



NEWSBRIEFS

Special service

On the 15th anniversary of the 9/11/01 tragedy, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 10500 Kenworthy in Northeast El Paso, will hold a special service Sunday, Sept. 11 to honor first responders – police, fire and EMT personnel. The service is at 10 a.m. Boy Scout Troop 513 from Fabens will provide the color guard. For more information, call 751-1400.

– Don Woodyard

Bargains and games

The Oz Glaze Senior Center will have a Garage Sale on September 17 starting at 8:00 am. Tables will be rented for \$10.00. For more information call the Oz Glaze Senior Center at 852-0062. The Center is also having its annual Horseshoe Tournament later in the morning at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call Fred 799-8194.

– Judi Verslype

Fabens fall fiesta

The Fabens Alumni Association's 2016 FAA Fall Fiesta, featuring Tito Lujan and The Texas 20 Band, will be Saturday, October 15, at the Lower Valley Lions Club Little League Field, 16151 North Loop. Gates will open at 2 p.m., with activities continuing until 1 a.m. Opening ceremonies will be at 3:30 p.m., followed by performances including the Fabens Folklorico, under the direction of Rosemary Contreras-Olivas and Santiago and Susan Chavez; and dance music by Sonido with DJ Robert Sepulveda. Festivities include food, drinks, and games for all ages. Prospective vendors are invited to contact Mundo Herrera at 261-6647, Sam Ponzio at 276-5361, or Tony Sublasky at 274-8072 for information and applications. Profits from the fiesta will help to fund the FAA scholarships for graduating Fabens High School students and grants to campuses within the Fabens Independent School District. Since its inception in 2007, the FAA has contributed more than \$44,000 in scholarships and grants to the Fabens ISD.

– Sally Ponzio

Art workshop

The Red All Over Art Workshop will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at the Women's Intercultural Center located at 303 Lincoln

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Language is the dress of thought; every time you talk your mind is on parade.

– Quips & Quotes

Pueblo del Sur tussles with Texas AG again



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

LEGAL BATTLES – The Tiguas have been in litigation with the Texas Attorney General's Office over gambling since 2001. Texas Attorney General's Office in 2009 sought to have the Tiguas' entertainment centers shut down, claiming they amounted to illegal gambling. The Indian tribe insists that, in a financially challenged area like theirs, the centers, like the one above, are a source of revenue for the tribe to fund programs for veterans, education, and the elderly.

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Pueblo del Sur tribe, also known as the Tigua Indians, don't seem to have any luck when it comes to dealing with the state's games of chance laws. This time, it's bingo games offered by the tribe that are causing the dispute.

The Texas Attorney General's Office wants to go to court again to ask that the Tigua tribe be held in contempt of court and wants state investigators to be allowed onto Tigua lands even if the tribe doesn't want them there.

The AG's motion stated that by offering bingo and related games, the tribe is violating a 2002 prohibition. A court in 2002 enjoined the tribe from "conducting any gambling game from which any person or party enjoined herein is likely to receive any economic benefit other than personal winnings, including,

See TIGUA, Page 5



Scoutmaster Curt Noland

Noland helps Scouts on path to Eagle rank

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY – On Labor Day, you'd expect that most people would be relaxing and kicking back – enjoying the holiday.

That's not the case with Curt Noland, 69, scoutmaster for Troop 513 in Fabens. He has been leader of the troop for 10 years and has an Eagle Scout project penciled in on his calendar.

Noland estimates he works about 300 hours a year on various Scouting activities a year. This includes weekend campouts, travel time and weekly troop meetings.

(This youth's project and that of two other fellow Boy Scouts will be featured in subsequent articles.)

This fall, six members of his troop of 11 boys are expected to earn the coveted Eagle rank at Courts of Honor.

Noland, a resident of Horizon City, is quick to point out that it is not always this way. There were periods of time when he had no Eagle Scout candidates. Counting the upcoming six young men, he will have a total of 10 Eagle Scouts.

Kelly McMurphy, assistant Scout executive for Yucca Council, says 85 boys made Eagle in 2015; thirty-five made Eagle as of August this year. McMurphy said only 4 percent of boys enrolled in Scouting earn the Eagle rank.

Yucca Council, based in El Paso, serves more than 4,000 youth in seven counties in West Texas and southern New Mexico.

Emphasizing the present tense,

See NOLAND, Page 3

Luevano gives back to San Eli students

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Lorenzo Luevano, 23, is a San Elizario High School alumnus who graduated back in 2011. He has a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and is currently going to school for his Master's in Systems Engineering at the University of Texas at El Paso. He works as a General Engineer for the Air Force and loves every minute of his job, but there is something else that makes this talented, young man extra special.

For the past two years, he has been giving back to the community, in particular to students in the San Elizario Independent School District, by donating backpacks filled with all kinds of school supplies.

When he was younger, he told himself that the day he had a good paying job,



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

BACKPACKS FOR STUDENTS – Lorenzo Luevano has started a tradition of providing backpacks and school supplies to students in San Elizario.

See LUEVANO, Page 5

Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

Back-to-school tech for your children

It's increasingly common to find classrooms filled with the blue hue of computer and tablet screens. Early education or postgraduate work, there's a shift towards technology-driven, or at least technology-aided, schooling.

Students that learn to use technology to stay organized, conduct in-depth research and collaborate with peers can also use these skills in college and their professional lives.

What devices might students need? Laptops, tablets and smartphones are the primary devices that many students use. Although your child likely doesn't need one of each, a graphing calculator is sometimes a second necessity for classes and standardized tests.

Some high schools have a one-to-one program and issue students a laptop or tablet that they can bring home. Other schools let students borrow devices while in class, or let students bring their own device.

While the upfront costs of purchasing a device are understandably higher, you might want to buy one anyway. You won't need to return it, and it can be used during summer breaks and subsequent years at no extra cost.

Saving money when purchasing your own tech. If you decide to buy a device,

you may be able to save money by timing your purchase and comparison shopping.

Find discounts during annual sales. Back-to-school sales often include electronics, making this a good time to buy. Some manufacturers release new models between June and August, which can lead to an even better discount on last year's models. Labor Day and the holidays sales are prime deal times later in the year.

Use retailers' outlets. Manufacturers sometimes offer older models, open-box items, and refurbished electronics for a discount at their online outlet sites. The product might even be as good as new, but can't be sold at full price because the box is damaged. Check back often because the sites frequently post new items.

Look for student deals. Some software companies and electronics manufacturers offer student discounts to high schoolers, while others restrict the savings to current or incoming college students. Research policies from manufacturers,

as well as online retailers, and compare them with your local stores' policies.

Educational discounts for homeschooling parents. Homeschooling parents may be eligible for manufacturers' educational discounts even if their child doesn't qualify for a student discount.

Shop at resellers. If you're looking for a particular type of tablet or laptop, search far and wide for the best price. There's no guarantee that buying directly from the manufacturer is cheapest.

Trade in old devices. Some retailers give you store credit for your old electronics. It's a good option if you have a device that's just gathering dust on a shelf.

Buy used. While used electronics may be older and slower than the latest model, that's not always a problem. For example, some standardized tests forbid test takers from using newer web-enabled graphing calculators. You can find used items online, at garage sales and in local Facebook buy/sell/trade groups. If there isn't a warranty or guarantee from a reputable company, determine the device's quality before making a purchase.

Always check for coupons and rebates. Whether you're shopping online or in a store, always check for coupons and discount codes. Researching the store's name plus "coupon code" will often result in a list of sites with the latest codes. Look for more savings by searching the

See Finances, Page 8

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Who let this veteran down?

There's a story out there that's given me a chill that just won't go away. An elderly veteran reportedly presented himself at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital emergency room in New York to get mental-health help, and he was turned away. He went out to his car in the parking lot and committed suicide. A wife no longer has her husband, three daughters no longer have their father, and seven grandchildren no longer have their grandpa.

Because it happened on federal property, the FBI is involved. Ideally they'll get to the bottom of who turned this man away. Two congressmen also are involved now, demanding answers.

The website for the VA facility says right on the front page: "There is always a caring mental health doctor available 24/7 in our Emergency Room." Granted, the paragraph is talking about substance abuse, but one would think that a "caring mental health doctor" of any specialty would be able

to spend some time talking to a veteran to assess the problem.

What I really hate is that they're always sorry later, and always say just the right words about being committed to helping veterans, as though it's a stock phrase they stick into each official statement after a tragedy occurs, but never taking any responsibility.

The condolences left on the website of the funeral home will hopefully bring comfort to family members, knowing that so many strangers care. These same condolences should be required reading for those who let this veteran down.

If you're a veteran, family member, or friend of a veteran, note this information:

Mental health help is available 24/7 on the Veterans Crisis Line. The number is 1-800-273-8255, then press 1. Or you can send a text message to 838255. Or you can do an online chat at www.veteranscrisisline.net.

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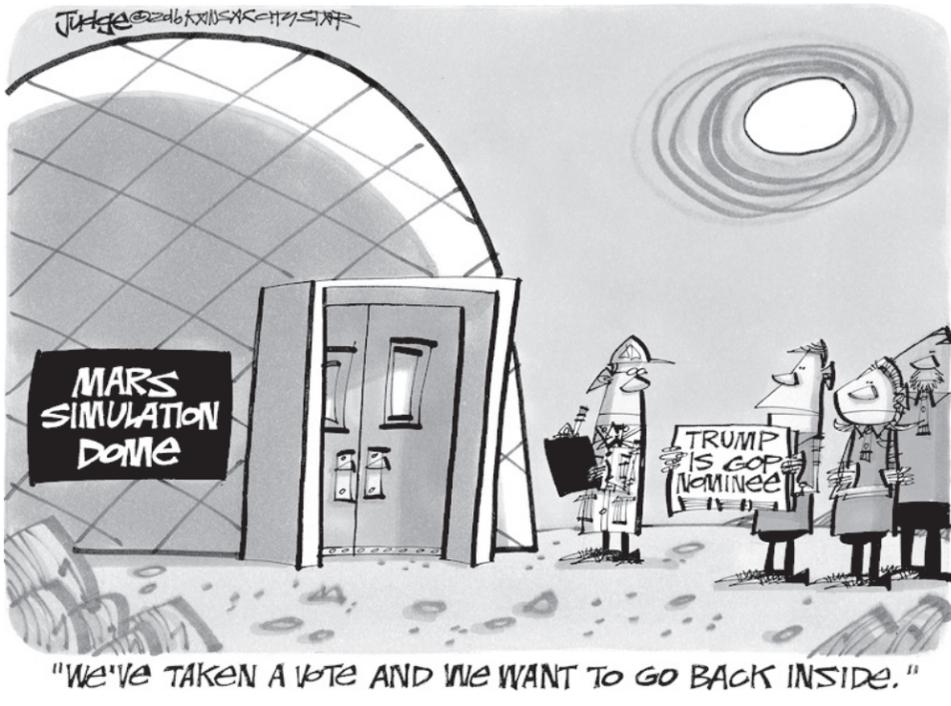
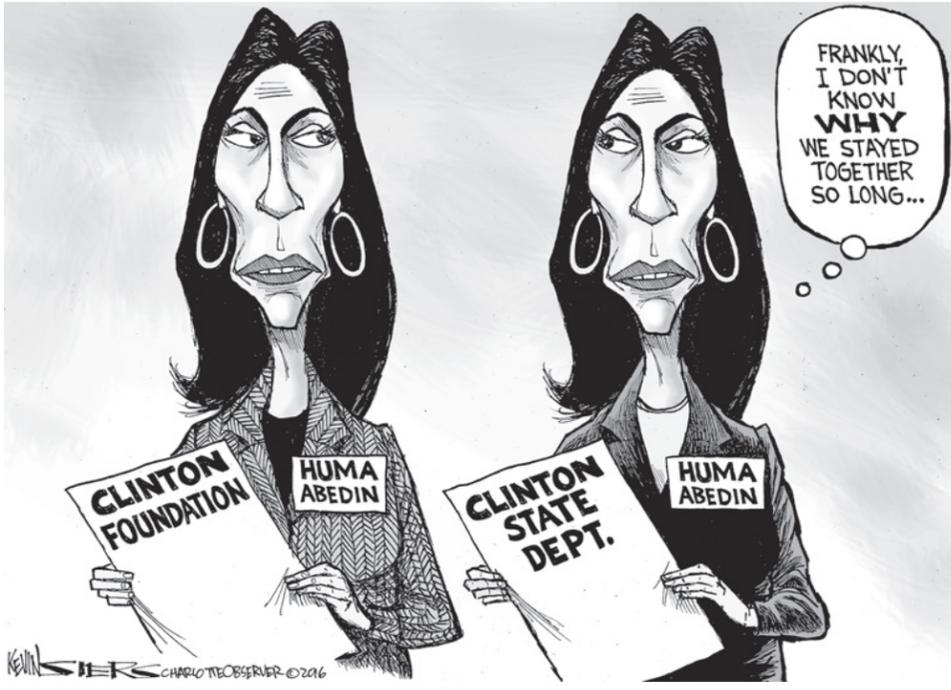


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View from here By John Grimaldi

Failures of the Affordable Care Act outweigh benefits

Is the Obamacare 'domino effect' a strategy for implementing socialized medicine in the U.S.?

There won't be an October surprise prior to the 2016 Presidential Elections, at least not as far as Obamacare is concerned, says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

"The cat's already out of the bag. In fact, Lamar Alexander, often described as one of the most responsible Senators sitting in Congress, says that when the 2017 enrollment period begins on November 1 – seven days before voters are to pick the next president of the United States – it won't come as a shock that consumers will have little choice in picking a health insurance plan. They'll have fewer plans to choose from and the ones that will be available will be grossly expensive," reports Weber.

Alexander told reporters that the Obamacare exchanges in his state, Tennessee, are close to collapsing. In fact, he said, those seeking health insurance in Tennessee will have to pay what he called an "intolerable increase" in premiums – somewhere between 44% and 62% more than they paid in 2016. He said the same is true in many other states across the nation. And, he added, it could have a domino effect throughout the country.

Meanwhile, USA Today reported that "Up to 2.1 million people will likely have to change plans for 2017 due to insurers leaving states' Affordable Care Act marketplaces, up from more than 1.2 million who had to find new insurers last year."

Weber described the situation as dire and warned that President Obama's "so-called signature achievement is falling apart faster than a house of cards in a wind storm. Is it because those who crafted the law in the first place simply did not know what they were doing and those in charge of implementing the law are dysfunctional? Some observers believe that the Affordable Care Act is deliberately flawed, that it is a strategy for achieving the socialist ideal of a single-payer system of health care coverage."

Howard J. Peterson, MHA, is the founder and managing partner of TRG Healthcare, and an expert in the field of healthcare strategies. As he put it in a public debate earlier this year: "So, if one were a conspiracy theorist it would go something like this: the Democrats knew there would be growth in Medicare driven by the aging population. Obamacare focused on the expansion of Medicaid with a plan to increase dependency on federal funding. The exchanges only purpose was the destruction of the commercial insurance market. Given these factors and the growing national debt due to Obamacare and the fact that 32M U.S. citizens still remain uninsured a compelling case could be made to move to a single payer system as the only and obvious solution."

So what is wrong with a single-payer system similar to those in other parts of the world? After all, it would make healthcare free for the citizenry, as proponents tout. When you take a closer look, the overwhelming demand for medical services result in governments putting limitations on availability. For example, "you don't have to travel far to see the disadvantages of socialized medicine. Canada has had a single-payer system in place for decades. That's why you see Canadians who can afford it coming to the U.S. for their healthcare needs. It also inhibits medical research and the development of new and better procedures and medications. And, if that's not enough, consider the fact that a single-payer healthcare system is the backbone of socialist and communist politics, putting the government in charge of the lives of its citizens."

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.

Noland

From Page 1

Noland says proudly. "I am an Eagle Scout. I know what it can do for you."

Noland was born and grew up in the inner city of Washington, D.C. As a member of Troop 32, he received his Eagle on Sept. 20, 1963.

His path to Eagle was not an easy one. It was challenging – particularly in earning the swimming merit badge. He remembers it took him three tries to develop the correct technique to rescue a drowning man.

Finally, after two times, he remembered to come up behind the person who was much bigger than he was.

The veteran Scout leader indicates he has no magic formula, no silver bullet for success. His answer is simple:

"I try to inspire them, not push them." He

explains that they have to take ownership of whatever they are doing.

"I don't spoon-feed them." He holds up a Boy Scout manual that outlines the Scouting program and shows you what you need to do to attain advancement. "It was made for a reason. This is where it's at."

"Read it," he says. Perhaps reflecting an attitude of sticking with it that was developed in earning his swimming merit badge, he adds. "And if you don't understand the first time, read it again."

The Lions Club of Fabens is the chartered partner of Troop 513.

Publisher's Note: This is the fifth in a series of eight articles about Boy Scout Troop 513 in Fabens and six of its young men who are about to make Eagle, the highest rank in Scouting. Today we look at the man behind these young men. Next – Scouts continue work to help the community.

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was Colombian novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter and journalist Gabriel Garcia Marquez who made the following sage observation: "Words are not created by academics in universities and suchlike; rather it is the man in the street who does so. Dictionary compilers almost always recognize them too late and embalm them in alphabetical order, in many cases when they have lost their original meaning."

• Those who study such things say that when faced with a crisis situation, the average woman tends to remain calmer than the average man.

• You might be surprised to learn that the first printing press in North America was not anywhere within the present-day boundaries of the United States. The very first one was set up in Mexico City, back in 1539.

• In the Talmud, a central text of Rabbinic Judaism, sneezing is called "pleasure sent from God."

• The largest single dormitory in the world is at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. With 4.8 miles of corridors and providing 33 acres of floor space, Bancroft Hall provides a home for the school's entire brigade of 4,000 midshipmen.

• Many people harbor a fear of snakes (which, incidentally, is known as ophidiophobia), but venomous bites and constricting squeezes aren't the only ways a snake can kill. For instance, in the 1990s a man in Iran, while trying to capture a snake, placed the butt of his shotgun against the snake's neck behind its head. In attempting to escape, the snake wrapped the length of its body around the gun, pulling the trigger in the process – and killing its would-be captor.

• According to historians, Native Americans who lived on the Pacific coast often weaned their babies on caviar.

Thought for the Day: "Distrust any enterprise that requires new clothes."

– Henry David Thoreau

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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



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CryptoQuip Answer

If a college instructor made some tapioca, could you say that the prof is in the pudding?

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

ENTO-052
4/16



What Texans Need To Know About ZIKA VIRUS

Sonja L. Swiger, Assistant Professor and Extension Livestock/Veterinary Entomologist
Michael Merchant, Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist

WHAT IS ZIKA?

Zika is a mosquito-transmitted disease caused by the Zika virus. This virus is not new, but from 2007 to 2014 the virus spread into new countries and perhaps became more dangerous to people. The illness caused by the Zika virus is usually mild compared to other mosquito-carried illnesses like dengue fever, West Nile virus, and chikungunya. Only one in five people infected with Zika will feel ill. These individuals typically develop mild symptoms that include fever, joint pain, red itchy eyes (conjunctivitis) and rash. Symptoms typically occur 2 to 7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Symptoms in some individuals may be more severe. The association between Zika and Guillain-Barre syndrome (a type of paralysis) is under investigation.

Until recently, Zika was considered a mild disease with few lasting effects. However, public health officials are now concerned that pregnant women who contract Zika can pass the virus on to their unborn babies, which may result in a birth defect known as microcephaly. Microcephaly is a condition where the fetal brain and head do not fully develop and reach normal size. Currently, there is no vaccine or preventive treatment for Zika, nor is there a cure for microcephaly. For more information about the effects of Zika on humans, see <https://vitalrecord.tamhsc.edu/zika360/>.

HOW DO I GET ZIKA?

A person gets Zika from the bite of an infected mosquito. In turn, mosquitoes get the virus when they bite a person who is infected with the Zika virus. The best carrier (vector) of the Zika virus is the yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. The Asian tiger mosquito,

Aedes albopictus, can also carry the Zika virus. The degree to which *Aedes albopictus* may be contributing to Zika transmission in the Americas is unknown. Both these mosquitoes are common in Texas, and may be found in the same communities.

Since 2002, the most important mosquito-transmitted disease in Texas has been West Nile virus. West Nile virus is carried by a different mosquito, the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*.

Unlike the *Culex* mosquitoes which fly only at night, *Aedes* mosquitoes are active throughout the day and into the evening. For this reason, it is critical to protect against mosquito bites both day and night.

Under certain circumstances, Zika can also be transmitted sexually from men to women. To date, this is the only way local transmission of Zika is known to have occurred in the United States. In countries where mosquitoes spread Zika, sexual transmission of the virus is relatively less common. For this reason, the US Centers for Disease Control recently recommended that women with confirmed cases of Zika, or who have experienced symptoms of the virus, wait at least eight weeks after the start of their symptoms before trying to get pregnant. Additionally, men with confirmed cases of Zika, or who have had symptoms of the virus, are now advised to wait at least six months after their symptoms begin before having unprotected sex. These recommendations are based on current knowledge of how long the Zika virus remains active in the body and in semen.



Aedes albopictus feeding

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Tigua

From Page 1

but not limited to: 1. Bingo or any variation thereof; 2. Scratch tickets, peel tickets, or pull tabs; 5. Slot Machines; 6. Poker card games.”

The state’s recent motion stated, “In remarkable defiance of those rulings and this court’s permanent injunction prohibiting the Pueblo from engaging in gambling activities that violate Texas law, the Pueblo are currently engaging in various forms of bingo – including fully automated electronic bingo – prohibited in Texas.”

The motion seeks not only to hold the tribe responsible but also wants Governor Carlos Hisa, Lieutenant Governor

Christopher Gomez and the tribal council personally held in contempt. In addition, the state is seeking monetary penalties.

Attorney for the Tiguas, Dolph Barnhouse, told reporters that he was puzzled by the action and how it was filed. The attorney general’s motion against the Tiguas stated that the tribe is offering “fully automated electronic bingo”, but Barnhouse declared that the tribe is only offering old-style bingo along with electronic card minders and lottery-style pull tabs.

The attorney also argued that since bingo is legal under Texas law, it’s not a violation of the Restoration Act for the Tiguas to offer it. “While the Texas Lottery Commission regulates bingo elsewhere in the state, the Tiguas would be regulated by federal

authorities because it’s a sovereign tribe,” Barnhouse claimed.

Earlier this year, U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone ordered the tribe to remove sweepstakes machines it had been operating at its entertainment centers. Despite the tribe’s contention that recent letters written by U.S. Interior Department officials mean they are subject to a 1988 federal law that allows them to offer Class II gambling under the supervision of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

The court essentially said that the Texas tribe is subject to the 1987 Restoration Act in which the federal government recognized the tribe; nonetheless, they must obey state law when it comes to gambling. The tribe had until this past May to remove the gambling paraphernalia. Shortly after

getting rid of the equipment, the tribe initiated the bingo games.

In the litigation, however, Cardone did agree with the tribe’s assertion that state police entities had no right to enter their land without permission to conduct their investigations. But, she stated that the tribe must clearly notify the attorney general and police agencies of that requirement.

So, as a sovereign tribe, the Tiguas passed an ordinance recently that requires agents of the attorney general to get prior permission before coming onto tribal land and expeditiously disseminated copies of their new rule to all pertinent parties via the Internet.

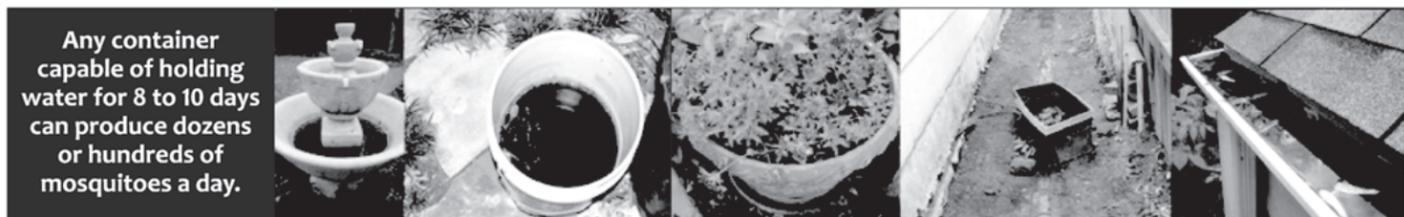
Barnhouse stated that the tribe refused to voluntarily let state agents inspect the entertainment centers. “The government doesn’t

get to say, ‘We believe you’re doing something wrong, so prove your innocence,’” he stated.

Furthermore, the judge stated that the court would no longer pre-approve games at tribal entertainment centers. (The court originally ordered such pre-approval in 2010.)

“The court should not, and will not, undertake this role any longer,” Cardone wrote. “Instead, the Restoration Act provides a mechanism for addressing violations of its provisions. That mechanism requires Texas to bring suit in this court to challenge alleged violations of the act, and allows this court to enter an injunction, if warranted.”

The AG’s most recent motion brings into question of whether the Tiguas’ current bingo operations violate Texas law. “The payment of cash consideration into a game of chance which produces cash prizes is an illegal lottery under Texas law,” the motion cited. But now, state investigators need the tribe’s permission to enter the facilities to prove their allegations.



Any container capable of holding water for 8 to 10 days can produce dozens or hundreds of mosquitoes a day.

SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT ZIKA?

As of March 2016, the Zika virus has not been locally transmitted by mosquitoes to humans in Texas. Currently, the risk of Zika infection in Texas appears negligible. During the winter and early spring, the principal risk is for travelers to areas where Zika is active. However, local transmission of Zika might be possible during the active mosquito season (average daily temperatures above 75 degrees F) and more people return to the State while infected. This risk is expected to remain low for most of Texas. Your local health department, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the local media are good sources for changes in the risk of Zika in your area. The most current information on Zika in Texas is at: <http://texaszika.org/>.

STOPPING ZIKA

There are two steps you can take to reduce your risk of getting Zika or West Nile virus from a mosquito. First, you can make your home environment less likely to breed mosquitoes. Second, you can reduce your risk of a mosquito bite by dressing appropriately and wearing mosquito repellent when you are outdoors.

All mosquitoes require bacteria-laden water in which to breed. *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes breed in small water- and debris-filled containers like bottles and cans, buckets and wheel barrows, tarps, gutters, birdbaths, flower pot dishes, and tires. Any container that can hold water for 8 to 10 days can produce dozens to hundreds of mosquitoes a day. Clean rainwater or irrigation water that fills a container with organic material (leaf debris, grass clippings, etc.) takes about four days to produce enough bacteria to sustain mosquito breeding. Because the mosquitoes that carry Zika fly less than 200 meters from their larval breeding site, most of the biting mosquitoes in your backyard come from containers in your or your close neighbor’s

yard. Again, the first step to stopping Zika is to fill or eliminate any water containers around your home. For more information about mosquitoes and how to check your yard for mosquito breeding sites, visit: <http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu>.

Mosquitoes can bite any time you are outdoors—even for short trips to water the garden or pull weeds. Anyone staying outdoors for extended periods in mosquito-infested areas should wear long sleeves, long pants and light-colored, loose fitting clothing to prevent mosquitoes from biting. Skin applied repellents can also provide good protection for 2 to 12 hours. DEET, picaridin, and IR-3535 are some of the better repellents for exposed skin; however, for shorter exposure times many other effective products are available. For more information about choosing a repellent, see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s repellent calculator: <http://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you>

PRECAUTIONS FOR TRAVELERS

Texas’ proximity to Mexico and other Latin American countries where Zika is common, make it one of the highest risk areas for Zika in the United States. Anyone traveling to and from areas where the Zika virus is present should take special precautions to avoid getting the virus or spreading it to others. This includes avoiding mosquito infested areas, wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito prone areas, and using a good repellent.

In addition to being careful to avoid Zika when traveling, it’s important to avoid passing on the Zika virus when you return home. Even travelers who feel well can pass on the Zika virus. Eighty percent of those who get Zika will not know they have been infected. To minimize this risk, returning travelers should wear repellent for at least a week to avoid the possibility of introducing the virus to your community.

For more information and links to resources: <http://preventingzika.org/>

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New

Luevano

From Page 1

he would give back to his community. “I know it can be difficult for some families to buy supplies for their kids, especially when there are more than one in the family,” said Luevano. “I love my community and I think what I am doing is the right thing to do.”

Last year, he purchased donated five backpacks filled with notebooks, rulers, pencils, and crayons. This year, he went above and beyond by donating 20 brand new backpacks filled with double the amount of supplies!

Luevano hopes that others follow in his footsteps and give back to others. “Doing this just feels right for me and it is an amazing feeling,” he said. “I plan to continue doing this in the year’s to come.”

Next year, he plans on donating 30 backpacks to the students of his beloved San Elizario community.

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Kaepernick's actions come from freedom, not common sense

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The world of sports is divided into several seasons, some busy and some not so busy.

For the sports reporter, like yours truly, one of the busiest times of the sports year has just gotten underway.

Which means I'll be particularly busy for the next six months or so.

I'll cover the Chihuahuas, who are in the playoffs. I do high school football games every week on the radio. And I'll be knee-deep in UTEP football and basketball games over the next few months.

Though these sports are very different in their own ways, there is one particular aspect of every single game that is exactly the same.

They all will march out the American flag and play the National Anthem before the start of the game.

I can't tell you how many times I've stood at attention with my right hand over my heart before a ballgame.

But I can tell you exactly how many times I've decided to sit down and ignore

to respect the anthem while it was played – zero.

Unless you've been living under a communist regime only receiving government-controlled propaganda disguised as news, you've heard of Colin Kaepernick's decision to protest the National Anthem.

Kaepernick, and a few other players here and there, are of the opinion that the United States is a country that promotes racism and unjust treatment to people of color.

So instead of standing for the anthem, he has decided to sit in personal protest.

Personally, I would never disrespect the flag and the ideals of the United States because I love my country and am very proud of what it represents – blemishes and all.

I'm probably most proud of the fact that the United States, if nothing else, stands for freedom. We all have the freedom to make choices – even unpopular choices.

One of my favorite sayings goes something like this, "I may not agree with what you say, but I'll fight to the death for your right to say it."

Freedom of speech may be one of the

greatest ideas that anyone has ever come up with.

We have the right to say something, or make a point, as long as it doesn't infringe on the rights of others, and not be persecuted for it.

Though I must admit that it looks very bad, isn't that exactly what Kaepernick is doing?

As I've gotten older I've learned more and more to look at things in perspective. And I've learned that there are some perspectives I can never have.

Like making judgments about the anger and frustration of an African American. You see, I've never been a black man so I have no idea what it's like to live in their world. So how can I make judgments?

There's also another saying about not judging people until you walk in their shoes.

Do I believe the United States is a racist nation? Of course not. Do I believe that all lives matter? Of course I do.

The answer is very simple. Ask anyone if there is a race of people out there whose lives don't matter. If they can't name any, then the only logical conclusion is that all

lives matter.

The irony here is that Kaepernick is complaining about living in a country that provides him the freedom to complain about it – and make millions of dollars in the process.

He's also been seen wearing a Fidel Castro t-shirt and wearing socks with cartoon pigs wearing police hats.

I do wonder what would happen to Kaepernick if he made the same kind of gestures while living in Cuba, or North Korea, or certain parts of the Middle East? I think wondering if he were going to start next Sunday would be the least of his problems.

It can be very easy to take living in the United States for granted.

Again, without living anywhere else there's no perspective.

You can't really appreciate the freedoms you have until you lose them.

I don't agree with Colin Kaepernick's decision to protest the National Anthem, but I agree with his right to do so.

That's what makes this nation so great – even if Kaepernick doesn't think it is.

But then again, he might think differently – if he had more perspective.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

A view from the back of the class

K.J. Carson is a friend of mine. We used to sit in the back of our high-school classes and constantly crack up on the way to our C averages. We had this one teacher who was about 110 years old who used to like to start his lectures with a line from the famous person he would be teaching us about that day. For instance, if he was teaching us about John Kennedy, he might start with "Ask not what your country can do for you..."

The day K.J. and I really became friends was the day that teacher walked in and declared "I am the virgin queen!" I'm not sure if we ever really stopped

laughing from that day since. Yeah, we didn't learn much from that class – and if I am ever asked who the virgin queen was, I will quickly answer "Mr. Reed" – but we did keep a running commentary over the years.

K.J. is a burgeoning radio talk-show host. Over the years, we have floated the idea of me phoning in as "the token white guy" on his show (K.J. is black), but we never really saw it through. We've talked about doing podcasts for this column, but the furthest that ever got was me designing a nifty graphic for this column's Twitter handle: @sportingview (be sure to follow... Pete Rose does!).

The other day, he broke his silence on Colin Kapaernick, the soon to be former NFL quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers. Colin, as you may know, refuses to stand for the national anthem in protest of police brutality against persons of color. I personally don't really care what Colin does on the sideline... I didn't know this was even a thing until K.J. opined.

"What gives a man the right to tell another man how he should protest a perceived injustice? Our law frowns upon vigilante-style retaliation, and this isn't even close. I've heard and seen some strong language about a guy they don't personally know. They think they know him because he plays football on TV... I wish some people would just admit they have a problem with Colin Kapaernick making \$19 million a year. It's not about a flag, or disrespecting soldiers.

That's trying to "dictate" what you believe he is doing instead of "listening" to what he is saying... unless you don't want to hear that... because that's your right too!"

I can only add that it's fitting to remember what police officers go through every day, too. As a former police-beat reporter and member of a family that has had more than a few cops in our ranks, it is important to remember that these officers are the ones kicking in the door to find your dead grandma in the morning, handling multiple murders before lunch, fighting rape, finding stolen tools (which, believe me, causes murders

in a small town filled with day laborers and drunk and disorderly nights). There is no way to fleck off the instances of police brutality, but you can put me squarely on the side of sane reform. These people signed up to be heroes, and now it's time to help them out.

Whether or not Colin can be helped from here on out is up to him. He went from a standout to someone now remembered for refusing to stand.

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

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

What you need to know about getting benefits out of country

There are a number of people who choose to live their retirement years in places outside of the United States. Perhaps retirement in Thailand or Portugal is in your plans. Maybe you plan to split your year between Central Europe and Central Asia. In many cases, it's still possible to receive your retirement benefits while living abroad. Our website can help you navigate your benefit eligibility while living overseas.

If you've worked in both the United States and another country, it may be possible for your credits to combine for a larger benefit. Currently, there are 25 countries with such international agreements with the United States. To find out if you have qualifying work in a country with such an agreement, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/international.

You can receive benefits in many countries. To find out whether you can receive your benefits in the country where you are retiring, you should use our Payments Abroad Screening Tool at www.socialsecurity.gov/international/payments_outsideUS_page10.html.

There are easy ways to get in touch with us and report changes to Social Security if you live overseas. You can contact your local U.S. embassy, write to us by mail, or call us at 1-800-772-1213. You can find other information in regards to living overseas at www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign.

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

Briefs

From Page 1

Street in Anthony, NM. In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month you will learn the historical importance of the Cochineal, a little bug in Mexico that provides the glorious scarlet red for dye. Using 'dot sticks' participants will paint their own design patterned on salvaged 6" by 6" terra cotta tiles with the color red being a predominate color. Participants must bring a penny, nickel, dime and quarter to use as templates. Other templates will be provided. The workshop will be led by local artist Sharon "Aggie" Rhine. Space is limited to 15 participants. To register for the free workshop call Adriana Rojas at (575) 882-5556.

- Mary Carter

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	x		+		21
+		+		x	
	x		+		13
x		x		÷	
	x		+		18
22		21			18

1 2 2 4 5 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: D equals I

DE Z VUNNYKY DJIGORVQUO QZLY
IUQY GZFDUVZ, VURNL PUR IZP
GAZG GAY FOUE DI DJ GAY

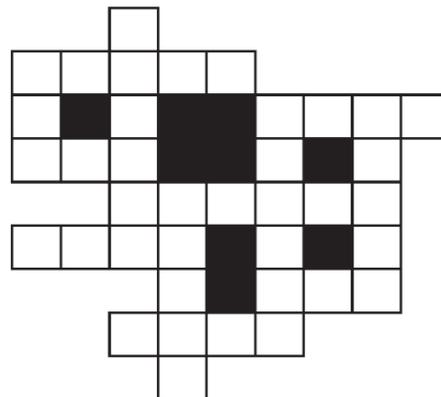
FRLLDJK?

Answer Page 4

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- HYS
- ASHTAG
- DYWAB
- ♥ YUBR
- RUSBRA
- BHU
- ♥ NTWO
- ONLY
- ♥ UBS
- WYNHOA
- NUTHA
- ♥ EABB



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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Finances

From Page 2

product's name plus rebate.

Consider budget laptops. There are laptops available for just a few hundred dollars. Although these less expensive options may come at a compromise on performance or storage capabilities, they can be well suited for students' basic tasks.

Where you find the best deal can depend on what you're looking for, the time of year and one-off promotions. Consider all your options and weigh the pros and cons of buying an older or used device.

Bottom line: Understanding technology is a necessity for many of today's students and professionals. Ensuring students have access to technology at home could help them excel at school and later in life. While some devices can be costly, there are programs and opportunities that can help you save money if you know where to look.

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.



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