



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Man kills computer

We all know how frustrating it can be when your new computer is not responding to your commands, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. You might even get so angry that you'll conjure up all kinds of violent ways to deal with the inhumanity of the darned thing. For example, one computer user in Colorado Springs got so flustered late last year that he picked up his gun and shot his recalcitrant desktop machine eight times, reports United Press International. Although local police labeled their report of the incident: "Man Kills His Computer," the culprit was charged only with discharging a firearm within city limits.

— John Grimaldi

### Positive thinking

Growing old is not for the faint of heart; you need a positive attitude, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. A new, one-of-a-kind study led by Becca Levy, associate professor of epidemiology and psychology at the Yale School of Public Health suggests that the way we think about growing old may have an impact on the incidence of Alzheimer's disease. "We believe it is the stress generated by the negative beliefs about aging that individuals sometimes internalize from society that can result in pathological brain changes. Although the findings are concerning, it is encouraging to realize that these negative beliefs about aging can be mitigated and positive beliefs about aging can be reinforced, so that the adverse impact is not inevitable."

— John Grimaldi

### Gift kept on taking

It was the season of gift-giving so one doting dad in the U.K. decided to treat his seven-year-old son to a video game called Jurassic World. The game featured a way for the child to upgrade his adventure using Dino Bucks and that's when the trouble began. Dino Bucks were readily available to the tyke who kept clicking and playing but the youngster did not know that he was spending real money, explains the Association of Mature American Citizens. The charges — amounting to nearly \$6,000 — eventually showed up on dad's credit card. Dad had a fit and called the game's purveyor who, full of the holiday spirit, refunded the full amount.

— John Grimaldi

*It's pretty hard to make most people see that their bad judgment wasn't just bad luck.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Commissioners approve countywide truancy prevention program

*Days of using the court system as schools' primary disciplinarian are over*

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — A new truancy prevention program is being implemented starting in January at all nine El Paso County school districts and about 20 charter schools (private and religious schools are exempt) that requires schools to do more to proactively address chronic absenteeism.

Under the new law passed by the Texas legislature last spring, each county had to produce its own truancy prevention program by the end of 2015. El Paso County officials began putting their plan together in August after commissioners approved the creation of a task force headed by Jaime Esparza, District Attorney for the 34th Judicial District of El Paso, Culberson,

and Hudspeth counties. The task force that assisted in developing the truancy plan consists of representatives from different organizations including constables, justices of the peace, school districts, commissioners court, and other stakeholders.

Esparza, who has served as district attorney for more than 20 years, said that under the previous law, public school students with a truancy issue — at least 10 unexcused absences in a six-month period — found themselves facing criminal charges in front of a justice of the peace. According to the district attorney's office, about 1,000 truancy cases were being prosecuted annually.

"Now, schools will have to handle the truancy issues themselves. They will be responsible for doing more intervention

See TRUANCY, Page 8



El Paso District Attorney Esparza expects his office will see fewer truancy cases once the new prevention program is in place. He said that the new truancy plan (accessible online) would keep students out of the courtroom and in the classroom.

## Clint ISD lawsuit in state supreme court

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Taxpayers' money is being spent as Clint Independent School District (CISD) and a group of parents continue to try to prove their respective positions to the Texas Supreme Court. At the root of the dispute for the parents is dollars spent per student at different schools and how members are elected to the CISD Board of Trustees.

CISD attorneys argue that the parents are trying to go around state guidelines for resolving disputes and circumventing the authority of the Commissioner of Education to resolve disputes. They say

the parents should exhaust all possible means within CISD, and then the Commissioner's office, to resolve their funding issues before bringing the case to the civil courts.

Presently, the fate of the lawsuit — which has cost CISD over \$148,000 since 2013 according to district officials — is still buoying in the sea of uncertainty as the Texas Supreme Court justices mull over the arguments recently presented in the case that alleges that the lower valley school district does not fund its schools equitably. Clint lawyers say if the parents had exhausted their administrative remedies, these legal costs would not have been incurred.

Lawyers for CISD and the group of

parents bringing the lawsuit made their case before the high court judges in November. Initially parents Sonia Herrera Marquez, Claudia Garcia and Alicia Gomez filed the lawsuit with the help of the Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project back in August 2012.

The parents allege that CISD board of trustees inequitably allocates money and opportunities to its middle and high school campuses. As an example, they pointed out that in the 2009-10 school year the district spent more on students attending Clint High School (almost \$10,000 per student) than on students at Horizon (about \$6,400 per student)

See LAWSUIT, Page 3



HEADQUARTERS — The Clint Independent School District central office is located in Horizon City.

— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

## Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

# Take a close look at Social Security in 2016

If you're not close to retirement age, it's easy to ignore what Social Security is doing. However, late last year make now a very good time to pay attention. What follows is a summary of some significant announcements notable changes to Social Security

at the start of 2016 and ways to ensure you're making the right retirement planning and claiming decisions based on what's ahead:

• **2016 Social Security payments won't increase.** In late October, Social Security (<https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>) announced that there wasn't enough inflation in 2015 to create a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to monthly benefits this year. Understandably, this announcement shook up recipients who look to Social Security for a significant part of their monthly income. It's only the third time payments were frozen in the past 40 years since automatic COLA adjustments began, but here's the rub – all three occasions occurred after 2010. In short, most seniors will have to live with an average monthly payment of \$1,341 with married beneficiaries receiving a total of \$2,212.

• **Married and divorced individuals may have to rethink the way they claim benefits.** Also last October, Washington settled a federal budget battle in part by closing some notable loopholes in Social Security law that allowed certain married couples to substantially increase their benefits over time and certain divorced individuals to claim benefits from former spouses under certain circumstances.

These new restrictions on so-called file-and-suspend and restricted-claim strategies go into effect this coming May. In short, if you're close to age 62 (the earliest age you can start claiming Social Security benefits) getting qualified advice has never been more important.

• **Other COLA-related issues.** When there's no cost-of-living adjustment, there's no change in the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax, which will stay at \$118,500 in 2016. This means earnings above that level aren't subject to the Social Security portion of the payroll tax or used to calculate retirement payouts. At the same time, the Social Security earnings limit for people who work and claim Social Security payments will stay at \$15,720 in 2016 for people ages 65 and younger. Social Security beneficiaries who earn more than this amount will have \$1 in benefits temporarily withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.

• **Some benefits are going down – a little.** The highest possible Social Security payment for a 66-year-old worker who signs up for Social Security this year will be \$2,639 per month, down \$24 from \$2,663 in 2015. The reason? Social Security noted that despite no cost-of-living adjustment there was an increase in the national average

wage index, one of the statistical guideposts the agency uses to calculate benefits.

• **Service changes.** If you haven't created a My Social Security account, do so for two reasons: First, there have been reports of ID theft related to thieves attempting fraudulent signups for such accounts. Second, the agency is making more detailed account data available online such as estimates of monthly payments at various claiming ages. Also, Social Security expanded office hours in some of its field locations in 2015, so if you need face-to-face assistance, check hours of operation at your closest local office (<https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>).

**Bottom line:** Social Security froze benefit amounts for the coming year, and that has an impact on both current and future recipients. You can't fully understand your retirement without understanding how Social Security works, so now's the time to learn.

*This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered legal, tax or financial advice. It's always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.*

## Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

### Veterans charities need our support

Now that the holidays have come and gone, it's time to think about how we'll handle the new year – and that includes what charities we'll support.

The big thing, as always, is to avoid the scammers. Unfortunately, when it comes to supporting veterans and active-duty endeavors, the scammers are out in full force, either pocketing the cash or misdirecting it.

Here are two sites to investigate to make sure you don't give money to a scam operation: Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)) and GuideStar ([www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)).

One of the best and most worthwhile for-military charities I know of is Operation Gratitude ([www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com)). I've written about it before, coaxing you to send a few dollars when it's trying to hit a big goal, such as their next 100,000 packages. Now I'm asking you to consider regular monthly giving. Each \$15 you donate will get one box of goodies mailed to a service

member.

The boxes are loaded with snacks, flash drives, toiletries, iPods, books, games, socks, comic books, T-shirts, hats, DVDs and players, batteries, puzzles... and sometimes even the keys to a new vehicle waiting when the service member gets home. If you check the photos and thank-you letters at the website, you'll see just how appreciated those boxes can be for service members far from home.

At the OpGrat website you can choose to send a check, sign up for monthly giving or even have it taken out on your credit card. It's up to you.

If you absolutely can't give money, can you write letters? Each box that's sent out includes a few letters, written by schoolkids, retired military, families... everybody pitches in. Check the website (look under the Volunteer dropdown menu) for hints about the content of letters and where/how to send them.

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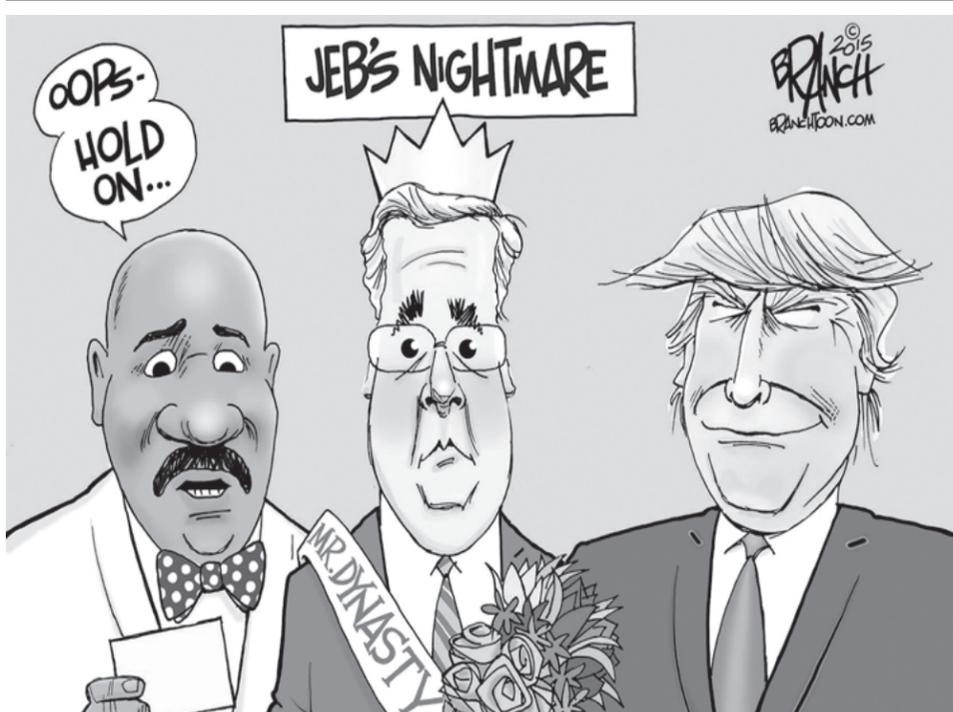
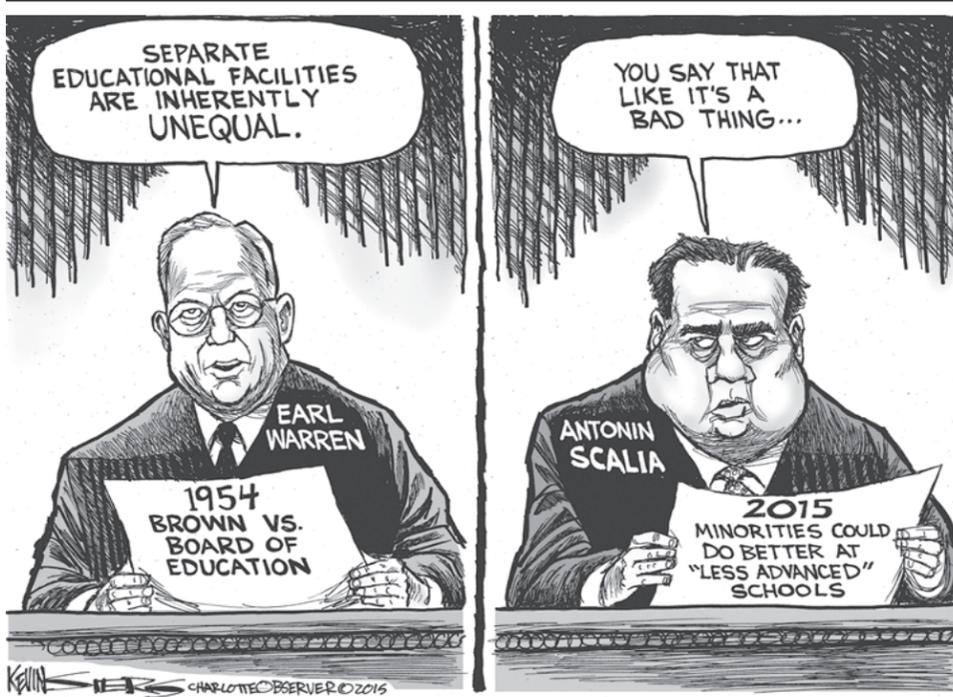
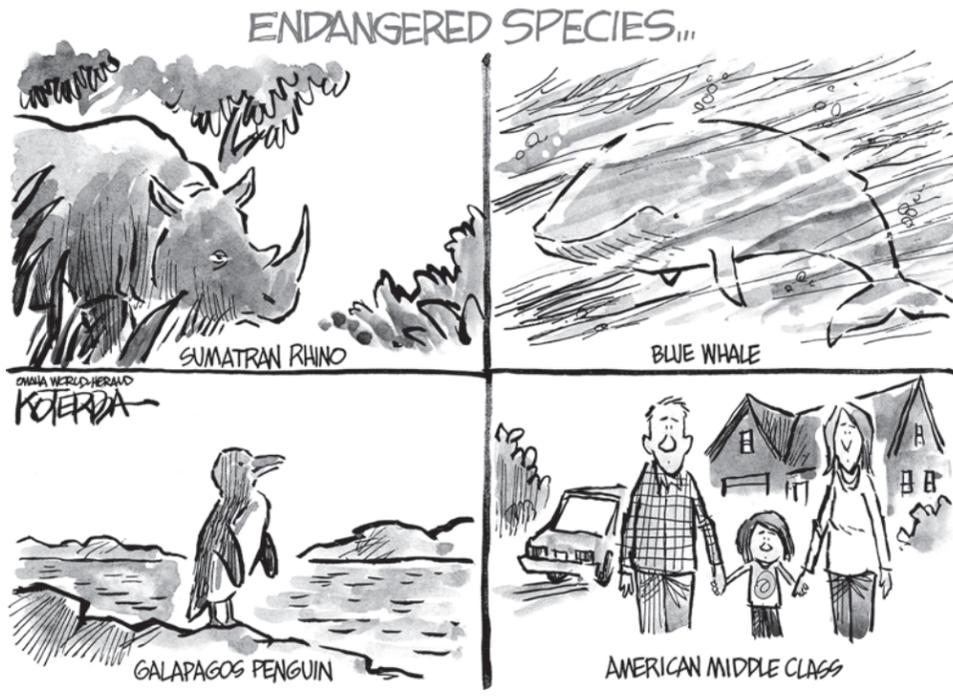
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**UTEP VS FIU**  
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## Social Security statements out this month

It's that time of year again: time to start preparing to file your taxes. If you receive Social Security benefits, one of the documents you will need when filing your federal income tax return is your Social Security Benefit Statement (Form SSA-1099).

Your Social Security benefits may be taxable. This includes monthly retirement, survivor, and disability benefits. About one-third of people receiving Social Security benefits must pay taxes on some of these benefits, depending on the amount of their taxable income. This usually happens only if you have other substantial income – such as wages, self-employment, interest, dividends, and other taxable income that must be reported on your tax return – in addition to your Social Security benefits. You will never have to pay taxes on more than 85 percent of your Social Security benefits, based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules.

To find out if you must pay taxes on your benefits, you will need your Social Security Benefit Statement (Form SSA-1099). You should automatically receive your 1099 form each January. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from Social Security in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on your tax return. The 1099 form is not available for people who receive Supplemental

Security Income (SSI), as SSI payments are not taxable.

Whether you file your taxes early or wait until the deadline, Social Security makes it easy to obtain a replacement 1099 form if you didn't receive one or misplaced yours. You can get an instant replacement quickly and easily by using your secure online my Social Security account. If you don't already have an account, you can create one in minutes. Follow the link to the my Social Security page, and go to "Sign In" or "Create an Account." Once you are logged in, select the "Replacement Documents" tab to obtain your replacement 1099 form. If you create a my Social Security account, you can also use it to keep track of your earnings each year, manage your benefits, and more.

You can also obtain a replacement 1099 form by calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or by contacting your local Social Security office. If you live outside of the United States, please contact your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

With a my Social Security account, gathering your Social Security information for tax season has never been easier. Open your own personal my Social Security account today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

– Ray Vigil

## Lawsuit

From Page 1

and Mountain View (about \$8,500 per student) high schools.

According to Texas Education Agency (TEA) Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report the cost per student, from general funds, for 2009-10 was \$8,305 for Clint High School; \$5,994 for Horizon High School; and \$7,047 for Mountain View High School. General funds do not include federal funds or other funding sources like grants. These types of funding are usually targeted for specific purposes. Grants are vied for by many schools and are awarded on a needs or merit basis.

One trustee, however, points out that some fixed costs (utilities, mandated administrative costs, payroll, etc.) are spread over the student population and will be higher per student for schools with fewer students. Additionally, as student populations grow or shrink at different campuses, the amount spent per student is in flux from year to year. In the TEA AEIS report for 2011-12 (the latest year available on the TEA website) the cost per student from general funds was \$8,778 for Clint High School; \$7,216 for Horizon High School; and \$7,130 for Mountain View High School.

Parents also contend that the funding discrepancies exist because six of the seven CISD trustees are from the town of Clint and few trustees come from the other areas of the district because school board members are currently elected on an at-large basis, meaning that instead of having single-member district representation, the top vote-getters win the trustee seats.

CISD lawyers' argued that the parents must challenge the district's funding allotments to schools through CISD administrative avenues first, then

to the Commissioner of Education, before bringing the case to court. Their argument is based on: (1) language in the Texas Education Code stating that the Commissioner of Education has exclusive jurisdiction over matters involving the school laws of the state, or actions of board members alleged to violate school laws of the state; and (2) court precedence holding that an administrative agency must be afforded the opportunity to correct its own errors.

According to CISD attorneys, if the logic of parents' argument is followed, then any person could avoid the legal requirement to exhaust administrative remedies, effectively depriving the Commissioner of Education of any authority, by framing their issues as constitutional. A trial court agreed with CISD's position in February 2013 and dismissed the case.

Consequently, the parents appealed that dismissal. They argued that funding discrepancies violate the Texas Constitution, so they aren't required to exhaust administrative remedies before suing. The Eighth District Court of Appeals in El Paso agreed in October 2014 and sent the case back to the trial court for consideration.

Subsequently, CISD appealed the appeals court decision to the Texas Supreme Court, and that is where the lawsuit is today. If the justices decide in the parents' favor, the case would return to district court.

When the justices will release their decision on the case is unknown. However, a decision is expected within the next couple of months, according to court officials.

CISD officials won't comment publicly on the suit or its merits because it is still ongoing. However, they say any qualified citizen living in the CISD can run for school board and should if they want to help improve the district.



# IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PREVENT DIABETES



## Take your first step today

**If you have a family history of type 2 diabetes, you are at risk of the disease.**

**It's about small steps:** Lose a small amount of weight by walking or biking for 30 minutes 5 days a week, and by making healthy food choices, to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. In fact, these small steps work even better for people over 60 than for any other age group.

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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# School Boards Make a Difference

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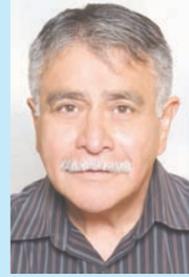
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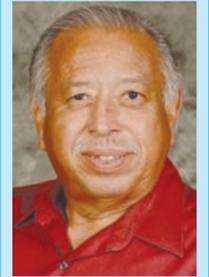
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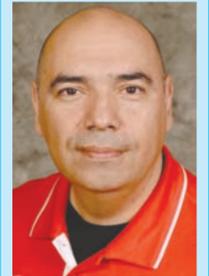
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Paul Guerra



Hector Lopez



Roberto Guerrero



Armando Rodriguez



Fred Martinez



Marcos Salcido III



Armando Martinez



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Superintendents

## Thank You For Serving

# Digital spying, cheating, confirmed in Correa scandal

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

The world of sports has changed in so many ways since I was a kid.

Football players used to be allowed to play defense, there was no such thing as a designated hitter, there was no fantasy anything, there was no 3-point shot and 24-hour sports channels were as common as Big Foot and the Easter Bunny.

But if there's one area where sports has changed the most it would have to be in its technology – specifically the digital age.

If you go to a game, social media has made it possible for fans to not only enjoy the game they're at, but it gives them the ability to keep track of all the other games and stories going on throughout the league.

Technology has helped make the equipment stronger and lighter, to help keep players safer while speeding up almost every sport.

At home, fans can now watch almost any game they want at any time they

want. When I was a kid you were able to watch one game-of-the-week and that was it.

The digital age has not only brought the world closer together but it's brought the world of sports closer to all of us.

Digital technology has also made coaches and front office personnel much happier. Guys in charge of teams can track the tendencies and movement of their own players as well as players on other teams.

And while the idea of obtaining all the information about a player with a few keystrokes sounds like a no-brainer, there were a few problems with the system that experts didn't anticipate.

Just like players using steroids or corked bats or under-inflated footballs, why couldn't anyone misuse the new technology?

Over the weekend, former St. Louis Cardinals scouting director Christopher Correa pleaded guilty to five counts of unauthorized access of a protected computer.

In other words, this guy actually hacked into the Houston Astros' database to obtain private information about their players.

The Cardinals fired Correa last summer after he was investigated for hacking into the Houston Astros' team databases.

According to the Justice Department, he gained access to statistics, scouting reports and other confidential reports by using the password of an Astros' employee that was previously employed by the Cardinals.

In all my wildest dreams I would have never considered this as a possibility, let alone an actual crime someone would commit.

But in all actuality, it makes perfect sense. The sports landscape has changed. If the digital age can give teams an edge why not steal that edge to gain the advantage.

Just like players and coaches trying to steal the signals of other teams. Once you know what they are going to do, a team can start planning against it.

I can't wait for the time when a drone is shot down while flying over a team's practice facility, only to discover it was put there by an opposing team to film the proceedings.

Again it makes perfect sense. Not that I condone cheating of any kind. But just

like everything else, the cheating is just going to be more sophisticated now.

In sports, the thought of tall, muscular and athletic guys leading a franchise to victory may be replaced with a skinny, nerdy guy with glasses, typing away at his keyboard.

As part of his plea, Correa admitted that from March 2013 through at least March 2014, he illicitly accessed Ground Control – a private online database – and e-mail accounts of others in order to gain access to Astros' proprietary information.

Of course, at the time, Correa denied that he did any of this. When the evidence became overwhelming he caved and agreed to a plea deal.

Kind of reminds you of all the players who denied using illegal substances until the evidence was overwhelming.

We all know that this will not end here. Brainiacs everywhere will come up with new ways to circumvent the system to give cheaters an edge.

Human beings are human beings, whether it's a little vaseline to put more spin on a curveball or a few thousand lines of computer code to gain illegal access into the goings on of opponents.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Athlete of the Year

For whatever reason, there seemed to be a lot of fuss – more than usual, at least – made over one question: Who was the athlete of the year?

Most people, I'm guessing, didn't even know that there are still organizations that actually care enough to sit down and decide such things (in smoke-filled rooms, natch), but apparently there are. And depending on which source you hold most dear, you heard several different answers: The Associated Press chose Serena Williams; Sports Illustrated chose Stephen Curry; and the BBC made waves across the ocean for not choosing the new heavyweight champion of the world, Tyson Fury. (Fury, who

may have the coolest name in boxing history, might have won in the worst fight in history, and he may have possibly given the worst post-fight performance in history... singing Aerosmith and offending everyone else with his mouth.) Golfer Jordan Spieth tripped off the tongues of more than a few pundits as well.

And then, of course, there were the curiosities. According to Google, the most searched-for term in 2015 was Lamar Odom, but chances are, the teeming masses weren't interested in the retired basketball player's lifetime stats. Caitlyn Jenner made it onto a bunch of lists, but I'm not quite sure how that relates to the world of sports

other than an interesting asterisk for the record books.

And poor Holly Holm. She superkicked the people's champion to the face to become the undisputed bantamweight champion of the UFC world, and all anybody wants to talk about is the girl she beat. I have to admit, count me among those who had their heart shattered along with Rhonda Rousey's face. I was one of those holdouts when it came to mixed martial arts. In the beginning I bought the fight, and all I remember was the sumo wrestler getting his teeth blasted into the front row in the first fight, and then everyone else just rolling around the floor for a few hours.

After that, I stubbornly clung to boxing until I realized the "sweet science" wasn't all that sweet anymore. How thrilling is it to watch Floyd Mayweather hold his hands up and shake his head "no" and make a few hundred

million dollars for the pleasure? Rousey only worked about two rounds in her three fights combined, but she reintroduced the sport to the world. Nobody was talking about boxing like they were talking about MMA this year, and she deserves the lion's share of the credit.

But in the end, it wasn't a lion that mattered most. Serena didn't win the Grand Slam, Rousey didn't beat Holm, and Spieth, as amazing as he was, didn't win them all either. So who was the athlete of the year? The horse, of course!

Why does everyone have such a hard time saying it?

Was it because they misspelled the horse's name? American Pharoah – that's your athlete of the year. It's not a slam on any athlete to lose to an animal, in this case an incredibly beautiful one from New Jersey that glided to the Triple Crown, drawing crowds that rivaled presidential campaigns and rock concerts. In 2015, that horse, as briefly as he was around, was truly a sight to see.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.



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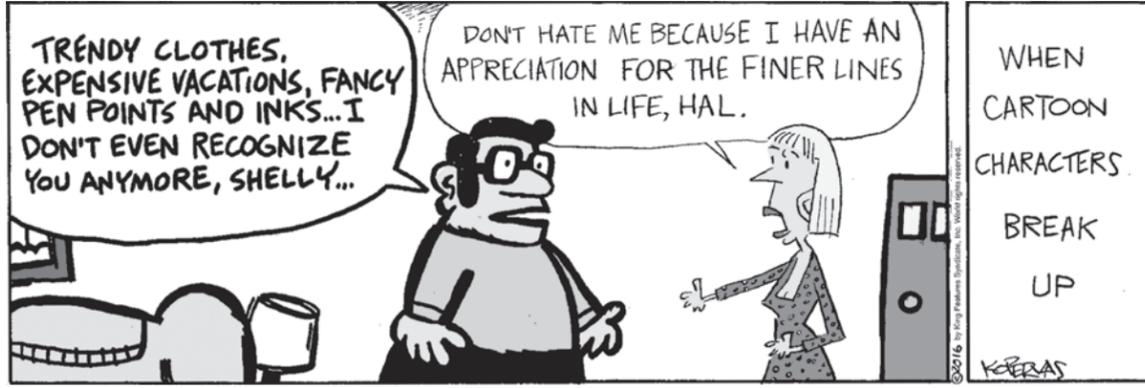


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### TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.

# 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:** My father is an 84-year-old diabetic. He has had a wound on his foot (on the inner side of his right foot, near his big toe) for about five months. He has been treated by a podiatrist, who has debrided the wound every week. He prescribed antibiotics when the wound has looked infected. A visiting nurse and my mother have changed and dressed the wound regularly during these months. This week, the podiatrist said he could see the bone in my dad's foot, and recommended hyperbaric treatment. Could you tell me what your opinion is of this treatment in my father's case? Do you know if it has a high percentage of success? – C.O.

likelihood of developing ulcers. Early and aggressive treatment of precursor lesions, even mild redness of the skin, ingrown toenails or fungal infection of the feet, should prompt urgent evaluation by a podiatrist.

Once the ulcer has progressed to the point where your dad's is now, aggressive measures are called for. In addition to care by a podiatrist or orthopedic surgeon, evaluation by a vascular surgeon and a wound-management specialist may be limb- and even life-saving.

While hyperbaric oxygen has indeed been shown to be beneficial in several studies (reducing amputation rate from 33 percent to 9 percent in one study), only an expert with detailed knowledge of your dad's case can decide whether this is appropriate treatment. If you trust your podiatrist, I think it may well be a useful treatment. However, I would be sure that he, or a vascular surgeon, has looked at the quality of blood flow to the foot.

Foot ulcers in diabetes are common and feared. Diabetes damages blood vessels, both large and small. Also, longstanding diabetes decreases the effectiveness of the inflammatory response and immune system. Finally, poor nerve function in people with diabetes combines with these other factors to predispose one to developing breakdown of the skin and development of ulcers. These ulcers can get large and deep, and when the bone is visible (and sometimes even when it's not), the bone is infected. In this case, there is a high risk of the need for amputation.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** What is your position on the shingles vaccine for people in their 70s? We have been told that some doctors do not approve of it. Yet we know of so many people who suffered terribly from shingles. Thank you. – J.T.

By far, the best way to deal with diabetic foot ulcers is to not get them in the first place. Good control of diabetes, proper footwear, regular checks by a professional and daily self-checks of the feet for people at high risk can reduce the

I've written about the vaccine lots of times. I am a strong believer in it and think anyone over 60 should get it unless they have a medical reason not to. The older you are, the more important it is to get the shot, since the complication of pain

See HEALTH, Page 8

# Super Crossword

- KID-LIT QUACK ACROSS**
- 1 "I.Q." co-star Walter
  - 8 Hearing-airing channel
  - 13 1990s Oldsmobile model
  - 20 Most sore
  - 21 Singer Katy
  - 22 Two-time
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 25 Sweet Italian wine
  - 26 Swizzle
  - 27 Co- (some apartments)
  - 28 Blood classification system
  - 29 Insects in the woodwork
  - 30 Filled to the very top
  - 32 Macchio or Nader
  - 34 "Who's in charge here?" reply
  - 35 Riddle, part 2
  - 42 Wary
  - 43 Class for U.S. immigrants
  - 44 Tiny building block
  - 45 Sinful habit
  - 46 Family reunion mem.
  - 47 Funnyman Foxx
  - 50 Andes animals
  - 52 \_ large extent
  - 53 Riddle, part 3
  - 58 Greenish-blue colors

- 60 Places to secure ships
- 61 Countless centuries
- 62 Be fraught with meaning
- 64 Student transcript fig.
- 65 Traveled via canoe
- 68 Category
- 69 Egypt's \_ Stone
- 73 Leech, e.g.
- 74 Off-pierced body parts
- 79 January, to Jose
- 80 Riddle, part 4
- 83 Fragrant neckwear
- 84 Earnest attempt
- 86 Fish that wriggle
- 87 Ocean off N.C.
- 88 "\_ wrap!"
- 90 Soprano Jenny
- 91 Tacoma-to-Spokane dir.
- 93 F sharp's equivalent
- 95 End of the riddle
- 101 \_ Wee Reese
- 102 Concepts, in Quebec
- 103 The Hunter in the sky
- 104 No-show
- 108 151, in old Rome
- 109 Indian flatbread
- 110 Large Sicilian volcano
- 114 Pinpoints

- DOWN**
- 1 Greedy mouths
  - 2 Eight, in Germany
  - 3 Tongue of Bangkok
  - 4 Measure via a reagent
  - 5 Males
  - 6 "Michael Row the Boat \_"
  - 7 Ideal place
  - 8 Rank below Sgt.
  - 9 "Me Talk Pretty One Day" author David
  - 10 The major leagues
  - 11 "The Stupids" star Tom
  - 12 TV scientist Bill
  - 13 High point
  - 14 Alluring magnetism
  - 15 Writer Melville
  - 16 1994 sci-fi writer's memoir
  - 17 Coup d' (rebellion)
  - 18 Meadow rodent
  - 19 Santa \_ (desert winds)

- 24 Branch of the mil.
- 29 They precede iotas
- 31 Globe-circler Nellie
- 33 Nutty confection
- 35 Cardio workout system
- 36 Icy home
- 37 Old screen star Lamarr
- 38 "Enough!," in El Salvador
- 39 Crucial
- 40 \_ Lodge (motel)
- 41 Minimum
- 42 Squeeze (in)
- 47 Charged, as in battle
- 48 Thing to hatch out of
- 49 Evening time
- 50 Cry before "No hands!"
- 51 Caught between \_ and Charybdis
- 54 One prodding
- 55 Walk very quietly
- 56 Exit door
- 57 Listened to
- 59 Comedian \_ Smirnoff
- 63 Buenos \_
- 66 Given out as deserved
- 67 Frankie Avalon's " \_ Dinah"
- 69 Sainly article
- 70 "I'm not \_

- complain..."
- 71 Earthquake
- 72 Attach
- 75 Hole-making tool
- 76 Blues street of Memphis
- 77 "Como \_?"
- 78 Sodium
- 81 Country singer Milsap
- 82 \_-do-well
- 85 Most speedy
- 89 Mollify
- 91 Baby female sheep
- 92 "Forget it!"
- 93 Mop & \_
- 94 Diplomacy
- 96 Pre-Easter
- 97 Dance music genre
- 98 Hawaiian coffee
- 99 Speechified
- 100 Music ending
- 104 Everyone, in Germany
- 105 Great benefit
- 106 Local near a loch
- 107 Punta del \_
- Uruguay
- 111 Candy bar from Mars
- 112 Actress Campbell
- 113 Sacked out
- 115 Mangy mutt
- 116 British corp. designation
- 117 They precede xis

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118									119						120				
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# MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Many of the classes at Texas A and M-Galveston are held aboard ship.



## 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		21
x		-		+	
	-		x		24
-		x		x	
	x		÷		20
28		25		30	

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	6		8					5
2				7	6			4
		1		5		9		
		3			9	2		4
8			7					5
	4			3		1		
	1	9			5	7		
	5		3					2
3				8				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  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was 20th-century British journalist, travel writer and literary critic Dame Rebecca West who made the following sage observation: "I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."

• The infamous Ouija board may be surrounded by controversy, but the origin of its name is not mysterious; the creators simply combined the French word for "yes" – "oui" – with the German

affirmative – "ja."

• Everybody is afraid of something, right? And whatever the fear, there's doubtless a name for it. For example, erythrophones are afraid of blushing, peccatophobes are afraid of sinning, and aichmophobes are afraid of needles. If you're afraid of going insane, you're lysophobic; if it's disease that frightens you, you're nosophobic; cremnophobia is a fear or precipices. There's even a word to describe the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth: arachibutyrophobia. And finally, you may at this point be suffering from sesquipedalophobia – the fear

of long words.

• Located in the Sierras at 8,000 feet above sea level, the town of Bodie was once the second-biggest city in California. These days, it's deserted for most of the year, but every summer more than 200,000 people travel to the upper altitudes just to see the slowly decaying town, hoping to catch a glimpse of one of the ghosts that reputedly inhabit every crumbling building that remains.

Thought for the Day: "We're in the same tent as the clowns and the freaks – that's show business." – Edward R. Murrow

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## Truancy

From Page 1

before sending truant students to the courts," Esparza stated. The district attorney said that the new truancy prevention program in schools basically consists of working with students for 45 days, along with their parents. However, if a student keeps missing school despite completing the plan, the school

can then file a complaint, but it no longer carries a criminal charge; nonetheless, parents could still face a fine of up to \$500, Esparza explained. With the new program, truancy cases will now go first to the district attorney's office before going to a justice of the peace, he added. As part of its oversight duties, the prevention program's task force is scheduled to meet quarterly each year to evaluate the program's on-going measures.

The first meeting is set for mid-February with preliminary results scheduled for presentation to county commissioners court soon afterwards.

## Health

From Page 7

(postherpetic neuralgia) is so devastating and tends to last longer the older you are.

## 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: S equals T

ES RT HERQNY KQMSWT YOER, F  
REDM MEZU KEWSFZFKECS  
MJMCSNEOOT SEDM E SNWC  
Hqw SUM JMWYM.

Answer Page 4  
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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 Good Health, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2016 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

## Classified Ads

**LEGALS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Alliance of Border Collaboratives**

**Invitation to Bid**

have Home Deed Conversion and HRA Bids written on the lower left hand side of the envelope. A public opening of the Bid Packets will take place on February 29th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the office of ABC phone (915) 584-2875. The contractor must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin age sex or disability. ABC has a conflict of interest procedure in accordance with 24CFR 92356. ABC has a Bidders Protest Rights Procedure. ABC reserves the right to reject any bids or to waive any informality in the bidding. ABC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Alliance of Border Collaboratives (ABC) is a recipient of Home Contract for Deed#1002208, HRA Contract #1002206, and HRAPWD Contract #1002207. ABC, will accept seal bids for up to 10 residential new constructions and rehabilitation for each contract. Contractors can pick up a Bid Packet starting January 15th, 2016 through February 15th, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bid Packets can be picked up from and delivered to ABC at 5400 Suncrest Dr. Suite D-7. El Paso, TX 79912

Submitted Bid Packets must

WTCC: 01-14-16

## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

♥ IBD  
SUCODE  
♥ TEPDO  
ORHE  
BIOHAP  
EVI  
♥ EOSP  
DAKOV  
UED  
TOVUDE  
VOACH  
♥ EKLE

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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