



NEWSBRIEFS

Social Security

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced that Social Security payments for August 3rd will be made on time and as scheduled. Payments for August 10th, 17th, and 24th also will be made as scheduled. "I am happy to announce there will be no delay in the payment of August Social Security benefits," Commissioner Astrue said, "which should be a relief to those people who were concerned about their benefits. I'm pleased the President and Congress were able to come together in a bipartisan fashion to avoid an interruption in payments." People still receiving paper checks from Social Security should consider signing up for Direct Deposit, the secure and convenient way to receive Social Security payments. All current beneficiaries must switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013.

— Ray Vigil

Diet soda

Diet soda may not be a good weapon in your battle of the bulge. So says two new studies that indicate diet soda may contribute to larger waistlines and even to diabetes. Two studies presented at a recent conference held by the American Diabetes Association indicate that diet soda may be free of calories but not of consequences. Epidemiologists from the School of Medicine at The University of Texas reported data showing diet soda consumption is associated with increased waist circumference in humans, and a second study found aspartame raised blood sugar in diabetes-prone mice.

— StatePoint Media

Crime Stoppers

A man smashes the glass door of a business that just closed, jumps on top of the counter and demands money at gunpoint, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." Moments after 1:00 a.m. on Wed., June 15, 2011, a man breaks the glass front door of a Taco Bell store at 7410 Remcon that had just closed. Employees were walking into the office to count the day's receipts when the man jumped on top of the counter, aiming a black handgun at them and demanding all the money. The suspect then fled. There is no vehicle description. The suspect is described as a man of unknown race, approximately 5'8" and 150 pounds, thin build, wearing glasses as well as goggles around his neck, long-sleeve button-up shirt, blue jeans, a black snow hat, surgeon's mask, and gloves. He had a medium to dark complexion, and dark eyes. The suspect spoke with no accent. If you have any information about the identity and location of the suspect involved, or the vehicle, 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

How easy it would be for governments to reform if there were nothing to grab.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

GOING DIGITAL – Elfida Gutierrez, McMillan McGraw-Hill consultant, shares information about CINCH, the new web-based, online science supplemental program, with Sierra Blanca ISD teachers Annette Ramirez, center, and Deanna Lopez, at right. The Fourth Annual Regional Reading Conference brought teachers together to listen to motivational speakers and participate in reading workshops as they prepare for the start of a new school year.

Reading conference attracts educators

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Curriculum enhancements, technological innovations, and diverse student lifestyles have today's educators looking for ways to keep up with

these changes.

About 300 teachers from school districts in El Paso and Hudspeth counties gave up a couple of days of their summer vacation recently to attend the Fourth Annual Regional Reading Conference, which was sponsored by the Education Service Center - Region 19 and held at the region's Head

Start Multi-Purpose Center.

According to James A. Vasquez, executive director of ESC-Region 19, the conference afforded educators the opportunity to expand their instructional reading skill set by listening, participating, and interacting

See **READING**, Page 8

Canutillo High School's cheerleaders clean up at camp

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo High School's (CHS) cheerleading squad earned several

honors recently during the 2011 National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Summer Camp held in July at Montwood High School.

Coach Cynthia Arteaga and 22 CHS cheerleaders, along with 17 other cheerleading

squads from local schools attended the camp to prepare for the 2011-12 school year.

The clinics were organized by NCA staff made up of college and professional

See **CHEERLEADERS**, Page 10



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

ALL SMILES – Canutillo High School's cheerleading squad was rewarded for their effort at this year's National Cheerleaders Association Summer Camp. They received four awards and now have the opportunity to participate in the NCA High School National Championship in Dallas.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2011 in the Administration Bldg., 19200 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas 79853. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.090100/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.218700/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	4.60% Decrease
Debt Service	9.50% Decrease
Total Expenditures	4.80% Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value
(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceeding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 65,009,008	\$ 67,002,130
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 1,477,486	\$ 897,673
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 52,605,933	\$ 54,515,872
Total taxable value**** of new property**	\$ 1,388,742	\$ 893,236

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$19,260,005

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.090100	\$ 0.246000*	\$ 1.336100	\$ 546	\$ 8,394
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.095120	\$ 0.226490*	\$ 1.321610	\$ 540	\$ 7,927
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.090100	\$ 0.218700*	\$ 1.308800	\$ 527	\$ 7,861

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 44,125	\$ 43,967
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 28,888	\$ 28,853
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.336100	\$ 1.321100
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 385.97	\$ 381.18
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (4.79)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.308800. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.308800.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 2,383,851
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 85,284,01

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Failing education

Hola, mi gente.

“In looking at the scores statewide, I found that test scores throughout the state were very good as well. Many school districts showed dramatic improvements; some of which had been mired in mediocrity. Congratulations to all of those teachers and students as well.

As good as the news is, I have to say that we must now move the performance bar higher. What were in the past lofty goals have become normal. Our students and teachers showed that they were up to meeting those goals and I believe that they will do the same if the bar is raised.”

The preceding words were pulled from an article that I wrote back on May 30, 2008. The entire article was about the great TAKS scores that El Paso county school districts produced in the just completed academic year.

That would have been for the year that started August of 2007 and ended May 2008.

I believed then that the time was right to raise the bar as to challenge our students and faculty to continue the great scores. Unfortunately, our state leaders and education board members did anything but raise the bar. They let the students down.

During the next school years, a new aspect of the scoring was introduced that basically undermined the integrity of TAKS testing. School districts were allowed to “project” a future score based on an assumption and report that score to the Texas Education Agency. Unsurprisingly, more school districts showed improving results.

Then, in the 2009-2010 academic year, the standard for passing the exams was lowered. The rationale was that the test was supposedly much harder.

Any reasonable person would most assuredly question either direction by the state. This was cold hard evidence of dumbing down our students.

Since I have been in the state

House of Representatives, I have seen so much inconsistency in the state’s education vision. It is almost like the proverbial saying in the army: dig a hole and bury it.

Thank goodness the legislature in 2009 made some changes. No longer were districts allowed to use the “projection” factor in reporting test scores. The passing level was reset at the traditional number. Unsurprisingly, schools throughout the state showed lower performance test scores for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The school districts in El Paso county also reported lower performances but there were not the same level of failing schools as in the rest of the state. While our schools showed mediocrity, a very small number scored unacceptable.

Our state leadership, the governor, Lt. governor and speaker of the house, along with the members of the State Board of Education failed to take our education system to a higher level after the 2007-2008 school year. Three years of debating what constitutes science, figuring ways to hurt teacher unions, and restructuring of the “Robin Hood School Finance” produced muddled policies that led our school districts nowhere.

There have been many statements from leadership about the importance of a good education in Texas. The future prosperity depends on the quality of students who graduate.

If the goal was indeed to improve education, did the policies set forth by the leadership of our state put into place policies that would achieve that goal? Absolutely not.

In terms of a TAKS score, those who directed the direction of the legislature the past three years achieve an “UNACCEPTABLE” score. The obvious penalty should be that the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker should not be promoted – period.

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



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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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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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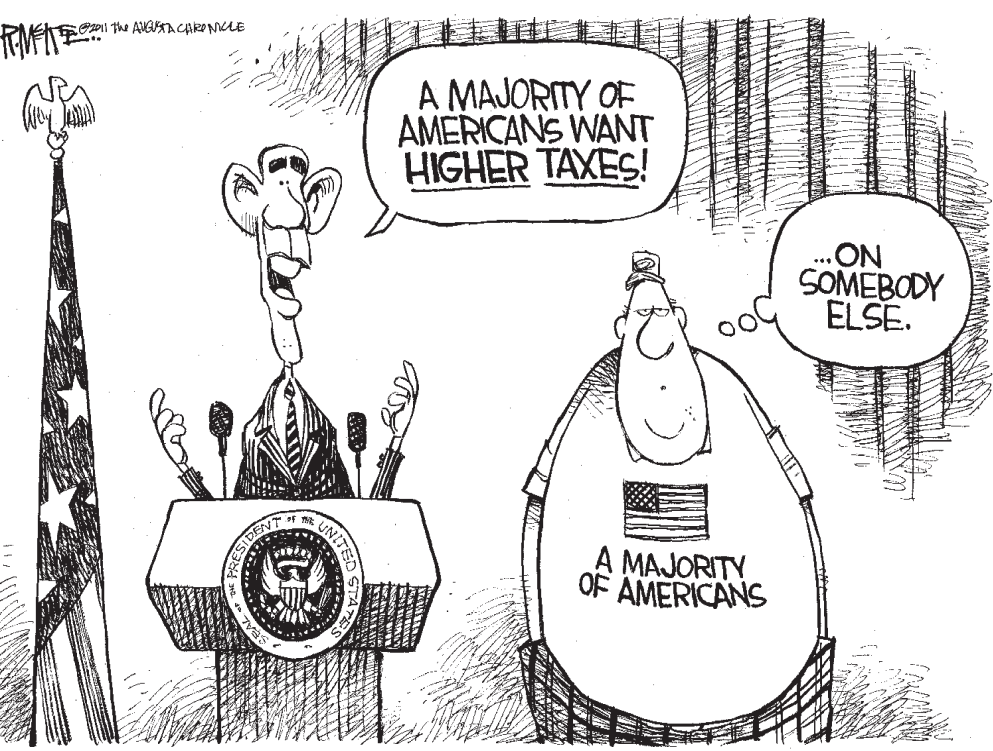
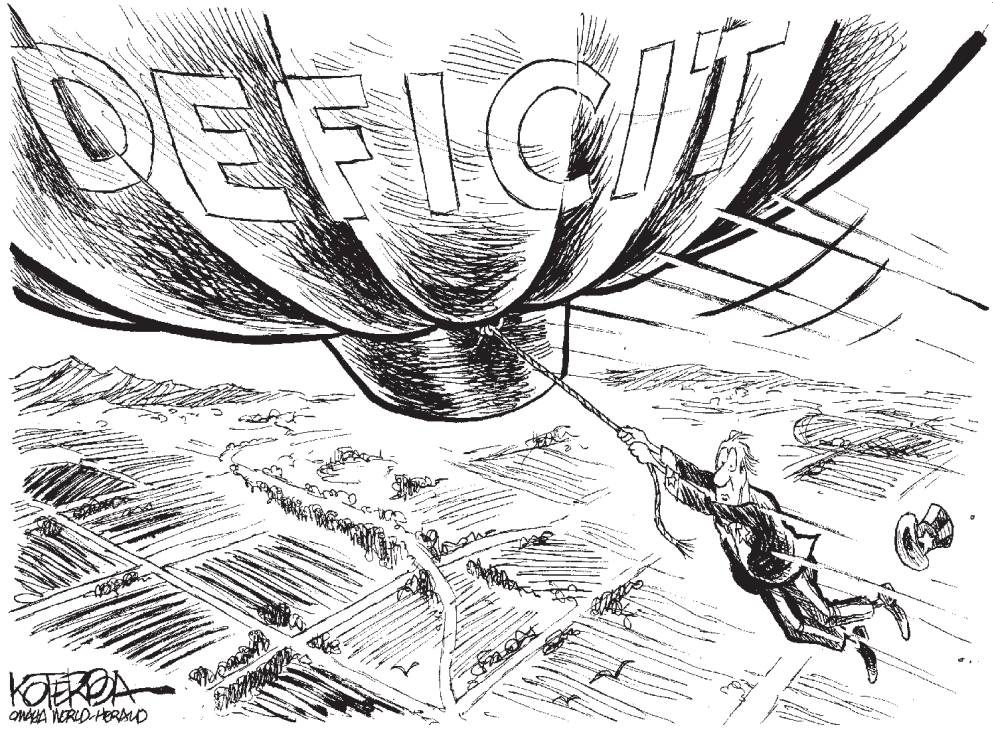
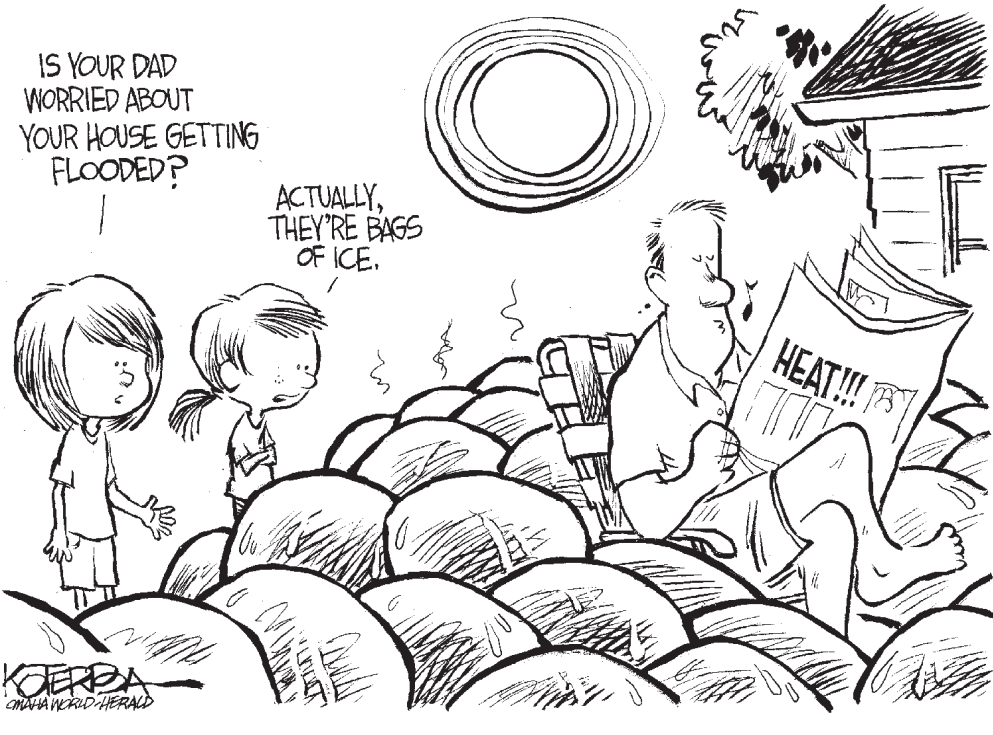
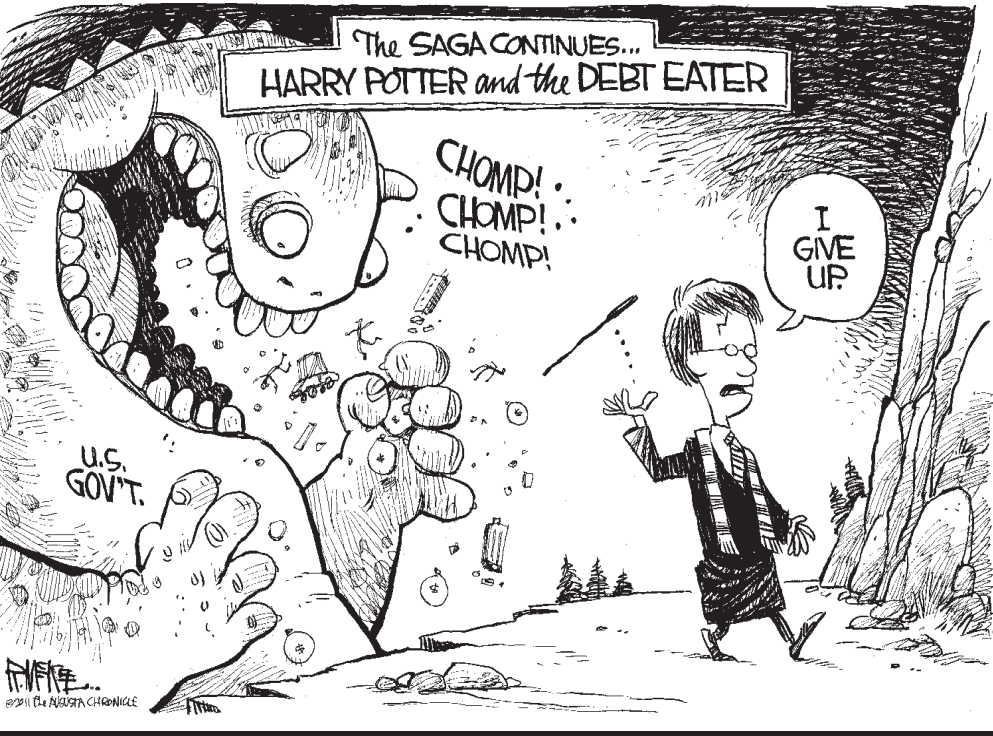


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View from here By Dustin Matocha

Higher ed is on fire

Much like the story of the Roman Emperor Nero fiddling while Rome burned, the higher education establishment is standing idly by while the cost of tuition continues to skyrocket. Instead of offering a plan of their own, they’re fiddling away with rhetoric designed only to protect the status quo.

Their latest attack against those seeking to reform our state’s higher education system comes in a newly created and UT operated website called “A Response to the Seven BreakthroughSolutionsandOtherProposalsfor Higher Education” (www.7solutionresponse.org). Their website details a report written by UT College of Liberal Arts Dean Randy Diehl and his associates, specifically attacking Jeff Sandefer’s “Seven Breakthrough Solutions” – an effort to bring greater affordability and accessibility to higher education in Texas.

The UT report claims such ideas cannot “yield the levels of excellence or efficiency [they] already reach or serve students effectively.”

But instead of offering a legitimate counter-proposal, Diehl and his associates rest on their laurels by pointing to the university’s efforts to adopt the recommendations of the “Commission of 125”, a model that so far has done nothing to lower tuition costs or improve the quality of education at UT over the course of the recommendation’s existence.

Since 2004 when the plan was submitted to former UT president Larry Faulkner, tuition at The University of Texas at Austin has increased 40%, from \$3,500 per semester to \$4,897 semester. That’s more than twice the rate of US inflation over the same time.

I have experienced this personally. My tuition at UT has increased 15%, from \$4,677 per semester in the fall of 2008 to \$5,369 in the fall of 2011 – triple the rate of inflation over the same time!

But it’s the Legislature’s fault for not appropriating more money, right? Wrong.

Adjusted for inflation, the state budget has steadily appropriated approximately \$6,000

per student to statewide universities from 1970 to 2007, yet over the same time the average operating cost per student spiked from \$10,655 in 1991 to \$17,506 in 2007 (a 64.1% increase).

What’s driving these added costs? Part of it is the out-of-control salary increases for faculty and administration. In 1999, the statewide average professor salary was \$70,864. In 2009, the average was \$106,311 (a 50% increase). The highest professor salary at UT-Austin was \$140,542 in 1999 – 10 years later it grew 172.5% to \$382,948!

An Associated Press study also found that the budget for administration at UT-Austin alone rose from \$5.9 million to \$8.2 million (a 40% increase) from 2004 to 2008.

And what does UT have to show for all this added spending? They’ve moved up just one spot in the US News and World Report Rankings of the best colleges, from #46 in 2004 to tied for #45 in 2011.

This all comes in light of recent reports that student loan debt has now surpassed credit card debt in America.

How much more of this can we take before college is seen as more of a hindrance than a catalyst for one’s long-term financial success?

Clearly, we cannot afford anything less than true reform to the system. The status quo is leading us to insurmountable debt with little to show for it. Higher education administrators shouldn’t be wasting time with websites opposing reform, they should join in the work to improve transparency, affordability and accessibility.

We all know the higher education infrastructure is on fire. Rather than pluck their fiddle, faculty and administrators should be joining students, parents and taxpayers in grabbing a bucket by working for real reform.

Dustin Matocha is the Social Media Coordinator for Empower Texans / Texans for Fiscal Responsibility (www.EmpowerTexans.com).

View from here By Bob Strong

Domestic partner benefits

You have heard your local governments offering insurance benefits to domestic partners. These benefits have been justified on the basis of everyone deserves health care and “equality”. What does this really mean?

Domestic partners are couples of the same sex and the opposite sex in a “committed relationship”. In other words they are cohabitating. Government is rewarding bad behavior! But how bad is bad behavior? We know what God says. What does science tell us?

Men living in a same sex relationship can expect a shorter life expectancy of 20 years¹. This makes smoking look healthy by comparison because smoking decreases life expectancy by 13.5 years.

For those living together in opposite sex relationships they “are three times more likely to report violent arguments than married people².” Where the woman has children present “a cohabitating biological father is 20 times more likely to abuse his child.” Where there is a cohabitating boyfriend he is “33 times more likely than a married biological father to abuse the woman’s child.” Note that is times, not percent!

Clearly these benefits are not beneficial to the partners and very dangerous to any children involved. Government has no right to legislate and financially encourage immorality!

¹Health Risks of Gay Sex, Section D: <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/homosexuality/ho0075.html> (An epidemiological study from Vancouver, Canada of data tabulated between 1987 and

1992 for AIDS-related deaths reveals that male homosexual or bisexual practitioners lost up to 20 years of life expectancy. ... The damaging effects of cigarette smoking pale in comparison – cigarette smokers lose on average about 13.5 years of life expectancy.)

²www.marriagelibrary.org/2007/02/a-skeptical-look-at-domestic-partner-benefits/ (About half of cohabiting couples have children present. And cohabiting relationships are less stable than married relationships. Instability is harmful to children. Cohabiting opposite sex couples display more violence toward their own children than do married couples. According to a British study of child abuse registries, a cohabiting father is 20 times more likely to abuse his child than fathers who are married to the child’s mother. And the mother’s cohabiting boyfriend is even more dangerous to her child: the British study found the cohabiting boyfriend to be 33 times more likely than a married biological father to abuse the woman’s child. A study in 2005 found that children who live in households with adults unrelated to them have a risk of inflicted-injury death that is almost 50 times the risk to children residing in households with 2 biological parents. More than 80% of these households with unrelated adults consisted of the child’s mother and her boyfriend and in 74% of these households, the mother’s boyfriend was the perpetrator. An American study found that mothers’ boyfriends contribute less than 2% of nonparental child care, but they commit almost half of all reported child abuse by nonparents.)

Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Education Programs at Clint Independent School District for 2011-2012 School Year

- 1) Clint Independent School District offers career and technology programs in Business Education, Agricultural Science and Technology Education, Health Science Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science Technology Education (Home Economics), Trade and Industrial Education, and Marketing Education. Admission to these programs is based on current enrollment in the Clint ISD and completion of any necessary prerequisites.
- 2) It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis or race, color, national origin, gender, 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 Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, 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) Clint ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Esther McCarthy at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4061 and/or Section 504 Coordinator Julia Truax at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4041.

Notificacion de no Discriminar en los Programas Educativos de Carrera y Tecnologia Clint ISD por el año escolar del 2011-2012

- 1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint esta ofreciendo programas de carreras y tecnologia en Educacion de Negocios, Ciencia de Agricultura y Educacion en Tecnologia, Ciencia de Salud Tecnologia Educativa, Ciencia de Consumidor y Familia Tecnologia Educativa (Economia del Hogar), Comercio y Educacion Industrial, y Educacion de Mercado. La admision a estos programas es basada en la matriculacion actual en el distrito escolar de Clint, y tambien que se aiga cumplido cualquier requisito de antemano.
- 2) Es poliza del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint no discriminar segun la raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, genero, o incapacidad en estos programas de carreras y tecnologia, servicios, o actividades requerido por el Acta de Derechos Civiles Titulo IV de 1964, que fue enmendada; Titulo IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; y al seccion 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitacion, de 1973 como enmendada.
- 3) Es poliza del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint no discriminar segun la raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, genero, incapacidad, o edad en sus practicas de empleo como esta requerido por el Acta de Derechos Civiles Titulo IV de 1964, que fue enmendada, Titulo IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; y el Acta de discriminacion a la edad de 1975 como enmendada; y al seccion 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitacion, de 1973 como enmendada.
- 4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tomara pasos para asegurar que la falta de ingles no sea un obstaculo para la admision y partipacion en todos los programas vocacionales, y educativos.
- 5) Para mas informacion de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el coordinador de Titulo IX, Esther McCarthy, en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4061 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Julia Truax en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4041.

WTCC: 08/04/11

Veterans PostBy Freddy Groves

Scans now reveal blast brain damage

It’s estimated that there have been 320,000 brain injuries caused by blasts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most of them, according to a study reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, were diagnosed as mild or concussive because nothing physical could be seen on imaging scans.

It’s now possible for the effects of concussion to be seen on brain scans.

The study done at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, a U.S. military hospital in Germany, used a different type of Magnetic Resonance Imaging scan that can see damage to the brain down at the axon level (where nerve impulses are transmitted). All researchers did was to upgrade the MRI to Diffusion Tensor Imaging and use analysis software.

Sixty-three military personnel who had been in blasts with an additional injury (being hit with something in the explosion) were scanned. Their initial diagnosis had been “mild, uncomplicated brain injury” due to loss of consciousness, amnesia or being dazed. They were tested along

with two dozen others who had been in blasts and had injuries but who had no sign of brain injury. Those suffering from the effects of explosions often have the mental and emotional components, with no “proof” of physical damage.

The DTI scans showed “marked abnormalities,” while the standard scans didn’t show a thing. Six months to a year afterward, a follow-up showed persistent abnormalities in 47 patients.

The conclusion was that TBI can involve axonal injury, which is akin to severe whiplash, wherein the brain is rattled around in the skull – and it can now, in many cases, be seen.

While this advance doesn’t allow for a specific diagnosis or prediction of future brain health, it is a big step forward as the tests can now be run on standard MRI machines.

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.

Clint Independent School District Public Notice

Child Find – All children with disabilities residing in the State, who are in need of special education and related services, including children with disabilities attending private schools, must be identified, located, and evaluated. This process, called Child Find is the responsibility of Clint Independent School District where your child’s private or home school is located. For additional information, please contact Mary Gomez at (915) 851-8383.

Noticia Pública

En Busca de Niño – Cada niño con deshabilidades que vive en el Estado, que necesita servicios de educación especial, incluso niños con deshabilidades que asisten escuelas privadas, tienen que ser identificados, establecidos y evaluados. En Busca del Niño es la responsabilidad de el distrito escolar de Clint donde la escuela particular de su niño esta ubicada. Para información adicional, favor de comunicarse con Mary Gomez al teléfono (915) 851-8383.

WTCC: 08/04/11

archives: www.wtxcc.com

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CryptoQuip Answer

To alleviate fear about a low harvest, bulb growers gave a state-of-the-onion address.

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STRANGE
BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was noted psychiatrist and sleep researcher William C. Dement who made the following sage observation: “Dreaming permits each and every one of us to be quietly and safely insane every night of our lives.”

• For reasons that aren’t entirely clear in the record at hand, it’s illegal to wear a hat while dancing in Fargo, N.D.

• Despite the fact that the English language is very large in terms of the number of words available to those who can use them, it seems that much of our writing is made up of only a few words. In a study once conducted by lexicographer G.H. McKnight, it was found that approximately one-quarter of all the words in any given sample of writing in English is one of the following nine: and, be, have, it, of, the, to, will and you.

• Some species of squid can swim up to 35 mph.

• If you’re an avid hiker, you might want to keep in mind that the most dangerous trail in America, according to Backpacker magazine, is located in Canyonlands National Park in Utah. The trail known as The Maze earned this distinction thanks to numerous dead-end canyons, few sources of water and temperatures that soar to over 100 degrees F. in summer.

• If you’re like me, you’re a turophile: a lover of cheese.

• When the eggs of the Darwin frog hatch and the tadpoles emerge, the babies are swallowed by a male frog. They’re not victims of cannibalism, however; the father keeps the tadpoles in his vocal sac for two months. Once they’ve matured and become tiny frogs, the young ones are coughed up and have to fend for themselves.

Thought for the Day: “It’s not a good idea to put your wife into a novel; not your latest wife, anyway.”

– Norman Mailer

It’s the law By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Child Support 101

The Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) assists parents in obtaining the financial support necessary for children to grow up and succeed in life. To help make this happen, the OAG works with families throughout Texas so they can benefit from child support services.

To encourage parental responsibility, the OAG establishes paternity of children, establishes court orders for financial and medical support, and enforces support orders. The OAG also promotes the involvement of both parents in the life of the child by working with community groups, schools and hospitals.

The OAG wants to make sure all Texans know that the Child Support Division can help them obtain financial and medical support for their children.

What does the child support program do?

The Child Support Division provides the following services, depending upon the circumstances:

- Locating absent parents;
- Establishing paternity;
- Establishing, enforcing and modifying child and medical support orders; and
- Collecting and distributing child support payments.

Who can apply for child support services?

To help parents collect child support, the Child Support Division accepts applications from mothers, fathers and other individuals who request services.

Where do people apply for child

support services with the Office of the Attorney General?

Applications can be obtained by visiting Child Support Interactive on the main Attorney General website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov, or by calling the 24-hour voice response system at (800) 252-8014. Applications can also be completed online using Child Support Interactive.

Parents who receive financial assistance through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission automatically receive child support services.

What information does the Office of the Attorney General need to locate a noncustodial parent?

The most important information an applicant can provide, aside from the noncustodial parent’s current address, is the name and address of the other parent’s current employer. If the current employer is not known, the name and address of the last known employer should be provided.

Additionally, the following information about the other parent should be provided:

- Social security number and date of birth;
- Names and addresses of relatives and friends;
- Names of banks or creditors, such as utility companies;
- Names of organizations, unions or clubs to which the other parent belongs; and
- Places where the other parent spends free time.

How can child support be

See SUPPORT, Page 12

Public Notice
Clint Independent School District
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, Julia Truax, at 926-4041, or mail at 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

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 Canutillo, Julia Truax, al numero 926-4041, o por correo a la siguiente dirección: 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

Water commission accepting
applications for citizens’ board

By Sally Spener
Special to the Courier

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is seeking applicants to serve on the Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) Board. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities between Percha Dam, NM and Ft. Quitman, TX.

The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that arise in the application of the treaties. The Commission is the official entity that determines the location of the international boundary and demarcates the boundary by erecting and maintaining monuments along the land boundary and demarcation plaques and traffic buttons at the ports of entry. In the greater El Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM region, the USIBWC operates and maintains Rio Grande flood control levees, delivers Rio Grande water to Mexico, demarcates the international boundary, and performs water quality monitoring, among other activities. Past meetings of the RGCF have addressed such issues as Rio Grande flood control, water

supply, water quality, and clean-up of Asarco-related contamination on USIBWC lands. The Commission also conducts various studies and engages in planning regarding water resources along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Citizens Forum is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, water users, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, etc. The Board will conduct regular public meetings, approximately four times per year, at alternating sites in El Paso and Las Cruces to discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects and related activities.

Applications are available at: www.ibwc.state.gov/Files/CF_URG_App_Form_062311.pdf. Application forms may also be requested from Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener, 915-832-4175, sally.spener@ibwc.gov. Applications should be postmarked by August 12, 2011. Board members to the Citizens Forum will be selected by the USIBWC in consideration of the agency’s interest in encouraging participation by diverse interests and individuals and organizations most likely to be directly affected by USIBWC activities. Additional information about the USIBWC is available at: www.ibwc.gov.

Clint Independent School District
Public Notification
of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of Clint ISD 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; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the district’s Title IX Coordinator Esther McCarthy at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4000 and/or Section 504 Coordinator Julia Truax at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4000.

Notificación Pública de
Prácticas No-Desriminatorias

Es norma del distrito independiente de Clint no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus prácticas de empleo tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Deprechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Emmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, Esther McCarthy, en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4000 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Julia Truax en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4000.

Farris chases gold in New Orleans

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Elliott Farris is on track – a running track for national championship gold in the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) finals under way this week in New Orleans.

In previous AAU competitions earlier this year, the confident 18-year-old El Paso runner has qualified for the national finals in two events, the 1,500- and 3,000-meter runs. He is seeded 18th nationally in the 1,500 and 3rd in the 3,000. He competes in the 1,500-meter Thursday and in the 3,000 meter Saturday.

At 1,500, “I have good shot at winning – pretty good odds,”

his entire demeanor reflecting confidence in himself. His best time at that distance is 4:06. He believes he can go under four minutes.

“I have confidence,” he says simply.

With a No. 3 seed, he feels his best shot is in best event, the 3,000 meter.

Accompanying him on his quest for AAU gold are his parents, Dr. Kelly and Tracy Farris. A home-schooled high school graduate, Elliott is one of seven children in the family.

Elliott is effusive in his praise of Franks Munene, an NCAA track champion at UT El Paso under Ted Banks in the 1980s.

Elliott says he began running at 11 and remembers losing “badly.”

“I was misguided by my books,” Elliott frankly admitted in an earlier County Courier story. “I didn’t believe in myself.

“The coach helped me be more efficient.”

That running efficiency index began to move upward when he came under the coaching wing of Munene two years ago. Fueling the rise in efficiency was a basic philosophy which stressed running smarter – not harder. Incorporated into this regulated program was an overall wellness and nutritional program. An important part of those programs was learning to eat more and rest more.

These programs have brought changes in Elliott’s mental attitude.

“I have learned to push my body real hard,” he says. “I am pushing my body to the edge.” He says that when he is running he “has to block out what my body is saying.”

What his body is saying, he adds simply, is that it wants to stop punishing itself.

“(But) I really don’t feel pain.”

The coach is pleased with the progress that his young protégé has shown.

“He has trained well; we are right on track. It’s not how hard you run,” he emphasizes, “it is how smart you run.

“He believes in himself. He is very coachable. He has done his homework.”

Stressing the mental aspect of training, Munene underscores Elliott’s new attitude about running.

“I can see things athletes cannot see,” the coach says. “I understand



– Photo by Tracy Farris

GOING FOR MORE GOLD – Elliott Farris won gold at the 2010 AAU national championships in Orlando, FL. He competes in New Orleans this week.

Public Notice Village of Vinton Texas

The Village of Vinton is submitting an application to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Service for Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants (HPG) for Fiscal Year 2011. The Village of Vinton proposes to use 2011 HPG funding to assist eligible very low-income owner-occupants to repair and rehabilitate homes within the Village of Vinton. The Village is requesting the amount of \$100,000 to assist a minimum of four families within the Village of Vinton.

Proposed 2011 HPG program is described in 2011 HPG Statement of Activities which will be available for public review from August 4, 2011 through August 18, 2011 at the following location Village of Vinton City Hall 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, TX 79821. Phone: (915) 886-5104.

All interested persons, groups and agencies desiring to make comments on the proposal are invited to submit written comments by mail (436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, TX 79821), by fax: (915) 886-4120 or by email to: aolague@bordercdc.com. Please address comments with “2011 HPG Proposal, Attn: Anibal Olague” in the subject line.

All written comments must be received by the Village of Vinton City Hall by 4:30 p.m. August 18, 2011.

HPG is an equal housing opportunity federal program. Discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability.

Jessica Garza
City Clerk

WTCC: 08-04-11



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
--	--	--	--	--	--



Click It or Ticket. Even in the back seat.

Buckle up every rider for every trip.

State law now requires both adults and children to be buckled up in the front or back seat. A child less than 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat. Most children between 4 and 8 years old will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Fines range from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs. TexasClickItorTicket.com



Back-to-school eye exams important

StatePoint Media

Did you know that 80 percent of what we learn is acquired visually? From reading to visual mnemonics (think stop signs and multiplication tables), vision plays a critical role in your child’s academic success.

That’s why it’s important to put a visit to the eye doctor on your back-to-school to-do list.

Surprisingly, approximately 76 percent of children under the age of 5 have never had a comprehensive eye exam, according to a recent nationwide survey of nearly 4,000 Americans by VSP Vision Care, the largest not-for-profit vision benefits and services company in the Unites States.

And since vision problems often manifest as behavioral problems or poor academic achievement, they’re also often misdiagnosed. For example, a child who fidgets in his seat and does poor work because he can’t read the board work may be diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. While a good doctor would rule out vision problems before making a diagnosis, the child may not say anything because he is unaware there is a problem.

Children’s eyes also change from year to year, as they grow. Between shopping for school clothes, updating immunizations and stocking up on supplies, parents can forget the all-important annual eye exam that children need. Moreover, parents may assume that the screenings provided by pediatricians and school nurses are enough, but they’re not.

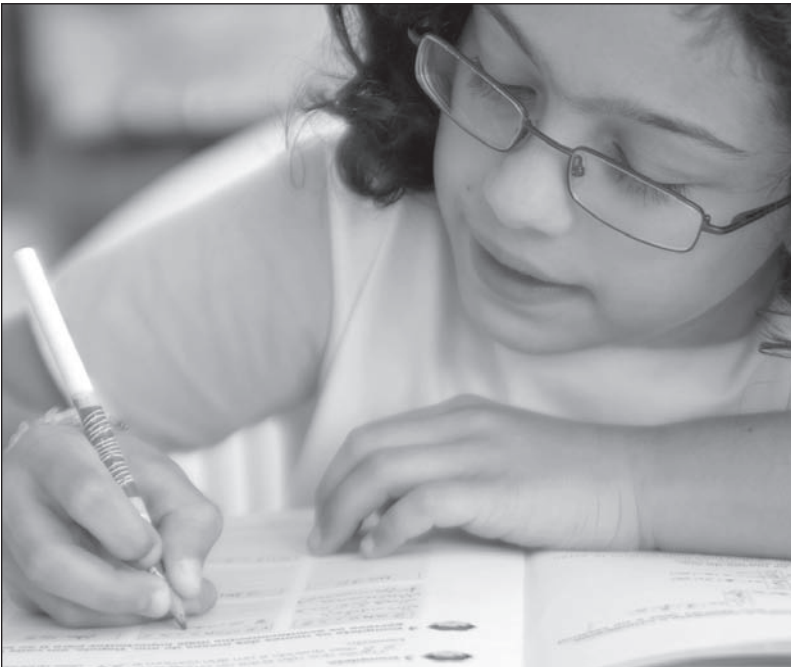
“General vision screenings are limited and overlook many potential vision problems,” said Dr. Stephanie Kirschbaum, a VSP provider based in Grass Valley, Calif. “Children need to be examined annually by an optometrist for signs of astigmatism, nearsightedness and farsightedness. Their eye doctor will also examine the structure of the eye for tell-tale signs of serious diseases affecting more American kids each year, including diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol.”

Children should have their first eye assessment at 6 months of age, a comprehensive eye exam starting at age 3 before entering school and then an annual exam throughout their lives.

- See your eye doctor if your child:
- Loses his or her place while reading;
 - Avoids close work;
 - Tends to rub his or her eyes;
 - Has headaches;
 - Turns or tilts his or her head;
 - Squints while reading or watching television;
 - Has behavioral problems; or
 - Holds reading material closer than normal.

Regular eye care is essential to classroom success. To locate a VSP provider in your area, visit www.vsp.com.

By correcting any vision problems now, you can make the classroom a positive and productive experience for your child.



– (c) Carlos Caetano, Fotolia.com

Annual eye exams may help improve school performance.

Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss Fabens Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 24, 2011 in the boardroom of the Fabens ISD Administration Building, 821 NE “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Fabens Independent School District’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system.

WTCC: 08/04/11

San Elizario Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

The San Elizario Independent School District Special Education Department will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed in 2004 or before. Parents of these students may come to the Special Education Department located at 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd. in San Elizario on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to request their child’s file. The remaining files will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. If you have any questions, please call (915) 872-3926.

AVISO

El departamento de educacion especial del Distrito Escolar de San Elizario va a destruir los archivos confidenciales de estudiantes que estaban en programa de educación especial que han graduado, se han movido, o fueron despedidos en el año escolar de 2004 o antes. Los padres de estos estudiantes pueden venir a la oficina del departamento de educacion especial del Distrito Escolar de San Elizario en 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., de lunes al viernes de 8:00-4:00 de la tarde a solicitar los archivos de sus hijos. Los archivos que no sean recogidos van a ser destruidos como manda el estado en 30 días después de este aviso. Si tienen preguntas, llamen al teléfono (915) 872-3926.

WTCC: 08/04/11

Clint Independent School District SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Clint 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
- 11) Dyslexia Services

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one and to private/home school students who qualify for special education services.

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 the Special Education Director at 125 Brown Street, Clint, Texas 79836, or call (915) 851-8383.

SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL

El distrito escolar de Clint 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 cumplea–os hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12)*
- 2) *servicios diagnósticos*
- 3) *servicios de transportación*
- 4) *terapia 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*
- 11) *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 y para estudiantes en clases privadas/en el hogar que califican para servicios de educación especial.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley Publica 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 Clint que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con la Directora de Educación Especial en la direccion 125 Brown Street, Clint, Texas 79386, o al teléfono (915) 851-8383.

WTCC: 08/04/11

A black and white cartoon illustration. On the right, a man wearing a hat and a suit jacket is looking through a telescope. He has a speech bubble that says "Noah's Ark." On the left, a woman is partially submerged in water, looking up at him with a wide-eyed, desperate expression. She has a speech bubble that says "What are you lookin' for?" and another one below it that says "Need it now!". The cartoon is signed "Moore ©" in the bottom left corner. The background is a simple dark arc representing the sky, and there are some raindrops falling.

Name of person preparing this notice: **Juan F. Sandoval**
Title: **Tax Assessor/Collector** Date prepared: **July 27, 2011**

Backpack safety tips for kids

StatePoint Media

School may be a figurative pain in the neck for many children, but what about a literal pain in the neck – and back?

These days, the answer is yes, and backpacks are to blame. Or more specifically, the improper use of backpacks.

“The average child carries a backpack that would be the equivalent of a 39-pound burden for a 176-pound man, or a 29-pound load for a 132-pound woman,” says Dr. Rick McMichael, president of the American Chiropractic Association (ACA). “Growing children should only be carrying 10 to 20 percent of their body weight.”

Heavy backpacks can negatively affect your child’s health by pulling on ligaments and muscles that cause neck and back pain and can possibly cause deformity of the spine, according to the ACA.

Parents who want to protect their children from these painful injuries can follow these tips:

- Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back. They should be adjustable so the backpack can be fitted to your child’s body. Straps that are too loose can cause the backpack to dangle uncomfortably and cause spinal misalignment and pain.
- Encourage your child to use both straps. Lugging the backpack around by one strap can cause a disproportionate shift of weight to one side, leading to neck and back spasms.
- Pack light or at least smart. A backpack with individualized compartments helps in positioning the contents most effectively, keeping pointy objects away from the back.
- Check to see if your children’s textbooks are available on e-readers – it’ll save their backs, as well as paper. Or consider buying a second set of textbooks for your student to keep at home, perhaps used ones.
- Learn some back-strengthening exercises to build up muscles. Sit-ups are great since strong abdominal muscles can share the load and take the strain off back muscles.

• Encourage your child or teenager to tell you about any pain or discomfort he or she may experience. Do not ignore any back pain in children or teenagers simply because they seem too young.

If you or your child experiences any pain or discomfort resulting from backpack use, call your doctor of chiropractic, who is licensed and trained to diagnose and treat patients of all ages. In addition, doctors of chiropractic can also prescribe exercises designed to help children develop strong muscles, along with instruction in good nutrition, posture and sleeping habits.

You can find more backpack safety tips and learn about treatment for back pain at www.acatoday.org/patients.

And lastly, examine your own backpacks, handbags and diaper bags. Parents are as likely to suffer back pain from excess weight or improper carrying as are their children.



– StatePoint Media

Growing children shouldn’t carry more than 20 percent of their weight.

2011 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Emergency Services District #2

This notice concerns 2011 property tax rates for the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2. 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 _____	\$ 797,140
Last year’s debt taxes _____	\$ 1,879,803
Last year’s total taxes _____	\$ 2,676,943
Last year’s tax base _____	\$ 2,676,943,000
Last year’s total tax rate _____	0.100000 /\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$ 2,674,733
+ This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) ____	\$ 2,638,352,826
= This year’s effective tax rate _____	0.101378 /\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

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) _____	
\$ 796,482	
+ This year’s adjusted tax base _____	\$ 2,638,352,826
= This year’s effective operating rate _____	0.030189 /\$100
x 1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate _____	0.032604 /\$100
+ This year’s debt rate _____	0.071329 /\$100
= This year’s total rollback rate _____	0.103933 /\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 adopts a 2011 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.101378 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2010 taxes by \$51,776.

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) _____	\$ 401,912
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
Clint F.D.	\$98,818	\$125,896	\$0	\$224,714
Fabens F.D.	\$193,092	\$141,751	\$0	\$334,843
Montana Vista F.D.	\$155,608	\$120,943	\$0	\$276,551
San Elizario F.D.	\$283,188	\$119,609	\$0	\$402,797
Socorro F.D.	\$160,252	\$153,616	\$0	\$313,868
West Valley F.D.	\$243,686	\$123,475	\$0	\$367,161

Total required for 2011 Debt Service _____	\$ 1,919,934
- 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 _____	\$ 1,919,934
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2011 ____	-0-
= Total Debt Levy _____	\$ 1,919,934

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 27, 2011**

Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 1 Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2011 on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, at 11:30 a.m. (CDST), at the offices of Gray-Jansing & Associates, Inc., located at 8217 Shoal Creek Blvd., Ste. 200, Austin, TX 78757. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal:	Jack Holford, Dan Roark, Larry Mellenbruch and Ken Mills
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	Sid Covington

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.750000/\$100	0.750000/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ 0/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	0%	
Average appraised value	NA	NA
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	NA	NA
Average taxable value*	NA	NA
Tax on average residence homestead	NA	NA
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	NA	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	NA	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

**This District has no residence homesteads.*

NFL signing frenzy puts old faces in new places

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

How many of you loved to play musical chairs as a kid?

Oh come on, be honest and raise those hands – c’mon get ’em up – that’s better.

Of course you loved it – we all loved it.

You didn’t know when the music was going to stop. You didn’t know if a chair was going to be in front of you when the music stopped. You didn’t know if you were going to be left out in the cold once the music stopped.

That kind of pressure can take its toll on a kid.

That said, I can’t begin to imagine the kind of pressure that NFL owners and general managers have been under the last week playing a musical chairs kind of game signing free agent after free agent.

It’s a great thing that we’re going to have football on schedule this season but there’s no doubt that the game is going to look amazingly different.

Some players who you thought would be with the same team for their entire career will be wearing strange looking uniforms this season.

And some players who have either spent time in jail or have a long history of being disruptive will get second chances – along with millions of dollars.

Some teams have been quick to pull the trigger on new players while others have been more conservative, focusing on signing their own players.

Some of the players that will look a little

strange in new uniforms include former Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco and bad boy Albert Haynesworth with the New England Patriots.

How about seeing former Dallas Cowboys running back Marion Barber with the Chicago Bears.

It just won’t seem right seeing former New Orleans Saints running back Reggie Bush with the Miami Dolphins.

I was just getting used to seeing Donovan McNabb in a Washington Redskins uniform and now he’ll be with the Minnesota Vikings.

Nobody got to see Nnamdi Asomugha in uniform because the Oakland Raiders were never good enough to be on primetime. But he’ll get plenty of exposure now with the Philadelphia Eagles.

We’ve seen Matt Hasselbeck in a Seattle Seahawks uniform forever. It’ll look strange to see him with the Tennessee Titans.

Plaxico Burress will stay in New York, but instead of playing for the Giants, he’ll now try to catch passes and stay out of trouble for the Jets.

Darren Sproles was an exciting runner for the San Diego Chargers, now he’ll be entertaining the fans of the New Orleans Saints.

Tavaris Jackson and Sidney Rice of the Minnesota Vikings will now try their hand with the Seattle Seahawks.

Former Tennessee Titan Vince Young and former Oakland Raider and UTEP Miner Johnny Lee Higgins will both now wear a Philadelphia Eagles uniform.

He may not look strange in a new uniform but we’ll finally get to see what Kevin Kolb can

do as a starter with the Arizona Cardinals.

Though he probably dropped more passes for the Dallas Cowboys than he caught, it will still take a while to get used to seeing wide receiver Roy Williams in a Chicago Bears uniform.

Those, of course, are not all of the trades that have taken place, but they are the biggest to date.

And the game of NFL player musical chairs will go on all the way through the exhibition season. There will be many other veterans who will be cut and like pets waiting patiently under the dinner table, teams will pick up the scraps.

After months of listening to labor negotiations and looming deadlines, it feels

great to be talking football again.

What really feels good for the average fan is the fact that the league and the players’ association will live in bliss for at least 10 years.

I’m not sure many marriages will be able to do that.

Anyway, watching all these teams do the musical chairs thing is making me a little dizzy.

I can’t wait until Thursday Aug. 11 at 6:30 p.m. local time when the Dallas Cowboys take on the Denver Broncos on the first exhibition night of the 2011 season.

Sure it’s just exhibition – but when you think of the very real alternative, I’ll be glued to my set thanking the football gods.



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

You can’t steal first

Billy Sunday began preaching when he was 20 years old, but the congregation – led by Cap Anson and the rest of the hardscrabble Chicago White Stockings of 1883 – wasn’t easily converted.

Sunday had approached Anson, bragging that he was “about the fastest fielder on earth.” Anson decided to give the kid, a former track star from Ames, Iowa, a chance. Speed was integral for the early game of baseball. Home runs were rare. The leader for the team in the category was an outfielder

named Kelly. He hit three all year. They called him “King.”

Sunday got off to a disastrous start: He struck out in his first 14 at bats – still a major-league record. It occurred to members of the White Stockings that it would be hard to utilize Sunday’s speed if he couldn’t get on base.

“Hey, Sunday,” the famously animated Anson was said to have yelled from the bench. “You can’t steal first base!”

Sunday eventually did turn out to be a pretty decent ballplayer (but he

was a poor fielder). Even when he was struggling, Sunday stayed in the lineup because there was one place he could keep up: at the bar.

The 1884 World Series ended in a tie, and Anson was said to have blamed rampant drinking as the reason for his team’s lack of execution. Try as he might, he lamented, he could not get the team to come in early at night. Once the well-paid White Stockings hit State Street, they were in it until last call. That made it difficult for the players to find their stroke the next day.

It was on one such night that Sunday found more than his stroke – he found God. Stepping out of a bar, he ran into a congregation of missionaries from Chicago’s Pacific Garden Mission (which still

stands on State Street to this day). Immediately struck by the singing of gospel hymns, Sunday listened and waved off requests from his friends to move on to the next bar. Turning to them, he announced that he had been saved. “Boys, I’m finished with this wild life. I’m going into the service of God. I’ve seen the light!”

Sunday quit the game immediately, turning down large sums of money in the process, in order to become an evangelist. All but forgotten today, Sunday was the Billy Graham of his

day, and his fiery sermons against the perils of “booze” led to more than a million converts to Christianity and the passage of Prohibition.

Sunday, like Anson, proved capable of turning a phrase, too. “Whiskey and beer are all right in their place, but their place is in hell.”

Cheers!

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

Cheerleaders

From Page 1

cheerleaders who lead the high school squads in various skills. The cheerleading squads’ skills included stunts, cheering and chanting, tumbling, dancing, team building and leadership.

During the camp, NCA staff nominated individual cheerleaders for the All-American Cheerleading Squad. Individuals must display superior qualities in motions, jumps, dance, stunts, tumbling or leadership in order to qualify for the try outs.

According to Arteaga, NCA qualified 19 girls from the CHS cheerleading squad to try out for the All-American Cheerleading Squad. Four individuals made the squad: Jackie Venzor, senior; Shania Stanford, sophomore; Jessica Sells, sophomore; and Marisa Arteaga, freshman. These All-American Cheerleaders are now invited to attend the London New Year’s Day Parade on December 26, 2011.

Other honors awarded to the CHS squad include:

- Superior Rating Ribbon for Chant and Cheer Performance for strong technique, crowd leadership,

and performance with no mistakes;

- Two NCA Spirit Sticks awarded for showing the most sincere spirit and enthusiasm, overall positive attitude, promptness, cooperation and leadership;
- Herkie T.E.A.M. Plaque for the one squad that showed true team spirit, unity, and leadership throughout the week of the camp; and
- Most Improved Trophy.

The CHS squad also earned the NCA Nationals Bid to the NCA High School National Championship in Dallas and an opportunity to participate in the Christmas Parade at Disney World in Florida.

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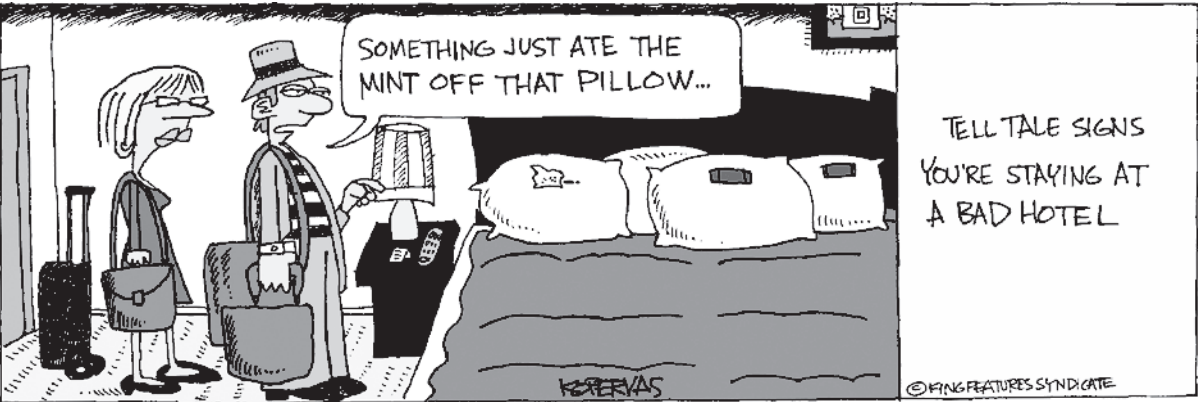
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THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Last December, my husband called the paramedics when I did not respond to him. They rushed me to the hospital when I began convulsing. I have no recollection of any of this. When I woke one week later, I was in the ICU. I was told that I had broken-heart syndrome. I also was told it has to do with blood pressure. Can you confirm that there is such a thing? – A.

Broken-heart syndrome is for real. It's a recent addition to the catalog of illnesses. Japanese doctors first described it, and called it Tako-tsubo cardiomyopathy. Cardiomyopathy is a heart illness that affects the heart muscle, not the heart arteries or heart valves. The classical case is one where a person develops severe chest discomfort preceded by physical or emotional stress. The emotional stress could be the unexpected death of a loved one. An EKG shows a pattern that replicates the pattern of a heart attack. The heart's function is greatly compromised. It doesn't pump blood like it should, and that can lower blood pressure. Seizures are not included in the list of symptoms. However, a drop in blood pressure also drops the flow of blood to the brain. That can trigger seizures.

The explanation for this is a surge in the body's stress chemicals that affect heart function. Damage to the heart muscle isn't permanent. The heart returns to good health in a matter of weeks.

You didn't mention any prior stress. Do you recollect any?

On the plus side, your heart arteries are in good shape, and you ought not to suffer a recurrence.

The booklet on congestive heart failure does not address broken-heart syndrome specifically, but it does detail a more common condition, its treatment and its prognosis. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue –

No. 103W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$5 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have weak kidneys due to type 1 diabetes. My doctor has me eating three fruits a day and four vegetables. He limited my meat to 6 ounces daily. Does this limitation of meat benefit my kidneys? – E.L.

Many times, when the kidneys aren't working up to par (weak kidneys), doctors put their patients on a reduced-protein diet. It slows the decline of kidney function. That's why your doctor limited your meat (protein) intake.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Is distilled water bad for drinking? Can you chew too much gum? My husband chews about four pieces every day. – P.M.

Distilling water involves boiling water and condensing the water vapor by cooling it. Components dissolved in the water are left behind. You can drink distilled water. You will miss out on the minerals contained in most water and on fluoride added to city water, but you can get these elements in other ways.

If you chew too much sugar-containing gum, you promote cavities. Too much sugarless gum can cause diarrhea. Four sticks are not too much.

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.

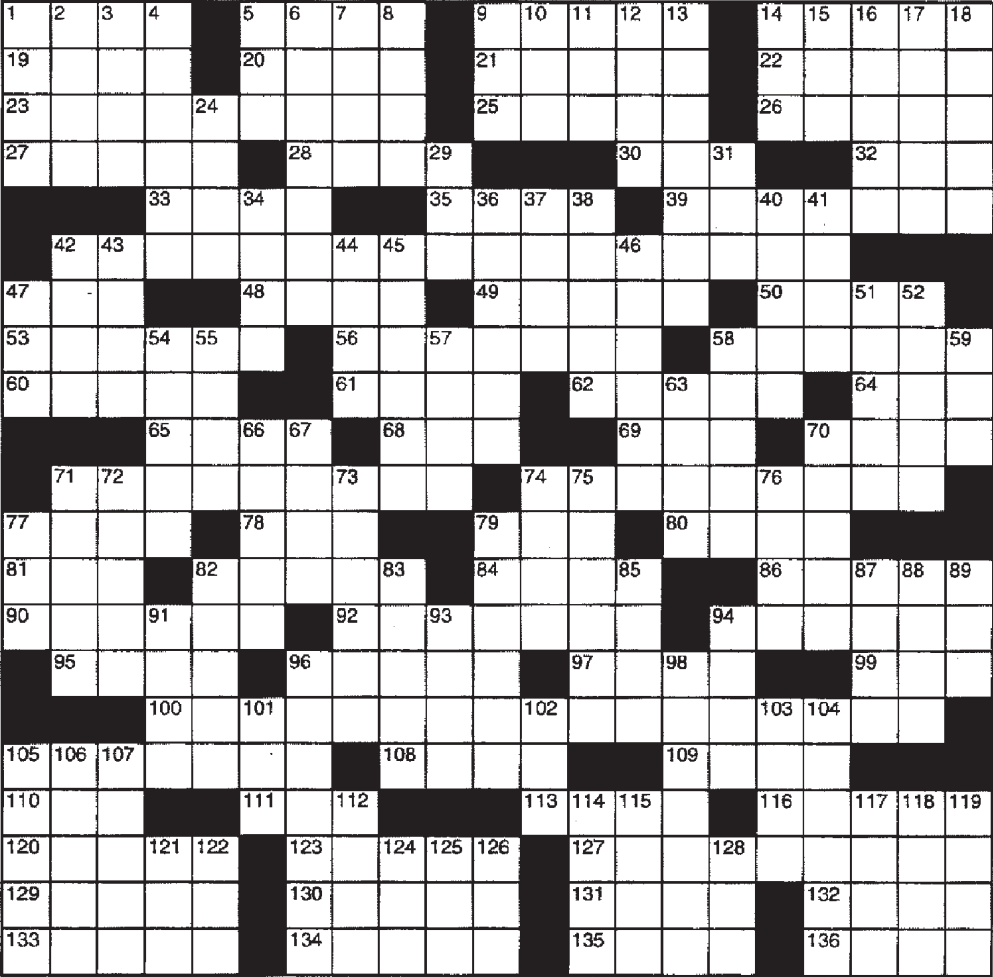
Super Crossword

- I APPEAL ACROSS**

1 Commedia dell' _
5 One of the
Mavericks
9 Seraglio
14 Telescope view
19 Clark's coworker
20 "An apple _ ..."
21 Catherine of
"Home Alone"
22 Mindful
23 Start of a remark
by John Yeck
25 _ button
26 Neighbor of
Nigeria
27 Confused
28 Artist Mondrian
30 Apprehend
32 Winter hazard
33 Lincoln or
Zumwalt
35 Swerve
39 Slavic soup
42 Part 2 of remark
47 Ring stat
48 Pull the Trigger?
49 _ -nez
50 Western lake
53 Fit for farming
56 Patois
58 Rag man?
60 _ lily
61 Raison d'_
62 Big hit?
64 Creepy
Christopher
- 65 Word on a fuse
68 Suffix with racket
69 Farm feature
70 Spice-rack item
71 Part 3 of remark
74 Part 4 of remark
77 Skin problem
78 Monte Rosa, for
one
79 Dion's
"Runaround" girl
80 Mitchell
homestead
81 Glowing
82 Rule
84 " _ Angel" ('60
smash)
86 Persona
90 Publishing
magnate
92 Diva Renata
94 Author's
afterthought
95 Asta's mistress
96 With 91 Down,
fiber source
97 Urchins
99 Fuss and feathers
100 Part 5 of remark
105 Patron
108 Chore
109 "The Longest Day"
author
110 Baby rat
111 Lady of the lea
113 Eastern discipline
116 Furious
120 Part owner?
- DOWN**

1 See 87 Down
2 Carrot or parsnip
3 Canterbury cans
4 Value
5 Humbug lead-in
6 Fatty
7 Punjabi princess
8 Anklebiter
9 Behave like a
bunny
10 "Gotcha!"
11 Sought office
12 " _ go brag!"
13 A la King?
14 Bandleader
Calloway
15 Be in debt
16 Hyper
17 Fromm or Segal
18 Doctrine
24 Biggest part of
a fish?
29 Recipe abbr.
31 Reggae's Marley
- 123 Tower material?
127 End of remark
129 Tantrum
130 Johnson of "Brief
Encounter"
131 Sometimes it's
sweet
132 Stylish
133 Gold bug?
134 Talent
135 Couturier Cassini
136 Diner fare
- 34 Female zebra
36 German
astronomer
37 New York county
38 Tow truck feature
40 Hearsay
41 TV's "One _
Beyond"
42 Gumbo veggie
43 Stable youngster
44 Aspect
45 Pulls together
46 They're very well-
armed
47 Tic- _ -toe
51 Islamic deity
52 Muralist Rivera
54 Point the finger at
55 Revere's signal
57 Bailiwick
58 Elfman of
"Dharma & Greg"
59 Born
63 Proper
66 Wilder works
67 Wd. segment
70 Wise guy
71 Descendant
72 Prelim
73 Lack of feeling
74 Feed a fire
75 Use another blue
pencil?
76 Faucet problem
77 Landon or Kjellin
79 Position
82 Jennifer of
"Flashdance"
- 83 Most minute
85 "The Secret of _"
('82 film)
87 With 1 Down,
"Sweet Liberty"
director
88 Shiva and
Ganesha
89 Conceit
91 See 96 Across
93 _ California
94 Discern
96 "Message to
Michael" singer
98 Bible feature
101 Affliction
102 Overhead item?
103 Couple
104 Add nutrients
105 Tic
106 Designer Emilio
107 Made a choice
112 Get - (retaliate)
114 Bismarck or
Kruger
115 Purpose
117 Turkish title
118 " _ can't be!"
119 Impress
121 _ roll
122 Legal matter
124 Slangy suffix
125 Rocky Ocasek
126 Babble
128 Med. test

Answer Page 4



Support

From Page 5

changed?

Only the court can modify the child support order. It cannot be done by agreement of the parties. Grounds for a modification include a material and substantial change in the circumstances of a child or a person affected by the order, or the passage of three years since the last child support order and a difference in monthly payment by either 20 percent or \$100 from the child support guidelines. A parent subject to a child support order may request a review of the ordered child support amounts every three years by contacting the Office of the Attorney General.

Can a parent take custody of the child instead of making child support payments?

Both parents must provide for the child, no matter which parent has primary custody. Child support is normally paid to the custodial parent for the benefit of the child. Legal custody can be changed, but only if the parents go to court to modify the previous child support order and establish a child support amount for the new noncustodial parent.

Does the Office of the Attorney General handle custody and visitation disputes?

Although federal regulations do not allow the Office of the Attorney General to use child support funding for custody and visitation related matters, the office helps parents who are engaged in custody or visitation disputes by partnering with local organizations to provide access and visitation services, including co-parenting education, alternative dispute resolution, development of parenting plans, supervised visitation and visitation enforcement. For more information about access and visitation programs throughout Texas, visit the child support section of the Attorney General’s website and select Access and Visitation Help.

For more information about the Child Support Division and the services it provides, visit the Attorney General’s website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Survivors’ benefits explained

The loss of a loved one can be painful. The death of a wage-earner upon whom a family depends also can be financially devastating.

If you’re like most young or middle-aged workers, you probably think of Social Security only as a retirement program. But some of the Social Security taxes you pay go toward providing survivors insurance for workers and their families. Think of it as a life insurance policy you never knew you had – paid for by the same taxes that cover you for retirement or disability.

When you die, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits. These include widows, widowers (and divorced widows and widowers), children, and even dependent parents. In many cases, there also is a one-time lump-sum payment of \$255 that can be made to a surviving spouse or minor children who meet certain requirements.

You may not think it will happen to you, but the stunning truth is that one in eight of today’s 20-year-olds will die before reaching their full retirement age of 67. In fact, 98 of every 100 children could get benefits if a working parent dies. More than 6.4 million survivors receive benefits. The average Survivors benefit is \$1,129 a month.

If you are a survivor, you should apply for survivors benefit right away. You can apply by telephone or at any Social Security office. Call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778). To help prepare you, here is the information we will need:

- Proof of death – either from a funeral home or a death certificate;
- Your Social Security number, as well as the deceased worker’s;
- Your birth certificate;
- Your marriage certificate, if you are a widow or widower;
- Your divorce papers, if you are applying as a divorced widow or widower;
- Dependent children’s Social Security numbers, if available, and birth certificates;
- Deceased worker’s W-2 forms or Federal self-employment tax return for the most recent year; and

The name of your bank and your account number so your benefits can be deposited directly into your account.

To learn more about survivors benefits, please read the online publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10084.html and look at the Survivors page at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/survivors.htm.

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.

	+		×		25
+		+		-	
	×		+		29
÷		÷		×	
	+		÷		1
5		1		32	

1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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Answer Page 4

Q: I understand that you need to have limited resources to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). But what is considered a “resource?”

A: Resources are things you own that you can use to support yourself. They include cash, real estate, personal belongings, bank accounts, stocks, and bonds.

To be eligible for SSI a person must have \$2,000 or less in countable resources. A married couple must have \$3,000 or less in countable resources. If you own resources over the SSI limit, you may be able to get SSI benefits while trying to sell the resources.

Not all of your resources count

toward the SSI resource limit. For example:

- The home you live in and the land it’s on do not count;
- Your personal effects and household goods do not count;
- Life insurance policies may not count, depending on their value;
- Your car usually does not count;
- Burial plots for you and members of your immediate family do not count;
- Up to \$1,500 in burial funds for you and up to \$1,500 in burial funds for your spouse may not count; and
- If you are blind or have a disability, some items may not count if you plan to use them to work or earn extra income.

You may also wish to read information on “resources” in the booklet, Understanding SSI at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11011.html.

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: J equals D

CX PRRMLHPCM EMPT PVXSC P
RXY FPTLMGC, VSRV ZTXYMTG
ZPLM P GCPCM-XE-CFM-XIHXI

PJJTMGG.

Answer Page 4

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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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U.S. General Services Administration

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

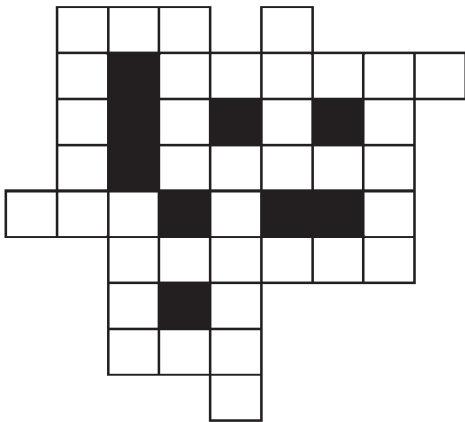
Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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EDY
MINRIF
BLAFE
♥HWTE
♥FOTEF
BWE
♥REEW
MASBY
♥FTA
WHADHO
♥DYWRO
♥RIBD



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.