

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Crime Stoppers

The same suspect commits a series of aggravated robberies on the eastside, all this month. The El Paso Police Department is asking for help from the public, through Crime Stoppers, to find this suspect and stop him now before someone gets seriously hurt, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Monday, March 1, the lone suspect entered the Family Dollar store at 9612 Montana just before 9:00 p.m. and used a black semi-automatic handgun to rob the store. At this time, the suspect was described as wearing dark colored jeans, a baseball cap, with a dark colored hoodie over the cap. The suspect also had a white and blue paisley bandanna covering his face. The same suspect struck two days later, on Wednesday, March 3, just before 10:00 p.m., using the same method. At this time he was described as an Hispanic male, 24-30 years of age, 5-foot; 9-inches tall, 220 pounds, with bushy eyebrows, and brown eyes. He was wearing a black hoodie, black baggie pants and white tennis shoes. His face was covered with a black and white bandanna. He had a black handgun. The same suspect struck again the very next day. On Thursday, March 4, also just before 10:00 p.m., the suspect robbed the Good Time Store at 6631 Montana. Investigators believe this suspect will continue to rob stores at gunpoint until he is caught. If you have any information at all about the subject who committed these crimes, 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

### Resource meeting

The Village of Vinton and the Texas Department of Agriculture will be hosting a roundtable discussion for local entrepreneurs and business leaders to discuss local and regional business economic issues, identify areas of need and opportunities, and learn about resources that may provide assistance. It will be held Tuesday, March 30, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the West Valley Fire Station, 510 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, TX 79821. Roundtable discussion leaders include:

- Larry Ruggiano, Office of the Governor;
- John Perkins, U.S. Department of Agriculture;
- Daila McAnally, U.S. Department of Agriculture;
- Bill McAnally, Farm Loan Manager, USDA Farm Service Agency;
- Adrian Madrigal, U.S. Small Business Administration;
- Gil Gonzalez, University of Texas San

See BRIEFS, Page 3

*Feed your faith and your doubts  
will starve to death.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Slider NJHS rallies community for ailing classmate

### *Public invited to Zumba fund raiser*

By Danial R. Escobar  
Special to the Courier

The students of William D. Slider Middle School’s National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) are learning a lot this year. From arithmetic to language arts the NJHS students are at the top of their class but it’s their heart that is shining the brightest. The students have rallied their classmates and teachers to support a fellow student and his family as he battles a life-threatening disease. Now, the students are looking for the community to join them in helping their classmate, eighth-grader Alexis Gonzalez.

Alexis is an honor student, an honor band member, an athlete, and a member of the National Junior Honor Society. This year, though, he has been homebound due to his fight against a life-threatening illness.

“Alexis is a great student, but most of all he is a beautiful human being,” Slider’s NJHS sponsor Laura Torguson said. “He and his family are humble and would never ask for help, but we see how difficult it is for them to keep up with treatments, travel to see specialists and all other associated expenses. Our kids — his friends — and I are happy to help in any way possible and look forward to community support.”

In the fall, the NJHS students asked Alexis how they could help and all he asked for was that the group collect aluminum can tabs to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. Alexis told his classmates he wanted them to help other children who are fighting the same difficult battle he is. “Collecting the tabs makes a difference in someone’s life,” Alexis said.

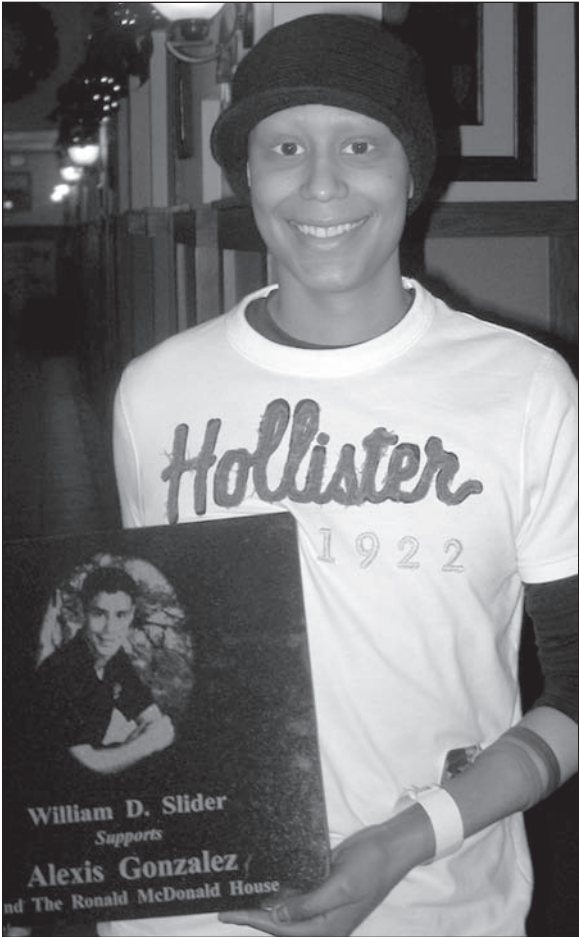
The members of Slider’s NJHS collected aluminum tabs and also raised funds by selling plastic bracelets, mini-build-a-bears with Alexis’ picture on them and collected

donations. In December, the group donated \$1,000 and 55 pounds of aluminum tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Alexis’ name.

Alexis has now been sent to Boston, Massachusetts to undergo specialized therapy that is offered at few hospitals in the country. He and his mother will be there for two months while he receives treatment.

“The difficult thing for them is that he and his mother will have to find housing for two months and cover food and other expenses. Beyond the stress of battling a life-threatening illness, the financial burden on the family is tremendous,” Torguson added. “On campus, we were able to raise an additional \$1,500 to help the family but they need so much more assistance. What makes it easy and drives the NJHS to keep rallying support is that Alexis and his family truly are wonderful, deserving people.”

To help the Gonzalez family fund the fight against Alexis’ ailment, the Slider family has partnered with Latin Rhythmz Studio



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

**FIGHTER—** Alexis Gonzalez holds a plaque with a picture of him before his illness. He requested his classmates raise money for the Ronald McDonald House to help other children that are fighting the same life-threatening disease.

work if others help open doors like Ms. Rodriguez so graciously has.”

The March 30 Zumba class will be taught by Slider band teacher and certified Zumba instructor Meagan Valles in the school cafeteria, 11700 School Ln. Tickets can be purchased from the NJHS at the school or through Grace Rodriguez at Latin Rhythmz Studio, 11201 Armour, Suite B. For more information, contact Laura Torguson at 937-5504 or [ltorgu@sisd.net](mailto:ltorgu@sisd.net).

## Vinton volunteers get Mariposa Park off the drawing board, on the ground

The Village of Vinton will hold a community park build on March 27, 2010 at 9 a.m. to put together new playground equipment shown below. Volunteers from Vinton raised funds to create the park through the sale of bricks to individuals and local businesses.



— Images courtesy Parkhill, Smith and Cooper

**Mariposa Park is a part of Phase 1 of the Vinton Park Plan. Located at the corner of Copper and Steel Roads, shown above, the playground will sit on 1/4 acre and will also serve as a school bus stop for the Canutillo Independent School District. Mariposa Park will be the only playground in north Vinton and will serve approximately 338 households. Anyone wanting to help or to get more information can call 886-5104.**

— Ruby Rodriguez

## Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

### VA chief reopens Gulf War claims

You probably won't see any benefits from it in the next several months or even this year, but the Department of Veterans Affairs is going to take another look at the disability claims of veterans who served in the Gulf War.

Additionally — and this is big — the VA is going to train staff not to tell veterans that the illnesses are all in their head, that they're imagining it.

This comes on the heels of the VA adding three more conditions to the list of illnesses presumed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange: B-cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease.

Behind this change is retired U.S. Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Last fall, a task force took a hard look at the Gulf War benefits issue. Shinseki's choice to lead the task force: a retired Army colonel who was in the Gulf in 1991. And Shinseki read the Gulf illness study done by the Institute of Medicine, believed it, and made

the decision to reopen claims. His top priority, he's said, is taking care of the backlog.

So, who is this Shinseki guy anyway?

Shinseki is the real deal. Started at West Point, first stop Vietnam. Was a forward observer when he was wounded the first time. Three years later, he was back in Vietnam, a squadron commander in the 5th Cav when he was wounded a second time (land mine). Lots of medals and oak-leaf clusters. Came back and started climbing the ladder, with commands all over the world — including the Gulf. His final post was Army chief of staff.

We'll need to keep an eye out, but so far he's aiming the VA in the right direction.

*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

### Energy rebates coming in April

Hola mi gente. So many of the things we use today have changed tremendously from years back. It is hard to list any one item we use regularly that hasn't been improved in some way. One part of the improvement is that the cost of items is lower even though it does more now than before.

One example is computers. Laptops used to cost over \$1000 and had limited amounts of storage space and minimal processing speed. Today you can buy a laptop for around \$500 that has many times more memory and that processes information at a much higher rate.

Another example of just how much things have changed is central heating and cooling. It used to be that the best way to cool a home in the summer was with an evaporative cooler. Because of improved technology, many El Pasoans are installing a central heating and cooling unit for their homes. The increased cost of water has made refrigeration that much more attractive. The cooling units have also been improved to the point where the electrical costs are not exorbitant.

Any time a household can upgrade to a more efficient appliance, it's a good idea to try and do so. Now the U.S. Department of Energy has awarded the state of Texas a \$23 million grant to use as an incentive for replacing old inefficient units with brand new efficient appliances that can save you a lot of money on your utility bills.

During the period starting on April 16 and ending on April 25, the Texas Comptroller's State Energy Conservation Office will rebate those who purchase the

more efficient appliances. This rebate will be in addition to any rebates or sales prices that may be offered by manufacturers or retailers. Each household may submit up to two rebates for two different appliances.

If you have been thinking about installing central cooling and heating, this program could save you quite a bit. Depending on the specific qualifying model, the rebate would amount to between \$800 and \$1000. An additional \$75 can be added to the rebate by complying with certain recycling requirements.

That is just one of the items. The list provided to my office by the Comptroller includes refrigerators, freezers, washers, room air conditioners, dishwashers, and water heaters.

Included with water heaters is the new tankless gas unit. This is a water heater that heats your tap water without storing 40 or 50 gallons. The rebate on this appliance is \$300. That is a good portion of that retail cost of a tankless water heater. It will save you on water and heating.


If you are interested in taking advantage of the program, you need to reserve your rebate at the earliest possible opportunity. You can make the reservation starting on April 5. Specific information may be obtained at [www.secostimulus.org/rebate](http://www.secostimulus.org/rebate) or by calling 1-888-782-7937.

I hope that you will take advantage of this unique rebate.

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

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## View from here

By Robert Romano

### Adam Smith's prophecy

# Today's sovereign debt crisis

*"[A] foolish man devours all he has."—Proverbs, 21:20.*

In 1776, when Adam Smith published *The Wealth of Nations*, Great Britain was faced with a monumental sovereign debt crisis that would not be seen again until the 21st Century — when the U.S. finds itself with a rapidly accelerating \$12.4 trillion national debt, soon rising to 100 percent of the Gross Domestic Product within a few years. The last chapter of his opus magnum, "Of Public Debts," was dedicated to persuading the British Parliament of the calamity the British Empire was faced with. And, alas, they did not listen.

Reading through it today, one might easily surmise that Adam Smith, the Scottish economist and Enlightenment political philosopher, was actually a time-traveler who had foreknowledge of the crisis that faces the world today. For, the crisis he describes in exquisite, haunting detail is, nearly verbatim, eerily reminiscent of the calamity that now threatens the economic survival of the modern world — and threatens to enslave future generations for decades to come.

But, the truth is, there is nothing new under the sun. The crisis today that the U.S. faces — and troubled European debtor-nations Greece, Spain, Portugal, and Italy — with the increasing risk of a national debt default, is just the latest example in the factual and unfortunately oft-repeated economic history of the world. And Smith saw it coming.

In short, republics, empires, and other nations since the dawn of time have fallen for the same exact reason: they spent far beyond their means.

Smith, an inexhaustible student of economic history, cited numerous examples in history back to ancient

Rome of nations that had ruined themselves from within by violating the critical principle of parsimony: "ordinary expense [ought to be] equal to... ordinary revenue, and it is well if it does not frequently exceed it." As early as 1776, Smith was advocating for a balanced budget, a lesson that, tragically, has gone unheeded in the halls of Congress.

"The practice of funding [i.e. deficit-spending] has gradually enfeebled every state which has adopted it," he noted, citing the decline of the Italian city-state republics Genoa and Venice that "seem to have begun" the practice, Spain with its high taxation and insurmountable debt, the example of France in spite of its considerable natural resources, and the Dutch Republic, that too was overburdened by public expenses and debts that could not be paid.

Smith further warned that Great Britain was not immune: "Is it likely that in Great Britain alone a practice, which has brought either weakness or desolation into every country, should prove altogether innocent?" Indeed. Unfortunately, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has apparently not read his Smith recently, hence his misguided prophecy that the U.S. "will never" lose its Triple-A rating.

Witness today, where the expansion of debt in 2010 at \$1.556 trillion will exceed 10 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, far in excess of Barack Obama's projected, much-hoped-for rate of economic growth for 2010 of 3.6 percent. In fact, the growth of the debt will average \$1.06 trillion every year until 2020, under Obama's ten-year plan, again in excess of the liberal \$955 billion average, annual growth the White House projects.

Smith, it turns out, was right.

The extension of the public debt by his nation was unsustainable. And Great Britain's vast empire did, indeed, fall as it repeatedly inflated its currency to pay off the debt, until finally, the Great Depression forced it off the gold standard, never to return to its former preeminence in world affairs.

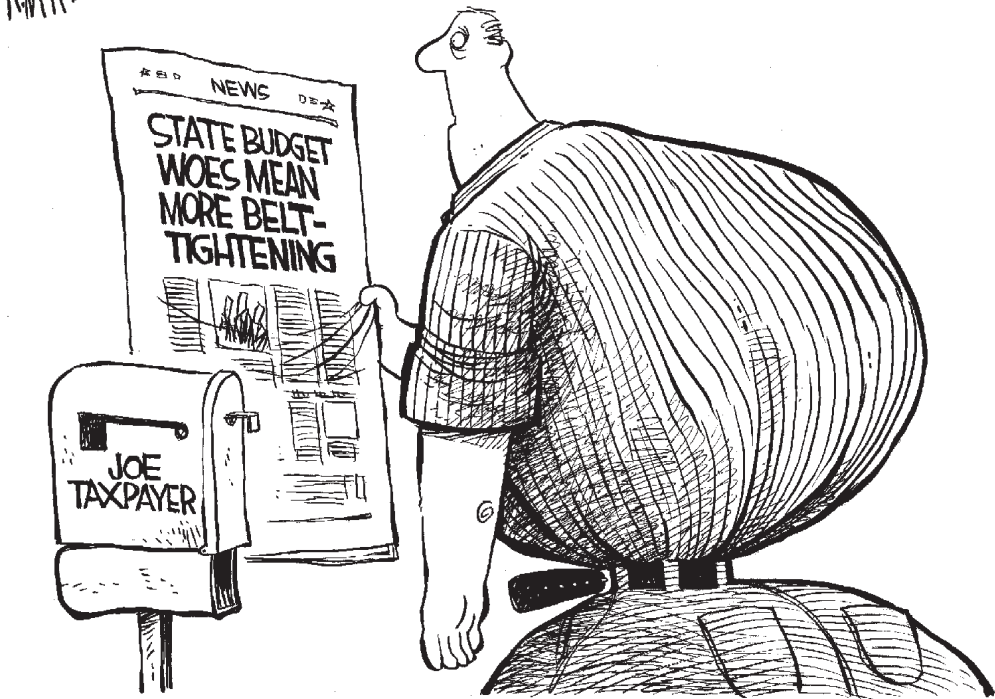
Smith noted the root causes of such recklessness: "The government of such a state [with the ability of the private sector to lend to the government for a profitable return] is very apt to repose [i.e. rest] itself upon this ability and willingness of its subjects to lend it their money on extraordinary circumstances. It foresees the facility of borrowing, and therefore, dispenses itself from the duty of saving."

That, of course, is exactly what the U.S. has done. As the nation took on superpower status after World War II, the national debt has grown for every single year since 1958 through the sale of Treasuries and other securities.

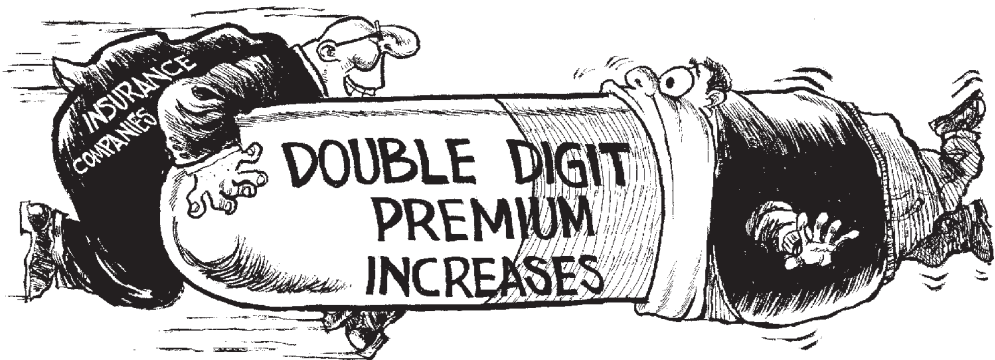
Contrast this with how Smith defined a creditor nation, which "derives a considerable revenue by lending a part of its treasure to foreign states... by placing it in the public funds of the different indebted nations... The security of this revenue must depend, first, upon the security of the funds in which it is placed, or upon the good faith of the government which has management of them; and secondly, upon the certainty or probability of the continuance of peace with the debtor nation. In the case of war, the very first act of hostility, on the part of the debtor nation, might be the forfeiture of the funds of its creditor."

One can only be a net creditor if revenues exceed outlays, thereby

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SPEAKING OF RAMMING THINGS DOWN THE THROATS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.



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Briefs

From Page 1

Antonio Small Business Development Center;  
• Sandra Hernandez, Rio Grande Council of Governments; and  
• Jack Stallings, Texas Department of Agriculture.  
For more information, or to attend, call 886-5104.

— Ruby Rodriguez

Support needed

Boys & Girls Clubs of El Paso will kick off its annual “It Just Takes One” campaign with an Open House on March 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Club Petty located at 801 S. Florence. The public is invited to attend. This event is part of the organization’s National Boys & Girls Club Week festivities, which run from March 21-27, 2010. The campaign will raise funds for the Clubs’ after-school programs and services for youth, ages 6-18, living in Segundo Barrio, Montana Vista, and Delta in Central El Paso. Scheduled to run through April 30, 2010 the campaign seeks donations primarily from individuals. Serving as the campaign’s chair is Olga Chavez. The campaign’s goal this year is to raise \$100,000 for the Clubs’ annual operating budget. Chavez said, “We are proud to announce that to date, our campaign has raised more than one third of our goal as a result of some early lead gifts and gifts from 100 percent of our board members and staff. All we need now is the rest of our community to show their support, and we will be able to reach, maybe even exceed, our goal.”

— Jose Arturo Jaime

Vinton cleans up

Keep Vinton Beautiful is under way as part of the 2010 Great American Clean Up. Keep America Beautiful’s Great American Cleanup, the nation’s largest community improvement program, takes place annually from March 1 through

May 31, involving an estimated 3 million volunteers and attendees. Our goals are to preserve the natural environment and educate the public. Activities include building a community playground, handling recycling collections, picking up litter along the highways and Rio Grande, planting trees and flowers, and conducting educational programs and litter-free events. Organizations and Vinton residents are welcome to volunteer for these events. For more information please call 886-5104 or visit our website [www.vintontx.govoffice2.com](http://www.vintontx.govoffice2.com). Coming events include:  
• Bulk Waste Collection for Vinton Residents, March 20, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.;  
• Park Build — Mariposa Park, March 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.;  
• Recyclables drop off at City Hall, every Friday starting April 2;  
• United Blood Service Blood Drive at City Hall, April 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.;  
• “Don’t Mess With Texas” Trash Off, April 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.;  
• Bulk Waste Collection for Vinton Residents, May 15, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and  
• River Walk, May 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

— Ruby Rodriguez

Summer camp

The Lions Clubs of El Paso are sponsoring a free summer camp for children ages 7 – 16 with physical disabilities and ages 8 – 15 with Type 1 diabetes. The Texas Lions Camp is located in Kerrville, Texas, northwest of San Antonio. Camp sessions are June 27 – July 3 for children with physical disabilities and August 1 – 7 for children with Type 1 diabetes. Camp activities include swimming, fishing, canoeing, archery, pedal boating, sports, theatre, horseback riding, arts and crafts, camping and more. Applications can be downloaded from the Texas Lions Camp website [www.lionscamp.com](http://www.lionscamp.com) or call Lion Patsy Achim, Director of the Texas Lions Camp at 274-3999. Transportation to and from the Camp is provided by the El Paso Lions Clubs.

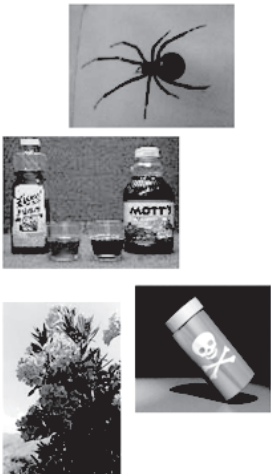
— Frank Ramirez



16<sup>th</sup> Annual Poison Jungle Safari  
Saturday, March 20, 2010  
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM @ the El Paso Zoo

Learn About Poison Prevention and Safety for the Entire Family

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# Probationers work off time, save tax dollars

**By Guadalupe Silva**  
*Special to the Courier*

Adult Probation’s Community Service Restitution Program is saving El Pasoans quite a bit of money by doing their dirty work.

This week alone, dozens of probationers will help the community by cleaning up after the cows in the Coliseum, washing El Paso Police Department patrol cars, painting a new office for Project Bravo, cleaning up the Canutillo and Concordia Cemeteries and much more. They are doing it for free as part of the community service hours they were ordered to provide by the courts.

“Probationers give thousands of hours of their time, work, skills and effort, many times using their own tools and equipment in restitution to the community for their offenses,” said Ray Valdez, community service program manager for the West Texas Community Supervision and Probation Department, a.k.a. Adult Probation. “Last year, we credited more than 7,700 probationers with 466,450 hours of work performed in the community. Even if you estimate the cost of these services at the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, the savings to taxpayers and others are considerable, particularly in these critical economic times.”

Valdez explained that this week, probationers will be keeping the

barns clean at the County Coliseum, during the “Kids, Kows & More” fest sponsored by the Texas Agrilife Extension program. In addition to helping staff during the event, probationers will be responsible for cleaning the coliseum from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day, except Friday when they will keep the barns clean from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Probationers also will wash and clean police cars at the El Paso Police Department’s Pebble Hills and Mission Valley Regional Command Centers from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. They do this on a regular basis, the same as with the Sheriff’s Department vehicles, Valdez said. He added that another group will fulfill a request by Project Bravo to help paint their new office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Project Bravo helps low-income families in the community.

“But our big project, the one we are focusing more at this time is cleaning up the Canutillo Cemetery, which had been completely abandoned,” he said. “Not only was it full of weeds, but people also had been dumping their trash in there. We have been working at the cemetery for weeks now, and it’s starting to look better. Residents are starting to visit their loved ones buried there again and bringing plastic flowers to spruce it up.

Valdez said that for the Canutillo project, probationers have been bringing in their own tools and equipment, including dump trucks and bobcats, rakes, hoses and shovels. The work at the cemetery is a continuing project, like the one at Concordia Cemetery. Probationers will be there from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday.

For more information on Adult Probation’s money saving projects, call Ray Valdez, 771-8510.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was British romance author Jilly Cooper who made the following observation: “The male is a domestic animal which, if treated with firmness, can be trained to do most things.”
- What do Steve Martin, Donald Trump, Dan Aykroyd, Gene Simmons, Leslie Nielsen, Burt Reynolds, Jerry Seinfeld and Peter Sellers have in common? They’ve all been featured on the cover of Playboy magazine.
- Those who study such things claim that the hair on top of your head grows more rapidly than the hair on the sides of your head.
- If you’re up on your Biblical standards of measurement, you probably already know that a handbreadth equals 3 inches, a span is 9 inches and a cubit equals 18 inches.
- Before horror author Stephen King became famous for novels such as “Carrie,” “The Stand” and “The Shining,” he wrote four novels and 60 short stories that failed to be accepted for publication.

• If you’re ever visiting Woodruff, Wisc., be sure to stop by and see its penny. The tourist attraction is 10 feet tall and weighs 17,452 pounds.

• It’s not surprising that the word “fondue” comes from the French verb “fondre,” which means “to melt.”

• With the health-care debate so much in the news these days, you’ve probably heard of the pharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb. Given its multi-billion-dollar revenues today, you may be surprised to learn that way back in the 19th century when William McLaren Bristol and John Ripley Myers were just getting started, they paid a mere \$5,000 for their fledgling pharmaceutical company.

• If you suffer from ophidiophobia — and many people do — you may find the following tidbit to be rather unsettling: There are more than 3,000 different species of snakes.

Thought for the Day: “A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it.” — Albert Einstein

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## Public Notice Village of Vinton, Texas

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. during the Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed item(s):

- 1) A request to Re-Zone Tracts 11B and 18 of the Alejo Delgado Survey #175, Village of Vinton, El Paso, County Texas (also known as 7810 Doniphan).

The Village encourages citizens to participate and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Jessica Garza, Village Clerk at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Jessica Garza  
Village Clerk

WTCC: 03/18/10

## CryptoQuip Answer

When two serpents part ways, I suppose they ought to sing “Fangs for the Memories.”


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PRO	STOA	RONDO	WISC
AMISS	DIVORCE	HEEHAW	
SYRUP	LATIN	ELMER	OVA
LAME	ESE	OAR	LAIC
PAUL	REVERE	DONNO	VELLO
ALLY	RIN	MAT	ODIN
ROT	FINER	ELTON	PYLON
KERMIT	MISLEAD	SAUDI	
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AT SHOPPING MALLS, PARKING LOTS, THEATERS, APARTMENT COMPLEXES & CITY STREETS


# WHERE YOU ARE, THEY ARE!



**YOU ARE BEING SHADOWED.** But you're not the only one. Every year in Texas, car thieves steal close to 100,000 cars and trucks, and burglarize thousands more. Surprised? Don't be any longer. When you leave your vehicle, **HIDE** your things, **LOCK** your car, and **TAKE** your keys. Remember... **YOU HOLD THE KEY.**



TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY AND THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY



**By Kim Guzman**  
*Special to the Courier*



This recognition is **Johnny A** part of the Whataburger Winner's Circle program, which acknowledges students across

In addition to being recognized at the game, winners receive free tickets for family members, free meals at Whataburger, and a Winner's Circle certificate and t-Shirt.

Now, the U.S. faces an intractable situation. Net interest owed on the national debt will grow from the annual \$188 billion in 2010 to over \$840 billion in 2020. And, that's assuming the debt rating is not downgraded. As interest rates rise, so too will the risks of sovereign default, leading to a situation where the ability of individuals to lend money to the government will be diminished, as Smith warned, "from a distrust of the justice of government, from a fear that if it was known that they had a hoard, and where that hoard was to be found,

Smith did offer the means of salvation. But, he was highly cynical that the tough decisions could be made: "When national

**See SMITH, Page 6**

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# Philadelphia Eagles pick wrong man for Block award

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Ed Block was a longtime athletic trainer for the Baltimore Colts.

He was known as a respected humanitarian, as well as a pretty darn good trainer.

The Ed Block Courage Award Foundation was started to help the lives of neglected and abused children. The main purpose of the program is to promote awareness and prevent child abuse.

The NFL even hands out a yearly Ed Block Courage Award to a player or coach from each team voted on by their teammates.

Some of the past courage winners include Tom Landry, Tom Brady, Joe Montana, Peyton Manning, Jerry Rice, Jim Kelly and Dan Marino.

The award is supposed to single out some of the very best the league has to offer. It is designed to single out the kind of person young kids can look up to as role models and father figures.

Every team chose an award winner recently, including the Philadelphia Eagles.

Now I don’t know what kind of men the Eagles have on their team, but they evidently

dwell near the very bottom of the morality barrel.

I mean they’d have to if they chose Michael Vick as their courage award winner.

That’s right — the Eagles players proclaimed that convicted dog killer Michael Vick is the most courageous among them.

Wow, what’s next — are Tiger Woods and Ben Roethlisberger in the running for the “Self-Control Cup?”

Some of the Eagles players have actually explained their reasoning by saying it took a lot of courage for Vick to stand in front of the cameras and admit his guilt.

Did it really? It took courage to stand in front of cameras and say whatever he had to so that he could get back in the league and get paid?

I also wonder what kind of courage it took to shoot, drown, hang and electrocute dozens of dogs? And these were just the dogs that didn’t perform well when trying to kill each other.

I wonder how much courage it took for Vick to laugh when he threw his house pets in the ring with the fighting dogs, like one witness attested to in court.

Funny, when I think of courage I think of someone deciding to go against the crowd

when he knows the crowd is wrong. I think of someone going the extra mile to comfort someone else. I think of the kind of person parents will tell their kids it’s okay to follow in his footsteps.

I’m sorry, but when I think of Michael Vick (and I’m not even considering his past drug use problems) the last adjective I would use to describe him would be *courageous*.

Shame on the Philadelphia Eagles for embarrassing themselves and the entire NFL for naming Vick as their winner of this once-prestigious award.

I wonder if Ed Block had Michael Vick in mind when he started a foundation with “ending suffering and abuse” as his main goals?

**Hang in there kid**

Chances are that none of you have ever heard of Ryan Westmoreland.

And there’s good reason you hadn’t — Westmoreland is only 19 years old and is in single-A ball in the Boston Red Sox organization.

In 60 games last season, the kid hit .296 with seven home runs and 35 runs batted in.

He is considered the Red Sox best position prospect and is expected to gradually make

his way to the majors — if he lives.

You see, Westmoreland is having brain surgery this week to correct what doctors have called a “cavernous malformation of the brain.”

And yes, the surgery can cause neurological damage and the surgery is life threatening.

And you probably complained because you were out of toothpaste this morning or because the guy in front of you was doing 30 mph instead of 35.

What makes this event so sad is that when this month started about three weeks ago, Westmoreland and his family had no idea what was wrong.

He was having headaches and numbness and had it checked out. Doctors discovered the malformation in his brain stem and he has already experienced some bleeding in his brain.

At this time playing baseball is the very least that the Red Sox care about, according to un-named sources.

Westmoreland getting through this and just enjoy a functioning rest of his life is all that matters.

What this young man is going through is truly *courageous*.

## Smith

From Page 5

debts have once been accumulated to a certain degree, there is scarce, I believe, a single instance of their having been fairly and completely paid.” He offered two options out of the mess: inflate the currency, or pay down the debt.

Unfortunately, Smith noted, nations frequently opt for inflation: “The liberation of the public revenue, if it has ever been brought about at all, has always been brought about by a bankruptcy; sometimes by an avowed one, but always by a real one, though frequently by a pretended payment,” that “pretended” payment whereby the government increases the money supply to enable repayment of the debt while simultaneously perpetuating its extension and destroying the purchasing power of individuals.

Specifically, Smith wrote, “The raising of the denomination of the coin has been the most usual expedient by which a real public bankruptcy has been disguised under the appearance of a pretended payment,” and commented with contempt upon its practice: “The honour of a state is surely very poorly provided for, when, in order to cover the disgrace of a real bankruptcy, it has recourse to a juggling trick of this kind, so easily seen through, and at the same time so extremely pernicious.”

Once again, that is exactly what has happened in America. Since 2007 when the crisis began, the Federal Reserve has more than doubled the supply of dollars, beating down the dollar and laying the seeds for eventual hyperinflation.

Smith emphasized the hazards, and specifically predicted the calamity of the 2008-09 bailouts: “A pretended payment of this kind... instead of alleviating, aggravates in most cases the loss of the creditors to the public; and without any advantage to the public, extends the calamity to a great number of innocent people. It occasions a general and most pernicious subversion of the fortunes of private people; enriching in most

cases the idle and profuse debtor at the expence of the industrious and frugal creditor, and transporting a great part of the national capital [i.e. money] from the hands which were likely to increase and improve it, to those which are likely to dissipate and destroy it.”

And that is exactly what happened in 2008-09, where delinquent homeowners were repeatedly “rescued” from foreclosure; GM and Chrysler’s bondholders were raped by the UAW; and AIG, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Bear Stearns, Goldman Sachs and others were all bailed out by the Federal Reserve, Treasury and Congress.

Smith cited numerous examples of inflation, either through adulteration by mixing alloy into the coin or by raising its denomination, utilized throughout history to balance the budgets of declining nations, including ancient Rome at the end of the first Punic War, King John of France, Henry VIII, Edward VI, and the minority of Scottish lord James VI. Smith noted the ensuing fury of the public that tends to result, and even cases where “after the greatest adulterations it has almost always been brought back to its former fineness. It has scarce ever happened that the fury and indignation of the people could otherwise be appeased.”

Fortunately, however, the brutish end Smith predicted is not a fait accompli. The American people actually have a choice. According to Smith, debt on the scale the U.S. has incurred, will never be paid “without either some very considerable augmentation of the public revenue, or some equally considerable reduction of the public expence.”

Smith concluded by noting the various means that revenues could be raised, including levying new taxes on the colonies — we saw how that turned out — but ceded that they may be “impracticable,” and Smith suggested that “Any new taxes imposed are rarely sufficient to do more than pay the new interest.”

Therefore, per Smith, “the only resource which can remain... is

See SMITH, Page 8

## A sporting view

By Mark Vasto

### Does anybody like mascots?

I never liked mascots, and it’s unlikely I ever will. Now, it appears, I have good reason. Not only are they often annoying, they are a menace to society.

We take you to Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, home of the Royals — now a crime scene (and no, I’m not talking about the lineup). Last September, John Coomer of Kansas sat in the sixth row behind the dugout on the third-base side. The Royals mascot, “Sluggerrr” — described as a lion wearing a Royals’ home jersey and a crown — was witnessed by several thousand fans shooting hot dogs into the stands with an air cannon. According to Coomer, when Sluggerrr finished with the air gun, he climbed atop the dugout, motioned toward him and threw a hot dog at his face, hitting him and causing “physical pain

and discomfort.” Coomer claims he suffers from cataracts stemming from a detached retina. He is seeking redress in a civil court to the tune of \$25,000.

I’ve had my eye on Sluggerrr for quite some time. I can’t stand those hot-dog tosses — it makes me sick to see people begging for those nitrate-laden heart bullets. I know times are tough, but these people just laid out six to 10 Jacksons for their seats, and now they’re acting like a bunch of refugees at a hurricane-relief center. It’s a humiliating disgrace. I’d sooner eat glass than beg for a hot dog from a guy in a lion suit.

“You’re jaded,” you may be thinking. “You forgot what it was like to be a little kid.” Newsflash: Kids don’t like mascots, either. A quick glance at just about every photo album in America will testify

to this. There’s baby junior on Santa’s lap, crying his eyes out, screaming for mommy to save him. There’s our little angel, screaming bloody murder in the Easter Bunny’s lap. Main Street, USA in Disney World quickly evaporates into the boulevard of broken dreams when you spend a year’s worth of salary to take your kid to meet Mickey Mouse, only to see him dissolve into tears the minute he meets the white-gloved rodent.

I grew up watching the San Diego Chicken steal bases from the Baseball Bunch and stalk Johnny Bench. Mr. Met looks like a sex offender. And what is a Philly Fanatic? The Yankees don’t need a mascot (no, they just talk to dead people in the outfield) and neither do you.

I’m not advocating violence, but maybe the player who took out that running sausage in Milwaukee was partly justified — after that incident, Bernie Brewer was brought back, beer mug in hand.

Now that’s a mascot.

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

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U.S. General Services Administration

#### LEGALS

##### Lower Valley Housing Corporation

##### Public Notice

Lower Valley Housing Corporation (LVHC) is a non-profit community development Texas corporation that is applying to USDA/ Rural Development for a section 523C Technical Assistance Grant for self-help housing to build 30 new mutual self-help single family houses in El Paso County, Texas. This grant will provide Technical Assistance funds for the administrative costs of the program over a two-year period as

well as providing another 30 eligible and USDA/Rural Development approved applicants with permanent loans on their home. Anyone wishing to comment or make an application may do so by contacting:  
**Lower Valley Housing Corporation**  
**215 West Main**  
**P.O. Box #638**  
**Fabens, TX 79838**  
**(915) 764-3413**

WTCC: 03-11-10  
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#### SELF-HELP

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

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

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: Sixty-two must be the age when everything falls apart. I'm there. My latest body part to give way is my back. I have back pain a considerable amount of the time. It finally brought me to a doctor, who tells me I have spinal stenosis. I have been told to take Aleve for my pain, and I'm scheduled for physical therapy. I don't have great hopes of a cure. What exactly is this? What else can be done for it? — T.R.*

Spinal stenosis accounts for about one-third of all cases of low-back pain. It's an elusive concept that calls for an anatomy lesson. The backbones (vertebrae, spinal column) have a tunnel running through them -- the spinal canal. In that canal or tunnel is the spinal cord and spinal nerves. Spinal stenosis signifies that the spinal canal has narrowed and is pressing on the spinal cord or spinal nerves. That, in turn, produces back pain that can spread to the buttocks, the back of the thighs or the lower leg. The pain worsens on standing or waking, and goes away when the person sits.

Aging is the most important factor in developing spinal stenosis. Back ligaments, which hold the backbones in place, thicken and calcify. Arthritic changes in the backbones sprout bone spurs that impinge on the canal. Back discs -- the spongy shock absorbers between adjacent backbones -- degenerate and crumble, and that narrows the canal and exerts pressure on the spine and spinal nerves.

Nonsurgical treatment employs physical therapy to strengthen and stretch back muscles in an attempt to relieve pressure on the spine and its nerves. Anti-inflammatory medicines like your Aleve control pain. You might need stronger pain medicines. Epidural injections of cortisone ease inflammation and give the spinal canal and spinal

nerves more room. "Epidural" means the injection is made into a space in the spinal canal above its covering membrane. Surgery is a solution when these measures fail.

The pamphlet on back pain discusses the many conditions that lead to one of medicine's biggest problems. It describes different conditions and their treatments. To obtain a copy, write to: Dr. Donohue -- No. 303W, 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: Will you repeat the article on a runny nose when eating? My husband has it, and it's embarrassing to him. — J.W.*

Some explain why noses run upon eating by invoking sensitivity to temperature changes, i.e., hot or cold food. Or it could be that spices start the nose dripping. Chewing might trigger a reflex that makes the nose run. And, in all truth, the reason could be something that remains a mystery.

Atrovent nasal spray, a prescription item, can sometimes stanch the drip. A drying antihistamine taken an hour before meals is another way to keep the nose dry. People shouldn't resort to medicine before every meal. They should save it for occasions when a drippy nose is a source of embarrassment.

This curiosity has a name, gustatory rhinorrhea.

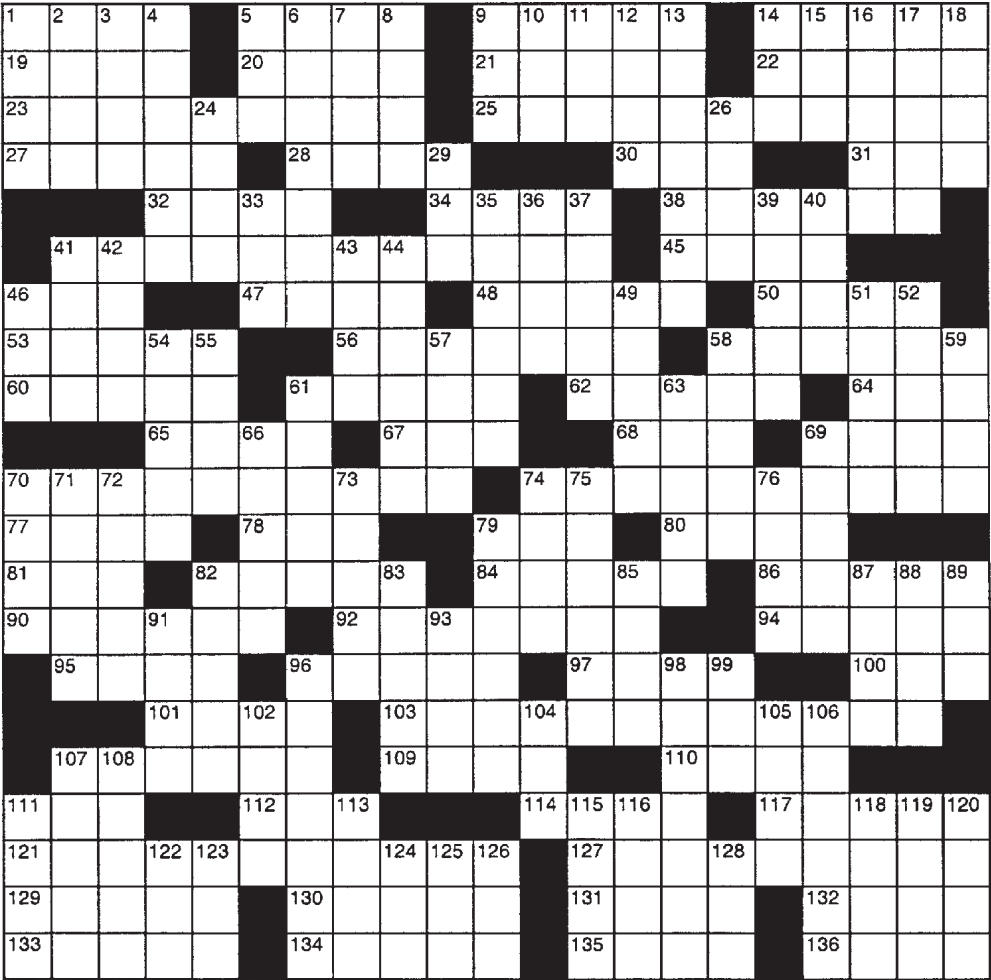
*Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2010 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.*

Super Crossword

- FIRST BORN ACROSS**

  - 1 Like some cellars
  - 5 Fossey's friends
  - 9 \_ acid
  - 14 Actress
  - Witherspoon
  - 19 Gulf ruler
  - 20 Computer
  - command
  - 21 Word with coffee or linen
  - 22 Intense
  - 23 Writer born 1/1/1879
  - 25 Bandleader born 1/1/1900
  - 27 Soprano Anna
  - 28 Facts, for short
  - 30 Diocese
  - 31 Flagon filler
  - 32 Vacation location
  - 34 Cease
  - 38 Join the leisure class?
  - 41 General born 1/1/1745
  - 45 Adored one
  - 46 Paid player
  - 47 Athenian arcade
  - 48 Musical movement
  - 50 Madison's st.
  - 53 Wrong
  - 56 Splitting headache?
  - 58 Donkey's declaration
  - 60 Flapjack sauce
- 61 Tacitus' tongue
  - 62 Glue guy
  - 64 Eggs
  - 65 Fancy fabric
  - 67 Nationality suffix
  - 68 Boathouse item
  - 69 Secular
  - 70 Patriot born 1/1/1735
  - 74 Comic born 1/1/1943
  - 77 TV's " \_ McBeal"
  - 78 \_ Tin Tin
  - 79 Welcome item?
  - 80 Norse deity
  - 81 Deteriorate
  - 82 More delicate
  - 84 Singer John
  - 86 Marking post
  - 90 Henson amphibian
  - 92 Deceive
  - 94 Riyadh resident
  - 95 "I Am... I \_" (71 song)
  - 96 Japanese city
  - 97 Amazes
  - 100 Smith or Stout
  - 101 A swan was her swain
  - 103 G-man born 1/1/1895
  - 107 "Petrouchka," for one
  - 109 Novelist Seton
  - 110 Memo start
  - 111 Fumble
  - 112 Supporter
  - 114 Nice or Newark
  - 117 Abate
  - 121 Actor born
- DOWN**

  - 1 Judge
  - 2 Snowballs, sometimes
  - 3 Irritate
  - 4 Make a bundle
  - 5 Palm Sunday
  - 6 Exam subject?
  - 7 Like Steven?
  - 8 Medieval menial
  - 9 Rig a race
  - 10 " \_ pro nobis"
  - 11 Ullmann or Tyler
  - 12 Horus' mother
  - 13 "Ta-ta!"
  - 14 \_ room
  - 15 It's found in the Seine
  - 16 Actress Samantha
  - 17 Panther Bobby
  - 18 Ziegfeld Folies designer
  - 24 \_ Hashanah
- 26 Stalk
  - 29 Actress Massen
  - 33 \_ Alamos, NM
  - 35 Power or Guthrie
  - 36 \_ about (approximately)
  - 37 Carnaby Street
  - currency
  - 39 London landmark
  - 40 Nastase of tennis
  - 41 Bunch of battalions
  - 42 Film -
  - 43 Jedi instructor
  - 44 Restaurant
  - employee
  - 46 \_ de deux
  - 49 Actor Alain
  - 51 Shallow area
  - 52 Find fault
  - 54 Tarnish
  - 55 Practice punching
  - 57 Workbench
  - 7 Like Steven?
  - 8 Medieval menial
  - 9 Rig a race
  - 10 " \_ pro nobis"
  - 11 Ullmann or Tyler
  - 12 Horus' mother
  - 13 "Ta-ta!"
  - 14 \_ room
  - 15 It's found in the Seine
  - 16 Actress Samantha
  - 17 Panther Bobby
  - 18 Ziegfeld Folies designer
  - 24 \_ Hashanah
- 74 Buttermilk's mistress
  - 75 Canada's capital
  - 76 Bigwigs
  - 79 Tune
  - 82 \_ Castro
  - 83 Sangria wine
  - 85 Scent
  - 87 Entice
  - 88 Central European
  - river
  - 89 Veto
  - 91 Grain grinder
  - 93 British gun
  - 96 Kind of grasshopper
  - 98 Carve
  - 99 Every guy is one
  - 102 College hotshot
  - 104 Cumberland \_
  - 105 French airport
  - 106 Swerved
  - 107 Clamp
  - 108 Football's Herber
  - 111 Touch up the text
  - 113 Therefore
  - 115 Bassoon relative
  - 116 Depend (on)
  - 118 Made tracks
  - 119 Lofty initials?
  - 120 Classroom sound
  - 122 Jillian or Sothern
  - 123 Khan opener?
  - 124 New Haven
  - hardwood
  - 125 " \_ is me!"
  - 126 Turf
  - 128 Crestfallen



# Smith

From Page 6

diminution of... expence.”

In the end, Smith was incensed at attempting to sustain the unsustainable: “[I]f [the nation] cannot raise its revenue in proportion to its expence, it ought, at least, to accommodate its expence to its revenue” and “If the project cannot be completed, it ought to be given up.” In this case, the projects to be given up on are the runaway costs of entitlements spending, which will grow from \$1.441 trillion today to \$2.641 trillion in 2020, an 83.27 percent increase, overtaking vaster portions of the nation’s budget, which will in comparison grow at a 53.53 percent rate.

By 2020, entitlements will account for 56 percent of all revenue, assuming Obama’s generous 4.97 percent average projected growth each year until then. Add in interest, ObamaCare, and other “mandatory” programs, and “[i]t all will gobble up 80 percent of all federal revenues by 2020, government economists project,” reports the AP.

But, it need not be this way; the principle of parsimony may yet be applied. The debt could be retired within a limited number of years, believe it or not, as Smith suggested, through anticipation: the “assignment or mortgage for a short period of time only... [that] was supposed sufficient to pay, within the limited time, both principal and interest of the money borrowed... Had money never been raised but by anticipation, the course of a few years would have liberated the public revenue, without any other attention of government besides that of not overloading the fund by charging it with more debt than it could pay within the limited term, and of not anticipating a second time before the expiration of the first anticipation.”

At a rate starting at \$500 billion a year, for example, the national debt could be paid off in a period of about 30 years. But, it would require great sacrifices to be made by members of Congress, chiefly by cutting favored programs, abolishing entire departments and agencies, and reforming entitlements while maintaining vital defense and security obligations so as to not endanger peace among nations.

In truth, such reforms are the only way for the nation to retain its economic superpower status that was lost by Rome, Britain, and so many others, and to remain the leader of the free world. The alternative of inflating the debt away will surely lead to decline, desolation, wars, and despair, as it always has.

There is another way. If, through the extension of the national debt, our Founders would have envisioned a system whereby one generation could indebt another to pay, with interest, for the opulence of the present, surely they would have limited its extension.

For Americans to insist upon luxuries today that will only result in scarcity tomorrow — and to only permit their indulgence upon the promise that their own children will one day be forced to pay for it — is a moral injustice as hideous as the bonds of slavery themselves.

Robert Romano is the ALG Senior News Editor.

## Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: What are the rules for getting Supplemental Security Income (SSI)? I’m thinking about applying.

A: To be eligible to receive SSI benefits, you must be disabled, blind, or age 65 or older and have limited income and resources. Income is defined as wages, Social Security benefits, and pensions. Income also includes such things as food and shelter you receive from others. Social Security does not count all of your income when deciding whether you qualify for SSI. Resources

include bank accounts, cash, stocks, and bonds. You may be able to get SSI if your resources are worth no more than \$2,000. A couple may be able to get SSI if they have resources worth no more than \$3,000. Learn more by reading our publication, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html).

Q: What is the earliest age I can begin receiving retirement benefits?

A: The earliest age you can begin

receiving Social Security retirement benefits is 62. If you decide to receive benefits before your full retirement age, you will receive a reduced benefit. Keep in mind you will not be able to receive Medicare coverage until age 65, even if you decide to retire at an earlier age. For more information, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

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, 1111 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.

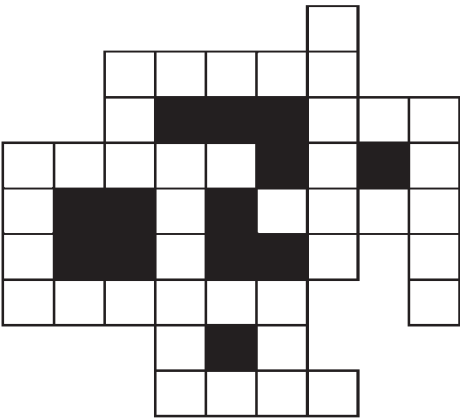
Clue: H equals W

HMAO EHR FANIAOEF IGNE  
HGTF, W FSIIRFA EMAT RSQME  
ER FWOQ "LGOQF LRN EMA  
PAPRNWAF."

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♥OWT  
VALNYS  
♥YALLO  
AUUL  
HAYWON  
OSY  
WAYL  
ZLAWT  
♥WOL  
THOUSP  
PYOUS  
LOWO



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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