



NEWSBRIEFS

Krispy Kreme teacher

Jose Tavarez, a Socorro High School English teacher is the 2015 Krispy Kreme Teacher of the Year in El Paso. On Tuesday he received a \$500 prize, an engraved plaque and a Krispy Kreme prize pack. Socorro High School also will receive \$500. More than 100 teachers were nominated from the greater El Paso area. Kreme provided doughnuts, milk, and prizes to mark the occasion.

— Christina Flores-Jones

Weight gain is no cure

British researchers conducted a massive study with controversial results, apparently showing that underweight individuals are at greater risk for developing dementia and those who are overweight may be less at risk, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. The research involved nearly two million people and the results were published by the highly respected medical journal, The Lancet. But, says AMAC, it's not a license to overindulge in fatty foods; the rules remain the same: stop smoking, get plenty of exercise and adopt a balanced diet as you grow older. "To understand the association between body mass index and late-onset dementia should sober us as to the complexity of identifying risk and protective factors for dementia," according to Prof Deborah Gustafson, of the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center.

— John Grimaldi

Old?

Birthdays don't matter anymore, says the Association of Mature American Citizens, which caters to the 50-plus set. You are only as old as you feel, adds AMAC, which cites research published by the International Institute for Applied Systems. IIASA World Population Program Deputy Director, Sergei Scherbov, led the study and he says "what we think of as old has changed over time, and it will need to continue changing in the future as people live longer, healthier lives." It used to be that individuals in their 60s were automatically considered "old," but the researchers at the IIASA point out that these days men in women in that age group "have characteristics of much younger people." Scherbov argues that they are, in fact, middle aged, considering not only today's extended life expectancy but also the active lifestyles of today's sexagenarians, septuagenarians and even octogenarians.

— John Grimaldi

Before following a leader it is wise to see if he is headed in the right direction.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

RECOGNIZED — Heidi McConnell, center, is the Secondary Teacher of the Year in the Canutillo Independent School District. Students were clapping and cheering for McConnell as Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz, right, congratulated her.

Rodriguez, McConnell are Canutillo ISD standouts

By Shane B. Griffith
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — The Canutillo Independent School District community has chosen its top educators of the year, and — for the second time — it also picked a new employee of the year.

Rocío Rodríguez, the Music Director at Jose Damian Elementary School, is the CISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. Heidi McConnell, an English teacher at

Northwest Early College High School, is the CISD Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Rodriguez and McConnell will represent CISD in the Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year Contest for Region 19 later this summer. If they're successful there, they could represent far west Texas in the Texas Teacher of the Year contest.

"We have some exceptionally talented, passionate and dedicated educators across the Canutillo ISD," said Superintendent

See TEACHERS, Page 4

Marijuana possession bill advances in Texas House

Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence approves HB 507, which would remove the threat of arrest, jail time, and a criminal record for possession of a personal amount of marijuana and replace them with a civil fine of up to \$250

By Heather Fazio
Special to the Courier

TEXAS — The Texas House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence approved a bill Monday that would reduce state penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana. The measure will now advance to the House Calendars Committee.

HB 507, authored by committee vice-chair Rep. Joe Moody (D-El Paso), would remove the threat of arrest, jail time, and a criminal record for possession of up to one ounce of marijuana and replace them with a civil fine of up to \$250. Under current Texas law, individuals found in possession of less than two ounces of marijuana can be arrested and given a criminal record, and they face up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000.

"Texas cannot afford to continue

criminalizing tens of thousands of citizens for marijuana possession each year," Rep. Moody said. "We need to start taking a more level-headed approach. It is neither fair nor prudent to arrest people, jail them, and give them criminal records for such a low-level, non-violent offense."

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there were 72,150 arrests or citations issued for marijuana-related offenses in Texas in 2012, 97% of which were for simple possession. That same year, nearly 90% of all burglaries, including home invasions, and 88% of all motor vehicle thefts went unsolved.

"This is a change that Texas needs, and it's a change that Texans wants," said Ann Lee, executive director of Republicans Against Marijuana Prohibition. "We hope our elected officials will do the right thing here

See MARIJUANA, Page 8

5th Circuit Court of Appeals to rule on Texas voter ID law

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS — The legal battle over the Texas Voter ID law is currently being waged before a three-judge panel of the US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

The critical issue in question is not whether Texas can require a photo ID from voters when ballots are cast. That matter was settled by the U.S. Supreme Court when it ruled two years ago that states can require photo identification of voters.

However, the challenge to the Texas law involves issues of overt discrimination and discriminatory intent by Texas Republican leaders who adopted and are defending the law, according to Matt Angle, Lone Star project director.

"Extensive evidence has been gathered and presented to the courts confirming that the Texas law discriminates against minority citizens," Angle stated.

Two federal courts have already declared the Texas law discriminates against Hispanic and African American Texans, Angle cited. In 2012, a three-judge federal court in Washington, DC ruled the law to be discriminatory.

Furthermore, last summer, in another federal district court, Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos struck the law down as an illegal poll tax that was adopted with discriminatory intent.

Judge Ramos ruled that the Texas law violates the U.S. Voting Rights Act by illegally discriminating against minority Texans. The judge ruled that the provisions are so restrictive that they constitute an illegal poll tax. Moreover, Judge Ramos indicated that Texas Republican leaders adopted the voter restrictions with the intent to discriminate against Hispanic and African American Texans.

Rather than change the provisions of the Texas law to bring it into compliance with the Voting Rights Act, state Republican leaders, led by former Texas attorney general and now Governor Greg Abbott, appealed the lower court ruling to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Subsequently, the 5th Circuit decision will be the first appeals court ruling on a law found to be intentionally discriminatory since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Shelby v. Alabama case.

"If the 5th Circuit reverses the district court ruling — especially the finding of intentional discrimination — it will

See ID, Page 8

Finances By Jason Alderman

Improving Millennials' financial literacy with mobile technology

The 2015 Financial Literacy Summit 2015, (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/summit2015/>) held April 15 in Chicago and co-hosted by Visa Inc. and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, focused on how mobile technology might improve millennials' learning, savings and investing behavior in the future.

A recent FICO study said millennials, the demographic

born between 1980 and 2000, not only represent the largest group of individuals using mobile banking applications, but also the biggest cohort partaking in Internet browsing, emailing, searching, social networking and news consumption on a smartphone or tablet, bypassing desktop machines entirely. By comparison, only 5 percent of 35-54 year-olds and 3 percent of those 55 years and older

are using mobile devices exclusively.

The Summit audience heard particularly eye-opening insights from a panel on how early education and mobile technology applications can help build future generations' financial literacy.

While online gaming (<http://practicalmoneyskills.com/games/>) is showing particular success in training grade- and high-school age students in financial fundamentals, panelists suggested that the broader solution will depend on

national educational policy and a broader understanding about young adults and their financial needs.

Amando M. Tetangco, Jr., governor of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the central bank of the Philippines, told the audience that young Filipino adults are "struggling more than their older counterpart groups with regard to budgeting" and retirement planning, but he said he is still optimistic: "I believe there are certain characteristics of millennials that provide opportunities to build [their financial capabilities]. They have a desire for change." Such change, he said, should be driven by data and policy should be made personal and tied to technology solutions embraced by younger citizens.

Panelist Jason Young, CEO and Co-Founder of MindBlown Labs, an Oakland, California-based software developer behind the Thrive 'n' Shine personal finance game app for teens and young adults, said mobile technology will bridge the gap between financial literacy and a lifetime of successful financial decision making. "Eighty to 90 percent of U.S. teens have smart devices. That's huge, but the important thing to understand is that these aren't just things they use. They're a way of life."

Developing a stronger connection between financial literacy education and mobile technology could be beneficial for global educators and policymakers trying to improve spending, saving and investing knowledge for future generations. In January, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released a first-time global financial literacy study (<http://www.oecd.org/pisa/keyfindings/pisa-2012-results-volume-vi.htm>) that revealed that U.S. students ranked between eighth and twelfth place among all 18 participating countries in overall literacy skills.

Bottom line: Focusing on the way under-35 consumers use smartphones and tablets might provide a way for educators, financial services companies and policymakers to narrow the financial literacy gap.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Stand Downs for homeless veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been working hard to meet its goal of eliminating veteran homelessness by the end of fiscal year 2015 and getting veterans into permanent and stable housing, but the need is still great.

Depending on the statistics you read, the number of homeless veterans is either going up, or down... or the veterans are moving to other locations, altering the count. In any event, there still are too many veterans on the street. You can help by stepping forward and participating in a Stand Down.

Stand Downs span a variety of services. There are three- and four-day events with shelter, one or two-day resource fairs, health fairs and job fairs. Services can range from referrals for employment, substance-abuse treatment, health care and housing, to food, shelter, legal help, dental services and clothing. Veterans

also can get counseling and help with benefits and Social Security.

To participate individually, go online to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (nchv.org) and look under Service Providers.

To host a Stand Down with your veterans service group, go to the same website and read the Guide and Overview. Be sure your event is listed there as well as on the VA site at www.va.gov/homeless.

If you're a veteran seeking services from a Stand Down event, call 202-461-1857 to find out when one will be in your area.

If you're a homeless veteran (or are about to be homeless) call 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for help. If you have a computer (or can use one at the library), see www.va.gov/homeless for more information.

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Thank You Horizon City Volunteers

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, The Town of Horizon City held its 15th Annual Keep Horizon Beautiful Clean Up Day Event. Over 160 Volunteers from the Cub Scouts – Pack 65, Horizon High School, Horizon High JROTC, Richard Estrada Jr. High, Eastlake High School, Horizon Middle School, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln Club, Student Volunteers, Horizon Municipal Court, Oz/ Glaze Senior Center and other Civic Groups, local community members and City Employees showed up and helped collect over 2 tons of trash and debris from Horizon City neighborhoods and roadways.

The Town of Horizon City would like to thank the following Sponsor's for their generous donations making this year's Clean Up Day a huge success:

Apache Barricades	Bojorquez Law Firm
Border Pallets	Burritos Cristostomo
Dollar General	Domino's Pizza
El Paso Disposal	G&R Plastics
Goldfarb Financial	Green Earth Landscaping
Horizon Police Association	Horizon Vista Market
Horizon City Wine & Spirits	Household Furniture
Huitt-Zollar	Jan-Car
Joe Rico – VOYA Ins.	Little Cesar's Pizza
Oz Glaze Senior Center	Parkhill, Smith and Cooper
PB's Pizza	Star Bakery
State Farm – Arleen Beard	State Farm – J. Robinson
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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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National Dialog on Race



TWC warns Texas job seekers employment scams

Texas job seekers are urged not to cash checks from unknown potential employers

By Lisa Givens
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) wants Texas job seekers to be aware of scams that involve individuals posing as potential employers in order to collect money in exchange for non-existent jobs. Some fake employers have even used the names of established businesses and interviewed job candidates in legitimate meeting spaces in order to scam individuals out of money.

False employment scams can happen online, by phone or in person. Some scammers post fake job notices on legitimate job-matching websites and some have met and interviewed job seekers in public places. In all cases, the job seeker received promises of employment and a request for some type of up-front payment.

Job seekers should never cash checks from businesses or purchase any equipment, licenses, certifications, starter kits, or software packages from them unless they have verified that the company and the offer are legitimate. Employers will never ask for money as a condition for starting work. Job seekers should also never provide personal information to an employer unless they have had a face-to-face meeting at the worksite or contacted the company's human resource office to verify the offer. Personal information includes the name of your bank, credit

card, bank account or social security numbers. For more information about potential employment scams visit: www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0243-job-scams.

TWC safeguards personal information on WorkInTexas.com by using stringent online security measures and by screening job seekers and employers registered through the site. Site activity is continually monitored and when suspicious activity is detected, immediate action is taken to lock accounts and contact the parties involved. TWC validates employers registered on the site to ensure that accounts and/or job postings are from legitimate businesses.

Jobseekers who suspect that a job posting on WorkInTexas.com is not authentic, are asked to report it immediately by clicking on the Report a Problem with this Job Posting link located at the bottom of the job posting page on the right hand side. The job posting and/or employer will be reviewed for authenticity by workforce staff.

TWC encourages individuals to check their bank or other online accounts for unusual activity if they suspect they are victims of a similar scam. To report suspicious activity, please call TWC's Fraud and Program Abuse Hotline at 800-252-3642. To avoid becoming a victim of scams, visit the Texas Office of the Attorney General online at www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/scams.shtml or www.onguardonline.gov/, managed by the Federal Trade Commission.

THE BEST TIME TO LEARN THE SIGNS OF STROKE IS BEFORE YOU HAVE ONE. STROKES ARE THE NUMBER-THREE KILLER IN THIS COUNTRY, YET MANY PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE. THEY DON'T KNOW THAT MORE OF THE BRAIN CAN BE SAVED IF A STROKE IS DETECTED AND TREATMENT IS RECEIVED IMMEDIATELY.

A STROKE ATTACKS THE BRAIN. THE BRAIN ALERTS YOUR BODY TO DANGER. SEE THE PROBLEM?

STROKES BEGIN WHEN A BLOOD VESSEL IN THE BRAIN BECOMES BLOCKED OR BURSTS. BLOOD FLOW IS CUT OFF. TISSUE IS STARVED FOR OXYGEN, AND PARTS OF THE BRAIN DIE. IF NOT TREATED QUICKLY, ABILITIES AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE CAN BE LOST. YOUR BRAIN IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION. GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE.

WITH A STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.

If you suddenly have or see any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately: Numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body • Confusion, trouble speaking or understanding • Difficulty seeing in one or both eyes • Trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination • Severe headache with no known cause

Learn more at StrokeAssociation.org or 1-888-4-STROKE.

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– Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

Tejana earns softball honors

Kristen Reitz, El Paso Community College (EPCC) freshman outfielder from Cypress, CA, has received two honors for the 2015 season. She was named to the Western Junior College Athletic Conference All-Conference team and the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region V All-Region team. Reitz was the first Tejana to surpass the 70 hit mark since Jessica Strong had 77 hits in 2006. In 51 games, Reitz had 77 hits, with 17 doubles, 6 homeruns, 50 runs batted in, 114 total bases, a .490 batting average and a .726 slugging percentage. El Paso Community College is a member of the NJCAA, competing in Region V and the Western Junior College Athletic Conference. EPCC participates in men's and women's cross country and half marathon, men's baseball and women's softball teams.

– Jim Heiney

EPCC summer schedule available

By Javier Sánchez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The El Paso Community College Workforce/Economic Development & Continuing Education 2015 summer schedule is available now.

If you are a working professional looking to upgrade your personal or computer skills to get ahead in your job, or a retired person who wants to learn a new craft or hobby, the college's Workforce/Economic Development & Continuing Education Department is the place to make it happen.

NEW classes this summer include Tai Chi for Healing, 3D Rapid Prototyping Design, Introduction to Home Electrical, Qi Gong Full Body Massage and Forklift Operator Training. Under its children's college, EPCC will offer Keep Calm and Act on!

You have many other learning

options ranging from beginning and advanced classes in computers, game-designing and development, floral design and cooking, to home gardening, sewing and painting. Online classes vary from SAT, GRE and LSAT exam preparations, conversational French, Japanese and Italian, to real estate investing and catering. To select the class that is right for you, pick up your continuing education summer schedule online at www.epcc.edu/Catalog/Pages/default.aspx or at any EPCC campus. Registration for classes begins May 4. For additional information call 831-7737.

San Elizario Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The San Elizario Independent School District will conduct a public information meeting to review the following SEISD Programs funded by Federal funds:

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C – Migrant Program
- Title II, Part A – Improving Teacher and Principals Quality
- Title III, Part A – Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

The meeting will be held:

Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Public review of the Federal Application for Educational funding for San Elizario ISD will be in the San Elizario ISD Administration Board Room at 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas.

SEISD does not discriminate against any individual with regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, the presence of a medical condition, disability, or any other legally protected status. 42 U.S.C. 2000e-2(a); 20U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

San Elizario Independent School District AVISO PÚBLICO

La Junta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de San Elizario llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas, fondos federales:

- Título I, Parte A – Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C – Programa para Estudiantes Migrantes
- Título II, Parte A – Mejorando la Calidad de Maestros y Directores
- Título III, Parte A – Servicios de educación para estudiantes de segundo idioma

La junta se llevará a cabo:

Martes, 12 de Mayo, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

La Revisión Pública de la Solicitud Federal para Fondos Educativos para el Distrito de San Elizario se llevará a cabo en el Salón de Juntas en las oficinas administrativas localizada en 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd.

SEISD no discrimina a ningún individuo a causa de su raza, de su color, de su nacionalidad, de sus creencias religiosas, de su género, de su estado legal, o de veterano, ninguna condición médica o incapacidad, o ningún otro estado legal. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

WTCC: 05-07-15

Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice

Any interested representative of a non-profit private school or non-profit home school

- operating within the boundaries of the Canutillo Independent School District, or
- operating outside of the boundaries of the District, but serving students who live within the boundaries

is encouraged to call for an appointment to receive information regarding the Consolidated Application for Federal Funding for 2015-2016. The application provides the following programs, through the "No Child Left Behind Act".

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C – Education of Migratory Children
- Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting
- Title III, Part A – Limited English Proficient (LEP)

Interested persons should call the office of the External Funding Coordinator at (915) 877-7497 to schedule an appointment. Representatives will need to provide their school's tax exempt identification number to the District to confirm eligibility. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be made available upon request.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo Aviso al Público

Cualquier representante de un colegio privado no lucrativo o que ofrezca educación en casa, que esté interesado, y que

- opere dentro de los límites del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo, o
- opera fuera de los límites del Distrito, pero que sirva a estudiantes que viven dentro el Distrito

Se le invita a hacer una cita para recibir información sobre la Solicitud Consolidada para el Financiamiento Federal 2015-2016. Esta solicitud provee a los siguientes programas a través de la ley "No Child Left Behind".

- Título I, Parte A – Mejora de Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C – Programa de Migrante
- Título II, Parte A – Entrenamiento y Reclutamiento de Maestros y Directores
- Título III, Parte A – Servicios de educación para estudiantes de segundo idioma

Las personas interesadas deben llamar a la oficina del Coordinador de Fondos Externos al (915)877-7497 para hacer su cita. Cada representante deberá proporcionar el número de identificación de exención de impuestos de la escuela para confirmar su elegibilidad. Habrá adaptaciones adecuadas disponibles para discapacitados, si lo solicita con anticipación.

WTCC: 05/07/15

Tampa Bay Bucs, Winston, will be interesting to watch

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The NFL Draft is over and after all the speculation and all the hand wringing, it turned out to be a fairly uneventful event – at least as far as jaw-dropping shockers go.

There were no blockbuster trades in the first round. No team traded their future for the second pick, Marcos Mariotta. And no player who made the trip to Chicago was disrespectful to commission Roger Goodell.

It all went pretty much as planned. And that could be a problem for one team – the Tampa Bay Bucs.

Unfortunately for them, Jameis Winston was still available when the first pick of the draft was made.

In other words, I've got a strange feeling that Winston is going to be a bust.

Don't get me wrong, he seems like a good guy, the life of the party. And that could be the problem.

During his time at Florida State, just two short years, Winston made as much

of a name for himself for his off-the-field activities as he did on.

And for a guy who won the Heisman Trophy, that's saying a lot.

Speaking of a lot, let's see – there was the charge of sexual assault and rape of a college coed, the report of his illegally signing autographs for money, his theft of crab legs from a local supermarket for which he was suspended from the baseball team, his standing on a table in the school cafeteria while shouting sexually-charged profanities, his causing \$4,000 of damage to his apartment during a BB gun fight with his friends, walking into a Burger King and helping himself to a cup of soda without paying – after being given a cup of water, he poured it down the drain and helped himself to several more cups of free soda, and even being stopped one night with a gun (which turned out to be a BB gun) telling officers he was only out shooting squirrels.

Now the "squirrels" thing wasn't a big thing according to the authorities, but c'mon, I can think of a lot of better things to do to fight boredom than killing

small animals.

Anyway, you would think that those are plenty of reasons NFL teams would be hesitant to draft a guy like Winston.

After all, the quarterback of an NFL squad is the leader of the team. And if it's a 21-year-old like Winston, he must also lead 35-year-old men with families.

And these are men that can't afford to have a quarterback that isn't fully invested in working hard and winning.

But even with all of the immature and potentially criminal behavior, that's not what worries me the most about Winston's game. What worries me the most is Winston's game.

Everyone talks about the Heisman Trophy and the fourth-quarter comebacks.

But let's be honest, the average college defensive football player is nowhere near the athlete the NFL football player is.

Jameis Winston is big and slow and NFL pass rushers and linebackers will eat him alive. His throwing motion is very slow and NFL defensive backs will read his motion and have time to react.

In college, Winston and his Florida State Seminoles fell behind many times and came back to win. That will not happen in the NFL. If you fall behind in the NFL the quarterback is forced to throw the ball all over the field and that is Winston's worst nightmare.

The one thing Winston cannot do is read defenses. He panics and tries to force the ball through small openings. In college, he did that to the tune of 28 interceptions.

Can you imagine what's going to happen when he gets to the NFL and tries to force the ball through small openings?

Winston is not careful with the ball. He holds it out in the open whenever he runs with it. NFL linebackers and corners are going to knock the ball out of his hands all the time.

So when you combine the off-the-field childishness and the on-the-field ineptness, you get an NFL draft bust.

The first pick of the NFL draft is almost as precious as a political contribution to the Clinton Foundation.

It can reap rewards for years to come. It can also cause irreparable damage.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Rise of the machines

Sport, being competitive in nature, lends itself to the act of comparison. This is, of course, by design. In fact, it – sports – is nothing more than a vast and giant conspiracy that has been foisted upon the teeming masses in order to distract us from whatever it is we are supposed to

really be paying attention to (and I have a hunch it has something to do with numbers) by bickering over nonsense like Hack Wilson's slugging percentage and Pie Traynor's wins above replacement. Who cares about what happened to the economic surplus.

It's the man keeping us down, keeping us bickering with one another so we won't get our act together. They tell us it's all about comradery, teamwork and sportsmanship, but put a guy from Michigan and one from Ohio in the same room and shut the door. They'll come out looking like beta fish – you'll see. They'll tear each other to shreds.

And don't let the Internet fool you. Sure, you can go to Sports-Reference.com and glean all sorts of numbers. You

can compare and contrast your favorite players from every era and act like you know it all. There are a million blog sites out there that promise to make you the next Joe Posnanski, where everyone is on a level playing field and Dan Quisenberry can be in the Hall of Fame. Don't kid yourself.

Time was, in order to glean various statistics you would go to a newsstand and purchase a daily newspaper or specialty publication dedicated to the sporting event of your choice. In order to support that industry, you needed statisticians, writers, editors, umpires, judges, referees, linesmen, scorekeepers, equipment managers,

groundskeepers and various other gofers.

One by one, they're getting picked off those jobs, but we don't say anything because Mulberry U. got a play-in game against Hooterville Tech in the tournament. That will shut us up for a few. Soon they'll install the DH in the National League and provide bathrooms and municipal sewer connections at Wrigley Field. They'll take the guesswork out of the games, and we won't say anything... until it's too late.

Next they'll get rid of the fans' physical presence (see the Baltimore Orioles). It'll save on

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R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Could the cause of chronic bad breath be due to having a tortuous esophagus? I've always had a horrible taste in my mouth 10 to 20 minutes after eating – sometimes worse than others, depending on what I've eaten. I was diagnosed with GERD 10 years ago. I tried eliminating certain foods, had my tonsils removed in my late 20s and have brought it up with doctors a few times, to no avail. I have regular cleanings every three months with a dental hygienist, and I floss regularly, gargle and brush my teeth two or three times a day. I do not enjoy going to social events or participating in group activities. I am too embarrassed to discuss this with anyone, including my gastroenterologist, who discovered this type of esophagus during my endoscopy. A TV doctor said there are millions of people out there who can't find a cure for their bad breath. Please help me! – S.H.

the bad taste means their breath smells bad when, in fact, it doesn't. I think you need to have an evaluation by an expert. Some ENT doctors have particular expertise in this area. The booklet on heartburn explains GERD and acid reflux. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 501W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Can. with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 76-year-old woman who enjoys a 6-ounce glass of ruby-red grapefruit juice every morning before my breakfast of cereal, half a banana and coffee. My husband has been trying to convince me that I should stop having my morning juice, as it is a real "sugar bomb." Is he correct in his thinking? – P.W.

There are indeed millions of people with bad breath, and many of them are unaware of it. On the other hand, millions of people who think they have bad breath do not, when examined objectively by professionals. This is largely because it is very difficult to judge what our own breath smells like. This is common enough that it has a name: halitophobia.

A 6-ounce glass of grapefruit juice is a perfectly reasonable serving size. Six ounces would contain about 16 grams of sugar. That's less than half of what's in a can of soda, and although it's a good chunk of your daily sugar intake, if that's where you want to have it, that's fine. Your husband should lighten up. I see people drinking 64 ounces of juice or soda. THOSE are sugar bombs.

Approximately 80 percent to 90 percent of bad breath comes from the oral cavity; the nasal passages, tonsils and sinuses are the causes in nearly all the others. Bad breath almost never arises from the esophagus or stomach, so I don't think your tortuous (a term meaning that the esophagus is twisted somewhat and doesn't go straight down) esophagus is the cause.

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.

A bad taste in your mouth certainly can come from having GERD. Many people think that

Super Crossword

- TWO-CHANNEL CONNECTION ACROSS**
- 1 Old Glory, for one
- 5 Up in smoke
- 11 Refluxes of tides
- 15 Ankle-knee connector
- 19 I, to Greeks
- 20 "Speak up!"
- 21 Ark captain
- 22 Chipotle item
- 23 "Great job, play more!?"
- 25 Be sweet on
- 26 Wilson of film
- 27 One half of a 45
- 28 Eat
- 29 Stingy type
- 30 Get a B, e.g.
- 31 Mauna _
- 33 Sharp rise in new findings?
- 36 Napoleon's birthplace
- 40 Gem, e.g.
- 41 Writer _ Jackson Braun
- 42 _ out (supplement)
- 43 Ice melter
- 45 _ word (coinage for one occasion)
- 48 Throbs
- 49 Perpetual pampering?
- 53 Country singer Evans
- 55 Born, to Gigi
- 56 Gridiron gp.
- 57 Repulsive
- 59 Fiennes or Macchio
- 62 Fishermen, often
- 65 "Hear No Evil" star Matlin
- 67 Really move on the dance floor
- 71 Round of applause all for oneself?
- 73 Company symbol on a container of breathing gas?
- 75 Capital of Croatia
- 76 Scrape the bottom of
- 78 Flushes
- 79 Antipasto bit
- 81 Loved by
- 83 "_ Beso" (1962 hit)
- 84 56-Across stats
- 87 Old phone part
- 89 Distinctive feature of blasting material?
- 93 Is on hold, say
- 96 Spanish for "silver"
- 98 Draft-eligible
- 99 Item in a pod
- 100 Congenital
- 102 Bands of three
- 105 Most morose
- 107 Quaint theater where everyone hung out?
- 111 Post-it note abbr.
- 112 Soccer immortal
- 113 Change formally
- 114 Slugger Willie
- 116 Evade artfully
- 120 "Woe is me"
- 121 _ de foie gras
- 122 Alternate title for this puzzle
- 124 Madison Avenue prize
- 125 Hens and cows
- 126 Bright-shining
- 127 Appellation
- 128 Composer Jerome
- 129 Acoustic pair
- 130 Pint-size
- 131 Otherwise
- DOWN**
- 1 Small lies
- 2 Actress Singer
- 3 Just slightly
- 4 Judges' mallets
- 5 Bar drink
- 6 Cherished
- 7 Intelligible
- 8 Hunky guy
- 9 Most scant
- 10 Before, to Kipling
- 11 Spices up
- 12 Idaho city
- 13 Cake creator
- 14 Singer Crow
- 15 Cork up, as a bottle
- 16 Maui native
- 17 Emulate Tara Lipinski
- 18 "Baloney!"
- 24 Certain woodwind player
- 29 Early hi-fi format
- 32 Berry rich in antioxidants
- 34 See eye to eye (with)
- 35 Sis, say
- 36 Frame of a cartoon
- 37 Japanese island
- 38 Calling the shots
- 39 Nearly
- 44 WJM anchor Baxter
- 46 Pop singer Mariah
- 47 Chunk of history
- 50 Animal at "una corrida"
- 51 East _ (Asian nation)
- 52 Spotted, as money
- 54 Playwright Edward
- 58 Ad catchphrase
- 60 Little lake
- 61 Texas _ (poker game)
- 62 Singer Scaggs
- 63 Stunt legend
- 64 Very zealous
- 66 Put out
- 68 Freaks out
- 69 Tunes out
- 70 Canon _ Rebel
- 72 Best possible
- 74 Bad-pun responses
- 77 Keep waiting
- 80 Mr. Big
- 82 However, briefly
- 84 Pair of identical products sold as a unit
- 85 Writer Steel
- 86 "Babbitt" author Lewis
- 88 White Rabbit's woe
- 90 Tree flutterer
- 91 New royal of 1981
- 92 Kit _
- 94 Confronts
- 95 Canonized Fr. woman
- 97 Walked (on)
- 101 Slip away
- 103 Electrical resistance measure
- 104 Subject to legal action
- 106 Singer Warwick
- 108 Large city in Nebraska
- 109 Ward off
- 110 Ordinance
- 115 Withered
- 117 "You're on!"
- 118 Mouth parts
- 119 Lightish sword
- 122 Salary ceiling
- 123 Actor Bruce

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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	56						57					58		59			60	61			
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75									76			77			78						
					79			80			81			82			83				
84	85	86				87			88		89				90	91				92	
93				94	95			96			97			98					99		
100							101			102			103	104		105			106		
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120								121							123						
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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore

May 3, 1693 – Don Gregorio de Salinas Varona, while on expedition to Texas, concludes that the land is unsuitable for development.



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.

	+		÷		4
-		÷		+	
	x		+		11
÷		+		-	
	-		x		5
1		12		7	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		4		1		3		
	9				8		4	
7			9	5				2
	8				6		7	
2		3		7		9		
4			1					5
1					2	5		
	5		3				9	
		8		4		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: I want to apply for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs. Can state agencies also help with my Medicare costs?

A: When you file your application for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug (Medicare Part D) costs, you also can start your application process for the Medicare Savings Programs – state programs that provide help with other Medicare costs. When you apply for Extra Help, Social Security will send information to your state unless you tell us not to on the application. Your state will contact you to help you apply for a Medicare Savings Program. To apply for Extra Help and learn more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp. While we're on the subject of open seasons, the open enrollment period for qualified health plans under the Affordable Care Act is November 15 to February 15. Learn more about it at www.healthcare.gov.

Q: How do I know if I've worked long enough to get Social Security disability benefits?

A: To get Social Security disability benefits, you must

meet the definition of disability under the Social Security Act. And you must have worked long enough – and recently enough – under Social Security to qualify for disability benefits. The amount of work you need to qualify for disability benefits depends on your age when you become disabled. Generally, you need 10 years of work, and that must include working 5 out of the last 10 years, ending with the year you become disabled. However, younger workers may qualify with as little as one and one half years of work earned in the three-year period ending when the disability starts. See our Disability Planner at www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dqualify3.htm for credit requirements at different ages.

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.

ID

From Page 1

significantly weaken the Voting Rights Act and give Texas and other states enormous leeway to knowingly adopt voting laws that hinder and suppress the ability of minority citizens to vote," Angle asserted.

The three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit is expected to issue a ruling in several weeks.

Marijuana

From Page 1

and listen to their constituents. Our state needs to get out of the business of arresting and criminalizing people for possessing marijuana."

According to a poll conducted by the University of Texas in February 2015, 76% of likely voters in Texas favor reform of marijuana laws.

Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy is a broad coalition of organizations, activists, and community leaders dedicated to realizing effective, efficient, and evidence-based marijuana policies in Texas. For more information, visit <http://www.TexasMarijuanaPolicy.org>

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: Q equals E

EWJP BWJBQUJAJP X EQIQJHQJQ

-OQXU-WGC CUQEEQC RXUTGO

AJ RAJHQUHATQ:

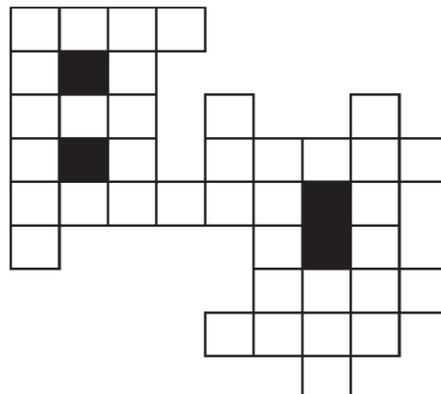
"X HQQJXPQU AJ PGWIQE."

Answer Page 4

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- YIV
- HELSIR
- EVNIX
- VYEL
- XANYST
- ♥RAE
- ♥ESDI
- EIXDO
- OXL
- LYALVE
- LOARY
- ♥VREO



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.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

Sports

From Page 6

stadium overhead, and it's good for the environment.

The athletes will be the last to go... they're always the last to know when it's over.

Boxing will be banned, and then they'll come for football. The rankings are already being turned over to some faceless computer, and Madden Football correctly predicted the exact score of the Super Bowl this year. Soon the games will be just another simulation – regulated, of course, so we can still gamble on the games and pay taxes. Think Skynet in "The Terminator"... one day soon, the computers will be self-aware.

Augusta National, humanity's final beacon of hope, will be the last to fall as cyborgs overtake Amen Corner, screaming, "Get in the hole!" after every shot.

Yet somewhere out there, despite all of the devastation and destruction, at a corner bar somewhere in Schenectady, to a chorus of derisive jeers, a Yankee fan will insist that Jeter was still a better shortstop than Nomar in his prime, and another round will be ordered.

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