on a grand scale. While in high school, Webb dated a girl named Eve; Eve’s mother, however, didn’t think Webb was good enough for her daughter and did everything she could to keep them apart. The two eventually got married, and Webb wrote the novel “The Graduate”... yes, the one that was turned into a movie starring Dustin Hoffman. The character of the drunken, promiscuous mother-in-law was based on the woman who’d tried to sabotage his relationship for years.
- When archaeologists discovered the tomb of King Tut, one of the objects they found inside was a bronze razor – and it was still sharp enough to use.
- Washington, D.C., has a lower marriage rate than any other major U.S. city.
- The breed of dog known as the Great Dane didn’t come from Denmark; it’s German in origin.
- President George Washington reportedly was terrified at the thought of being buried alive. He insisted that his burial not take place until at least three days after his death, just to make sure he was really deceased.
- The starling is the world’s most common bird.

Thought for the Day: “Few things are harder to put up with than a good example.”  
– Mark Twain

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## Security

From Page 1

Grande and originally were set to leave in March.

But new Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced recently that he wants the national guard contingent to stay longer to help keep the border secure and that he was doubling state spending on the border watch strategy to \$735 million a year.

However, the governor did not address concerns raised by the Legislative Budget Board that the state had no definition of border security, which is making it hard to track the funds and measure their effectiveness.

Nonetheless, Abbott said he would order the national guard to stay on the border until 500 new state troopers can be trained and deployed, despite McCraw’s claim that the cameras now being installed could substitute for the national guard troops, who don’t have the power to apprehend people who cross the border illegally. According to the governor’s budget, the last of those troopers won’t

be deployed until 2019.

El Paso State Senator José Rodríguez stated that the dangers of the border is being hyped-up for political reasons by the state’s Republican leaders. And U.S. Representative Beto O’Rourke added that the hype is making people and businesses afraid of border cities, which tend to be safer than their inland counterparts.

State Representative Sylvester Turner, co-chairman of the Texas House Appropriations Committee, noted that state taxpayers already have spent \$1.4 billion on border security. That is in addition to the federal government’s funding to secure the southern border that has doubled over the past 10 years.

Turner wondered how much more the state must spend. “From a fiscal point of view, I’m having a very difficult time justifying this amount of money being spent on an ill-defined definition of border security and the only thing we’re responding to is a desire for more border security,” Turner stated in a recent news report.

## Starlettes

From Page 1

from February 25 to March 2.

It was the first time that San Elizario High School has entered the national competition that included over 144 schools from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and other countries. There were several contest categories held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex located inside the Walt Disney World Resort. The Starlettes competed in the extra-small division against ten other teams, all with five to nine dancers, and had to score a certain number of points in order to place.

“They (Starlettes) loved it! At first they were scared because they did not know what to expect and were intimidated at this level of competition,” Michelle Campos, sponsor and teacher, said.

For many of the Starlettes, their preparation for the Contest of Champions began last year when they earned an invitation for the competition after scoring high at the local Superior Festival held at Americas High School on January 2014. The team held food sales, a summer dance camp, requested

donations through the media and other fundraisers in order to make their trip to Florida come true. Parents also covered some costs out of their own pockets. It then took two to three months for the dancers to learn new choreography but the final line up was not set until February 2015.

Campos stated that she felt nervous at first about bringing the team to the competition especially because there was so much talent coming from all over the country. However, her worries soon disappeared when she realized that the girls were extremely excited to be there and had made it to a well-known national competition in such a short amount of time.

“They did amazing! I told the team that all that mattered was that they do their best and not whether we came home with a trophy and they gave it their 110 percent,” Campos added.

The Contest of Champions is an open and independent dance and drill competition that was also televised on ESPN. While in Orlando, the Starlettes were also able to enjoy some of the amusement parks and attended workshops with professional dancers and performers.

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# Getting the calls right

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

I’ve always been of the opinion that NBA officials were by far the worst crews of the four major American professional sports.

They never call traveling, I don’t care how embarrassingly obvious it is. They actually fall for the badly-acted flops that players perform to earn phantom foul calls. They anticipate more fouls than actually occur.

The biggest problem with NBA referees though is the lack of consistency.

A practical brawl is allowed on one end of the court and then a ticky-tack foul is called on the other.

Well, it appears that the NBA is trying to do something about those head-scratching calls, especially late in games.

Over the weekend, the league started a policy in which they will monitor the ref’s calls and then publicize their findings the next day.

Ouch, how would you like that done about you at your job?

I’m can only assuming that if the refs were doing a better job, this wouldn’t necessary.

This will only be done in games where the score is within five points with two minutes left. From that point on, and any overtime play, every referee call will be judged as either being good or bad and then made public by 5 p.m. the next day.

Although this is a step in the right direction, it sounds like a bit of a trick.

First of all, how many games are going to be within five points with two minutes left?

And by judging every call late in games – that will include easy out-of-bounds, intentional fouls and did the ball leave his hands before the shot clock went off?

A referee can get nine calls right by the time he blows it with a phantom call that costs a team the game. That makes his score 9-out-of-10, 90 percent is not bad at all.

Now I’m not entirely unsympathetic, I know the game is very fast and difficult to call and many of the calls are hard to keep up with.

But it’s the easy ones that drive everyone crazy. Like that incorrect call that the guy makes from 40 feet away when the two other guys right next to the play didn’t see anything wrong.

I must say that I like this idea of releasing the info to the public.

If only the president and the congress could be so transparent. Talk about a group of misfits who rarely get anything right.

Anyway, regarding inconsistency in officiating. How about Major League Baseball and its recent rule changes to speed up play.

Baseball, which has turned into the literal “chess match” of professional sports, is trying to speed things up.

Be honest, wouldn’t watching a chess match on TV be more compelling if every move had to be made in 10 seconds?

To help keep things moving, a batter must keep one foot in the batter’s box between pitches; games must get underway quicker after commercial breaks and a manager must stay in the dugout while asking for a replay challenge.

Those are fairly good but not nearly good enough.

You want to speed up the game put a

clock on the pitcher. If a team wants to intentionally walk a better, sent him to first base now.

But that doesn’t eliminate the biggest problem in pro baseball – the strike zone.

Are the goal posts different sizes in football? No.

Are the hoops different sizes in different basketball arenas? No.

Then why is the strike zone different from umpire to umpire from batter to batter?

It’s very simple, if you draw a line from armpit to armpit, that’s the middle of your chest. The top of the strike zone should be from your chest to the knees.

From chest to knees and inside the width of home plate is a strike; otherwise it’s a ball.

How difficult is that?

There are going to be a lot of young kids flocking to baseball over the next decade because more and more moms won’t allow them to play football.

To get ready for this influx, baseball had better get out of the 1800s and move into the 21st century.

How important is a good product, nobody has more problems than football – and it keeps blowing all the other sports away.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### The greatest fight held on that day

Will all the hand-wringing and wrangling lead to a Ringling Brothers-worthy spectacle? Can a “should have happened five years ago” championship fight between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao on May 2 really be considered “the fight of the century”? Will this fight settle, once and for all, if the undefeated Mayweather is “TBE” (the best ever)?

The answer to all of the above is “no.”

At face value, we are talking about two boxers who undeniably are past their primes. The day of the fight, Mayweather will be 38 and Pacquiao will be 36. There will be commentators for the fight younger than them. Both have lost a step. Pacquiao has lost two fights, once getting dumped like a sack of rice – a shot so

vicious that everyone, including this writer, had to worry about his health, and still do.

Also at face value? Ringside tickets at the MGM Grand will be available only to gamblers with a \$250,000 line of credit that they must put in play that weekend. Floor seats will go for around \$25,000, and the cheapest seat in the house may go for \$5,000 (but probably a lot higher).

In that regard, this fight will be the highest grossing fight of all-time, and Mayweather will set the record for being the highest-paid athlete who ever lived. But both records will most assuredly be broken in this century, and nobody will be surprised to learn one day that Mayweather lost it all.

Greatest fighter of all-time pound-for-pound? Mayweather? Sugar Ray Robinson is laughing somewhere.

What Mayweather is, is a supremely gifted defensive boxer. I attribute that to his excessive vanity. That’s not to say he’s not a hitter, however. He’ll hit anyone... you, me, the women he had children with. Doesn’t make him great. Not by a long shot.

In fact, Pacquiao’s incredible humility and Mayweather’s lack of it make this one of the easiest “good guy versus bad guy” fights since Popeye squared off against Bluto.

“Fight of the Century”? Fine, we can say that it is the fight of this century up to now, but it is nowhere even close to being one of the best fights of the modern era, at least in terms of pre-fight gravitas. Ali-Foreman’s “Rumble in the Jungle,” Joe Louis-Max Schmelling, Leonard-Hearns, Hagler-Hearns, Leonard-Duran, Holyfield-Tyson... and the greatest series of all, Ali-Frazier, trip willingly off the tongue whenever the matter is discussed.

The greatest fight of all-time? Don’t be such a sucker. With the exception of those two minutes in Kentucky earlier in the day, the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight simply will be the best show on Earth on May 2, 2015, and that will have to do.

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

UTEP

MEN'S BASKETBALL

TICKETS: 747-5234

THURSDAY

MARCH 5

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

VS NORTH TEXAS / 7 PM

SECURITY SERVICE

WING STOP

SATURDAY

MARCH 7

SENIOR NIGHT

VS RICE / 2 PM

EPOSG

El Paso Specialty Hospital

GECU

UTEP

UTEP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SUNDAY

MARCH 1

PACK THE HOUSE

VS SOUTHERN MISS / 2 PM

BETTER PIZZA

UTEP SOFTBALL

SATURDAY

MARCH 7

FREE GAME

VS MIDDLE TENNESSEE / 4 PM & 6 PM

SUNDAY

MARCH 8

FREE FOR ALL KIDS

VS MIDDLE TENNESSEE / 1 PM

If you're not covered, you'll be discovered.

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

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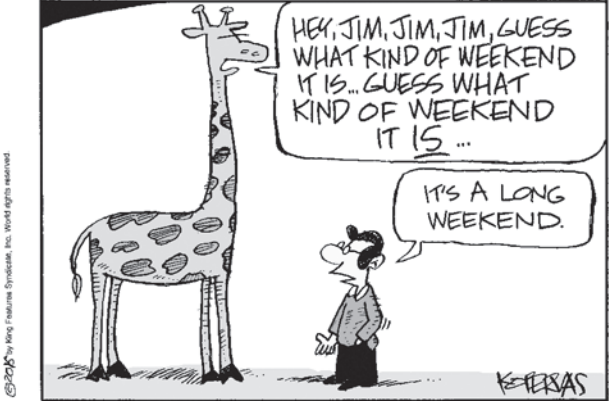
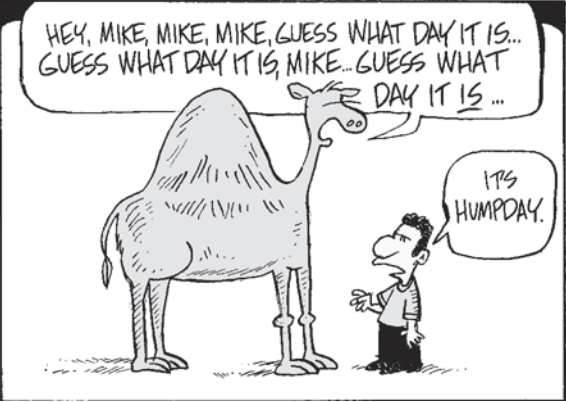
catches drivers without insurance.



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently purchased two new pairs of prescription eyeglasses that are in plastic frames. Forty-eight hours after I began wearing the first pair, the bridge of my nose became very red, and small, flat blisters appeared. The same behind both ears – anywhere the plastic touched my skin. I got this to heal with cortisone cream, and a week later I tried the other pair. This time, the reaction came within about 14 hours and involved swelling of my nose as well as the blistering and bright redness. What causes this – an allergy or some sort of chemical burn? The area itched yet felt like a burn and peeled after the cortisone treatment brought the blistering down. – N.W.

ringing in my head. – S.M.

This sounds like a case of contact dermatitis, probably related to the chemicals used in the manufacturing of the plastic. Some people are just sensitive to any of the many chemicals used; however, I am increasingly seeing bad reactions to manufactured goods, especially to those made overseas. Not every country has the same safeguards we have in place in North America.

Some of these chemicals are volatile and disappear after a short while. It's possible that washing the glasses in hot, soapy water could have been able to remove them. However, in your case, the reaction was so strong that I would avoid that brand in the future.

The snapping sound is likely made by one of the tendons in your neck moving over a bony prominence. If it isn't causing any pain, I don't think you need to do anything about it. I certainly would not recommend neck surgery. I reserve consideration of neck surgery for people with severe neurologic symptoms, such as pain and weakness, and those whose function is limited.

A warm pack on the back of the neck probably is as good a treatment as anything.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Does taking psyllium interfere with the body's absorption of prescription medications? If so, how long should one wait after taking psyllium before taking prescription medications? – M.H.S.

Psyllium, which is in Metamucil but also can be bought in bulk, is a soluble, non-absorbable fiber that carries water with it as it passes through the GI tract, relieving constipation. It is safe and effective for most people with mild constipation, but can cause some bloating sensation, especially if started at too-high doses. It should be taken with plenty of water.

Psyllium can prevent absorption of medications. It should be taken one hour before or at least two hours after other medications.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have arthritis in my neck. When I turn my head, I get a snapping sound in my head under the skull. What can be done for this, and is it dangerous to ignore and maybe just wear a collar? A doctor in Florida wanted to do surgery on my neck when I went for back surgery three years ago. I'm 76 years old. I have no pain or weakness, just a light

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). To view and order health pamphlets, visit [www.rbmamall.com](http://www.rbmamall.com), or write to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2015 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- A STEP BACKWARDS ACROSS**

1 Sol, la or ti

5 Low-pitched

9 Salt Lake City resident

14 Ahead by a single point

19 Otherworldly glow

20 Admit openly

21 Spanish appetizers

22 More sensible

23 Datum for a hard drive

26 Brand of fake fat

27 Geriatrics topic

28 Vegetable in Cajun cuisine

29 Beach birds

31 St. Patty's land

32 Gains' opposites

34 Australian avian

35 Defunct figure-skating show

37 Robin's place

39 Woven together

41 Take one's turn after all others

42 Actress married to Steven Spielberg

47 Develops an affinity for

48 Strong glue

49 MGM lion

50 Sling mud at

54 Mushy food

55 Itinerary info

56 Morgenstern of
- 1970s TV

57 Hoarse

62 Evoke

64 Camera-to-computer upload

66 Like some sci-fi aliens, location-wise

67 Caterer's receptacle

69 Got the gold

70 Fruity frozen dessert

71 Jackson or Lincoln, e.g.

74 Lay to final rest

75 Actress Daly and novelist O'Connell

76 Largest frat in the U.S.

77 Pooch name

79 Lowly worker

81 \_la (utopia)

83 College e-mail ender

84 Supreme Court's Sotomayor

85 With 33-Down, arm of the Indian Ocean

89 Voyager Golden Record, e.g.

92 Roving sorts

93 Is sickeningly sweet

96 Old fruity soda

97 Sailor's reply

99 In shape

101 Should it happen that

106 Skinny
- 107 Epsom \_

108 Redding with a Grammy

110 Flynn of early films

111 Classic tune

113 Snapshot go-withs

116 Edmund of "Miracle on 34th Street"

117 Apple messaging software

118 Like men

119 Ovid's 2,002

120 Swamp plant

121 Bête \_

122 Multitude

123 Word hidden backwards in this puzzle's eight longest answers
- DOWN**

1 Vocally twangy

2 Expenditure

3 Three, in Lille

4 Deserves

5 Bit of luggage

6 Chevrolet hatchback

7 Collection for a wrench

8 Hive cluster

9 Actress Hagen

10 Maneuver

11 Each

12 Strong dislike

13 "It's Gonna Be Me" band
- 14 Mil. hangout

15 Sierra Nevada brew

16 New York tribe members

17 Least distant

18 Cuba's Guevara

24 Part of CIA

25 Cook Deen

30 Continuing dramas

33 See 85-Across

36 Kitty

38 Snowball impact sound

40 Extend \_ welcome

42 Beer cask

43 Galore

44 Moniker for TV's Tim Taylor

45 Make amends for

46 Sod-busting tool

47 \_ll (Gillette razor)

51 Stole's kin

52 \_ stick (jumping toy)

53 Utopia

55 The "D" of CD

58 Fate who cut the thread of life

59 Secondary option list

60 Heat to 212 degrees in advance

61 As of now

63 Old Toyota

64 Prefix with 39-Across

65 "It will come \_ surprise..."
- 66 East, in Bonn

67 Go \_ smoke

68 Bond girl player Diana

72 Hot \_ oven

73 "'Tis \_ " ("So sad")

74 Draw out

77 Like women: Abbr.

78 Same

80 No, in Selkirk

82 Lock holders

84 Kind of piano

85 Comparable things

86 Sovereign's "I," often

87 Revised

88 Supporting

90 "C \_ Cookie"

91 Food tuna

93 Tricolor cat

94 Chinese fruit

95 Car security system

98 Easy putt

100 Gossip tidbits

102 Pinch into small folds

103 Good smell

104 Kind of boom

105 \_ the Cow (milk mascot)

109 Markdown

112 Shanghai-to-Tokyo dir.

114 Adaptable truck, briefly

115 Church perch

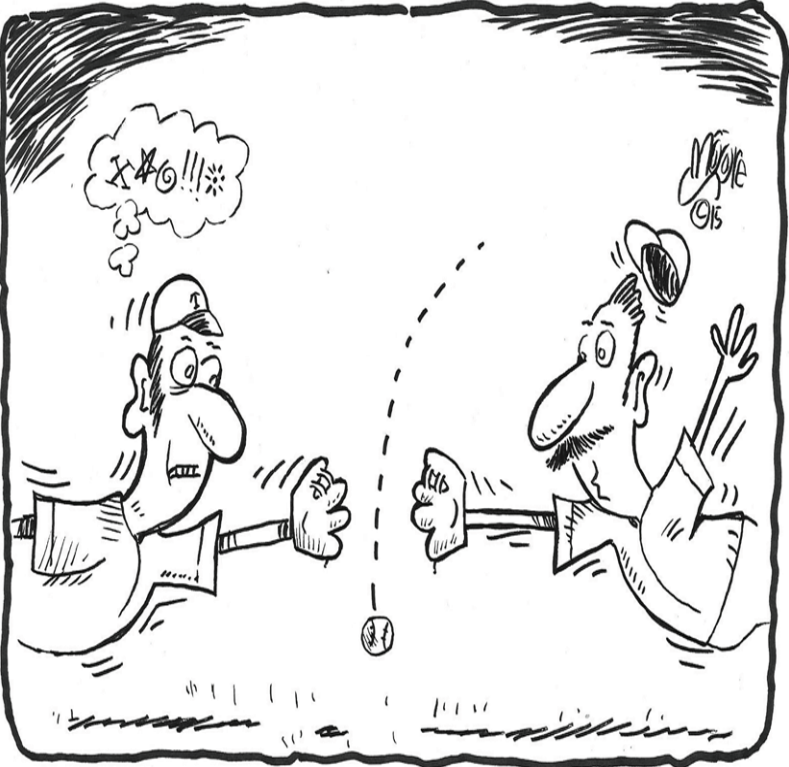
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19					20					21						22				
23				24					25							26				
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32						33		34			35					36				
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42	43	44	45					46						47						
48						49				50	51	52	53							
54					55					56						57	58	59	60	61
	62			63					64						65					
66							67	68			69				70					
71						72				73				74						
75						76						77	78			79				80
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85	86	87	88							89	90				91					
92							93	94	95				96							
97						98					99	100			101		102	103	104	105
106						107					108			109		110				
111					112		113				114				115					
116							117					118					119			
120							121					122					123			



MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Nobody knows for sure why a baseball looped between the infield and the outfield is called a TEXAS LEAGUER ???



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!

	×		+		19
+		÷		×	
	-		×		10
×		×		+	
	×		-		10
22		7		9	

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: Does where I live affect the amount of my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits?

A: It might. First, where you live might affect your benefit amount because some states add a supplement to the federal payment. If you live in your own place and pay your own food and shelter costs, regardless of whether you own or rent, you may get up to the maximum SSI amount payable in your state. You also can get up to the maximum if you live in someone else’s household, as long as you pay your food and shelter costs. If you live in someone else’s household and don’t pay your food and shelter costs or pay only part of them, your SSI benefit may be reduced by up to one-third of the SSI federal benefit rate. To learn more, read Supplemental Security Income (SSI) available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

Q: Is it true that Congress does not have to pay Social Security taxes?

A: No, that urban legend is

false. Members of Congress pay Social Security taxes and are covered by Social Security just like almost everyone else. Prior to 1983, members of Congress did not pay Social Security taxes – but that was because they, like most federal employees, paid into a separate retirement system. In 1983, all newly hired government employees began paying Social Security taxes. Social Security is not an optional system. Unless exempted by law, everyone working in the United States must pay Social Security taxes on earnings under covered employment. And most people who have retired, become disabled, or lost a supporting loved one are thankful to have that safety net. For many, it can mean the difference between poverty and a better life. Learn more about the benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://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.

Briefs

From Page 1

students from Myrtle Cooper, John Drugan, Vista Del Sol, Sierra Vista and Loma Verde.

- Horizon Heights will serve Pre-K students from Horizon Heights, Dr. Sue Shook and Mission Ridge.
- Hurshel Antwine will serve Pre-K students from Hurshel Antwine, Paso Del Norte, Roberto Ituarte, Purple Heart, and Lujan-Chavez.
- Chester Jordan will serve Pre-K students from Chester Jordan and James Butler.

Please contact your neighborhood school for any questions regarding pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration.

– Christina Flores-Jones

Phone scam

El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU) warns customers, both residential and commercial, of possible phone scams involving individuals posing as EPWU Customer Service representatives. Several customers have reported receiving a phone call from unknown numbers or a 1-888 number. These callers may use different techniques. Some request personal account information or demand payment for delinquent balances, others claim previous payments are illegible and need the information given over the phone. EPWU does not make collection calls to any customer. EPWU urges customers to stay vigilant with suspected scams. Customers can utilize the following tips:

- Be suspicious of callers asking for payment via phone by collecting as much information from the caller to thoroughly file a report;
- Do not offer confidential or personal information unless the customer initiated contact with EPWU; and
- If there is a question regarding the authenticity of the caller representing EPWU, report the issue at (915) 594-5500 and the El Paso Police Department (915) 832-4400.

EPWU provides various payment options that are safe and secure. For a full list, please visit [www.epwu.org](http://www.epwu.org).

– Javier Camacho

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: G equals T

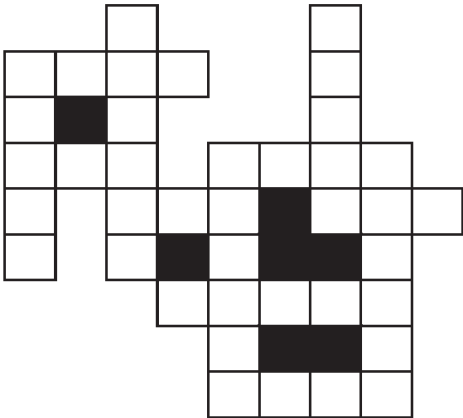
ZG GAV MUZDNZXYFH DTZFG,  
GCU CUOXVOM JZTMVTB  
ZSSEMVK UJ MUNVGAYFH  
MAUEGVK “TBVM! ZTT TBVM!”

Answer Page 4

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MLA  
♥GATLEE  
UNECO  
CTTA  
♥DENCLA  
♥ODN  
♥ELDI  
ENLOV  
♥NTA  
TOPRIM  
ATLUV  
ALVO



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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