A “miracle drug” is any drug that’ll do

By Quips & Quotes

NEWSBRIEFS

Fiesta
A new exciting Fiesta is happening in El Paso’s Mission Valley this summer. “Gran Fiesta Real Mexicana” will feature some of the best Mexican style entertainment in the area, August 14-16, at 8240 North Loop Drive, just east of Lomaland. Great food, music, and dance, as well as gamers, rides, and fun for the whole family are offered at the event presented by Open Arms Community, a non-profit Catholic organization, in a spacious open field with a large outdoor stage as a benefit for the Holy Spirit Retreat and Renewal Center to be built on the site. Popular local bands headline each night at 9 p.m.: Friday, Conjunto Majestad; Saturday, Mysterio Musical; and Sunday, Imperial Sonora. MC Oscar Rosales and DJ Erich Paradise will provide continuous entertainment along with Showman Omar, young singer “Emanuelito,” dancers Son Danzon, 915 Kumbiamberos, and vocals of Juan Garcia “Emanuelito,” dancers Son Danzon, 915 Kumbiamberos, and vocals of Juan Garcia and County Judge Anthony Cobos in accordance with the Certificate of Compliance will be sent to El Paso County Sheriff Richard Wiles for appropriate housing options.

By Deputy Jesse Tovar
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — During the week July 27-30, 2009, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) inspected the El Paso County Detention Facility (Downtown) and the Jail Annex. The TCJS inspectors found both facilities to be in compliance with no deficiencies “satisfying all inspections from previous years.” The final report by the Executive Director of the Texas Commission of Jail Standards and the Certificate of Compliance will be sent to El Paso County Sheriff Richard Wiles and County Judge Anthony Cobos in accordance with VCTA Chapter 511 and the Texas Minimum Jail Standards.

Living with heat in Texas
Q: How do you know it’s summer in Texas?
A: The birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground.

By Russell Smith
Special to the Courier

Here in the nation’s second hottest state — we’re just behind Arizona — a sense of humor goes a long way toward dealing with summer. But with this August shaping up as one of the hottest and driest in recent memory, it’ll take more than jokes to deal with our triple-digit heat.

Agency sends El Paso County $2 million to prevent homelessness

By Gordon Anderson
Special to the Courier

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has announced a significant award of federal stimulus funding to El Paso County designed to mitigate and prevent the effects of homelessness both for those individuals who are homeless and for the communities in which they are located.

TDHCA awarded $2 million to El Paso County and three nonprofit organizations to provide services to rapidly re-house homeless residents or prevent individuals from falling into homelessness. The awards were made through the Department’s Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), an innovative program created by the federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“These awards represent an unprecedented opportunity for the state to help transition its most vulnerable residents out of emergency shelters or temporary housing and on toward self-sufficiency,” said Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director. “By tripling up our efforts, we’re strengthening families and stabilizing entire neighborhoods. We pledge to do this in a manner that is both efficient and effective, ensuring these funds are directed to individuals who will benefit the most.”

The following entities received an HPRP allocation from the Department.
• Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.: $251,023;
• El Paso Center for Children, Inc.: $438,818;
• El Paso Coalition for the Homeless-Pilot Lot: $414,489; and
• El Paso County: $955,351.

HPRP is designed to provide homelessness prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homeless and to prevent individuals who are homeless. This includes individuals and families perhaps only in need of temporary rent or utility assistance, as well as Texans currently residing in emergency shelters or on the street and in need of temporary assistance to obtain housing.

Gerber noted that the program is not intended to provide long-term support for program participants. Financial support is limited to short-term (up to three months) and medium-term (up to 18 months) rental assistance, which may also be used for security and utility deposits, as well as moving cost assistance.

TDHCA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the funding source for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. Under HUD rules, the state may use no less than 85 percent of the federal funding to provide services to individuals who are homeless.

Additionally, beneficiaries must have an initial consultation with a case manager to determine the lack of financial resources and support to obtain housing or no other appropriate housing options.
Looking for fraud in big VA claims

The Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs took a good look at large retroactive payments that had been made — payments that were more than $25,000. What it wanted to know was whether there were ways to tweak the system and fraudulently send out those payments.

Bottom line, it concluded, was that of the nearly 700 payments scrutinized, there was no fraud. However, it could only say “with 90 percent confidence” that fraud of that nature was unlikely at the three offices studied.

It’s good that the OIG looked, of course. According to the report, retroactive payments add up to millions of dollars. Investigators focused on two things: date stamps, because those are used to determine when documents were made following a four-step checklist — which only asked them to review basic information, not compare medical documents.

That checklist is key to uncovering fraudulent claims. The problem, according to the OIG report, is that even if the signer follows the list, it only asks for a cursory examination of the information and won’t reveal fraud.

The OIG’s recommendations: Get control of the date stamps and create a protocol that allows reviewers to scrutinize the medical information in the claims.

Back in 2001, the Atlanta Regional Office managed to process $11 million in fraudulent claims. As a result, new protocols were put in place for processing the big claims, including the four-step checklist. Now the VA needs to plug the holes.

Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District #1
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District #1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2009 on August 26, 2009, 11:30 a.m., CDST, at the offices of Gray Jansing & Associates, Inc., located at 8217 Shoal Creek Blvd., Ste. 200, Austin, TX 78757.

Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Jack Holford, Dan Roark, Larry Mullennbruch Ken Mills and Dan McMahon

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>This Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total tax rate (per $100 value)</td>
<td>$0.750000/$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopted</td>
<td>Proposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference in rates per $100 of value</td>
<td>$0.000000/$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average appraised value</td>
<td>$ N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled persons exemptions)</td>
<td>$ N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average taxable value</td>
<td>$ N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax on average residence homestead</td>
<td>$ N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.*

*This District has no residence homesteads.
View from here  By Steve Macek and Scott Sanders

The DTV transition puts corporate profits ahead of the public interest

The much-delayed switchover to digital TV is now behind us. On June 12, all full power TV stations in the country ceased their analog broadcasts and made the final switch to a digital-only format.

In the lead up to the DTV transition, the public’s attention focused almost entirely upon ways of mitigating the switchover’s effect on the elderly, the poor and non-English speakers who rely on over-the-air television far more than the general population. In response to such concerns, the federal government created a coupon program that subsidized most of the cost of digital-to-analog converter boxes, but then failed to fully fund it. When it became clear that DTV by the original February 17 deadline, Congress pushed back the transition date.

The extra time — together with an additional $630 million appropriated by Congress for more converter boxes and more public outreach — seems to have done the trick. Though some viewers have reported losing the signals of individual stations in certain markets, the vast majority of Americans weathered the shift to DTV without losing service or being excessively inconvenienced.

Yet, there is another problem with the DTV transition, one that has never gotten the sort of headlines that the shortage of converter box coupons did. The fact is that the shift to digital television represents a massive government giveaway to a handful of powerful media conglomerates.

The Clinton-era 1996 Telecommunications Act, which mandated the change to DTV, stripped away most media ownership concentration limits and gave away huge swathes — up to $90 billion worth — of publicly owned broadcast spectrum to incumbent TV license holders. In return for giving up a single analog channel, each of these broadcasters received up to 10 digital channels in return. For free. Only one new public service requirement was added — a modest increase in children’s programming.

To make matters worse, most digital subchannels run by the big network-affiliated stations are not exercising their new capacity to expand or improve their public affairs or news offerings. Despite recent failures such as their flawed coverage leading up to the invasion of Iraq, none of the commercial broadcasters have announced plans we’re aware of to use the new channels to expand or improve their public affairs or news programming.

Where are the new public affairs programs designed to showcase the perspectives normally marginalized on commercial TV?

Many talented professional journalists are unemployed or waiting tables right now due to the deepening crisis of the corporate journalism model. We need to foster partnerships between professional and citizen journalists and public TV and radio outlets, Peg access centers, community and micro-radio stations, and other community media. Picture a local public media homepage that looks sort of like a daily newspaper but with prominent live TV and radio streams, lots of links to article and program related resources and social media, with the feel of an online public library and town commons. And no commercial advertisements whatsoever.

A functioning fifth estate is essential to the maintenance of democracy. We can and must fix this bad DTV deal, and create and permanently fund various new and extensively reworked public media outlets and centers. We must collectivize piece together systems designed to showcase the perspectives normally marginalized on mainstream TV.

Where are the digital channels for women and people of color, and the set aside to support independent programming by and for youth and other less advantaged groups, local C-SPANs and other experimental services?

Such diversity on the airwaves is needed now more than ever. People of color make up 34 percent of the U.S. population, but only around 3 percent of commercial full power TV license holders, with women holding just 5 percent.

Glen Ford, editor of the online Black Agenda Report calls the DTV transition “the biggest squandering of public broadcast resources in the history of the United States.”

Steps should be taken to ensure that corporations are not the sole beneficiaries of the digital broadcasting age. The value of the broadcast spectrum that Congress simply handed over to the big corporate media ought to be recovered through appropriate means (taxes, license fees, etc.) and used to subsidize a democratically run, decentralized public media system, the sort of media that will provide a forum for the minority and dissident viewpoints sorely missing on mainstream TV.

Macek is an associate professor of speech communication at North Central College. Sanders is a longtime Chicago media and democracy advocate. Copyright (C) 2009 by the American Forum.
WANTED
The hunt is on for Oscar Reza who also uses Robert Reza. Reza is 5’6” tall and weighs 200 pounds. He has brown hair and eyes. Reza is sought on Theft and Forgery charges. In May 2009, Investigators were alerted by several businesses that the Reza had fraudulently purchased fence materials using invalid checks. The checks Reza was using falsely listed banks not connected with checks. The scheme was discovered after the checks would not clear due to bad bank accounts. In his most recent scheme, Reza purchased $2,864.31 worth of materials from the Valley Fence Company located at 6684 Doniphan El Paso County, TX. Reza has an extensive criminal history with previous arrests for other Theft and Forgery cases. He knows he is wanted and remains on the run. Reza is reported to be in the El Paso area. If anyone has seen or knows the whereabouts of Reza, they are urged to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehen-

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF ANTHONY, TEXAS TxCDBG TEXAS CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM PROJECT, 2009 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
The Town of Anthony, Texas, will hold a public hearing concerning the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for grant assistance from the Texas Capital Fund Program, in support of local business development. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss: (1) the development of housing and community development needs, (2) the amount of funding available, (3) all activities eligible under TxCDBG, (4) the town’s use of past TxCDBG funds, (5) the estimated amount of funds proposed for activities to benefit persons of Low and Moderate Income, and (6) the plans of the locality to minimize the displacement of persons and provide assistance to persons who may be displaced. Residents who are of Low and Moderate Income are encouraged to submit their views and proposals regarding community development and housing needs. The Town of Anthony encourages its residents to participate in the development of the application and to make their views known at this public hearing; those unable to attend the meeting may submit their views and proposals to the Mayor at the Anthony City Hall. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the municipal offices at least three days before the hearing, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009 TIME: 7:00 P.M. LOCATION: ANTHONY TOWN HALL
A notice will be published in the newspaper at a later date, and no later than five (5) days before the submission of the application, describing the proposed TCF project, locations of the proposed improvements, costs, and benefits to residents of Low and Moderate Income. At that time, a copy of the application will be available for review at the municipal offices in Anthony during regular business hours. La Ciudad de Anthony va a tener una audiencia para discutir una solicitud de asistencia para un proyecto de desarrollo de infraestructura financiado por el fondo “Texas Capital Fund”. El público en general está invitado a asistir a esta audiencia sobre este programa de desarrollo económico y participar en las discusiones sobre los diferentes fondos y proyectos que son elegibles en este programa. La presentación y las discusiones sobre este programa se harán en español para aquellas personas que así lo deseen.

FECHA: MARTES, EL 11 DE AGOSTO, 2009 HORA: 7:00 P.M. LOCATION: LA OFICINA MUNICIPAL DE ANTHONY
Art Franco Mayor Date published August 6, 2009

Crime Stoppers
Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting Deputies from the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office in identifying the person who tied up a security guard on the far east side of El Paso while committing an armed robbery. They are referring to the crime as the “Crime of the Week.” On Sunday, July 19, about 3:30 in the morning, Sheriff’s Deputies were dispatched to the Conway Truck Stop located at 11090 Gateway East in response to an aggra-

Anthony needs volunteers
Mayor Art Franco is looking for community members to serve on an advisory board for the Town of Anthony, Texas. The board will be a source of information and the people to help form a closer working relationship between the mayor, council and the community. Interested people can send their information to Mayor Franco at franco@townofanthony.org or drop off a short resume at the town office. According to Franco the goal is to form a board made up of a cross section of the town to include the youth and business that are new to town. Deadlin-

Health fair
The first organizational meeting for the 2009 Horizon Health Fair will be on Sat., August 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the Horizon City Senior Center, 13969 Van Wyck, Horizon City. Lions-Club members and interested persons are invited to attend. Deadline items will include: • Choice of date and times; • Budget planning; • Sponsors and assisting organiza-

CryptoQuip
The pencil manufacturing company foreman got fired. He couldn’t get the lead out.
NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE 2009 Property Tax Rates in City of Socorro

This notice concerns 2009 property tax rates for the City of Socorro. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's rollback tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per $100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:
- Last year's operating taxes: $2,859,596
- Last year's debt taxes: $750,998
- Last year's total taxes: $3,550,594
- Last year's tax base: $7,714,546
- Last year's total tax rate: 0.467577 /$100

This year's effective tax rate:
- Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) $3,565,933
- This year's effective tax rate: 0.476577 /$100

This year's rollback tax rate:
- Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandator, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) $2,804,579
- This year's adjusted tax base $7,261,868.50
- This year's effective operating rate 0.395726 /$100
- This year's maximum operating rate 0.424056 /$100
- This year's debt rate 0.124916 /$100
- This year's rollback tax rate 0.497757 /$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease
If the City of Socorro adopts a 2009 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of $0.497577 per $100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2008 taxes by $717,766.

NonSCHEDULE A — Uncumbered Fund Balances
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Property Funds</th>
<th>Maintenance &amp; Operation (M&amp;O)</th>
<th>Debt Service (I&amp;S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$4,373,256</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHEDULE B — 2009 Debt Service
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Debt</th>
<th>Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes</th>
<th>Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes</th>
<th>Other Amounts to be Paid</th>
<th>Total Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cert. Oblig. — 1995</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$22,193</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$122,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cert. Oblig. — 2004</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
<td>$68,205</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$149,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cert. Oblig. — 2005</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$198,704</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$298,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX. Debt of Trans.</td>
<td>$12,103</td>
<td>$71,142</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$83,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cert. Oblig. — 2009</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$25,213</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$60,213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total required for 2009 Debt Service $946,904
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A - $127,153
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources -
  - Excess collections last year -
  - Total to be paid from taxes in 2009 - $946,904
  - Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2009 -
    - Total Debt Levy $946,904

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates’ calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

West Texas County Courier
August 6, 2009
Page 5

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE 2009 Property Tax Rates in Town of Horizon City

This notice concerns 2009 property tax rates for the Town of Horizon City. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per $100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:
- Last year's operating taxes: $1,665,894
- Last year's debt taxes: $120,931
- Last year's total taxes: $1,776,855
- Last year's tax base: $604,325,190
- Last year's total tax rate: 0.294019 /$100

This year's effective tax rate:
- Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) $3,585,933
- This year's effective tax rate: 0.549017 /$100

This year's rollback tax rate:
- Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandator, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) $2,237,635
- This year's adjusted tax base $7,752,213.01
- This year's maximum operating rate 0.579800 /$100
- This year's debt rate 0.053244 /$100
- This year's rollback tax rate 0.639517 /$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease
If the Town of Horizon City adopts a 2009 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of $0.549017 per $100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2008 taxes by $61,846.

SCHEDULE A — Uncumbered Fund Balances
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Property Funds</th>
<th>Maintenance &amp; Operation (M&amp;O)</th>
<th>Debt Service (I&amp;S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$2,329,799</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHEDULE B — 2009 Debt Service
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Debt</th>
<th>Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes</th>
<th>Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes</th>
<th>Other Amounts to be Paid</th>
<th>Total Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bond Service</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$29,032</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$49,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIB Loan</td>
<td>$31,505</td>
<td>$6,729</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$38,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Motor Credit</td>
<td>$40,028</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$40,028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total required for 2009 Debt Service $126,841
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A -
  - Other (if any) paid from other resources -
  - Excess collections last year -
  - Total to be paid from taxes in 2009 - $126,841
  - Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2009 -
    - Total Debt Levy $126,841

SCHEDULE C: Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax
In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive $556,561 in additional sales and use tax revenues. This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates’ calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandrol
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: July 27, 2009
NFL quarterb...
By Taprina Milburn

“Can we go camping tonight?”

But then I was presented with my son’s wish list. This summer I want to go camping with Mom.

“Spooky Campfire Stories” and “101 Secrets a Cool Mom Knows.”

It was the best trip ever,” my son says. “Tonight won’t be exactly like that, but sort of.”

Camping is for nuts, I’d said, and I’d sworn off camping years ago. But instead I packed my books, my linen, and my mohair coat. I thought I’d managed to put off the request, but knowing how much it meant to him, I couldn’t put him off any longer.

At the top of his list in bold letters: This summer I want to go camping with Mom. My son and daughter used to make lists of things they wanted to do in the summer, individually with each parent. That has changed through the years as they’ve become teens.

But when my youngest presented me with his list, I thought maybe he’d mistakenly given me his dad’s list. Camping, hunting, biking, running.

The running and biking I can do; it’s the camping and hunting that makes me hang my head. I think he wanted to see what his mother was made of.

I’d sworn off camping years ago after a week of no sleep due to bears roaming through the campsite, snow, had to hike to streams to get drinking water, and had to fight off crows that wanted their food.

“It was the best trip ever,” my son says. “Tonight won’t be exactly like that, but sort of.”

Camping is for nuts, I still say. But maybe it doesn’t hurt to be a little nutty sometimes when your son wants to see what you are really made of.

Write to Taprina Milburn in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.
Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I know my wife, who hasn’t worked outside the home, doesn’t qualify for Social Security or Medicare on her own record. Can she qualify on mine?

A: This answer applies to both you and your spouse, who has never worked under Social Security. She can receive a benefit equal to one-half of your full retirement amount at his or her full retirement age. However, your spouse cannot receive benefits on your record until you begin receiving retirement benefits. We have a Social Security online Retirement Planner dedicated to benefits for spouses. You can visit that page at www.socialsecurity.gov/re- tire/yourspouse.htm.

Q: I currently receive Social Security disability benefits. I now have a second serious disability. Can my monthly benefit amount be increased?

A: No. Your payment will remain the same regardless of how many disabilities you have or how severe they are. Your Social Security benefit is based on the amount of your lifetime earnings before your disability began and the fact that you have a disability, or combination of impairments, that makes you unable to work.

Your actual payment amount is not based on the degree, type, or severity of your disability or how many disabling conditions you have. For more information about Social Security disability benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 111 Gate Way West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2009 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Emergency Services District #2

This notice concerns 2009 property tax rates for the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per $100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:

- Last year’s operating taxes $1,379,628
- Last year’s debt taxes $1,060,425
- Last year’s total taxes $2,440,056
- Last year’s tax base $2,524,862,977

Last year’s effective tax rate:

- Last year’s adjusted tax base $2,524,862,977
- Last year’s reduced tax rate 0.058844 /$100

This year’s rollback tax rate:

- Last year’s adjusted operating taxes $2,466,843
- Last year’s reduced operating tax rate 0.054486 /$100
- Last year’s debt rate 0.054486 /$100
- Last year’s total rollback tax rate 0.108868 /$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 adopts a 2009 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of 0.097305 /$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2008 taxes by $790,360.

SCHEDULE A — Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not enumerated by a corresponding debt obligation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes</th>
<th>Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes</th>
<th>Other Amounts to be Paid</th>
<th>Total Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Valley</td>
<td>$124,176</td>
<td>$36,634</td>
<td>$260,810</td>
<td>$421,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socorro</td>
<td>$40,367</td>
<td>$68,391</td>
<td>$105,110</td>
<td>$173,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Elizario</td>
<td>$27,501</td>
<td>$66,218</td>
<td>$93,719</td>
<td>$157,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabens</td>
<td>$23,819</td>
<td>$58,135</td>
<td>$91,154</td>
<td>$155,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabens (Tomiko)  4-11-06</td>
<td>$9,271</td>
<td>$18,523</td>
<td>$27,794</td>
<td>$46,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabens 6-13-06</td>
<td>$24,194</td>
<td>$61,806</td>
<td>$86,000</td>
<td>$110,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Elizario 9-12-06</td>
<td>$4,539</td>
<td>$80,461</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
<td>$119,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabens 6-12-07</td>
<td>$45,491</td>
<td>$40,820</td>
<td>$86,311</td>
<td>$132,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabens 8-14-07</td>
<td>$9,718</td>
<td>$25,023</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
<td>$36,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Vista 8-5-08</td>
<td>$5,555</td>
<td>$9,917</td>
<td>$14,472</td>
<td>$20,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Valley 9-23-08</td>
<td>$23,269</td>
<td>$25,133</td>
<td>$58,402</td>
<td>$88,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark 10-14-08</td>
<td>$45,430</td>
<td>$53,186</td>
<td>$98,616</td>
<td>$153,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socorro 10-14-08</td>
<td>$12,945</td>
<td>$11,343</td>
<td>$24,288</td>
<td>$36,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark 11-4-08</td>
<td>$69,767</td>
<td>$36,427</td>
<td>$106,194</td>
<td>$166,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Vista 1-13-09</td>
<td>$118,151</td>
<td>$97,040</td>
<td>$215,191</td>
<td>$333,341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total required for 2009 Debt Service $1,206,713

- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A ___________0_________
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources ___________0_________
- Excess collections last year ___________0_________

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates’ calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Weekend Sudoku

by Linda Thistle

Across & Down

Rearrange the letters in each group to form a word. Place the words into the diagram so that the same words read both across and down. The first word across is the same as the first word down, the second word across is the same as the second word down and so on. The letter groups are not necessarily placed next to the row of the diagram in which they go.

NEOH

TNIO

ENNO

HNCI

Answer Page 4

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Weekly Sudoku

by Linda Thistle

Answer Page 4

Answer Page 4

Answer Page 4

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Heat

From Page 1

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

Clue: G equals C

JBT WTYGRA

KOYQXOGJCRCYM

GUWOPY XUCTKOJY MUJ

XRCTZ. BT GQAZYJ

MT JBT ATOZ UQJ.

Answer Page 4

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