



NEWSBRIEFS

San Eli ISD

All San Elizario Independent School District schools will be releasing students early on Thursday, April 2 and there will be no classes or services on Friday, April 3. The District administrative offices will close by 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

Services

The sixth annual non-denominational Clint "Sonrise Service" will be held Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015, in the stadium of Clint Jr. High School at 6:00 a.m. All area residents are invited to attend. A continental breakfast will be served afterwards at the Clint Community Center. Both events are free. Call 851-3145 for further information.

— Erma Nelson

A matter of trust

A massive study at Northwestern University that involved nearly 200,000 participants and that took place over more than 25 years showed that as you grow older you tend to become more trusting, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. Backing up that investigation was a second research project that took place at the State University of New York at Buffalo. "A growing body of research shows that some things actually get better as we age. Our new findings show that trust increases as people get older and, moreover, that people who trust more are also more likely to experience increases in happiness over time," said Northwestern researcher Claudia Haase. The findings in these two reports may be comforting, but it doesn't mean that the elderly can "drop their guard" with strangers—especially the scammers who prey on older Americans, warns AMAC.

— John Grimaldi

Horizon cleanup

The Town of Horizon City will again participate in the "Don't Mess With Texas" and "Keep America Beautiful" campaigns. The "Clean-Up" will be held Saturday, April 25, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. This is an opportunity for residents, businesses and civic groups to take pride in their city by volunteering. A "Volunteer Appreciation Party" for

See BRIEFS, Page 3

While living in a democracy, you can say what you think without thinking.

— Quips & Quotes

Annual Poppies Fest set for Saturday

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Ninth Annual Poppies Fest in Northeast El Paso will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 4, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology (4301 Transmountain Road).

"If you love spring time in the Franklin Mountains and enjoy gathering with others who appreciate the wonders of the natural world, then the Poppies Fest is for you," stated event coordinator Debbie Culty. "This year's free community event celebrating El Paso's annual bloom of Mexican poppies promises to be one of the best in years," Culty stated.

The free fest will include a child activity center supported by the Girl Scouts, a live wolf from the Wolf Sanctuary near Albuquerque NM, and a raptor (Eagle or Hawk) from the El Paso Zoo. Also, local artists will offer a variety of unique paintings and crafts, and food vendors will sell a variety of food and beverages.

See POPPIES, Page 3



— Photo courtesy of the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition

BLOOMERS – Thousands of people are expected to come and see the beautiful poppies and learn about the Castner Range and its significance to the region during the Ninth Annual Poppies Fest, which will be held Saturday, April 4, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology (located on Transmountain Road).



— Photo courtesy of San Elizario ISD

PUTTING ON A SHOW – The San Elizario High School cast and crew took first place in the Conference 4A District 3 One-Act Play competition with their production of *Anna in the Tropics*. They will compete for the bi-district championship in Seminole, TX on April 9.

San Elizario play is a hit

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The cast and crew of the San Elizario High School One Act Play magically transport audiences in their production of *Anna in the Tropics* with a minimal set design but maximum artistry. On March 26, these talented theater arts students and their teacher Christopher

they will compete for the bi-district championship.

Fernandez secured the district title, award for best sound, and advanced in competition in the Conference 4A District 3 One-Act Play contest held at Canutillo High School.

"We're excited," Fernandez exclaimed about his young thespians' winning performance that earned them a spot in the next level of competition. San Elizario High School will next travel to Seminole, TX on April 9 where

Anna in the Tropics is a 2003 Pulitzer Prize Winning Drama written by Nilo Cruz. It is set in a cigar factory in Florida during the 1920s and follows the lives of several Cuban-American characters that work there. For the chance to see the San Elizario High School Theater Department's interpretation of this period drama, the troupe will be performing a final community show before competition on April 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the campus auditorium.

Finances By Jason Alderman

Crowdfunding and taxes: What you should know

Crowdfunding – the online method of raising money from people around the world – is less than a decade old, allowing artists, activists and a growing number of entrepreneurs to connect with financial support far outside the conventional lending system.

Here's how crowdfunding works. Through sites like Kickstarter, Indiegogo or RocketHub, campaigners seeking funding create a pitch that educates potential funders – or “backers,” as they're often called – on their project. Campaigns share their funding goal and the various rewards backers will receive for taking part; backers respond with pledges made via credit card. If the campaign meets its goal and deadline, the crowdfunding site activates all the card-based pledges and the campaign is funded.

While estimates vary widely, research organization Massolution (<http://www.crowdsourcing.org/editorial/2013cf-the-crowdfunding-industry-report/25107>) put 2013 crowdfunding revenue at \$5.1 billion globally. Many crowdfunding efforts today are artistic or cause-based, but that is expected to change in the near future.

Implementing the crowdfunding provisions of the 2012's Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act, (<https://www.sec.gov/spotlight/jobs-act.shtml>) the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is putting final touches on regulations allowing ordinary investors to participate in equity crowdfunding for the first time. This would mean that business owners could raise money via the web in exchange for a piece

of ownership in their company. Because the process of crowdfunding is relatively easy compared to other means of obtaining capital, some might neglect to research potentially unfavorable tax, financial or legal implications from their campaign. Potential crowdfunding campaigners might want to make a preliminary call to a qualified tax adviser, financial planner or an attorney before launching any online fundraising effort. Individuals, companies and nonprofits have different tax issues and financial precedents that could blunt the effectiveness of any fundraising campaign.

Depending on the fundraising goal and how that money will be handled in the aftermath of the campaign, experts say some situations may call for a particular legal entity to be formed in advance. If appropriate, participants could seek guidance to form an actual business (<https://www.sba.gov/writing-business-plan>) or nonprofit (<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/business-planning-nonprofits>) entity. Discussing structural issues in advance will not only help with tax issues, but also lead to better strategies for fundraising and long-term mission.

Beneficiaries should also consider any potential tax issues they could face as recipients of money from

crowdfunding campaign. Depending on individual circumstances, crowdfunding a person's unpaid medical bills may have significantly different tax ramifications than crowdfunding one's independent film project. It is not enough to consider the tax issues for the campaign and campaigners. Beneficiaries require their own due diligence to make sure crowdfunding provides the most efficient solution for their needs.

Finally, backers should consider whether they have any tax questions about their support. To date, most crowdfunding supporters give such small amounts tax issues don't really surface. That may change in the future as crowdfunding moves into the commercial arena. No matter what the circumstance, any potential crowdfunding backer who works with a qualified tax, financial or legal professional should consider asking if there are more efficient ways to offer support.

Bottom line: If you are interested in crowdfunding either as a campaigner, a beneficiary or a backer, research a potential project thoroughly and consider getting individualized tax, financial or legal advice before you proceed.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

VA: Net worth won't affect health care

The Department of Veterans Affairs will no longer use net worth as a factor to determine if a veteran is eligible for health care. Previously, veterans who were ill with conditions that were not service-related could get care at VA hospitals if their income and net worth met certain thresholds and they made co-payments.

Here's how it works now: The VA calculates the gross income of the household, and then subtracts deductible expenses for the prior year. The result of doing away with assets means that low-income veterans will have fewer out-of-pocket costs for health care, with co-pays ranging from \$15 to \$50, opening the door to approximately 190,000 more lower-income veterans over the next five years.

In 2014, the VA dropped the requirement that these veterans file updated financial information annually. Instead, the department now gets the income figures directly from the Internal Revenue Service

and Social Security.

If you're not enrolled in VA health care and want to be, go online to the benefits explorer at hbexplorer.vacloud.us and answer the questions, which include whether you participated in Project 112/SHAD (Shipboard Hazard and Defense), periods of service, whether you're a Purple Heart or MOH recipient and many more. The last page concerns your ZIP code, dependents, income and certain deductible expenses. It will help determine what benefits you could have if you enroll.

Veterans who live in high-cost areas might be able to get reduced co-pay rates for inpatient care. Call the VA at 877-222-VETS (8387) to find out. There are some services that are exempt from co-pays, such as care and counseling for military sexual trauma, readjustment counseling, smoking and weight loss services and publicly announced services like health fairs.

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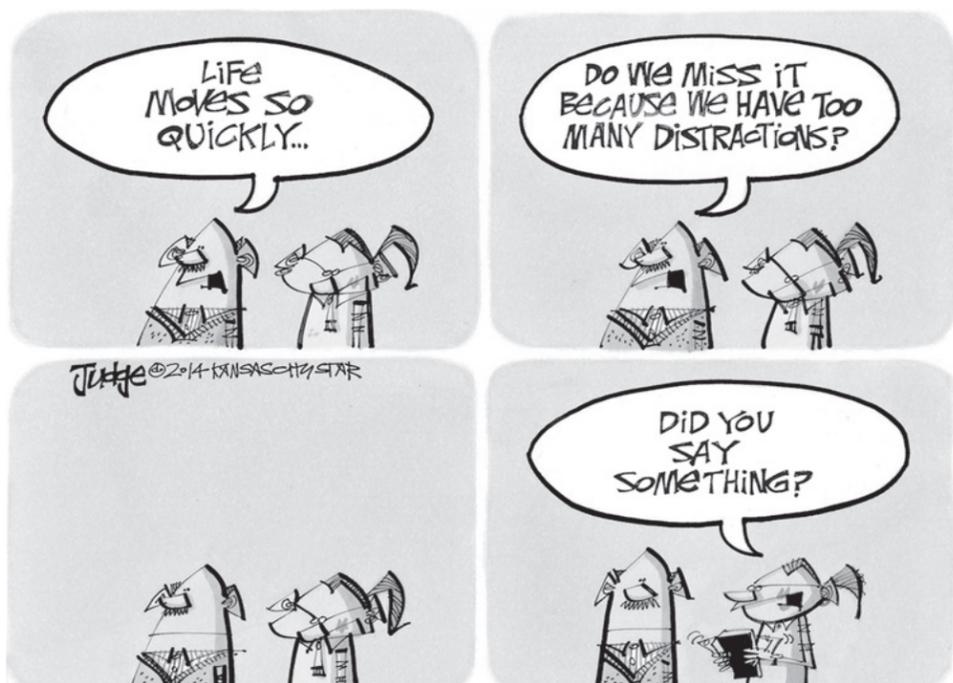
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Poppies

From Page 1

Live entertainment will be provided by the El Paso Youth Symphony and the Electric Rock Orchestra (Band for Peace Tour), and the dance group, Danza La Palma. In addition, free tours of the area will be scheduled at various times throughout the day.

“The Farmer’s Almanac predicted above normal rainfall this past winter which has been the case in El Paso and is great news for desert flowers,” said Cuiilty. The annual fest was initiated by the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition (FMWC) and the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition in 2007.

“Since the poppies only grow on the east side of the mountain, the Poppies Fest is held at the Museum of Archaeology, where they are more available for the public to see,” Cuiilty related. “The event also allows people to see other beautiful plants and wildlife living in our area, and

exhibitors will be available to help visitors discover the natural wonders surrounding the mountains,” she added.

While at the fest, visitors are encouraged to visit the archaeology museum’s diverse displays, which feature 14,000 years of prehistory of the El Paso area, the greater Southwest, and northern Mexico. The displays consist of dioramas and exhibits

of American Indian lifestyles and culture—a prehistoric period that spans from the Paleoindian hunters of the Ice Age to their modern Indian descendants. To enhance the museum’s experience, a video detailing the historical account of the region, titled *Frontera*, will be played in the museum auditorium, beginning at 11 a.m.

Parking for the Poppies Fest will be at the El Paso Community College (EPCC) Transmountain Campus, off of the Patriot Highway. Free shuttle buses will be running from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. No parking will be

allowed at the museum.

For more information, contact the event coordinator, at (915) 490-4697 or visit FMWC’s website at <http://www.franklinmountains.org>.

2015 Poppies Fest schedule:

- 11 a.m.: Frontera Video, inside the museum
- 12:30 p.m.: El Paso Zoo Raptor Presentation
- 2 p.m.: El Paso Youth Symphony Orchestra
- 3 p.m.: Danza La Palma

Fest Sponsors and partners:

- Apache Barricade & Signs
- City of El Paso (MCAD) Museums & Cultural Affairs Department
- El Paso Community College
- El Paso Electric Company
- El Paso Museum of Archaeology
- El Paso Times
- El Paso Zoo
- Franklin Mountain Wilderness Coalition
- Northeast Rotary
- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- West Valley Fire Department
- The Wolf Lady

Briefs

From Page 1

everyone that helped with the clean-up effort will be held at the Oz Glaze Senior Center from noon to 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in participating in this program can contact Elvia Schuller (eschuller@horizoncity.org) or Anita Oswalt (aoswalt@horizoncity.org) at the Town of Horizon City – (915) 852-1046 – for registration and donation information.

– Anita Oswalt

Leadership lecture

U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke (D-16th District) will speak at Americas High School (12101 Pellicano Dr.) as part of the “Inspiring Tomorrow’s Leaders” lecture series sponsored by Americas High School’s Libertas Academy. O’Rourke’s lecture will be held on April 27 at 8:45 a.m. The lectures are aimed at exposing the students to individuals who serve their communities through the fields of law, government, and public administration. The series exposes students to various leadership styles so that they may begin to form a higher sense of purpose, character, ethics, integrity, honesty, and, most importantly, love for community, said Eduardo Hinojos, a Libertas Academy teacher. Libertas Academy is designed to prepare students seeking post-secondary opportunities leading to career and college-readiness in all aspects of the judicial system, government and public administration.

– Christina Flores-Jones

Curious cats

Some time ago the residents of the tiny island of Aoshima off the Japanese coast

imported cats to help rid themselves of pesky mice that had overrun their community. It worked. The mice are gone, but now they have an even bigger problem, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. The cats reproduced at an alarming rate and are now out of control. In fact, things have gotten so far out of hand that day-tripping tourists from the mainland just a half-hour boat ride away are compounding the problem, further disturbing the tranquility of the 20 or so permanent inhabitants of the small fishing village. The sightseers come to watch the feral felines as they prowl for food and disrupt the daily doings of the old folks who live there.

– John Grimaldi

Yáñez honored

Mary Yáñez, El Paso Community College Senior Adult Program director, will be honored with the “Lucy G. Acosta Humanitarian Award” during Project Amistad’s 2015 awards banquet scheduled for May 1 at the Marriott Hotel. “Our honorees this year are among the most accomplished and selfless persons in our community,” said Project Amistad Board Chairman, Larry Trejo. “We’re more than grateful for the opportunity to honor them in the spirit of our agency’s mentor and co-founder, the late Lucy G. Acosta.” Under the direction of Ms. Yáñez, the Senior Adult Program has been providing a variety of free classes to persons 55 years of age and over. With senior citizens in mind, she organizes many yearly events to encourage older citizens to stay active and keep learning. Ms. Yáñez, host of the Mature Living TV Show, also puts together the “Homenaje a la Mujer Hispana Awards” to recognize community unsung heroines.

– Javier Sánchez

Anthony Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

Anthony Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2013-2014 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) report as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at the Anthony ISD Board Room, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, TX.

The public is invited to attend. The TAPR report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Anthony ISD campuses, central office, and the district website.

For more information, call 886-6506.

Junta Publica

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el "Reporte de Rendimiento Académica de Texas" (TAPR) del año escolar 2013-2014. El reporte será parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para de 2015 el miércoles 15 de abril a las 6:30 p.m. en la sala de juntas de la Mesa Directiva en la calle Sixth Street, #813, Anthony, TX.

Todos los individuos interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte TAPR estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas, e internet del distrito.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 886-6506.

WTCC: 04-02-15

Registration open for 2015 Great American Cleanup and Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off

By Melissa Pecorino
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup (GAC) is the nation's largest community improvement program, takes place annually from March 1 through May 31. Activities can include beautifying parks and recreation areas, cleaning waterways, handling recycling collections, picking up litter, removing graffiti, planting trees and conducting educational

programs and litter-free events – anything that keeps your community beautiful.

The Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off (DMWTO) serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup. The 2015 Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off is scheduled for Saturday, April 11. The Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off is a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Any Texan can participate. Online registration is now

available at www.ktb.org for local organizations to schedule events in their communities and gain access to valuable resources to plan, promote and host an event. Participants are encouraged to register their GAC and DMWTO events with Keep Texas Beautiful in order to receive trash bags, volunteer giveaways, promotional items, and more, to assist in facilitating their cleanup event. Participants may also elect to post their event information on the Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) event calendar. KTB will be leading individuals and community groups looking to volunteer to the KTB website to find an opportunity in their area.

In 2014, 3,700 Great American Cleanup events were held in Texas, with 114,344 volunteers contributing 537,417 hours. 20 million pounds of waste and recyclables was collected in all.

Also in 2013, 2,735 Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off events were held across the state, featuring more than 100,000 volunteers. All told, 8,839 miles of highway were cleared of litter and debris, totaling 6.7 million pounds of trash.

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CryptoQuip Answer

Would a famous Dr. Seuss character who is found to be a total fraud be named Sham-I-Am?

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3	x	8	-	7	17
x		x		-	
7	x	2	+	6	20
21		24		29	

Keep Texas Beautiful recognizes Vinton community efforts

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

The Vinton community in El Paso County's upper valley came away a big winner in this year's Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) awards program, as KTB officials recently announced the recipients of the 2015 KTB Awards.

ArcelorMittal Vinton was recognized as the Ebby Halliday and Maurice Acers Business/Industry First Place award winner for its sound environmental principles that support the KTB mission.

ArcelorMittal Vinton is a

mini-mill operation located near the Rio Grande River. The plant specializes in production of rebar for the commercial and industrial construction industry, grinding balls for the mining industry, and smooth rounds. The facility was built in 1962 by Border Steel Rolling Mill Company and was acquired by ArcelorMittal in 2007. The new owner has been involved in a variety of community service activities since its arrival.

"The Village of Vinton Public Works Department was awarded first place in the government participation category, which recognizes

outstanding contributions to the Texas environment made by government departments, divisions or agencies," stated Marina Ramirez, media specialist for the Village of Vinton.

Also, the KTB affiliate – Keep Vinton Beautiful – placed second in city populations of up to 3,000 in the Governor's Community Achievement Award, an honor that recognizes communities with the best grassroots environmental programs in the state.

KTB officials stated that the awards program is designed to acknowledge deserving individuals, businesses, community groups, civic

organizations, media, government entities and law enforcement departments for their commitment to an array of environmental issues, including litter prevention and community beautification, volunteerism, illegal dumping enforcement and education.

According to its website (www.ktb.org), KTB and its KTB award winners will be recognized at the 48th Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference, scheduled for June 17, in Fort Worth.

opportunity to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. The statewide grassroots, environmental and community improvement nonprofit organization strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment.

KTB award winners will be recognized at the 48th Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference, scheduled for June 17, in Fort Worth.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Senator Eugene McCarthy who made the following sage observation: "Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game, and dumb enough to think it's important."
- In 1916, the town of Erwin, Tennessee, used a train's derrick car to hang an elephant for the crime of murder.
- Your hands and feet have more sweat glands than any other part of your body.
- You might be surprised to learn that Zachary Taylor, the

12th president of the United States, didn't vote in a single presidential election until his own name was on the ballot.

- If you leave a faucet running for a single minute, approximately 3 to 5 gallons of water will be washed down the drain.
- It was the spring of 1936, and John Steinbeck was working on his novel "Of Mice and Men." He was also working on training his new puppy, Toby. The training evidently wasn't going well; one day, Toby chewed up half of Steinbeck's handwritten manuscript – the only copy. The author took the setback pretty well, it seems: A few days after the incident, he wrote to a friend, "I was pretty mad but the poor little fellow may have been acting critically.

I didn't want to ruin a good dog on a [manuscript] I'm not sure is good at all. He only got an ordinary spanking with his punishment flyswatter."

- It's been reported that Elvis Presley knew by heart every word spoken in the film "Patton."
- If you're like 7 percent of American workers, you had a job at McDonald's at some point in your life.
- According to ancient Chinese medical practice, doctors only got paid once their patients became healthy again.

Thought for the Day: "Hell is a half-filled auditorium."
– Robert Frost

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Clint Independent School District Public Notice

Destruction of Special Education Records

Attention Parents/Guardians, Former Students, Eligible (Adult) Students: Special Education records collected by the Clint Independent School District (CISD) related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of Special Education services must be maintained under state and federal laws for a period of five years after Special Education services have ended for the student. Special Education services end when the student no longer is eligible for services, graduates, completes his or her educational program at age 22, or moves from the district. Clint ISD intends to destroy Special Education records of those students that ceased receiving services during the school years 2002-2003 to 2008-2009.

Parents or adult students need to recognize that these records may be needed by the student or the parent for Social Security benefits or other post-school benefits. Records scheduled for destruction may be requested no later than the end of the work day on May 31, 2015 by calling the CISD Special Education Office at 915-851-8383.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint Notificación Pública

Dstrucción de los Expedientes Académicos de Educación Especial

Atención Padres/Tutores, Ex-estudiante, Estudiantes (Adultos) Elegibles: Expedientes académicos de educación especial que han sido recogidos por el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint (CISD) relacionado con la identificación, evaluación, colocación educativa, o la provisión de educación especial en el distrito, deben mantenerse bajo leyes estatales y federales por un periodo de cinco años después de que los servicios de educación especial se han terminado para el estudiante. Servicios de educación especial terminan cuando el estudiante ya no es elegible para los servicios, gradúa, completa su programa educacional a los 22 años, o se mueve del distrito. El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tiene intención de mandar los expedientes programados para destrucción de el año(s) escolar 2002-2003 a 2008-2009.

Los padres o estudiantes adultos deben reconocer qué estos registros pueden ser necesarios por el estudiante o el padre para los beneficios de Seguro Social u otros beneficios post-escolares. Los expedientes programados para destrucción se pueden solicitar a más tardar al final del día de trabajo el 31 de mayo de 2015 llamando a la oficina de educación especial de CISD al (915) 851-8383.

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Don't let the facts get in the way of a good story

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

If there is anything the American media is guilty of, is its never-ending quest for hyperbole.

The Candy Man could take a sunrise and sprinkle it with dew; the American media can take any story and fill it to the brim with exaggeration.

And this highly questionable practice was put on display for all to see immediately after NFL linebacker Chris Borland announced his retirement.

Borland, formerly of the San Francisco 49ers, who had suffered concussions as far back as his high school playing days, said he was afraid that his future health could be severely affected if he continued playing.

Now NFL dudes retire all the time, but the fact that Borland was just 24 made this an unusual story.

The fact that Borland decided to stop playing football and focus on other things is wonderful. A person should be able to do whatever they want to do.

But the way this decision was reported in the media, you would think that hordes of brain-injury zombies were breaking

down NFL locker room doors trying feverishly to get to anyone foolish enough to play this blood sport.

One TV personality said of Borland's decision, "[it] shocked the football world!"

Really? First of all I wasn't aware there was a football world. And second, let's be honest, using the word "shocked" is reserved for players like Peyton Manning, Tom Brady and J.J. Watt.

Nobody had ever heard of Chris Borland before his announcement. Of course nobody will admit that.

Once the story was reported, scores of mental illness professionals and brain injury specialists were hurried onto TV sets and radio booths to share their apocalyptic expertise on the subject.

Many in the sports reporting community boldly announced that Borland's decision would open the floodgates to scores of others ditching an NFL career for safer pastures.

Many openly asked whether moms across the country would now forbid their young boys from playing the sport.

There was one study that was reported on The Today Show, Good Morning America, CNN and Time magazine, stating that NFL players are four times

more likely to suffer from a debilitating brain disorder, like ALS or dementia, later on in life.

And according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, that is true.

Of course what they didn't tell you was that the chances for an NFL player are 0.17 percent. The chances for an average individual is 0.04 percent.

It's true, if you do the math, NFL players are four times more likely, but the numbers are minuscule. But we don't care about the facts.

The media in this country, as we all know by now, has gone from reporting the news to trying to shape it.

We saw it in the Ray Rice video. The NFL running back is seen punching his girlfriend in an elevator.

So naturally, it was reported that NFL commissioner Roger Goodell must have known about the video and did everything he could to cover it up.

Of course it didn't matter that there was absolutely no evidence to support that fact, but since when to reporters and commentators need evidence or facts to back up what they say?

Then there was the whole gay athlete thing with the NFL's Michael Sam and

the NBA's Jason Collins.

Both were cut from the teams they were trying to join. And naturally, the media reported that the only reason for this was that they were gay.

The truth is, and any sports follower could tell you this, like hundreds of other guys – these two simply weren't good enough to make a professional roster.

Let's face it, professional sports teams have proven over and over again that they don't care if a guy has been in trouble with drugs, guns, assault, theft, child abuse or even murder; if he can play exceptionally well, everyone will look the other way.

If Michael Jordan or Peyton Manning or Adrian Peterson or Clayton Kershaw were gay, they'd still be playing pro sports.

Pro sports organizations don't care about rainbows, they care about green.

Unfortunately, the only thing media outlets also care about is the green.

And that means more overhyped, sensationalized and exaggerated reporting.

Maybe that's why polls show journalists are now lumped into the same sleazy category as lawyers, judges and politicians.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The ballad of Buckethead Craig

If Rodney Craig did any one thing poorer than most people, it was walking away.

But Craig certainly could hit, and boy could he run. The wiry

6-foot-1, 195-pound switch hitter, that was described as "having a gift for larceny" on the base paths, was the Seattle Mariners' first real prospect to

make it to the major leagues, which he finally did in 1979.

His teammates called him "Buckethead," probably for two reasons: his oversized Afro that

required an oversized helmet to cover, and his correspondingly gigantic sense of ego and self-pride. And while he played well enough in the minors, he became an easy mark for the other players who knew how to toy with his delicate emotions. His other nickname was "Fish," because he never knew when to walk away from the table.

He had a history of walking away from the team, however. He had quit his high-school teams, his Mexican-league and Class A teams. At AAA Spokane he was hitting a steady .318, but he was

emotionally erratic, quitting the team after a failed steal attempt of home. He was fined \$750. He came back, but walked off two weeks later. For that, he was demoted to Class A San Jose. It was there that he said he lost his ego and concentrated on the game.

That September he made his rookie debut, the first Mariners prospect to make it to the show, and he played lights out. He hit safely, often multiple times, in 13 out of 16 games, picking up

See CRAIG, Page 8

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: One encounters many forms of "hand sanitizer" products these days: in medical waiting rooms, restrooms, public places and in our kitchen. These are waterless, very quick drying products; we even have them in our automobile. When one has many daily occasions to clean the hands, is it better (for your skin) to use soap and water, or the modern hand-sanitizer products? – N.M.G.

with psoriasis will ever develop psoriatic arthritis, but you have to have psoriasis to get psoriatic arthritis. Sometimes, the arthritis shows up before the skin lesions, making the diagnosis difficult.

Unfortunately, damage to the joints can happen early in the course of psoriatic arthritis, but only an X-ray can show the extent of damage. Your daughter may need aggressive treatment. A rheumatologist experienced in psoriatic arthritis is essential.

The jury is out on which is more effective, if you compare good technique with one against the other. Both are effective at reducing bacteria on the hands. However, alcohol-based sanitizers are easy to use, portable, fast and are less irritable to the hands than repeated washings. There is better compliance with them, and so they are more effective in the real world.

Sanitizers are not effective against all germs. They do not kill the spores of Clostridium difficile, a cause of severe diarrhea. However, soap and water wash the spores off and are effective where sanitizers are not, so soap and water should be used in cases of known or suspected C. diff diarrhea. Sanitizers also are not effective against norovirus, another infectious diarrhea. They also can't remove grease.

DEAR DR. ROACH: During a checkup with my internist, I was told that I have a rather large lipoma on my back. I was told that it is totally harmless and can be removed if it bothers me. Now I realize that I am somewhat concerned about it, as I had ovarian cancer two years ago. Can I really be sure it is benign without a biopsy? I don't want to find out in a few years that it is cancerous. – S.R.

A lipoma is a very common fatty tumor. They almost always are benign. If there is a suspicion of malignancy (called liposarcoma), an MRI scan can be done or a biopsy obtained. Surgery is seldom required, except for cosmetic reasons.

I don't believe that you are at higher risk for this being the rare cancerous type simply because of your history. I would just recommend dutiful follow-up. I have sometimes carefully measured these to see if they grow over time.

DEAR DR. ROACH: After two years of seeing several doctors and being misdiagnosed and treated with wrong medications, my 27-year-old daughter has been diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis. Her joint pain has been constant during this time. What kind of long-term damage has been done during this time? – A.F.

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.

Psoriasis is a common inflammatory skin condition, with well-known plaques – raised red patches with silvery scales or flaked skin – most commonly seen over the elbows, knees or on the back. Only a minority of people

Super Crossword

THE THIN, THE FLAT, AND THE ROUND

- ACROSS**
- 1 Reddish-brown pigment
 - 7 Nitpicky know-it-all
 - 13 Fleet leader
 - 20 Instead (of)
 - 21 Win over
 - 22 Bishop's district
 - 23 User's storage component
 - 25 Gives approval
 - 26 Rock's Brian
 - 27 "My true love _ see" ("Oh! Susanna" lyric)
 - 28 Without, to Jean-Luc
 - 30 Shrubby expanses
 - 31 Disorder
 - 33 NBAer _ Gasol
 - 34 Occasion to say "King me"
 - 36 Pasty luau food
 - 38 Baseball card stat
 - 40 _ flight (go by jet)
 - 41 Zing
 - 42 Ship-deck diversion
 - 48 Sauce giant
 - 50 Brew source
 - 51 Hotsy- _
 - 52 Crown
 - 54 Diver's gear
 - 59 "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" heroine
 - Salander
 - 61 Prefix with dose
- DOWN**
- 114 He defeated Romney
 - 116 Put_ (deceptions)
 - 117 Like space debris
 - 119 Commonality of seven answers in this puzzle
 - 122 Turn loose
 - 123 Gathering, as bees
 - 124 Lie sheltered
 - 125 Fair_ (blond)
 - 126 Dictation-taking pros
 - 127 Mad Hatter's party pieces
 - 1 Less lenient
 - 64 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" dramatist
 - 65 Participant in the sport
 - 68 Yellow transport
 - 69 Draw _ on (take careful aim at)
 - 71 _ Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group)
 - 72 Hanoi's home, briefly
 - 73 It enables a motorist to stop
 - 76 Bog bird
 - 78 Naive
 - 79 Brazilian soccer star
 - 80 Tending to wear away
 - 82 "Hmm, let _ ..."
 - 83 Former NBA star
 - 84 Spiro who served with Nixon
 - 86 False tale
 - 87 K-P hookup
 - 91 45's place
 - 94 "Mickey" singer
 - 98 Gives help
 - 100 In the style of
 - 101 "Try _ might..."
 - 102 It includes the sacrum
 - 106 Nellie of social reform
 - 108 Film-rating org.
 - 112 Paris' mother
 - 113 Author Jaffe

- 18 Allergic affliction
- 19 Decrease
- 24 Special span
- 29 Hershey candy
- 32 Tanning lotion stat
- 34 Spy org.
- 35 Cleanup org.
- 37 Quite a lot
- 39 Tarzan's son
- 42 French battle site of '44
- 43 Clairol's area
- 44 Newly rich people
- 45 Ordinal suffix
- 46 GPS options: Abbr.
- 47 Wound from a mutt
- 49 With 65-Down, charge to log on
- 53 Bel _ cheese
- 55 Witches
- 56 In a careless manner
- 57 Animated film featuring Seinfeld's voice
- 58 JFK landing: Abbr.
- 60 Fumble
- 61 Around June or July
- 62 Sault _ Marie
- 63 Your, once
- 65 See 17- or 49-Down
- 66 Grating
- 67 Elegant tree
- 69 Smallish batteries
- 70 Bibliophile's love: Abbr.
- 73 It takes vids
- 74 Film holder
- 75 Wild plum
- 76 Wolf cries
- 77 _-do-well
- 80 Goal
- 81 Lender's expectation
- 84 Co. that owns Moviefone
- 85 Potpourris
- 88 Discomfort
- 89 Cage of film, informally
- 90 Smell
- 92 Fire
- 93 Goal
- 94 Simple top
- 95 First act
- 96 Kidman of Hollywood
- 97 Accustoms
- 99 Sluggish tree-dwellers
- 103 PLO head
- 104 Missed, as a bull's-eye
- 105 Writer Binchy
- 107 Loo, briefly
- 109 Mile markers
- 110 Body part below a shin
- 111 Useful thing
- 114 "This is bad!"
- 115 "Zip- _ Doo-Dah"
- 118 Knight of TV
- 120 Yang go-with
- 121 "That _ lie!"

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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

March 30, 1870: Texas is readmitted to the United States.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I plan to retire in spring of 2015. How soon can I file for my Social Security benefits?

A: You can file four months before you plan to receive benefits. Go ahead and apply now if you plan to retire when winter's frost finally lets up. To apply, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire. Applying online has never been easier – you can do it from the comfort of your home. All you need is 15 minutes and Internet access.
Q: I applied for Medicare benefits last week. How can I check the status of my application?

A: Checking the status of your application is easy. If you applied for benefits, you can check the status at our secure website, secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/IAPS/applicationStatus, but you must wait 5 days from the date you originally filed. You will need to enter your Social Security number and the confirmation number you received when you filed your application. Your application

status also shows the date that we received your application, any requests for additional documents, the address of the office processing your application, and whether a decision has been made about your benefits. If you are unable to check your status online, you can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Q: I'd like to change the healthcare coverage that I signed up for through Healthcare.gov. How can I do that?

A: The open enrollment period for Affordable Healthcare coverage takes place from November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015. During this four-month period, you can enroll in a new plan or change current plans using the Affordable Care Act's Marketplace. To continue health coverage in 2015, simply renew the current health plan, or choose a new plan through the Marketplace between now and February 15, 2015. Once the

open enrollment deadline passes, the only way to get coverage for 2015 is to qualify for a "Special Enrollment Period" due to a qualifying life event as specified by Healthcare.gov. You have four months to decide what type of coverage you want, but the sooner you act, the sooner you will enjoy the security of affordable healthcare. Find out more about Healthcare.gov's open enrollment period at www.healthcare.gov.

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.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	-		x		25
÷		+		x	
	x		-		17
x		x		-	
	x		+		20
21		24		29	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

See Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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: H equals E

TRGPU Z NZQRGV UJ. VBGVV
LDZJZLSBJ TDR OV NRGEU SR
WB Z SRSZP NJZGU WB EZQBU

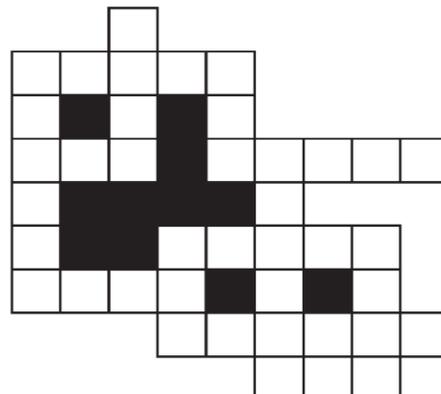
VDZQ-O-ZQ?

See Answer Page 4

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- SNE
- LEWPIM
- ♥COTIP
- ♥NAWD
- ♥NAPROT
- EWP
- LIET
- ♥NIWSE
- DRI
- MECION
- ♥EDTAR
- CEIN



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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Craig

From Page 6

20 hits in 52 at bats, striking out only five times. The next season he would be named the Mariners' opening-day centerfielder.

The record shows that Craig never really got his mind right. His baseball card shows a ballplayer that could barely open his bloodshot eyes in 1981. His eye at the plate had steadily worsened, too. For the rest of his career he garnered little playing time and hit in the .230 range. By 1986 he was out of the Majors, by 1990 he was out of the minors, and soon after, he was out on the streets.

While he certainly was due the minimum MLB pension benefit of \$34,000 annually, how he spent that money was unclear. His thinking may not have been clear the night of Aug. 13, 2013, when he chose the wrong spot to spend the night in Los Angeles.

According to police, Craig was stabbed after being told by a group of transients to leave. Craig tried to kick a dog as he left. He missed, but the dog's owner did not, fatally stabbing him. The killer was convicted a few weeks ago and will spend 16 years in jail.

Friends and neighbors of Craig's will spend the rest of their lives wondering how this could happen, how someone who seemingly had it all, in the end had nothing... couldn't even kick a dog, he was so down. If anything he proved that while, yes, he could always be counted on to walk away, poorly at that, but he never really knew where to go.

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