

NEWSBRIEFS

SEISD registration

Following are upcoming registration dates and times for the 2011-2012 school year for students attending schools in the San Elizario Independent School District:

- Loya Primary School (Grades PPK-K) Aug. 1-3, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Alarcon, Borrego, Sambrano Elementary Schools (Grades 1st-5th) Aug. 4, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Garcia-Enriquez Middle School 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. for last names A-L and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. for last names M-Z: Aug. 8, 2011 6th grade students; Aug. 9, 2011 7th grade students; Aug. 10, 2011 8th grade students; and Aug. 11, 2011 new students.
- San Elizario High School 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for last names A-M and from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. for last names N-Z: Aug. 8, 2011 12th grade students; Aug. 9, 2011 11th grade students; Aug. 10, 2011 10th grade students; Aug. 11, 2011 9th grade students; and Aug. 12, 2011 new students and late registrations.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

SISD committee

The Socorro Independent School District is accepting applications from those interested in serving on the District’s 2011 Bond Accountability Committee (BAC). Applications are available on the Socorro ISD Web site, www.sisd.net, and will be accepted through August 5. Applications can also be picked up at the District Service Center, 12440 Rojas Dr. The purpose of the BAC is to ensure and promote communication and accountability surrounding all elements within Bond 2011. It will serve as an independent citizens committee that will report to the Board of Trustees and the general public. The BAC will be comprised of no more than 14 members selected via an open application process; representing a cross section of stakeholders. “The development of Bond 2011 was driven by community input and the completion of projects will follow this established precedence,” said Board President Antonio ‘Tony’ Ayub. “We are looking for active citizens from throughout the District that will help ensure Bond 2011 is implemented as promised to voters. The committee will also play an important role in sharing information regarding Bond 2011 with the community at-large.” Each member of the Board of Trustees will appoint two members to the committee upon review of all written applications. Appointments will be for a two (2) year term, which may be extended for additional two (2) year terms upon approval by the appointing

See BRIEFS, Page 5



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

PACKING EDUCATION – McMillan McGraw Hill consultants Ray Rivera and Lilia Martinez check inventory of instructional materials that will be available to help address local school districts’ textbook and technology needs for the coming school year. Recent legislation created a new process for districts to purchase instructional materials, technological equipment and technology-related services.

Texas Legislature creates instructional materials allotment for school districts

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Recent legislation from the 82nd Texas Legislature, which ended in June, has school districts throughout the state scrambling to make sure they have the needed textbooks and technology resources for students and teachers when classes start next month.

The new legislation creates an allotment for districts for the purchase of instructional materials, technological equipment and technology-related services. This replaces the current adoption process that has the School Board of Education (SBOE) and Texas Education Agency (TEA) overseeing the ordering and receiving of instructional materials, like textbooks, and technology, like computers, separately.

Beginning this school year, the Commissioner of Education will establish an allotment for every district and open-enrollment charter school and determine the amount of the allotment per student each year on the basis of the amount of money available

in the state instructional materials fund to finance the allotment.

According to TEA officials, the instructional materials and disbursements will be requested by districts through the Educational Materials System (EMAT) beginning in August. Districts will request State Board of Education-adopted materials and Commissioner-adopted materials through EMAT, and the instructional materials allotment will be reduced by the value of the requested materials.

Disbursement of funds for instructional materials not on an adopted list, technological equipment and technology-related services will also be requested by a district through EMAT and the instructional materials allotment will be reduced by the amount of the disbursements.

Local school district administrators, however, are saying that the amount per student has not been disclosed, so it is difficult for them to start ordering instructional and technology materials for this school year.

TEA officials said that the amount of the allotment for each district for school years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 is expected to be

announced soon. Meanwhile, Anita Givens, an associate commissioner for TEA says “Districts need to carefully consider all allowable uses for the district’s allotment and prepare to budget the money over the two-year period.”

The new legislation also transfers ownership of instructional materials from the state to the local district, and districts must now prioritize their instructional materials decisions to address the assessment and accountability requirements.

“Senate Bill (SB) 6 states that priority must be given to foundation curriculum subjects for which the essential knowledge and skills have been substantially revised and for which assessment instruments are required to satisfy foundation curriculum requirements,” stated Givens.

Training on the new procedures started in July for school district administrators, textbook coordinators and other key personnel. “We anticipate offering additional training via TETN (Texas Education Telecommunications Network) during August,” stated Givens.

Instructional materials for the visually impaired (braille, large type and audio) will remain the property of the state and will not be counted against a district’s IMA, but districts will be responsible for purchasing bilingual/ESL materials with the district’s instructional materials allotment.

“The transition from current practice to the new IMA will take time. We are working with publishers, depositories and freight carriers to provide instructional materials for the 2011-2012 school year as quickly as possible,” Givens stated.

As for the textbook and technology-related services companies, according to Ray Rivera, a consultant for McMillan McGraw-Hill publishing company, he said that they are prepared to help with products information and training for school districts.

“We are maintaining materials specifically for products on the current adoption list as well as new products currently in review by SBOE, such as the science supplemental programs, which will be implemented this school year.”

Texas college students must get meningitis vaccine

By Brent Annear
Special to the Courier

As Texas students prepare for college, it’s critical they get vaccinated against meningococcal disease – more commonly called bacterial meningitis, says Donald Murphey, MD, a Fort Worth infectious disease specialist and advocate for the Texas Medical Association’s (TMA’s) *Be Wise – Immunize* vaccine program. “It might just save their life.”

A new, stronger state law requires any

college student who lives on or off campus in Texas to get the meningitis vaccine. It applies to students under age 30 who will attend classes on campus.

“We’re getting the word out now, because new college students will not be able to attend school if they don’t receive the vaccine,” says Dr. Murphey.

College students especially are vulnerable to the disease because new students are coming together from different places and share close living quarters. The only other

See VACCINE, Page 5

Time is so powerful it is given to us only in small quantities.

— Quips & Quotes

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Not all benefits
are widely known

In a nod of acknowledgment to the state of the economy, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act has extended the length of protection time for foreclosures. You now have nine months from the end of military service, and during that time your property cannot be foreclosed. It's not automatic, however – you have to ask for it. Also, your loan must have been originated before active service to qualify. If you have a VA loan on your home, call 877-827-3702 to talk to a specialist, or go to www.benefits.va.gov and click on Home Loans.

If you have a non-VA loan and it's a subprime, you can refinance it as a VA loan at 100 percent of the property's value.

Here's a benefit that's not widely talked about: If you are permanently and totally disabled, your student loans can be discharged under certain circumstances. If you are not employable due to a service-connected disability, you don't need a doctor to say so.

If the disability is not service-connected but meets the definition of disability, you'll need a doctor to fill out part of the form. Go to www.ed.gov and put this in the search box: Discharge Application Total and Permanent Disability. You'll find a form by that name. Or call the Disability Discharge Loan Servicing Center at 1-888-303-7818. It's possible that you also could be eligible for a refund of payments made since the date of disability.

To make sure you know all your benefits, go to the Department of Veterans Affairs site at www.va.gov and search for "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors." You'll find links to all your benefit topics, including prosthetics, mental health, life insurance, federal jobs, health care and more. You can get a paper copy for \$5 by calling the Government Printing Office toll free at 866-512-1800.

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) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Light it up

Hola mi gente. For those who live inside the city of El Paso, dark business streets are not much of a concern. There are very few parts of the city that are left without streetlights, especially business locations.

Well-lit business streets give shoppers a higher degree of confidence when shopping during the nighttime hours. If there were no, or very few, lights illuminating areas where shoppers park, then the crooks would have more confidence of getting away with muggings or worse crimes.

In the areas outside of the city of El Paso, well-lit business areas are not as common. Even though many are within the boundaries of the smaller cities, local budgets don't always allow for installing streetlights where they are needed.

The farther away from El Paso, the darker streets can get, especially when there is no moonlight.

It is fortunate that not all business streets have to rely on municipal funds to install streetlights. One example is Horizon Blvd. north and south of Interstate 10. The responsibility rests with the Texas Department of Transportation to maintain the blvd. from North Loop to the city of Horizon.

Recently, I received a letter from a constituent businessman who owns a barbershop on that strip of Horizon Blvd. between I-10 and North Loop. He wrote that the time was long past due to install the streetlights in that area. He was very correct when he pointed out the fact that businesses there were experiencing a very

high level of activity. That would include time periods during dark evening hours. The darkness also created a very unsafe environment for pedestrians and bicyclists.

My office responded to the business owner's concerns by sending a correspondence to the Texas Department of Transportation Chief Engineer for the El Paso area, Charles Berry. Mr. Berry has always been very quick to respond to our inquiries and needs. This case was no exception.

Last week, I received a reply letter from Mr. Berry informing me that work will begin on the installation of streetlights within weeks and should take no longer than five months to complete.

That is terrific news for the city of Socorro and the citizens who do business on Horizon in that area. Since school bus pickups are designated on that strip, most of the work should be completed by winter making it safer for students. It is less likely that those students will be waiting in dark areas vulnerable to traffic mishaps.

As I suggested before, well-lit streets are not a given in the county areas outside the city of El Paso. Because there is so little extra funding, sometimes it takes action by residents or business people, such as the letter to my office, to be aware that solutions to problems are available.

My office has a responsibility to respond to letters like the one in this article. We do our best to initiate the most reasonable solution possible. Those who ask for or demand changes also have a responsibility: to vote in every election. If we all do our part, the solutions will be easier to implement.

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

Write stuff

Dear Editor:


The July 7th edition of your weekly included a piece by Chente Quintanilla stressing the importance of voting. Three quick points: I am in total agreement that voting is important; I have missed an election or two myself; and this article brings forth a healthy criticism that people like me should heed. But, the divisive tone of this writing was, in my opinion, the most salient theme that came through; and that is truly unfortunate.

It is my belief that El Pasoans – of ANY specific “group” – have so much in common due to the unique aspects, advantages, and needs of our area. It is therefore my belief

See WRITE, Page 4

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Est. 1973

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




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Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda

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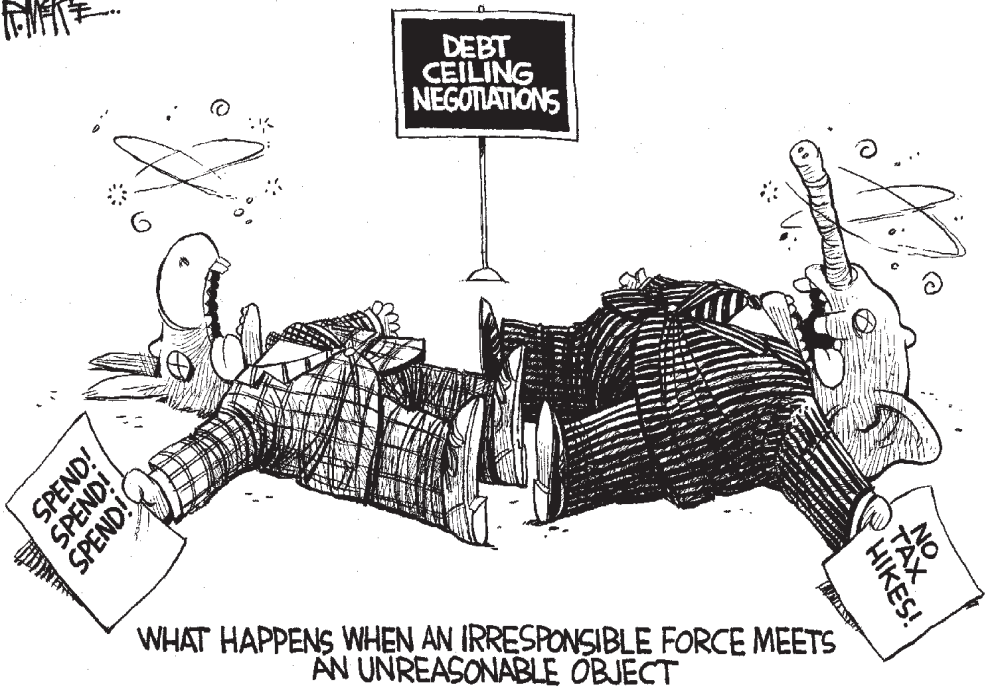
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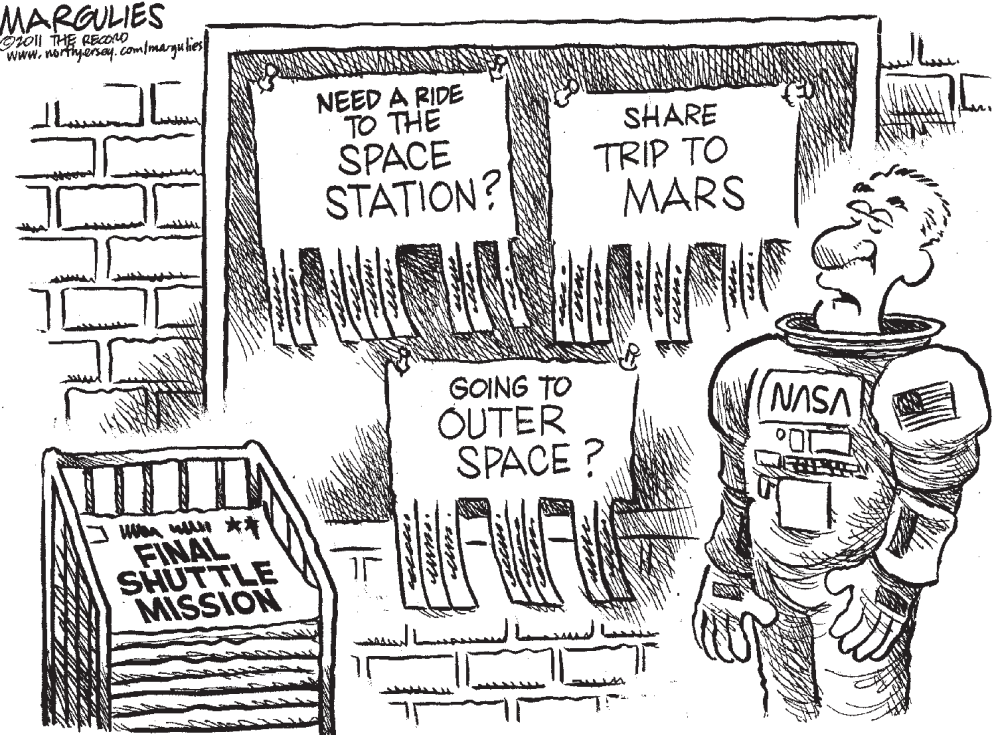
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Texas launches mandatory boater education

By Steve Lightfoot
Special to the Courier

AUSTIN – A new state law from the recent legislative session will require mandatory boater education for more people in Texas starting Sep. 1, a move supporters say will save lives and make crowded waters safer.

According to a legislative report by the state’s Advisory Panel on Boating Safety, the primary cause of boating deaths nationally is drowning, with 543 in 2009, of which 385 were not wearing lifejackets, usually in rough weather or on hazardous water.

Changes to Texas laws targeting boating safety include: mandatory boating safety education certification for anyone born on or after Sept. 1, 1993 to operate a vessel with a motor of more than 15 horsepower or a wind-blown vessel measuring more than 14 feet in length. While all boaters are encouraged to take boating safety education, those born before Sept. 1, 1993, are exempt from required certification.

Previously, only 13- to 17-year olds were required to complete a boating safety course

to operate a vessel without adult supervision. Texas’ state-approved boater education course is available as a one-day, classroom training, as a home-study course or as an online course at www.boat-ed.com. The course takes about six hours to complete. Costs range from \$13 for classroom course to about \$25 for the home-study course. Information about boater education, including schedules of upcoming classroom courses, is available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/boater_education/.

Boaters falling under the boater education requirement will be required to carry a valid ID and documentation of having taken and passed a boater education course. Failure to meet the requirements is a Class C misdemeanor, and violators have 90 days to complete a boater education course to have the charges dismissed.

The 82nd Texas Legislature during its regular session clarified the definition of a vessel to encompass such craft as standup paddle craft, kayaks and canoes. In Texas public waters everyone onboard a vessel that measures less than 26-feet in length must have a life jacket available and kids under 13 must wear one.

2011 Property Tax Rates in Town of Horizon City

This notice concerns 2011 property tax rates for the Town of Horizon City. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:	
Last year’s operating taxes	\$ 1,740,849
Last year’s debt taxes	\$ 187,431
Last year’s total taxes	\$ 1,928,280
Last year’s tax base	\$ 633,427,501
Last year’s total tax rate	0.304420 /\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 1,924,811
+ This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$ 638,940,025
= This year’s effective tax rate	0.301250 /\$100
<i>(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)</i>	

This year’s rollback tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$ 2,387,460
+ This year’s adjusted tax base	\$ 638,940,025
= This year’s effective operating rate	0.373659 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate	0.403551 /\$100
+ This year’s debt rate	0.013143 /\$100
= This year’s total rollback rate	0.416694 /\$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate	0.024084 /\$100
= Rollback tax rate	0.392610 /\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease	
If the Town of Horizon City adopts a 2011 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.301250 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2010 taxes by \$103,600.	

SCHEDULE A – Unencumbered Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.	
Type of Property Tax Funds	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$ 1,912,500
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

SCHEDULE B – 2011 Debt Service	
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).	

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Bond Service	\$25,000	\$25,873	\$0	\$50,873
SIB Loan	\$33,879	\$3,901	\$0	\$37,780
Total required for 2011 Debt Service				\$ 88,653
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				-0-
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				-0-
- Excess collections last year				-0-
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2011				\$ 88,653
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2011				-0-
= Total Debt Levy				\$ 88,653

Schedule C - Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax	
In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$162,436 in additional sales and use tax revenues.	

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates’ calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Name of person preparing this notice: **Juan F. Sandoval**
Title: **Tax Assessor/Collector** Date prepared: **July 26, 2011**

Write
From Page 1

that voting appeals should be made to ALL El Pasoans in the context of their being El Pasoans. Why divide us when the needs for our home area

are so similar and so profound? As a Caucasian person I would attest that I share many more common interests with my Hispanic neighbors, as to the issues important to El Paso, than I do with Caucasian people from other areas of America. My voting record certainly reflects those

common, locally rooted interests! WhenChentewroteofthesacrifices made by our Hispanic military people I was deeply disappointed with his use of this information. While I certainly cannot speak for these heroes past and present, it is my desire to believe their service has

made our nation better was for ALL Americans – not only Hispanics. If there are Hispanic soldiers out there who wish to state otherwise feel free to do so – but I will be heartbroken. As a Caucasian person I desperately want to be personally grateful to you (and your families who often share the sacrifice) for the wonderful opportunities and privileges available in this country that you made possible through your service. Please don’t take that away from me by suggesting that Hispanic people fought only for the benefit of other Hispanics. This concept was probably not the intention of the writing, but it sure sounded that way to me. It should be noted that Japanese-Americans served bravely in World WarIIevenwhiletheirfamilieswere placed in detention camps. White soldiers died on the battlefields of the Civil War so African-Americans could be freed. Yes, our country has shame in its history regarding discrimination and lack

of opportunity for non-elite groups. But we have somehow managed to continue moving together as a “melting pot” of people from just about everywhere – most of us refused to support discrimination. At any time in our history the majority truly cared about our brothers and sisters regardless of their “group.” Nobody knows this better than a combat veteran and his “Band of Brothers” who have faced death on the battlefield while working together to stay alive. I speak of men such as my uncle and my brother; who served in our military for the betterment of ALL Americans. Let me suggest one method to advance the cause of “One Nation, under God, indivisible, with Liberty, and Justice, for ALL.” Let us all write as if we are One Nation, let us all talk as if we are One Nation, and let us all act as if we are One Nation. We owe it to each other. Paul Vranish Horizon City

San Elizario Independent School District
Public Notification of Nondiscrimination
in Career and Technical Programs

- 1) The San Elizario Independent School District offers Career and Technical programs in Consumer and Family Science, Business, Cosmetology, Health Science Technologies, CISCO Networking, Advertising and Graphic Design, Building Trades and Auto Technology. Admission to these programs is based on course pre-requisite and grade level classifications. For program information call Julian Encina at 872-3939, ext. 3844.
- 2) It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) The San Elizario Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all education and vocational programs.
- 5)Forinformationaboutyourrightsorgrievanceprocedures,contactSuperintendent Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los
Programas de Carrera y Tecnoligia

- 1) El distrito escolar de San Elizario está ofreciendo programas de carrera y tecnología en Ciencia al Consumidor y Familia, Negocios, Cosmetología, Técnica de Salud, Red de Computacion CISCO, Publicidad/Promoción y Diseños Graficos, Técnica de Carpentería, y Técnica Mecánica. Para poderse admitir en estos programas tienen que estar registrados en el distrito de San Elizario y completar los requisitos necesarios. Para más información contacto Julian Encina a 872-3939, ext. 3844
- 2) Es la póliza del distrito de San Elizario de no discriminar por causa de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, o deshabilidad en estos programas vocacionales, servicios, o actividades requeridos por el Título IV del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, que fue enmendada, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rahabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.
- 3) Es la póliza del distrito de San Elizario de no discriminar por causa de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, deshabilidad, o la edad en sus metodos de empleo exigido por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, enmendada por las Enmienda Educativas de 1972, del Acta de la Discriminación por Edad de 1975, como enmendada, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.
- 4) El distrito escolar de San Elizario tomará pasos para asegurar que la falta de ingles no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas vocacionales y educativos.
- 5) Para más información de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el Superintendente Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC: 07/28/11

Public Notice
SanElizarioIndependentSchoolDistrict
504 Child Find

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504, please contact the District’s Section 504 Coordinator, Amanda G. Sanchez, at 872-3926, or mail at P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, Texas 79849.

Aviso de Identificación de
Estudiantes Incapacitados
bajo la Sección 504

Bajo la Sección del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, el Distrito Escolar esta obligado a identificar, referir, evaluar, y propocionar servicios educativos apropiados y gratuitos a los estudiantes incapacitados que califican bajo esta ley. Si usted desea mas información sobre los derechos de padres de niños incapacitados, o si tiene preguntas sobre la identificación, evaluación, y colocación de niños en el programa de Sección 504, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Coordinadora de 504 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de San Elizario, Amanda G. Sanchez, al numero 872-3926, o por correo a la siguiente dirección: P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, Texas 79849.

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Vaccine

From Page 1

patient group at a higher risk of contracting meningococcal disease is preschool children, doctors note.

Meningococcal disease is a deadly bacterial infection that spreads through coughing and sneezing, sharing drinks or utensils, and kissing or other person-to-person contact

Symptoms of the disease show up initially as the flu. However, the disease spreads so quickly that about 10 percent of sufferers die from it, often within hours of the onset of symptoms – even if they have begun to receive treatment. The threat is greater in adolescents and young adults. As many as 15 college students die each year from meningitis. Some 1,500 cases of meningococcal disease are diagnosed annually in the United States. Texas had 341 confirmed cases of bacterial meningitis in 2007 (patients of all ages).

The disease also can be devastating to its survivors.

“Otherwise-healthy students can end up in a hospital intensive care unit with severe bloodstream infection and meningitis in a matter of hours,” says Murphey. “I’ve seen patients lose fingers, toes, arms, and legs with this infection in the bloodstream.” Many who recover from meningococcal disease also endure blindness, deafness, or brain or kidney damage.

Jamie Schanbaum suffered similar effects. She contracted the disease in 2008 while attending The University of Texas. She survived but spent more than six months in the hospital. Ultimately she lost her legs and most of her fingers because of the disease.

Two years ago, the Texas Legislature passed the first Jamie Schanbaum Act, requiring new or transfer students planning to live on campus to get a meningococcal vaccine. This year legislators strengthened the law by requiring students who live off campus to be vaccinated as well. The move was prompted by the death of Nicolis Williams in February. Mr. Williams was a Texas A&M student who lived off campus and contracted

the disease. Because he lived off campus, current Texas law did not require him to be vaccinated, and he was unprotected. The new law is named the Jamie Schanbaum and Nicolis Williams Act in honor of Jamie and in memory of Nicolis.

The good news is that meningococcal disease is preventable through vaccination. Doctors believe that as many as four out of five of the adolescents and young adults who contract the infection could have avoided it, had they been vaccinated. The meningococcal vaccine protects against four of the five common strains of the disease.

Patsy Schanbaum, Jamie’s mother, likens the disease to a hurricane: “It comes and does all this damage, and we’re left to clean it up. Few people know the devastating effects of meningitis like our family does. It’s frightening.”

“The best thing anyone can do to avoid contacting meningitis or any other infectious disease is to ensure their vaccinations are up to date,” adds Murphey. health of all Texans.

Briefs

From Page 1

trustee. Those interested in apply for a position on the Socorro ISD 2011 Bond Accountability Committee are asked to submit their completed applications, attention Daniel Escobar, Senior Public Relations Specialist, at the District Service Center no later than Friday, August 5. Completed applications may also be e-mailed to descobar@sisd.net or faxed to 915-937-0194. The appointments will be completed by the Board of Trustees and announced during its regularly scheduled meeting on August 16.

– Daniel Escobar

Name the college

Clint Independent School District is currently seeking input from the community in naming an Early College High School located in Clint. The school will serve students from throughout the District. If you would like to

submit a name for consideration, please submit a nomination form no later than August 1, 2011. Go to www.clintweb.net or call 926-4053 to obtain a nomination form.

– Laura Cade

Social Security

On August 15, 2011, the El Paso Social Security Offices will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – a reduction of 30 minutes each weekday. While agency employees will continue to work their regular hours, this shorter public window will allow them to complete face-to-face service with the visiting public without incurring the cost of overtime. Congress provided Social Security with nearly \$1 billion less than requested for the budget this fiscal year. Most Social Security services do not require a visit to an office. For example, anyone wishing to apply for benefits, sign up

See BRIEFS, Page 6

San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The San Elizario Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; or Section 504 Coordinator, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3960. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Notificación Publica

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de San Elizario prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de San Elizario esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, del Acta de la Discriminación por Edad de 1975, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con la Coordinadora de Título IX: Superintendente Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; o Coordinadora de Sección 504, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3960. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC: 07/28/11

San Elizario Independent School District Special Education Services

San Elizario Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified disabled children who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

1) Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; 10) Homebound Services; and 11) Dyslexia Services.

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policies FL and FL-E provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Special Education Director, Amanda G. Sanchez, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office , San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3926. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Servicios de Educacion Especial

El distrito escolar de San Elizario provee los siguientes programas/servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

1) programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terepia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia fisica; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; 10) servicios de clases en el hogar; y 10) servicios de dyslexia

Se provee servicios a niños identificados como desabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley pública 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Polizas FL y FL-E explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de San Elizario que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Directora de Educación Especial, Amanda G. Sanchez, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3926. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC: 07-28-11

NBA team owners, Stern, have tough negotiating road

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The NFL owners and players finally reached an agreement this week.

And after all the vile words and hateful suggestions, it appears the two sides will live in harmony for the next 10 years.

That leaves the NBA as the league in complete turmoil and it’s going to be a lot tougher for it to resolve its problems for one simple reason.

In the NFL, players can play for their league or sit at home and cut the grass. In other words, they don’t have any other choice.

The NBA players have discovered something that will suit them just fine if the league decides to keep this lockout going for a long time.

They will simply make a lot of money by playing professionally overseas.

Teams all around the world have opened their locker-room doors to NBA players who may want to join their clubs while the lockout is going on.

And many star players have said that’s

exactly what they are going to do.

This puts the NBA owners in a bit of a fix because the whole idea of negotiation is to get your opponent to bend to your side.

Usually, a side will cave in because they have to. They will swallow their pride and agree to the terms of their opponent because they really have no other choice.

But one by one, players are making it known that they are willing to take their services across the ocean for some big bucks.

Don’t forget, many Americas players already play in Europe and the teams over there play a pretty good brand of basketball.

And in case you think just a few so-so players are threatening to make the move, here are some of the NBA names who are talking about possibly negotiating with foreign teams.

Kevin Durant, Dwight Howard, Amare Stoudemire, Rudy Gay, Deron Williams and Kobe Bryant have all expressed interest in taking their talents to Europe or China.

Williams is the only player, however, who already has a deal in place if the lockout isn’t resolved in time.

If all these players – and I’m sure many

more will announce that they will do the same thing – actually play elsewhere, what will that do to the NBA?

Many of these players will only be on loan to these foreign teams until the lockout is lifted.

But with players essentially saying, “lock us out for eternity, we don’t need you to make our millions,” what kind of leverage does they NBA have?

Is the league now at the mercy of whatever the players want? Does this mean the inmates have been given the key to the asylum? Does this mean the players now get a sort of NBA cart blanche?

Okay, okay, settle down.

I’m sure the league and the players will eventually sit down and settle things. But really, with the threat of going to other leagues around the world over the owners’ heads, the players seem to have the upper hand in any future negotiations because they have choices.

It appears as though the NBA may need its players more than the players need the NBA.

And just think about the boost in interest this will provide to the foreign teams around the world. NBA superstars sprinkled all around

leagues on the other side of the planet.

Granted, it won’t do a a lot for basketball fans here in the United States. But who watches the NBA before the Super Bowl in early February anyway?

Nobody.

Really – nobody really cares about the NBA until after the NCAA final four is over in March.

So the league has a little time to work out a deal before fans get angry.

The NBA owners say that many franchises are losing money and cutbacks have to be made.

I believe them. Aren’t cutbacks being made in every segment of our society, why not sports teams? They are a business like any other.

Are players paid way too much? Are ticket prices way too high? Does everybody in the sport try to gouge everybody else every chance they get?

The answers are obvious, yes, yes and yes.

NBA Commissioner David Stern has transformed his league from a one-time failing afterthought to a worldwide success.

But I don’t know if he has enough tricks up his sleeve to pull this one out.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The sapfest of summer

I’m the father of a 2-year-old, so it’s easy for me to get a bit, well... emotional when it comes to the whole father/son genre. Add baseball to the scenario and forget it, I’m a worthless piece of spaghetti with even less of a backbone.

I was a wreck after learning about the tragic death of the firefighter father who, after promising to bring home a ball for his son, fell out of the upper deck at Texas Stadium while reaching for a foul ball. His 6-year-old boy was there with him and saw the entire scene unfold. The father lived just long enough to tell rescue workers to look after his boy and make sure he was all right.

The next day at Yankee Stadium, Derek Jeter’s father watched him make history with his 3,000th hit. When Jeter was interviewed after the game, unlike the usual sports cliché moment where the athlete always looks into the camera and says “Hi, Mom!” he instead dropped some props for the old man.

“I take him up to every at bat,” Jeter said.

See, fathers can appreciate that.

Mickey Mantle’s family was from

Commerce, Okla. All of the men in his family were married, had kids and were all “providers.” They made their living mining coal, and it was a hard life. So hard in fact, that young Mickey knew he would die young because no Mantle he knew of had ever seen 60.

But in order for Mickey to see that night’s chicken-fried steak, he had to hit 10 balls in a row off of his father’s pitching. And his father wasn’t tossing lightly... in fact, he made Mickey hit from both sides of the plate. Years later, Mickey Mantle would be considered the greatest switch-hitter in history. Unfortunately for Mantle, his father did die young, another victim of “black lung,” and the Mick himself... well, he died younger than he should have, too. (And breathing had nothing to do about it.)

I was reminded of that as I watched today’s premiere Yankee, Robinson Cano, perform at the All Star Game’s Home Run Derby. On the mound was his father, the same man who taught him how to swing a bat as a child. When Cano had made it within reach of the win, his father

stepped off the mound and said to him, “Uno mas!” Cano smiled the kind of smile all men, all children, do when they know they’ve “got this.”

The next pitch went sailing into the seats, but not before he was able

to say, “I love you, dad.”

Now my friend, Nadia, she thinks owning a dog is the same thing as bringing up a kid.

“SAPFEST!” she tweeted as I related the preceding tale.

She’s right, of course, but then

again, so many people have it wrong about baseball, don’t they?

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter and publisher of The Kansas City Luminary. (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

Briefs

From Page 5

for direct deposit, replace a Medicare card, obtain a proof of income letter or inform us of a change of address or telephone number may do so at www.socialsecurity.gov or by dialing our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

– Ray Vigil

Algebra on iPad

Socorro Independent School District will be the first district in the state of Texas to introduce into classrooms HMH Fuse: Algebra 1 app, the first–ever full–curriculum algebra app created for the iPad. A revolutionary step for K–12 education, the app gives users access to the award–winning Holt McDougal Algebra 1 core curriculum enhanced with the interactive capabilities today’s students demand. The

District trained on Wed., July 27, 2011 for the new technology. The new HMH Fuse program will be used at Socorro High School, Eastlake High School, Montwood High School, and the El Dorado 9th Grade Academy that will soon be implementing into their classrooms. HMH Fuse: Algebra 1 app is designed to deliver Algebra 1 curriculum in a way that engages tech–savvy 21st century students. Students receive step–by–step animated instruction, instant feedback on practice questions, the ability to write, record and save notes, and access to over 400 video tutorials with the touch of a finger.

– Daniel Escobar

Crime Stoppers

Several men handcuff the security guard at an eastside transportation company and drive off with a trailer loaded with more than \$100,000 in solar panels, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” At approximately 11:00 p.m. on Friday, June 3, 2011, two men cut the chain link fence behind Howl Transportation at 300 N. Zaragoza. The men went to the guard shack and handcuffed the security guard inside. One of the men put a hard metal object to the guard’s back, which the guard believed was a weapon. The other man then opened the front gate to allow a black or dark blue semi-tractor to enter the yard, where it hitched up a trailer and drove away. The trailer itself was valued at \$10,000 and it contained over \$100,000 worth of solar panels. The tractor was last seen going south on Zaragoza, and turning left on Alameda. It may have had the word “Central” on the passenger door and the number 197 on the passenger side gas

tank. If you have any information about the identity of the suspects involved, or the location of the tractor and trailer, please 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

Wanted

Mauro Lee Sanmiguel, 48, who also uses Mauro Lee Rodriguez is this week’s Manhunt Monday MostWantedFugitive. Sanmiguel is 5’7” tall and weighs 158 pounds. He has “salt and pepper” hair and brown eyes. El Paso County Sheriff’s Officials began an investigation in December 2010 regarding information about a sex crime involving Sanmiguel. The investigation revealed that beginning about June 2010 Sanmiguel had been sexually molesting a young teenage girl. She will not be identified. It took several months for her to come forward and tell her story out of fear for her life. Sanmiguel had previously been married to a member of the family. Charges have since been. Sanmiguel knows he is wanted and is possibly hiding in the Borderland where he has several friends and family. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Sanmiguel they can contact the Sheriff’s Office at (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 individual featured.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar



2011 UTEP FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS ON SALE STARTING AS LOW AS \$75!

UTEP fans who renew or purchase football season tickets prior to June 1 will be entered into a special "30 Prizes in 30 Days" drawing. For each day in the month of June, a variety of prizes will be given away, including polos, t-shirts, back packs, jerseys, flags, footballs and more. The grand prize, to be awarded on June 30, is a trip for two to the Miners' game at UCF in Orlando. Award-winners will be contacted and posted on the UTEP Athletics Facebook page.

Call 747-6150 Today For Your Tickets!

2011 UTEP FOOTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

 09.03	 09.29	 10.22	 10.29	 11.12	 11.19
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Classified Ads

COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE SCALE ACCEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

RESIDENTIAL WINDOW TINTING

- FREE ESTIMATES

(915) 562-1300

Proline

SELF-HELP

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

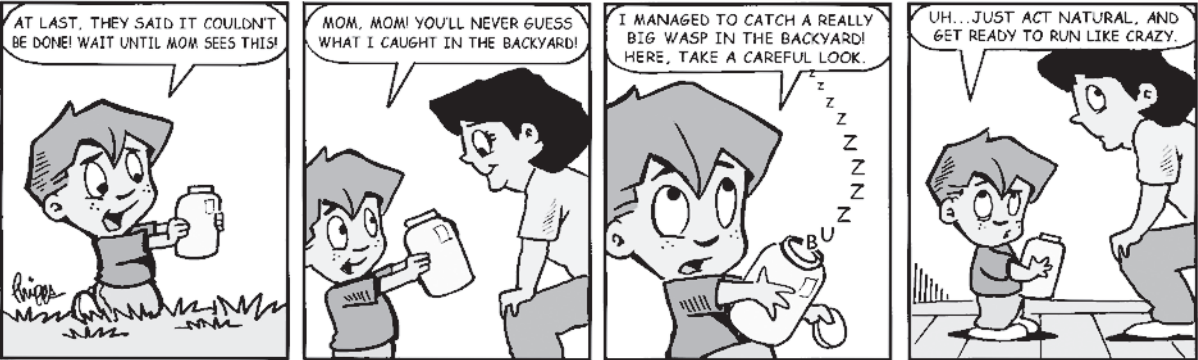
SERVICES

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: My mother is 92 and lives by herself. She's quite independent and does well. A neighbor takes her grocery shopping, and we take her to other places she has to go. She is extremely set in her ways. I offered to have her home air-conditioned. She won't hear of it. She says she's used a fan all her life, and she likes to keep the windows open. I worry about someone her age tolerating heat, and it gets very hot here. Can you provide some arguments that would change her mind? – D.A.

Your offer to air-condition your mother's home is a kind gesture and has lots of merit. I'm not about to challenge your mother. She has successfully lived a long life, and I could learn from her. People in the past lived comfortably without air conditioning. Your mother does have to be on guard for dehydration and heat sickness.

During hot summers, everyone has to stay well hydrated. Older people's sense of thirst is not as reliable an indicator of fluid needs as is younger people's thirst sense. She should sip water all day long, or she can choose any beverage she likes, including tea. Cooled drinks help keep the body cooled. Evaporation is the chief means the body has for staying cool. Not only is an older person's thirst sensation blunted, but so is the ability to sweat. Evaporation of sweat cools the body. I don't mean visible sweat; the sweating I mean is imperceptible but constant. Her fan helps evaporate that imperceptible sweat. However, with a reduced capacity to sweat, older people are at greater risk of suffering from a heat injury. Increased body heat increases the body's need for oxygen, and that stresses the heart.

On very hot days, how about inviting your mother over to your house until the hot spell breaks?

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have

a problem that I am reluctant to talk to the doctor about. It's a rectal itch. I have tried many preparations, but they haven't worked. What would you suggest? – L.F.

I'll mention a few self-remedies, but if the itch doesn't leave promptly, see a doctor. Too many conditions are responsible for such an itch, and each one has a different treatment. Psoriasis, pinworms, eczema and Bowen's disease are a few of the conditions causing a rectal itch. The doctor isn't going to faint when you mention this problem. It's a very common complaint.

Make a couple of diet changes. Stop taking anything that has caffeine. The same goes for citrus fruits, tomatoes and chocolate. If these are the culprits, two weeks away from them should break the itch.

Use moist cotton balls in place of toilet paper. Or you can use commercial products like Tucks.

Take an antihistamine before going to bed. Itching usually worsens at night.

Those are enough home remedies.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: What is *Proteus mirabilis*, and how does it affect a person? And how is it treated? – P.P.

Proteus mirabilis is the name of a bacterium, a germ. It's often implicated in urinary tract infections, but it can cause infections elsewhere, too. Antibiotics eliminate it.

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) 2011 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- WAYNE'S WORLD ACROSS**
1 Big bargain
6 Carpentry device
11 Diplomacy
15 Sault _ Marie, MI
18 Fill with fizz
19 "Bolero" composer
20 Return address?
21 Pallid
22 Frequent Wayne co-star
24 Film directed by Wayne
26 Wayfarer's whistle
wetter
27 Thrill
28 Troubles
30 Pianist Gilels
31 Word with car or pea
33 Muhammad's daughter
36 Commotion
38 Tune
41 Small mall
42 Bearing
43 Faced the day
44 Wayne's birth name
49 _ Grande
50 Plot
53 Facilitate a felony
54 Poetic preposition
55 Makes one's mark
56 Tortellini topping
57 Fretful
60 Songwriter
Greenwich

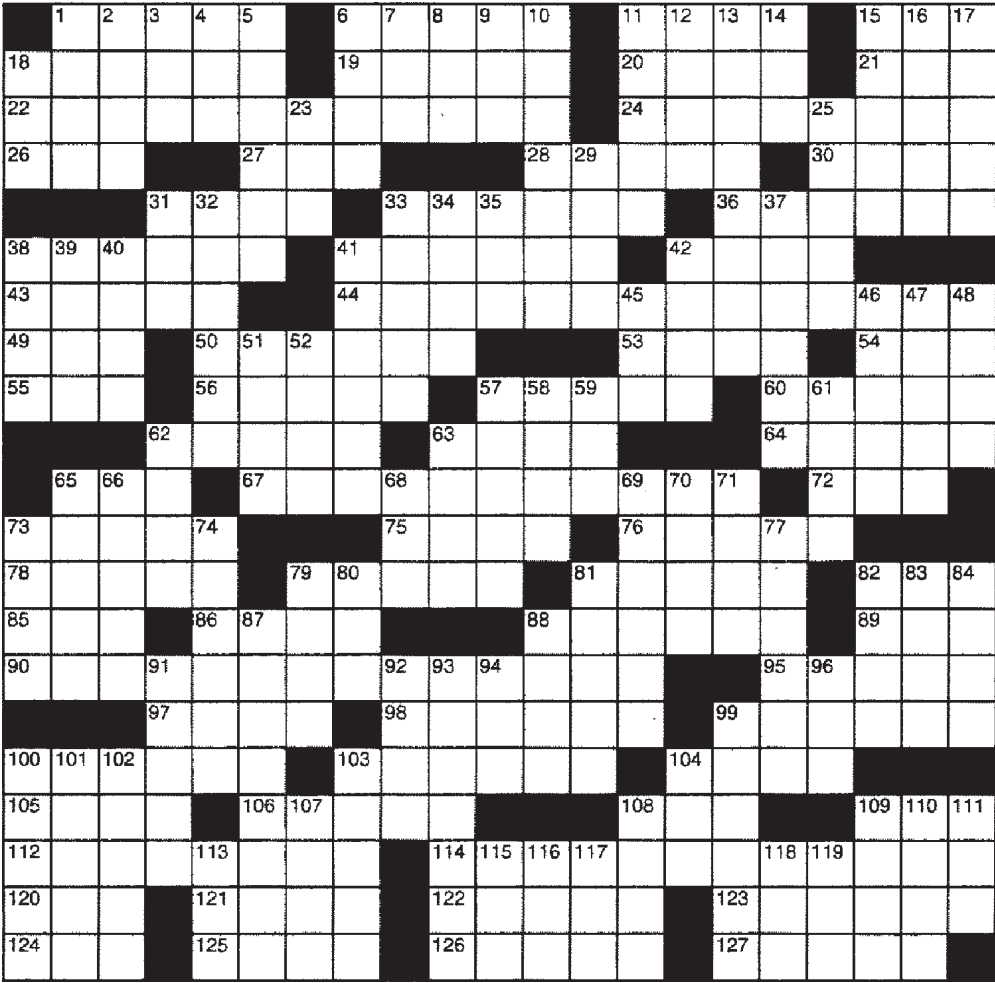
62 Jean of "Upstairs, Downstairs"
63 _ "Sorry Now" ('58 hit)
64 Gossip material
65 Numbers man?
67 Wayne's final film
72 Went jogging
73 Maestro Zubin
75 "Braveheart" costume
76 Fielder's equipment
78 Yale or Root
79 Corn
81 Simon's "Plaza _"
82 Rascal
85 Out of sorts
86 Restaurateur
Toots
88 Seat cover?
89 Actress Peggy
90 Oscar-winning
Wayne role
95 Hugh of "Small Time Crooks"
97 Spineless
98 Egg evaluation
99 Rich soup
100 Insist
103 Lost one's tail?
104 A shake in the grass?
105 "Star Trek VI" actress
106 Bendix role
108 Tease
109 Spigot
112 Frequent Wayne

director
114 Wayne's role in "The Searchers"
120 Rink legend
121 New York city
122 Shortstop Pee Wee
123 Volcanic state
124 Comedian Louis
125 Actor Epps
126 A la King?
127 Proficient

DOWN
1 Navy warrior
2 _ "Colors" ('86 hit)
3 Teacup part
4 Tackled a taco
5 Margin
6 Singer Sheryl
7 _-di-dah
8 Palindromic name
9 "Mal de _"
10 Luciano's colleague
11 Neon _
12 Flu symptom
13 _ cat
14 Shelley's " _ Skylark"
15 Okefenokee, for one
16 Indian tongue
17 " _ Gay"
18 Internists' org.
23 " _ if I can help it!"
25 Tea of "The Naked Truth"
29 Prayer finale

31 _ Cob, CT
32 Forsyth's "The _ File"
33 Surround a Seurat
34 "God's Little _" ('58 film)
35 Skater Babilonia
37 Olympian Al
38 "You Bet Your Life" emcee
39 Part of HOMES
40 Author Anita
41 Don of "Cocoon"
42 Melville title start
45 "Nowhere _" ('66 hit)
46 Actress Diamond
47 Sky stalker
48 _-do-well
51 Supermarket vehicle
52 "Be quiet!"
57 Complete
58 Night noise
59 Relative of -ator
61 Tempt
62 School subject
63 Crackerjack
65 Casals' instrument
66 Detective Vance
68 Emulate 102
Down
69 Exotic pet
70 Lingerie item
71 Shopper's sack
73 Golda of Israel
74 Darcy's creator
77 "The Aeneid" author

79 Mindy's mate
80 Circle section
81 Fathered a foal
82 Neighbor of Jordan
83 Waiter's offering
84 Fancy appetizer
87 TV's "Max _"
88 Teen title
91 Proust protagonist
92 Eye appreciatively
93 Cheeseboard
choice
94 " _ Girls" ('79 smash)
96 Pretoria's loc.
99 "The Enlightened One"
100 Mustard city
101 Atlanta campus
102 Athlete Phil
103 More advanced
104 Rush
107 Role for Shirley
108 Patella's place
109 Kisser
110 Mine feature
111 Pressure meas.
113 To and _
115 Pigskin prop
116 "Tell _ About It" ('83 song)
117 " _ see it..."
118 Gum gob
119 Overwhelm



Moore Texas by Roger Moore **Blessing Texas** was originally named **THANK GOD** but the Post Office rejected the name as sacreligious.



GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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	÷		+		2			
+		-		+				
	-		×		9			
÷		×		+				
	+		÷		8			
2		9		6				
1	2	3	5	6	6	7	8	9

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: What is the benefit amount a spouse may be entitled to receive?

A: If you are eligible for both your own retirement benefit and for benefits as a spouse, we will always pay you benefits based on your record first. If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you will receive a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse's benefits. A spouse generally receives one-half of the retired worker's full benefit unless the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age. If the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age, the amount of the spouse's benefit is reduced by a percentage based on the number of months before he or she reaches full retirement age. For example, based on the full retirement age of 66, if a spouse begins collecting benefits:

- At age 65, the benefit amount would be about 46 percent of the retired worker's full benefit;
- At age 64, it would be about 42 percent;
- At age 63, 37.5 percent; and
- At age 62, 35 percent.

However, if a spouse is taking care of a child who is either under age 16 or disabled and receives Social Security benefits on the same record, a spouse will get full benefits, regardless of age. Learn more by reading our Retirement publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10035.html.

Q: I'm thinking about getting disability insurance from a private company. If I become disabled and have a private policy, would it reduce my Social Security disability benefit?

A: No. Your eligibility for Social Security disability benefits is not affected by any private insurance you may have. But workers' compensation and certain other public disability payments may affect your Social Security benefit. You also should ask the company providing your disability protection what effect Social Security will have on the benefits they provide. For more information about Social Security disability benefits, read our publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html.

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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **B** equals **F**

MB HAPOCHXMHZ EHCPAYMHXP

RCHZS PWBO RCMZSP, OTVK

PTWAXR EWPO XMSVXK YCVBVC

IWIH-SWHXH.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

CONQUER THE WHIRLED

REH
DUBSAR
TRIHM
♥ASME
MUSTIR
♥ABR
ARHI
♥TARSP
♥EAP
PUDSEM
HEBTR
♥SPEO

Answer Page 4

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

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was 20th-century novelist, literary critic and academic C.S. Lewis, best-known for his series "The Chronicles of Narnia," who made the following sage observation: "We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive."
- A year on the planet Neptune lasts about 165 of our Earth years.
- For reasons that aren't clear, lawmakers in the town of Devon, Conn., once saw fit to outlaw walking backward after sunset.
- You don't often associate museums with beverages, but it seems that they're fairly popular throughout the world. For instance, museums dedicated to coffee and/or tea can be found in London, Moscow, Paris, Sao Paulo, Zurich and Kyoto, as well as in China, South Korea, Colombia and Angola. Germany has three of them. Coffee and tea must be quite popular in the Netherlands; museums dedicated to the beverages can be found in five different cities there.
- Are you an ailurophile? If you're over-fond of cats, you are.
- You probably know that Bill Gates lives in a palatial house near Seattle, but you might not realize quite how big it is. The sprawling home is a whopping 66,000 square feet; the property taxes alone are approximately \$1 million per year. It's not unusual to have heated floors, but the Gates' estate has heated driveways. Beats shoveling snow, I suppose.
- Need another reason to buy food that's grown locally? Studies show that 60 percent of what we spend on food is eaten up by transportation costs.

Thought for the Day: "What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do."

— John Ruskin

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