



NEWSBRIEFS

Computer class

The Community Learning Center in Socorro (313 S. Rio Vista Rd.) is offering computer classes. The computer lab has 24 laptops that are open to the community. The computer class and instructor are available to the community from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Call 937-1700 for more information or to sign up.

— Ernie Salcedo

Registration

Clint Independent School District will conduct registration for students entering Pre-Kinder and Kindergarten in the Fall of 2010 from Mar. 1 to Mar. 12 and from Mar. 22 to Mar. 31 from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at elementary campuses in the District. Parents need to bring a drivers license or picture ID, utility bill (gas, water, or electric), the child's birth certificate, immunization/shot record and Social Security Card (optional).

— Laura Cade

Benefits workshop

Social Security Staff with support from Senior Adult Program will hold workshops on Mar. 13, 2010 at EPCC Administrative Service Center, 9050 Viscount, Building B, Room 320, El Paso, Texas 79925. There will be two sessions on both dates — in English from 10:00 a.m. to noon and in Spanish from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The workshops are free and open to general public. Highlights include:

- An in-depth, step-by-step explanation on how to navigate Social Security Website.
- Save A Trip — Learn how to find answers to your questions directly from your personal computer.
- Learn how to apply for benefits, change an address, direct deposit, how to obtain a benefit letter or how to obtain SSA forms and much more.
- If you are within 3 months from retirement or if you are unable to work due to a disability, SSA Staff will be on hand to assist you in getting started.
- Staff will also assist you in submitting changes to your current benefits portfolio.

There are limited computers on hand, so please call ahead for registration. For more information or for registration, call Ray Vigil at 866-563-9310 ext. 27404.

Healthcare ESL class

Socorro ISD - Community Education will be starting an ESL 6-week course on April 5th. People interested in the health field that need help learning English can benefit from this course. The course concentrates on vocabulary and lessons

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Canutillo blood drive successful

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Almost thirty donors responded to Bill Childress Elementary School's (BCE) Annual Blood Drive, sponsored by the Mother/Daughter (M/D) and Father/Son (F/S) program.

Gabriela Diaz, Mother/Daughter coordinator, and Jose Medel, Father/Son coordinator, organized the Blood Drive as a community service project. The project helped thirty students who participate in the M/D and F/S program to develop leadership skills and the importance of helping others.

"We are very thankful to those individuals who donated; parents, community members, volunteers, teachers and staff, who all showed up to help. This very important project not only teaches our students, but it also helps the Canutillo community by increasing the blood supply available through United Blood Services," said Diaz.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Gloria Urueta, Bill Childress Elementary School parent volunteer smiles as she donates a pint of her blood during the BCE Annual Blood Drive.



— Photo by Jamie Henneman

INSTILLING CHARACTER: Kung Fu San Soo instructors Miguel Ramos (far left) and Alex Ramos (far right) encourage students at the Kung Fu San Soo school to be a good student both in school and in life.

Martial arts help create disciplined lives

Kung Fu San Soo celebrates 5 year anniversary

By Jamie Henneman
Special to the Courier

A small Kung Fu studio in Horizon City is celebrating a benchmark event this year as interest in their school continues to grow. For the last five years the Kung Fu San Soo school run by Miguel and Alex Ramos has continued to attract students of varied ages to learn this time-honored Chinese tradition.

But perhaps the draw for the 200 plus students now involved in Kung Fu San Soo is more than learning the rapid, effective ways to

take down an assailant. It also seems to be the way the school reaches out to the community.

Kung Fu San Soo has been involved in a variety of pro-community activities including participating in a Stop Smoking and Tobacco Use program, giving self-defense classes for teachers at local school districts and demonstrations for elementary students.

The motivation behind the school's involvement is evident when you ask Miguel Ramos what students learn at Kung Fu San Soo.

"We want to teach especially our younger students the discipline they need to do well in school, to do well at home and how to give back to their community. We are interested not only in their skills

See DISCIPLINE, Page 2

*Flattery looks like friendship —
just like a wolf looks like a dog!*
— Quips & Quotes

View from here

By Michael Schartz

Art imitating life – or vice versa?

When a company devotes millions of dollars to the production and airing of a Super Bowl ad, they are at the mercy of several factors — one of those being an exciting game if you happen to have a spot airing in the fourth quarter.

We all know that the game itself came down to a late interception returned for a touchdown to secure the New Orleans Saints’ victory; fortunately for Audi this occurred after their commercial aired. For all the pregame talk about the pro-life ad sponsored by Focus on the Family and featuring the mother of Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow, the “green police” commercial sponsored by Audi may have the most lasting impact.

The ad opens with an innocuous transaction at a grocery store where the cashier cheerfully asks, “Will that be paper or plastic?” When the hapless customer answers “plastic” he’s rudely greeted by an officer from the “green police” who advises the customer, “you picked the wrong day to mess with the ecosystem, plastic boy!” From there, numerous people run afoul of the law for having batteries in the trash, throwing away an orange rind (a “compost infraction”), possession of incandescent light bulbs and plastic water bottles, and having the temperature of their hot tub too high. The only escapee is the one driving the sponsor’s diesel-powered car at the “eco checkpoint.” Even the classic rock band Cheap Trick redid their 1970’s song “Dream Police” into “Green Police” for the spot.

Great humor works because it has an element of truth in it, and this commercial reflects a number of moves already made by government.

Indeed, traditional incandescent light bulbs will be going away after next year due to government edict and several regions of the globe ban the use of plastic grocery bags. Nanny staters constantly proclaim society needs to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

So far, though, America hasn’t gotten to the point where we have the government snooping through our garbage for contraband non-recyclable material or uniformed officers breaking into our backyards to check the temperature of the hot tub. But the spot is believable because we now can’t dismiss the possibility given the cap and trade legislation slowly seeping its way through Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency’s willingness to take advantage of a 2007 Supreme Court ruling allowing them to regulate carbon dioxide to promulgate new restrictions on commerce and daily life, all in the name of combating so-called manmade climate change.

It’s this climate fear that Audi plays to with their ad, on both sides. For those who believe they should do more to save the planet, the car is sold as an eco-friendly mode of transportation. On the other hand, those who are skeptical about our impact on the climate but believe the way of the future may well be reflected in the commercial might be persuaded to buy one simply to be left alone.

Obviously Audi is attempting to sell cars with this Super Bowl ad just as other sponsors pushed online services, beer, or snack food. While the vast majority of these ads were written and produced to be humorous in some sly way or another, the Audi spot will have a longer-lasting impact for its product because this humor made the consumer think.

Many found it funny only because it stretched what we believe into something of a tall tale. It’s when the tall tale becomes reality that the spot loses its humor, and in the coming decade we may see the Audi ad as prophetic of how society evolved.

Michael Swartz, an architect and writer who lives in rural Maryland, is a Liberty Features Syndicated writer.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Med center report

The Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in August, Ga., has a lot going for it: It’s affiliated with the Medical College of Georgia and 44 other academic institutions. It’s providing training for students of audiology, pharmacy, radiology and more, and had 61 projects going in the research program last year, including spinal-cord research.

Sounds like a good place. How, then, did it get nailed in so many monitoring categories when the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General went to take a look?

Here’s what the inspectors found:

- The locked mental-healthward environment was unsafe: blind spots in the dayrooms, call-bell cords were not the breakaway type, and more. Thirty percent of patients had inconsistencies in their medication instructions and discharge summaries.
- There was no recordkeeping for CPR certifications for non-physician staff.
- Patient privacy: Computers were left unattended while patient information was visible on the monitor. Twenty percent of contracted nurses hadn’t received privacy training.
- Physician competence evaluation: In a random sampling of eight doctor files, five did not have the required information before the doctors were recertified.
- Pain medication: The rules state that pain control effectiveness will be documented within four hours. Only 36 percent of the doses of pain medication had been documented.
- MRI: Four out of five patients hadn’t signed consent forms for the contrast media. Some of the MRI staff had no documentation about receiving safety education.

Granted, some of these could come under the category of “bookkeeping,” but it does seem to indicate a feeling of complacency in the staff.

They’ll be monitored by the OIG until the fixes are made.

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. (c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

Discipline

From Page 1

in Kung Fu but in changing their lives,” said school founder Miguel Ramos. “When you can get that kind of good energy going in these kids, it can spread like wildfire.”

The moves learned in Kung Fu class also have a different focus than just being able to “take someone down.”

“This kind of martial arts training is useful for just about everyone because it teaches you how to defend yourself and how to get out of a bad situation without being hurt,” said Miguel.”This is not about learning how to beat someone up.”

History

Kung Fu San Soo in Horizon was started by the Ramos brothers — both El Paso natives — in 2005 at the encouragement of some community members who wanted a Kung Fu program in Horizon City. Miguel, who had experience in Kung Fu instructing as well as karate, boxing and wrestling, took on the challenge. Alex, who was working as a Sheriff’s Deputy at the time, also helped out on a part-time basis.

“I fell in love with Kung Fu right away because it is a close contact sport that empowers people as they learn to defend themselves,” said Miguel. “And it also encourages personal discipline.”

To help students grow in their personal lives, the school submits a “promotion form” to parents to ensure that the students are doing well in school and at home before they can be eligible to graduate to a new level of Kung Fu, thereby winning a vaunted change in belt color.

Miguel also regularly recruits more advanced students to act as junior instructors so they can refine their skills while taking on a leadership role.

“For our kids, we want them to be comfortable getting up in front of people and spending time as a junior instructor allows them to do that while helping their classmates,” Miguel noted. “For adult students it gives them a chance to act as a mentor.”

Alex Ramos, who now works as a full-time instructor at the school, said that he views Kung Fu San Soo as a place where kids can get equipped to get off to a good start.

“We do this because we never know who we might be teaching — it could be the next leader in Kung Fu or someone who goes on to do something great in another area,” said Alex. “It’s neat to think that the help that our students get here could make a huge impact in their lives and when they go and do something great we can say we were a part of that.”

Growth

Kung Fu San Soo has continued to grow since their start five years ago and the Ramoses hope to move to a bigger location in the near future. They currently offer Kung Fu classes six days a week for beginner to advanced students. They also offer personal training and cardio training. For more information, call 422-2495.

1973

37

Years

2010

WEST TEXAS COUNTY

COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CAÑUELLA, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABOS, SAN ELIZABAR AND TORNILLO

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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Companies skirt recalls for dollars

Hola mi Gente. Many of you are very aware of the recall by Toyota on their best selling vehicles. The highest offices of the corporation were aware of the problem but did nothing about it for years. In fact, a document has been made public in which Toyota executives bragged about how much money they saved by not taking action.

This situation reminds me of the Firestone mess several years ago. Firestone manufactured tires that were installed in many new sport utility vehicles (SUV's). It turned out that those tires were coming apart at high speeds resulting in many injuries and deaths. Firestone had documents in its files that confirmed awareness by high level executives about the problem. Eventually, Firestone did a voluntary recall.

Toyota and Firestone to sell quality and safe products. Now, as shown by Toyota's own documents, it is more profitable to sit on unsafe vehicles than to do what is in the best interest of its customers: issue a recall and remedy a defect.

The legislation that changed the tort law caused some members to argue passionately either for or against; in some cases the arguments were very ugly. Many of my colleagues, in their privileged speeches against the bill, warned that capping jury awards would be harmful to the general public.

Representative Jim Dunnam made the following comments on the House floor against the bill: "This bill is in place because people of power fear our juries." The hammer over the head of Toyota was eliminated by the cap on jury awards.

In researching this issue, I found that awards relating to similar Firestone tire rollover accidents totaled \$453.4 million (those that were openly published, many others were confidential). Under the 2003 law passed in Texas, there would be a cap on damages up to \$750,000.

Now if you do the math, it would take over 600 individual awards capped at \$750,000 to reach the amount that juries awarded in just a few cases. It would be easy for a corporation to budget 600 accidents in lieu of expending money and prestige on a recall.

The bill was touted as being good for Texas business. I am afraid that it was so at the expense of consumers. I am glad that my vote was against the bill and hope that the issue is once again considered in a future legislative session, Chente por la gente.

San Eli students study environment with hands on science

By Cynthia P. Marantes
Special to the Courier

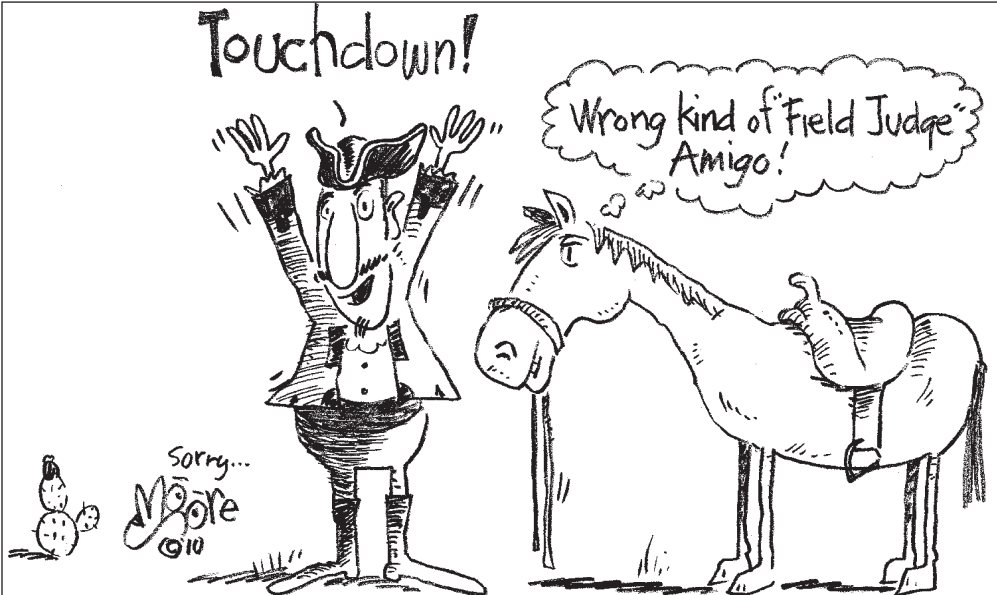
SAN ELIZARIO — Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science class have become young researchers experiencing a more dynamic and hands-on style of learning science concepts. Recently, the 18 students comprising the inaugural class of this new AP course held presentations of their first major projects during the campuses two lunch periods. They showcased the results of almost two months of data collection on different projects related to the effects of weather.

According to teacher Perla Andujo, teams consisting of four students were responsible for designing a research project with a weather related topic, choosing their methods, locations, testing procedures and equipment. The brand new course, according to Andujo,

allows students the opportunity to study nature first-hand and learn how to apply science to real-world environmental problems. It also engages students by extending the learning process beyond the classroom and incorporating other subjects such as politics and geography.

For junior Marisol Garcia, the AP Environmental Science course has introduced her to interesting lessons and helped her develop skills that will be beneficial in the future when she pursues a degree in architectural engineering. Her team conducted an experiment on how proximity affects humidity comparing data collected near the Licon Dairy and the school pond. "The class is different and really hands on. I recommend it for any other student thinking about a science major. It never gets boring and there is

See SCIENCE, Page 4



Moore Texas by Roger Moore **In Spanish Texas a character of interest was the traveling detective called El Juez De Campo which in English means " Field Judge ". Sorry for the horrible play on words...I just had to do it.**

Science

From Page 3

always something to learn,” Marisol said.

The student project demonstrations held on February 12 were also meant to spark curiosity among prospective students since Andujo hopes to recruit a larger co-hort for next year’s class. The new AP Environmental Science course is another opportunity for students to become involved on campus and participate in other activities besides what is traditionally available to them. “Here is another way for students to shine as well,” Andujo added.

To register for the AP course students must be juniors or seniors and have to complete algebra II, chemistry, and biology. The course not only helps students gain laboratory experience and team working skills but also prepares them to be able to test for college credit.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

STEP BY STEP — San Eli students, from left, Marilyn Gomez, Juan Flores and Lucia Noe explain their science project to other high school students during lunchtime in the school’s cafeteria.

Fabens Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended August 31, 2009

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	ESEA I, AARRA Improving Basic Program	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:						
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,483,800	\$ —	\$ 280,774	\$ 54,330	\$ 20,783	\$ 1,839,687
5800 State Program Revenues	17,045,188	—	1,518,907	—	757,130	19,321,225
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,462,589	358,067	—	—	3,339,276	5,159,932
5020 Total Revenues	19,991,577	358,067	1,799,681	54,330	4,117,189	26,320,844
EXPENDITURES:						
Current:						
0011 Instruction	11,226,321	326,894	—	—	3,145,391	14,698,606
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	300,110	—	—	—	30,632	330,742
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	72,365	31,173	—	—	226,770	330,308
0021 Instructional Leadership	277,918	—	—	—	380,018	657,936
0023 School Leadership	1,158,257	—	—	—	127,192	1,285,449
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	457,200	—	—	—	95,682	552,882
0032 Social Work Services	50,555	—	—	—	120,575	171,130
0033 Health Services	320,733	—	—	—	7,226	327,959
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	309,096	—	—	—	761	309,857
0035 Food Services	1,314,220	—	—	—	21,957	1,336,177
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	846,078	—	—	—	2,110	848,188
0041 General Administration	905,569	—	—	—	3,545	909,114
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	2,569,107	—	—	—	4,683	2,573,790
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	243,492	—	—	—	548	244,040
0053 Data Processing Services	189,500	—	—	—	761	190,261
0061 Community Services	61,877	—	—	—	19,311	81,188
Debt Service:						
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	—	—	600,000	—	—	600,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	—	—	1,133,440	—	—	1,133,440
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	—	600	81,350	—	81,950
Capital Outlay:						
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	88,132	—	—	4,083,463	—	4,171,595
Intergovernmental:						
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	23,538	—	—	—	—	23,538
6030 Total Expenditures	20,414,068	358,067	1,734,040	4,164,813	4,187,162	30,858,150
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(422,491)	—	65,641	(4,110,483)	(69,973)	(4,537,306)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):						
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	—	—	10,000,000	—	10,000,000
7915 Tranfers In	—	—	—	—	86,440	86,440
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	—	—	—	(157,566)	—	(157,566)
8911 Tranfers Out (Use)	(86,440)	—	—	—	—	(86,440)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(86,440)	—	—	9,842,434	86,440	9,842,434
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(508,931)	—	65,641	5,731,951	16,467	5,305,128
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	5,138,894	—	37,073	(1,344,909)	18,684	3,849,742
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 4,629,963	\$ —	\$ 102,714	\$ 4,387,042	\$ 35,151	\$ 9,154,870

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was American sports writer Art Spander who made the following sage observation: “The great thing about democracy is that it gives every voter a chance to do something stupid.”

• With only two known to exist, the rarest U.S. postage stamp is the 1-cent 1868 Benjamin Franklin Z-Grill, so called because of the shape that was impressed into the stamp. One of the Z-Grills is in the collection of the New York Public Library, and the other was sold in 1998 for \$935,000. That’s not the end of the story, though; in October of 2005, the same stamp was traded for a block of stamps valued at \$3 million.

• The next time you’re eating an Oreo cookie, consider this: It takes 90 minutes to make each cookie, and each one has precisely 90 ridges on the rim.

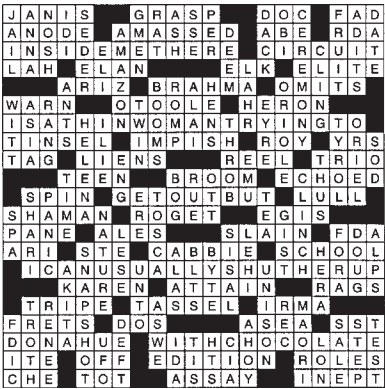
• Hindus do not eat eggs, believing them to be a valuable source of life.

• It may be hard to believe, but there is an official competition to see who can sit in a sauna for the longest period of time. The World Sauna Championships have taken place in Heinola, Finland, annually since 1999. The starting temperature is a sweltering 110 degrees Celsius (230 F), and a liter of water is poured on the stove every 30 seconds. The winner is the last person who is able to leave the sauna without assistance. Competitors participate at their own risk, and they are required to sign a waiver agreeing not to take legal action against the event organizers.

The word hippopotamus comes from the Greek for “river horse.”

Thought for the Day: “The only really good place to buy lumber is at a store where the lumber has already been cut and attached together in the form of furniture, finished, and put inside boxes.” — Dave Barry

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To Advertise Call 852-3235

New Canutillo ISD superintendent makes the rounds

By Patricia Tidwell
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Dr. Damon Murphy began his first day on the job as Superintendent for the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) by visiting all nine campuses within the district. He cruised comfortably among classrooms taking the opportunity to chat up with teachers and students. At every campus, Murphy sat down with principals to get a better understanding of the individual needs at each school.

“I’m thrilled to have opportunity to work in the CISD community. It’s a deep honor, and I’m humbled by the trust that has been placed in me,” said Murphy. “I pledge to do my best in protecting the trust that has been given to me,” he added.

To that end Murphy also wants to meet with parents, students and community leaders. He will hold two “meet and greets” in March. The first is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Mar. 4 at Bill Childress Elementary (7700 Cap Carter Rd.) in the Cafetorium. A second meeting will be held 6 p.m. on Mar. 11 at Canutillo High

School (6675 South Desert Blvd.) in the Band Room.

Currently CISD has a \$46 million dollar budget and nearly 6,000 students in the growing district.

Murphy has hit the ground running explaining — during an afternoon news conference at Alderete Middle School — the three main areas that are his initial strategic focus.

“We need to ramp up an effort to get to recognized status, and set the path towards higher academic achievement at all levels; we need financial viability and sustainability; and lastly we need to boost community and parental involvement and build on that partnership to support the direction and vision of the district over the next five years,” said Dr. Murphy.

One of his first initiatives is organizing a stakeholders committee to look at finding efficiencies in the district to determine where monies can be repurposed toward more effective usage. C-SCOPE will be another priority — he wants to ensure that as the district continues its implementation of the new curriculum, that it also fits with the community’s needs and standards.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

MEETING THE MASSES — Superintendent Damon Murphy stopped for a photo with Canutillo Elementary School fifth grade students, from left, Crystal Aguilar (Student Council Historian), Vanessa Gaytan (Student Council Parliamentarian), Logan Zelenak (Student Council President) and Kayley Castillo (Student Council VP). Damon made the rounds to all nine CISD campuses to meet with administrators, teachers and students.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. is soliciting bids for the manual application of pink bollworm pheromone ropes. Ropes will be tied to cotton plants at an approximate rate of 200 ropes per acre at certain stages of growth. A minimum of 10-15 people over a two to four-week period will be needed for this activity. Applications of ropes in the El Paso and Trans Pecos areas will begin in late May or early June. Bidders must furnish the Foundation, **Workers Compensation** coverage prior to contract approval. Bids will be accepted through March 1, 2010. For more information and detailed instructions, please contact the local Foundation office at (877) 765-2139, or the Foundation Headquarters office at (800) 687-1212 Ext. 3124.

WTCC: 02-18-10

Rio Grande Council of Governments

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town of Anthony Floodplains and Wetlands

Notice of Explanation

The Town of Anthony, Texas, will undertake a Water System Improvements project funded by the Texas CDBG Program and located at Well

1, Well 2, Well 3, the standpipe tank, the elevated storage tank and the ground storage tank. Some of the project sites are within the 100-year floodplain. The Town of Anthony considered relocating or terminating the project; however, relocation would exceed available program funding and termination would result in continued unsafe/unsanitary conditions. In the Town’s judgment Executive Orders 11988/11990 have been considered in proceeding with this project to improve existing facilities. Flood maps and project information may be reviewed at Town Hall. Public comment will be accepted until March 4, 2010, at the Town of Anthony, PO Box 1269, Anthony, TX, 79821 during regular business hours.

WTCC: 02-18-10

Rio Grande Council of Governments

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Rio Grande Council of Governments, on behalf of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group, is seeking nominations to fill twenty-two (22) positions on the Planning Group representing the following interest groups: Public (3); Counties (2); Municipalities (3); Agriculture (2); Environmental (1); Small Business

(1); Water Districts (2); Water Utilities (1); Groundwater Conservation Districts (2); Travel & Tourism (1); Economic Development (1); Building & Real Estate (1) and Legislative Representatives (2). Nominees must submit a brief resume summarizing their experience, represent the interest group for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by the Bylaws of the Far West Texas WPG. Written nominations (including a resume) must be filed with the Rio Grande Council of Governments at the address below on or before April 23, 2010.

To file nominations or for further information, contact:

Ms. Korina Navarro
Rio Grande Council of Governments
1100 North Stanton,
Suite 610
El Paso, Texas
79902

Ph: 915-533-0998
ext. 138

Fax: 915-356-1697

e-mail:
korinan@riocog.org

WTCC: 02-25-10

Far West Texas Water Planning Group

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Far West

Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the initially prepared regional water plan for Region E. Region E includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster and Terrell.

Copies of the initially prepared regional water plan will be available by March 1, 2010 in each of the County Clerk’s offices of the counties listed above and in the following public libraries: El Paso Public Library, Main Branch, 501 N. Oregon St., El Paso; Law Library County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Ste. 1202, El Paso; Clint ISD/Public Library, 12625 Alameda Ave., El Paso; Grace Grebing Public Library, 110 N. Main, Dell City; Fort Hancock ISD/ Public Library, 101 School Dr., Ft. Hancock; Van Horn City/County Library, 410 Crockett St., Van Horn; Valentine Public Library, Valentine, TX; Jeff Davis County Library, 100 Memorial Square, Fort Davis; Marfa Public Library, 115 E. Oak, Marfa; City of Presidio Library, 2440 O’Reilly St., Presidio; Alpine Public Library, 203 N. 7th St., Alpine; Marathon Public Library, 106 N. 3rd St., Marathon; Big Bend High School Library, 550 Roadrunner Cir., Terlingua; and in Terrell County

Public Library, 105 E. Hackberry, S a n d e r s o n . The plan is also available online at the Far West Texas Water Planning Group’s website: <http://www.riocog.org/EnvSvcs/FWTPG/publishe.htm#2010>

The public hearing will be held at the Van Horn Convention Center, 1801 Broadway, Van Horn, Texas, on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at 1:00 PM (CDT). Written and oral comments will be accepted at this hearing on the information contained within the initially prepared regional water plan. Written comments will also be accepted until noon (MDT) on Friday, June 11, 2010 at the Rio Grande Council of Governments offices. Written comments are to be directed to the following:

Mr. Tom Beard,
Chairman
Far West Texas Water Planning Group
c/o Rio Grande Council of Governments
1100 N. Stanton Street, Suite 610
El Paso, Texas
79902

Requests for additional information are to be directed to:

Ms. Annette Gutierrez
Far West Texas Water Planning Group,
Administrative Project Manager

Rio Grande Council of Governments
1100 North Stanton, Suite 610
El Paso, Texas

79902

Ph: 915-533-0998
ext. 114

Fax: 915-356-1697

e-mail:
annetteg@riocog.org
WTCC: 02-25-10

Town of Horizon City

Invitation to Bid:

Bid Number: 2010-002

Date Issued: Feb. 24, 2010

Bid Opening Date: March 12, 2010

The Town of Horizon City is soliciting proposals to furnish and install topsoil, sod and a turn key irrigation system for the sodded area of the Golden Eagle Park baseball field. Proposals will be received at Horizon City Town Hall, City Clerk’s office, 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX 79928 until 12 p.m. March 12, 2010. Bids will be open on March 12, 2010 at 2 p.m. and only the names of the proposers will be read out loud at the Horizon City Town Hall. Detail specifications and proposal packages are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by calling Administration office (915) 852-1046.

Karen Ellefson
Town Clerk
Horizon City

WTCC: 02-25-10

El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development

Invitation to Bid

El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development is accepting bids for the construction of 5 homes two in the Montana Vista area, two in San Elizario and one in Tornillo. All 5 Bids will be for new construction projects. Project is

sponsored by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, project #1001044. Bid packets will be ready February 25, 2010 and will be due March 11, 2010 4:00 p.m. Bid packets may be picked up at El Paso Collaborative 1359 Lomaland Dr Ste. 538, El Paso, Texas 79935 M-F form 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Packets include home designs and specifications. The 5 new homes must be Star Energy and need to meet visibility guidelines. A Pre-

Bid conference is scheduled on Friday, March 4, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at 1359 Lomaland Dr. Ste. 538. For further information, contact Heather M. Lopez at the Collaborative (915) 590-1217

WTCC: 02-25-10

DRIVERS WANTED

Russell Transport
Now Hiring OTR Drivers
Solo and Team Runs
14 days on duty 2 days off
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WE CAN HAVE YOU ON THE ROAD
IN 3 to 4 DAYS.
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Drivers: New Pay Package & Driver Manager Program!
CDL-A, 23yoe, 1yr OTR Exp. Req.
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SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. AA - call 562-4081.



CLASSIFIED AD FORM

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

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5	6	7	8
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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Deadline: Mondays
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Tiger’s apology sniped by media talking heads

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Even though you love your family, there are times when you have no choice but to admit their shortcomings. It isn’t easy, but once in a while they bug you so much that it’s unavoidable.

And I have an ever-growing beef with my family — my media family that is.

In case they didn’t know it, there is a reason media members rank on a par with politicians and attorneys on the country’s popularity scale.

The biggest problem with today’s media is that they actually believe that the world’s news is nothing if it isn’t filtered through them.

The news as it actually happens is nothing unless the likes of Sean Hannity or Rush Limbaugh or Geraldo Rivera or Keith Oberman or Chris Mathews or Bill O’Reilly or Larry King get a chance to put their spin on it.

I know these guys make a living as commentators, but even anchorpersons and

journalists use little catch-phrases and eye-rolling techniques to show disdain with news events they disagree with.

Very unprofessional.

There used to be a time when news outlets just reported the news. Now reporters feel the need to put their little slant on everything.

I guess they figure a school shooting or a murder-suicide or an armed robbery isn’t disturbing enough. They’ve got to inject the story with another 400 CCs of “must see TV” controversy.

Reporters were at it again last week after Tiger Woods came out of seclusion to speak to the press for the first time since it was learned that he had been unfaithful to his wife.

Just like many of you, I watched Tiger’s mea culpa with his family, friends and a few selected media members in attendance.

See what I just did — I actually told you what happened at the event without adding any drama to the situation. CNN titled Tiger’s speech as “Live and Scripted” at the bottom of the screen to make sure viewers knew this wasn’t coming from his heart.

I watched Tiger come out and say “I’m

sorry” about 300 times to everybody he could think of. As he spoke, anyone could clearly tell he was extremely embarrassed and ashamed at what he felt he needed to say.

He explained that because of all the fame and fortune he acquired he grew to believe he was entitled. He began to feel that the rules didn’t apply to him.

How many times have you heard any fallen superstar (sports, business, entertainment, politics or religion) admit that?

He defended his wife and he asked the press to lay off his kids. Wouldn’t any self-respecting individual do the same?

Media members have said over and over since Tiger fell from grace that he had to apologize in person. All you heard on the tube and the radio was “where’s Tiger” and “why is he hiding?”

And yet, not more than a couple minutes after he finished — the talking heads were in full “discredit” mode.

Again on CNN, one media moron actually asked another if Tiger was telling the truth. Now if that question wasn’t absurd enough, the other guy actually answered the question.

It doesn’t matter what he answered — the fact that both guys had enough arrogance to believe they could do that “Karnack” thing with Tiger’s mind made me sick and ashamed.

Talking heads from across the airwaves took shots at Tiger. Some said he didn’t talk enough, some said he talked too much, some complained because he didn’t say when he was going to play again, some complained because he asked the media to lay off his family, some said he wasn’t sincere and some complained that he spoke at all.

It all comes down to this, there was no way Tiger was going to come out ahead. But the truth is he didn’t have to.

The media’s job is to report what Tiger said. Let me ask you, do any of you care how media members feel about a story? Or would you rather just like for them to give you the facts accurately?

Me too!

The national media’s transformation to National Enquirer-status is nearly complete and it makes reporters like me frustrated, ashamed and awfully sad.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Big Ed Morris’ fateful night

On the night of Feb. 29, 1932, a tragedy occurred in Foshee, Ala.

It involved “Big” Ed Morris, star pitcher of the Boston Red Sox since 1928 and one of the more colorful and popular players in the game. Big Ed (who, incidentally, stood 6-foot-2) was no small talent. A

control pitcher, Morris won 19 games in his rookie season with an ERA of 3.54 and 20 complete games to his credit. The Red Sox of the late 1920s and early ‘30s were miserable teams that finished last every year of his career except once, and his numbers, too, had steadily declined.

In 1931, he had struggled with injuries and was looking forward to getting back on track that spring training — particularly since it was rumored that the New York Yankees were going to buy him for the out-of-worldly sum of \$100,000.

A hometown hero in the sleepy town near the Florida border, the townsmen insisted on giving him a send-off party. Flattered, White decided to arrive a day late to spring training to attend.

It was a fatal mistake.

It was a fish fry — catfish, to be exact — and the mood was upbeat. Friends called the atmosphere “convivial.” The gregarious Big Ed was carousing, and nobody paid much mind when he got into a heated exchange with Joe White, he of Brewerton, Ala., an oil-station operator. Witnesses described it as a friendly argument at first, but that’s the thing about two men, a lot of booze and a reputation to uphold. Now, with people watching, that friendly argument turned into a “bitter quarrel.”

That night, Morris turned boorish and sour. His antics didn’t sit well with White, who told him so. Big Ed, who had been in more than his share of fights, slapped White several times, knocking him to the ground. Morris tripped and fell to the ground as White pulled a knife, plunging it into his chest twice as they lay on the ground, barely missing his heart. Friends looked on in horror, and then rushed to break up the combatants. They grabbed White and watched Morris buckle over, rolling on the ground cursing. Morris drove himself to a hospital in Century, Fla; White was taken to county jail.

Morris held on that night, and the next night, too, but he told the beat reporters gathered around his bed that his outlook was bleak.

“Doctors say I have an even chance,” he said, but the reporters thought he looked bad. The United Press filed a report with a headline stating, “Morris Given Small Chance,” and Morris did pass away later that night after the newspapers had already hit the press. Doctors said there was little they could do but administer oxygen.

Big Ed’s death made the front pages all over the country, but he was buried under the fold — the big news of the day dominated by the Lindbergh baby’s kidnapping. White was sentenced to three years in jail, but the sentence was appealed and he never saw time behind bars. Morris’ funeral was a brief spectacle. He’s still mentioned from time to time by the old-timers in Foshee, just another story about a ballplayer who made it big before heading into the obscurity that is baseball lore.

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

UTEP

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February 27@ 7:00 PM
Men’s vs Rice
Military Night
2,000 Verizon Egrips Giveaway

March 3 @ 7:00 PM
Women’s vs Tulane

March 6 @ 7:00 PM
Men’s vs UAB

SENIOR NIGHT

www.utepathletics.com





CryptoQuip

Answer

If you’re searching the sky looking for the Dog Star, you could ask yourself “Are you Sirius?”

P

N I N E

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3	6	2	7	1	9	4	8	5

De la Rosa signs letter of intent



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Standout Canutillo High School football player, John De La Rosa, signed a letter of intent on February 12 to play football at Western New Mexico University. Surrounded by family, friends, and teammates, De La Rosa was all smiles as he signed the document that will begin his university football career. De La Rosa, a running back, was a three time All-district selection, a 2008 Second Team All-state player, and selected as Player of the Year for district 2-4A both in 2008 and 2009.

— Patricia Tidwell

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



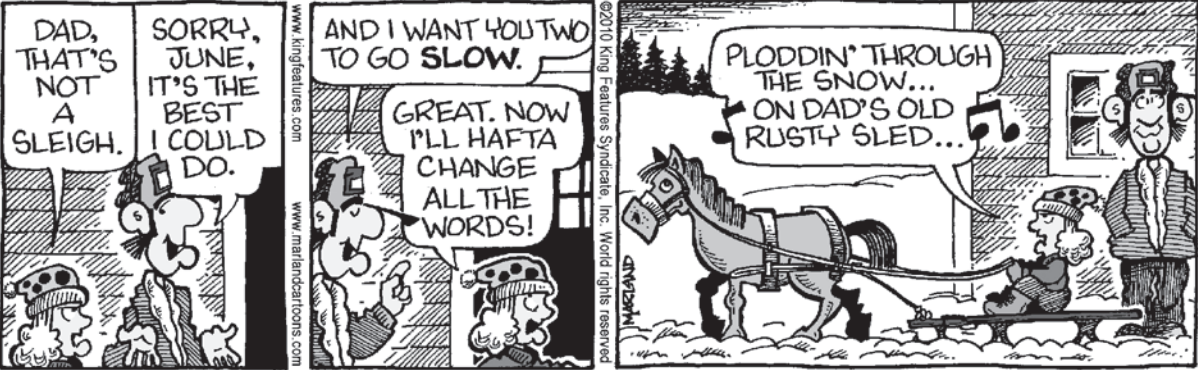
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I need information on how to avoid flare-ups of diverticulitis. I am a 53-year-old female. I was diagnosed with diverticulitis in 2008 after suffering for months from discomfort that finally became unbearable. The doctor gave me an antibiotic that cleared the problem up. What I need to know is this: How long after eating a problem food does discomfort ensue? I've tried to tie discomfort to a particular food. I just can't figure out which ones cause the problem. For instance, if I have a problem on Tuesday afternoon, would that be from food I ate Tuesday morning, or the day before, or the day before that? — D.F.

You need a clearer picture of what causes diverticular pain. You're barking up the wrong tree. Diverticula are small bulges on the colon's outer wall. The bulges are the lining of the colon that has been pushed through the muscular colon wall and has popped out on its outer surface. They are pea-size to marble-size. When the necks of diverticula become obstructed, bacteria within the diverticula causes swelling and pain. Prevention of diverticula formation and diverticula obstruction centers on a high-fiber diet. A particular food isn't usually the culprit. A lack of fiber is the troublemaker.

Fiber holds on to water and keeps the food residue soft. If the residue hardens, the colon has to generate great force to move it along, and that force is responsible for diverticula formation. You need to get 25 grams to 30 grams of fiber daily. Fruits, vegetables and whole grains are fiber sources. Whole grains are grains that haven't been refined. They retain their outer coat — bran. Bran is excellent fiber.

Diverticulitis — inflamed diverticula — produces pain, most

often felt in the lower left side of the abdomen. Sometimes it leads to rectal bleeding. An attack of diverticulitis calls for a change in diet, either to a liquid one or one with soft foods.

If you still want to track a particular food as the cause of a diverticulitis attack, I'll give you the rough time sequences of food passage. It takes one to two days for food to pass from mouth to the end of the colon. At most, it takes three days. Anything beyond that time is abnormal.

The booklet on diverticulosis explains this common malady in detail. To order a copy, write: Dr. Donohue — No. 502W, 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: Several months ago, I fell. X-rays indicate that I have arthritis in my left hip. When I resumed my exercise program, I had pain on raising my left leg about 12 inches off the ground. Do I increase or decrease my exercise? Is there a painkiller or vitamin I should take? — B.W.

Pain is a signal to stop doing whatever it is that causes it. Perhaps arthritis is the cause. A cause has to be found before continuing any exercise that brings it on. Don't blunt the pain with medicines until you find the cause. Vitamins will not help.

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

- SWEET TALK ACROSS

1 Singer Ian

6 Get the picture

11 Bespectacled dwarf

14 Craze

17 Coleridge's

"Dejection: _"

18 Piled up

20 Honest name

21 Nutritional abbr.

22 Start of a remark

24 "Short _" ('86 film)

26 _ -di-dah

27 Cavalry characteristic

28 Wapiti

30 First-class

31 Neighbor of Cal.

32 Hindu deity

36 Excludes

37 Caution

40 Peter of "Becket"

42 Long-legged wader

44 Part 2 of remark

50 Tree trim

51 Mischievous

52 Trigger-happy guy?

53 Cen. segments

55 Label

56 Mortgages, e.g.

58 Virginia _

60 Small combo

61 Adolescent

62 Witch wheels?

65 Repeated

67 TV's _ City"

69 Part 3 of remark

73 Temporary calm

74 Witch doctor

76 Synonym source

77 Support

79 Sheet of stamps

80 Heady quaffs

82 Destroyed

84 Regulatory agcy.

87 White House

spokesman Fleischer

88 Sault _ Marie, MI

89 Alex Rieger, for one

93 Bunch of bass

95 Part 4 of remark

99 Black or Valentine

100 Reach

101 Riches' predecessor

102 Rubbish

104 Mortarboard part

106 Cookbook author

109 Guitar features

110 John _ Passos

111 On the briny

112 Fast flier

115 Last name in talk shows

117 End of remark

123 Mineral suffix

124 Wrong

125 Printing

126 Romeo and Juliet

127 _ Guevara

128 Dram

129 Examine

130 Like a lummoX

DOWN

1 Secure spot

2 Dancer Pavlova

3 Hit the chips

4 A mean Amin

5 Passover meal

6 Feds

7 Vole kin

8 Gray matter?

9 Vane dir.

10 _ diem

11 Actor Rambo

12 Ben _ -Wan

Kenobi

13 Rite

14 Healthful snack

15 Mine entries

16 See socially

18 Wonder Woman, for one

19 Believe

23 Yalie

25 Hold fast

29 Bolger/Haley

co-star

31 Hill dwellers

32 High times

33 Gambol

34 Jai _

35 Coop crowd

36 Baltimore bird

37 Skater Katarina

38 Kuwait's continent

39 Tolloed

41 Pollux or Bert

Bobbsey

43 Rochester's missis

45 Montana's capital

46 Tennis pro

Nastase

47 Pulsate

48 Austrian province

49 Bay window

54 Lay down the lawn

57 MIT grad

59 Cassowary kin

60 Consequently

61 Use a stopwatch

62 Marsh

63 Actress

McClanahan

64 Legendary Giant

66 Boxing maneuver

67 Lewis or Belafonte

68 " _ Room" ('02 film)

70 Archaic

preposition

71 Puccini heroine

72 Indian export

74 Health club

75 Character

78 Essence

81 _ majesty

82 Rope material

83 Utah city

84 "My kingdom _ horse!"

85 Henning or

McClure

86 48 Across

attraction

88 Photo

90 "Woe is me!"

91 Certain

sandwiches

92 Eight bits

94 Jealous Olympian

96 Japanese dog

97 Till

98 Complete

agreement

102 Solemn vow

103 Soprano Fleming

105 "- forgive those..."

107 VCR button

108 Native New Zealander

109 Bk.'s backup

110 Adroit

111 Sailor's shout

112 Mall event

113 _ aerobics

114 Exam

116 Tabloid flier

118 Mrs. McKinley

119 "Whether _ nobler in the mind . . ."

120 Hasbrouck _ , NJ

121 Security grp.

122 Cambodia's _ Nol
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | 61 | | | | | 62 | 63 | 64 | | | 65 | 66 | | | | |
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| 79 | | | | | | 80 | 81 | | | | | 82 | 83 | | | | 84 | 85 | 86 |
| 87 | | | | | 88 | | | | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | | 93 | | 94 | | | |
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| 109 | | | | | | | 110 | | | | | | 111 | | | | 112 | 113 | 114 |
| 115 | | | | | | 116 | | | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 | 121 | | | | 122 | | |
| 123 | | | | | | 124 | | | | 125 | | | | | | 126 | | | |
| 127 | | | | | | 128 | | | | | | | | | | 130 | | | |
- Answer Page 4

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

To tax or not to tax

A Social Security question

When it comes to Social Security benefits, you may be wondering who must pay taxes on them and who does not. Let’s look at the numbers.

If you file a federal tax return as an “individual” and your total income is more than \$25,000, then the answer for you is yes: you’ll have to pay federal taxes on your benefits. If you file a joint return and you and your spouse have a total income more than \$32,000, you’ll be expected to pay federal taxes

as well. If your taxable income is below those thresholds, there is no need to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits.

If you need to pay taxes on a portion of your benefits, you will need your SSA-1099. This form shows the total amount of benefits received in the previous year and is used to find out whether any benefits are subject to tax. You will need to submit it when you complete your federal income tax return.

You already should have received your SSA-1099 for tax year 2009 in the mail — they were automatically mailed to all beneficiaries by January 31, 2010. If you receive Social Security and have not yet received a Form SSA-1099 for 2009, you can request a replacement online at www.socialsecurity.gov/online services. Or you can call Social Security’s toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY, 1-800-325-0778) and ask for a replacement SSA-1099 to be mailed to you.

If you would like more information about paying taxes on your Social Security benefits, visit www.irs.gov and read Publication Number 915, *Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits*. You

also can call the Internal Revenue Service toll-free at 1-800-829-3676 (TTY, 1-800-829-4059).

So if you’ve been wondering whether or not you’ll need to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits and what forms you may need, now you know the simple facts.

For more information on any of the article, 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.

Briefs

From Page 1

related to healthcare. The class runs Monday through Friday from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. (10 hours per week). Classes begin on Apr. 5 and finish on May 14. Call 937-1700 for more information or to sign up.

— Ernie Salcedo

Crime Stoppers

Aman is believed to be responsible for two recent bank robberies. Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation in identifying and locating this suspect before he



This photo is from a Tucson, AZ bank robbery.

strikes again, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Tuesday, Jan. 12, just before 11:30 a.m., a lone male subject walked into the 1st Federal Bank at 7015 N. Mesa. The subject approached a teller and showed a note demanding money. The teller feared for her safety and turned over an undetermined amount of money. Upon reviewing surveillance video, FBI agents determined that the subject had walked around the parking lot for some time, and had entered the bank prior to the robbery. On Thursday, Jan. 21, a little after noon, the same subject walked into the United Bank of El Paso, 9801 Gateway West, and approached a teller with a note demanding money. The subject is described as a Hispanic male in his late 30s, approximately 5’3” to 5’6” tall, medium build, with a shaved head, and wearing prescription glasses. The subject spoke English and was reported to have a strong body odor. If you have any information about the identity and location of this suspect or his vehicle, 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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 6

★★★ 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: **G** equals **I**

GT WJF'VM XMUVHSGPL NSM

XQW OJJQGGL TJV NSM CJL

XNUV, WJF HJFOC UXQ

WJFVXMOT "UVM WJF

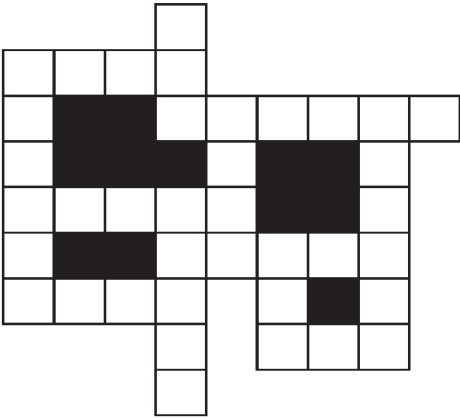
XGVGFX?"

Answer Page 6

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EPN
♥NUIPLE
ZARRO
♥VAID
♥DUNELO
DZA
ENNI
ELVEA
PZA
URTAIN
DONLE
♥REGO



Answer Page 6

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.

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If you're not covered, you'll be discovered.



An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that’s about to change. • TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data to immediately tell law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who’s driving without insurance. • So, if you’re not covered, better get insured! • To learn more, visit: www.TexasSure.com

TexasSure

catches drivers without insurance.