



NEWSBRIEFS

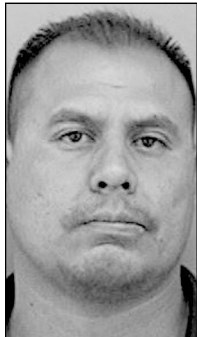
Census jobs

A 2010 Census Office opened in El Paso on Monday, Jan. 11. Located at 1220 Texas Ave. in El Paso, the office will be recruiting people to help with the 2010 Census count. People interested in applying for jobs should call (866) 861-2010 to set up a test date. There are no walk-in applications. Officials expect to fill 2,000 well-paying jobs in El Paso and seven other west Texas counties. The Census Bureau has launched a national effort for every person in our nation to “Be Counted” in the 2010 Census, which will affect the apportionment of congressional seats, and how the federal government annually allocates more than \$400 billion in federal assistance to communities. In El Paso County alone, the federal government spent or committed to spend more than \$5.7 billion in 2008. For more information please visit www.2010census.gov.

— Efrén Salinas

Wanted

Adrian Rivas, 29, who also uses Adrian Ronquillo, is wanted for Possession of Marijuana and Evading Arrest. Rivas is 5’7” tall, weighs 200 pounds, and has brown hair and eyes. He fled from authorities as a narcotic warrant was being executed at a residence in east El Paso County. Seven individuals were arrested and over 100 pounds of marijuana were seized during the Dec. 16, 2009 raid at a residence near Horizon in east El Paso County. Rivas managed to elude capture. He is thought to be hiding with relatives or friends in the Borderland. Rivas works in construction and has several contacts in El Paso County. Sheriff’s Investigators are asking the public for any information on the whereabouts of Rivas. To pass on tips contact the Sheriff’s Office (915) 546-2280 or 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 apprehension of the individuals featured.



Adrian Rivas

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

Crime Stoppers

A male subject follows his female victim as she walks towards her vehicle in a northeast store parking lot. Then he forcibly pulls the victim from her vehicle and drives off at a high rate of speed, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Tuesday, Dec. 29, about 9:25 in the morning, the male subject approaches his female victim in a parking lot in the 9100 block of Dyer. At first, the subject was asking questions about some

See BRIEFS, Page 4

There may be luck in getting a job, but there's no luck involved in keeping it.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Jamie Henneman

BUILDING A BUILDING — An unidentified equipment operator heads for his next load of building materials on a cold day in Horizon City to further construction for the new home of the Horizon City Regional Municipal Utility District. The old building is located about 200 feet from the new site.

Growth spurs new building for Horizon Regional MUD

Move in slated for April

By Jamie Henneman
Special to the Courier

The steady growth in Horizon City over the last two decades has been putting a strain on all of the city infrastructure, including the Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District (HRMUD) according to John Navidomskis who serves as the President of the Board for Horizon Regional MUD.

Navidomskis said that HRMUD has tripled its service area since it started nearly 30 years ago and now services upward of 36,000 customers. When the district took over for the defunct Horizon Water Company in the late 1980s, there were only 1,200 customers. HRMUD provides water, sewer and garbage services to residents within the district area.

“With this kind of growth we were really running out of office space and have had to do things like storing records in large metal bins in the back parking lot,” he said. “We looked at expanding the current building but due to new city regulations we had to look at something else, so we decided to purchase a building that was for sale nearby.”

Like other entities that serve residents including the Horizon City Hall and Police Department, the staff of HRMUD will also be moving into a new building this spring as area service entities make adjustments for the city’s growing population.

The new HRMUD building that lies on Horizon Blvd. adjacent to the current HRMUD building is undergoing a renovation that is slated for completion by April. The cost of renovation that comes from the HRMUD operating fund is projected to be around \$700,000.

Navidomskis, who has been a member of the HRMUD board for the last 10 years, said the new building will allow the HRMUD to be more efficient without an added cost to customers.

“Right now the average bill is around \$38 to \$45 a month for water, sewer and garbage. We have tried to keep rates consistent and affordable,” he said. “This building will come out of our current operating budget and shouldn’t affect rates to customers.”

Along with service fees, HRMUD is also supported by a portion of the county property tax that is allotted to HRMUD annually.

While making work space more efficient for HRMUD staff, the new HRMUD building will also provide the community with a large board room that will be available to other entities like the fire department or for city hall meetings, said Navidomskis.

“This will be a state of the art meeting room that will be wired for a variety of functions and benefit to the community,” he said.

And at the current rate of growth in the city, Navidomskis said space to hold community meetings or training sessions is something the community will likely need.

“When I first came onto the board we were doing five new hookups a month and over time it has shot up to 38 or 40 a month. Even in the housing crunch, right now, we are doing 18 to 24 a month,” he said. “So this area is really seeing an increase in residents.”

Along with improving the overall environment and amenities in the HRMUD office, Navidomskis said HRMUD will be promoting water conservation through educational efforts.

“We have talked about ideas like using reclaimed water to water football fields or for irrigation of crops,” he said. “We are looking forward and want to be responsible with the resources we have. After all, you can only stick so many straws in a glass and we are mindful of our shared water resource with the City of Juarez. We are working to be proactive on conservation and making sure water isn’t wasted.”

San Eli’s Borrego Elementary excels in math

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

Borrego Elementary students are mastering math concepts and surpassing performance expectations year after a year, and their efforts are being recognized at the national level. In January, the National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA) named the San Elizario Indepen-

dent School District campus as a 2009 Just for the Kids Higher Performing School in Texas for achievement in the subject area of math.

The NCEA recognizes successful schools across the state that have demonstrated accomplishments as measured by two indicators on four different academic subjects. The two measures used by NCEA in their analysis are growth and college and career readiness in the areas of math,

reading, science, and writing. Borrego Elementary was singled out under growth in math by reaching greater improvement rates in student performance in comparison with other similar schools.

According to Borrego Elementary Principal, Ernesto Seigel, the NCEA designation is a result of teachers successfully implementing learning strategies and re-

See SAN ELI, Page 6



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Everybody counts

Hola mi gente. As you may be aware, 2010 is a census year. In a few weeks, census workers will begin visiting homes and asking the residents to provide a little bit of information. As I understand it, the form is very short and to the point; there won't be a great amount of time needed to satisfy this participation which is mandated by federal law.

Although it may be a redundant statement, everyone needs to understand how important it is for El Paso County to fill out the census forms. For District 75, it is vitally important to have all of the areas in the unincorporated areas of the county visited and counted by the census workers.

There have been plenty of stories that explain how federal and state monies can be lost if we in this county are not counted accurately. Foremost, school funding will be adversely affected. If the amount of state funds is not based on an accurate population count, then local property taxes will more than likely be the mechanism that makes up the difference.

An incomplete census may affect the way El Paso County is represented in Austin. Right now we have 5 whole House of Representative districts in the county. The senate districts are currently split into two disproportionate districts. Small parts of the county are represented by a senator whose main base is in San Antonio. The areas are so small that there is little incentive for the current senator to make regular visits. There is also little reason to open an office in El Paso County.

Many projections about the next census count have been made. The population levels have been estimated at a high of 26 million Texas residents to a more likely 24 million. With the high number, El Paso would have to have a population of over 866,000 in order to maintain five whole districts. At the 24 million population mark statewide, we would have to have a population of 800,000 to maintain five whole districts. Most numbers that I have seen put the projected population of El Paso at around 780,000 at the most. These numbers indicate to me that we will have less than five complete districts.

If the count is even lower, there are some scary scenarios that may be imposed on El Paso County. At a population level of 725,000, the

county would have 4 complete districts and half of another. Depending on how the redistricting results, 80,000 El Pasoans could possibly be represented by someone elected from another community. This would not be good for the next decade of needs for our communities. This is based on a Texas population set at 24 million. At 26 million residents, El Paso would only have a tenth of a district represented. Then the question is whether the seat is out of San Antonio or perhaps even Midland. Also, what parts of El Paso are separated? Is the northeast and northwest seated with San Antonio or Midland or is the split made in the more traditional valley communities?

Is it absolutely clear why the count needs to

be maximized and accurate? On another note, Speaker Straus announced my appointment to another select committee. I will participate in hearings with the Select Committee on Government Efficiency and Accountability. This committee will study and make recommendations for more efficient state government spending. Our neighbor Representative Pete Gallego of Alpine is the Select Committee Chair. As I did as a member of the Select Committee on Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform, I shall ask that the committee hold a hearing in El Paso so that El Pasoans may contribute to the discussion. I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.



Write stuff

Dear Editor, Hi, my name is Maya Murillo. I am seven years-old. I am in second grade. My school is Deanna Davenport Elementary. I would like to thank

the School Board for everything [they] do for my school. For example, I like playing games on the computers at my school. My favorite game is Poptropica. Also, thank you for having special programs like the GT program. I have learned the water cycle at the GT program. I even took

a field trip to the water plants. It was so cool! I even belong to the Dual Language Program. I am learning how to speak in Spanish. When I am in English I like to do Math. When I am in Spanish, I like drawing pictures. Thank you again for everything. Happy New Year to everyone! Maya Murillo Canutillo

The Socorro Independent School District

Annual Performance Report

Academic Excellence Indicator System 2008-2009

Public Hearing 6:00 p.m. January 19, 2010

SISD District Service Center Board Room 12440 Rojas Dr. El Paso, TX 79928

The Socorro Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Vietnam-era veterans claims

Whenever the 10-year Census is done, multiple federal agencies negotiate in advance about what questions are to be included. They all want specific information. After the Census is finished, groups and agencies have access to the information, which they study and use to make policy.

Little would one expect that the answers to the long form of the 2000 Census would be used to form opinions about why there are increasing numbers of claims by Vietnam-era veterans.

But sure enough, a study was done of the answers to the disability questions on the Census, the work questions and those about income as well. And their determination was that the increasing rate of claims by Vietnam-era veterans has to do with changes in the rules and level of education.

With Agent Orange, for example, they say that the number of claims skyrocketed after it was determined that AO exposure caused diabetes. There were no claims in 2001, but thousands within a year after diabetes was determined to be service connected. The biggie is claims for Post-

Traumatic Stress Disorder. Researchers contend that claims and payments for PTSD among Vietnam-era veterans are soaring, and that it has to do more with lower employment opportunities than actual illness. They point to "low-educated" men who have more financial "incentive" to come up with an illness and file for compensation. Between 1995 and 2005, the number of claims doubled. Further, they say that there is a decrease in mental-health visits of 82 percent once an IU (Individually Unemployed) determination of PTSD has been made. "Policy changes," researchers say, and "incentives" are the real causes of the increasing number of PTSD claims. To read the whole paper, go to econ-www.mit.edu/files/4651 and read the one entitled "Did Vietnam Veterans Get Sicker in the 1990s?" Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columreply@gmail.com. (c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.



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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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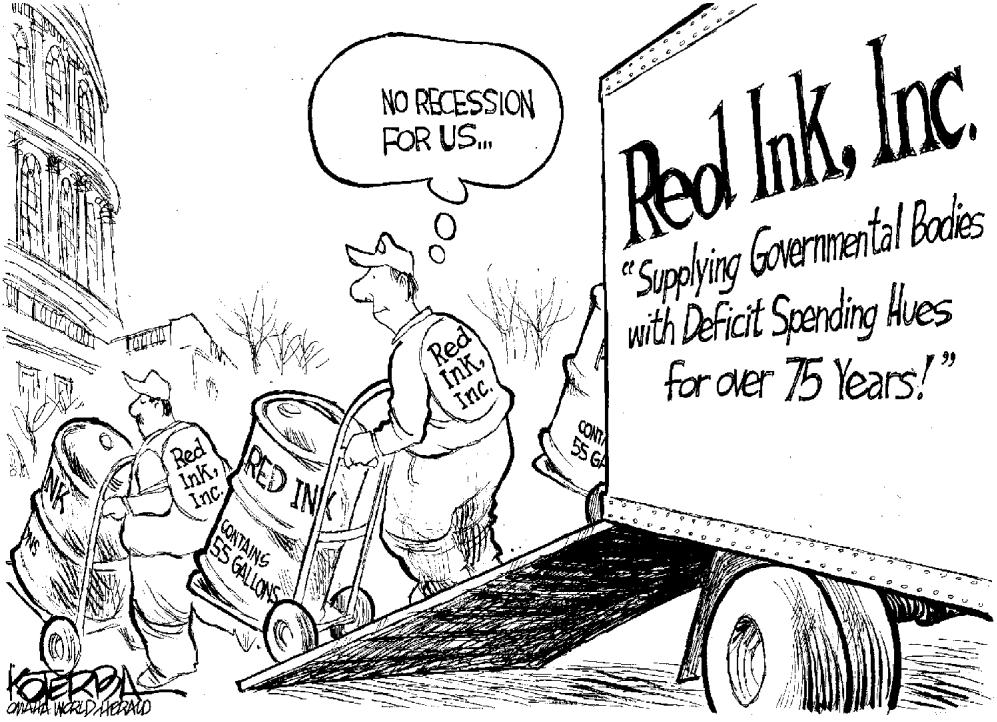
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View from here

By dave Cribbin

Airline Security

A very dangerous oxymoron

All this talk about profiling is just a right-wing knee jerk reaction to the failure of one terrorist who tried to blow up his fellow passengers and couldn't pull it off. Had he accomplished his mission we would now all be celebrating with an Alah Akbarh shout out. Wait one minute, that's right. I'm not actually a terrorist, I'm just treated like one every time I fly. Pardon my confusion while I cancel the celebration.

The first problem with our passenger screening process is that it is run by a one size fits all Politically Correct to the bone government agency, which requires that no one get special treatment, and everyone get the same treatment, lest it offend some special interest group. Islamic Terrorists are threatening our lives, and the recent spectacle in Detroit has made it blatantly apparent that the government's real concern is being Politically Correct.

How pathetic is that? Thoroughly searching everyone is not possible, and randomly picking people for enhanced security measures isn't working. That's why grandma gets frisked, but not the terrorist. The TSA is just busy going through the motions.

For an administration that is enamored with law enforcement, and apparently thinks that the Panty Bomber was a criminal (why else would you arrest him on criminal charges?) they should take a tip from the NYPD, who when summoned to the scene of a homicide doesn't question the dead guy. There is simply no need, he has been excluded because he doesn't fit the profile of the killer. He can't, because he's dead, and as such doesn't have much to say anyway.

What the police will do is ask people questions to rule them out as suspects, something I've never been subjected to at the airport. The TSA employees that I've encountered do their best not to talk to you, other than to scold you for not putting your shampoo in a clear zip lock bag, or not emptying your pockets completely. Perhaps this is some kind of an advanced terrorist counter measure and I'm just not aware of it.



The second problem is that they are searching luggage and not screening people to determine if they are terrorists. Those in charge say that they must search everyone because finding the one terrorist among all of the passengers boarding planes each day is like searching for a needle in a haystack. I concede that it is a difficult task, one made more difficult by their lack of profiling, but if you are looking at every piece of hay in the stack you are never going to find the needle. You need to focus on the needle. Unless you are just trying to look busy, in which case a lot of people going through the motions will do the trick.

Necessitating that everyone be subjected to the same level of screening is ridiculous. A simple profile would eliminate as suspected terrorist 90% of the flying public, making a thorough screening of the remaining 10% no longer a daunting task, but a small chore. The reason profiling works is that when you put together an accurate threat assessment profile it tends to make the actions of the people you are looking for stand out from the rest of the crowd. You profile to eliminate suspects, greatly reducing the number of people that need to be searched. It's got nothing to do with racism. There, I said it. As a matter of fact, a blind man could have successfully profiled Omar.

These people never learn, which is why, after taking into account what had happened that day, the TSA implemented new rules to prevent further attacks. One of the new rules is that no one can leave their seat for the last hour of the flight. It's a good thing they had not instituted that rule until after the Flying Dutchman had thwarted the Isolated Jihadist on flight 253, or our hero might have waited patiently in his seat on his way to meeting his maker.

Dave Cribbin is a Liberty Features Syndicated writer.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore Spaniards tried civilizing the Indians by giving them items like longhandled underwear.



Miguel Serrano



Ruth Pandy

SISD administrators earn Region 19 honors

By Daniel R. Escobar
Special to the Courier

Two Socorro ISD school administrators have been selected to represent Region 19 in the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP) principal and assistant principal of the year competition. Socorro High School Principal Miguel Serrano was selected as the area High School Principal of the Year, and Montwood Middle School Assistant Principal Ruth Pandy was named the area Middle School Assistant Principal of the

Year. TASSP recognizes outstanding principals and assistant principals from the 20 region education service centers in Texas. School administrators are nominated and chosen by their peers within their regions. Nominations are based upon exemplary performance and outstanding leadership. Serrano has been principal of Socorro HS since April 2007. The selection committee was most impressed with Mr. Serrano’s collaborative efforts to improve test scores at the school. In his short time at the

helm of the campus, he raised expectations and led the school out of AYP troubles to its current rating as a TEA Recognized campus. “I want to thank those who nominated me for believing in me and our work here at Socorro High School,” Serrano said. “This is a campus award, not a personal one. It has taken the full team to accomplish what we have over the last couple years. This recognition means that every teacher, counselor and other staff member here at Socorro has been able to pull together and work together towards a common goal. It’s not about me; it’s about the campus improving every year.” Ruth Pady has served as an assistant principal at Montwood Middle School for five years. The selection committee was most impressed with her kind heart and dedication to students. She is instrumental in the success of her campus, which is a TEA Recognized school. Prior to becoming an assistant principal, she taught at O’Shea Keleher and Capt. Walter E. Clarke schools. “The people I work with throughout and my administrative team are wonderful, I am lucky to be here and to have learned so much from all of them,” Pandy said about her Montwood Middle School family. “I’d like to thank my principal Libby Tidwell and those who nominated me for this honor. It is humbling, because I know there are many talented and hard-working administrators in our District.” As regional administrators of the year, Serrano and Pandy will compete for the state title of Texas Principal or Assistant Principal of the Year. They will be recognized during the Texas Heroes Awards Dinner held at the Hilton Downtown Austin Hotel in June 2010 and will be presented with an award and recognized in a commemorative booklet entitled “Texas Principals, Texas Heroes”.

Briefs

From Page 1

books. Then he followed the victim as she walked towards her vehicle. After the victim sat down in the driver’s seat, the subject prevented her from closing the door and pulled her by her wrists from the vehicle. The subject then sped off, heading north on Dyer, having taken the victim’s car and keys and wallet. The victim’s vehicle was found by Northeast Patrol Officers in a complex located at 4935 Diana. Investigators are certain that someone will remember details about this incident on this day, because it was the day that it snowed in El Paso. Were you there that Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 9:25 a.m. in the grocery store parking lot at 9120 Dyer? If so, call Crime Stoppers immediately at 566-TIPS (566-8477). The subject is described as a young white male with oriental-like eyes. He is bald, clean shaven, and was last seen wearing a black baseball cap, black hooded sweater, and black pants. If you have any information about any crime, even if you don’t think it’s important, please call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— James Klaes

PEG list

Clint Independent School District is pleased to announce that for the second year in a row the District has no campuses on the 2010-2011 PEG list. PEG stands for Public Education Grant and the list is based on last year’s Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scores. This means that more than 50% of the students in the District passed the TAKS test. Under the PEG program, if a school is on the PEG list, they must offer parents the option of letting their children attend schools not on the PEG list at the expense of the home District. The District is just one of a few in the State to remain off the list. This is just another indication of the success Clint ISD has experienced this year. The District and all schools are rated Academically Acceptable or higher by the Texas Education Agency. Frank Macias Elementary received an Exemplary rating and six campuses earned a Recognized rating. Eleven Campuses recently received Gold Performance Acknowledgement Awards from TEA as well. “The District is moving in the right direction. As we continue to improve instruction in the classroom, implement college readiness at all grade levels, and involve our parents and community in the District, our students will continue to show success,” says Dr. Edward L. Gabaldon, Superintendent.

— Laura Cade

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Notice of Public Hearing Fabens Independent School District

A Public Hearing on the A.E.I.S. Report (Academic Excellence Indicator System) will be held at 6:30 P.M., Wednesday, January 20, 2010 in the Fabens Independent School District’s Board Room at 821 N.E. “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

The 2008-2009 Fabens ISD A.E.I.S. Report provides information on all the State defined accountability elements which the Texas Education Agency uses to evaluate the academic performance of the District.

WTCC: 01-14-10

Notice of Public Hearing Tornillo Independent School District

The Board of Trustees of Tornillo ISD will conduct a Public Hearing on the annual A.E.I.S. Report (Academic Excellence Indicator System) for Tornillo ISD. The meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 26, 2009 in the Administration Building at 19200 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas.

The 2008-2009 Tornillo ISD A.E.I.S. Report provides information on all the State defined accountability elements which the Texas Education Agency uses to evaluate the academic performance of the District.

Parents of children attending Tornillo ISD schools are encouraged to attend.

WTCC: 01 -14-10

MVHS law enforcement students show skill

Mountain View High School students had the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities in law enforcement during the 2nd Annual UIL Regional Police Skills Competition. The students, who are part of the Law Enforcement class at Mountain View, took home first, second and third place awards for their performance during the competition. “The students should be commended for their hard work, dedication to their law enforcement class and their proud emphasis on being a Lobo from Mountain View High School,” said instructor Danny Ramos. The students participated in events such as Felony Traffic Stops, Routine Traffic Stops, Obstacle Course, and Foot Pursuit. The students trained and prepared for five weeks before the competition with the guidance of Mountain View High School law enforcement instructor Danny Ramos, Constable Rick Gammon, and Deputy Steve Porras from the Sheriff’s office. Schools from other area districts also participated in the event held at the El Paso Community College Law Enforcement Academy.

— Laura Cade



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

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Clint Independent School District

Notice of Public Hearing

Clint Independent School District will hold a Public Hearing for the discussion of the 2008-2009 District Annual Report on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at the Clint Independent School District Administration building board room, located at 14521 Horizon Blvd., 5:30 p.m. during the regularly scheduled School Board meeting. All interested individuals are welcomed to attend. The report will be available to the public after the hearing at all Clint School District campuses, District Public Libraries, Clint Post Office, Montana Community Center, and West Texas County Courier.

Notificación Pública

El district escolar de Clint tendra una junta para discutir el Reporte Annual del Distrito de 2008-2009 el miercoles, 20 de Enero del 2010 en las oficinas administrativas localizadas 14521 Horizon Blvd. a las 5:30 p.m. Todos individuos interesados estan invitados a asistir. El reporte se puede obtener en estos lugares: todas las escuelas publicas del distrito, bibliotecas publicas del distrito, el Correo de Clint, El Centro Comunidad de Montana Vista, y en la area de el West Texas County Courier.

WTCC: 01-14-10



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Cowboy fans are smiling: The big game is on

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

In the immortal words of Jimmy Johnson — “How ‘bout them Cowboys!”

It’s hard to believe that the Dallas Cowboys hadn’t won a playoff game since 1996. It wasn’t very hard to believe that the Cowboys would manhandle the Eagles the way they did last weekend.

Honestly, no team in the NFL has played better than Dallas over the last month and that’s good — and that’s bad.

The good part is that the ‘Boys are playing the best football at the end of the season, heading into the postseason.

The bad part is that I have not been a fan of Cowboys’ coach Wade Phillips.

Don’t get me wrong — there aren’t any better defensive coaches than Phillips. But as a natural leader of men — Phillips isn’t exactly what anyone would consider a motivational speaker.

I think guys who give insurance seminars even find him boring.

But if the Cowboys are winning, then coach Phillips must be the man for the job.

As a lifelong Dallas Cowboy fan, it’s good to see the team go deep into the playoffs. And whether you love or hate the Cowboys, this is the best thing for the league.

The Cowboys (like the Yankees or the Lakers or the Celtics or even Tiger Woods) are a team that garners interest. People that love them and hate them love to watch them. And the NFL couldn’t ask for more.

This weekend you have the Cowboys against the Vikings and Bret Favre. The game will be played in Minnesota but I don’t think the Cowboys can be stopped right now.

The biggest reason for their success is the defense, which is clearly the best in the game right now.

Whether you love them or hate them — this weekend’s game with the Vikings will be huge in the ratings. Why — because it’s the Dallas Cowboys.

BCS debacle

I watched the BCS title game last week and like many of you, I got sick when Texas quar-

terback Colt McCoy left the game for good with an injury after just five plays.

Talk about letting all the air out of a big game. The Longhorns looked outstanding in the early going but without McCoy, the game had already been decided. It was just a matter of how close Texas could keep it.

To their credit, the Texas defense stepped it up in the second half and freshman quarterback Garrett Gilbert finally settled down after completing only four of his first 22 pass attempts.

The Longhorns cut the lead to 24-21 in the fourth quarter before Gilbert’s fumble in the final three minutes sealed the win for Alabama.

Some may say the Crimson Tide was too tough for Texas no matter what. Some will say the loss of McCoy is what did the Longhorns in, and some will say Texas was going to win before Gilbert’s critical fumble on the Alabama two-yard line.

But I believe the game was decided by one play and one play alone.

I’ve seen too many occasions through the years of teams losing the ball just before the half or at the end of a game by fumbling a

handoff, dropping a pitch or having a pass intercepted.

That’s why the only play just before the half when you just want play it safe and you’re 60 yards or further away from the goal line with just seconds left — is to take a knee.

You don’t hand it off, or try a short pass, or pitch it wide, or take it out of the quarterback’s hands for any reason.

With the Longhorns lucky to be down just 17-6 with just a few seconds left before halftime, Texas had a play to call from its own 37 yard line.

The freshman quarterback was struggling mightily and Texas was lucky to be just two scores down.

Then it happened, for some unbelievable reason Texas decided to try a shovel pass.

A shovel pass is a pretty safe play — like a handoff, but why tempt fate. Of course the pass was intercepted with three seconds left and returned for a touchdown.

Alabama now had a 24-6 halftime lead.

Like Bill Belichick, I think Texas coach Mack Brown will think twice the next time he’s in a no-win situation like that.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The decade’s greatest athletes

For the next few columns, “A Sporting View” will profile the athletes who made our sports pages and highlight reels, and left indelible marks on our memories — for these are the best athletes of the past decade (in the mind of this sportswriter, at least).

Albert Pujols

It may seem hard to believe, but Pujols just may be the most underrated player in the game of baseball during the past decade — maybe even ever. And that’s a weird thing considering that he has put together the best start in baseball history through nine years. Baseball has been inundated with stats geeks during the past decade (who miss the entire point of real,

on the field and in the clubhouse baseball), but nobody can argue the numbers Pujols has put up. For your consideration: nine straight years of at least 32 home runs, 103 RBIs, .314 batting average and 99 runs scored, eight All-Star berths, five NL Central titles, two pennants and one championship. He could retire tomorrow and be a first-ballot Hall of Famer — and not only because he remains untainted by the steroid scandal (which kept Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and A-Rod off this list) but because of his obvious skill and sometimes overlooked level of class.

Lance Armstrong

He’s covered more than 15,000

miles in 150 days — and that doesn’t even tell the story of the terrain or the torturous elevations — and in doing so has won seven Tour de France races in the past decade. Along the way he beat allegations of doping. His most important win, however: beating cancer. Cycling may never know a greater champ.

Floyd Mayweather

Undeclared, won all of the high-profile fights and effectively saved the sport of boxing during its worst era in terms of star power and in the face of the MMA juggernaut. Most say Manny Pacquiao is the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world right now, and that is probably the case, but until he either beats Mayweather in the ring or matches what Mayweather accomplished in the sport for the past 10 years, it’s really all conjecture.

Serena Williams

Nine grand slam titles, two

Olympic gold medals, ends the decade ranked No. 1 and earned nearly \$30 million during the decade. In terms of sportsmanship, Serena is the least gracious tennis champion ever, but compared to the transgressions her peers commit in other top-flight sports, a few outbursts and rude pressers is not going to detract from her record.

No matter what her seed, even her sister Venus will admit that in order to have won any tournament in the ’00s, you had to answer to Serena Williams. Period.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sports-writer and publisher of The Kansas City Luminary. (c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

San Eli

From Page 1

sources such as the rigorous CSCOPE curriculum.

“The CSCOPE curriculum in its rigor has raised the level of instruction and that is reflective of student success in the area of math,” Seigel stated.

Another core practice that Borrego widely and effectively

has put in place to raise student achievement is through the use of data gleaned from TAKS testing to identify learning deficiencies.

“In reviewing TAKS data we insure to address the targeted objectives that students are lacking. This data helps drive instruction,” Seigel added.

This is the second year that NCEA designates Borrego Elementary as a Higher Performing School.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

Invitation to Bid

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. is accepting sealed bids for a 14x70 mobile, manufacturer unknown. Item sold “AS IS, WHERE IS”. Needs repair. Located at 451 OT Smith Rd., Tornillo, TX. Bid packages available by calling (915) 765-2139 or (325) 672-2846 ext. 3114. Sealed bids must be received by end of business January 20, 2010. WTCC: 01/07/10 01/14/10

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SELF-HELP

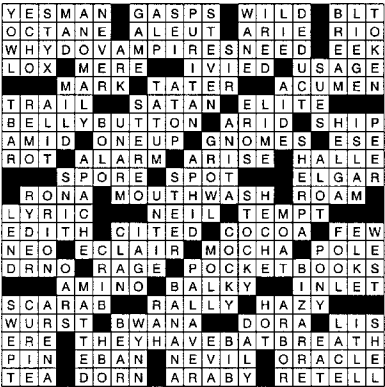
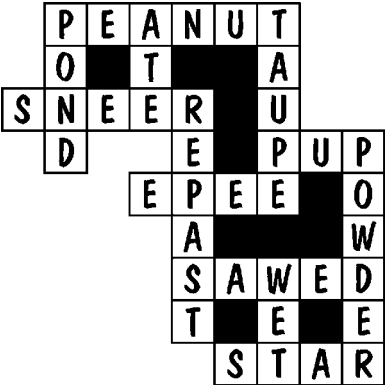
Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

STORAGE

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

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



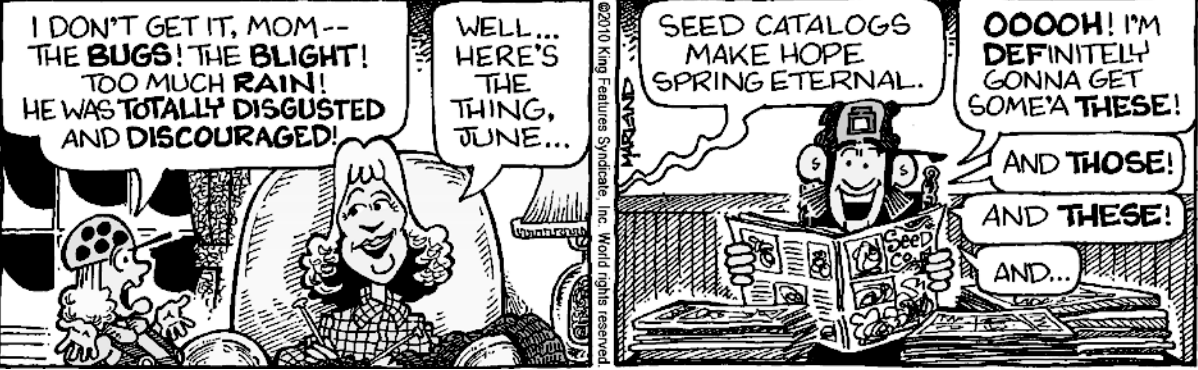
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My friend and I have an ongoing discussion about how we catch colds. I believe the only way is by being exposed to a germ. My friend agrees, but also says you can become chilled, and that results in a cold. Please settle this once and for all. — L.G.

The only way to catch a cold is to meet up with a cold virus. But let’s kick this around a little while it lies there quivering. Rhinoviruses are responsible for many colds. This virus is passed from one person to another most often via the hands and fingers. An infected person invariably will have virus on his or her hands and fingers. If that person touches another person’s hands or fingers, the virus is transferred. All the second person has to do is touch his or her nose or eyes and the virus has found a new home. (The drainage channel for tears siphons viruses into the nose.) It’s also possible to spread a cold through sneezing or coughing, but that’s a secondary route.

Many colds are preceded by a body chill. That’s part of the infection symptoms, and that might be what your friend refers to. Once a virus lands in a person’s nose, the time till the development of cold symptoms is short — eight to 12 hours. Runny nose, nasal stuffiness, scratchy throat, cough and sneezing are typical symptoms. They peak in 48 hours and are gone in about one week. A person is most contagious during the first three days of symptoms, when nasal discharge is at high volume and when it contains the most viruses.

If by “chilling” your friend means being in a cold blast of air or getting your feet wet in frigid weather and shivering as a result, she has a slight point. That kind of chilling constricts the nose’s blood vessels and decreases mucus production. It might, therefore, permit cold viruses to mount a more effective attack and can contribute to the ease of catching a cold. All the same, without the virus there is no cold.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am 34 and have been jogging for 10 years. I do it year-round. I’ve noticed this winter that my knees feel stiff before I run. They don’t hurt during the run or after. Could this be a sign that I’m getting arthritis? — B.C.

It’s not likely that at age 34 you’re coming down with arthritis. It’s more likely a weather thing. Cold weather thickens joint fluid. That makes joints stiff. Warming the fluid by exercise relieves the stiffness.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: As a calorie counter from way back, will I lose weight if I eat 1,500 calories a day? How about if I eat 1,200 calories one day and 1,800 the next? — K.T.

If you burn more than 1,500 calories a day but take in only 1,500 calories, you should lose weight. You can still lose if one day you take in slightly more and the next day slightly less. You can count the calorie deficit over a week’s time.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2010 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

King Super Crossword

HELLISH-TOSIS
ACROSS

1 Toady

7 Pants

12 " _ Strawberries" (57 film)

16 Diner order

19 Anti-knock stuff

20 Kayak commander

21 Racer Luyendyk

22 Ipanema's locale

23 Riddle: Part 1

26 "A mouse!"

27 Deli delicacy

28 Insignificant

29 Like Yale's walls

30 Practice

32 Swimmer Spitz

33 Spud

35 Keen insight

36 Fall behind

39 "Paradise Lost" figure

40 Top-drawer

42 Ring site?

45 Parched

46 Freighter or ferry

50 In the thick of

51 Get the better of

52 Folklore figures

54 Nationality suffix

55 "Baloney!"

56 Eye opener?

57 Respond to 56

58 Berry of

"Monster's Ball"

60 Fern feature

61 Primer pooch

62 "Enigma Variations" composer

63 Barrett or Jaffe

65 Riddle: Part 2

69 Wander

70 Songlike

71 _ Patrick Harris

72 Offer an apple?

74 Writer Wharton

75 Quoted an expert

77 Winter warmer-upper

78 Not many

81 Classic beginning

82 Napoleon's cousin

84 Icing flavor

85 Gdansk denizen

86 Bond foe

88 Sheldon's " _ of Angels"

89 Clutches, e.g.

91 _ acid

93 Stubborn

94 Small bay

95 Amulet motif

98 Perk up

99 Unclear

101 Butcher-shop buy

102 Serengeti sahib

104 "David Copperfield" character

105 Fleur-de- _

108 Prior to, to Prior

109 Answer to riddle

114 Corsage fastener

115 Israeli diplomat

116 Novelist Shute

117 Prophet

118 Soho snack

119 Worf's portrayer

120 Literary land

121 Update a story

DOWN

1 Cry of distress

2 Return address?

3 Very low river?

4 Beyond balmy

5 Aberration

6 When Adam was a boy

7 Go fish, e.g.

8 Lofty peak

9 _ whale

10 Cromwell, for one

11 Bauer or Bochco

12 Ebb

13 Incensed

14 Fool with the facts

15 Remove

16 Lutenist Julian

17 Feudal figure

18 Symbol

24 Neighbor of Miss.

25 Salutation word

31 Takes to court

32 Temperate

33 Ryan's daughter

34 Perched on

35 _ -de-camp

36 It'll give you a lift

37 San _ , Italy

38 Got off

39 Audiophile's equipment

40 Desire deified

41 Lifesaver flavor

43 Type of machete

44 Render defenseless

45 Ekberg or Bryant

47 Hagar the Horrible's wife

48 Cairo creed

49 Ibsen's " _ Gyn"

52 Snarl

53 Trekkers' guide

56 Certain helicopter

57 Plant pest

59 "Thanks _!"

60 Tizzy

61 Take the reins

63 Winona of "Mr. Deeds"

64 Heavenly hunter

66 Remove a ribbon

67 Thickset

68 Anne of "John Q."

70 Be a banker

73 Ditch under a drawbridge

75 Family

76 Othello's inducer

77 Arrogant

78 " _ #1" ('61 hit)

79 Actress Sommer

80 Singer Dottie

83 Baby's bed

84 Gangster's gal

85 Liqueur glass

87 Galley features

89 Idle talk

90 Odd

92 Tangled

93 Bite for Bonzo

95 Tidied the terrace

96 French physicist

97 Stadium

98 Stadium shout

99 Torrid

100 Shady spot

102 Grumpy guy

103 "The Perfect Fool"

104 "What's My Line?" host

105 Lingerie trim

106 " _ never happen!"

107 Cartoonist

Silverstein

110 Cable channel

111 Actress Le Gallienne

112 Overalls feature

113 Chomp on a chimichanga

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Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I've heard you can apply for retirement benefits online. But isn't it easier just to go into an office?

A: Filing online means there's no need to travel to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. Retiring online is easy and convenient. You can apply in as little as 15 minutes. In most cases, that's it — no papers to sign or mail in. Want to learn more? Visit www.socialsecurity.gov and click on the "Retirement" tab in the top, left corner. Our website will:

- Walk you through the application process;
- Tell you what information you'll need to answer the questions on the application; and
- Describe the documents you may need to present after you apply.

So what are you waiting for? Get started now at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: Social Security stopped my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments because of the seven-year limit

for noncitizens. But someone told me I could get it started again since I'm applying for citizenship. Will I get SSI retroactively, back to the time I lost it?

A: If your SSI stopped because of the seven-year limit for noncitizens, you may receive SSI back to October 2008, and continuing through October 2010. This is a result of the SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act (Public Law 110-328). If you have an application for naturalization pending with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or the same has been approved, you may be able to receive an additional year of SSI payments up to September 30, 2011. However, Social Security will not pay you SSI benefits for any months before October 2008. To learn more, visit our fact sheet on the

subject at www.socialsecurity.gov/immigration/extension.htm.

For more information on 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.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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
★★★ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

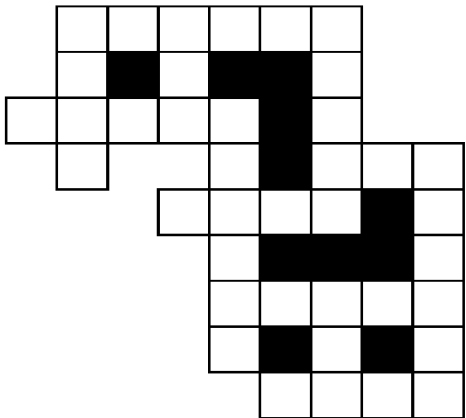
Clue: U equals N

YV J VYOP EZTSQAOYBGAM
LQFFZHO YUXZ XPG OGJLGI,
HZQAI XPJX LG EJFS'AA
XQUUGA OMUIFZTG?

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TWE
TAPUNE
♥WASDE
EEEP
♥SPREAT
PPU
♥RAST
RESEN
♥AET
DOWPRE
PUETA
DOPN



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

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was American cartoonist, humorist and journalist Kin Hubbard who made the following sage observation: "There's no secret about success. Did you ever know a successful man who didn't tell you about it?"

• Next time you're in Iowa, you might want to stop by the rural town of Riverside, which touts itself as the future birthplace of Captain James T. Kirk. Yep, the future birthplace. It seems that "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry asserted that the character of James Tiberius Kirk was born in Iowa, but he didn't specify exactly where. In 1985, the Riverside City Council voted to declare their town the future birthplace of the character, later writing to Roddenberry and receiving his approval. In honor of its newfound claim to fame, the city began hosting an annual Trek Fest, complete with a Spockapalooza battle of the bands.

• If you enjoy cooking, you might have heard of some of the following cookbooks: "Kill It and Grill It," "The Joy of Pickling," "Full of Beans," "The Stinking Cookbook" and "I Can't Believe It's Not Meat!" Then again, maybe not.

• The term "bric-a-brac," usually used to refer to a collection of tawdry trinkets, comes from the French, where its original meaning was "at random."

• Most parents of small children know that trampolines can be dangerous, and they are. Every year, nearly 100,000 people receive emergency-room treatment for injuries sustained while using trampolines. Those injuries are hardly ever fatal, though. Pools, on the other hand, are far more deadly; more than 1,000 people in the United States die in swimming pools annually.

Thought for the Day: If living conditions don't stop improving in this country, we're going to run out of humble beginnings for our great men. — Russell P. Askue

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