



NEWSBRIEFS

EPCC play

El Paso Community College (EPCC) Theater Ensemble will offer its second play of 2016 season with *All My Sons*. Performances will be April 8, 9, 15, 16 at 8:00 p.m. and April 10 and 17 at 2:30 p.m. The EPCC Theater Ensemble performs at the EPCC Transmountain Campus Forum Theater, 9570 Gateway North. General Admission is \$15, Non-EPCC students and military are \$10 and EPCC students/staff and senior citizens are \$7. Tickets are available at the door. The box office opens two hours before each performance. *All My Sons* tells the story of a family learning to cope with the disappearance of their son during World War 2. Their world is turned upside down once again when their son's former fiancée returns into their lives. The events that transpire after will further cause turmoil in the tumultuous life of the grieving family. Arthur Miller wrote the original play. Matthew Smith directs the theater production.

— Jim Heiney

Healthy mind, body

You are better off taking the stairs up to your next class, particularly if you are an older American out to improve your knowledge base and protect your brain, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. Canadian researchers found that "education and physical activity affect the difference between a physiological prediction of age and chronological age, and that people can actively do something to help their brains stay young." Their study has been published in the journal, *Neurobiology of Aging*. Jason Steffener, the lead author of the report, said the focus of the study was the positive effects of low-impact exercise such as climbing stairs on brain health. "In comparison to many other forms of physical activity, taking the stairs is something older adults can and already do at least once a day, unlike vigorous forms of physical activity."

— Javier Sambrano

Wanted

A downtown convenience store was robbed on Easter Sunday by a knife wielding man. The El Paso Police Department is asking for help

See BRIEFS, Page 3

Patrick Henry ought to come back and see what taxation "with" representation is like.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

ROUGHING IT IN STYLE – From its wide-open spaces to the simplicity of outdoor living, El Cosmico provides temporary relief from a busy city life. The teepees and mobile trailers, above, are an outdoor adventure eagerly waiting for intrepid city dwellers.

Marfa's landscape inspires unique campgrounds

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

MARFA – "Revival Tintype Pop-Up", "La Abeja Herbs and The Traveling Medicine Show Workshops", "Wild Plants of the High Desert", "Sip Cordials, Elixirs, and Herbal Wines", and "The Sacred Art of Bathing" are titles of the unique presentations scheduled for April at this far-out place, called El Cosmico.

El Cosmico is a 21-acre nomadic hotel and campground in Marfa. The spacious location offers shelter, entertainment, learning opportunities, and access to the high plains of the West Texas desert. Marfa is located in the high plains desert, at an altitude of 4,800 feet, about 200 miles east of El Paso County- a comfortable three hour drive.

Accommodations at the El Cosmico site include renovated vintage trailers, safari and scout tents, Sioux-style teepees, a Mongolian yurt, and tent campsites. The property also offers several communal spaces for guests – a hammock grove, an outdoor kitchen and dining area, a community lounge and mercantile, an outdoor stage, a reading room, wood-fired hot tubs, and bikes for exploring the

local scenery.

Liz Lambert, who grew up on her family's cattle ranches in the Marfa and Fort Davis area, purchased the El Cosmico property in 2006 and began to work with architects at Lake Flato and Jack Sanders of Design Build Adventure, along with a team of builders, artists and students to create a plan for what El Cosmico would become, according to El Cosmico website.

Today, El Cosmico is a Bunkhouse hotel. Its sister properties are the Hotel San Jose and Hotel Saint Cecilia in Austin, and Hotel Havana in San Antonio, which have earned Bunkhouse a reputation for creating meaningful experiences rooted in community, according to the website. Lambert and her Bunkhouse team opened the new venture in 2009, and the property continues to evolve.

The presentations coming up April 12-16 are examples of the types of offerings El Cosmico sponsors throughout the year.

There's the "Revival Tintype Pop-Up", which is slated from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 12. Photographer Patrick Demmons, owner of Revival Tintype in Oakland CA, will travel to West Texas to capture residents in silver and light.

Demmons takes wet-plate collodion tintype portraits using a process first developed in 1851. Sittings will be done by reservation and walk-ins as allowed.

On Thursday, April 14, "La Abeja Herbs and The Traveling Medicine Show Workshops" will present a full apothecary line of plants and herbs along with a selection of talismans and other collectible items, in the tradition of the traveling medicine shows of the Old West.

"The Wild Plants of the High Desert" nature walks are scheduled for Thursday, April 14 and Saturday, April 16. Participants will wander the grounds of El Cosmico to get to know those edible and medicinal plants that live in the desert southwest.

In the cordials, elixirs, and herbal wines demonstration, which will be held in the evening, Friday, April 15, participants will delve into the age old art of blending herbs, spices, and fruits to create complex flavors that have healing and pleasure potencies.

The Saturday, April 16, activity will feature the sacred art of bathing, also known as Hydrotherapy, which is considered one of the most effective forms of healing and self care. Hydrotherapy has been treasured by many cultures as integral to one's health just as sleep, nourishment, and exercise, according to the presenters.

In addition to learning about specific practices for traditional and improvised healing baths, participants will learn how to employ herbal infusions, flower essences, mineral salts, and crystals to deepen the restorative power of the bathwater.

So El Paso County residents, who are looking for an extraordinary experience without having to travel far or spend a lot of money, should consider this far-out in the desert plains trip for their next adventure. Accommodations and presentations are offered at nominal fees.

To get more information about this hidden outdoor treasure, visit El Cosmico's website at elcosmico.com.

Clint ISD wins court case

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Texas Supreme Court ruled recently that Clint Independent School District (CISD) parents must first go through the district's administration and school board, and then to the Texas Commissioner of Education – which oversees both the district and board – before taking legal action.

With this ruling, the lawsuit filed by parents in 2012 alleging that CISD

was inequitably funding schools in the district was dismissed by the court due to lack of jurisdiction.

"We are very pleased with the Texas Supreme Court's opinion that solidifies the position that the district has maintained all along. Parents need to present their issues to the administration and school board prior to resorting to court intervention," Juan J. Cruz, the attorney for CISD, said in a public statement.

Parents Sonia Herrera Marquez,

See CLINT ISD, Page 5

Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

Should you leave 401(k) money behind when changing jobs?

With the average American spending only 4.6 years at any given job, it's never been more important to have a plan for any retirement funds you've accrued at any employer.

A big problem that began during the 2008 recession but continues today involves loans, hardship withdrawals and complete cash-outs of 401(k) plans. A 2015 Boston College study ([http://crr.](http://crr.bc.edu)

[bc.edu](http://crr.bc.edu)) reported that 1.5 percent of retirement assets "leak out" of 401(k) plans and personal IRAs each year, reducing an individual's wealth at retirement by about 25 percent.

Meanwhile, a 2014 Fidelity Investments study sounded a particularly urgent alarm about 401(k) cash-outs and workers under the age of 40. The mutual fund giant noted that 35 percent of all participants were simply cashing out their 401(k) assets when leaving a job. However, for workers aged 20-39 – indeed, those with the longest savings horizons – that number jumped to 41 percent.

So what should you do? A great deal depends on your age, time to retirement and specific needs.

Start by taking an inventory of your retirement assets. Either alone or with the help of a qualified financial or tax expert, put together an official list of current and former 401(k) plans, personal IRAs or, depending on your years of work history, assets from traditional defined benefit retirement plans that were popular more than 20 years ago. Then see where you are.

Make sure you always review retirement options whenever you change a job. If an employer is highly motivated to get you on board, query the company about the retirement savings options that would fit the position you're interviewing for. Ask hiring

managers in general terms about how well their retirement options have performed and if you would have the option of rolling over your 401(k) assets to that employer. If, for example, your prospective employer has a more generous matching feature than your current employer has, that could create a favorable environment for transferring those assets. If not, you may want to keep your money in your employer's existing plan or consider a rollover to a personal IRA with the features you're looking for. Ask plenty of questions.

Evaluate IRA choices carefully. If you are considering rolling your former employer's assets into a personal IRA, evaluate your tax situation, both Traditional and Roth IRA options and their performance and fee levels before you arrange for a transfer.

Go for the best-performing investment options that fit your needs and anticipated retirement date. Employer-based 401(k) plans generally disclose investment choices and investment fees (http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/401k_employee.html). It may be a good idea to get qualified help to review those documents. Age is important. There's typically a 10 percent penalty if you withdraw money from a 401(k) or IRA before age 59 and a half. But if you lose or leave your job at age

55 or later (or earlier for certain public employees), you can generally take 401(k) withdrawals without penalty. An IRA rollover requires the account holder to be at least 59 ½ years old before they can take a penalty-free IRA distribution. While keeping your money invested as long as possible is key to a successful retirement, withdrawal issues are also important to consider based on your age and time to retirement.

Invest on your own. It's important to do parallel personal retirement planning with any employer-based retirement options available to you. Again, get qualified help to assist you in evaluating the retirement savings and investment decisions you make on your own and at work.

Bottom line: Frequent job changing can derail anyone's retirement planning. Whether you roll over a former employer's retirement assets every time you switch or decide to keep your money in certain plans, get help if you need it.

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

Relocation scammers get a slap on the wrist

The acting principal deputy undersecretary for benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs has been suspended for 15 days for letting two of his underlings work the system. The two had forced others to move and transfer to different jobs and then grabbed the newly vacated posts for themselves.

For this he only gets a 15-day wrist slap?!

Adding to the debacle was that the VA's Office of the Inspector General had unearthed over 20 hefty relocation-scam cases wherein senior executives were relocated to new positions and given fat raises during a time when others were blocked from salary increases. The new deputy replaced the one who'd had to retire after all the allegations came out, so he should have known exactly what was going on and stopped it.

The official bio for the new acting deputy says that he's in charge of 20,000 employees across the 56 regional offices

and is responsible for \$90 billion in benefits to veterans and their dependents. These involve the whole list of benefits, including compensation, home loan guaranty, vocational rehab, education... all of it.

And what of those two regional directors who abused their authority and pushed others out of their jobs? They were demoted... not fired, not sent to jail, just demoted. And now they've apparently been reinstated, although with a 10 percent cut in pay. The Merit Systems Protection Board gave them their jobs back because their bosses at the time had allowed all the mischief.

Nowhere is there any talk of their having to pay back the \$400,000 in moving expenses they received, even though one of them only moved 140 miles and netted \$300,000 in travel expenses, which included reimbursement for \$76 for alcoholic beverages.

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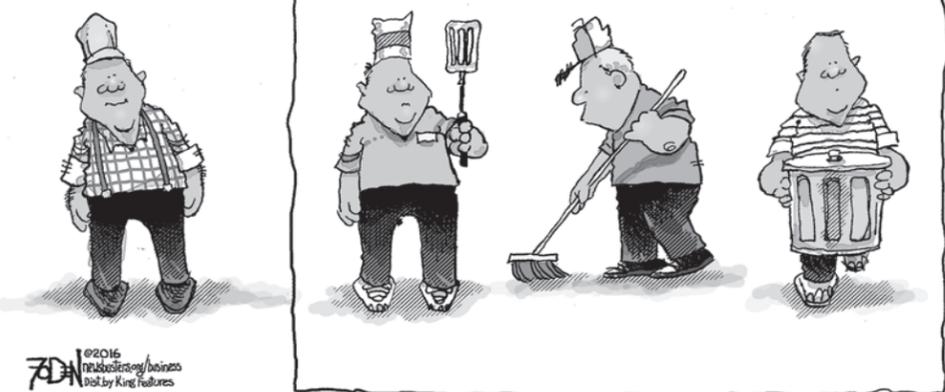
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HOW WHITE HOUSE JOB CREATION WORKS

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View from here By John Grimaldi

North Carolina's 'Bathroom Bill' protects privacy rights

North Carolina's so-called 'bathroom bill' is causing quite a stir pitting defenders of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities against folks who think only ladies should be allowed in the Ladies' Room and only men should be allowed in the Men's Room.

"The law supposedly violates the rights of individuals with alternative sexual preferences, particularly anatomically correct men who see themselves as women and women who wish they were men. But what about the rights of the rest of us? Americans overwhelmingly seek a modicum of privacy when we need to use the toilet or take a shower or use the locker room to change into gym clothes? The way a person thinks of himself or herself sexually is not an issue. Their thoughts are theirs alone as are the thoughts of traditionalists who find it intrusive and offensive to be forced to use communal bathrooms, shower rooms and locker rooms," according to Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

"Challenging an individual's right to privacy when using a bathroom is no laughing matter..."
— Dan Weber

Weber said he was sad to see the amusement with which such a sensitive issue was greeted when New York Governor Andrew Cuomo banned state travel to North Carolina earlier this week in protest to the bathroom bill. "Challenging an individual's right to privacy when using a bathroom, as Mr. Cuomo is doing, is no laughing matter."

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory insists that the law is not discriminatory. The law does not take away or infringe on anyone's rights, he said. However, he added: "Would you want a man to walk into your daughter's shower, and legally be able to do that? I happen to disagree with that."

Meanwhile, McCrory's office quickly distributed a Fact Sheet pointing out, among other things, that the law does not limit or prohibit private sector companies from adopting their own set of bathroom rules. Nor does it leave the LGBT community without protections. In addition, private businesses have the right to allow mixed use bathroom, shower and locker facilities.

Weber believes that "them versus us" politics is behind the fuss. "After all, why have the CEOs of major companies doing business in North Carolina banded together to challenge the law. In fact, 80 companies including Charlotte, NC-based Bank of America, Apple, Google, Facebook and PayPal, for example, signed a somewhat threatening letter hoping to put economic pressure on the state. Why would they take such a high-profile stance since the law does not impose any new rules on their businesses? They are free to set their own bathroom policies as they see fit.

So, why was the law passed in the first place? According to the Governor's Fact Sheet: "The bill was passed after the Charlotte City Council voted to impose a regulation requiring businesses to allow a man into a women's restroom, shower, or locker room if they choose. This ordinance would have eliminated the basic expectations of privacy people have when using the rest room by allowing people to use the restroom of their choice. This new local regulation brought up serious privacy concerns by parents, businesses and others across the state, as well as safety concerns that this new local rule could be used by people who would take advantage of this to do harm to others."

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

Briefs

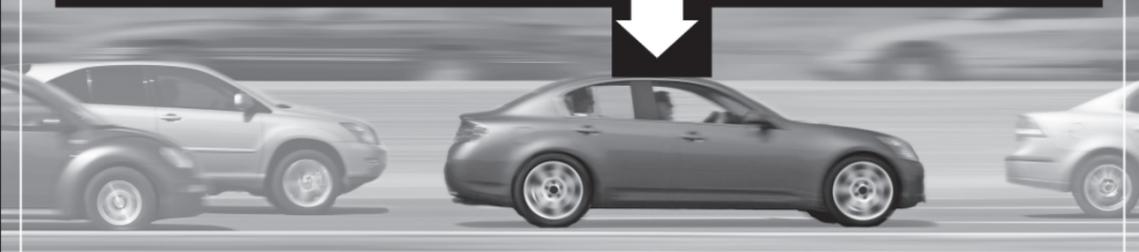
From Page 1

finding this thief through the Crime Stoppers. The robbery took place on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016 at the Rest Area convenience store located at 204 S. Stanton. Just after 4p.m. a man walked into the store and selected a soda from the coolers. As he approached the register, he pulled out a knife and walked up to the employee behind the counter. The man threatened the employee with the knife and demanded money from the cash register. The suspect also stole the employee's cellular phone and fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect is described

as a Hispanic male in his late 20s or early 30s with a short beard. He was wearing a dark colored baseball cap, sunglasses, a red bandana, a blue long sleeve shirt, blue denim jeans and brown work boots. Anyone with information on the identity of this violent robber is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word "CRIME1" (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

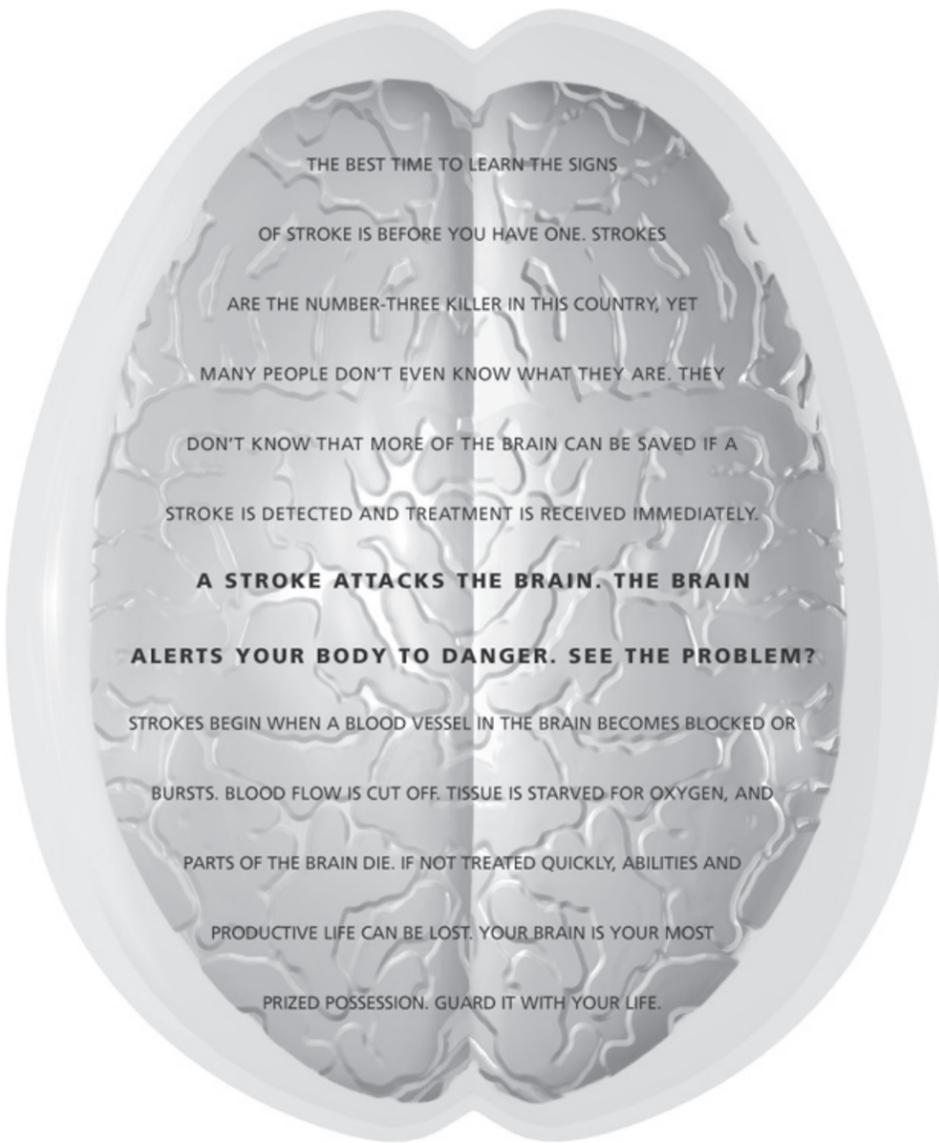
— Javier Sambrano

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Water board funds Vinton project

By **Marina Ramirez**
Special to the Courier

VINTON – The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved financial assistance in the amount of \$2,709,070, consisting of an \$825,000 loan and \$1,884,070 in loan forgiveness, from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to the Village of Vinton. With the assistance provided, the Village of Vinton will be able to finance the initial phase of a wastewater project for first-time service to the area.

In addition to the savings from the loan forgiveness, Vinton could save approximately \$218,000 over the life of the loan by using the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

The Village of Vinton will

use the assistance to finance the planning, acquisition, and design phase of a new centralized wastewater collection system. “This is the first step to recovering the funds that were lost in 2012,” states Mayor Madeleine Praino. “We’re working diligently to get back on track and get the much needed water and wastewater,” adds Mayor Madeleine Praino.

The TWDB is the state agency charged with collecting and disseminating water-related data, assisting with regional planning and preparing the state water plan for the development of the state’s water resources.

The TWDB administers cost-effective financial assistance programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By **JoAnn Derson**

- “Spring sports are in full swing for us, and we definitely still use the slow cooker. I often double recipes to freeze when I cook. When the recipe allows, I thaw the dinners for the week in the fridge. After school but before sports, I put the thawed meal in the slow cooker to heat up while we’re out. It works great for spaghetti sauce with meatballs, cooked chicken, meatloaf or cube steak and stews, etc. Coming home to a warm, almost-ready meal is a blessing after being out on the field. We’re usually starved.” – E.I. in New York

- Things from the kitchen you can add to your vegetable garden: leftover chamomile tea, black tea leaves, coffee grounds, banana skins, the water left behind when cooking vegetables, etc. Also, look up how to make your own compost pile. It does not have to be big! You can find information on the Internet or at the library.

- If you’re chopping a lot of tomatoes and need to remove the seeds, this tip will leave you spinning. Get out your salad spinner, add chopped tomatoes and give it a whirl.

- “My mom bought me a beauty blender – a foam makeup brush that’s really good for contouring and blending. Then my grandma saw it rolling around my vanity, dropping on the floor (gross). She gave me an eggcup to use. I’ve never used one for eating a boiled egg, but it fits my makeup brush perfectly!” – J.J. in Florida

- Give your computer a spring-cleaning by updating your browser and critical programs, changing to a fresh password and perusing your security and privacy settings. While you’re at it, run a backup and offload a copy of your photo collection and/or music trove to an external hard drive, just in case.

Send your tips to *Now Here’s a Tip*, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.
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During rush hour, might a bunch of gas station attendants be in pumper-to-pumper traffic?

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was award-winning Canadian novelist, poet, essayist and literary critic Margaret Atwood who made the following sage observation: "Your romantic tragedy when you were 19 becomes a funny anecdote by the time you're 45. And then, 30 years later, you can't remember their name."

• In 1819, some Native peoples in the United States got quite a surprise. Fearing trouble from tribes, a group of western river explorers traveled in a steamboat that had been modified to resemble a fire-breathing serpent.

• After the disaster of the Exxon Valdez, the oil tanker's former captain, Joseph Hazelwood – who evidently had been so drunk that he was passed out in his bunk when the devastating collision occurred – was hired by the New York Maritime College. His job? Teaching students how to stand watch.

• Tombstones weren't always used to record information about the deceased's life; they were originally just large, unmarked slabs of stone placed atop a fresh grave – a barrier to ensure that no undead creature or ghostly spirit could escape to trouble the living.

• The woman who was declared the female winner of the 1980 Boston Marathon had the title stripped from her after officials noticed her absence from any of the photographs or video footage from the middle of the event. It seems she veered off course, killed a little time around town, then rode the subway a spot less than a mile from the finish line, rejoining the race at the very end.

Thought for the Day: "A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad."

– Theodore Roosevelt

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San Elizario receives grant to update park

By Maya Sanchez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – With the assistance of El Paso

County's Rural and Small Town Economic Development Team, the City of San Elizario was awarded a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant of \$94,028 with half of the funding being

matched by the City of San Elizario. This is the first grant the City has applied for since incorporation in 2013.

The grant will go towards improvements to Tedd Richardson Park on Alarcon Rd. in San Elizario. The process included a generous donation of the park by El Paso County Commissioners Court to the City of San Elizario. Without the donation, the City of San Elizario would not have qualified to participate in the TP&W grant process.

Proposed improvements include landscaping, utilizing native and adapted plants, a sand volleyball court, updating and adding additional picnic and grill areas, securing the park entrances for added safety and most importantly, park playground equipment – much of which will be tailored

to children with special needs.

There are very few parks in San Elizario and Tedd Richardson Park has been in need of an update for several years now. We want to make sure we start with what exists – but is being underutilized – and transform it into a gathering place that meets the needs of our residents. Being a new city, we spent much of our beginning efforts establishing our new government. We are now able to focus on improving the quality of life in San Elizario and this grant is just the beginning of many more good things to come for San Elizario.

The proposed completion date of the improvements is fall 2017.

Maya Sanchez is the mayor of San Elizario.

Clint ISD

From Page 1

Claudia Garcia and Alicia Gomez with the help of the Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project filed the lawsuit claiming that the CISD board was allocating more money and opportunities to schools in the Clint area than it was to schools in the Horizon City or Montana Vista areas.

A district court judge in February 2013 dismissed the lawsuit after ruling that the parents must go through all available avenues the district has to address the issue before bringing it to court.

The parents then appealed the

judge's decision to the Texas Eighth District Court of Appeals, which ruled in October 2014 that the funding discrepancies violated the Texas Constitution. The appeals court ruling in favor of the parents was then appealed by the school district.

Subsequently, the case was heard by the Texas Supreme Court in November with their ruling coming down the last week in March. Earlier that week, CISD school board rejected (in a 5-2 vote) during a regular board meeting an agenda item that was requesting a move from an at-large trustee representation to single-member districts, which is what the lawsuit was basically trying to achieve.

Currently, six of the seven trustees serving on the board live in the town of Clint, while one trustee resides in Horizon City.

Sports

From Page 6

crashing into the ring during the Holyfield-Bowe title fight.

Actually, I wouldn't mind if they showed that helicopter crash into the ring again. But that doesn't mean we need a grim backstory rehashing the fan man's life. The story can end with the paraglide into the top rope... maybe a few seconds of the subsequent walloping he took at the hands of ringside security, but that's it... end it there.

I think we should stop with the soap-opera stuff. I think we should let the actual games be what we talk about. I further think that I now stand guilty for contributing to the very thing I've been complaining about, but just like the "renew lease?" prompt on the iPad that nobody understands but accepts anyway, it was something that needed to be said.

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

Classified Ads

LEGALS

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TX

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Qualifications

The Village of Vinton has recently received a Contract award from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs under its HOME Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program to rehabilitate two properties in the Village of Vinton. The City is seeking to contract with a qualified individual/management firm to administer the contract.

RFQ packages are available on the Village's website, <http://www.vinton.tx.gov/office2.com> and at the Village

of Vinton City Hall, Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please submit your request for proposal package to the Village of Vinton City Administrator, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton Texas 79821. Proposals must be received no later than April 21, 2016 at 4:30 pm to be considered. The Village reserves the right to negotiate with any and all firms or consultants that submit proposals as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act.

The Village of Vinton is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Madeleine Praino Mayor

WTCC: 04-07-16
04-14-16

Fabens Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fabens Independent School District Special Education Department will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed in 2008. Parents of these students may come to the Special Education Department located at 603 NE Camp Street. in Fabens on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to claim their child's file. The remaining files will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. If you have an questions, please call (915) 765-2690.

AVISO

El Departamento de Educación Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens va a destruir los archivos confidenciales de estudiantes que estaban en el programa de educación especial que han graduado, se han movido, o fueron despedidos en el año escolar de 2008. Los padres de estos estudiantes pueden venir a la oficina del Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens en 603 NE Camp Street, de lunes a viernes de 8:00-4:00 de la tarde a recoger los archivos de sus hijos. Los archivos que no sean recogidos van a ser destruidos como manda el estado en 30 días después de este aviso. Si tienen preguntas, llamen al teléfono (915) 765-2690.

WTCC: 04/07/16



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State law now requires both adults and children to be buckled up in the front or back seat. A child less than 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat. Most children between 4 and 8 years old will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Fines range from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs. TexasClickItorTicket.com



Click It or Ticket TEXAS

Chihuahuas draw 10,000 fans to exhibition game

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I've come to the conclusion that there must be a Nostradamus fan club here in El Paso.

I mean think about it, people in El Paso are always sharing their predictions for the future, just like Nostradamus.

And the predictions that many El Pasoans make concerning the future are chock full of doom and gloom, just like Nostradamus.

The only difference is that the El Pasoans are a little more precise with the wording in their predictions.

Like, "Triple-A baseball will never be supported by this town," or "building a stadium downtown is ridiculous because of the lack of parking," and "the Chihuahuas will be a flash in the pan – popular for a couple years and then the novelty will wear off."

Of course Nostradamus would have put it this way, "Soon after the start of the second century, the smallish one with teeth and claws will rise in the southwest, but

his meteoric climb will end quickly when the villagers of the town revolt through indifference."

Whatever the wording and whatever the message, many El Pasoans, just like Nostradamus, don't know a thing about the future. Well, I guess the only thing they share about the future is that it scares them silly.

The Chihuahuas are about to start their third season in El Paso and if last week's exhibition game against the San Diego Padres is any indication of the summer to come, baseball fans are in for a real treat.

The game, which was played in cold and windy weather more fit for any NFL opener, saw a sell-out crowd of over 10,000 sardine themselves into Southwest University Park.

And that was despite the game being televised live on local TV.

As always, parking was not an issue, ticket prices were not an issue, and the entertainment on the field was certainly not an issue.

But the one aspect of a night at the ballpark that people complain to me the most about is the cost of a beer or a hot dog or

a burger at the game.

First of all, anyone who was at the game last week, or frankly, at any game in the past, will tell you that the lines at the concessions stands are always two- and three-rows deep.

I could barely get from one end of the park to the other last week because of the density of the crowd.

And almost everyone at a Chihuahuas game is wearing some sort of Chihuahuas' gear, a t-shirt, a cap, a jersey, a jacket, whatever.

Let's face it; this is the best thing El Paso has to offer its citizens. Now El Pasoans have a place to take their visiting relatives during the summer. And it's not just a place to take them; it's something we're anxious and proud to show off to them.

Over a million people have crowded to Chihuahuas games over their first two seasons.

In its first year of existence, El Paso was fourth in the 16-team Pacific Coast League in attendance averaging 7,901 fans per game.

Last year the Chihuahuas were third in attendance, averaging 8,154.

That's weird; I thought fans were going to lose interest.

Of course, this is against teams who have had a long history with the league. And against all the naysayers who predicted this endeavor would be a disaster.

Another undeniable truth about a Chihuahuas game is that everybody has a smile on his or her face. Everyone is actually enjoying themselves at a first-rate stadium, watching a first-rate product, run by a first-rate local organization.

For a city that is used to the Ascarate swimming pool, the Sportspark, the lower valley Christmas lights fiasco and the San Jacinto Plaza mess, it's refreshing for locals to experience a first-class operation that only tries to get better with each passing day.

Of course El Paso still has their Nostradamus types who are still holding on to their dire predictions, but they are getting quieter by the day.

Maybe even they are starting to face the truth.

Maybe they even attended a Chihuahuas game – huh, who could have predicted that?

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

I don't care about Coach K

So, just after the Oregon Ducks did what was right in beating the Duke Blue Devils in the NCAA tournament, legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski summoned the dark side of his personality and yelled at another team's player.

I'm not quite sure what the rule

is when it comes to something like this – everyone knows you're supposed to talk only to your own team. I mean, you are supposed to hide stuff from the other team. But this was after the game, so it's not like you could call a technical on the guy. And

while we all know it's bad form to denigrate another team's players, let's not forget the first thing: They're schoolkids. They're there to learn. They can handle a little criticism. Coach K told the other team's kid that he was too good a player to take a last minute three-point shot to run up the score. The kid replied, "my bad," adding that he respected Coach K "so much."

Does that sound like an epic

blow-up? Doesn't it actually sound nice in a way? It's not like they were insulting each other's wives and girlfriends. All this really said to me was that Coach K will go on to become the retired guy who really likes to take care of his lawn and is not afraid to tell this to groundskeepers and pesky pizza delivery drivers who insist on walking through the flowerbed. Besides, he missed the rest of the point: Oregon's Dillon Brooks took the shot because the Ducks had too much respect for Duke's well-coached squad. The Ducks were not leaving anything to chance.

But it's not like the NBA is any bastion of civility. Does

anyone really care who LeBron James is unfollowing on Twitter? If Stephen Curry tracks the trajectory of every shot he makes, instead of simply turning and running back on defense? He's busy. He had things to do. He wasn't showing anybody up. Besides, they too have problems with little whippersnappers running willy-nilly around the floor of the Garden, demanding hugs from Carmelo Anthony. And just because that happened, it doesn't mean we have to watch Monica Seles get stabbed again, Nancy Kerrigan get bashed again or the guy in the fan suit

See SPORTS, Page 5

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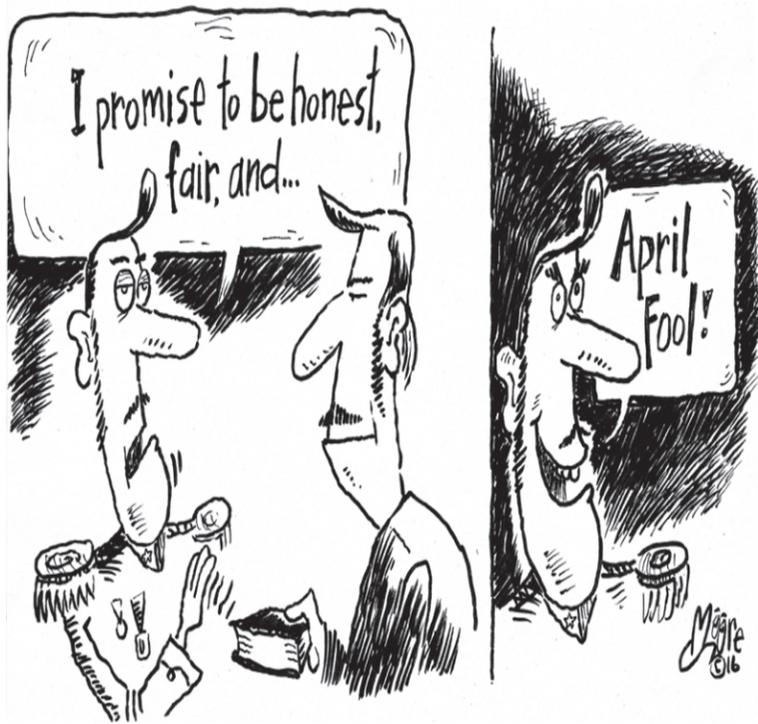
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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Texas' nemesis, Santa Anna, was inaugurated as President of Mexico on APRIL 1, 1833.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

my Social Security

For more than 80 years, Social Security has helped secure today and tomorrow with information, tools and resources to meet our customers' changing needs and lifestyles.

April 4-13, 2016 is National my Social Security Week. With the groups and organizations, Social Security will host numerous events and activities across the country to raise awareness about the benefits of opening a secure online my Social Security account.

The convenience and safety of doing business online with Social Security is another way we're meeting the changing needs and lifestyles of our customers.

With a my Social Security account, you can:

- Keep track of your earnings and verify them every year;
- Get an estimate of your future benefits, if you are still working;
- Get a letter with proof of your benefits, if you currently receive them;
- Manage your benefits;

- Change your address;
- Start or change your direct deposit;
- Get a replacement Medicare card; and
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.

In some states, you can replace your Social Security card online using my Social Security. Currently available in the District of Columbia, Michigan, Nebraska, Washington, and Wisconsin, it's an easy, convenient, and secure way to request a replacement card online.

To take advantage of this new service option, you must:

- Have or create a my Social Security account;
- Have a valid driver's license in a participating state or the District of Columbia (or a state-issued identification card in some states);
- Be age 18 or older and a United States citizen with a domestic U.S. mailing address (this includes APO, FPO, and DPO addresses); and
- Not be requesting a name

change or any other changes to your card.

We plan to add more states, so we encourage you to check with us later in the year.

During my Social Security Week, we will hold "Check Your Statement Day" on April 7, and you can join the millions who regularly check their Social Security Statement. It's important that you check this document every year because we base your future benefits on your recorded earnings. Your Statement can help you plan for your financial future. We encourage you to go online to my Social Security to access your Statement whenever you have a change of employment or wish to verify any changes in your benefit estimate.

Week after week, we provide you with world-class customer service, much of which is online. During my Social Security Week, you can join the more than 23 million people who have opened their own my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Help secure your today and tomorrow. Open a my Social Security account today by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

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		-		15
-		x		x	
	+		+		17
x		-		÷	
	x		+		17
10		18		18	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

UGWFVO WGBY YEGW, DFOYQ C

JGVKY EP OCB BQCQFEV

CQQMVUCVQB JM FV TGDTMW-QE

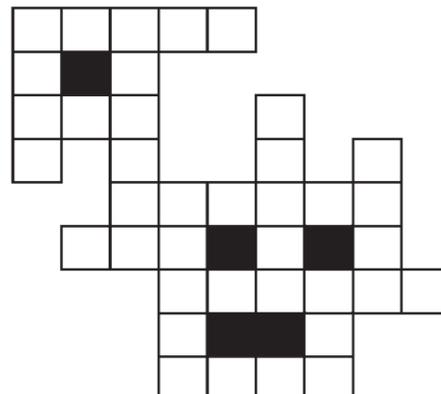
-TGDTMW QWCPPFK?

Answer Page 4

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- XWA
- CEESIX
- ♥ BARCO
- CSDI
- ♥ CRASHE
- EXS
- ♥ OESH
- LEECS
- ICS
- BOWBEC
- SERSD
- NYXL



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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Health

From Page 7

time, which makes determining the cause of current symptoms difficult. Still, the CT scan would be the next step if you are having symptoms.

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

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