



NEWSBRIEFS

Youth group

Bond Memorial UMC in Clint is sponsoring a Youth Ministries Group. If you are between the ages of 10 to 14 years old, we invite you to come and participate in our 3-D Youth Group: Dedicated, Determined and Driven. The group will meet every Sunday evening beginning May 28 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Activities will include games, movie night, projects and pizza parties. The church address is 201 McKinney (corner of McKinney and Bonito). Please call (915) 851-8144 if you have any questions.

— Erma Nelson

EPCC grads

El Paso Community College (EPCC) held its Spring Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 12, 2017 at the University of Texas at El Paso Don Haskins Center. A total of 1,884 associate's degrees and certificates were awarded during two ceremonies. The commencement speaker was Mary E. Kipp, Chief Executive Officer for the El Paso Electric Company and the Master of Ceremonies was Dr. William Serrata, EPCC President. EPCC, recently ranked number one nationally for the number of Associate Degrees awarded to Hispanic students, is committed to increasing the number of graduates in our region. With this commencement ceremony EPCC has awarded more than 70,325 degrees.

— Jim Heiney

Director sought

A nationwide search is under way for the founding director of the new El Paso children's museum. The Board of Directors of the nonprofit EPC Museum is seeking a dynamic, energetic leader to build and operate a world-class destination designed to inspire the next generation to dream, act and contribute. The new children's museum was approved by voters in the 2012 Quality of Life bond election. The museum will be built on the former site of a Greyhound bus maintenance facility at Santa Fe and Main streets in downtown El Paso, just north of the El Paso Museum of Art. The firm of m/Oppenheim Associates of San Francisco and Washington, D.C. is conducting the search for the museum's director.

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Wisdom enables one to be thrifty without being stingy, and generous without being wasteful.

— Quips & Quotes

Employment initiatives to provide summer jobs

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Workforce Solutions Borderplex (WSB), along with partners from the El Paso County, Borderplex Alliance, City of El Paso, the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce announced recently that together they have launched three youth employment initiatives for this summer.

The three initiatives are the Hire El Paso Youth Summer Work Program, the Summer Earn & Learn program, and the Texas Internship Challenge program.

The Hire El Paso Summer Work program will subsidize 100 percent of a paid work experience for 122 youth between the ages of 16-24 for 20-40 hours a week and for up to 12 weeks, according to WSB officials.

The Summer Earn & Learn program will subsidize 100 percent of the paid work experience for 78 youth with disabilities between the ages of 14-22 for 30 hours a week and for up to 7 weeks, officials stated.

And, the Texas Internship Challenge program, a partnership between the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, and the Higher Education Coordinating Board, is designed to promote paid internships for students with Texas employers who are willing to commit to covering the costs for internships, officials said.

“Together we, and our partners, understand the value that summer work experience offers the future workforce,” stated Joyce Wilson, Chief Executive Officer of WSB. “Hiring youth not only helps them gain important workplace training but also builds self-esteem while earning money for themselves and their families. In return, employers can expect to get productive employees,” she stated.

Wilson said that employers who participate in the programs will benefit from hiring motivated young adults in their workplaces, while providing crucial career building opportunities. She added that employers participating in the Summer Earn & Learn program will receive insights and recommendations as to how to best serve customers with disabilities and learn how to easily adapt workplaces to employ persons with disabilities.

In total, WSB has committed to subsidizing 200 summer jobs at 100 percent with zero cost to employers. WSB officials explained that youth who participate in the program will attend a Dynamic Futures foundational skills boot camp to better prepare them prior to starting at their worksites.

For more information about the Hire El Paso Youth Summer Work and the Summer Earn & Learn programs, interested individuals may visit WSB's website at www.Borderplexjobs.com/HireElPasoyouth.

For information on the Texas Internship Challenge program, visit its website at www.txinternshipchallenge.com.

Bañuelas awarded



— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

CASH FOR SCIENCE – On Friday, May 5 the Texas Medical Association (TMA) named twelve Texas science teachers winners for its 2017 Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards for Excellence in Science Teaching. STEM Coordinator and science teacher Julieta Bañuelas of Fabens High School was awarded 2nd place in the high school division. Her award came with a \$4,000 cash prize for her and a \$1,000 resource grant for the school to enhance its science program. TMA recognizes elementary, middle, and high school teachers for helping to create tomorrow's physicians by inspiring students in the field of science. TMA receives over 450 nominations and 225 applications for this distinguished award program annually. Bañuelas, however, does not feel she does anything extra or special. “I do what I do because I love it,” she said. “I do what it takes for kids to learn. I believe science should be exciting because it is exciting!”

— Denise Peña



— Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

STUDENT AND MENTOR – Ryan Sung, left, with Clint Early College Academy Principal Edmund Martinez.

Sung picks Princeton

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Ryan Sung got the attention of multiple universities this year. He was accepted to attend ten universities including Yale, Northwestern, Georgetown and Stanford. Ryan's interest in politics helped him decide to choose Princeton University where he will attend the famed Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. In addition, he will receive more than \$250,000 in financial aid and scholarships to finish his undergraduate studies.

Sung is a graduate of El Paso Community College (EPCC) Clint Early College Academy, but his educational

See SUNG, Page 4

Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

Coupon savings without going to the extreme

Following the Great Recession, it seemed like extreme couponing was a competitive sport. You could watch on TV as shoppers armed with binders full of clipped coupons and an in-depth knowledge of stores' policies would get incredible discounts at the checkout counter. Extreme couponing may not be as popular today, but the

Recession gave many people an appreciation for living a frugal lifestyle. That's a good thing. Living within one's means is a core tenant of practicing good financial habits and couponing can help you achieve this goal. However, as with most things in life, you want to try and find a healthy balance and look for ways to coupon without the extreme.

Make the most out of your couponing. Whether you're on your weekly grocery run or making a major purchase, a discount can always be helpful. However, be wary of buying products you don't regularly need or use simply because you have a coupon or there's a sale.

Some people might choose to avoid temptation by looking for coupons after the items are in their cart. With a smartphone in hand, you can use a savings app to look for savings while you're waiting to check out.

Another option, that might require a bit more time and strategy, is to plan your meals for the week ahead of time. You can write down your shopping list and spend five or ten minutes looking for applicable coupons before heading to the store. You might also choose to look at the coupons available and plan your meals for the week based off of what's on sale.

No matter what tactics you use, the point is to save money on items that you will use, not to purchase merchandise simply because it's discounted.

Invest your time proportionately to the potential saving. The time investment that an attempt at extreme couponing can require doesn't always match the potential savings. Spending hours couponing and winding up saving \$1.50 probably isn't worth the time commitment.

A less extreme method is to consider the potential savings and spend a proportional amount of time researching products and looking for savings opportunities. But many people don't take this approach. A survey conducted by Ipsos on behalf of Zillow in 2016 found that on average, people spent eight hours researching mortgages or mortgage refinancing; 11 hours researching a new car or truck; and four hours researching a new phone, tablet or TV. Almost a fifth of those surveyed spent an hour or less shopping for their home mortgage.

Learning about and comparing options before making major purchases, such as a home or car, makes sense. A small change in your mortgage's interest rate could save or cost you tens of thousands of dollars. Comparing two new phones could save a few hundred dollars when it comes time to purchase.

Smaller recurring savings, such as the previously mentioned grocery runs, can certainly add up in the long run. If you've got a tried-and-true method that's working for you, go for it. Just make sure you get a good return

on the time and effort you put in.

If you find joy in the hunt that's okay too. There are always exceptions and there are times when putting the extreme in couponing makes perfect sense. For example, there are extreme couponers who view their interest and practice as a hobby and coupon because it can be enjoyable to hunt for deals. While most hobbies cost money – this is one that could actually lead to savings.

There are also extreme couponers who figure out ways to get free products and then donate them to a local charity. It's a win-win for the couponer and those in need.

Bottom line: While saving money is important, and can be fun, try not to become so enthralled by potential savings that you lose sight of the purpose – to spend less money on what you want or need. If you are going to invest your time in money-saving endeavors, make sure you can potentially get a good return on your investment.

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

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Health care as close as the drugstore

If you're a veteran in Arizona and you need medical care, why not just head on down to the drugstore? You soon may be able to do just that. The Department of Veterans Affairs has partnered with CVS to give veterans another place to go for care. The pilot program will give approximately 120,000 veterans in the Veterans Choice Program access to care at the 24 CVS MinuteClinic locations in the Phoenix area.

You won't be able to just stroll in, however. First you'll need a referral from a nurse at the Phoenix VA. Which means you'll need to get someone at the VA on the phone and then get permission.

What care will you get at a MinuteClinic? You'll get treatment by family nurse practitioners or physicians assistants for a number of minor illnesses and injuries. You can get flu shots and birth control, treatment for sprains and poison ivy, sports physicals, and diabetes and high blood-pressure tests. If

you have allergies, nausea or a bladder infection, they can help.

Not all conditions will be covered, however. If, for example, you have a temperature of 103 F and higher, you don't qualify for care there. If you have chest pain or think you've been poisoned, don't go there. If you need a prescription for a controlled substance, they can't help you. If you need an X-ray for a broken bone or injuries from a car wreck, they will send you elsewhere.

If you're in Texas and need a referral, call the Phoenix VA Health Care System Help Line at 602-222-6550 or 800-574-7174. Meanwhile, take a look at the MinuteClinic website to see what it will cover, so you'll know whether to head there first. After each visit, your medical information will be forwarded electronically to the VA.

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Brissette named Region 19 School Nurse of the Year

By Ytzel Molina
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Ellen Brissette, school nurse at SSG Manuel R. Puentes Middle School in the Socorro Independent School District, was selected as the 2017 Region 19 School Nurse of the Year by the Texas School Nurses Organization for her excellent school nursing practice and leadership in school health.

Brissette's announcement was made at the TSNO end of the year meeting recently. As the Region 19 School Nurse of the Year, she will compete at the state level against 20 other school nurses and have the opportunity to attend the TSNO conference in November.

"Being named the Region 19 School Nurse of the year is a huge compliment," Brissette said. "There are so many awesome nurses in our district so it's a little surreal but a great surprise!"

Brissette has been a school

nurse for 15 years and has more than 38 years of experience in the healthcare profession. She began her career in London, England and since then served as a hospital nurse in the intensive care unit, a surgical center, a private physician office, as the SISD district nurses manager, and as a school nurse at the middle and high school levels.

"Ms. Brissette's dedication and advocacy for students' health far reaches beyond her school responsibilities," said Luisa Herrera, TSNO-19 president. "She is actively involved in her community

and sees projects through with unparalleled enthusiasm. She understands the importance of working as a team member and always sets a high standard for excellence."

She is also an active leader among her peers, said Rebecca Madrid, SISD nurse manager. She is a certified CPR instructor and an active member of her Campus Emergency Response Team ensuring that campus staff and students are trained and



– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

Ellen Brissette certified in first aid and CPR. She also represented the Lower Valley Health Fair Association as president and ensured in years past that the coordination and outcome of the health fair was a success.

"Ms. Brissette has been a dedicated school nurse for 16

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

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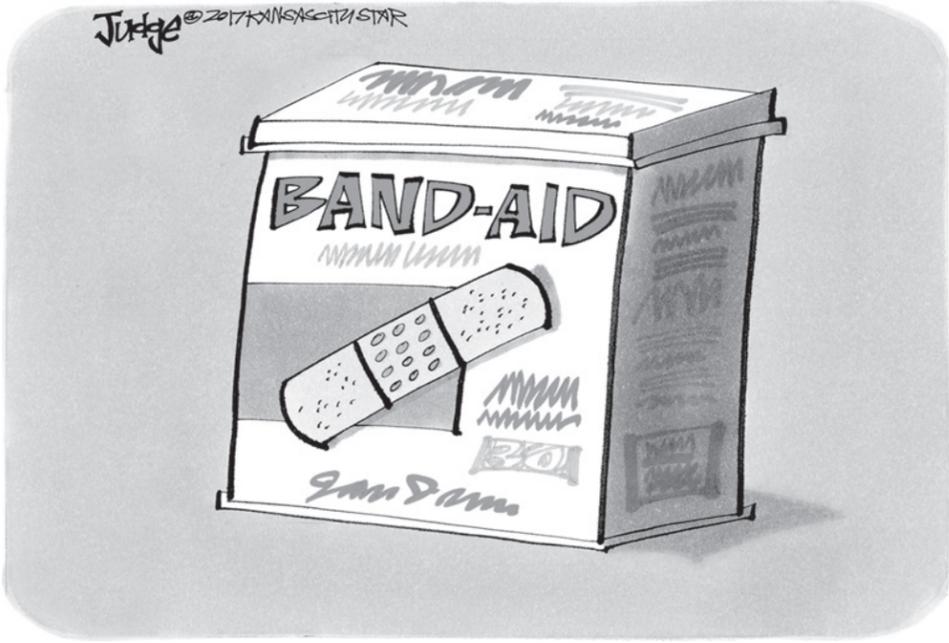
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REPUBLICANS OFFER THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE PACKAGE...



View from here By John Grimaldi

Media integrity or agenda?

“The majority of journalists adhere to the rules; there’s swift justice for writers who stray. But, too many reporters have been taking liberties in recent years and getting away with it, especially some of those who cover social and political issues. Why do they do that? Because they may have a political agenda or because, quite literally, they are eager to make headlines,” says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

Weber made his comment in the midst of what appears to be a rising tide of anti-Trump sentiment among some reporters and editors seemingly eager to report on his tenure so far in negative terms. “Ironically, there have been numerous news reports of the extraordinarily negative media coverage Mr. Trump has received during his campaign and throughout his first 100 days in office,” according to Weber.

Veteran journalist Joe Concha, media reporter for the highly regarded political website, *The Hill*, says, “there is a vitriol towards Donald Trump that we have never seen with any other president.” In a recent TV interview, Concha cited researchers who showed that 89% of the coverage of the Trump administration has been generally negative. The studies showed that 97% of the Trump reporting by the CBS Evening News and the NBC Nightly News is biased. Concha said “that tells me that there’s probably an agenda.”

Few would disagree that the Trump Administration has been perhaps the most transparent in history when it comes to dealing with the media. Yet, the media says he is a threat to the First Amendment. As Concha put it: “On one hand, the Trump Administration is totally about access, and on the other hand, there are press freedoms being threatened. How does that square exactly?”

The facts speak for themselves, says Weber. White House spokesman Sean Spicer holds more press briefings, he takes more questions from reporters and has expanded access to the White House press room by providing considerably more press passes and introducing the use of Skype for reporters unable to be at the briefings in person. Meanwhile, President Trump has done more media interviews with a more diverse group of media outlets than any president in recent memory.

News reporters are bound by a code of ethics, according to Weber. “They are supposed to stick to the facts. They should not be taking advantage of the stories they are covering to promote personal agendas. They need to take the integrity principle seriously and, if they don’t, their editors should be there to strictly enforce the code. Editorials are for the editorial pages. It’s bad enough that anyone with a computer; a basic knowledge of grammar and a vivid imagination can be a reporter these days by posting their so-called news stories on the Internet. These new age town criers have no rules; they are free to twist and turn their so-called coverage of an event or personality to suit their personal agendas. But when mainstream reporters do it, we all lose. We lose confidence in the purpose and accuracy of the stories we read in the morning paper and those we watch on the evening news. Media integrity is more important than ever in the Trump era.”

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.

Bidi Bidi Bee Bots take the trophy



– Photo courtesy Clint ISD

SMALL BOTS – Clint Independent School District (CISD) held the First Pre-Kindergarten Robotics Competition in April. The competition was the first of its type in the region. Out of 24 teams from across the District, the Bidi Bidi Bee Bots from W.D. Surratt Elementary took first place honors in the competition. They were coached by John Gagas, a CISD teacher. The competition involved programming robots to follow a path in a timed race. Above, from left, are Ronin Sloan, Aria Parra, Isaiah Medina, Selinna Gutierrez with their trophy.

– Laura Cade

Pebble Hills NJROTC is Outstanding Unit

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Pebble Hills NJROTC unit has been named the 2017 Area Nine Most Outstanding Unit, a distinction they were surprised with at the 2017 Pebble Hills NJROTC Military Awards Night, recently.

The unit, which is 116 members strong and comprised of students from Pebble Hills,

El Dorado and Montwood high schools, earned the award for their many hours of community service, unit and school support as well as the outstanding scores they received in every category during their annual military inspection.

“I’m very proud of our students for earning this distinction,” said Justo Mendoza, senior naval science instructor at Pebble Hills. “This recognition is a direct testament of their hard work and dedication to the program. The

kids demonstrate loyalty, integrity and all the characteristics we look for in our cadets so they can become productive citizens in our community.”

The Pebble Hills unit was selected for the prestigious award out of the 67 units from seven different states in area nine. In addition, the unit has been named a distinguished unit with academic honors for their high level of performance for six consecutive years.

“It’s an honor to be recognized as the Area Nine Most Outstanding Unit,” said Sarah Adams, senior cadet at El Dorado High School. “We have always held our standard high and worked toward this goal so it’s great to

finally achieve it. NJROTC is unlike any other organization. It develops responsible and disciplined youth and helps build your character.”

The NJROTC cadets earned more than 9,500 combined community service hours for their contributions of work in the community. The unit is now in the running for the Most Outstanding Unit in the Nation, an award the Socorro High School NJROTC program earned in 2013.

The award-winning unit was first established in 1993 at Montwood High School, relocated to El Dorado High School in 2010, and has been housed at Pebble Hills for the last two years.

Sung

From Page 1

journey has been an international one. Originally hailing from San Elizario, he attended St. Joseph’s Elementary School in El Paso but moved to Taiwan during his middle school years before returning to El Paso for high school where he entered Clint Early College Academy.

For the past year Sung has been setting the stage for his future education and career plans. Not only did he complete his EPCC associate’s degree in three years and began upper-level course work at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), but he was chosen for an internship in the office of United States Representative, Beto O’Rourke. The internship and his studies at Princeton will pave the way for his career goal of working for the U. S. State Department.

“El Paso Community College helped me develop as a person and prepared me for the college setting,” said Sung. “This is an advantage for any Early

College student because they have a background on what college is like.”

Educational leaders say that Early College High School (ECHS) are helping students like Sung continue their education. Edmund Martinez, Principal at Clint Early College Academy who has worked in education for more than 30 years, says the Early College curriculum prepares students for continuing their college experience by setting priorities and increased rigor. “Ryan would not have been in this position without the support of EPCC,” said Martinez who Sung describes as an important mentor. “Time and time again, EPCC stands out as a model to the rest of the state.”

EPCC has been nationally recognized for ECHS education since the first one opened 11 years ago. Now with 12 ECHS programs in El Paso County, thousands of students have received their associate’s degree while attending high school. These students have a high transfer and success rate at universities.

Moments in Time

The History Channel

- On May 29, 1914, two boats collide in heavy fog on the St. Lawrence River in Canada, killing 1,073 people. The Empress of Ireland, following standard procedure, came to a complete stop in the fog. The Norwegian coal freighter Storstad not only failed to stop, but didn’t reverse engines, flipping the Empress on her side.

- On May 30, 1922, William Howard Taft, chief justice of the Supreme Court, dedicates the Lincoln Memorial on the Washington Mall. Taft is the only former U.S. president ever to hold a seat on the Supreme Court.

- On May 31, 1859, the famous tower clock Big Ben rings out over London for the first time. Two months later the bell cracked. It was three years before the clock went into service again. The bell was rotated so that the hammer would strike another surface, but the crack was never repaired.

- On June 1, 1980, CNN, the world’s first 24-hour television news network, makes its debut in Atlanta. Initially available in less than 2 million U.S. homes, today CNN can be seen in almost 100 million households.

- On June 2, 1865, in an event marking the end of the Civil War, Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of Confederate forces west of the Mississippi, signs surrender terms offered by Union negotiators. With Smith’s surrender, the last Confederate army ceased to exist.

- On June 3, 1965, astronaut Major Edward H. White II opens the hatch of the Gemini 4 and steps out of the orbiting capsule, becoming the first American to walk in space.

- On June 4, 1896, in the shed behind his home in Detroit, Henry Ford unveils the Quadricycle, his first automobile. The Quadricycle was too wide to fit through the shed door, so Ford took an axe to the brick so the vehicle could be rolled out.

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CryptoQuip Answer

If somebody cared for certain brightly colored songbirds, might he be a tanager manager?

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Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Douglas Hofstadter, American professor of cognitive science and Pulitzer-winning author, who made the following sage observation, known as Hofstadter's Law: "It always takes longer than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law."

- According to Reed Hastings, the CEO of Netflix, the biggest competition faced by the online streaming service isn't HBO, Hulu or Amazon – it's sleep. He recently told stockholders that when viewers are deciding whether or not to watch Netflix, the alternative they're usually considering is going to bed, not watching another service.

- You might be surprised to learn that in the United States, there are more people employed in the solar-energy industry than there are employees in the coal, oil and gas industries combined.

- Economists aren't known for their optimism, but in the summer of 1930, one of the 20th century's most influential economists made a bold prediction. Even as the Great Depression was gaining momentum, John Maynard Keynes declared that by the year 2030, the typical workweek in developed nations would be just 15 hours long. It's not looking good so far, but we do have 17 years to go.

- Those who study such things say that a monarch butterfly can fly a whopping 620 miles without stopping for food.

- You may have never heard the term "reduplicative rhymes," but you're certainly familiar with them. "Razzle-dazzle" is one. Also, "hocus pocus," "fuddy-duddy," "roly-poly," "dillydally," "higgledy-piggledy" and "chick flick." Interestingly, Chick Flick also was the name of a baseball manager – he managed Rustic Tavern, a semi-professional team in the 1940s and '50s.

Thought for the Day: "Words are like leaves; and where they most abound / Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found."

– Alexander Pope

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– Photo courtesy of Viva! El Paso production

FORTY YEARS IN THE MAKING – Viva! El Paso, which is held at McKelligon Canyon in the Franklin Mountains, is a summer tradition that celebrates 400 years of El Paso's unique history through song, dance, costuming and drama. This summer, Viva! El Paso performers, above, celebrates 40 years of entertaining audiences.

Viva! El Paso announces performance schedule

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Tickets for the new, highly-anticipated Viva! El Paso performances are now on sale.

Viva! El Paso is a summer tradition that celebrates 400 years of El Paso's unique history through song, dance, costuming and drama. This summer, Viva! El Paso celebrates 40 years.

The historical extravaganza returns for 14 shows, which will run from June 16 through July 29, at the McKelligon Canyon

Amphitheatre. Performances will be on Fridays and Saturdays, starting at 8p.m. The July 21 and 22 shows will be performed in Spanish.

The Franklin Mountains provide a naturally beautiful backdrop for Viva! El Paso, which was created by Hector Serrano in 1978 and was its director until 2003. The musical pageant depicts four centuries of the El Paso area's history, program officials stated.

Keith W. Townsend, theater arts instructor with El Paso Community College (EPCC), is in his second year as the show's director. He stated that

this year's season will feature popular segments including new dances, an updated script by Tony Award-winning playwright Marty Martin, and new songs by Jim Ward and Gabriel Gonzalez.

Also, live mariachis return with Mariachi Paso Del Norte and EPCC's Mariachi Real De El Paso. In addition, this year marks the debut of a new group of young performers, the VIVA Kids, who are led by Margaret Barreras, according to the director.

"I am very excited to be leading this group of talented performing artists. We promise to bring a

show audiences will enjoy and be proud of," Townsend said.

Discount tickets for opening weekend performances on June 16-17 are only \$10. Tickets for all other performances are \$20 for adults, and \$12 for children (ages 2-12), seniors 65 and older, and military service members with a valid ID.

Tickets may be purchased at ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, charge-by-phone at 800-745-3000 and the Plaza Theatre Box Office.

Viva! El Paso is produced in a partnership between the El Paso Community Foundation, El Paso Live, and EPCC.

Castaños, Printz are SISD Teachers of the Year

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) celebrated its 46 Campus Teachers of the Year at the district's 2017 Teacher of the Year Gala on May 13 at the Judson F. Williams Hall in the El Paso Convention Center. The top two Teachers of the Year also were named at the annual event.

Christina Luna Castaños, from Purple Heart Elementary School, was named the 2017 SISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. Castaños is a fifth-grade English language Arts and Reading teacher and has been an educator for 15 years.



– Photos courtesy Socorro ISD

TOP TEACHERS – Christina Luna Castaños, left, and Candance Printz were chosen as Socorro ISD's best teachers for 2017.

"I'm on top of the world," Castaños said. "This means I can represent the teachers from our district and represent them well."

Candace Printz, from El Dorado High School, was named the 2017 SISD Secondary Teacher of the Year. Printz is an art teacher and has been teaching for 12 years.

"I want to do the right thing by representing the district and our teachers," Printz said. "I feel honored."

The district elementary and secondary winners will go on to represent SISD in the Region 19 Teacher of the Year competition in August.

"For me, I love this night because it is a chance to celebrate our Team SISD teachers," said Dr. José Espinoza, SISD Superintendent. "They are our HEROES in the classroom!"

More than 1,000 people attended the event, including teachers, principals, family members and other SISD staff. Each school's Campus Teacher of the Year was recognized at the gala, including those who were selected as Elite 8 finalists.

Briefs

From Page 1

leek@moppenheim.com.

– Doug Pullen

Potato chips

Snackers in Japan face a potato chip famine. Storms in the country's biggest potato fields have done severe damage to the crops there causing Japan's

biggest producers of chips to halt production, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. Shoppers emptied the shelves throughout the nation and at least one chipmaker is now importing potato chips from the U.S.

– John Grimaldi

Harden disappears from Houston line up in the clutch

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The seemingly never-ending NBA playoffs have advanced to the round where they're almost watchable.

The conference finals are underway and everyone seems to be looking forward to the inevitable Golden State vs. Cleveland final.

If it turns out that way, it would be the third straight championship series between the two teams, which would be a first in the annals of the NBA.

Another great competition this NBA season was the battle for MVP between James Harden, LeBron James, Russell Westbrook and Kawhi Leonard.

But let's be honest, the battle all season has really been between Harden and Westbrook.

And going into the final games of the regular season, it was a race that many would consider too-close-to call.

Because the award is based on the regular season, to use a political metaphor, the polls closed at midnight of the evening of the final regular-season games.

And that was great news to Houston's James Harden, because if the voting had included the playoffs, Harden wouldn't even be on the ballot.

Many big-name basketball experts in the media had Harden as a slight favorite, but they have to be holding their noses and demanding a recount after his playoff performance (if you can call it that) against the San Antonio Spurs.

It's one thing to have a bad game. Every NBA superstar has had bad games – though they don't usually occur on the biggest stages.

Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, LeBron James have all had games when they were just "off" for the night. But they can never be accused of not showing up.

In game five of the series that was tied two games to two, the Spurs' Kawhi Leonard went down with an injury in the middle of the third period. Houston was up by six and the opportunity was within Harden's grasp to take over and lead the Rockets to victory.

Leonard would miss all of game six too, so the chance for Harden to take control of the series was all there.

Oh, did I also mention that the Spurs were without starting point guard and championship veteran Tony Parker for the rest of the series with an injury?

Well, when true superstars are presented with a challenge they respond with great performances. That's why they are referred to as superstars.

They are like basketball superheroes, only without the masks and capes.

Although he finished the game with 33 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, Harden will be remembered for what he accomplished in the all-everything-game-5-overtime – and what he accomplished was nothing.

He didn't score a single point. He had three turnovers and his last-second 3-point attempt to tie the game was blocked by 39-year-old Manu Ginobili.

And if that wasn't bad enough, he carried his overtime hangover to game six.

Harden didn't only have a bad game, it's like he had absolutely no interest in being a part of it.

Never shy to drive to the basket or put up one from 25 feet, Harden didn't take his first shot of the game until midway

through the second quarter.

He only took 11 shots in the game. For Harden to put up 30 shots in an unimportant regular season game isn't unusual.

But a game away from elimination, on his home court, against a team without its best player and starting point guard, Harden played the game with what can only be described as indifference.

There was no passion, no heart, no hustle nor willingness to lead his teammates. He went from that "fear the beard" guy to just a mediocre player who needed a shave.

I don't know if Harden will win the MVP or not, but after that embarrassing series display, his stock plummeted.

Russell Westbrook and the OKC Thunder may have lost to Houston, but nobody can accuse Westbrook of not fighting with every ounce of energy he had up until the final buzzer.

It's too bad the playoffs aren't included in the MVP voting. If they were, LeBron James would have easily won last year over Stephen Curry.

And after watching whatever that was from Harden – Westbrook should win easily this year.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

It doesn't have to be this way

Don't be too hard on yourself down South. The whole racist thing has never been exclusive to your redneck part of the woods.

Take Boston – if you can find the exit ramp – for example. For decades, fair or not (pronounced "nawt" on Beacon Hill), the city has garnered a reputation for being more than a bit unkind toward African-Americans.

But don't kid yourself. If you're an adult, you know better. I'm getting tired of the whole "Boston is racist" narrative. You know that racism isn't as neat and packaged as that. The conditions for racism exist anywhere a bunch of people who look alike suddenly come into contact with a few people who don't look like them. Racism occurs when a few

of the people from the majority act like jerks toward the minority. It's really that simple.

I'm tired of sports writers who pass the buck, who continue to claim that racism is such a head scratcher, something so complicated and complex and above their pay grade. I'll take a stab at the Adam Jones situation and racism at the ballpark. I'm no Gandhi or Tibetan monk, but it seems to me that the answer is clear: Don't be a jerk.

If you're at the ballpark and you feel the need to stand up, throw a bag of peanuts at a center fielder and call him a racial slur... don't do that. That makes you a jerk – or worse. I can understand why people around the guy didn't

tell him to sit down and shut up – after all, this was a ballgame, not a United Airlines flight – but the answer to much of society's problems is really that simple: Don't be a jerk. Why can't you just enjoy the game?

This could have been a column about the magnificent April Major League Baseball had. Bryce Harper set records, once again establishing that we may be witnessing one of the all-time greats! Madison Bumgarner hits two homers on opening day; Aaron Judge is 8 feet tall, hits

homers off the moon and wears the number 99 in the Bronx! Players dive over catchers to score runs! The Mets are a train wreck!

But no. We instead tackle the stupidity of a bunch of fans taunting Adam Jones at a Baltimore Orioles game. Some of you reading this are disgusted that I even bring it up. "So what," you may be thinking. "Life is tough. People are mean. That's life. That's how it will always be."

If that's how you're thinking, let me show you just how

interactive a newspaper can be. Grab each corner, roll it up and smack yourself in the face. No! It doesn't have to be this way for Adam Jones or anybody. Nobody is telling you how to think, nobody is even telling you what to say in private... but it doesn't mean we have to hear it at the ballpark.

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

Brissette

From Page 1

years in SISD and truly deserves this award," Madrid said. "She does an outstanding job with her students, parents, faculty and the community. She goes above and beyond to advocate for the wellbeing of all who are entrusted in her professional and compassionate care."

Brissette was nominated for the award by 35 of her TSNO peers for her continuous drive

to improve health and learning for her students, working with parents to access the care they need for their children, develop plans to ensure good continuum of care, as well as organize immunizations clinics for students, staff and the surrounding community.

"I love working with the kids," Brissette said. "I have a good day every day and there aren't many jobs where you can walk away feeling fulfilled and being with people you choose to be with."

The Region 19 Nurse of the

Year said she enjoys spending time with her students and teaching them how to advocate for themselves and preparing them for high school and life.

"Education about the art of the nursing practice is key," Brissette said. "I believe that as you learn and share that knowledge you enhance the profession. My students are taught to be consumers of their health, to participate, to ask questions and understand the answers."

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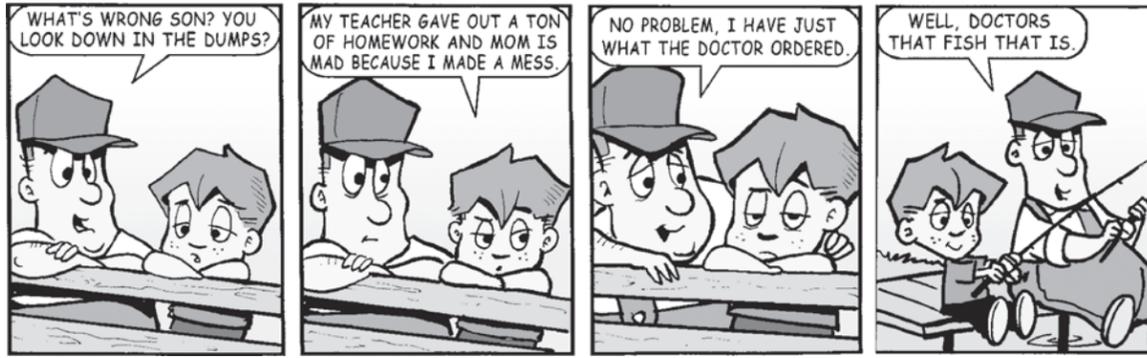
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DEAR DR. ROACH: I need your help to get my husband to stop smoking. We have been together for 27 years. He has smoked cigarettes daily for at least 30-35 years. Recently, he had an attack where he couldn't breathe, and we took him to the clinic, where they did a breathing test. My 15-year-old son and I watched as my husband agonized to get through the test. They gave him an albuterol machine, prescribed Advair and sent him on his way. His father also smoked for many years, and now is on oxygen for COPD – he is miserable every day. My husband quit smoking about two years ago using Chantix, but he started smoking again shortly after that. I do not want to watch him suffer like his father. I know it is not too late for him to stop, even though I am pretty sure he has already done some serious damage to his body. What can I do to get my husband to quit for good. – S.W.

It's worth trying again, and he knows that he is able to quit. Varenicline (Chantix), bupropion (Zyban and Wellbutrin) and nicotine replacement therapies definitely are helpful for most people in quitting. I am sure his doctor will be happy to partner with you, his family, in helping him quit. The American Lung Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Canada and the American Heart Association all have helpful information for people trying to quit as well.

DEAR DR. ROACH: After two years of seeing several doctors and being misdiagnosed and treated with wrong medications, my 27-year-old daughter has been diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis. Her joint pain has been constant. What kind of long-term damage has been done during this time? – A.F.

Psoriasis is a common inflammatory skin condition, with well-known plaques – raised red patches with silvery scales or flaked skin – most commonly seen over the elbows, knees or on the back. Only a minority of people with psoriasis will ever develop psoriatic arthritis, but you have to have psoriasis to get psoriatic arthritis. Sometimes, the arthritis shows up before the skin lesions, making the diagnosis difficult. Unfortunately, damage to the joints can happen early in the course of psoriatic arthritis, but only an X-ray can show the extent of damage. Your daughter

Quitting smoking is perhaps the most difficult recommendation to follow. There are some definite red flags in your husband's case as you have described it, but some reason to hope as well. The fact that your husband can see the effects of smoking on his father but has not successfully quit is worrisome. On the other hand, quitting now will greatly slow down damage to his lungs. Similarly, although he restarted quickly after quitting, he was able to quit. He needs to know that most people who quit successfully have tried several times to quit in the past and

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

<p>LET EM GO! ACROSS</p> <p>1 Wave with a foamy crest</p> <p>9 Bugs' feelers</p> <p>14 Force to be accepted</p> <p>20 Waikiki site</p> <p>21 Ethiopia's _ Selassie</p> <p>22 Of the skin</p> <p>23 "The King and I" heroine who's a real angel?</p> <p>25 Plural ending for bed and home</p> <p>26 "Pb" element</p> <p>27 Roulette turn</p> <p>28 Physique, informally</p> <p>30 Start of a counting-out rhyme</p> <p>31 Md. hours</p> <p>32 Flower used in rituals?</p> <p>37 Minimalist artist</p> <p>Frank</p> <p>39 Reese of song and screen</p> <p>40 Litigious sorts</p> <p>41 Courtroom excuse</p> <p>43 A, in Amiens</p> <p>45 _Magnon</p> <p>46 "I've got it!"</p> <p>49 Benefactor</p> <p>contributing supplies for a bowman?</p> <p>54 Different acquired relative?</p> <p>57 _ Grande City,</p>	<p>Texas</p> <p>58 Contents of la mer</p> <p>59 Like fairly high-quality bonds</p> <p>61 Form images</p> <p>62 At the stern</p> <p>64 Penniless</p> <p>66 Sports org. for the Rock</p> <p>68 See 2-Down</p> <p>69 Be a sign of</p> <p>70 One talking to the very first man?</p> <p>73 Author Janowitz</p> <p>75 Waco-to-Austin dir.</p> <p>76 Q-U string</p> <p>77 Went off course</p> <p>78 "Yeesh!"</p> <p>79 "La _" (Puccini opera)</p> <p>81 Region in central Italy</p> <p>84 Young miss</p> <p>86 Abet, e.g.</p> <p>87 Atlanta university student's little slip-up?</p> <p>89 Nothing except glowing coals?</p> <p>92 Morning glistener</p> <p>93 Dusk-_dawn</p> <p>94 Hornets' org.</p> <p>96 Glacial ridge</p> <p>97 Sauna output</p> <p>99 Shark's place</p> <p>102 Charge with an offense</p> <p>106 Curved entryway under which Antarctic birds pass?</p> <p>111 Unit of</p>	<p>conduance now called a siemens</p> <p>112 Pot fragment</p> <p>113 Unit of work</p> <p>114 Tallies</p> <p>115 "Peek-!"</p> <p>116 Neighbor of an Iraqi</p> <p>118 Unable to afford any more dental visits?</p> <p>123 Seyfried of "Big Love"</p> <p>124 Eldritch</p> <p>125 Virtual vendors</p> <p>126 Abhor</p> <p>127 Turn a car</p> <p>128 Short-term</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Belugas, e.g.</p> <p>2 With 68-Across, Lincoln's nickname</p> <p>3 Like instincts</p> <p>4 Frog kin</p> <p>5 Pixieish sort</p> <p>6 Inferior mutt</p> <p>7 "It's _ cause!"</p> <p>8 Like mechanically delivered well water, say</p> <p>9 Antiseptic compound</p> <p>10 Tow-offering gp.</p> <p>11 Ullmann of Hollywood</p> <p>12 USMA freshman</p> <p>13 Madrid men</p> <p>14 Carders check them</p> <p>15 Potential shooting</p>	<p>star</p> <p>16 Prettifies</p> <p>17 Neighbor of a Yemeni</p> <p>18 Al Capp's Hawkins</p> <p>19 "It's nobody _ business"</p> <p>24 Engage</p> <p>29 Low card</p> <p>32 Entirely wrong</p> <p>33 "You _ mouthful!"</p> <p>34 Winter illness</p> <p>35 Lake craft</p> <p>36 More cheery</p> <p>38 Language akin to Thai</p> <p>42 Leaps</p> <p>44 Approx. takeoff info</p> <p>46 Cotton State native</p> <p>47 Nastygrams</p> <p>48 Stupefaction</p> <p>49 116-Across, for one</p> <p>50 Cytoplasm particle</p> <p>51 Musical on tour, e.g.</p> <p>52 Utah city near Provo</p> <p>53 Absorbed-dose units</p> <p>55 "Boyhood" actor</p> <p>Ethan</p> <p>56 Below, to bards</p> <p>60 Blood classifier</p> <p>63 Not as many</p> <p>65 Really enjoy</p> <p>67 Shims, e.g.</p> <p>70 "What _!" ("Whew!")</p> <p>71 Lake north of</p>	<p>Sandusky</p> <p>72 Film director</p> <p>Avakian</p> <p>74 Warhol of art</p> <p>78 TV twins Ashley and Mary-Kate</p> <p>79 Sleeping spot</p> <p>80 1987-90 NBC sitcom</p> <p>82 Popular Web portal</p> <p>83 Jazz genre</p> <p>85 Alan of film</p> <p>88 Off to _ start (behind)</p> <p>90 Stupefied</p> <p>91 City reg.</p> <p>95 A 29-Down may beat it</p> <p>97 Holy spot</p> <p>98 Sharp pangs</p> <p>100 Playwright Eve</p> <p>101 " _ walks into..."</p> <p>103 Infused (with)</p> <p>104 Writer Deepak _</p> <p>105 Foot, cutesily</p> <p>106 116-Across president</p> <p>107 Rapper's skill</p> <p>108 Gem unit</p> <p>109 Marsh wader</p> <p>110 "Space _ premium"</p> <p>115 Folkie Woody's son</p> <p>117 D.C. player, for short</p> <p>119 Equal</p> <p>120 Be situated</p> <p>121 "No" voter</p> <p>122 First-aid collection</p> <p>Answer Page 4</p>	<table border="1"> 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Moore Texas by Roger Moore May 16, 1917:
Up to 3 FEET of hail was recorded in Ballinger, Texas.



Five SISD campuses earn 2016 Texas Honor Roll distinction

By **Christy Flores-Jones**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Five Socorro Independent School District campuses have earned the 2016 Texas Honor Roll distinction by the Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Institute for Educational Productivity (IPE) for their high levels of student achievement and college readiness efforts among ethnic minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

Team SISD had the most schools in the region selected for the honor. Mission Early College High School, Benito Martinez, Elfrida P. Chavez, Horizon Heights and Loma Verde elementary schools were five of 727 campuses in Texas to receive the award out of more than 1,240 public school districts in the state.

“I’m extremely proud of our five Texas Honor Roll Schools,” said SISD Superintendent José Espinoza. “The honor is a result of the passion and devotion as a district to treat and educate all students as if they were our own children.”

The Texas Honor Roll is part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools and replicate its best practices to improve outcomes for students.

“Many schools across the country are doing well, even those with high numbers of historically disadvantaged students,” said Jim Lanich, ERP President and CEO in a press release. “The Honor Roll proves that all schools, no matter what zip code they are in, can achieve this kind of success. School and school district leaders have a great opportunity to find out what’s working at these Honor Roll schools and replicate it.”

The SISD Texas Honor Roll schools will receive a banner to display at their campus and will be featured on the ERP website. To view the list of Texas Honor Roll schools, visit <http://edresults.org/HonorRoll/HonorRoll>.

Here’s a Tip

By JoAnn Derson

- Don’t let your keys sink in the pool, lake or ocean this summer. If you’re taking them with you, make sure you add a flotation device. They sell keychains just for this purpose.

- “The dollar store is the best place for pool toys – they stock foam balls and all kinds of diving sticks and blow-up beach balls. I bring out lots when we go to the pool, and whatever kids are there can play with them. When we are ready to pack up, we’ll leave some behind if kids still are playing with them.”

– C.A. in Arkansas

- Many shells have holes in them, and kids are natural collectors. If you want a fun car-ride-home project after a day at the beach, bring a craft needle (blunt) and some yarn or embroidery floss for each child. Have them thread shells onto the yarn. When flipped upside down, a Frisbee holds a selection of shells securely on little laps while they search for the perfect one!

– JoAnn

- Do yourself a favor and invest in a net bag to take to the beach. Anything that’s sandy can be placed in the bag, then you just shake it off. Get one for dry items and another for sand toys – just dunk that one in the ocean for a rinse before you go!

- “There are a lot of ways to get your stuff out to the perfect sunning spot on the beach. My way is to dump all my stuff in a big laundry basket, which we pull with a rope. The flat bottom slides over the sand.”

– R.D. in Florida

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.

	-		x		28
+		+		-	
	x		+		15
+		x		x	
	-		x		24
24		15		18	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4 ©2017 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: H equals N

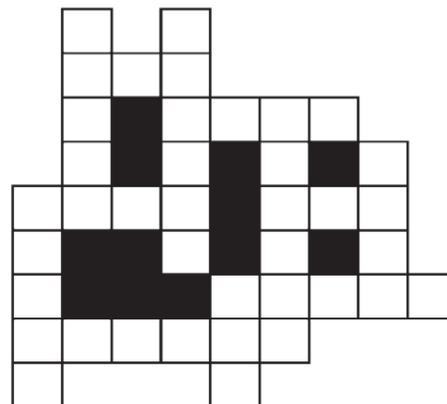
MO ANDJYNFL RKQJF ONQ
RJQPKMH YQMZCPIL RNINQJF
ANHZYMQFA, DMZCP CJ YJ K
PKHKZJQ DKHKZJQ?

Answer Page 4

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- ILA
- MINOGH
- ♥ CAPHE
- ♥ LUMA
- DUPSIC
- MHI
- ♥ ENPO
- ♥ ELMIS
- OOM
- NUDNAH
- ♥ TGASN
- ♥ SMEU



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

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Health

From Page 7

may need aggressive treatment. A rheumatologist experienced in psoriatic arthritis is essential.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com, or write to Good Health, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2017 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.