



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Adult tuition help

The Far West Adult Education Consortium (FWAEC) in partnership with El Paso Community College (EPCC) is offering opportunities to obtain One-Year Certificates in fast-growing fields. \$1,000 in tuition assistance will be offered to those who meet the requirements for one-year certificate training in:

- Fire Technology;
- Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC);
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT);
- Office Assistant;
- Truck Driver (CDL);
- Automotive Technology; and
- Security.

This multi-faceted initiative of the Development for the Transition of Adults to Careers Project with EPCC Center for College Access is to create a stronger partnership between local Adult Education providers and a postsecondary institution and that will result in quality education and workforce training for adult learners. Contact Gina Nevarez, (915) 831-7790, for more information about this project and tuition assistance.

— Ismael De La Rosa

### Teen drivers

More teens obtaining driver's licenses during the summer than any other season and have an average of 220 auto-related teen deaths occurring every month during the same period. WalletHub (a personal-finance website) has followed up on its analysis of the *Best & Worst States for Summer Road Trips* with an in-depth look at *2016's Best & Worst States for Teen Drivers*. We compared the driving conditions for teens in the 50 U.S. states based on 16 key metrics, which collectively speak to each state's safety conditions, economic environment and driving laws. You can find a handful of highlights from the report below. Teen Driving Conditions in Texas (1=Best; 25=Average) are:

- 28th – Number of Teen Driver Fatalities per Teen Population;
- 24th – Number of Teen DUIs per Teen Population;
- 36th – Average Cost of Car Repairs;

See BRIEFS, Page 5

*The evils of men are divided into two classes: openly bad and secretly bad.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**LIGHT 'EM UP** – Fireworks stands will be allowed to sell their products in designated locations in El Paso County. To set off fireworks this Fourth of July, county residents can go to Anthony, TX or unincorporated areas around the county.

## El Paso County lifts fireworks ban

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Throngs of El Paso County's city dwellers are expected to make their way to the outskirts of the different townships in the region to revel in their attraction for fireworks this Fourth of July.

For the first time in five years, El Paso County officials are allowing fireworks for the Independence Day celebration, as fireworks sales have already started and will continue through July 4.

Revelers are reminded, however, that using fireworks comes with responsibilities. "While possession and setting off fireworks are legal in some areas of the county this summer, there are consequences if something happens," Sheriff Richard Wiles warned during a recent news conference. "You could be civilly or criminally responsible for injuries, damages, or death," he stated.

Subsequently, local law enforcement agencies will be adding more patrols in the areas where individuals will be allowed to shoot their fireworks. Officers will be on the lookout for offenses including drunken

driving, illegally parking, and littering in an effort to control the thousands who are expected to gather, especially in the Montana Vista area on July 4th, Wiles stated.

The warning came as county officials announced that residents would be allowed to shoot off fireworks in designated locations outside of the different municipalities' boundaries. The use of fireworks is still banned in the cities of El Paso, Horizon, San Elizario, Clint, and Vinton, as well as the community of Ysleta. Anyone caught with fireworks in any of these incorporated cities could face a fine of \$500 to \$2,000.

The Town of Anthony TX is the only incorporated community that did not ban fireworks.

County Judge Veronica Escobar said that the county was unable to ban the use of fireworks because the county is not in a drought state. If a county reaches a drought index of 575, a judge can make a disaster declaration, but it is unlikely that the county will reach that index. As of this past weekend, the drought index for El Paso County was 536. The drought

See FIREWORKS, Page 5

*...who is going to clean up the partiers' debris and garbage...*

## Uniform exchange on July 16

*Uniform donations are being accepted now*

By Christy Flores-Jones  
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY – The seventh annual Horizon City Lions Club's annual School Uniform Swap, in partnership with the Socorro Independent School District, allows families to exchange gently used uniforms. The event takes place on Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 8 a.m. to noon at Eastlake High School (13000 Emerald Pass Ave.).

Parents, who turn in slightly worn clean uniforms, get a credit voucher that allows them to receive uniforms for their children. There will be polo shirts, T-shirts, pants, shorts, capris, skirts and

skirts. School supplies and backpacks also will be distributed.

The event will help about 1,000 children, said Linda Miner, event co-coordinator. Uniforms of all sizes and backpack donations from community members are welcomed. "This event boosts the morale of the kids and relieves stress on the parents," Miner said. "We will help about 1000 kids... walk-ins are welcomed but people with vouchers will have the priority."

Uniforms can be turned in now for vouchers at drop-off sites around the county. [See the PSA on page this paper for more locations.] The first day of school for the SISD 2016-2017 school year is August 1.

## Socorro ISD saves energy, earns \$61,000 rebate from SCORE program

By Christy Flores-Jones  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District continues to work with El Paso Electric to promote energy savings and efficiency through the company's Schools Conserving Resources (SCORE) Program. The district was presented a rebate check in the amount \$61,116 at the regular June board meeting for using the SCORE Program during the 2015-2016 school year.

"By saving energy, money will go back to our facility programs and benefit our students and our staff," said Tom Eyeington, chief operations officer for SISD.

SISD has been saving energy and receiving rebate checks annually since the program's inception in 2008. Through SCORE, SISD has implemented energy efficiency projects totaling \$223,150 in incentives and \$494,392 in annual energy savings.

"Mr. Tom Eyeington and his crew have worked so well with us to install the energy efficiency measures," said Desmond Mechucha, El Paso Electric energy efficiency program coordinator. "It has been a great partnership!"

The partnership allows Team SISD to provide no-cost building system analysis, technical recommendations and financial incentives based on the total amount of energy the district will save, according to El Paso Electric.

In 2015, the district saved 1,154,345 kilowatt hours (kWh), which is equal to electricity for 149 homes, removing 168 cars off the road, and abating CO2 emissions from 89,567 gallons of gasoline, according to El Paso Electric.

"Through the design of facilities and planning we can see how buildings offer natural resources to be sustainable and energy efficient," Eyeington said.

As part of Bond 2011, the district upgraded numerous campuses with energy efficient HVAC systems and utilized high efficiency lighting in all projects.

"Not only did SISD upgrade their cooling system, but their new LED lighting will last thousands of hours longer than the old lighting," Mechucha said. "The district will reap rewards of financial incentives and also will reduce the cost for maintenance and operations."

## Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

# Homebuyer education: The first step to buying a home

How well do you really understand the homebuying process? Taking a qualified homebuying class will do more than teach you how to get a mortgage or pull together a down payment. It will help you determine the amount of

home you can afford without endangering other lifetime financial goals.

If you think this training is just for first-timers, think again. Real estate markets change, and so do homebuying environments. It is worth considering taking a class each time you're making a home purchase, especially if it has been a significant number of years between purchases. The homebuying class can keep you up to date on what you'll need to know this time around.

Where can you find these courses? Many private lenders offer their own training, but governments – local, state and federal – are the main source for instructional classes for homebuyers. In fact, on both the public and private side, these classes are often tied to special loans or funding assistance for the qualified.

Most homebuyer trainings are free – if you're asked to pay, get an explanation for what those costs cover.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides a list of approved state (<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/buying/localbuying>) and local agencies (<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm>) that offer a range of homebuyer education options – some even help first-time buyers obtain grants and other financial assistance with their down payments. HUD has backed up this effort with additional funding ([http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2016/HUDNo\\_16-022](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-022)) this year.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Department of Agriculture (USDA) also offer assistance and educational programs for qualified buyers. Meanwhile, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (<https://www.fanniemae.com/content/faq/home-buyer-education-policies-faqs.pdf>), the two government-sponsored agencies that keep mortgage funding flowing through our lending system, also support their own homebuyer education options. In fact, a 2013 Freddie Mac study ([http://www.freddiemac.com/news/blog/robert\\_tsien/20130415\\_getting\\_better.html](http://www.freddiemac.com/news/blog/robert_tsien/20130415_getting_better.html)) indicated that pre-purchased financial counseling may cut the likelihood of a first-time homebuyer becoming seriously delinquent by nearly 30 percent.

Here are some of the major topics a thorough homebuying class should cover:

### 1. Homebuying readiness.

Explore the general questions around a homebuying decision, such as why you want to settle in a particular area, how long you plan to stay, what kind of property you're considering and where you are in your career and lifestyle. You may also be asked to answer specific financial questions to support your thinking, which should not be shared with others. The best courses will help you determine answers to the big questions, such as whether you should buy a home or stick with renting.

### 2. Budgeting and credit.

These courses will help you evaluate how you handle money. Do you have a budget? If not, do you know how to create one? Do you understand your credit rating and what goes into determining your score? If you have debt, how are your efforts going to pay it off? Essentially, what you don't know about spending and borrowing can limit your ability to buy a home.

### 3. Preapproval for mortgage financing.

Navigate the nitty-gritty of the loan process – what a mortgage is, the various types of mortgages, how they work and what it takes to be preapproved for a mortgage. Pre-approval involves filling out a full mortgage application, typically with a fee to cover an extensive credit check as if you were actually buying a home. Pre-approval, unlike prequalification, allows a potential borrower to receive a loan commitment for a specific amount, which can grease the wheels in a potential purchase.

### 4. Knowing what you can afford.

Analyze the above and consider the reality of what kind of property you can really afford to buy. Look at price limits and locations and ways to get more for your money, including specific local, state and federal borrowing programs ([http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/buying\\_a\\_home](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/buying_a_home)) you may qualify for. Buying your dream home can seem nice, but it can turn into a nightmare if you can't afford the home while living within your means.

### 5. Your home search.

Determine how, when and where to shop for specific properties within the neighborhoods you are interested in and how to get the best overall deal for what you're buying.

### 6. What you'll need to close a home sale in your chosen community.

Buying a home can also include an introduction

to the specific regulatory and cost environment where you're planning to live. For example, your course should take you through such things as community-specific housing laws and zoning restrictions that could affect what you'll be investing in the property, property tax issues (particularly if an assessment is pending), your home titling (<http://www.bankrate.com/finance/mortgages/understanding-the-closing-process-1.aspx>) process, inspection requirements and the other costs linked to legal processes and paperwork.

**7. The aftermath.** A solid homebuying class should give you a wide picture of the costs you'll face after the sale and how to manage them so you don't put the rest of your finances in jeopardy. Being too "house poor" not only puts you at a risk of losing the property, it can threaten other important financial goals.

If you have your eye on particular lenders in your community, call them to see whether homebuying education can be a helpful factor in getting approved for a loan. Ask them to explain how they evaluate such training and what courses they recommend. Always ask whether any homebuyer class has a fee and why. Also, get a second opinion – if you work with a qualified financial professional, ask what he or she thinks about the course and its benefits.

As you consider such a course, don't think narrowly about what you can get out of it. It's not just about getting the mortgage. It's a chance to ask about how a home purchase may affect other aspects of your financial life – all personal finance goals should be considered equally.

**Bottom line:** Since the mortgage industry collapse in 2008, it's been a new day in residential homebuying. Whether you're buying your first home or beyond, taking a homebuyer education class can help you understand the mortgage process, improve your credit and shop smarter for a home you can actually afford.

*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

### Good news on PTSD

A clinical trial has shown that the addition of just one care component can improve outcomes for those with PTSD. The component was specially trained care managers and telephone therapy. After one year, those who had telephone-based therapy saw significant improvements in recovery, compared with those who didn't have the teletherapy. The telephone therapy aspect was seen as a way to get around the stigma of showing up to see a mental-health specialist. The specially trained care managers were key, too, and served to coordinate between the patient and the overall care team.

The non-profit research organization RAND Corporation, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and two universities, began the study back in 2012. More than 600 military personnel at various bases were divided into two programs. One group got the standard care: screening for PTSD and depression. Nurses would call monthly to ask about symptoms.

The other group got the upgraded care: In addition

to the above, the nurses were specially trained, and psychologists would make the telephone calls to do therapy, as well as offer face-to-face meetings. Psychologists, psychiatrists and care managers would review the information on a weekly basis and suggest changes if necessary.

The bonus is that the telephone therapy likely will get more people to seek care sooner, reducing the time to begin treatment.

It's thought that between 13 percent and 18 percent of active military or veterans suffer from PTSD, depression or anxiety after they've been deployed. Only half of those receive mental-health services.

The clinical trial isn't currently taking on new participants. Still, if you want to read the particulars, go online to [clinicaltrials.gov/show/NCT01492348](http://clinicaltrials.gov/show/NCT01492348). If you're interested, it wouldn't hurt to talk to your care provider about it. The contact info for medical personnel is at the bottom of the webpage.

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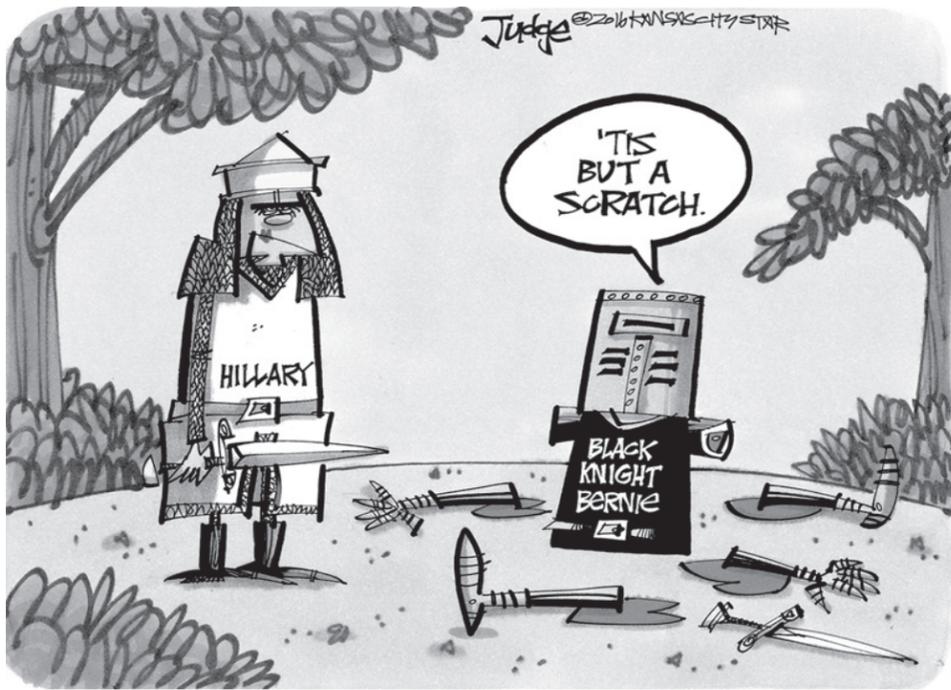


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SOMETIMES THERE ARE JUST NO BUTTONS ON FACEBOOK THAT CAN EXPRESS ONE'S GRIEF FOR OTHERS...



SO WHY SHOULD WE CARE IF THE POLAR BEARS ARE IN TROUBLE?

View from here By John Grimaldi

# Caregivers, take care

The dotting daughter who takes care of an elderly parent is just doing what she ought to be doing, some might say. But in many cases, she's putting her life at risk by devoting days and nights to tend to her loved one's needs, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens.

"Professional caregivers are on call during their shifts. They deserve respect for what they do. But relations and friends of seniors who need care who take on the super-onerous tasks of tending to the needs of their loved ones deserve not just respect, but a break as well. They are usually on call around the clock with little to show for it but their own failing health in many cases," says AMAC president Dan Weber.

Dr. Pamela Tronetti who specializes in geriatric medicine recently published a report in Florida Today noting that "caregivers don't tally up the hours because they reason that they would be doing most of these chores (cooking, cleaning) anyway." But, while they are doing an important service for others, they need to recognize when they are doing a disservice to themselves, Weber points out.

Tronetti says "the classic caregiver primer is called "The 36 Hour Day," and for good reason. Instead of being retired and off the clock, caregivers are busy, alert and ready at a moment's notice and every hour of the day to be the nurse, housekeeper, referee, advocate, diaper changer, cook, laundry service, pharmacist, psychologist and go-fer."

Forget about the 40-hour-workweek for these "sainted souls," adds Weber. "They are ready to tackle their jobs all day long and, in many cases, all night long, too."

Tronetti cited one study in her article.

It showed that those who work 35 to 40 hours a week have an average risk of stroke for their age groups and that those who work 41 to 48 hours ha a 10 percent higher chance of having a stroke. But those who worked 49 to 55 hours a week were linked to a 27 to 33 percent increase in their risks for stroke.

"I suspect that many people underestimate the amount of hours dedicated to work. They don't identify it as such because they are on their own couch instead of in their cubicle, but in reality they are tethered to their jobs, working excess hours without a break," she reports. "I've seen caregivers admitted to the hospital with sleep deprivation, untreated cancer, heart attacks and strokes, and have lost friends and colleagues to sudden death and preventable illness, all because there was work to be done."

Friends and relations make the best caregivers in most cases because, above all, they have a personal connection to the individuals who need their help, according to Weber. "But at the end of their very long days, the best caregivers are those who take care of themselves as they go about their chores. As Dr. Tronetti put it they need to take time to make time for themselves. They need to see to their own medical conditions and take measures to alleviate stress."

*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.*



## School Uniform Swap

Sponsored by Horizon City Lions Club  
Intercambio de Uniformes

Distribution Swap Day  
Saturday, July 16, 2016

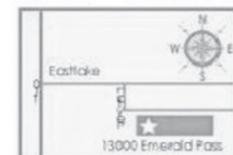
Día de Distribucion  
Sabado, Julio 16, 2016

8am - 12pm  
Eastlake High School

13000 Emerald Pass Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79928

Turn in clean used uniforms for a credit slip, or donate outgrown uniforms to other students. Drop off now first come first serve, NO guarantee - vouchers will go first. Traiga sus uniformes usados y reciba credito, o puede donar uniformes para otros estudiantes. Entregue ahora por primera elecciones, NO garantia - cupones se destinaron primero.

If you are intrested in volunteering please call 915-227-8890 or email [epuniformswap@gmail.com](mailto:epuniformswap@gmail.com) Check us out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/220693311307218/>



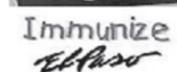
National Self Storage  
490 N. Kenazo Ave.  
Horizon City, TX 79928  
915-852-8300  
M-F 8am - 4pm  
SAT 10am - 3pm

Drop off now at locations below. Traiga sus uniformes para cambiar a donar estas locaciones.

National Self Storage  
7620 N. Loop Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79915  
915-779-7676

National Self Storage  
10560 N. Loop Dr.  
Socorro, TX 79927  
915-858-0000

Immunize El Paso  
1580 George Dieter Ste. 102  
El Paso, TX 79936  
915-857-2474  
M-F 10am - 12pm 2pm - 5pm



Rocky Mountain Radar  
6469 Doniphan  
El Paso, TX 79932  
915-587-0307  
M-F 8am - 4pm

Laundry USA  
850 N. Carolina Dr. Sp. 1  
El Paso, TX 79915  
915-629-0510  
Sat - Sun 10am - 8pm  
Mon 12pm - 7pm

## Classified Ads

### Lower Valley Housing Corporation

Lower Valley Housing Corporation (LVHC) is a non-profit community development corporation that is applying to USDA/Rural Development

for a section 523C Technical Assistance Grant for self-help housing to build 24 new mutual self-help single family houses in El Paso County, Texas. This grant will provide Technical Assistance funds for the administrative costs of the program over a

two-year period as well as providing another 24 eligible and USDA/Rural Development approved applicants with permanent loans for their home. Anyone wishing to comment or make an application may do so by contacting:

**Housing Corporation**  
900 N. Fabens St., Suite 3  
(P.O. Box #638)  
Fabens, TX 79838  
(915) 764-3413

WTCC: 06-23-16  
06-30-16

**FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Request For Proposals:

Sealed bids/proposals to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

**THURSDAY JULY 14,**

### 2016

**WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICE RFP NO. 071416-051 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME**

Proposal packets may be picked up beginning, Thursday, June 23, 2016

at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 NE G St., Fabens, TX 79838 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday or call Gilbert Alarcon, Asst. Supt. of Finance at (915) 765-2600.

**Note:** Proposals are also available at district's web-

site: [www.fabensisd.net](http://www.fabensisd.net).

Sealed proposal packets will be received at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 NE G St., Fabens, TX 79838.

**Fabens ISD is an EOE**

WTCC-06-23-16  
06-30-16

## NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

• "To get to dust bunnies under the fridge or any piece of heavy furniture, wrap packing tape sticky-side out on a yard stick. Then, just swipe under the furniture, and out comes the dust." – I.E. in Virginia

• Instant serving "bowls" for chips: Using your hands, lightly push the bottom of the bag into itself, creating a bottom. Use scissors to trim bag top down to access potato chips easily. Or, if you don't have scissors, simply create a cuff to make the bag shorter. This way, you can reclose the bag if there are chips left over, and chips don't spill out of the bag left on its side.

• Never add flour or cornstarch directly to a soup or broth for gravy. Dissolve in a few tablespoons in water first and add gradually. You won't get the lumps.

• Got fruit flies? Their short life cycle can make it incredibly hard to rid yourself of their presence. Here's a great trap you can DIY. Add about 1/4 cup of apple cider vinegar to a mason jar. Drop in a piece of overripe fruit. Roll up a square of paper to make a small funnel, and tape into shape. Set the funnel into the jar. The flies go in for the fruit and vinegar, then can't get out.

• If you want to bring shake-on spices or garnishes to a picnic, use an empty Tic Tac container. This is great for, say, Parmesan cheese that goes on a pasta salad at the last minute, or grill spices that you can shake on.

• "If you have iron stains in your sink or elsewhere, fill 'er up with Coca-Cola, and let it sit for several minutes. The Coke will eat away at the stains, and will make it easier to get them off." – A.C. in Maryland

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.

## 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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S	S	E				P	E	S	E	T	A	S			P	R	O	S	P	E	C	T	S

## CryptoQuip Answer

It took me a very long time to make this engraving. I think I may call it "The Seven-Year Etch."

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÷		-		+	
1	×	6	+	5	11
×		×		+	
7	×	6	÷	3	14
28		18		16	

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was noted American computer scientist Alan Kay who made the following sage observation: "A change in perspective is worth 80 IQ points."

• The pirate spider eats almost nothing besides other spiders. Researchers say this presents some problems when it comes time to mate.

• Isaac Asimov is probably best known for his classic science-fiction novels, including the Foundation Series and "I, Robot," but he was much more than a pulp writer. His works are so wide-ranging that he has entries in nine out of the 10 major categories of the Dewey Decimal system. In addition to his science-fiction works, he wrote history ("The Greeks: A Great Adventure," "The Egyptians"), literary works ("Asimov's Guide to Shakespeare," "Asimov's Guide to the Bible,"), humor ("Lecherous Limericks," "Treasury of Humor"), mystery (the Black Widowers series) and popular science ("The Intelligent Man's Guide to Science"). Asimov earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University in biochemistry, which he also taught; he published academic works in science and mathematics. His prolific life is detailed in three works of autobiography, and he and his wife, Janet, even found time to co-author a self-help book titled "How to Enjoy Writing: A Book of Aid and Comfort."

• You might be surprised to learn that the electric fan was invented in the 19th century. Then again, at the moment that fact might not be surprising; the heat of summer can be a powerful motivator.

• Though the ukulele is commonly associated with the Hawaiian Islands, it didn't originate there. The instrument actually came from Portugal, where it was known as a machete, and was introduced to the islands around 1870 by sailors.

Thought for the Day: "As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of the demand."  
— Josh Billings

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## MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

• On July 11, 1945, the Soviet Union promises to hand over power to British and U.S. forces in West Berlin. Although the division of Berlin into zones of occupation was seen as temporary, the dividing lines quickly became permanent.

• On July 12, 1933, the first three-wheeled, multi-directional Dymaxion car designed by Buckminster Fuller is manufactured in Connecticut. It had a steel chassis and a body made of ash wood, covered with an aluminum skin and topped with a painted canvas roof.

• On July 13, 1955, nightclub owner Ruth Ellis is convicted of murdering her boyfriend, playboy race-car driver David Blakely. Ellis was later executed by hanging, becoming the last woman in Great Britain to be put to death.

• On July 14, 1881, Sheriff Pat Garrett shoots Henry McCarty, known as Billy the Kid, to death at the Maxwell Ranch in New Mexico. Garrett had been tracking the Kid for three months after the gunslinger escaped from prison only days before his scheduled execution.

• On July 15, 1903, the newly formed Ford Motor Company takes its first order: an \$850 two-cylinder Model A automobile with a backseat. The car was delivered a week later. The Model A could accommodate two people side-by-side on a bench; it had no top, and was painted red.

• On July 16, 1995, Amazon officially opens for business as an online bookseller. Within a month, the fledgling retailer had shipped books to all 50 states and 45 countries. Amazon eventually morphed into an e-commerce colossus, selling everything from groceries and furniture to live ladybugs.

• On July 17, 1967, Jimi Hendrix drops out as the opening act for teenybopper sensations The Monkees. The booking of psychedelic rock god with the made-for-television Monkees was the brainchild of Hendrix's manager, Mike Jeffery.

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## Fireworks

From Page 1

index ranges from zero to 800.

Because fireworks will be permitted around the unincorporated areas of the county does not mean that we do not have a high risk for fires; we still do, the county judge warned. Currently, the forecast fire danger for El Paso County is rated as high, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

The lifting of the fireworks ban allows vendors to sell fireworks now through July 4 at midnight. The locations where vendors can sell their fireworks has been designated to certain unincorporated areas in both the lower and upper valleys, according to Fire Marshal Roger Esparza, of the Emergency

Services District 2.

Esparza reported that 16 fireworks vendors had asked for sales permits prior to the start date, and he expected that number to increase.

"The area in which fireworks will be permitted is much smaller (than in past years) and will create a much more dangerous situation, and more potential for fires," said County Commissioner Vince Perez in a recent statement. Perez's precinct covers the majority of the unincorporated East Side areas in the county including Montana Vista.

Sheriff Wiles told reporters that there will be an ongoing operation to detect drunken drivers and traffic-law violators over the four-day holiday weekend.

Wiles stated that there will

also be an action plan put in place July 4th with additional staff to reduce traffic congestion, drinking, fighting, and the potential problems fireworks can cause. "There will be extra sergeants, deputies, and others on patrol," Wiles stated.

The extra staff will be assigned mostly to a portion of Montana Avenue, about six miles outside the city limits going eastbound, where officials expect the traffic congestion to be the worst because that's where most people gather to pop fireworks, Wiles indicated.

Additionally, it's the after-party mess that residents, who live in the unincorporated areas, claim is also a major problem. And, they want to know who is going to clean up the parties' debris and garbage left scattered throughout their neighborhoods?

## Briefs

From Page 1

• 42nd – Presence of Distracted-Driving/Texting-While-Driving Laws;

• 38th – Auto Insurance Premium Increase After Adding a Teen Driver to a Policy;

• 13th – Presence of Teen Driver's Graduated Licensing Program Laws;

14th – Number of Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita;

• 5th – Provision of Occupant-Protection Laws;

• 31st – Quality of Roads; and

• 1st – Presence of Impaired-Driving Laws. Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-for-teen-drivers/4598/> for the full report.

— Diana Popa

## Passwords

The guy kept forgetting his online passwords and so he changed them all to "incorrect" so when he tried and failed to sign on, the computer would prompt him with the message: your password is incorrect. But, password protection in the age of electronic transactions is no laughing matter, according to

the Association of Mature American Citizens. The easier a password is to guess, the greater the risk that a hacker will be able to steal personal information, including credit card numbers, Social Security Numbers, bank account numbers and much more, warns AMAC. [New programs can break an eight-keystroke password that includes numbers, symbols, and upper/lower case letters in less than a minute.] So don't resort to "lazy" passwords such as the commonly used "password," "00000000" and, of course, "12345678."

— John Grimaldi

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

# A rush to coronation crowns the wrong team, player

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

There's little doubt that we live in a new microwavishly frantic need-to-know-instantly world.

Information is disseminated with great haste often at the cost of complete accuracy.

Getting it out first far outweighs the importance of getting it right.

The same can be said about opinion.

Often reporters and anchors, whose only expertise comes from the ability to read from a prompter and access to a good hairstylist, provide opinion on topics they know very little about.

That goes double for the sports talking heads that try to further their own careers by building up athletes and then tearing them down.

Many reporters that never played the game at the pro level believe they know enough to question the hearts of players and the intelligence of coaches.

And more times than not, they are wrong in their assessments and predictions because they are expected to have all the answers instantaneously.

That was especially apparent during the just-concluded NBA season.

It was reported by all the experts that the Golden State Warriors were the best team of all time and Stephen Curry should be considered among the best players of all time.

After all, the Warriors had the best regular season in the league's history and Curry was the first player to win the MVP award by unanimous vote.

All the talk surrounding the greatness of the 2016 Warriors reached the very heights of hyperbole. They were very good but let's slow down a minute.

Suddenly, Golden State was being compared to the Magic Johnson Lakers and the Larry Bird Celtics and the Michael Jordan Bulls and the Bad Boy Pistons.

It's amazing how quickly true greatness is forgotten when a new toy comes along. The Warriors lost nine games all regular season and then lost nine games in the playoffs alone.

And make no mistake, they are a great team, but one of the greatest of all time?

They weren't even the best of 2016.

And it's incredible how the so-called experts all forgot how good LeBron

James was.

One of the common themes this year was that Curry had taken over as the face of the league. After all, he was changing the game, he comes from a very marketable family and the guy is unstoppable on the court.

Such small memories and attention spans.

In the playoffs, everything gets tougher and every weakness is exposed.

It appears as if LeBron James re-established himself as the greatest player on the planet. But he didn't. In reality he had never fallen to second best.

But if anyone listens something over and over, they tend to believe it. And sports commentators kept following each other's lead in proclaiming Curry as the world's best – so fans believe it to be so.

By a wide margin, James proved to be bigger, stronger, faster and smarter than any other player in the league – especially in the playoffs.

Curry wasn't even the best guard in the finals (that was Kyrie Irving) and was barely the best guard on his own team (that was Clay Thompson).

At times during the season, former NBA

players were asked if Curry would have dominated back in their day and they all said "no." They said the defensive rules today allow Curry to roam free to shoot almost unguarded.

Of course many reporters accused the older guys of being haters.

But in the playoffs, where defenses are allowed to be a little more physical, Curry was just a shell of himself because he was not allowed to roam free. He was roughed up and often embarrassed, especially by LeBron.

In this world of instant gratification, it would be nice for the media to take a little time to get it right. I'll admit it's hard, I yell at my computer when it takes two seconds to load a page instead of one.

But when it comes to accuracy, there is no excuse – or alternative.

We forget that "the best ever," come around maybe once in a generation. Now it seems a new player is handed that title every week.

The formula for being considered one of the best ever is excellence plus consistency plus longevity.

The formula is the same for sports reporters, anchors and commentators.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### The King of Cleveland

You don't get the opportunity very often to witness pure unadulterated excellence. So when the moment comes you don't ever forget what took place. For LeBron James, that moment was Game Seven of the NBA Finals, and the place was Oakland.

The business world likes to use sports analogies. Easy deals are referred to as "slam dunks", ambition is measured by "goals", wins are "home runs" and losses are "knockouts." Rare are the times that sports teams use business analogies. Nobody calls a player a "pencil pusher" or a "bean counter". There are no

"working stiffs" or "executive vice presidents". In basketball, you are assigned nicknames like "Air", "Magic" and "King". They're in the business of delivering championships.

As far as business decisions go, LeBron's decision to skip college paid off. His decision to leave Cleveland for Miami paid off in the form of dual championships. The decision to broadcast his decision live on ESPN, a narcissistic misstep that humiliated his hometown, severely damaged his "brand". I wouldn't say I was a hater, but "The Decision" tipped the scale for me... LeBron was a bad guy

in terms of the storyline.

No more. After almost single-handedly beating the Warriors in one of the greatest finals through sheer force of will, he is the hero at the end of the book.

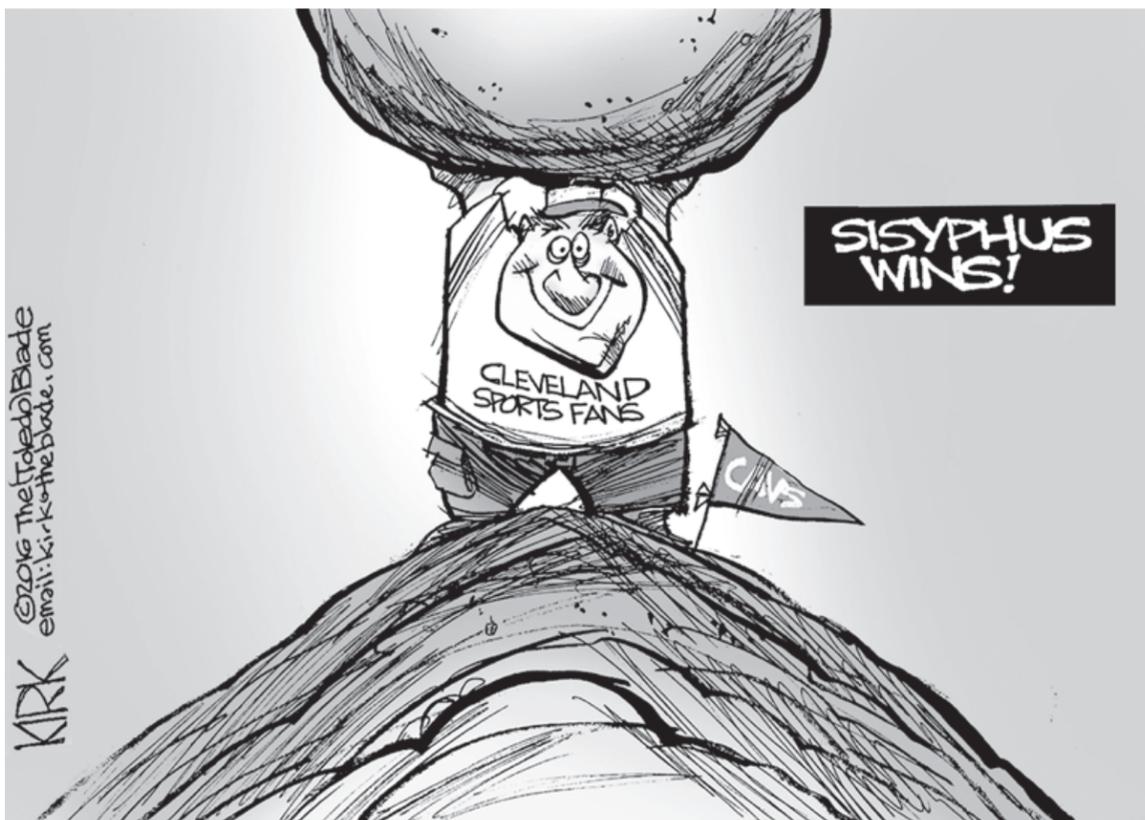
James' performance, particularly in Game Seven, where he totally took control of the final minutes of play, was astounding. Numbers don't tell the whole story, can't tell the whole story. What reads on the stat sheet as a block was actually a story about a guy who kept on running back, catching up in time to take to the air and smash a sure bucket into the backboard to preserve the tie. What the stat sheet lists as one free throw was actually the story of a giant of a man, rolling in utter pain on the hardwood for several minutes before rising for the last minute

of the game.

There are some great postscripts, too. Rihanna trolling Stephen Curry on Twitter was an interesting novelty. The series also gave us a few stunning renditions of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, most notably Carlos Santana's version and the Cleveland sing-a-long. It also showcased Oakland in a very favorable light, something that has been way overdue. Oakland and Berkeley are two overlooked cities, struggling from broad generalizations for generations. For Cleveland, which suffered

through a bunch of "The" moments – "The Drive", "The Shot", "The Fumble" and "The Dennis Kucinich" – LeBron James has given the city a few other moments to remember, namely "The Comeback" and "The Block". Most importantly, he gave Cleveland the championship, and that's your fairy-tale ending.

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



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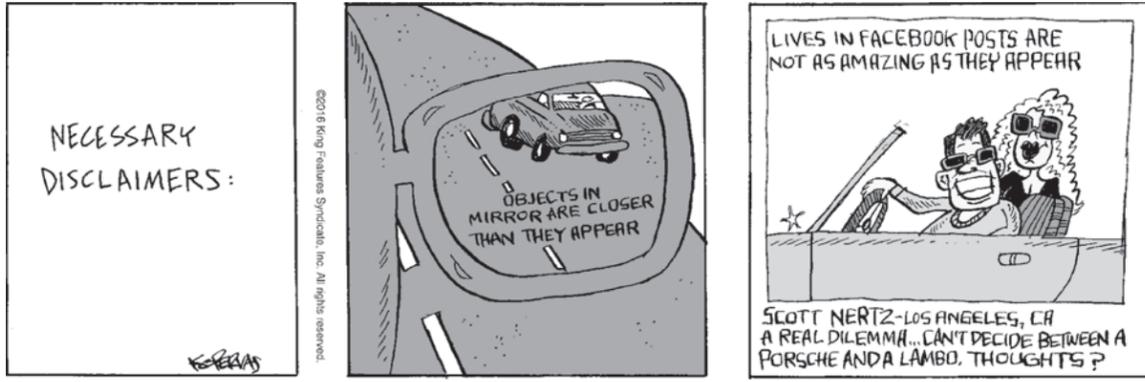
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37	38	39	40

Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to: West Texas County Courier 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information: Name: Phone:

# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I just wanted to touch base with you about my diabetes. While my weight has stayed stable around 320 pounds, my sugar numbers have been increasingly hard to keep in line. I've maxed out on the oral medications we use. My latest A1c was 6.6. The doctor says it should be under 6 and that our next step is insulin. He asked me to try to lose 50 pounds over the next six months in order to get my sugar back under control. I agree and want it to happen. I'm counting calories and cutting out carbs, and have started walking in the morning. I know I can't run, with no discs in my bottom three vertebrae. But even walking is hard. I walk until my leg goes numb, but I don't think it will be enough, and I may not even be able to keep that up. Even walking easy makes my hip hurt and leg go numb after about 20 minutes. - S.A.

booklet on Aerobics, Fitness and Abdominal Exercises by writing: Dr. Roach - No. 1301W, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I read a letter that seems to be saying that the Department of Health and Human Services is against breastfeeding. There also was something about hospitals and insurance companies, but I'm not sure what that was all about. Up until now, I just thought that breastfeeding was the best I could do for my baby. But if that's true, then why would the DHHS or hospitals be against breastfeeding? - S.G.

There is no doubt that breastfeeding is best for your baby. Breastfed babies have lower risk of becoming overweight and of many illnesses. The science is absolutely clear.

I am surprised by your doctor's advice, because it's very clear now (from the ACCORD study) that an A1c (a measure of average sugar levels) of 7 percent has lower overall risks than an A1c of 6 percent for someone like you.

Exercise is always good, and my first thought is water. Getting in a pool will take pressure off your back, and you should be able to swim, walk in the water or do water-exercise classes to your heart's content.

Readers: Start reaping the benefits of exercise the moment you begin. Even a brief daily walk or bike ride will make a difference. To learn more, order the

I read the letter I think you are referring to, and it seems to me that it is pointing out that some hospitals don't do as good a job as they could in helping educate new mothers about why and how to breastfeed. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, without hospital support, one in three mothers stops breastfeeding. Only about 5 percent of babies are born in U.S. hospitals that are designated "baby-friendly." I support initiatives that help

See HEALTH, Page 8

# Super Crossword

**ALSO INCLUDED**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Part of a car-stopping system  
 10 Revolved  
 17 Welcome \_  
 20 Not in good spirits  
 21 Weaver turned into a spider  
 22 Word on a dollar bill  
 23 Leaving chamber groups high and dry?  
 25 "\_ favor" ("Please," to Pedro)  
 26 Son of Odin  
 27 Particular  
 28 Come \_ stop  
 29 Dr. T player Richard  
 30 Grasslike swamp plant  
 32 Former jrs.  
 33 Black-and-white stuffed animals?  
 36 Big public show  
 39 Altoids piece, e.g.  
 40 Nome site  
 41 Whirlpool site  
 44 Chute behind a boat  
 48 Greek X's  
 49 Showed the ideal way to touch down?  
 53 Abrade  
 57 With 56-Down, second self  
 58 Wiggly fish  
 59 Tristan's love

- 61 Lose tautness  
 62 Corrupted  
 65 Cure giver  
 66 Lhasa \_  
 67 "No roving robbers will be harmed by what I'm doing?"  
 72 "Carpe \_!"  
 73 Enchant  
 74 Navigator  
 76 Boat turner  
 77 One smoothing clothes  
 78 Paris' \_ de la Cite  
 81 Kate Nelligan film  
 82 Is radiant  
 84 Official orders telling folks to jog?  
 88 Distinctive doctrines  
 90 Comprising  
 91 Pindar poem  
 92 Boulevard  
 95 Silent sort  
 97 Dull impact  
 99 Noggin with a sweat absorber around it?  
 101 Stubborn equine  
 104 Branches  
 108 Associate  
 109 Six - legged marcher  
 110 Diner  
 113 Pertaining to flying craft  
 114 Crumpets' go-with  
 115 Superior to boxer Holyfield?

- 119 Lister's abbr.  
 120 Abroad, to Brits  
 121 Eschewer of traditional art forms  
 122 Erie-to-Norfolk dir.  
 123 Old Spanish money  
 124 Chances for success
- DOWN**  
 1 Wipes clean, in a way  
 2 Shot \_ arm  
 3 Young cod  
 4 Rush at  
 5 With 65-Down, Best Picture of 1959  
 6 Actor Foxx  
 7 R&B singer  
 8 "Superman" family  
 9 Shortstop  
 10 Actor \_ Julia  
 11 "... boy \_ girl?"  
 12 Plaid cloth  
 13 Illustrate by gestures  
 14 Dismissal, informally  
 15 Doc for the neck up  
 16 \_ Plains  
 17 Scooters' kin  
 18 Parka  
 19 Nun of Avila  
 24 Grafton's \_ for Quarry"

- 29 Grind teeth  
 31 Specialists  
 33 More gauzy  
 34 Oom- \_  
 35 Guest of the Mad Hatter  
 37 Mouse \_  
 38 Eye, to bards  
 39 Farrow or Wasikowska  
 41 Louver, e.g.  
 42 Like a king's home  
 43 A t y p i c a l protagonist  
 45 Senate vote  
 46 Meet socially  
 47 Rose of rock  
 48 A-list folks  
 50 Lees fabric  
 51 Certain H.S. exam  
 52 Kinks hit  
 54 Set as a goal  
 55 Buckled, as a seat belt  
 56 See 57-Across  
 60 "Damn!"  
 63 Fancy pitcher  
 64 Contributors  
 65 See 5-Down  
 66 Journalist - Rogers St. Johns  
 68 Half a "Mork & Mindy" farewell  
 69 Federal agts.  
 70 Furious  
 71 Required  
 72 Fido, for one  
 75 Stand up

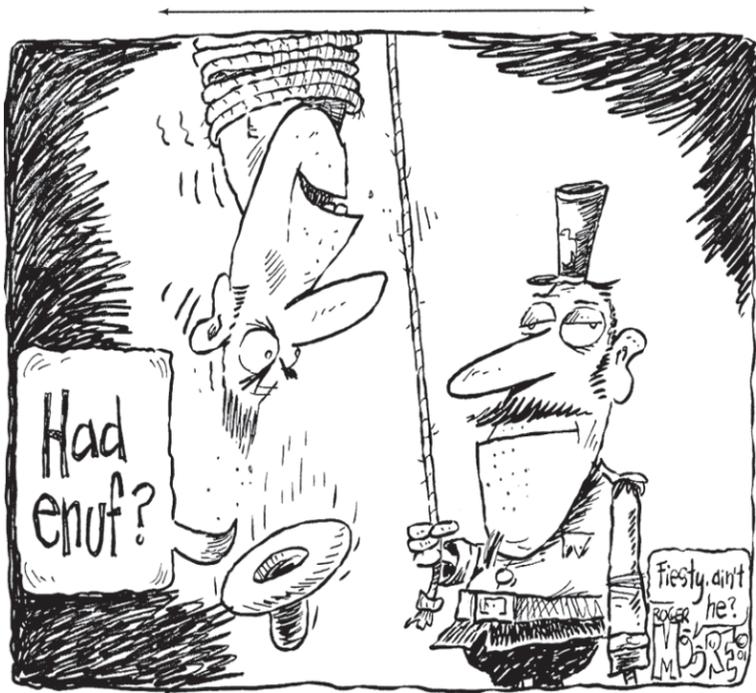
- 77 Edition  
 78 Neighbor of Mich.  
 79 Big T-shirt size: Abbr.  
 80 Zoo bird  
 83 Full of gusts  
 85 Common reply to "Are you?"  
 86 Not ill-suited  
 87 Japanese drama form  
 89 Size below 79-Down: Abbr.  
 92 Lessens  
 93 Manservants  
 94 Intertwist  
 95 Middle, to Brits  
 96 Most recent  
 98 Feinstein of the Senate  
 100 Loathes  
 101 Relieved sigh  
 102 Notary's item  
 103 Caballero  
 105 Combat doc  
 106 Brittany city  
 107 Types  
 110 JFK data  
 111 Totally alter  
 112 Designer Saint Laurent  
 115 Punch lightly  
 116 12/31, e.g.  
 117 Stephen of the screen  
 118 French painter Jean

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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82				83			84			85			86	87					
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114						115	116				117					118			
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122						123									124				

# True Texas Facts by Roger T. Moore

June 30, 1835 - Mexican troops put down a Texican uprising in Anahuac.



## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** It's hard for me to get around because of my disability. Do I have to go to a Social Security office to apply for benefits?

**A:** Not anymore. You can prepare and submit your Social Security disability application and all the needed forms right over the Internet. Our online disability application is convenient and secure. When you decide to apply, begin by taking a look at our Disability Starter Kit at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

**Q:** My dad receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. He soon will be coming to live with my brother. Does he have to report the move to Social Security?

**A:** Yes. He should report to us within 10 days any change in living arrangements. The change could affect his benefit. Failure to report the change could result in a penalty being deducted from his SSI benefits. Also, we need his correct address so we can send correspondence. Please have him call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-

325-0778). Or, he can report the change by mail or in person at a Social Security office. Visit our website for more information at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Q:** I am trying to save up for a truck. I have \$1,200 in the bank now and need a little more. How much cash can I have in the bank without affecting my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility?

**A:** The resource limit is \$2,000. Unless you have other valuable resources, this means you could save up to \$2,000 before you would become ineligible for SSI. We generally do not count your primary vehicle, the home you live in or certain amounts set aside for burial expenses as resources. If you are in this situation, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778) or visit any Social Security office.

**Q:** Is it true that if you have low income you can get help paying your Medicare premiums?

**A:** Yes, you can get help if:

- Your income and resources are limited, your state may be able to help with your Medicare Part B premium, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts. State rules vary on the income and resources that apply. Contact your state or local medical assistance, social services, or health and human services office, or call the Medicare hotline, 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), and ask about the Medicare Savings Programs.

- You have limited income and resources, you also may be able to get Extra Help paying for prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D. If you get the Extra Help, Social Security may contact you to review your status. This reassessment will ensure you remain eligible for Extra Help and you are receiving all the benefits you deserve. Annually, usually at the end of August, we may send you a form to complete: Social Security Administration Review of Your Eligibility for Extra Help. You will have 30 days to complete and return this form. Any necessary adjustments to the Extra Help will be effective in January of the following year. Go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp) for more information.

Also, see our publication, Medicare (Publication 10043), at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs). For even more information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

## Health

From Page 7

promote breastfeeding in hospitals, and hope the DHHS gives its support as well.

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.

## 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		-		28
÷		-		+	
	x		+		11
x		x		+	
	x		÷		14
28		18		16	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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See Answer Page 4

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

See Answer Page 4

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: B equals I

BG GNNJ ZS U FSWL CNVQ GBZS

GN ZUJS GIBO SVQWUFBVQ.

B GIBVJ B ZUL RUCC BG

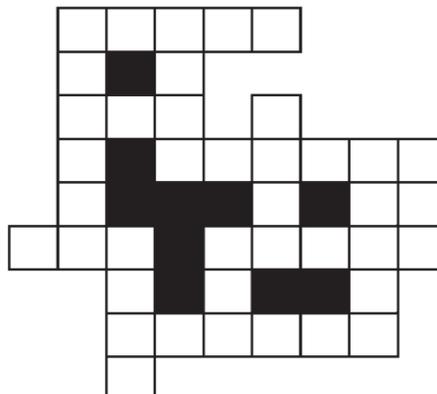
"GIS OSFSV-LSUW SGRI."

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- DBE
- ♥ SEEDRI
- MYREE
- WABL
- ♥ WYNURA
- ♥ NRU
- DEWI
- ♥ DARBI
- WOS
- ♥ TRIOLE
- ♥ WREES
- ♥ NADR



See Answer Page 4

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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