



NEWSBRIEFS

The war on cancer

The Association of Mature American Citizens says that cancer care in the U.S. has taken a new, positive direction over the past two decades. AMAC cites the publication, *Cancer Statistics 2017*, that reports: “the overall cancer death rate dropped 25% [over the past 20 years], translating to approximately 2,143,200 fewer cancer deaths than would have been expected if death rates had remained at their peak.”

— John Grimaldi

The future via the past

Geneticists believe they’ve found a way to bring back extinct animal species, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. In fact, the scientists have already established two programs aimed at resurrecting an ancient breed of cattle that roamed Europe and Asia until 1627 when they died out.

— John Grimaldi

Wanted

A northeast El Paso convenience store is held up by a man at gunpoint and investigators from the El Paso Police Department are asking for the public’s help identifying this armed robber through Crime Stoppers. In the early morning hours of Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 the man walked into the Seven-Eleven located at 8901 Diana. He was wearing a ski mask and pulled out a black handgun. The suspect threatened the employee with the gun and demanded money from the cash register. The man fled the scene southbound on Diana with an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect is described as a White or Hispanic Male, 6’ tall with a thin build. He was wearing a ski mask, a black hooded sweatshirt, dark grey sweat pants, black shoes and was armed with a black semi-automatic handgun. Anyone with information on the identity of this robber should call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word “CRIME1” (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— Javier Sambrano

The cost of living is making the green pastures of retirement look parched.

— Quips & Quotes

TEA releases trial-run performance reports

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS—When the 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2804 two years ago, changing the school accountability system so that every campus and district receives one of five ratings from A to F beginning in August 2018, it also stipulated that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) present preliminary work-in-progress reports noting potential grades by January 2017. Those reports, which were presented to legislators recently, are now available to the public.

The final Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) for 2015–16, combine details of district and campus academic performance with financial reports and information about staff, programs, and demographics. The TAPR guidelines are intended to help districts fulfill their legal responsibilities regarding their educational performances, according to TEA officials.

Commissioner of Education Mike Morath, who was appointed commissioner by Gov. Greg Abbott a year ago, issued the following statement regarding the latest TAPR: “It is important to note that the Met Standard/

See REPORTS, Page 2



— Photo courtesy of Texas Education Agency

Mike Morath was appointed Texas Commissioner of Education by Gov. Greg Abbott and began serving on Jan. 4, 2016. As Commissioner, he heads the Texas Education Agency, which oversees pre-kindergarten through high school education for more than five million students enrolled in both traditional public schools and charter schools. Morath previously served on the Dallas Independent School District board of trustees.

TEA launches social media campaign

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath announced recently the official launch of #IAmTXEd, a new social media campaign intended to share the ongoing success stories of Texas teachers in the classroom.

The #IAmTXEd campaign collects and shares the stories of Texas educators whose work is leading to greater student outcomes and achievements. The social media posts are shared statewide each week via Texas Education Agency (TEA) Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, according to TEA officials.

“There is no shortage of great work taking place in classrooms all across our state every school day,” said Commissioner Morath. “Each week, this social media campaign allows everyone to see just how rigorous the teaching profession can be and how our educators are working hard to secure the future of Texas.”

Stories from the campaign will feature teachers providing rigorous and

See CAMPAIGN, Page 5

Fabens students see inauguration first hand

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier



— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

CAPITOL GANG – The “Fabens Inaugurators” took a moment to pose in front of the Capitol Building during their trip to Washington DC.

FABENS – On January 18, 2017, twenty students from Fabens, TX traveled to Washington DC to attend the Presidential Inauguration Swear-In Ceremony, Speech and Parade.

During the five days spent there, students also visited the US Capitol and Supreme Court, the FDR Memorial, Ford’s Theatre, the National Zoo, the Air and Space Museum, Mt. Vernon, the National Archives, the National Cathedral, the Newseum and the Smithsonian American National History Museum.

For junior Edgar Gallegos, who had never been on a flight before, the entire trip was full of firsts. “It was impressive to see President Donald Trump up close,” Gallegos said. “I’ve never been near anyone so famous.”

Making the trip possible took countless hours of effort and planning on behalf of organizer Veronica Rodriguez. However for her, the work was all worth it. “To see the students’ eyes lit the entire five days, to see them really absorb all the history

See FABENS, Page 8

Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

Take control of your electronic entertainment budget

It seems like every few weeks there's a new "must-watch" movie or show. Competition between traditional and new production companies is driving the wave of high-quality content. I can't complain, but it's also hard to keep up. I have an ever-growing list of binge-able things to watch, read and listen to, and in the meantime, I'm paying bills for multiple bills month.

As long as my family's necessary expenses are covered, spending money on entertainment can be worth it. However, I've also noticed that left unmonitored, expenses can slowly grow out of control. I'd rather look for ways to save money and make more meaningful purchases.

Periodically reviewing how much you spend on

entertainment, especially electronic entertainment, could be a good place to start.

Take stock of where you currently stand. Find your starting point by making a list of expenses that fall into the category of electronic entertainment. If you don't have a budget where you can easily look up this information, you can review previous bank statements or connect your accounts to a budgeting app that can automatically pull in your spending history. This might also be a good time to try several budgeting apps and begin using the one you enjoy the most.

Give traditional cable or satellite TV expenses a second look. If you haven't "cut the cord" — canceled your cable or satellite

TV service — now might be time to give the idea some thought. Many alternative, and often cheaper, options have become mainstream, including free and a la carte sports programming. Even premium networks are sold on their own or as inexpensive add-ons to other services.

You may not want to cancel your entire service but after reviewing what you pay for and regularly watch, you might discover that you could be just as happy with a less expensive package.

In either case, regularly calling your service provider and negotiating your rate could save you money. This same tactic could also work with internet service providers.

Consider splitting the cost with someone else. Some subscription entertainment services can be shared with friends or family. A few even offer several tiers of service, or family packages, that let you create profiles and stream from multiple devices at once. Although the price might be higher for a multi-user account, you'll still save on a per-person

basis.

Choose the person or people you share your account with carefully. In some cases, sharing an account with a non-family or household member could be a violation of the terms and conditions, and with some types of accounts, you could be giving the other person access to your debit or credit card number.

Make a list of free resources you can use. Knowing where you can turn to (legally) watch shows and movies, including recent releases, could put you at ease if you're worried about canceling a service.

You could start by using ad-based websites that legally host movies and shows. While there are commercial breaks throughout the videos, the services are completely free, and some have mobile apps that you can use to start or resume a video while you're away from home.

As I'm sure you're aware, there are plenty of free books, CDs and magazines at many libraries. But the library systems are also keeping up with the times. Some let you "check out" audiobooks, movies and shows

without having to visit a branch.

Bottom line: Having access to a wide variety of shows, movies and other types of electronic entertainment can be well worth the cost, but don't let your monthly expenses go unchecked. Between monthly subscription services, Internet and cable you could be paying several thousand dollars a year.

Find a happy medium by canceling services you don't want anymore and finding ways to save on those you do. You could then use the savings for something more meaningful. Perhaps that means going to a sports game with friends or family rather than paying for a television service, or putting the money towards a non-entertainment goal, such as a college or retirement fund.

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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PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

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Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.



Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

In vitro fertilization now a VA benefit

Severely injured veterans with service-connected disabilities can now get reproductive treatments from the Department of Veterans Affairs as part of their benefits package. The biggest bonus will be in vitro fertilization (IVF), which had been banned until now.

Additionally, there will be fertility counseling and treatments (assisted reproductive technologies, or ART) for the spouses of those veterans. The addition of IVF will be a huge step forward for veterans who were injured by explosions, leaving them unable to procreate due to genitourinary or spinal cord injury.

Until now, the VA has provided certain services and treatments, limited to counseling, blood testing, surgical correction, medication, diagnostics and reversal of vasectomies and tubal ligations.

The 2012 PCS Fact Sheet: Infertility and Assisted Reproductive Technologies specifically says, "The medical benefits package explicitly prohibits in vitro fertilization." It did, however, cover in vitro for active-duty service members through the

Department of Defense, but only six attempts in three IVF cycles. Additionally, "Only the veteran is eligible for the VA-covered infertility treatment services."

The new benefits are funded only through Sept. 30, 2018, so if you're considering using any of these benefits, especially IVF, don't delay. Those treatments don't always "take" on the first attempt, so begin early. Call the VA now to schedule a consultation and evaluation if your injury is already documented as being service connected. If you need help filing a claim and proving service-connection, contact the Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org or 1-877-832-6997).

If you want to read the complete rule in the Federal Register, go to www.federalregister.gov and search for Fertility Counseling and Treatment for Certain Veterans and Spouses, dated Jan. 19, 2017.

To show how serious the VA is about this, it's implemented the rule without delaying it for a public comment period.

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Reports

From Page 1

Improvement Required ratings issued in August 2016 and updated in November 2016 are the official academic accountability ratings for the 2015–16 school year. A similar process will be used for the 2016–17 school year.

"The ratings in this report are for informational purposes to meet a legislative requirement and represent work-in-progress models that are likely to change before A–F ratings become effective in August 2018. No inferences about official district or campus performance in the 2015–16 school year should be drawn from these ratings, and these ratings should not be considered predictors of future district or campus performance ratings."

Nonetheless, at least 200 school districts across the state, including several in El Paso, claim that the new rating system is unfair and does not offer a full assessment of a school's efforts beyond testing. These school districts are now voicing their opposition to the preliminary grades TEA released in January that show how schools would fare if the rating system were already in effect.

State Rep. Mary González, of Clint, has already filed a bill that seeks to replace the A–F system;



SISD student councils work to raise awareness for organ donations

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – In an effort to raise awareness and increase the number of organ donors within the state of Texas, student council organizations in the Socorro Independent School District partnered with Donate Life Texas to participate in “Dare to Dream. Dare to Do,” the annual Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) campaign to help the cause.

The statewide project will allow Team SISD student council groups to educate the community about the need for organ/tissue donations, and encourage them to register as donors. The goal is to make a difference by saving lives.

According to Donate Life America, 125,000 men, women and children await lifesaving organ transplants, and every 10 minutes another person is added to the list.

“A few weeks ago I met a lady who

shared her story of battling cancer for more than ten years and how grateful she was for her lung and kidney transplant,” said Flor Dominguez, senior student at Socorro High School and the student council community service chair. “It wasn’t until I looked into her eyes that I fully understood the impact a donor can have.”

Each campus will strive to meet its goal of 200 registrations to have a collective total of more than 1,000 registrations. The schools will promote registrations at basketball games, school assemblies, parent nights and on their school websites.

“This is a unique project,” said Lorraine Varela, student activities director at Americas High School. “It’s teaching students the importance of giving back and true service, helping one another. We are extremely excited to be a part of such a large project that will essentially help save lives.”

To learn more about the “Dare to Dream. Dare to Do” initiative visit <https://tasc.memberclicks.net/tasc-state-project/>.

The links for individual SISD school campaigns are:

- Americas High School: www.donatelifetexas.org/americas-high-school/;
- Eastlake High School: www.donatelifetexas.org/eastlake_falcons/;
- El Dorado High School: www.donatelifetexas.org/edhs-stuco/;
- Montwood High School: www.donatelifetexas.org/mhs-rams/;
- Socorro High School: www.donatelifetexas.org/socorro_bulldogs; and
- Pebble Hills High School: www.donatelifetexas.org/campaign/phhs-spartans/.

Socorro ISD asks for feedback

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) will administer its third comprehensive School

Climate Survey for parents, students in grades 3-8, and school-based employees from Jan. 30 to Feb. 10, and for high school students from Jan. 30 to Feb. 24.

The survey, which is completely

See **FEDBACK**, Page 5

Maybe It Wasn't That Heavy Shopping Bag.

Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain

but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/tx



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke



HEART ATTACK & STROKE

Read the signs. | Raise a flag.

Accessing Performance Reports

- The Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) for 2015-16 are now available for the entire state. The latest reports include information by individual region, campus, or district. The TAPR information provides a glossary that includes definitions, descriptions of methodologies, and lists of sources for each data point in the reports. A TAPR Glosario – Spanish translation of the glossary – is also available.
- To learn more about the transition to a new accountability system and its implementation, visit the Texas Education Agency A-F Resources Page, on the TEA website, at http://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Accountability/A-F_Accountability_Resources/.
- TAPR data may be downloaded in Excel in either comma-delimited format, or tab-delimited format. Prior to the 2012-13 school year, TAPR was known as the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) reports. Those reports, for school years 2003-04 through 2011-12, are available in the AEIS Archives.

Reports

From Page 2

and school districts, including El Paso and Socorro, have passed resolutions opposing the new academic measurements.

However, the politically-potent Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick stated, during a recent speech at a conference sponsored by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, that the grading system is not going

away. Patrick acknowledged that the system may need some tweaking but said school districts should give up on efforts to repeal it.

“We finally have an accountability system, and boy, are they running for the hills,” Patrick said. “You’ll notice, by the way, that all these schools that got Ds and a few Fs and Cs, they’re all complaining the system’s not fair. All the schools that got As and Bs haven’t said a word,” he added.

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

- It was 20th-century American writer and political activist Max Eastman who made the following sage observation: “It is the ability to take a joke, not make one, that proves you have a sense of humor.”

- Have you ever wondered why a “down” in American football is called that? In the early days of the sport, when the ball carrier was tackled, he was supposed to yell “Down!” to avoid getting hit by other players.

- If you’re like one-third of American vacationers, you spend at least some time cleaning your holiday lodgings upon arrival.

- In many Mediterranean countries, a typical breakfast consists of some combination of the following: tomatoes, olives, cheese, bread and hard-boiled eggs.

- The Guinness Book of World Records (now known simply as Guinness World Records) is so named because in 1951, Sir Hugh Beaver, the managing director of the Guinness Breweries, wanted to settle an argument over whether the golden plover or the red grouse was the fastest game bird in Europe. Unable to find the answer in reference books, Beaver realized that there must be many such questions debated in pubs, but no reference book to settle them. Another Guinness employee recommended professional fact-finders (and twin brothers) Norris and Ross McWhirter to compile such a book. The first edition was printed in 1954, and all 1,000 copies were given away.

- It was a New Yorker named William Shepherd who patented the first liquid soap. The recipe? One pound of soap, 100 pounds of ammonia solution and enough water for the mixture to reach the consistency of molasses.

Thought for the Day: “I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.”
– James Baldwin

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**Anthony Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended August 31, 2016**

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,901,521	\$ 5,027	\$ 383,655	\$ 2,290,203
5800 State Program Revenues	6,033,214	–	227,532	6,260,746
5900 Federal Program Revenues	946,756	–	680,286	1,627,042
5020 Total Revenues	8,881,491	5,027	1,291,473	10,177,991
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	3,963,366	–	382,324	4,345,690
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	181,864	–	–	181,864
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	184,377	–	64,435	248,812
0021 Instructional Leadership	136,410	–	3,535	139,945
0023 School Leadership	496,584	–	8,594	505,178
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	242,521	–	81,380	323,901
0033 Health Services	116,271	–	–	116,271
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	217,845	–	–	217,845
0035 Food Services	751,760	–	137,524	889,284
0036 Extracurricular Activities	379,965	–	5,043	385,008
0041 General Administration	595,859	–	2,120	597,979
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	873,851	–	–	873,851
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	52,656	–	3,000	55,656
0053 Data Processing Services	288,724	–	–	288,724
0061 Community Services	319	–	38,410	38,729
Debt Service:				
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	–	–	246,000	246,000
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	–	–	246,000	246,000
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	–	132,943	132,943
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	–	272,026	–	272,026
Intergovernmental:				
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	27,523	–	–	27,523
6030 Total Expenditures	8,509,895	272,026	1,299,027	10,080,948
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	371,596	(266,999)	(7,554)	97,043
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	–	–	2,460,000	2,460,000
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	–	224,455	224,455
8949 Other (Uses)	–	–	(2,612,295)	(2,612,295)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	–	–	72,160	72,160
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	371,596	(266,999)	64,606	169,203
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	2,937,577	1,253,720	136,968	4,328,265
3000 Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 3,309,173	\$ 986,721	\$ 201,574	\$ 4,497,468

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CryptoQuip Answer
I know a guy who compliments his fellow carpenters by declaring “Boy you do miter fine work!”

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Feedback

From Page 3

confidential, will allow students, parents and school-based employees to provide the district

valuable feedback on how it can improve its efforts to ensure all students succeed and to provide world-class customer service to all SISD stakeholders. The surveys also provide the district with data to help measure progress and maintain accountability on objectives that are outlined in the District Improvement Plan.

The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete and will give SISD important data on how to better serve students' needs.

The parent survey will give campuses and the district important feedback on the strengths, areas of improvement, communication, and school culture. Parents can take the survey through the district website, www.sisd.net/climatesurvey, or through the district's mobile app.

Students will be given time to take the survey at their school. The responses to the student survey will reveal information

about students' experiences in their schools and classrooms. The survey will ask students about their perspectives on education, their school, how students treat each other, classroom environment, and school-home communication. These responses will be summarized and reported to principals and teachers in order to provide them with feedback about their work with children.

"Bottom of Form Our goal is to better understand the student

perspective as we strive to address the learning needs of all students," said Marivel Macias, assistant superintendent of academic services.

If needed, computers are available at the child's campus and the District Service Center (12440 Rojas Dr.) for parents to take the survey. Sample electronic copies of all Climate Surveys are available for review on the district website at: <http://www.sisd.net/climatesurvey>.

Campaign

From Page 1

rewarding academic experiences; highlight the critical role that educators play in students' lives; showcase teachers driving student achievement, a love of

learning and personal growth; and/or exhibit instances in which educators go above and beyond to provide meaningful learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, TEA officials stated.

The first #IAMTXEd stories have highlighted the work of educators in the Presidio,

Duncanville, Lubbock and Northwest independent school districts. Their stories reached approximately 40,000 people via social media, the school officials reported.

TEA has solicited submissions to the #IAMTXEd campaign directly from school districts

and charters and plans to publish stories from every region of the state. To see submissions and to learn more about the #IAMTXEd campaign, visit TEA on social media. For questions regarding the campaign or to submit a story, send email to IAMTXEd@tea.texas.gov.

Tornillo Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2016

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 836,366	\$ 1,479	\$ 156,181	\$ 994,026
5800 State Program Revenues	10,820,209	-	1,005,195	11,825,404
5900 Federal Program Revenues	851,448	-	1,553,441	2,404,889
5020 Total Revenues	12,508,023	1,479	2,714,817	15,224,319
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	5,858,691	-	1,078,165	6,936,856
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	137,212	-	65,681	202,893
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	99,886	-	400,779	500,665
0021 Instructional Leadership	85,988	-	134,845	220,833
0023 School Leadership	701,991	-	20,689	722,680
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	163,989	-	-	163,989
0033 Health Services	142,953	-	-	142,953
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	240,342	-	-	240,342
0035 Food Services	836,785	-	19,362	856,147
0036 Extracurricular Activities	428,637	-	-	428,637
0041 General Administration	842,625	-	3,058	845,683
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	1,362,461	-	-	1,362,461
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	193,698	-	-	193,698
0053 Data Processing Services	443,024	-	-	443,024
0061 Community Services	67,619	-	48,959	116,578
Debt Service:				
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	73,000	-	625,000	698,000
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	22,400	-	288,952	311,352
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	261,731	73,559	335,290
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,059,686	-	-	1,059,686
Intergovernmental:				
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	12,013	-	-	12,013
6030 Total Expenditures	12,773,000	261,731	2,759,049	15,793,780
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(264,977)	(260,252)	(44,232)	(569,461)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	-	-	2,925,000	12,305,000
7915 Transfers In	408,277	-	137,320	545,597
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	-	270,032	888,083
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(414,277)	-	-	(545,597)
8949 Other (Uses)	-	-	(3,119,695)	(3,119,695)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(6,000)	9,866,731	212,657	10,073,388
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(270,977)	9,606,479	168,425	9,503,927
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	8,084,782	-	330,812	8,415,594
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 7,813,805	\$ 9,606,479	\$ 499,237	\$ 17,919,521

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Moments in Time

The History Channel

- On Feb. 13, 1633, Italian philosopher, astronomer and mathematician Galileo Galilei arrives in Rome to face charges of heresy for advocating that the Earth revolves around the Sun. Galileo remained under house arrest until his death in 1642.
- On Feb. 14, 278 A.D., Valentine, a priest in Rome, is executed for defying Emperor Claudius II and performing marriages in secret. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join his army because of their attachment to their families, and banned all marriages. Today, we celebrate Feb. 14 as Valentine's Day.
- On Feb. 15, 1965, a new Canadian national flag is raised in the capital of Ottawa. In 1964, the Canadian Parliament had voted to adopt a new design, a white background with a stylized 11-point red maple leaf in its center.
- On Feb. 16, 1894, gunslinger John Wesley Hardin is pardoned after spending 15 years in a Texas prison for murder. Hardin was reputed to have shot and killed a man just for snoring and had probably killed at least 40 people.
- On Feb. 17, 1904, Giacomo Puccini's opera "Madame Butterfly" premieres in Milan, Italy. The audience responded with hissing and yelling. Four months later, a reworked "Madame Butterfly" opened to applause, repeated encores and 10 curtain calls.
- On Feb. 18, 2001, NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Sr. dies at age of 49 in a last-lap crash at the Daytona 500. While vying for third place in his famous black No. 3 Chevrolet, Earnhardt collided with another car, then crashed into a wall.
- On Feb. 19, 1777, the Continental Congress votes to promote five men to major general, but overlooks Benedict Arnold, who felt slighted and threatened to resign. In 1780, Arnold became the most famous traitor in American history when he offered to hand over West Point to the British.

An idea to improve the Super Bowl looks for support

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are special days that come around once in a while; days that differentiate themselves from others and always will.

These are days that you tell your kids about. You remember

where you were when they happened and all your friends feel the same.

In America, we especially remember days like that; days that will shape our psyche for years to come. These are days that impact the way we look at the world and our seemingly insignificant role in it.

Every so often, we Americans get together and choose which of two opposing sides we favor in an all-important struggle for supremacy.

I'm not talking about epic battle between Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton. Don't get me wrong, the battle for the leadership of the free world is pretty important – but c'mon, obviously it pales in comparison to what I'm talking about – the Super Bowl.

This Sunday, the Atlanta Falcons will take on the New England Patriots in Super Bowl 51 in Houston.

The Patriots are making what seems like their annual visit to the game while the Falcons are the new guys on the block.

Naturally, all the talk surrounds the Falcons, and whether they can keep up with Brady, Belichick and the mystique of the Patriots.

Atlanta has a pretty good quarterback in Matt Ryan, who many believe will be the league's MVP this season. But this is the Falcons' first title game appearance since 1999 and only their second in franchise history.

In comparison, this is New England's ninth trip to the big game.

Most of the experts believe the Patriots will win. Most fans will probably be rooting for the Falcons because everybody loves an underdog.

Who will win? There's a great amount of disagreement.

But the one thing all experts and fans agree on is that the

Monday after the Super Bowl may be the most difficult day to gear up for of the year.

After all the jumping up and down and the hollering and the throwing up of hands and the gloating and the finger pointing and the expletive-laced tirades, who can function the next day?

And we haven't even thrown in the tons of food and adult beverages consumed at these get-togethers.

Even people who care nothing about football, spend the day judging every commercial and stick around for the halftime show.

People's homes are turned into makeshift tailgate parties. This takes days of planning and preparation, just like preparing for any major holiday.

Now there's an idea – turning the Super Bowl into a National holiday. Wouldn't it be awesome if somebody really took that idea

seriously and ran with it?

Somebody has.

The Heinz ketchup people have come up with an idea to make the day after the Super Bowl an official holiday.

Their rationale is a pretty sensible one. Since a ton of people already call in sick on that Monday anyway, why not make it official.

Their name for this holiday – no, not Festivus, that was already taken – is "Smunday."

It's a morphing of Sunday and Monday.

And let's face it, the Super Bowl, which starts locally at about 4:30, kicks off later and later. It used to be played in the afternoon and now it starts in the early evening. How long will it be before it turns into a full-fledged night game?

The event is ending later and later. And the last I checked, those hangovers don't magically

go away first thing the next morning.

Heinz even has a petition everyone can sign on its website. If 100,000 signatures are collected, they will go to whoever is in charge of National holidays in this country, and make their case.

Maybe sometime in the near future, Smunday will be up there with Thanksgiving and Christmas the Fourth of July, as big holidays we look the most forward to.

Until then all we can do is dream. But we're a nation of dreamers who dream big things and often make them realities.

So this Monday, when you're strolling into work with your eyes half closed, your shoulders slumped and wearing two different colored socks, remember what could be coming.

And you too will utter the words, "In Smunday we trust."

Classified Ads

LEGALS

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TX

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Village of Vinton, Texas, in accordance with Section 2254.004, Texas Government Code, is seeking a qualified individual or organization to create a logo, name, branding strategy, and graphics standards for the Village of Vinton.

In order to be considered proposals must be submitted prior to 4:30 PM on the 10th day of February, 2017.

A complete request for proposals is available on our website: <http://www.vinton.tx.gov/office2.com/Opportunities>

City Council reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms submitting proposals, in accordance with the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards Act, and may choose to retain services for three consecutive years. The locality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Manuel Leos
Mayor

WTCC: 01-26-17
02-02-17

and materials to complete the project, using USDA bidding and contract documents.

Digital information package available from January 1, 2017 to February 13, 2017 at Wright & Dalbin Architects, 2112 Murchison Dr., El Paso, TX, 79930; (915) 533-3777. A \$50.00 refundable deposit is required.

Pre-bid meeting will be conducted at AYUDA location, on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. local time.

Sealed Bids will be received on Tuesday February 21, 2017 until 2:00 p.m. local time by Wright & Dalbin Architects at 2112 Murchison Dr., El Paso, TX 79930, to proceed to a public opening.

AYUDA Inc. reserves the right to reject any bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

The contractor must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin, age, sex or disability.

AYUDA, INC has a conflict of interest procedure in accordance with 24CFR 92356. AYUDA Inc. is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

WTCC: 07-28-16

FOR SALE

Commercial Security Camera Moninto. 1'4", new-in box. Wholesale price \$200 - will sell for \$75 / OBO. Located west El Paso. (575) 740-7603.

WANTED

Want to buy Border Disc for 3 point 20hp tractor and/or plow to make garden rows for spring planting home garden. El Paso - (575) 740-7603.

AYUDA, Inc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Proposals

Adults and Youth United Development Association (AYUDA) Inc. Is Requesting Bid Proposals to build a New Kitchen Facility in their existing building, located at 1325 Beverly Ann, San Elizario, Texas 79849. Project includes: furnish all labor, tools, equipment,



"BUT WE THOUGHT YOU WANTED SUNDAY TO BE A DAY OF WORSHIP."

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Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.



U.S. General Services Administration

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Any given Sunday

The New England Patriots are the greatest franchise in modern football history. That statement is irrefutable. This will be the team's ninth Super Bowl appearance, their seventh – seventh! – with Tom Brady under center and Bill Belichick as head coach.

This team has recorded 12 wins every year for the past decade. Despite the NFL's absurd decision to try and vilify Tom Brady (which you could argue they did, with his four-game suspension to start the season), the Patriots lost two games. Two. That's also how many interceptions Brady threw all season. Fans and pundits alike

said that Brady would go on a Super Bowl tear this season, and guess what, they were right. This will be his seventh Super Bowl. Nobody, at any position, has ever played in seven Super Bowls.

My dark-horse pick, the Atlanta Falcons, are back in the Super Bowl. I covered the Falcons the last time they made a Super Bowl, and let's just say that it was an unmitigated disaster. From tragic off-field decisions to an even worse on-field game plan, that Falcons team deserved more. Atlanta deserved more.

It's time for Atlanta to win a championship. Even Cleveland and Oakland win

championships these days and Atlanta deserves a winner. In Matt Ryan, they have, arguably, the MVP. He was the league's top-rated passer, eclipsing even Tom Brady, and in his marquee match-up against Aaron Rodgers, he excelled. Ryan impressed everyone this year, and during the playoffs he showed the heart of a champion. The guy stays in the pocket and he slings the leather.

Will that be enough to beat the Patriots? While the Patriots keep going to Super Bowls, the "any given Sunday" rule has always applied to them. This Falcons team might have what it takes.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

Comix

Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



DR. ROACH WRITES:

I wrote a column on cracked fingertips, and received a wealth of suggestions from readers.

For prevention, some suggestions I liked included avoiding too-hot water for handwashing, antibacterial soaps and wool gloves, all of which can remove protective oils from your fingers. A humidifier in the house can prevent drying of all the skin.

Home-treatment remedies included flax-seed oil or B vitamins by mouth. (I don't know if these are effective, but they should be safe.) Most people recommended emollients to the hands, specifically Preparation H, O'Keefe's Working Hands, Bag Balm, CeraVe, Chapstick and Carmex Healing Cream. Plain petrolatum (Vaseline) works very well for many people and is inexpensive. The area can be covered at night by a bandage or glove.

Several people recommended saltwater soaks. One noted that the pure mountain water of Colorado Springs cured him in three days. Finally, one person recommended trimming the nails quite short. These home remedies have helped many.

DEAR DR. ROACH: After an extreme case of vertigo, including vomiting and being taken to the emergency room, my unsteadiness remains. Over a week later, I need to use a walker to be safe. I am 79, and this happened once four years ago, but without the aftereffects. Any suggestions? – M.W.

The major causes of vertigo, acute labyrinthitis and benign paroxysmal positional vertigo,

often continue to produce attacks that tend to lessen in severity up to a month after the initial severe attack. A walker may be a useful precaution while recovering. If the problem persists, I strongly recommend a visit with a physical and/or occupational therapist for vestibular rehabilitation, which is physical therapy to restore balance. It also might be necessary to revisit your doctor to confirm the original diagnosis.

The booklet on vertigo explains this disruptive condition in detail and outlines its treatment. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 801W, 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: My 15-year-old son was just admitted to the hospital for depression and ADD. His thyroid tests came back abnormal. There is thyroid disease in the family. Is that the cause of his illness? – Anon.

Thyroid conditions, including both hyper- (too much) and hypo- (too little) thyroid hormone are common in the general population, but more so in people who are diagnosed with a wide variety of psychiatric illnesses, including depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder. I have read that up to a third of people in new admissions for psychiatric conditions have thyroid abnormalities. It isn't always clear whether the thyroid problem caused the psychiatric illness, and probably most often

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| PLAYFUL BREEDS ACROSS | 64 With 32-Down, Lucille Ball's partner | 2 Retired NBAer | 37 H.S. subj. | 83 Sulu player |
| 1 Deluding deliberately | 65 Dog carrying a container of high-fat spread? | Ming | 38 Zaps in the microwave | George |
| 8 Stiff cat hair | 73 Verdi song | 3 "Addams Family" cousin | 39 " _ Out of My League" | 84 Coeur d' _ (Idaho city) |
| 15 Capital of Morocco | 74 Cozy recess | 4 NBA nylon | 43 Whacked, biblically | 85 Rocky crags |
| 20 Of the side | 75 Old heads of Iran | 5 Made a pained sound | 44 Thus far | 89 Atop |
| 21 Plane for short hops | 76 Dog along with Mrs. Truman? | 6 Motown singer | 45 Wine vessel | 90 Gender determiners |
| 22 Put a hex on | 81 Gunfire noise | Terrell | 46 Indian money | 93 Like Russia before 1917 |
| 23 Dog having no bounds? | 86 Pindar work | 7 Stan's "Swiss Miss" co-star | 47 Tie up tightly | 94 Visualize |
| 25 "I repeat..." | 87 Heavy cart for haulage | 8 Lived | 48 #1 Rolling Stones hit | 95 Chance, old-style |
| 26 Gal pal, in Grenoble | 88 Ejects | 9 That man's | 51 A tribe of Israel | 96 Pt. of NCAA |
| 27 Parts of lbs. | 91 _ Alto, California | 10 Audit gp. | 54 Subj. for U.S. aliens | 97 Siding (with) |
| 29 Bring to ruin | 92 Fund for the future | 11 Racecar fuel additive | 56 Burlap bags | 99 Yasmine of "Baywatch" |
| 30 Dog hanging out with pride members? | 93 Glorifies | 12 Chiang _shek | 57 Camera inits. | 101 Pine relative |
| 39 Gawk rudely | 94 "The Godfather" character Carlo | 13 Theodora | 58 Scottish refusals | 102 Nebraska city |
| 40 Restrained with shackles | 95 Drum machine | 14 "The Godfather" character Carlo | 59 Gator's tail? | 103 Ciphers, say |
| 41 Bit in trail mix | 100 Property claims | 15 TV maker | 61 Mork's girl | 104 Kefauver of old politics |
| 42 British money depicting a dog? | 101 Dog that doesn't dial long-distance? | 16 Capital of Maine | 62 First little bit of progress | 105 Terra_ |
| 45 Capital of Indonesia | 107 Latin love | 17 Ranch iron | 65 BLT part | 106 Hatch of politics |
| 49 Hollywood's Raines | 108 Detroit-to-Charlotte dir. | 18 Brief digression | 66 Wear slowly | 111 Ending for Tokyo |
| 50 Edible mushroom | 109 Golfer McIlroy | 19 Carpentry joint part | 67 Buenos _ (capital of Argentina) | 113 Copa's home |
| 51 Sack fiber | 110 Circle measures | 24 Harder to grab hold of | 68 Comedy bit | 114 Fun and games, for short |
| 52 Catering hall receptacle | 112 Hit by a dog? | 28 Haydn work | 69 Weeding aid | 115 Printer fluid |
| 53 Take eager advantage of | 122 Heart's place | 30 Ripped off | 70 Cuban hero Jose | 116 Butyl ender |
| 55 Equaling a dog's level of coziness? | 123 French "Stephen" | 31 St. _ Girl (beer brand) | 71 Deep fissure | 117 Lipstick color |
| 60 Plant pore | 124 Resembling element #50 | 32 See 64-Across | 72 President before DDE | 118 The Indians, for short |
| 63 "When I was _..." | 125 Electrified | 33 Memo words | 77 Noble goal | 119 Aperitif with white wine |
| | | 34 Nabisco's _ Wafers | 78 Dialects | 120 Scrape (out) |
| | | 35 Prefix with 20-Across | 79 Equine loser | 121 Beauty of "1941" |
| | | 36 Sugar pie | 80 Hercules player Kevin | |
| | | | 82 Spring month | |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20								21							22					
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125									126						127					

Moore Texas by Roger Moore
 Jan. 19, 1858 :The German Free School Assoc. became the first school chartered by the Texas legislature.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil
Plan your retirement in 2017

It's 2017, and that means you might be one more year closer to retirement. Whether you're at your very first job or wrapping up a successful career, there are always new things to learn about when it comes to saving for the future. So why not make retirement planning part of your New Year's resolution!

Putting money in a high yield savings account (if you can find one) is always smart, but you can do even more. The U.S. Department of the Treasury now offers a retirement savings option called myRA. There's no minimum to open the account, you can contribute what you can afford, and you can withdraw funds with ease. To learn more about myRA, visit www.myra.gov/.

Hopefully your employer chips in a little. An employer-sponsored retirement plan or 401(k) can be a useful way to set aside funds for retirement, especially if your employer offers matching funds on what you invest. If you don't work for an employer that offers this type of plan, there are many other plans designed to help you save for retirement.

From solo 401(k)s to traditional and Roth IRAs, there are programs designed to fit a multitude of budgets. The earlier you start to save, the more funds you'll have ready for retirement.

And, as always, there is Social Security, which is funded by taxes you pay while you work. To get estimates of future benefits and check your earnings record for accuracy, you can create a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Along with giving up bad habits, this New Year start a good habit that can make a lasting, positive change.

Here's a Tip
 By JoAnn Derson

• The best time to shop for your 4th of July and Christmas tableware is after Valentine's Day. Red is abundant and very well-priced.

• "Clean, shiny china is easy with this simple recipe! Use a half-cup of Borax powder in a sinkful of warm water. Dip the china in the sink and rinse with cool water." – F.T. in Louisiana

• Keep a pumice stone in the shower or bath. Once a week, plug up the bath while you shower and, if you want a real treat, add a little Epsom salts to the tub. When you have finished showering, your feet will have had a nice soak and will be ready for scrubbing. After you dry off, make sure to moisturize well, and your feet will stay looking great and be ready for sandal season again (if it ever comes back!)." – C.T. in Maryland

• Sweaters don't belong on hangers, but they can be bulky and take over your drawers. Try this storage trick this winter: Roll sweaters and display them in the sections of a hanging bin organizer in your closet. You also may find that they do well in the slots of a shoe rack.

• This is an old carpenter's trick, but so very useful: Use a clothespin to hold a nail you are about to hammer. It works especially well if you need to nail in an awkward place. This way, you will not pound your fingers or thumb.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

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.

	÷		+		13
-		×		÷	
	×		-		11
×		+		+	
	÷		+		9
10		12		11	

1 2 3 4 5 5 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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 Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Fabens

From Page 1

was amazing," Rodriguez said. "Everything was a learning experience."

The group, which call themselves

the Fabens Inaugurators, would like to thank the Fabens community, parents, teachers and sponsors who helped them realize this once-in-a-lifetime experience. They also thank the many individuals and businesses that contributed funding for the trip.

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: O equals L

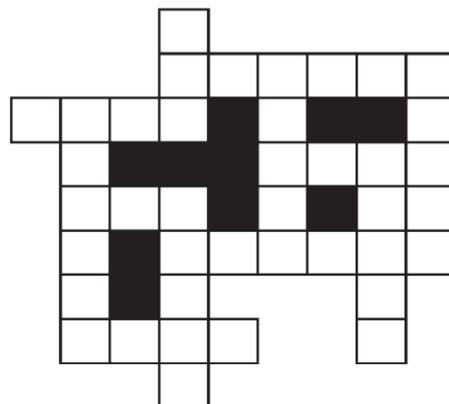
X ALKP G QZI PSK MKDFOXDHLGR
 SXR BHOOKP MGEFHLCHER TI
 JHMOGEXLQ "TKI, IKZ JK DXCHE
 BXLH PKEA!"

Answer Page 4

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- WAC
- ♥ TENDRA
- ♥ DRECA
- EKRT
- ♥ CATSIT
- ♥ NTA
- WHOC
- ♥ SETTA
- ♥ KAS
- ♥ NEOSAR
- ♥ NEWDO
- ♥ ENTO



Answer Page 4

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

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

Health

From Page 7

there is a large combination of factors, including genetics, environmental and medical conditions that affect the development of psychiatric conditions.

It is clear that sometimes, but not always, treating the underlying thyroid condition can make managing the psychiatric symptoms much easier.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com. (c) 2017 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.