



# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



VOL. 37, No. 4

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

JANUARY 28, 2010

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Crime Stoppers

A man responsible for a forgery and several burglaries in the City of Socorro remains on the loose. The Socorro Police Department needs your help in bringing this fugitive to justice, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” In October 2009, 18-year-old Daniel Gordillo, Jr., cashed someone else’s check and is wanted for forgery.

In addition, Gordillo is believed to be responsible for four burglary of habitation cases and one burglary of business that took place between October and December 2009. Detectives from the Socorro Police Department have been able to locate some of the stolen property; however, they need your help to find him. Daniel Gordillo, Jr., is from Socorro, Texas, and is believed to still be in the area. He is described as 6 feet tall, weighing about 180 pounds, with brown eyes and brown hair. 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](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— James Klaes

### Haitian scam

According to the Haitian Embassy in Washington and the Greater Washington Haiti Relief Committee, Haitian Americans who hope to transport family members from the earthquake-ravished island should be cautious of an emerging scam. The fraudulent scheme appears to offer Haitian Americans the documents they need to bypass the official government process for bringing family members from Haiti to the United States. Potential victims, who are reportedly handed fliers or reached by telephone, are told to wire \$500 in exchange for the documents and a confirmation number that will allow them to fly to Haiti to extract five relatives. The promised documents and flight in return for advance cash are entirely fraudulent. Haitian Americans seeking to relocate kin from the island and bring them to the U.S. should contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at (800) 375-5283 or online at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

— Greg Abbott

### Wanted

The hunt is on for Julian Herbe Belmontes, 19. Belmontes is 5’4” tall and weighs

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*A lie may take care of the present, but it has no future.*

— Quips & Quotes

## El Paso Collaborative gets \$10 mil. grant for homes

*Foreclosed, abandoned homes to get new lease on life*

By Jamie Henneman  
Special to the Courier

The El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development (Collaborative) was recently awarded a \$10 million federal grant to help create affordable housing in the El Paso area.

The federal Housing and Urban Development grant project, known as a Neighborhood Stabilization Program, is a joint effort between the Collaborative, the Lower Valley Housing Corporation, Habitat for Humanity-El Paso and Project Vida.

The grant dollars will be used to reinvest in homes that have been foreclosed or abandoned as a result of the depressed economy and housing market collapse over the last few years.

The goal of the project is to acquire and rehabilitate a minimum of 100 single-family homes in 22 different low-income areas located inside and outside the city limits of the City of El Paso. Eighty-five of the homes will be returned for use for homeownership and fifteen of the homes will be returned to use as rental properties.

Project Vida will manage the rental units for the first two years and will provide property management training to the Collaborative who will manage the properties afterwards.

### Local contractors to revitalize homes

The grant will partner with four different local contractors in order to refurbish the selected homes including Dawco Builders, LLC, Karma-JKS Properties Inc., Wright & Dalbin Architects and Senercon.

Dawco and Karma-JKS will help to acquire and rehabilitate the properties and sell them to income-eligible households as part of the project. Wright & Dalbin will conduct construction cost analysis, provide drawings as necessary and assist with environmental.

The Senercon company has been chosen to conduct energy assessments of the selected properties and recommended cost-effective

energy and “green” features to install during the rehabilitation phase. It is hoped that “green” features will help reduce energy costs and improve long-term affordability.

While the grant project holds great promise, Collaborative Executive Director Delia Chavez said the grant award is “bittersweet.”

“This grant really is bittersweet because the homes we will be working on became available through foreclosure or abandonment. So while we will be helping some people to get into affordable housing, we are also concerned about the people that had to leave these homes. What happened to them? How are they doing?,” she said. “It would be great if we could get some of those families back into their homes.”

Chavez said the Collaborative, a small community lender with a staff of 6, was surprised to receive the grant which was available through a competitive process.

“We are excited to be able to help people through this project and it is encouraging because this will bring some positive changes both for the Collaborative and the community,” she said.

### Homes available to low-income families

Although the grant project is just getting underway, Chavez and the other grant collaborators already have the end goal in mind of helping those families who may be struggling to find functional housing.

“As a community lender, we typically work with families who would have a very hard time qualifying for a conventional loan and perhaps have little to no history with a bank,” she said. “This grant gives us an opportunity to help those clients even more.”

Potential renters or home owners will be able to qualify for the grant-revitalized homes based on a HUD financial threshold that is determined by their family size and income.

For more information, contact the El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development at 590-1210 or online at <http://www.ep-collab.org/>.



Delia Chavez

## Anthony High School named one of nation’s best

By Oscar A. Troncoso  
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY — Anthony High School, along with three other schools in El Paso county, were the only schools that earned medals as one of “Americas Best High Schools,” according to U.S. News & World Report magazine. Anthony High School was recognized with a Bronze medal, along with Tornillo High School. The Maxine Silva Magnet School in El Paso ISD and Fabens High School were both awarded Silver medals.

According to the January issue of U.S. & World Report there were over 21,000 schools analyzed. The January 2010 issue of features the top 100 high schools in the United States (Gold medal winners), with three being from Texas – The School of Science & Engineering Magnet in Dallas (#8), IDEA Quest Academy & College Preparatory (#13) from Donna, Texas, and KIPP Houston High School (#16).

“This award represents the efforts of the entire AISD community to raise our expectations for the performance of our students. Performance is a direct reflection on the expectations that have been set,” said Ronald Haugen, Superintendent of Anthony Independent School District.

In addition to the Gold, Silver and Bronze medal award winners, there was also an Honorable Mention category. Anthony and Tornillo High School were one of 1,189

schools selected for Bronze medals, which was a total of 6.3%. There were 451 Silver Medals, or 2.5%, and a total of only 100 Gold medal winners, or 0.5%.

Among the data sources used to gather data are Common Core Data from the U.S. Department of Education’s website that

contains basic data on enrollment, ethnicity and other profile information on all public high schools in the U.S. It’s updated annually. Another source was the College Board (Advance Placement data), and each state’s

See BEST, Page 5



— Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

**NO PEN AND PAPER HERE — Anthony High School students do work on their laptops in Roseanne Baca’s English II class.**



Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Dependants can use GI Bill benefits

Not only are veterans going back to school by the thousands, but those who choose the new Post-9/11 GI Bill also have the option of giving those education benefits to a spouse or dependent.

To qualify for the transfer of education benefits, the veteran must:

- Be on active duty on or after Aug. 1, 2009.
- Have at least six years in the service and agree to serve for four more (there are provisions for those who cannot agree to four more years).
- Be eligible to retire before 2013 (or be qualified to retire due to having served for 20 years).
- Transfer to either a spouse or a dependent child (the time can be divided between them).
- Already be registered in the DEERS system with eligible family members listed.

After the veteran is verified as being eligible to receive the benefits, the spouse or dependent will receive a certificate of eligibility that will pay for up to 36 months of tuition, books and housing.

For certain disabled veterans, there is the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program. The veteran must have a service-connected disability that is permanent and total, must be receiving care, and will be discharged from the service due to the disability. Dependents of veterans who died on active duty can take advantage of education benefits for 45 months.

Go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) for more details and instructions, or call 1-888-442-4551.

Honorably discharged veterans who wish to go to school themselves using the Post-9/11 GI Bill must first qualify by having at least 90 days of service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or who have a service connected disability after only 30 days.

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to [columnreply@gmail.com](mailto:columnreply@gmail.com). (c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Overseeing lottery safeguards

Hola mi gente. Recently an Associated Press article in the El Paso Times reported that a consulting company hired by the Lottery Commission apparently was also working for GTECH, the company that currently manages the lottery. The Commission hired Gartner Inc. as an independent consultant to assist in writing the rules under which bids are requested and processed.

During the time that Gartner was working for the Commission, it also signed a contract to work for GTECH. Although the contract has a specific date, it is impossible to know how closely Gartner and GTECH were previously working together without a formal contract on lottery issues. Certainly, other companies who submitted bids see a problem.

During committee hearings in the past legislative session (House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures), as a member I questioned why GTECH seemed to be consistently the bid winner. Other states have contracted with companies other than GTECH and I just thought that somewhere along the line the state would have been better served by trying one of those companies.

In response to media inquiries, GTECH, Gartner and the Commission all stated that it was their opinion that the bid process was not compromised. The bids, which were submitted for the estimated \$100 million annual revenues, should be allowed to be continued according to those three entities.

It is easy to assume that most people who read that story and are reading this submission will automatically think



the fix was on. No matter how many denials or statements minimizing the incident, the bidding process that started on Jan. 4th is tainted with an appearance of wrong doing.

Shortly after reading the article, I wrote a letter to the principals explaining my feeling that the dual role played by Gartner was reason enough to scrap the current bidding process. I insisted that the process start again from the very beginning with additional safeguards in place to prevent a repetition of the conflict

of interest.

Since our committee is scheduled to meet soon for interim hearings, I also requested that the Chair of the Committee, the Honorable Edmund Kuempel, place on the agenda an item for us to hear testimony from the Lottery Commission, GTECH and Gartner. The public needs to hear their accounts of the incident under sworn testimony.

I sincerely feel that it is imperative to start over and to have hearings in order to safeguard the confidence that taxpayers have in the state bidding process. Even if the dual role was actually a mistake, we need to address this as if there were intentional efforts to undermine a fair process.

If we don't, taxpayers will always have a question in their mind about the Lottery Commission bid requests. The impression of wrongdoing will also discourage other companies from bidding. This could potentially be very costly to the state.

It is the responsibility of agency executives and elected officials — that being me — to safeguard your money, which is sent to Austin, from improper bid awards or even the appearance of impropriety.

I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABOS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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View from here

By David Nace

Legitmizing theft

How do you legitimize taking wealth from the citizens of a country that produce wealth and jobs and give it to those that do not? A hundred years ago, collectivists could rely on the writings of Karl Marx to promote class envy and advocate class warfare to create a Utopian communist state where the means of production were communally shared among the citizens of a country. But the reality of communism is, that after a violent revolution that destroyed private ownership of land and capital, capitalism was replaced by a far more repressive dictatorship that destroyed millions of lives and constrained all but the elite in the Communist party into lives of misery.

Now the collectivists have found a new philosophy, one currently being promoted by the Obama administration, to suppress capitalism and replace it with collectivism. This new philosophy does not even require an armed uprising to seize power. This new philosophy is environmentalism. Environmentalism allows a collectivist elite to obtain bureaucratic control of privately controlled land, labor and capital without firing a shot. Once they obtain control, environmentalists and their allies are able to utilize propaganda and guilt to retain control rather than utilizing the brutal political repression that was required under communist regimes.

The environmentalist movement has learned to use falsified data, media bias and propaganda to convince the public of the urgency of its Malthusian claims. Based upon the success of fraudulently portraying DDT as threatening the mass extinction of a whole host of species around the world, environmentalists and their supporters in the media have manipulated data and falsified studies to show that only they alone can save the planet from the ills of capitalism.

While environmental scientists have the opportunity to obtain government grants to perpetuate their fears for mankind, that does not provide them with the funds to pursue collectivism on their own. They need allies in their quest for power and prestige that will directly benefit from the subversion of capitalism and the promotion of collectivism. What better ally in the quest for collectivism than organized labor, which has the financial resources to help elect candidates that would assure that the wealth stolen from capitalists will be distributed to workers that agreed to be represented by

equally collectivist labor unions.

This was the concept behind the formation of the Apollo Alliance in 2003. Instead of organized labor promoting policies that would enrich, and in many cases, preserve union membership, while environmentalists promoted policies that would restrict economic development, they would work together to ensure that the industries that environmentalists allowed to prosper employed union workers. The third component of the Apollo Alliance was ACORN and other self proclaimed “social justice groups” that would also share in the spoils of ravaging capitalism. While this alliance was able to create and promote the myth of “green jobs”, the result of their policies will be green unemployment.

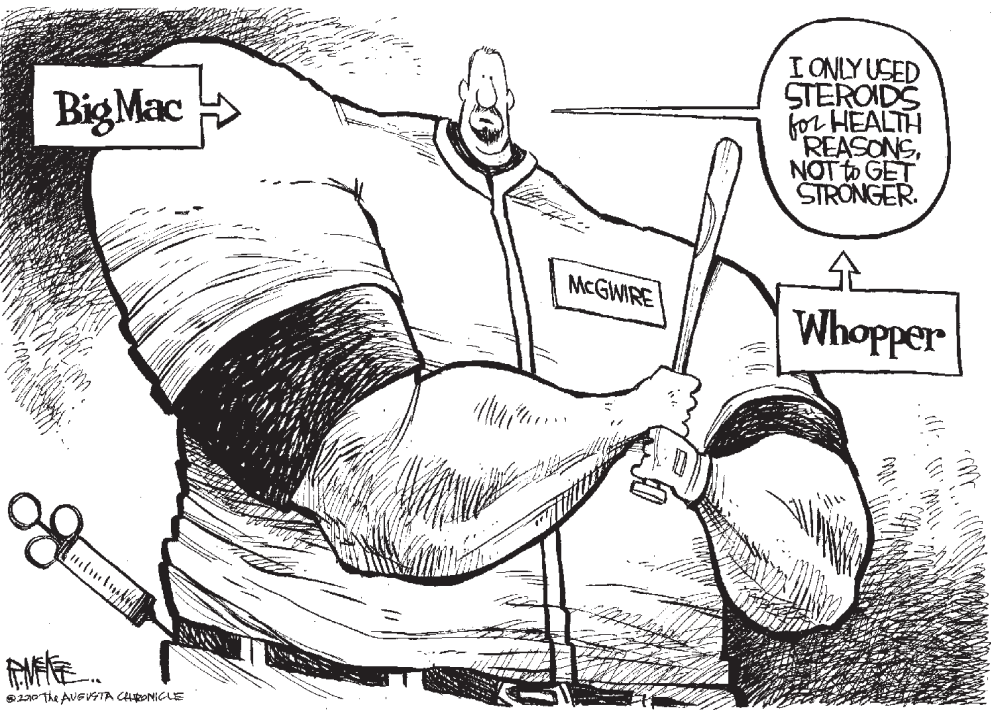
While the environmental policies of the Apollo Alliance will be devastating to most industries, government subsidies and funding is used to create “clean energy” jobs in favored industries that employed union workers. The Apollo Alliance was instrumental in drafting both the Stimulus Bill and Cap and Tax legislation. In both bills there was significant funding for “green jobs” that required payment of union wages and for a host of ACORN sponsored programs.

While environmentalists have used scientific fraud and propaganda to promote the false premise of global warming to enhance their power and prestige, ultimately, it will be their organized labor allies that will suffer. Despite government manipulation of the marketplace, green energy programs ultimately cost two jobs for each one they create. While environmentalists may have no problem with constraining all but the enlightened elite to lives of misery if they believe that is what is required save the planet, the demise of capitalism will affect the ability of labor unions to survive. Even in a socialist country, not everyone can be a government employee.

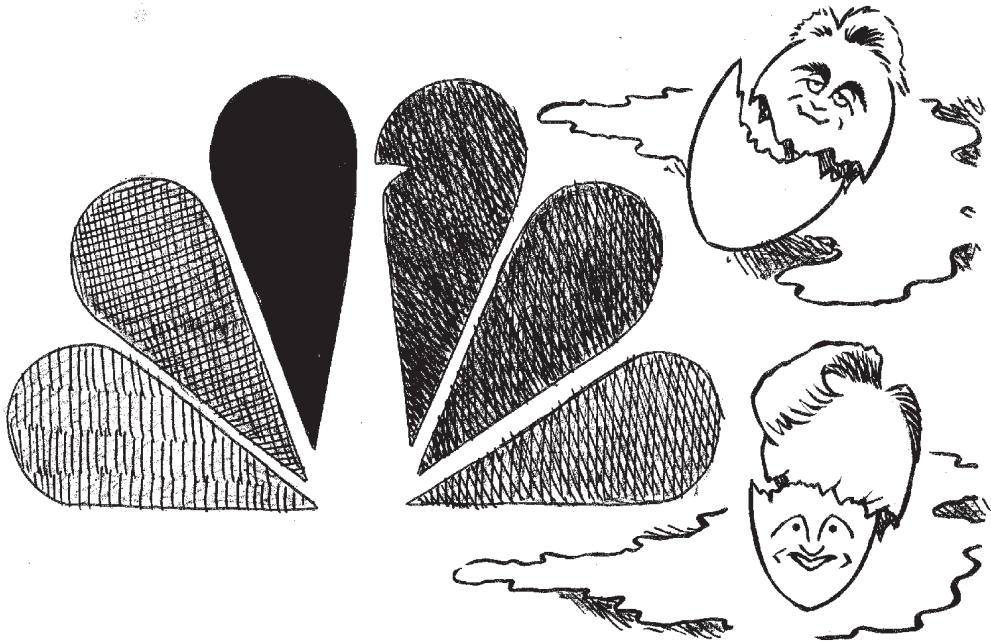
Karl Marx was able to use the surplus labor theory in his writings to convince workers and the intellectual elite that workers were being exploited by capitalism. His only recourse was revolution and then seizure of private property to achieve worker’s true worth. However, instead of the communal worker’s utopia that Marx predicted, workers were constrained to lives of misery in support of the Communist Party. How much better will American workers fare under enviro-marxism?

David Nace, an Executive Vice President of a Pennsylvania construction and engineering company, is a Liberty Features Syndicated writer.





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# Tornillo High update

## Congressman investigates E-rate funding hold up, new gym gets use

The article in last week's *Courier* (Tornillo High School stalled by 'bureaucratic process') regarding the E-rate funding delay for Tornillo High School closed with a short statement that reporter Jamie Henneman had not been able to reach Congressman Ciro Rodriguez or Senator John Cornyn regarding the funding before press time. Earlier in the same article, Tornillo Superintendent Paul Vranish was quoted as saying "enlist[ing] help from federal legislators about the federal funding has been 'a joke.'" The quote was aimed at USAC (the division in charge of the E-rate funding), not Rodriguez or Cornyn or their staffs. In an e-mail Vranish writes:

When your reporter was interviewing me over the phone I was expressing my frustration with USAC by sharing with her that they simply will not give a response. I pointed out that we even tried the Congressman and his staff and that they were treated in a similar fashion — which I found shocking. My comment that "they" were a "joke" was targeted at USAC — not the Congressman's staff. I stand by that comment and I also stand by the comment that this is an unaccountable bureaucracy run amok. But again, I mean USAC — not the Congressman's staff.

There is some new information regarding this situation with our funding. During [a] call with Mr. Blanco (chief of staff to Congressman Ciro Rodriguez) I also spoke with Brian Young who informed me that he had pressed USAC again and found out that they had a Tornillo-unrelated complaint against one of the vendors we were planning to use. USAC would not disclose to Mr. Young which vendor (again, incredible) but Young suggested that Tornillo ISD query our vendors as to who the offender may be. We did and found out the subject of their investigation. This vendor claims he will be exonerated in two weeks but we have asked Mr. Young to follow up with USAC to determine if that assessment is accurate. In short, had we been told this back in May we could have simply moved to another vendor and this problem would have been averted. Once again, they are a JOKE — an unaccountable bureaucracy run amok! When their own employee, a very decent man named Paul Stankus, cannot provide such simple information, especially when I could tell he so badly wanted to, one can only conclude that this operation is deeply troubled.

Rebeca Chapa, Rodriguez' press secretary also wrote to clarify the Congressman's position:

"There's nothing more important than getting the students of Tornillo High School into a new building with up-to-date technology and that has always been a top priority of Congressman Rodriguez. He is aware of the issues surrounding the delay and our staff has been in frequent communication over the last several weeks with both Superintendent Vranish and the federal officials responsible for disbursing federal E-rate funds. We will continue to pursue a speedy resolution to the problem."

On positive note, Tornillo ISD has been able to put their new gym to use. On Friday, Jan 15, The Tornillo Coyotes won three games against the Fabens Wildcats. The games were between each district's JV and varsity boys' and varsity girls' teams.



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

**SCORED — Ricardo (Ricky) Esparza, a Tornillo Coyote senior varsity player splits two Fabens Wilcats defenders and nets two points in Tornillo High's new gym.**



**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore **Jan 26, 1839:Homestead Act** provides land for public schools...there were critics , I'm sure.



# San Elizario ISD offers free computer access to community

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
*Special to the Courier*

Residents in San Elizario who are in need of basic technology access no longer have to travel far to be able to use a computer. The San Elizario Independent School District recently furnished its Excell Academy Adult Learning Center with a computer workstation that is fully equipped with the latest software, internet service, and a printer.

San Elizario ISD provides free usage of the computer facilities as part of its efforts to increase parental and community involvement district-wide. The computers are available to anyone in the community who signs up for an e-mail account with the school district. The three computer workstations can be used for a wide

variety of services including online classes, homework assignments, job searches, and e-mail.

Ernesto Rodriguez, Executive Director of Research and Development, stated that the workstations will be beneficial to many families in San Elizario who do not have a home computer. Additionally, the availability of high-speed internet at a location close to home will enable residents to complete many transactions and projects conveniently and on a timely basis. “We have already seen families take advantage of our computers to begin the process of electronically submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA),” Rodriguez added.

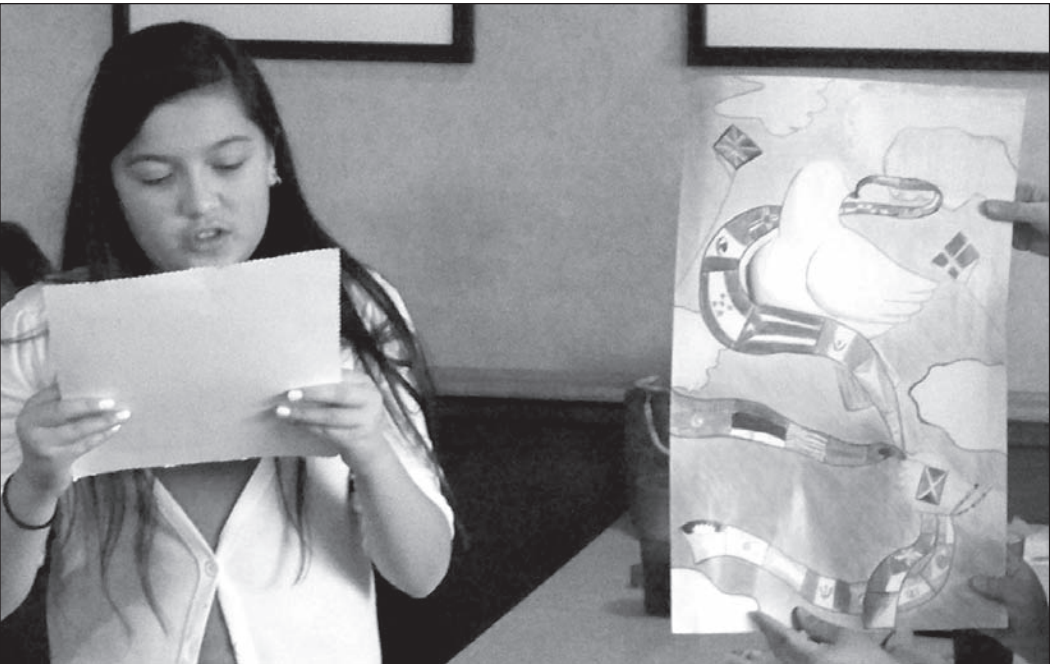
The computer workstations are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**LOG ON — Members of the San Eli community can now access a computer at San Elizario ISD’s Excell Academy Adult Learning Center. The workstation has the latest software, internet access and printer.**

Monday through Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Excell Academy Adult Learning Center located at 13680 Socorro Rd. For more information, please call (915) 872-3915.



## Horizon MS student wins \$50 bond for peace poster

Sixth grader Jessica Gonzalez of Horizon Middle School received an award certificate and a \$50 US Savings Bond for her Peace Poster. The contest is sponsored and judged by the Horizon City Lions Club each year. Gonzalez’ poster shows a dove in the sky holding a multitude of national flags in its beak. The dove symbolized peace and the flags all together symbolized unity in peace. The award ceremony was held Saturday, Jan. 23 at the Flying J off Horizon Blvd. at I-10.

— Wally Thompson

## Best

From Page 1

accountability test results.

The methodology is developed by School Evaluation Services, a K-12 education data research business, is based on the key principles that a great high school must serve all its students well, not just those who are college bound, and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show the school is successfully educating its student body. According to the methodology, a best high school is one that succeeds at the following: Attains performance levels that

exceed statistical expectations given the school’s relative level of student poverty, as measured by state accountability test scores for all the school’s students in the core subjects of reading and math. A best high school also achieves proficiency rates on state tests for their least advantaged student groups (e.g., black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students) that exceed state averages. Finally, a best high school prepares its students for college, as measured by student participation in and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. This is the third year that U.S. News & World Report releases “America’s Best High School” rankings.

“I think the secret to our success is our size. Yes, we are a small school. The advantage here is that every teacher is able to know every student and every student’s strengths and weaknesses. Teachers then work together to help students be successful,” said LaMarr Brack, an English teacher at Anthony High School.

In addition to earning the national distinction of being one of “Americas Best High Schools” from U.S. & World Report, Anthony High School also earned a “Recognized” distinction on the state accountability standard, met the federal standards of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and was able

to get off the Public Education Grant (PEG) list due to previous years of low TAKS results. Anthony High School was one of only two schools recognized in El Paso County by the Texas ACT Council to receive their “College Readiness Award” due to their significant increase within the ACT composite score.

“I think that we definitely needed to be recognized as one of the best schools in the nation. The teaching staff and administration are fully dedicated to serving the academic needs of the students and pushing them to succeed after high school by pursuing a higher education,” said Lourdes Reyes, a Social Studies teacher at Anthony High School.

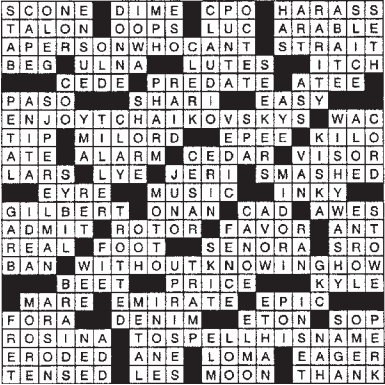
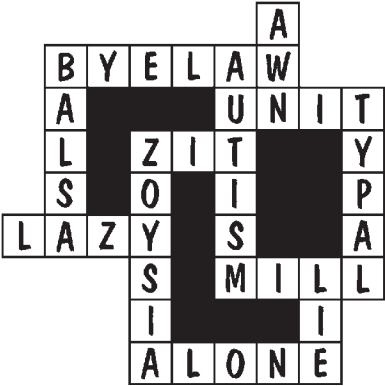
### San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of AEIS Meeting

The community is invited to attend a public hearing of the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) annual report to be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the San Elizario ISD Board Room, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

### Junta del AEIS

*Se invita a la comunidad entera a que asistan a una audiencia publica del reporte anual del Sistema Indicador de Excelencia Academica (AEIS) que se llevara acabo el miercoles 10 de febrero del 2010 a las 4:00 p.m. en la Sala de Juntas de San Elizario ISD, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.*

WTCC: 01/28/10



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2	9	1	5	4	7	6	8	3

## CryptoQuip Answer

For breakfast meals at the haunted house, they always make bacon and scream of wheat.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was American journalist, author and humorist Don Marquis who made the following sage observation: “Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.”
- A giant carnivorous plant has recently been discovered on a remote mountaintop in the Philippines. The second largest pitcher plant on record, nepenthes attenboroughii secretes a nectar that lures insects, frogs and even rats into its trap, where enzymes and acids break down the animal and digest it.

- There has been a lot of debate about whether older drivers should be required to pass driving tests in order to renew their licenses, with failing sight and diminished judgment being cited as reasons for the more stringent requirement. However, statistics tend to indicate that, as a group, teenagers are the more dangerous drivers, with their auto-accident death rate roughly triple that of the elderly.
- If you’re thinking about going back to school during this economic downturn, you might want to consider working toward a master’s degree in business administration. The average salary increase enjoyed by new MBA holders is a whopping 64 percent.

- The men’s formal attire known as the tuxedo takes its name from the Tuxedo Park Club in New York, where the clothing first became popular. The word itself is derived from the Algonquian word for wolf.

- The man who holds the world record for running 100 meters and 200 meters, and who has won three Olympic gold medals, is a Jamaican by the name of Usain Bolt. Yes, Bolt.
- The Zagat restaurant rating system recently conducted a survey of Americans’ tipping habits. The results? It seems that residents of Philadelphia are the most generous tippers in the nation, leaving an average of 19.6 percent. The average across the country is 19 percent.

Thought for the Day: “People who have no weaknesses are terrible; there is no way of taking advantage of them.”

— Anatole France



Briefs

From Page 1

150 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. Belmontes is wanted for trying to forcibly take his girlfriend from her



Julian Belmontes

mothers residence against her will then dragging the her sister with his vehicle as she was trying to stop him. He is wanted for Assault Causing Bodily Injury and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon (the car). The attack occurred on Jan. 19, 2010 at 2:00 a.m. in Westway. Belmontes forced his 17-year-old girlfriend, who is five months pregnant, into his car started to drive away. Her 16-year-old sister tried to stop Belmontes by reaching into the car and grabbing the steering wheel. She was drug about 400 feet while Belmontes swerved side-to-side eventually shaking her off of the car. Shortly after, Belmontes stopped the vehicle and released his girlfriend and sped off. Sheriff's Investigator's are asking anyone who has any information on the whereabouts of Belmontes to please 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.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

**DIAMONDS IN THEIR FUTURE —** Four Americas High School baseball payers have signed letters of intent to play college ball while continuing their education. They are, from left, Lance Gruber, Omar Garcia — with Trailblazer Head Coach Jesse Munoz — Kyle Bumpas, and Aaron Grabski.

Americas High seniors sign to play college baseball

By Danial R. Escobar  
Special to the Courier

Four standout athletes from Americas High School have committed to playing at the next level after graduation. In front of family and friends, seniors Kyle Bumpas, Lance Gruber, Omar Garcia and Aaron Grabski signed their letters of intent to play college baseball on January 15th. Bumpas, who was voted newcomer of the year as a freshman and has been named an all-district/all-city pitcher, will play with North Central Texas College in Gainesville, Texas. "I've always dreamed of this since I was a little kid, it's a good feeling," he said about signing to play in college. Gruber chose a four-year school to focus on his academics while playing baseball. The Trailblazer

first baseman and pitcher will attend New Mexico Highlands University, located in Las Vegas, New Mexico. "I chose the Highlands because they have a good medical program, and their baseball system is something I can grow in," Gruber said regarding his choice. Garcia and Grabski have committed to play locally for the El Paso Community College (EPCC) Tejanos. Garcia, who was named the first-team all-city shortstop his junior season, believes staying in El Paso will be the best way for him to start his college career. "I feel more comfortable staying home and playing in front of family and friends for the first two years," he said. Grabski, a towering 6'4 pitcher, looks forward to honing his skills at EPCC then transferring to a four-year school to continue his studies and baseball career. "I'd rather stay

with my family at this point; I look forward to having the hometown crowd support me on the field," he said about playing for the Tejanos. All of the athletes thank Trailblazer Head Coach Jesse Munoz for helping them develop their baseball skills and promoting their talents to college recruiters. Munoz says he hopes his younger players learn from the dedication of this year's seniors. "We are very proud of these student athletes," Munoz said. "They are perfect examples of what hard work will do and the importance of education. No college is going

to invest money in a player that doesn't do well in the classroom. If you work hard on the field and in the classroom, you will benefit somewhere down the line." With four players already committed to play college baseball, and potentially more to follow later in the year, the Trailblazers look forward to a strong season. "There is a lot of strong competition, but we will definitely be in the mix," Munoz concluded. The Trailblazers kick-off their season on Feb. 23rd with a home game against the Del Valle Conquistadors.

Canutillo Independent School District  
Notice of Public Hearing  
AEIS Report

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2008-2009 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report as part of a regular School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at the CISD Administrative Offices, 7965 Artcraft. The public is invited to attend. The AEIS report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Canutillo ISD campuses and central office. For more information, call 877-7482.

Junta Publica  
Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo  
Reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica"


El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica" (AEIS) del año escolar 2008-2009. El reporte será parte de la reunión regular de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el Martes, 9 de febrero 2010 a las 6:00 p.m. en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas localizado en 7965 Artcraft. Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte AEIS estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito y en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas. Para mayor información, favor de llamar al 877-7482.

WTCC: 01-28-10

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BASKETBALL




February 3rd @ 7:00 pm

**Men's vs. Houston**

Orange Out Night - Wear Orange to support your Miners on TV!

Game will show on CBS College Sports!



February 5th @ 7:00 pm

**Women's vs. SMU**

Pack the House Night - Pick up your free tickets at any Payless Shoe Store!



February 6th @ 8:00 pm

**Men's vs. Tulsa**

"Flair Hair" given to the first 5,000 fans! Game will be televised on



February 7th @ 12:00 pm

**Women's vs. Tulsa**

Orange Out Day - Wear Orange and get in Free!

Game will show on CBS College Sports!



Take a kid to a game day - Buy one adult ticket get a Youth ticket FREE!

FREE GIFT: Bring this ad to the marketing table behind section Y before halftime of any men's game for a FREE GIFT.



For more information and tickets please call UTEP at 747 - 5234



# Here a gun, there a gun, everywhere a gun, gun...

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

There’s no doubt that many fans are taking notice of sports’ growing number of gunslingers.

No, I’m not talking about the Peyton Mannings, Bret Favres, Drew Brees and Kurt Warners of the world.

I’m talking about the growing number of athletes who feel the need to carry a weapon with them whenever they leave the mansion.

Gun-related incidents among athletes, pro or otherwise, are reaching epidemic proportions.

The usual ingredients for an unfortunate incident are a stupid athlete, a weapon and some alcohol. Put those three together and you’ve got a front-page story in tomorrow’s newspaper.

The top explanation athlete’s give for toting weapons is that they don’t feel safe among the general public.

Well I don’t buy the notion that athletes feel they need a gun for their protection.

When’s the last time you heard of an athlete heading to a nightclub or a strip joint without an entourage the size of which rivals that of the president?

A multi-million dollar athlete can afford a bodyguard or two for the evening.

Heck, there are plenty of menacing-looking individuals who would do it for free just to have the opportunity to brag about hanging around with so-and-so.

You can hardly go a day without hearing about an athlete getting into some kind of gun trouble these days. These guys don’t seem to learn from the countless number of thugs that went before them.

Here are some examples of guys who think the expanding size of their wallet minimizes how much the law pertains to them.

In the most recent incident, Washington Wizards players Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton actually pulled guns on each other in the team’s locker room over a gambling dispute.

The Cleveland Cavaliers’ Delonte West was stopped for speeding on his motorcycle and police found that he was illegally carrying two pistols and a rifle on him.

Of course we all know about Plaxico Burris of the New York Giants who accidentally shot himself in the leg with a gun hidden in his sweatpants while at a nightclub. He also should have been charged with wearing sweatpants to a nightclub.

Notorious NBA thug Stephen Jackson, who is infamous for starting that legendary brawl with the fans in Detroit, once fired five shots from a 9-mm pistol outside a strip club.

Troubled NBA player Lonny Baxter was arrested by secret service agents after firing shots in the air just blocks from the White House.

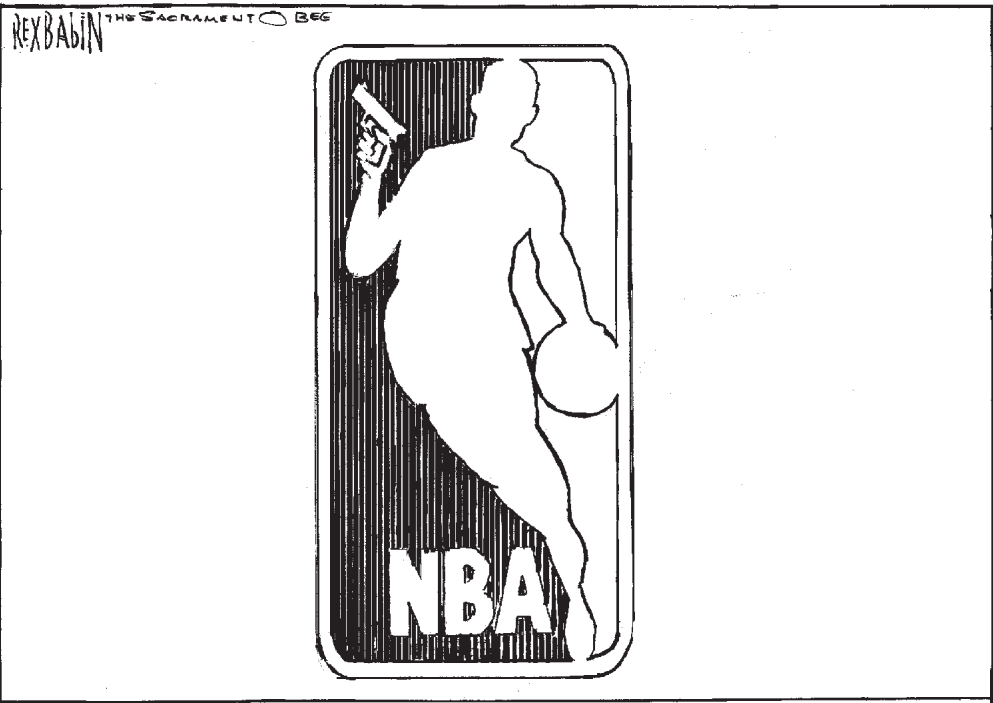
Former New Jersey Net Jayson Williams accidentally shot and killed his limousine driver in his home while showing off his weapon.

The NBA’s Zach Randolph, who changes teams almost every year, was arrested after police found marijuana and loaded guns in his car.

Former Boston Celtics’ player Sebastian Telfair was arrested after police found a loaded .45-caliber gun in his car.

Allen Iverson was also once arrested on gun possession charges.

Former Chicago Bulls’ superstar Scottie Pippen was arrested for illegally carrying a



.380-caliber pistol.

Damien Robinson of the New York Jets was arrested for having an semiautomatic rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition in his car as his drove into Giants Stadium. Astonishingly, he was allowed to play the game and was arraigned afterward.

Former Dodger and Yankee Steve Howe was arrested for carrying a loaded .357 magnum in his bag at the airport.

Jose Canseco was stopped by police for going 120 mph. They found a semiautomatic pistol in his car.

Fred Lane of the Carolina Panthers was arrested for carrying rifle in car. He was later killed by his wife, who shot him with his own 12-gauge shotgun.

Former Atlanta Falcons star Andre Rison

fired a pistol at two guys who tried to break up a fight between himself and his girlfriend.

Then there was the sad case of former Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair, who was arrested for DWI while having a loaded .40 caliber gun on him. McNair was later shot to death by his girlfriend.

This, of course, is just a small sampling of pro athletes who have a tragic love affair with guns.

Is it a desperate fear for their lives? Is it a bad-boy image they are trying to portray? Or is it just a blatant disrespect for the law because the money gives them a feeling of entitlement?

Who knows?

But it’s obvious that there are way too many underdeveloped minds out there walking the streets with overdeveloped egos.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

# It’s not OK to lose

Every so often I hear sports theory that makes me want to bash my head against a brick wall. Like the other day, when my friend Will offered this game summary of the No. 1 ranked Kansas Jayhawks’ loss to Tennessee:

“Well, you don’t want to go wire to wire as the No. 1 in the NCAA anyway.”

That’s one of those statements that make you furrow your brow and blink. So, brow furrowed, I blinked, took a sip of my beer, turned to him and asked, “Really? Why not?”

Without taking his eyes off the bar’s TV he just kind of shrugged

and mumbled something incoherent, then laughed. He knew that there was no good reason to say such a thing, and I was more than happy to call him on it. In fact, I’m going to start calling out everybody who says stupid things about winning and losing. It’s my new mission.

Yes, we all know there is such a thing as learning from your failures. In order to win, you must know how to lose. That’s part of life and sport imitates life, blah blah blah. I’m calling this B.S. because sport very rarely imitates our lives. When was the last time you ran a four-minute mile? When was the last time

you got flattened by a 300-pound guy, jumped up and sipped a little Gatorade moments later? When you go into your office, are there 70,000 screaming fans awaiting you?

A few weeks ago, the Indianapolis Colt’s head coach told America that he didn’t feel the need to go undefeated in the regular season because his goal was to win the Super Bowl. Now, I know that Jim Caldwell is a far superior football mind than I am and that he may very well lead the Colts to several championships before he retires. But he’s going to have to explain to me why the Colts shouldn’t win every single one of their games. Show me the football player who says it’s OK to lose, that it somehow gives them an advantage because they’re “resting.” The entire concept is ridiculous. Or maybe not... maybe

it’s genius. I should have pulled that line of reason in my first job out of college.

“Mark, did you close that sale?”

“No, boss, sorry.”

“What happened?”

“It was a small account, so I decided to sleep in that morning and rest because next week I’m going to close, like, the entire Dow Industrial.”

The boss nods and smiles, then

Molly Ringwald falls in love with me, I kick my heels together and head home as Simple Minds plays in the background.

Enough already with the “good loss” theory... just give me a winner, would ya?

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

## Classified Ads

**LEGALS**

**Town of Horizon City**

**Invitation to Bid:**

**Bid Number:**  
2010-001

**Date Issued:**  
January 20, 2010

**Bid Opening Date:**  
February 5, 2009

The Town of Horizon City is soliciting proposals for the Electrical System of the City's

Golden Eagle Park project. Proposals will be received at Horizon City Town Hall, City Clerk's office, 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX 79928 until 12 p.m. February 5, 2010. Bids will be opened on February 5, 2010 at 2 p.m. and only names of the proposers will be read out loud at Horizon City Town Hall. Detailed specifications and proposal packages are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For additional information please call our administration office at (915) 852-1046.

Elvia Schuller Administrative Aide to the Mayor for Karen Ellefson City Clerk Town of Horizon City

WTCC: 01/21/10  
01/28/10

**DRIVERS WANTED**

**Russell Transport**

Now Hiring OTR Drivers

Team and Solo Runs

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IN 3 to 4 DAYS.

12365 Pine Springs

**915-542-1495**

**garage, laundry rm, tile floors, new roof. 3 yr old white kitchen appliances included. 220 Tierra Linda. \$78,500. Sorry, I don't speak Spanish. 227-2131.**

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

**SELF-HELP**

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

**STORAGE**

**National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS**

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**HOMES**

**FOR SALE by owner. 3br/2bth,**



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



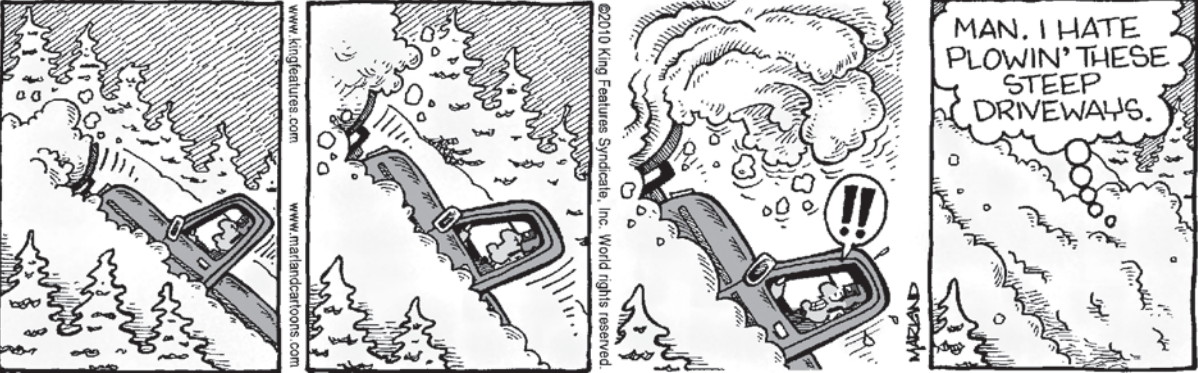
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have had acid reflux for quite some time, and doctors have prescribed different medicines, the last being omeprazole. Medicines were not relieving the burning pain. The best advice came from an online message board that said to “sleep on your left side.” Figuring it wouldn’t hurt to try this method, I began sleeping on my left side. Once my body learned to stay in that position, the pain does not bother me now at all at night. Why don’t doctors share such simple methods for relief rather than prescribing medications? Please pass this information on to others. — N.S.

Chewing gum stimulates saliva production, and saliva is a natural antacid. Don’t wear tight garments or tight belts, both of which promote acid reflux. I managed to get through this answer without mentioning a single medicine, not even Tums. The booklet on GERD — heartburn — provides an insight into this common malady and its treatment. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue — No. 501W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient’s printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: There seems to be a vaccine for everything except strep throat. My kids get it at the drop of a hat. Their pediatrician claims that tonsillectomies don’t work. Is there a possibility of a vaccine? — K.T.

There is a possibility of a strep vaccine. Doctors currently are working on it. Is the doctor sure that these repeated sore throats are strep throats? The only definite proof is a culture of the throat or specific tests for the strep germ. Most sore throats are viral-caused. If a child has severe and frequent strep throats, removing the tonsils lessens the number of infections. “Frequent” means seven or more infections in one year or five or more in the preceding two years.

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.

Super Crossword

- MUSIC STAND ACROSS**

1 Teatime treat

6 Thin coin

10 Nav. rank

13 Bother

19 Hook on a hawk

20 Klutz’s cry

21 Jean- \_ Godard

22 Fit for farming

23 Start of a definition of a perfectionist

26 Channel

27 Plead

28 Skeleton part

29 Elizabethan instruments

31 Yen

32 Relinquish

33 Occur earlier

35 To \_ (perfectly)

36 El \_ , TX

39 Puppeteer Lewis

40 TV’s “ \_ Street”

42 Part 2 of definition

48 WWII abbr.

51 Palm oil?

52 Aristocratic address

53 Duel tool

54 Metric measure

55 Relished a roast

56 Dismay

57 Chest material

59 Sun screen

60 Ulrich of Metallica

62 Caustic stuff

63 Ryan of “Boston
- Public”

64 Broke to smithereens

66 Thornfield

governess

68 Part 3 of definition

69 Black

70 Sullivan’s partner

73 \_ even keel

74 Heel

76 Impresses immensely

79 Confess

80 Helicopter part

82 Party present

84 Picnic pest

85 Authentic

86 Anapest, for one

87 Spanish title

88 Broadway letters

89 Prohibit

90 Part 4 of definition

94 Borscht ingredient

95 Diva Leontyne

96 Petty or Chandler

97 Stallion’s sweetie

99 Mideastern kingdom

102 “The Ramayana,” e.g.

105 \_ song (cheaply)

106 Casual cloth

107 School founded in 1440

108 Absorb, with “up”

111 “The Barber of Seville” heroine

114 End of definition
- 118 Carved a canyon

119 Sue \_ Langdon

120 \_ Linda, CA

121 Avid

122 Became rigid

123 Guitarist Paul

124 “ \_ River” (‘61 hit)

125 Be grateful

**DOWN**

1 Use a dirk

2 Drac’s wrap

3 Couturier Cassini

4 Negative

correlative

5 Follow

6 Metaphysical poet

7 Nebraska

neighbor

8 Speedometer abbr.

9 “ \_ Beso” (‘62 hit)

10 Pianist Arrau

11 \_ del Este

12 Mid-size band

13 Contains

14 \_ deco

15 One in a million

16 Diminish

17 Pizza serving

18 Son of Adam

24 Time-honored

25 Office worker

30 “Georgy Girl” group

32 Pigeon English?

33 Med. professional

34 Unwelcome visit?
- 35 Donkey

36 Pansy part

37 “West Side Story” role

38 “The New Yorker” humorist

39 Where to find a plover

41 Positive vote

43 Singer Sumac

44 Steering device

45 Potter’s need

46 Ancient Sanskrit

47 Mineral spring

48 Indecisive

49 Burn remedy

50 Firewood measure

54 One of the Aleutians

57 Chavez or Romero

58 “ \_ go bragh!”

59 Rocker Morrison

61 Astrologer Leek

63 Mrs. Jupiter

65 Skater Ito

67 Postal abbr.

68 Club creed

70 Apparel

71 Concept

72 Pulled a sulky

74 Hiawatha’s transport

75 Declare

77 Join up

78 Abolitionist author

81 Aah’s partner

82 Use 53 Across
- 83 Hurried

86 “Pshaw!”

87 Vaudeville bit

90 Elfin

91 Revolts

92 Freddie the Freeloader, e.g.

93 Father Brown monogram

94 Pigtails

97 Boxer Archie

98 Fiery felony

100 Copper or cobalt

101 \_ fell swoop

102 Patriot Allen

103 Luau dish

104 Map feature

105 Worry

107 Admiral Zumwalt

108 Adventure story

109 Portent

110 Company car, e.g.

112 Born

113 Slap on

115 Shady character?

116 Leeds lavatory

117 Uh-uh

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	
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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

*Q: When a Social Security beneficiary dies, does the funeral home notify Social Security or is the death notification up to the family?*

A: Many funeral directors voluntarily provide death information directly to Social Security. But, family members of a deceased individual still should notify Social Security. For information on what action to take when a beneficiary dies, see our online publication, What To Do When A Beneficiary Dies, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/deathbenefits.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/deathbenefits.htm).

*Q: I run a small business and I plan to hire a few employees.*

*How can I verify that the Social Security card is valid?*

A: There are more than 50 different versions of the Social Security card, all of which are valid. And, until 1976, original cards and replacement cards were different. Although there are many versions of the card in circulation, all prior versions of the card are valid. In any case, it is the Social Security number that is important. The best way for employers to verify a name and Social Security number is to use the free Social Security Number Verification Service (SSNVS). Once an employer registers for Business Services Online (BSO) at [www.socialsecurity.gov/bso](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/bso) the employer can start using SSNVS. SSNVS allows them to quickly verify whether a person's name and number match Social Security's records. You can also use BSO's new Telephone Number Employment Verification System (TNEV) to verify numbers at any time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov/bso](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/bso).

*Q: How do I apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits?*

A: The best first step is to start at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability). There, you can take a look at the Disability Starter Kits. The kits answer common questions about applying for benefits and worksheets will help you gather the information you need. You also can check out the online Adult Disability Report at [www.socialsecurity.gov/adulthooddisabilityreport](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/adulthooddisabilityreport). At the end of the report, we will ask you to sign a form that gives your doctor permission to send us information about your disability. We need this information so we can make a decision on your claim. Finally, complete your application for SSI disability benefits by calling our toll free number (1-800-772-1213) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. You may choose to apply for benefits either by phone or

in person at a local Social Security office. One of our representatives will help you apply. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. You also may visit an office without making an appointment, but your wait to speak to a representative will be longer.

*For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.*

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: S equals U

ZJQ UQHRIZRPD OHRBP RD

DGH GRSYDHC GJSPH, DGHK

RBMRKP ORIH UREJY RYC

PEQHRO JZ MGRD.

Answer Page 4

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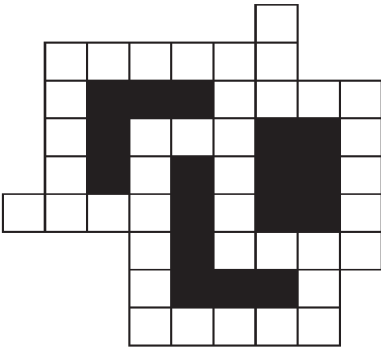
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- ♥ ELI
- MUSTIA
- NOLEA
- TUNI
- WEABLY
- TZI
- LMLI
- ♥ SABAL
- ♥ NWA
- ASIOZY
- ♥ PLAYT
- ZYAL



Answer Page 4

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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