



NEWSBRIEFS

Open house

Project BRAVO, Inc., El Paso's Community Action Program, will observe its 45th year of service to El Paso with open house celebrations at three of its locations from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2010. The public is invited to visit Project BRAVO facilities to learn about the many services the agency provides to thousands of low-income, disabled and elderly residents of the county. Snacks and refreshments will be served. The office locations are:

- Main office – 4838 Montana Avenue
- Eastside Center – 11206 Montwood
- Ysleta Center – 400 S. Zaragoza

Project BRAVO was established in 1965 as a private IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt Corporation and is the designated Community Action Agency (CAA) for all of El Paso County. Project BRAVO is funded by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) through the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) and various other funding sources.

— Roy Ortega

Ribbon cutting

The Town of Horizon City will hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for the just remodeled City Hall building on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 14999 Darrington Road in Horizon City. The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting or stop by anytime during the open house hours.

— Karen Ellefson

Spring festival

Bring the family out for some fun at L. G. Alarcon Elementary School. The campus located at 12501 Socorro Rd. in San Elizario, Texas (across from the San Elizario Mission) will host a spring festival from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 28, 2010. There will be booths featuring games, such as Loteria, Wii dancing, and more. Plenty of family friendly activities will also be offered including face painting, cake walks, and arts and crafts. Gorditas, snow cones and other tasty food will also be sold. For more information, please call (915) 872-3930.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

Wanted

Jarred Lee Juarez, 18, who also goes by Jarred Bustamante, is a Latin Kings gang member wanted in a highly publicized March 2009 incident where he walked onto a local high school campus and threatened two high school students with a knife. Juarez has failed to show for court for the offense and the 409th District Court has issued a warrant for

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Honesty is a question of right and wrong, not a matter of policy.

— Quips & Quotes

El Paso Collaborative named Small Business Financial Services Champion

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Delia Chavez speaks of her passion with passion. Her passion is people — helping people.

Chavez, a former resident of Horizon City, is executive director of the El Collaborative for Community Development. She is a female Mr. Goodwrench. However, rather than repairing cars, Chavez deftly uses her wrench to open financial doors and help low-income families in the El Paso area repair and rebuild homes and lives.

For its efforts in helping financially-strapped families, the Collaborative was named Small Business Financial Services Champion of the Year. The recognition came at a recent awards luncheon. The Collaborative was sponsored by the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

A website "Welcome to El Paso Collaborative" explains that the company is a Texas not-for-profit organization that has served El Paso and the surrounding area since 1996." It is also a U.S. Treasury-certified Community Development Financial Institution. It provides capital to underserved populations. It offers a wide variety of loans, programs and services.

"It has been very easy this year (to make the nomination)," says Minda Villareal, vice president of business development for the Greater El Paso Chamber. "They have done



HARDWARE — Delia Chavez proudly displays the SBA plaque awarded to the El Collaborative for Community Development.

so much — the assistance they have given small business."

In announcing its nomination, the Chamber's website adds, "Chavez is actively involved in

See COLLABORATIVE, Page 4

Juarez, Provencio are Canutillo ISD Teachers of the Year

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Hector Juarez, Jose Damian Elementary School (JDE) fifth grade teacher, and Lydia Provencio, Canutillo Middle School (CMS) special education teacher, will represent Canutillo ISD in the Region XIX 2011 Teacher of the Year awards program.

The District selection committee named Juarez as the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Provencio as CISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2011. Their respective campus faculty members nominated the two teachers.

Juarez, who has a bachelor's degree specializing in Reading from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), began his teaching career 12 years ago and currently teaches fifth



Hector Juarez



Lydia Provencio

school districts for regional honors as part of the Texas Teacher of the Year Program. The winners, which will be announced in

See CANUTILLO, Page 4

County to roundup hot check writers

Arrest roundups to follow publication of the names

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal and Sgt. Raymond Hernández from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office today announced that they will be joined by area Constables, Military Police Officers from Fort Bliss and troopers with the Texas Department of Public Safety in conducting a roundup of individuals with outstanding hot check warrants in El Paso County.

This unparalleled cooperative effort by local law enforcement to arrest hot check writers will be preceded by an amnesty period in which residents can pay their outstanding amounts without fear of being arrested.

The amnesty period runs from Friday May 14 through Monday June 7, 2010. Beginning Monday May 31, 2010 the County Attorney's Office will publish on the El Paso County's web-site and on the web-sites of several local media outlets, the names and addresses of thousands of individuals with outstanding hot-check warrants.

Individuals who want to avoid the publication of their names must pay their outstanding balances by Friday May 28, 2010.

Individuals who pay their outstanding balances before Monday June 7, 2010, the end of the amnesty period, will avoid arrests during the upcoming county-wide arrest warrant round-up. Additionally, they will also avoid the payment of additional fees, such as court costs, attorney fees, and the cost of posting a bond.

Residents with outstanding hot check warrants can make their payments in person at the following locations:

- El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Room 503 (5th floor), Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and
- El Paso County Ysleta Annex, 9521 Socorro Rd., Suite A-3, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Forms of payment accepted include most credit cards, money orders, cashiers checks, and cash. People paying in cash must bring the exact amount because the cashiers cannot give change.

In addition, residents can make payments online 24 hours a day, seven days a week through "Hot Check E-pay," by visiting the El Paso County Attorney's Office web-page at www.epcounty.com/CA

For more information regarding hot check payments and balances please contact the El Paso County Attorney's Office Hot Check Unit at 546-2051 or visit the El Paso County Attorney's Office web site at: www.epcounty.com/CA.

There are currently more than 3,600 names in the County's hot checks warrants list that owe local merchants more than \$3.34 million dollars. During last fiscal year (2008-2009) the Hot Check Unit collected

See CHECKS, Page 4

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Fiduciary program shortchanging vets

Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs has a fiduciary program to help veterans handle their finances when they can't do it for themselves? No? Lots of people don't.

Fiduciary representatives can be a group such as a nursing home or law firm, or a family member or someone appointed by the VA. At present the fiduciaries are managing the financial affairs of more than 100,000 veterans with estate assets of more than \$3 billion. Fiduciaries earn 4 percent of the amount they manage.

But there are problems. A VA Office of the Inspector General report says that the fiduciary program "is not effectively protecting the VA-derived income and estate of incompetent beneficiaries." A Government Accountability Office report said that "insufficient staff compliance ... hinder VA's ability to safeguard veterans' benefits." Lack of accountability, late or falsified reports, lack of training and outright theft are huge problems. One thieving fiduciary, responsible for the financial affairs of a whopping 33 veterans, went

to prison for stealing \$1 million from those veterans.

At a recent hearing on Capitol Hill, witnesses gave testimony about the VA Fiduciary Program. The speakers covered a wide range of titles and expertise, including the director of audits operation division, assistant director for program management, a field examiner, the director of compensation and pension service and even the chair of the government relations committee for the Gold Star Wives of America. Coming on the heels of the GAO and VAOIG reports, they paint an ugly picture about the program, but one with hope that changes can be made.

If you want to read the statements, go to veterans.house.gov and put "Examining the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Fiduciary Program" in the search box.

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.

Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Ticket surcharges must be paid

Hola mi gente. A call to my office prompted me to remind all of you that if you commit a traffic violation you may be responsible for paying more than just the fines. In some cases, a surcharge may be in effect immediately while most violations require multiple citations in order for surcharges to be imposed.

We received a phone call from a constituent who found herself with a suspended driver's license. The suspension was imposed because she failed to pay a traffic violation surcharge which was levied in addition to her traffic ticket.

Prior to her violation, she became very ill and did not drive for many months. Upon her recovery, she began attending to her needs as she did before the illness by driving throughout the city. An unfortunate traffic violation started a period of time that was most frustrating for her.

Because she was cited for driving with an invalid license, she innocently failed to renew it during her period of illness, the state imposed surcharges upon her. These surcharges were to be paid for the next three years. Failing to do so would automatically suspend her license.

Unaware of the surcharges, the constituent decided to simply pay the traffic violation fine. Going before a judge and pleading may have resulted in a dismissal of the violation because of the health problems. Instead, her instinct was to put it behind her in the quickest manner.

When she called our office, her first question was whether there might be an opportunity to re-address the plea for the violation. We informed her that once she made the plea there was no way that the courts could reconsider the ticket that was now on her record. She was bound to paying the surcharges for three years.

Frustrated that she was not able to legally drive, she sent a check to the Department of Safety (DPS) only to find that the agency did not have a record of her payment. When we became of this problem, we quickly contacted our liaison at DPS for assistance.

After emailing the staffer a copy

that showed a chargeback for the mailed payment, our constituent was informed that her obligations had been met and that she could now drive. Without our assistance, the constituent was told her problem would not be resolved for several days. Bureaucracies work that way. In most cases, my office is able to sidestep the process and get things done faster as we did for her.

The message to all of you reading this is to please drive in compliance to all of our traffic laws. Repetitive violations will result in surcharges. Certain violations, such as driving while intoxicated or without insurance will result in immediate surcharges. The dollar amount ranges from just over \$100 for three years to surcharges in excess of \$1000 for three years.

In addition to enhancing you and your family's safety and well being, driving in compliance to traffic laws will also save you potentially lots of money and a good deal of aggravation.

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

View from here

By David Nance

Misery or prosperity?

In 2010, the citizens of the United States can choose one of two paths, one path leads toward misery, the other towards prosperity. This is not the first time that Americans have faced this choice. They faced this decision in 1920 and again in 1929 with far different results.

In 1920, the economy's adjustment to the end of World War I and mistakes in Federal Reserve monetary policy created a severe but short lived recession. Industrial production fell by 30% and unemployment rose from 6% to 12%. The Gross Domestic Product fell by 17%.

President Warren Harding convened a conference on unemployment at the insistence of his Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover. Hoover believed that the government must intervene to stimulate the economy. Presidents Harding and later Coolidge believed that cutting taxes and reducing the Federal budget were the best ways to end the crisis. Long before Professor Laffer's research on taxation and revenue, Andrew Mellon, the Secretary of the Treasury, predicted that cutting tax rates could increase

revenue. Their plan to lower taxes and spending was a success. By 1921, the economy had recovered and by 1923 unemployment was at 2.5%. The decade of the 1920's produced unparalleled prosperity.

However by 1929, economic prosperity combined with poor monetary policy led to excessive speculation. This speculation ended abruptly in the stock market crash of 1929. However by April 1930, the stock market had recovered from its losses and unemployment had fallen from 10% to a little over 6%.

While Harding, Coolidge and Andrew Mellon had used tax cuts and reduced spending to stimulate the economy, President Herbert Hoover would have none of that. Hoover, a mining engineer by profession believed that experts could make business and government more efficient and eliminate vast amounts of waste. Hoover was experienced in managing mines during his engineering career and in managing relief efforts for Belgium during the WW1 and Germany after the war. He saw this crisis as the perfect opportunity to utilize his management expertise.


Hoover had already demonstrated his belief in government intervention during the recession of 1920, much to the chagrin of Presidents Harding and Coolidge. He regarded himself as a progressive thinker and spent his entire career as Secretary of Commerce expanding the role of the department including areas considered part of other departments. His progressive tendencies encouraged voluntary partnerships between big business and government, which later became the basis of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

After the stock market crash, Hoover was determined to use Federal intervention to stimulate the economy. Even after the stock market started to recover, his pro-labor policies encouraged business to keep wages high, which caused the unemployment to rise again. He began a program of government construction and signed the Davis-Bacon Act that forced the payment of union wages on the newly created government construction projects.

However, perhaps the most damaging legislation he signed was



Instead of putting an end to Hoover's federal interventions that were worsening the Great Depression in America, Roosevelt expanded the programs.



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PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

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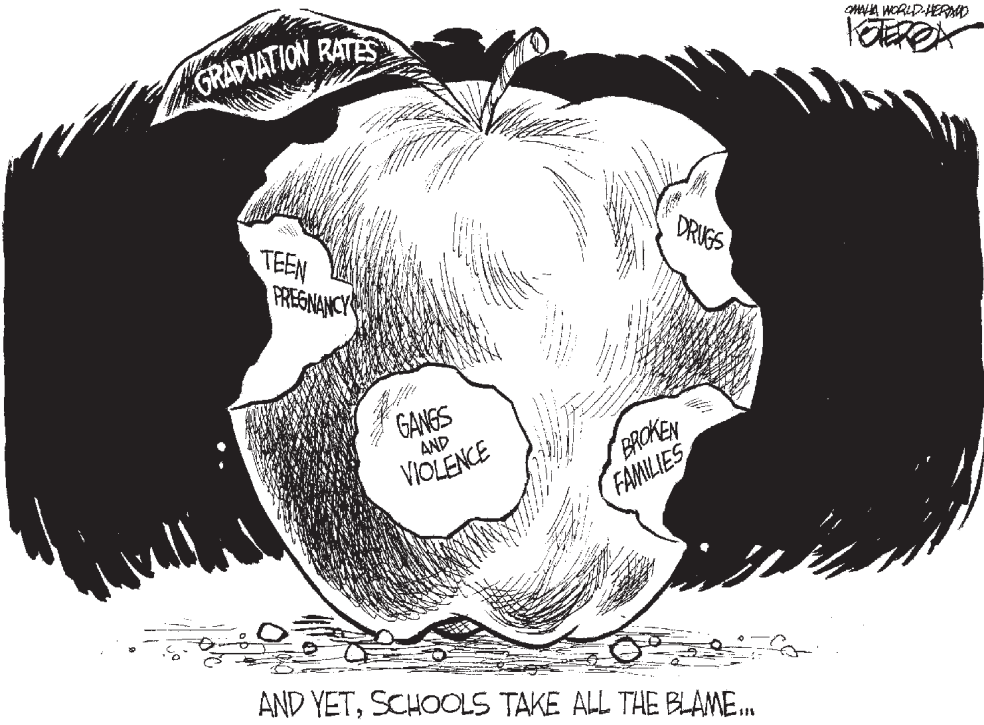
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View from here

By Carol Rawson

Not buckling up can cost you

Like any other day, today millions of people will get into their cars and head for home, school, work, the grocery store, mall, doctor’s office and hundreds of other destinations. Nine of every ten will automatically buckle their seat belts without giving it a second thought.

Restrained drivers and passengers are the smart ones. Buckling up tilts the odds of surviving a serious traffic crash by almost 50 percent. Thanks to their safety belts, in 2008 more than 800,000 Texans walked away from collisions without injuries.

But roughly 1.1 million motorists—the equivalent of the entire population of Dallas, for example—still don’t spend the two seconds it takes to fasten their safety belts. According to the Texas Transportation Institute, motorists least likely to buckle up continue to include men, teen boys and pickup drivers and passengers.

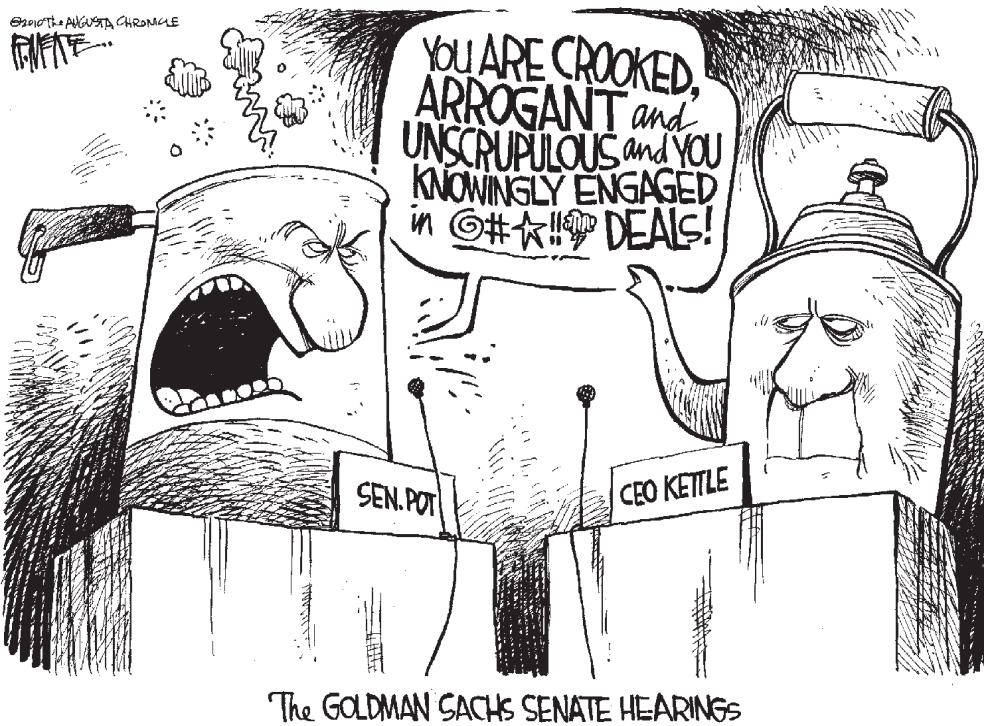
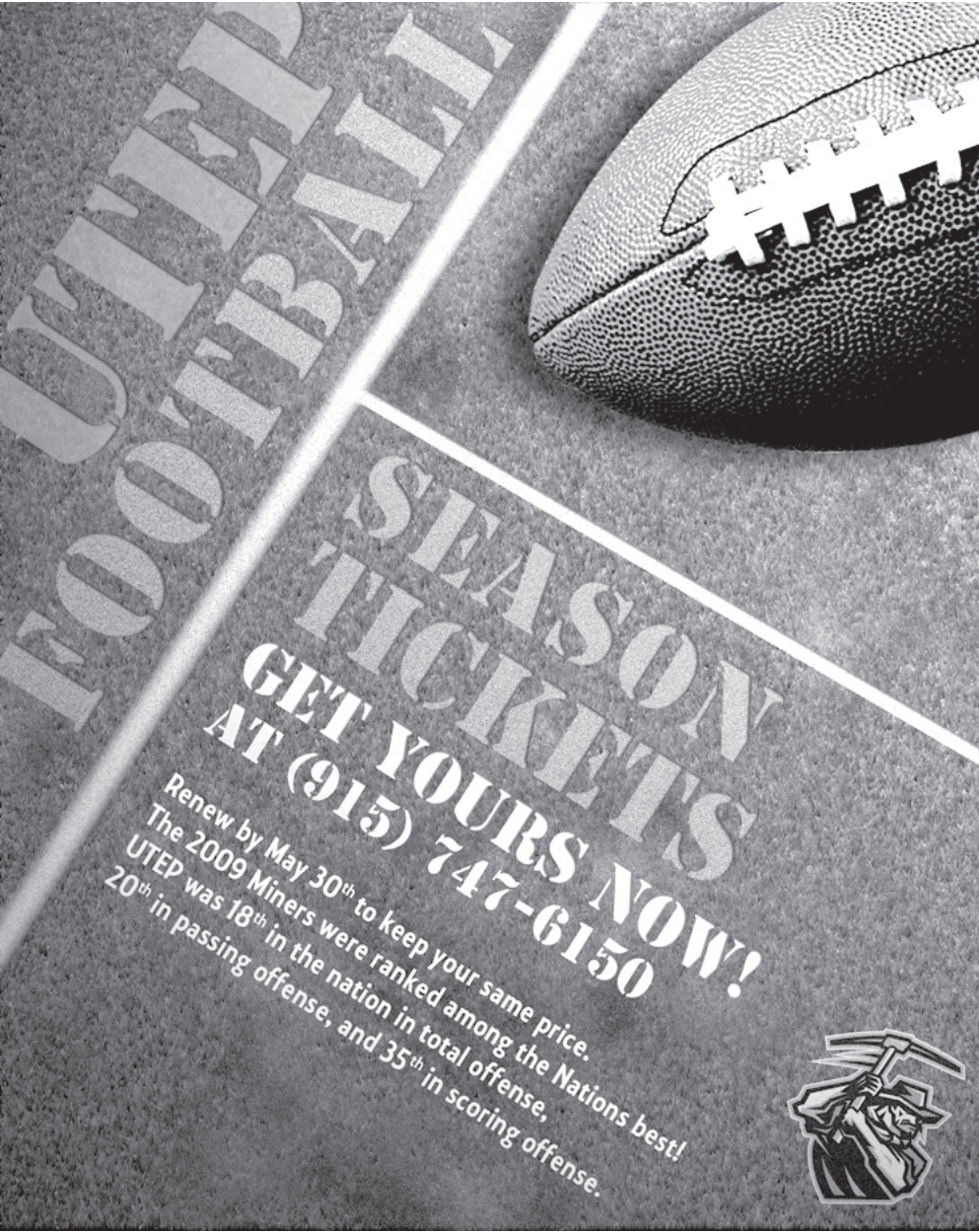
Most unsecured drivers and passengers will blame it on forgetfulness. Others will rationalize since they’re not going very far,

they don’t need to buckle up. The fashion conscious will say they don’t want their clothes to get wrinkled. The defiant ones will point out it’s a free country and they don’t need the government telling them what to do, including buckling up.

Excuses are no protection when it comes to car wrecks—or for trying to talk your way out of an expensive ticket. Thousands of state troopers, police officers and sheriff’s deputies will be out in force during the days leading up to and after Memorial Day to write citations to unbuckled drivers and passengers as part of the annual Click It or Ticket campaign.

State laws passed in 2009 could result in more tickets this year if drivers and passengers fail to heed new safety belt requirements. For the first time, adult passengers in the back seat now must be buckled up, and children younger than 8 years old have to ride in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches. Fines range from \$25 to \$250

See BUCKLE, Page 4



Collaborative

From Page 1

supporting the need of access to capital. She believes that a small business owner deserves to fulfill his dreams of business ownership.”

Chavez puts it simply.” It is just my passion; it is just my desire to help families who want to get ahead.” She helps them get ahead in multiple ways — by helping them get a new home, an education or a new small business.

Chavez estimates The Collaborative helps 1,500-2,000 people a year. That would come to more than 24,000 clients since the organization’s 1996 inception. “There are just so many families,” she says. There is one, however, that stands out in her mind.

She was a single mother with two children, a little boy and a little girl. The girl was disabled. The family of three lived in little more than a shack that was threatening to fall down, she remembers.

She was able to find funds for building materials. She enlisted the aid of a construction class from El Paso Community College which built a whole new house for the family.

The executive director grew up in San Elizario and graduated from Clint High School. She graduated from the University of Phoenix with a degree in business administration. She started to work for The Collaborative 10 years ago as a program coordinator.



— Photos courtesy of El Collaborative for Community Development

MORE HARDWARE — Joanna Guillen, left, was recognized for her ten years of service to the El Collaborative for Community Development. With her is Delia Chavez.

Canutillo

From Page 1

late August, will advance to the State Teacher of the Year program.

The Texas Teacher of the Year annual event is the highest honor that the state can bestow upon a teacher. The Texas Education Agency rewards and recognizes excellence in the teaching profession through the Texas Teacher of the Year Program.

Checks

From Page 1

1.23 million dollars in outstanding hot checks. So far, during the first seven months of fiscal year 2009-2010, the County Attorney’s Office has collected over \$620,000.

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal is urging individuals with outstanding warrants for writing hot checks to take advantage of this opportunity.

“These hot check writers will be fully prosecuted for a criminal offense if they fail to pay the outstanding balances on their checks; this is their last chance,” Bernal explained.

Sgt. Raymond Hernandez from the El Paso Sheriff’s Office warned that, after the amnesty period, Sheriff’s deputies and members of the other participating law enforcement agencies will go out in search of individuals with outstanding warrants.

“These individuals are breaking the law — they are stealing money by writing worthless checks. We are committed to find them and arrest them anywhere they might be, at home, at work or with their family members,” Hernández concluded.

Buckle

From Page 3

plus court costs.

The likelihood of getting a ticket for not being buckled has been a prime reason for steady increases in the number of drivers and passengers who use their safety belts. Since the Click It or Ticket push began in 2002, the state’s safety belt rate has climbed from 76 percent to 92 percent today, saving an estimated 2,400 lives and preventing more than 56,000 injuries.

If you’re one of the millions who still doesn’t always buckle up, law enforcement will be patrolling Texas roads especially between May 24 and June 6 to give you a friendly and costly reminder.

No one wants an expensive ticket. Being forgetful or hard-headed and not using your seat belt—in the front or the back seat—won’t protect you from receiving a citation, and it also won’t keep you from getting hurt or killed if you’re one of the hundreds of Texans involved in a car wreck every single day. There are more than 1,000 tombstones marking the graves of those who died in traffic crashes in Texas in 2008 because they, too, chose not to buckle up.

Carol Rawson is the Director of TxDOT Traffic Operations Division.

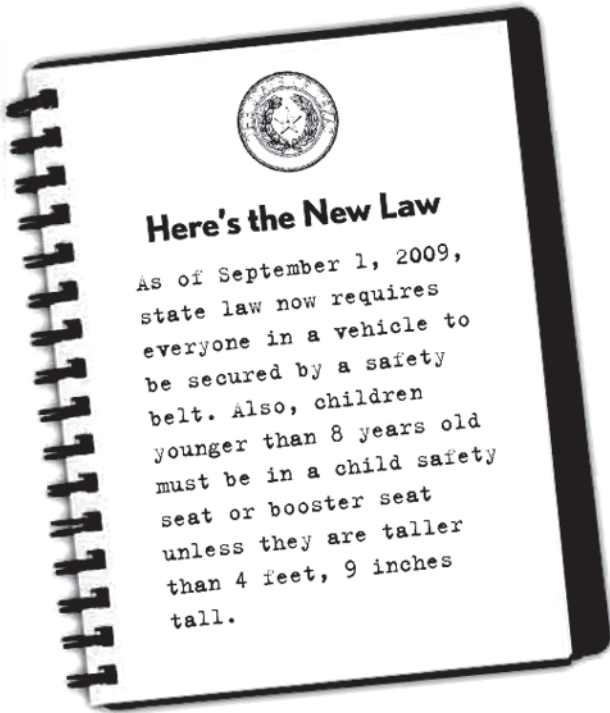
Click It or Ticket. Even in the back seat.



Safety Belt Mobilization | May 24-June 6, 2010

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Department of Public Safety are joining forces with police and sheriffs’ departments across Texas for the 9th annual statewide *Click It or Ticket* campaign.

Law enforcement statewide will be ticketing anyone who isn’t wearing a safety belt—and for the first time, this also means adult passengers in the back seat. Drivers with children in the vehicle also will be cited if their young passengers are not properly secured. Fines range from \$25 to \$250 plus court costs.



Watch your back seat.

- Buckling up significantly increases the odds of surviving a serious traffic crash. Riders in the back seat who use lap and shoulder belts are 44% more likely to survive in a crash than unrestrained occupants in passenger cars and 73% more likely to survive in passenger vans and SUVs (NHTSA).
- Unbelted backseat passengers can become projectiles in a car crash, and if tossed around inside the vehicle, they can injure or even kill those in the front seat.

Safety belts—the safe bet.

- More than 1,000 Texans killed in car crashes in 2008 were not wearing their safety belts (TxDOT).
- In 2008, 56% of all persons killed in vehicles where restraint usage was applicable and usage was known were reported to be unrestrained. Of the 859,739 vehicle occupants that were not injured and restraint usage is known and applicable, 94% were restrained (TxDOT).
- Half of all pickup truck drivers killed in traffic crashes were not buckled up (NHTSA).

Click It or Ticket

www.TexasClickItorTicket.com

Economy

From Page 2

the Smoot-Hawley Tariff, which was supposed to save American jobs, protect farmers and increase federal tariff revenues. Instead it merely thwarted international trade and worsened the Great Depression. By 1931 unemployment had risen again, this time to 16%, far greater than it was after the stock market crash.

Ironically in 1932, Franklin Roosevelt ran on a platform repudiating the reckless and extravagant spending of Hoover administration. In a campaign speech, Roosevelt’s campaign stated that Hoover was leading the country down the path of socialism. Just as in 2009, “Hope and Change” vanished once elected. Instead of putting an end to the federal intervention that was worsening the Great Depression in America, Roosevelt expanded these programs even more to achieve the progressive’s goal of government control of vast sectors of the economy and creation of a loyal voting bloc of dependent voters.

Roosevelt codified the voluntary cooperation between big business and government into the National Industrial Recovery Act, which allowed large corporations to form cartels to set prices in exchange for unionization of their companies. This act kept wages and prices artificially high but greatly increased unemployment especially among small business.

Hoover created the Tennessee Valley Authority as part of a larger plan to allow the Federal government to control the large scale generation of electricity rather than private utilities. This plan was very similar to “Cap and Trade” that is being proposed today.

By 1937, it was obvious to even loyal members of Roosevelt’s cabinet that the massive federal spending was not lowering the unemployment rate. Henry Morgenthau, his Secretary of the Treasury, remarked that after 8 years, unemployment was no lower than when they started and they had accumulated an enormous debt. It was not until the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and subsequently 12.3 million Americans joined the military that unemployment subsided. The need for war production provided employment and cost-plus contracts allowed factories to profitably employ workers at the high wages that were mandated.

There are many parallels between the policies enacted by Hoover and Roosevelt and the recent policy decisions by Presidents Bush and Obama, however, because of the research published recently on the Great Depression, we now recognize that it was government intervention that turned the stock market crash of 1929 into the Great Depression. An economic crisis may help to bring self-proclaimed progressives to power. However, their solutions result in years of misery, not the economic prosperity they would like you to believe.

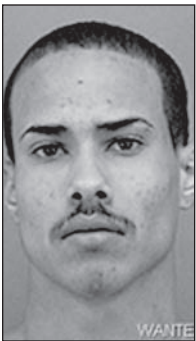
David Nace, an Executive Vice President of a Pennsylvania construction and engineering company, is a Liberty Features Syndicated writer for Americans for Limited Government.

Briefs

From Page 1

his arrest. Juarez is a confirmed

L a t i n Kings gang member and has multiple tattoos. He is on the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office Most Wanted list. Juarez is said to remain in the Borderland hiding with family and friends. Sheriff’s Officials are asking the public for any information on the whereabouts of Juarez. Contact the Sheriff’s Office (915) 546-2280 or Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads



to the apprehension of the individuals featured.

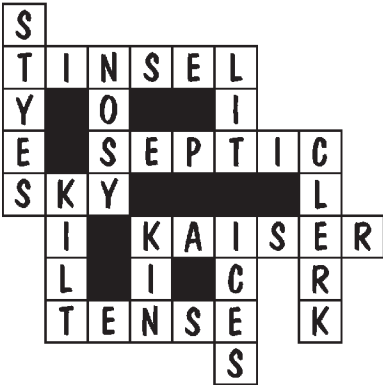
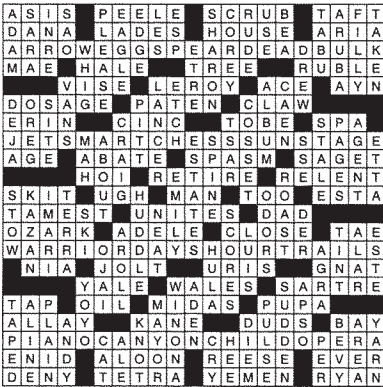
— Deputy Jesse Tovar

Crime Stoppers

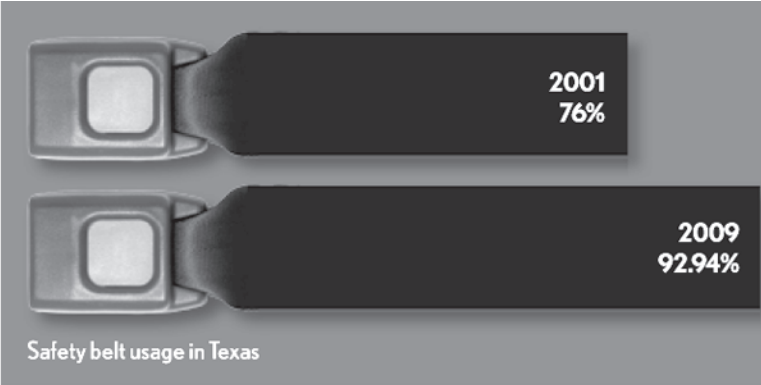
Two men are believed to have committed three aggravated robberies in the space of eight days, all on the far east side, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Friday, April 9, about 4:15 a.m., Suspect #1 held a silver handgun to the head of a man, whose wife and mother-in-law were in his presence, and robbed the three of their money and wallets at 8760 Gateway East. The suspect fled on foot, heading east on the gateway. The following Thursday, April 15, approximately 3:00 a.m., Suspect #1, in the company of an accomplice, used a silver handgun to steal beer and a man’s cell phone from the Diamond Shamrock store located at 1239 N. Zaragoza. It was just before this robbery that the 2nd suspect can be seen alongside Suspect #1 as they peer inside the store through the front door. On

Saturday, April 17, about 3:30 a.m., Suspect #1 again used a silver handgun to rob the same Diamond Shamrock store at 1239 N. Zaragoza — this time of cigarettes. As he left, he was seen entering the passenger side of a black pickup truck, possibly a Ford 150. Suspect #1 is described as an Hispanic male, 5’7”, 145 pounds, medium build, medium complexion, and black hair. He spoke Spanish and was wearing a gold watch on his left hand. He displayed a silver handgun to commit the robberies. Suspect #2 is described as an Hispanic male, possibly 5’6”, in his early to mid-20s, with a light complexion, short black hair, and a medium build. If you have information about the identity of these suspects, call Crime Stoppers immediately 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



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We’ve come a long way.

When the *Click It or Ticket* campaign began in Texas, only 76 percent of Texans were using their safety belts. By 2009, Texas had achieved its highest safety belt rate ever—92.94 percent. The *Click It or Ticket* initiative has been credited with saving an estimated 2,404 lives and preventing 56,344 injuries over the past eight years.

Give kids a boost.

- Booster seats help protect children who have outgrown their child safety seats, but are still too small for adult-sized safety belts to fit properly.
- Boosters help position a safety belt across the strongest part of the body by “boosting” the child up, which helps prevent internal injuries.
- Unlike children who ride in booster seats, small children who are restrained only with safety belts are twice as likely to sustain an injury or be killed in a traffic crash. Booster seats have been shown to be particularly effective in side impact crashes, the deadliest crashes for children (AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS).

Beginning June 1, officers will begin ticketing drivers whose small and young passengers are not secured in booster seats as the new law requires. Fines are up to \$250, plus court costs.



I WILL USE My SEATBELT

I WILL USE My SEATBELT

I WILL USE My SEATBELT

I WILL USE My SEATBELT

OR GET A TICKET!

Click It or Ticket

Texas clicks with teens.

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for Texas teens. That’s why in 2009 and 2010, Texas joined three other states in a stepped-up safety belt enforcement campaign targeting 16- to 20-year-old drivers and passengers. In 2010, this demonstration project combines

youth-oriented paid and earned media for a week-long period three times throughout the year and focuses on Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Hidalgo and Tarrant counties. Since the teen demonstration project began last year, 91 percent more teens in the five-county targeted area are wearing safety belts. Teen safety belt enforcement will take place from May 17–23, 2010.

www.TexasClickItorTicket.com

Who’s still not buckling?

While Texas is well ahead of the national safety belt usage rate of 84 percent, the Texas Department of Transportation estimates there are still more than a million Texas motorists who have yet to get into the habit of always buckling up:

- Passengers are less likely to buckle up than drivers.
- Pickup truck drivers and passengers are less likely to buckle up than motorists in cars.
- Men use safety belts less often than women.

Cleveland, LeBron, lack take charge style in loss

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I have to admit that though I am a huge Boston Celtics fan, my interest in the rest of the NBA playoffs took a hit when LeBron James was sent packing much earlier than anyone imagined he would.

Now that the Celtics are playing in the Eastern Conference finals instead of the Cleveland Cavaliers, the big question in all of sports is which team LeBron will play for next season.

There’s speculation that he’ll play for the New York Knicks or the Miami Heat or the New Jersey Nets or the Chicago Bulls or even the Los Angeles Clippers.

Of course James could just stay home and continue his career with Cleveland.

But that’s not the biggest question I have about LeBron James.

My question goes back to game five of his series with the Celtics.

Every sports commentator from New York to Los Angeles to El Paso, said this is the kind of game that guys like Michael Jordan and

Larry Bird and Magic Johnson and even Kobe Bryant lived for and took charge of.

With the series tied 2-2, those guys didn’t trust any other player to lead the team. They put the rest of the team on their backs and willed them to victory – or they nearly died trying.

This was LeBron’s time to shine. As good as everyone already knew he was – it was time for James to put together one of those 42 point, 14 rebound and 11 assist kind of games we’d all be telling our kids about years from now.

But there was none of that. Boston went into Cleveland and blew them out by 32 points.

The margin of victory wasn’t the big story after the game. Even the fact that James only scored 15 points wasn’t the big story after the game.

What everyone puzzled about after the game was LeBron’s apparent unwillingness to take charge.

James didn’t take on the persona of Jordan, Bird or Magic in this game. He looked more like Horace Grant, Scott Wedman or Kurt Rambis.

There were times during this game that it

looked like they were playing hot potato and LeBron didn’t want to be “it.”

It was hard to figure out. Maybe I’ve been watching way too much of Jack Bauer but James played as if people were holding someone close to him hostage and he was instructed to throw the game to get them back.

Of course none of the other Cavaliers showed up either, let’s not forget that.

Over the last two seasons, the Cavs have gone into the playoffs as the number-one seed and they haven’t even made it out of the East.

The Cavs are a lot like Mike Tyson. They come into the game with scary credentials but once they are hit in the face a couple times they lose whatever heart arrived with.

Let’s just say their will to win starts to take a beating and soon the body follows.

If James decides to stay with Cleveland I’ve got to think a coaching change is needed.

Mike Brown is a nice enough guy but that may be the problem. I can certainly see someone more assertive taking over the team.

He was certainly out-coached by Doc

Rivers. At times, Brown had no answer for what the Celtics were doing on both sides of the court – not a clue.

The best coach out there without a job is Avery Johnson. I think he could inject some life into the franchise.

Also, how about a couple of spot-up jump shooters and a true center. Jordan didn’t need a whole lot of help during his run but at least he got some.

But going back to LeBron’s effort in game five, it either means he threw the game on purpose because he wants out of Cleveland, or he threw the game on purpose for another reason only he knows about, or he just shrank in the pressure of the moment.

I’ve seen James many times and I don’t believe he shrinks to any pressure.

Remember, he didn’t just have a bad game – he just didn’t try to have a good game.

As for me – I really don’t have an idea what he’s going to do. But his reputation has taken a hit.

All this makes me wonder whether the other rising NBA superstar, Kevin Durant, is now closer to winning an NBA title than LeBron.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Bread and circuses

A recent loss in the family brought me back to “the city that loves you back.” Funerals anywhere aren’t easy to endure, but if you’re in Philadelphia, after the last rites you always have the option to perform a few other locally sacred rituals — namely, order up a cheesesteak and

down a few beers.

Yeah, yeah, yeah ... forget what you’ve heard about fatty foods and alcohol being a depressant. In Philadelphia, where everyone is kinda angry anyway, you might as well get what you want.

Philly is dotted with cheesesteak

joints worth arguing about (and in Philly, believe me, you will argue about anything), but I usually hit Jim’s on South Street. Like most things in town, Jim’s hits back: the second you enter, the onion gas steaming off the grill ransacks you. Never mind your eyes and breath for the rest of the night — that smell will stick to your clothes, too. Visit my sister’s place after a stop there and she’ll come at you with the Febreze before summarily banning you from her couches.

Tonight, we’re at the New Wave, a Philadelphia sports fan’s haven, where the owner has a zillion signed Sports Illustrated covers all over the walls and a very active dart scene. The Flyers are in the playoffs, and they are enjoying a resurgence of fan interest, due in part to the recent HBO documentary on the Broad Street Bullies of the ‘70s.

Philadelphia, like any working-class town where the working class still actually works and still lives in town, has a strong fan base. This town loves its teams in much the same way you love your kids, cousins and nephews — sometimes you want to give ‘em a smack, but their pictures are always on the mantle. A younger friend next to me says he knew who the “Broad Street Bullies” were because they are “in all the local car dealer commercials” but admitted he “didn’t know they were that @#\$\$ cool” until the

documentary aired.

“When the Flyers won the Stanley Cup, we had a million people in the streets!” another guy informs us, chin out, as if wanting to fight with any nearby Canadian.

A few days earlier, the Phillies security tazed a fan who ran out onto the field. Some people wondered if our society had gone to far. Not in Philly: The next night, another fan ran onto the field. Within nanoseconds, the fans decreed: “TAZE HIM! TAZE HIM!” If Caesar himself were in attendance, there is little doubt he would have had a Yuengling in one hand and a thumb down in the other.

Give them bread and cheesteaks, and the Philadelphia sports scene will always be a circus.

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

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Town of Horizon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 during the Regular Council Meeting at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s)/ amendment(s):

1) 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 0102, Amendment 027. An Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Amendment No. 0020 passed on September 25, 2007 for the Town of Horizon City, Texas.

Those who are unable to attend

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

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
Town of Horizon City

WTCC: 05-20-10

Rio Grande Council of Governments

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG), in cooperation with the TCEQ, announces the availability of Municipal Solid Waste Grant Funding for FY 2011.

Local units of government including cities, counties, public schools and school districts, and special districts with municipal solid waste responsibility, may apply for funding for projects and activities including: waste reduction/recycling; local enforcement; litter and illegal dumping cleanup; educational and training projects; household hazardous waste events; citizens' collection stations, small transfer stations, and community collection events; technical studies and other projects.

Activities funded under this program must promote co-operation between public and private entities; must not be otherwise readily available; and must not create a competitive advantage over a private business that provides a recycling or solid waste service.

obtained from the RGCOG at 1100 N. Stanton St., Ste. 610, El Paso, TX 79902.

Applications may also be downloaded from the RGCOG website. Visit www.riocog.org for more information or contact Korina Navarro at (915) 533-0998, ext. 138 or by email at korinan@riocog.org.

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Russell Transport 915-542-1495
Call today you can be working in 2-3 days!

ESTATE SALE
Large, 2-door commercial refrigerator in good condition. \$595. Call Frank Macias, (915) 588-0968.

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 solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

archives:
www.wtxcc.com

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CryptoQuip Answer

Two cougars, planning to go out in search of food, were heard saying, “Let us prey.”

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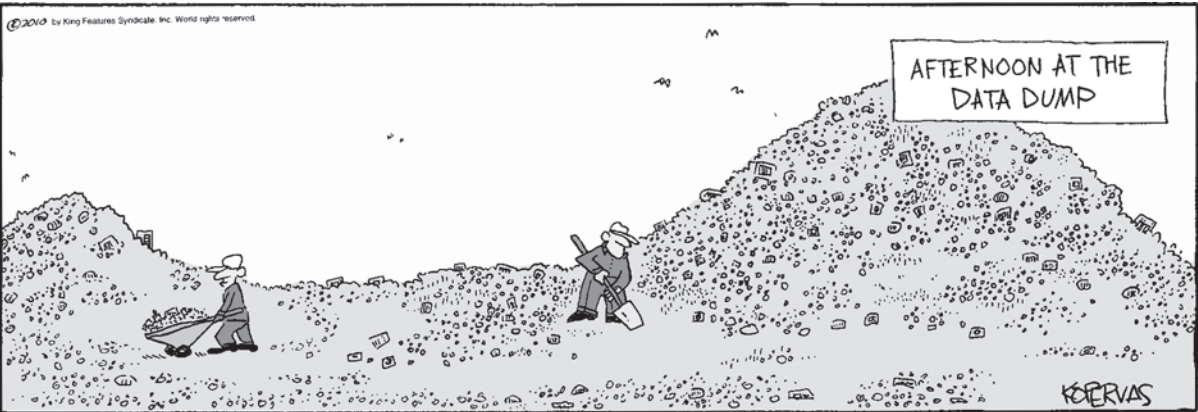
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Deadline: Mondays
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Phone: _____

Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



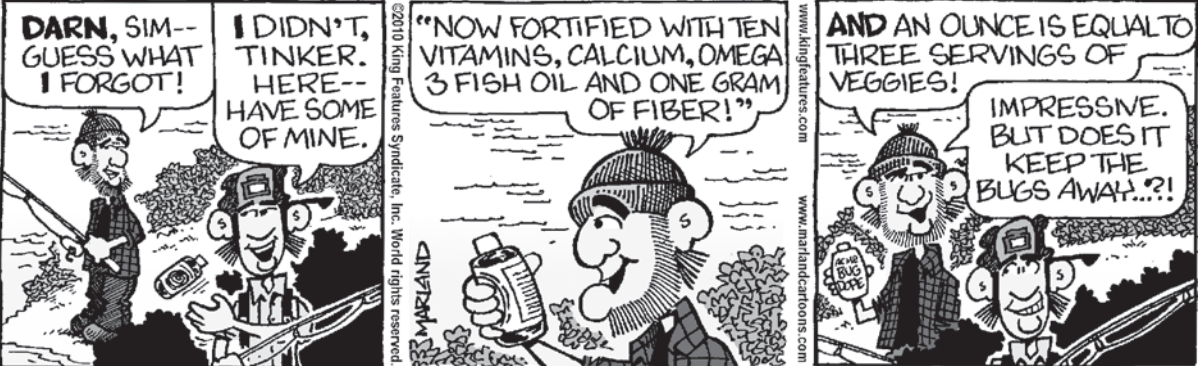
AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good healthBy Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: A 50-year-old friend of mine was diagnosed with leiomyoma of the uterus. Does this have anything to do with fibroids? She has fibroids, but her doctor says they are best left alone, since they shrink at menopause. What causes leiomyoma? Can it become cancer? What treatments are available? — L.B.

“Leiomyoma” (LIE-oh-my-OH-muh) is the medical word for “fibroid.” Fibroids are noncancerous growths of the uterine muscle. The uterus basically is a muscular sack with a lining designed to nourish a fetus.

The cause of fibroids hasn’t been determined. They’re extremely common. By age 35, 40 percent to 50 percent of women have one or more. By age 50, 70 percent to 90 percent have at least one fibroid. For most of these women, fibroids cause no trouble and can be ignored.

Large fibroids might cause pelvic pain, and they can press on adjacent structures such as the bladder. When that happens, a woman has a need to empty her bladder frequently. Heavy menstrual bleeding is a sign of fibroids. They also can bring painful menstrual periods, and sometimes they make sexual relations uncomfortable. Infertility is cited as a possible effect, but infertility due to fibroids is rare.

Transformation into cancer is possible, but not probable. If a fibroid grows rapidly, that’s a sign of cancer change and must be investigated. Most fibroids shrink with menopause.

Doctors can treat fibroids in a number of ways. One is removal of the uterus — hysterectomy. If a woman wants more children, sometimes removal of only the fibroid is possible, and this can be managed in some cases with a scope and special instruments. Uterine artery embolization is a newer treatment in which a slender, soft tube (a catheter) is

passed from a surface artery to the uterine artery. When it’s at the precise spot, the doctor releases sand-size synthetic particles that clog the artery and cut off the fibroid’s blood supply. It withers and is shed.

The booklet on fibroids describes them in detail. To order a copy, write: Dr. Donohue — No. 1106W, 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: I don’t think you will consider this a health problem. It isn’t, but it is still a problem for me. It is freckles. They cover my face in the summer, and they really bother me. How do I stop them? I am 16, and freckles are ruining my life. — L.M.

Sunlight causes freckles. In the winter, when the sun is less intense, they fade. In summer, the stronger sunlight activates skin cells to produce melanin, the dark pigment responsible for tanning — and for freckles.

Sunscreens with an SPF — sun protection factor — of 15 or higher afford a good defense against the sun’s ultraviolet rays. You shouldn’t go outside without applying it, and you should reapply it as often as the label directions say. If you can find it, get a sunscreen with protection against both ultraviolet A and B.

A hat provides shade for the face and is another protection against freckles.

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

BEFORE AND AFTER

- ACROSS
- 1 Warts and all
- 5 Model Beverly
- 10 Desert growth
- 15 27th president
- 19 Comic Carvey
- 20 Fills the hold
- 21 TV's "Full _"
- 22 Sutherland solo
- 23 HEAD STARTS
- 27 Dogpatch's
- Daisy _
- 28 Patriot Nathan
- 29 Sherwood sight
- 30 Moscow moola
- 31 Workbench
- attachment
- 32 Croce's Mr. Brown
- 34 Expert
- 36 Writer Rand
- 37 Medical measure
- 40 Chalice accessory
- 41 Hammer feature
- 42 "_ go braghi!"
- 43 Pres. Bush, e.g.
- 44 Ubiquitous
- infinitive
- 45 Loser's locale
- 48 PRE SETS
- 55 Make wine divine
- 56 Diminish
- 57 Tic
- 58 Bob of 21 Across
- 59 _ polloi
- 60 Join the leisure class?
- 62 Let up

- 63 "SNL" bit
- 67 "Gross!"
- 69 "Marathon _" ('76 film)
- 70 Unduly
- 72 "Como _ usted?"
- 73 Most docile
- 75 Joins forces
- 78 Lear, to Cordelia
- 80 Missouri mountain
- range
- 81 Jergens or Astaire
- 82 Intimate
- 84 _ kwon do
- 87 HAPPY ENDINGS
- 91 Long or Peebles
- 92 Caffeine effect
- 93 "Trinity" author
- 94 A speck with wings
- 95 Connecticut
- campus
- 96 Cardiff's country
- 98 French
- philosopher
- 100 Light touch
- 103 Silence a
- squeaker
- 104 He had a golden touch
- 105 Insect stage
- 106 Soothe
- 108 Welles role
- 109 Clothing
- 110 Sound like a
- hound
- 113 GRAND FINALES
- 119 Geraint's lady
- 120 Crazy as _

- 121 Actress
- Witherspoon
- 122 At any time
- 123 Contradict
- 124 Neon _
- 125 Mideast nation
- 126 "Saving Private _" ('98 film)
- DOWN
- 1 Eliot's "_ Bede"
- 2 Writer Paretsky
- 3 Memo start
- 4 _ Tome
- 5 Delight
- 6 Scout rank
- 7 Add fringe
- 8 Aspin or Paul
- 9 Sixth sense
- 10 Rose of _
- 11 Actor Wendell
- 12 Discourteous
- 13 Take advantage of
- 14 "Golden Girl"
- Arthur
- 15 Forbidden
- 16 Antilles isle
- 17 Stable youngster
- 18 Spoken for
- 24 British pol
- 25 Raison d'-
- 26 Sleuth Nancy
- 31 Delivery trucks
- 32 Cavalry soldier
- 33 Decorate glass
- 34 Philatelist's
- purchase
- 35 Columnist Herb

- 37 _ vu
- 38 Northwestern st.
- 39 Location
- 40 Brad of "The Mexican"
- 41 Pamper
- 43 Cook Claiborne
- 44 Obsolete title
- 45 Musty
- 46 Summons
- electronically
- 47 Actor's actor?
- 49 _ -jongg
- 50 Approximately
- 51 They're what's left
- 52 Book part
- 53 Vane dir.
- 54 Sundance's
- sweetie
- 61 Post or Dickinson
- 62 Sunday supper
- 63 Stash
- 64 "On the Waterfront" director
- 65 Japanese
- porcelain
- 66 _ firma
- 68 Act like Vikings?
- 71 Effluvia
- 74 Enjoy the Alps
- 76 Uncluttered
- 77 A great many
- 79 Strauss' "_ Rosenkavalier"
- 81 On _ (doing great)
- 83 Baseball's Aparicio
- 84 Add color
- 85 Fruit-tree spray

- 86 Punta del _
- 88 California resort
- 89 A shake in the grass?
- 90 Taj town
- 95 Mr. Ma
- 96 Actress Ryder
- 97 125 Across' city
- 98 Unexpected
- 99 Lhasa _
- 100 Sealed
- 101 Skirt shape
- 102 Unadorned
- 104 Hardy's "The _ of Casterbridge"
- 105 Vital sign
- 107 He's Devine
- 108 It may be square
- 109 See 118 Down
- 110 Bunch of birds
- 111 Bailiwick
- 112 Knitter's need
- 114 Purrfect pet?
- 115 Barley beverage
- 116 Summon mommy
- 117 Bray beginning
- 118 With 109 Down, a way to pay

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was American novelist, poet and painter — and prominent member of the Beat Generation of artists — William S. Burroughs who made the following declaration: “I don’t care if people hate my guts; I assume most of them do. The important question is whether they are in a position to do anything about it.”
- If you wanted to dig to the center of the earth, you’d have to go down about 4,000 miles.
- Those of you who need your daily java fix probably won’t be surprised to learn that coffee is one of the most popular drinks worldwide and is one of the most traded agricultural commodities. Due to limitations in cultivation, however, Hawaii is the only state in the U.S. that produces the beans.

• The world’s largest dam, located in Canada, is 2,790 feet long — twice as long as Arizona and Nevada’s Hoover Dam. The truly amazing thing isn’t its size, though; it’s the manner of construction. Over the course of several months, the dam was built entirely by beavers.

• According to industry experts, beverage makers sell 9 billion cases of carbonated soda in the United States every year.

• If you ever open a magazine or watch TV, you’ve probably seen at least one ad from the “Got Milk?” campaign. You probably didn’t know, though, that the same campaign also broke new advertising ground with ads at bus stops that weren’t just visual; they also gave off the odor of fresh-baked cookies. That particular approach was quickly abandoned due to concerns about allergies.

• Popular cooking expert and television host Rachael Ray reportedly has a sign hanging outside her door that says “Martha doesn’t live here.”

Thought for the Day: “Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.” — Mark Twain

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My cousin said he applied for Social Security retirement benefits on the Internet. Can you really do that?

A: Yes you can! Applying online is the easiest, fastest, and most convenient way to apply for retirement benefits. There’s no need to fight the traffic to visit an office or wait for an appointment. Our website makes it simple, allowing you to apply for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes. You can get started now at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

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.

Q: I understand that to get Social Security disability benefits, my disability must be expected to last at least a year. So do I have

to wait a year before I can apply for benefits?

A: No. If you believe that your disability will last a year or longer, you should apply for disability benefits as soon as you become disabled. It can take about three to five months to process an application for disability benefits. If your application is approved, your first Social Security disability benefits will be paid for the sixth full month after the date your disability began. For example, if it is determined that your disability began on January 15, your first disability benefit will be paid for the month of July. However, Social Security benefits are paid in the month following the month for which they are due, so you will receive your July benefit in August. For more information about Social Security disability benefits, refer to Disability Benefits (Publication No. 05-10029) at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html.

Q: I have an appointment to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). What kind of information will I need to take with me?

A: To help make the application process go quickly and smoothly, you should bring:

- Your Social Security number;

- Your birth certificate or other proof of your age;
 - Information about the home where you live, such as your mortgage or your lease and landlord’s name;
 - Payroll slips, bank books, insurance policies, burial fund records, and other information about your income and the things you own;
 - Proof of U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen status; and
 - If you are applying for SSI because you are disabled or blind, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of doctors, hospitals, and clinics that you have been to.
- Learn more by reading our publication, You May Be Able To Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069.html.

Q: What is the “Part B” Medicare monthly premium for 2010?

A: The standard Medicare Part B monthly premium is \$110.50 in 2010. However, because there was no cost-of-living adjustment in 2010, some beneficiaries are paying less than the standard premium. The Department of Health and Human Services determines the Medicare Part B premium. The premiums paid by beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part B cover physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment,

and other items. For most beneficiaries, the government pays a substantial portion — about 75 percent of the Part B standard premium — and the beneficiary pays the remainder. Since 2007, higher income beneficiaries have been paying a larger percentage of their Part B premium based on income they report to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In 2010, a small number of beneficiaries with higher incomes (individuals with income exceeding \$85,000 and married couples with income exceeding \$170,000) will pay a monthly premium equal to 35, 50, 65, or 80 percent of the total cost, depending on what they reported to the IRS. However, the higher premium affects less than 5 percent of Medicare beneficiaries, so most people newly enrolled for Medicare will pay the standard premium without an income-related adjustment. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov and select the “Medicare” tab.

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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: **B** equals **W**

DBY SYLQICU, JRIZZHZQ DY
QY YLD HZ UNICSF YE EYYG,
BNCN FNICG UIKHZQ,

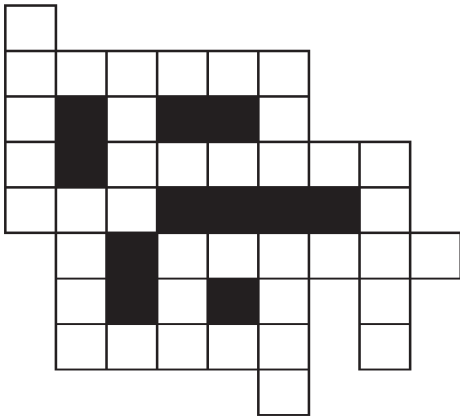
"RND LU JCNK."

Answer Page 6

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LTI
ERAKIS
YESST
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PECTIS
♥NKI
SEIC
KECRL
KYS
♥SLETIN
♥SENET
SNYO



Answer Page 5

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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