



NEWSBRIEFS

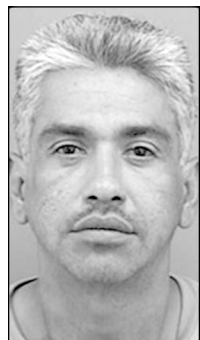
Fiesta

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 games, 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 and Victoria Krystine. Special performances include Mariachi Flores Mexicanas on Friday and Ballet Folklorico Paso del Norte Saturday evening. Sunday features José Luis Garcia and horses at 6 p.m. along with singers Alejandro Maldonado and Adriana Nevarez followed by Ballet Folklorico Churuhui. A Dance Contest for Duranguense Groups is set for the first round Friday evening at 7 p.m. The three finalist groups will compete for a cash prize Saturday at 8 p.m. Any groups wanting to participate should sign up at the stage area before 7 p.m. Friday for "Concursos Bailables de Grupos Duranguenses." The Fiesta will run from 5:00 p.m. to midnight each day. Admission is free, parking is \$2. Information: 595-0589.

— Joanne D. Ivey

Caught beer-handed

Sheriff Deputies, responding to a burglary, stopped and arrested Luis Vasquez, 38, and Carolina Ramos, 29, on July 30. Vasquez, of Anthony, TX and Ramos, of Chaparral, NM were charged with Burglary of a Building — Ramon's Beer and Market located at 7616 Doniphan. Deputies observed a vehicle matching the description given of a suspect vehicle (Blue Honda CRV) involved in the burglary. At 6:51 p.m. a traffic stop on the Honda was conducted at the intersection of Doniphan and



Luis Vasquez



Carolina Ramos

See BRIEFS, Page 4

A "miracle drug" is any drug that'll do about half what the TV commercial promises it'll do.

— Quips & Quotes

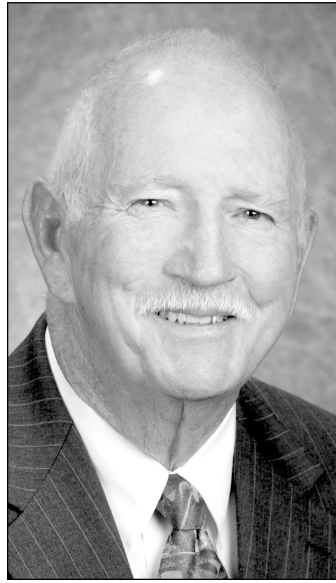
Parks focused on Canutillo students

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — Roger Parks, the interim superintendent of the Canutillo ISD, apparently has rewritten the definition of the word "retired."

At the same time, he is very familiar with the definition of the word "interim."

Since he officially retired in 2001 after eight years as superintendent of the Gadsden School District, he has been tapped four times by area school districts to serve as their interim leader.



Roger Parks

the Ysleta ISD. The first time was for seven

months in 2002. The most recent, however, was nearly twice as long, a 13-month stint that ended Feb. 28, 2009. He then managed to squeeze in a four-month "retirement" before agreeing to take over from Dr. Pam Padilla who retired June 30 as superintendent of the Canutillo ISD.

Parks, 73, began his 44-year education career in 1965 as a teacher at Bel Air High School. He first served briefly in an interim capacity in Gadsden prior to being officially named top administrator for the large southern New Mexico school district.

Ron Haugen, now the superintendent of the Anthony ISD, was one of Park's principals and succeeded him in that position. Haugen characterizes Parks as a "real solid" administrator/educator who "knows education."

Parks' fourth call, of course, is currently with the CISD.

The search process for the new superintendent is being handled and coordinated through Region 19 Education Service Center. Word of the Canutillo vacancy is being spread through the more than 1,000 school districts in the state.

"I am excited about the search," says Shonda Jordan, president of the CISD board of trustees. "I am looking forward to it."

She praises Dr. James Vasquez, head of

See PARKS, Page 5

Living with heat in Texas

By Russell Smith
Special to the Courier

Q: How do you know it's summer in Texas?

A: The birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground.

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.

Here are a few suggestions from the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

First, remember that heat's effects can sneak up on you — fast. Like a car with an overtaxed radiator, your body's temperature can rise quickly during heat stress or heatstroke, rock-

eting from normal (98.6 degrees) to 106 degrees or higher in 10 to 15 minutes.

Heatstroke happens when your body loses most or all of its ability to regulate temperature. Prompt medical attention can restore your normal body temperature and prevent death or permanent disability.

But you don't want things to go that far.

Instead, pay close attention to your body when you're exposed to high temperatures for a half-hour or more, especially if the humidity also is high. (High humidity makes it harder for the body to dissipate heat through sweat.) Get inside or find shade immediately if you notice any or all of these symptoms of heat illness: muscle cramps or weakness, dizziness, nausea, headaches or weak but rapid pulse.

Once you're in a cooler environment with better ventilation, rehydrate slowly but steadily, preferably with water rather than caffeinated

See HEAT, Page 8

County jails pass inspection

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 "surpassing 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 VTCA Chapter 511 and the Texas Minimum Jail Standards.

The Commission inspects all areas of the County jails, to include its records and reports, inmate services, health and safety, emergency procedures, medical and food services, and overall operation and management of the facilities.

This is the 12th consecutive year the Texas Commission on Jail Standards has certified the El Paso County Detention Facilities (Downtown Jail/Jail Annex).

The Commission inspectors complimented the Sheriff and Command Staff on the professionalism and knowledge of the staff assigned to these facilities. The inspectors also commented on the cleanliness and security of the facilities, as well as the exemplary way all officers carried out their duties and provided for a safe and clean environment for all County inmates.

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 stabilizing at-risk individuals, 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: \$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 rapidly re-house persons 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.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the funding source for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. Under HUD rules, individuals and families must earn no more than 50 percent of the area median family income to qualify for assistance. For El Paso County, this equals an annual income of \$22,800 for a family of four.

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.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

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 came in, and internal controls, to determine if they would actually detect fraud.

What was found:

1) There wasn’t enough control

over date stamps.

2) Internal controls allowed opportunities to create fraudulent payments. For example, those large payments require a third signature, but the signatures were made following a four-step checklist — which only asked them to review basic information, not compare medical documents.

That checklist is key to unearthing 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.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Voter ID bill

One of the issues that carried with it a good amount of

controversy was the voter id bill; more accurately designated as Senate Bill 362. The intent of this legislation was to require voters to present a state authorized form of identification in order to vote.

The bill was introduced in the senate early in the session. This was the one bill that the Lt. Governor decided to disregard traditional rules by canceling the need for 2/3 vote. In the senate, their rules state that all bills must be granted a floor vote by 2/3 of the members. This has been part of the process that protects the moderates and minority party. It has worked in the past to the advantage of Republicans and Democrats; it should never have been suspended.

That was the first clue that the bill was going to be very controversial.

The second clue was that the bill was very punitive.

Based on my involvement in elections, this bill would have made very little difference. Our election judges are vetting the voters properly. Voters are verifying their eligibility to vote.

Senate Bill 362 was passed out of the senate on March 18th. It now became a matter for the House of Representatives to debate. What many people do not know is that many representatives with common sense sought to change the language of the bill to make it better.

As I mentioned earlier, the bill was exclusively punitive. Legitimate arguments were made that it would actually discourage voters; or, even worse, provide a mechanism that ultimately would disenfranchise blocks of voters. Many believed the actual intent of the bill was to reduce certain voting constituencies in order to gain an advantage in the next state wide election.

The effort to improve the bill focused on increasing voter accessibility along with security. This meant providing money to make it easier to get the id and for proactive educa-

tion effort by the county elections departments.

What I find most attractive about that aspect of the proposed bill is the promotion of voting that might have taken place. If the money was to be there for voter education, then the state and county would for the first time be encouraging voters to go to the polls. This would be good for El Paso.

Mexico for many years has run really good commercials encouraging its citizens to vote. These commercials were actually cool and appealed to a full spectrum of voters from young to old.

As the legislative session continued toward its final days, the positive potential for encouraging votes died. The conservative block insisted on a bill that was exclusively punitive. We lost the opportunity to pass a bill that contained provisions that increase voter participation. The proactive bill that was an option for us set aside funds for voter registration.

In the future, I look forward to a bill that is intended for the purpose of increasing the vote. The lack of motivation to vote is a bigger problem than voter fraud. An effort to increase voter participation would be better for Texas.

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 Mullenbruch 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.

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

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.

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MC Oscar Rosales * Showman Omar * Emanuelito
Juan Garcia * Son Danzon * DJ Erich Paradise
Mariachi Flores Mexicanas * 915 Kumbiamberos
Victoria Krystine * José Luis Garcia y Sus Caballos(Sun)
Alejandro Maldonado * Adriana Nevarez
Ballet Folklorico: Paso del Norte & Churuhui

Concursos Bailables de GRUPOS DURANGUENSES
Viernes: Primera Ronda * Sabado: Los Finales

Featured Bands:	Friday 9 PM	Conjunto Majestad
	Saturday 9 PM	Mysterio Musical
Info: 595-0589	Sunday 8:30 PM	Imperial Sonora

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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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 millions of households would not be ready for DTV by the original February 17 deadline, Congress pushed back the transition date.

The extra time — together with an additional \$650 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 digital 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 air duplicative services such as sitcom reruns, old movies, weather, home shopping programs or cooking shows.

That is, if they run anything at all. 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 digital channels for women and people of color, and the set asides to support independent programming by and for youth and other less advantaged groups, local C-SPANs and other experimental services? Where are the new public affairs programs designed to showcase the perspectives normally marginalized on commercial TV?

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.

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 collectively piece together a system with the highest measure of accountability for every community across the nation as if lives depend on it. Because they do.

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.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore Aug 5, 1961: Six Flags Over Texas opens. The theme? A celebration of Texas History!

Briefs

From Page 1

Valley Chile where four people were initially detained. Further investigation revealed two of the four subjects detained had in fact burglarized the business. Entry into the business was made through a window. Deputies recovered four 20-packs of Bud Light, two Marlboro Cigarette packs and three 3-liter bottles of Coca Cola inside the

vehicle. Both were booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

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

company checks. The checks Reza was using falsely listed banks not connected with the 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



Oscar Reza

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-

sion of the individuals featured.
— Deputy Jesse Tovar

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 aggravated robbery, making this 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 reference to an aggravated robbery. When they arrived, they learned that an unknown male subject (possibly African-American) had tied up the security officer on duty and, with the assistance of an accomplice, stole a 2001 Monon, white trailer with CFI markings and Missouri license plates. The truck's cargo consisted of 355 LG Flat Screen LCD television sets. The total value of the cargo is approximately \$300,000. On Friday of that same week, El Paso Police were dispatched to 7180 Merchant in east El Paso where they located the above trailer, but hitched up to another tractor — which itself had been reported stolen. The 355 TV sets were not found with the truck. If you have any information at all about this crime, call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-TIPS(8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you could earn a cash reward up to \$1,000.

— James Klaes

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 from 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 businesses to help foster a sense of community involvement and bring new ideas for the future.

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 Veny Webb, Horizon City. Lions Club members and interested parties are invited to attend. Discussion items will include:

- Choice of date and times;
- Budget planning;
- Sponsors and assisting organizations;
- Exhibitors; and
- Other items as necessary.

— Wally Thompson

**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 two 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 publico en general esta invitado a asistir a esta audiencia sobre este programa de desarrollo economico y participar en las discusiones sobre los diferentes fondos y proyectos que son elegibles en este programa. La presentacion y las discusiones sobre este programa se haran en espanol para aquellas personas que asi las 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



\$8,000

Rebate*

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Villa Victoria Community

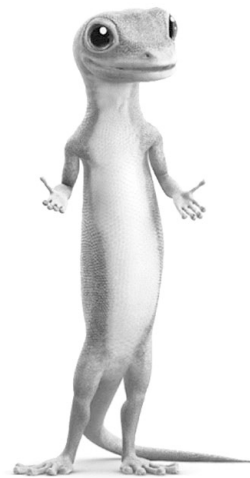
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HOME OWNERS - RENTERS INSURANCE AVAILABLE
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CryptoQuip Answer

The pencil manufacturing company foreman got fired. He couldn't get the lead out.

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

C	H	I	N
H	O	N	E
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N	E	O	N

C	L	A	I	M	P	E	N	R	O	D	B	L	O	B	A	S	S						
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Parks

From Page 1

Region 19 ESC, for his efforts in "opening doors" throughout the state in the district's quest for a new leader.

Jordan views the search process so far as "extremely smooth" with "no little hiccups." She is hopeful of finding a superintendent by Christmas.

One of the first steps in preparing a profile for a prospective superintendent is holding a series of four or five community meetings to get their input on who they want in that position. Those meetings are presently scheduled for the week of Aug. 24-28.

With the search process under way, Parks feels his job is to "maintain stability" in the district.

He has met with the school principals and is "looking forward" to the start of the school year. "I am impressed with them. They are well trained, experienced and dedicated."

He has also been working with Tony Reza, executive director of the Financial Services Division, and other members of the administration

in hammering out a budget for the 2009-10 school year.

"We are facing a budget crunch, and we will have to make sacrifices," says Parks.

Parks feels a real sense of community—a closeness. "There is a real sense of ownership" by the community.

"I look forward to working with them. They talk about our district and of working together.

Parks offers insights into his own role and his work ethic in the overall

education process.

"I feel humbled and gratified that I can still do this—that people think I can do this.

"I really have been fortunate." Looking back, he points out that he has been working at one thing or another since he was 9 years old.

"I need to be active and contributing," he observes. "I feel privileged that I can still contribute."

The bottom line remains for Parks. "It's all about the students, the kids. Stay focused on that."

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13566 Inspiration	3/2	1,005	60,800	1437 Imogene	3/2	1,013	59,200
1412 Coronel Dr.	3/2	1,013	77,400	329 Tierra Linda	4/2	1,345	82,400
672 Danube	4/2	1,300	82,400	657 Orchid	3/2	1,067	67,600
629 Orchid	3/2	1,179	74,000				

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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 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	\$ 2,839,596
Last year's debt taxes	\$ 752,938
Last year's total taxes	\$ 3,592,534
Last year's tax base	\$ 721,744,546
Last year's total tax rate	0.497757 /\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 3,585,933
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$ 721,868,503
= This year's effective tax rate	0.496757 /\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

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 mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$ 2,834,378
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 721,868,503
= This year's effective operating rate	0.392645 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.424056 /\$100
+ This year's debt rate	0.124961 /\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	0.549017 /\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **City of Socorro** adopts a 2009 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of **\$0.496757** per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2008 taxes by **\$171,766**.

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 encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Funds	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$ 4,373,236
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

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).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Cert. Oblig. - 1999	\$ 105,000	\$ 22,153	-0-	\$ 127,153
Cert. Oblig. - 2001	\$ 20,400	\$ 21,107	-0-	\$ 41,507
Cert. Oblig. - 2004	\$ 81,000	\$ 68,205	-0-	\$ 149,205
Cert. Oblig. - 2008	\$ 100,000	\$ 198,704	-0-	\$ 298,704
TX Dept. of Transportation	\$ 59,039	\$ 12,103	-0-	\$ 71,142
Cert. Oblig. - 2009	\$ 35,000	\$ 224,213	-0-	\$ 259,213
Total required for 2009 Debt Service				\$ 946,924
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				-0-
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				-0-
- Excess collections last year				-0-
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2009				\$ 946,924
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2009				-0-
= Total Debt Levy				\$ 946,924

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. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector Date prepared: July 28, 2009

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	\$ 1,655,894
Last year's debt taxes	\$ 120,931
Last year's total taxes	\$ 1,776,825
Last year's tax base	\$ 604,323,190
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)	\$ 1,772,164
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$ 613,588,403
= This year's effective tax rate	0.288819 /\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

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 mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$ 2,135,063
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 613,588,403
= This year's effective operating rate	0.347963 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.375800 /\$100
+ This year's debt rate	0.019926 /\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	0.395726 /\$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate	0.087435 /\$100
= Rollback tax rate	0.308291 /\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Horizon City** adopts a 2009 tax rate equal to the rollback tax rate of **\$0.288819** per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2008 taxes by **\$61,646**.

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 encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Funds	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$ 2,252,579
Debt Service (I&S)	\$ -0-

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).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Bond Service	\$ 20,000	\$ 29,032	-0-	\$ 49,032
SIB Loan	\$ 31,505	\$ 6,276	-0-	\$ 37,781
Ford Motor Credit	\$ 40,028	-0-	-0-	\$ 40,028
Total required for 2009 Debt Service				\$ 126,841
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				-0-
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				-0-
- Excess collections last year				-0-
= 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				-0-
= 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. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector Date prepared: July 27, 2009

NFL quarterback wanted – apply in Minnesota

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are a few things that I'm very grateful I'm not — a chain smoker, a reality TV show junkie, a member of any subversive groups, a Sarah Palin apologist, a lover of all things Oprah, a Michael Vick fan, a gambler, a far left liberal or a blind follower of anything my government tells me... among other things.

Another thing I can add to the list of things I'm glad I am not is a Minnesota Vikings fan.

How would you have liked to be one of "those" guys last week? Talk about a double dose of disappointment.

First the savior of all things gold and purple, Bret Favre, does his yearly "I'll string you guys along for months before deciding to let you down at the last minute" thing, then starting quarterback Tarvaris Jackson sprains his MCR in practice.

What's next, the Minnesota owners announce they're moving the team to Albuquerque?

The injury to Jackson is still being evaluated, but what a string of bad news. The Vikings figured they finally had a quarterback

who could throw the ball accurately down field.

Every football fan knows Minnesota has the best running game in the NFL with Adrian Peterson and Chester Taylor.

Peterson led the league in rushing last season with 1,760 yards while scoring 10 touchdowns. Taylor, who doesn't carry the ball nearly as much as Peterson, still gained 399 yards and scored four touchdowns.

But beyond Peterson and Taylor, the Vikings are the 98-pound-weakling of the NFL passing game. Over the last few years their quarterbacks couldn't hit the pavement if they slipped on a banana.

So when talk began about Favre maybe, possibly, kinda, sort of, perhaps coming out of retirement and joining the team, Vikings fans started inquiring as to where they could purchase Super Bowl tickets.

But now that Favre is out of the picture (for now!) and with the possibility that Jackson could miss some time, the quarterback spot turns to the recently acquired Sage Rosenfels.

Who is Rosenfels you may ask. Unfortunately for Vikings fans, I will tell you.

Sage is entering his ninth year in the NFL.

Rosenfels is the prototypical journeyman quarterback. He is with his fourth team, he has started 12 games in eight years. He has thrown 30 touchdowns and 29 interceptions and has thrown for 4,158 yards in his career.

Let's contrast and compare, shall we.

Bret Favre threw for at least 4,000 yards in five separate seasons and threw at least 30 touchdown passes in eight different years.

Let's compare that to Jackson. In three seasons with the Vikings, Tarvaris Jackson has never thrown for at least 2,000 yards or even 10 touchdowns.

Now you know why I'm glad I'm not a Minnesota Vikings fan. Though at times it is pretty tough being a Dallas Cowboys fan.

Steroids off the field

Just when you thought the Major League Baseball steroid problem couldn't get any worse — it has.

It's bad enough hearing a different name or two leaked to the press every other week about who failed the "confidential" drug tests of 2003, now the problem has reached outside the field of play.

This one will knock you off your feet so you better sit down.

It appears that two members of the Boston Red Sox security staff were fired from the team last summer for using steroids.

And one of them is the son of Red Sox announcer Jerry Remy, who played for the Red Sox and also played for the El Paso Diablos during his minor league days.

Jared Remy, along with Nicholas Alex Cyr both admitted to the Boston Globe that they indeed used steroids but had no knowledge of any of the players' involvement.

Oh yeah, I really believe that one. With Manny and Big Papi in the clubhouse, I'm sure all the juicing was just a coincidence.

One of the things the Globe said was that state police confiscated a vial of steroids from Cyr's car just before last year's All-Star break and Cyr told police he had bought the drug from Remy.

The Red Sox said they worked closely with Major League Baseball on the investigation but said it was confidential.

I bet it will be as confidential as the players thought their positive drug results were six years ago.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 06, 2009

Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA)

221 East 11th St. Austin, TX 78711 (512) 475-0430

On or about August 06, 2009 the TDHCA will authorize the El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development (EPCCED) to submit a request to the HUD for the release of Home funds under Title II of the Cranston Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, to undertake a project known as Owner Occupied for the purpose of either rehabilitating or reconstructing seven homes that are in terrible conditions, then converting their existing living conditions with secure homes. And Contract for Deed Conversion, for the purpose of converting contracts for deed to conventional loan mortgages and rehabilitating five homes.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at 221 East 11th St.

Austin, Texas 78711 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the EER to the TDHCA. All comments received by August 06, 2009 will be considered by the TDHCA prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The TDHCA certifies to HUD that Delia Chavez in her capacity as Executive Director of EPCCED consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the EPCCED (915-590-1217) to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the TDHCA certification received by August 27, 2009 or for a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (which ever is later) only if they are on one of the following basis: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the TDHCA; (b) the TDHCA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required

by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to Jack Pipkin at 801 Cherry St., Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Potential objectors should contact HUD/Texas to verify the actual review process and last day of the objection period.

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Sandy Garcia Single Family Program Administrator

WTCC-08/06/09

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 during the Regular Council Meeting at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following ordinance(s)/ amendment(s):

1) 2nd Reading of Budget Ordinance No. 0172, Amendment #006 to transfer \$ 39,265.82 from Contingency Fund (#500818) to Legal Expenses (#50112), for unanticipated legal expenses.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address or call 915-852-1046, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Karen Ellefson City Clerk Town of Horizon City WTCC: 08-06-09

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 the Town Of Horizon City approved the following ordinance(s):

1) Amendment No. 005 to Ordinance No. 0172 (Budget Ordinance) to transfer \$40,028.15, from Budget Item # 500818 (Contingency Funds) to Budget Item # 105800 (Capitol Improvements — Public Safety) for lease/purchase of

six (6) new police vehicles.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 915-852-1046.

Karen Ellefson City Clerk

WTCC: 08-06-09

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

MONDAY AUGUST 17, 2009

SUPPLEMENTAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM CSP NO. 199-0817-E1015 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:30 A.M.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATH CURRICULUM CSP NO. 199-0817-E1022 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:45 A.M.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS NATIONAL CSP NO. 199-0817-E1016 ACCEPTED UNTIL 11:00 A.M.

MISCELLANEOUS OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0817-E1020 ACCEPTED UNTIL 11:15 A.M.

Proposals will be received at the Financial Services Dept., 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Proposals and detailed specifications are available and can be retrieved and submitted electronically through the district e-bid website: <https://ebid.sisd.net>

WTCC-07/16/09

TOWN OF ANTHONY

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR TOWN CLERK

Anthony Texas is seeking the ideal candidate that has good communication skills, and serves as a liaison to the general public. Duties will include all town work requirements, under the supervision and direction of the Mayor and Town Council. The applicant must pass a criminal background check and possess a valid Drivers License. Must be able to utilize standard office equipment, audio/visual equipment,

transcription equipment etc. This is a full time position. Salary based on experience. Applications accepted until position is filled.

Please send your resume to Mayor Art Franco at:

af franco@townofanthony.org

or apply in writing to:

Town of Anthony Mayor Art Franco P.O.Box 1269 Anthony, Texas 79821

The Town of Anthony is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity

Employer

Art Franco Mayor

Date published: 08/06/09

COUNSELING SERVICES

DAMIAN MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE SCALE ACCEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

PERSONS WHO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ALCOHOL ARE OFFERED A

HOMES

12748 Quijano, \$87,600 reduced to \$84,000. Carlos Aguilar, (915) 269-1251. Broker.

New homes available in Horizon, Anthony and San Elizario. Prices starting from the 90s. USDA program available for ZERO down payment and ZERO percent closing cost. New homes also available in other areas. Call Pete at 633-6179.

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a


free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

STORAGE

National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS

Specials - Climate Control Units: 5x5 and 5x10 just \$1 first month. Regular 5x10 and 12x30 units just \$1 first month. Call Blanca - 852-8300.



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

CLASSIFIED AD FORM


25 words - \$10 per week; 40 words - \$15 per week


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
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West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928




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Phone: _____

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1: Fill out the form; 

2: Write a check; then 

3: Send both to us. 

• Place Your Classified •
1: Fill out the form; 
2: Write a check; then 
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Comix

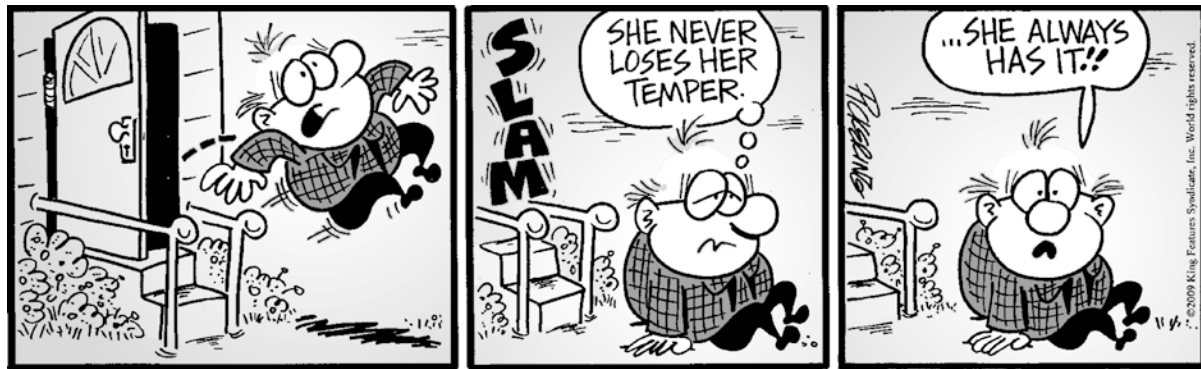
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



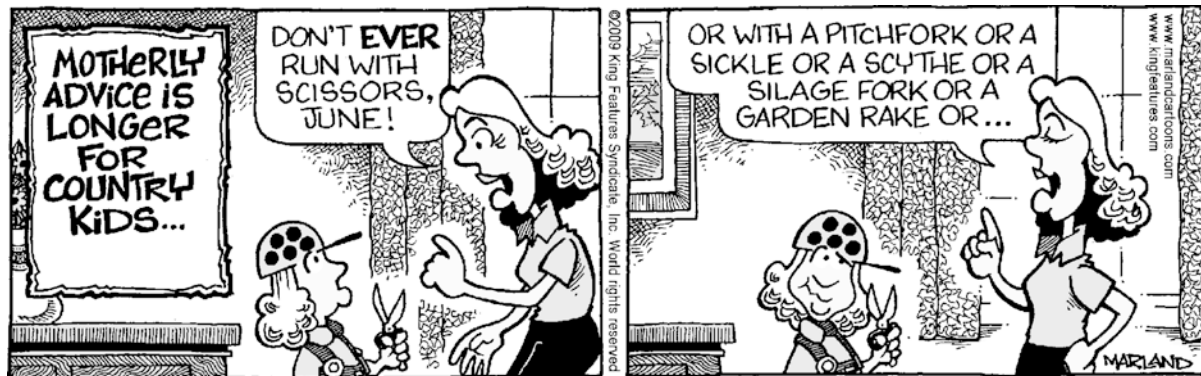
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Camping

By Taprina Milburn

he asked.

"A tent pitched in the right place is like a good friend: You can trust it during stormy weather."

I managed to put off the request, but knowing how much it meant to him, I couldn't put him off any longer.

—101 Secrets a Cool Mom Knows

He packed his backpack and said, "Even if it rains, we are going to stay out there, right?"

At the top of his list in bold letters: This summer I want to go camping with Mom.

I admit that I really thought about changing my mind.

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 instead I packed my books, "Spooky Campfire Stories" and "101 Secrets a Cool Mom Knows." I read him an excerpt on how to pitch a tent.

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.

"Mom, I know how to do that."

The running and biking I can do; it's the camping and hunting that have me hamstrung. I think he wanted to see what his mother was made of.

I have nothing to worry about. I'm going with a seasoned camper. He and his dad hiked the Grand Canyon together. They arrived in snow, had to hike to streams to get drinking water, and had to fight off crows that wanted their food.

I'd sworn off camping years ago after a week of no sleep due to bears roaming through the campsite, rummaging for 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'd said, and vowed to never step foot in a tent again.

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.

But then I was presented with my son's wish list.

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.

"Can we go camping tonight?"



NATIONAL SELF STORAGE

◆ MONTHLY SPECIALS ◆ POST OFFICE INSIDE

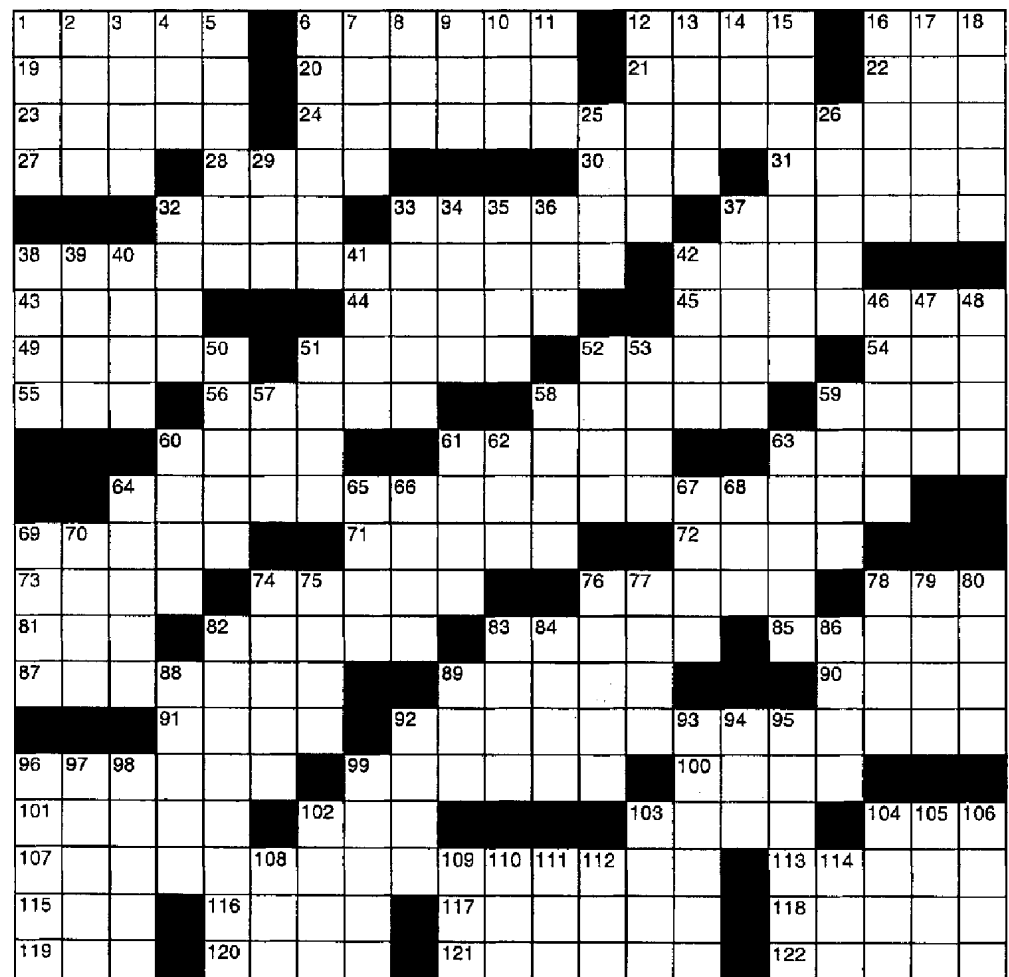
Call Blanca

490 N. Kenazo (915) 852-8300
Horizon City, TX (Fax) 852-8150

Hours: Mon. to Fri., 9^{AM} - 6^{PM} • Sat., 9^{AM} - 4^{PM}

King Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| DAFFYNITIONS | 58 Objective | 118 Join forces | 36 Max _ Sydow | 79 Pizzeria equipment |
| ACROSS | 59 Ms. Lollobrigida | 119 Comic Charlotte | 37 Economize | 80 Gets hitched |
| 1 Assert | 60 Big rig | 120 Betting setting | 38 Stagger | 82 Colossal fossil |
| 6 Booth Tarkington novel | 61 Tic | 121 Engines | 39 Be an advocate | 83 Out of control |
| 12 Soft lump | 63 Martha Stewart's concern | 122 Salmon serving capital | 40 Japan's first | 84 Ready to eat |
| 16 Palm Sunday | 64 MINIMUM | DOWN | 41 Chef Prudhomme | 86 Runner Zatopek |
| beast | 69 Legendary Yankee | 1 Bloke | 42 Analyze poetry | 88 Furious |
| 19 Tom of "Amadeus" | 71 Playwright Clifford | 2 Decoy | 46 Dislodge | 89 "My _ True Love" ('54 song) |
| 20 Herbivorous lizard | 72 Hold up | 3 Came down to earth | 47 Carson's successor | 92 Reggae's Peter |
| 21 Verdi heroine | 73 Soap additive | 4 " _ Station Zebra" ('68 film) | 48 Dread | 93 Cake and candy |
| 22 Mineral spring | 74 '92 Presidential contender | 5 Laid-back | 50 Singer Marie | 94 Actor Ziering |
| 23 Shakespearean | 76 Serenity | 6 Farm feature | 51 Nursery furniture | 95 _ Heights, CA |
| sprite | 78 Promise | 7 Corporate | 52 Ritzy | 96 Morley of "60 Minutes" |
| 24 CAUTERIZE | 81 Ipanema's locale | 8 Squirrel's snack | 53 Like a wet noodle | 97 "West Side Story" role |
| 27 Favorite | 82 Hall or Hannah | 9 Stadium shout | 54 TV's "Judging _" | 98 "Camelot" prop |
| 28 Not as much | 83 "Manon" melodies | 10 " _ Fine Day" ('63 tune) | 55 Fellow | 99 Swaggering |
| 30 He'll give you a squeeze | 85 Christopher of "Deathtrap" | 11 _ es Salaam | 60 Sovereign's title | 102 Anthropologist |
| 31 Tremble | 87 INFANTRY | 12 Solti's stick | 61 Manuscript | 103 Dictator |
| 32 Rock's _ the | 89 Leaves out | 13 Ford or Grey | imperative | 104 Racer Luyendyk |
| 33 TV's "Highway to _" | 90 Eloquent equine | 14 Horatian creation | 62 Prepare cherries | 105 Chalky cheese |
| 37 Civil War era | 91 Up on | 15 Feasts | 63 Table | 106 Arduous journey |
| senator | 92 PARADOX | 16 Oriental | 64 Girl Scout unit | 108 Hwy. |
| 38 POLYGON | 96 Fusillades | 17 Wheel part | 65 Actor Calhoun | 109 "I Am _" ('01 film) |
| 42 Prepare cherries | 99 With 69 Down, playground fixture | 18 More rational | 66 Matinee _ | 110 In favor of |
| 43 Part of Q.E.D. | 100 Lament loudly | 25 Drive the getaway car | 67 Rueful cry | 111 Pabulum variety |
| 44 Senator Specter | 101 Diarist Nin | 26 _ tuck | 68 Rocker Ocasek | 112 Tabloid flier |
| 45 METRONOME | 102 Aachen article | 29 LAX letters | 69 See 99 Across | 114 Unpopular picnicer |
| 49 Wading bird | 103 Nomad pad | 32 Spouse | 70 Literary pseudonym | |
| 51 Banishes bacteria | 104 Sternward | 33 Master Potter | 74 Unisex garment | |
| 52 Blueprints | 107 MARI GOLD | 34 Agatha's colleague | 75 Therefore | |
| 54 Neckline style | 113 Not as common | 35 Son of Zeus | 76 Succinct | |
| 55 Thompson or | 115 Catchall abbr. | | 77 Word with mark or money | |
| Salonga | 116 Beehive State | | 78 Actress Miles | |
| 56 At daybreak | 117 Yasser _ | | | |



Answer Page 4

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 husbands as well as wives. A spouse who has never worked under Social Security can receive a benefit equal to one-half of your full retirement amount at his or her full retire-

ment age. However, your spouse cannot receive benefits on your record until you begin receiving retirement benefits. We have a page at our online Retirement Planner dedicated to benefits for spouses. You can visit that page at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/yoursouse.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 disability 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/dibplan.

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, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

Heat

From Page 1

beverages. Check your temperature until you're down to 101 degrees. If you don't feel better soon, seek medical attention.

Even if you're not in immediate danger of heatstroke, try to avoid prolonged exposure to very high heats. Extended sun exposure and overheating can lead to problems such as sunburn, heat rash, heat cramps (often associated with strenuous exercise in high temperatures), increased skin cancer risk and temporarily impaired mental function.

For heat cramp treatment, cooling down is the key. It's also helpful to hydrate with cool water and eat a banana or other potassium- or sodium-rich food.

While outdoor workers and athletes of all ages are obvious candidates for heat-related stress or illness, the most serious risk is to young children, the elderly and people who use certain prescription medications.

If you know of an older person who spends a lot of time in temperatures in the upper 90s or above, and whose home lacks air conditioning, try to get him or her to a cooler environment such as a shopping mall or library during the hottest part of the day. Fans can increase comfort during high heat, but they can't prevent heat illness in extreme temperatures. The older person also can reduce the danger of heat illness by taking occasional cool showers.

Children are vulnerable mainly because of their tendency to dehydrate quickly. Parents should make sure children are drinking fluids often and wearing loose, light-colored clothes to reduce perspiration. They also should avoid sugary or caffeinated drinks (sodas are double offenders here) in favor of water or artificially sweetened drinks.

Doctors also note that heat-related illness is a risk for people on medicines such as Parkinson's Disease regulators, psychotropics such as chlorpromazine or haloperidol, "water pills" that reduce body fluid levels, and tranquilizers in the phenothiazine, butyrophenone and thioxanthene classes.

Other good advice from medical and public health professionals includes:

- Take plenty of breaks from strenuous outside work in high heat.
- Don't leave anyone — even briefly — in a closed vehicle when it's hot outside.
- Modify your eating habits, if necessary, away from two or three large meals to a greater number of light, well-balanced meals. And avoid alcoholic beverages.
- Don't dress infants in heavy clothing or wrap them in blankets.
- Check often on people who are older, ill or otherwise vulnerable to heat illness.

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	\$ 1,378,628
Last year's debt taxes	\$ 1,083,428
Last year's total taxes	\$ 2,462,056
Last year's tax base	\$ 2,462,056,000
Last year's total tax rate	0.100000 /\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 2,456,843
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$ 2,524,862,977
= This year's effective tax rate	0.097305 /\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

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 mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$ 1,375,709
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$ 2,524,862,977
= This year's effective operating rate	0.054486 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.058844 /\$100
+ This year's debt rate	0.049824 /\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	0.108668 /\$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** per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2008 taxes by **\$70,360**.

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 encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Funds	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$ 257,406
Debt Service (I&S)	\$ -0-

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).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
West Valley 8-3-04	\$ 121,476	\$ 36,634	-0-	\$ 158,110
Socorro 3-8-05	\$ 40,367	\$ 68,391	-0-	\$ 108,758
San Elizario 4-12-05	\$ 27,501	\$ 66,218	-0-	\$ 93,719
Fabens 7-12-05	\$ 23,819	\$ 58,135	-0-	\$ 81,954
Fabens (Tornillo) 4-11-06	\$ 9,271	\$ 18,523	-0-	\$ 27,794
Fabens 6-13-06	\$ 24,194	\$ 61,806	-0-	\$ 86,000
San Elizario 9-12-06	\$ 4,539	\$ 80,461	-0-	\$ 85,000
Fabens 6-12-07	\$ 45,491	\$ 40,820	-0-	\$ 86,311
Fabens 8-14-07	\$ 5,978	\$ 25,022	-0-	\$ 31,000
Montana Vista 8-5-08	\$ 5,555	\$ 8,917	-0-	\$ 14,472
West Valley 9-23-08	\$ 34,269	\$ 25,133	-0-	\$ 59,402
Clint 10-14-08	\$ 45,430	\$ 53,186	-0-	\$ 98,616
Socorro 10-14-08	\$ 12,945	\$ 11,343	-0-	\$ 24,288
Clint 11-4-08	\$ 69,767	\$ 36,427	-0-	\$ 106,194
Montana Vista 1-13-09	\$ 118,151	\$ 97,040	-0-	\$ 215,191
Clint 2-17-09	\$ 10,861	\$ 9,043	-0-	\$ 19,904

Total required for 2009 Debt Service	\$ 1,296,713
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
- Excess collections last year	-0-
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2009	1,296,713
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2009	-0-
= Total Debt Levy	\$ 1,296,713

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. Sandoval
 Title: Tax Assessor/Collector Date prepared: July 30, 2009

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: G equals C

JBT WTYGRA
 KOYQXOGJQCRYM
 GUKWOYP XUCTKOY MUJ
 XRCTZ. BT GUQAZY'J
 MTJ JBT ATOZ UQJ.

Answer Page 4

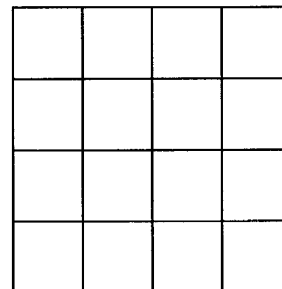
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Across & Down

by Donna Pettman

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

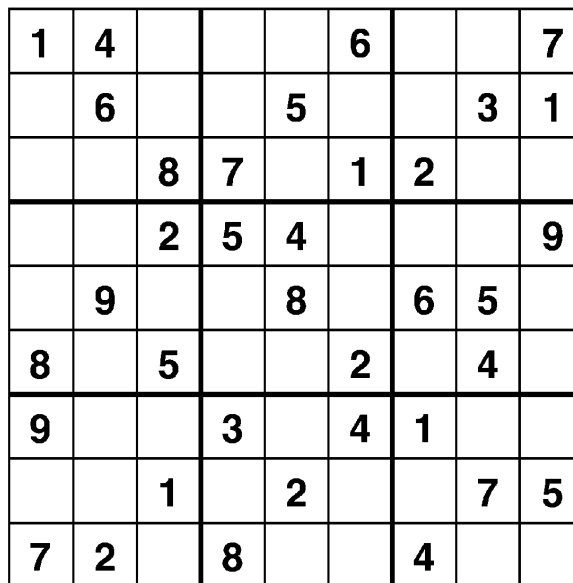


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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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