

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Canutillo ISD

Starting in October, the regular monthly meetings of the Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees will move to the third Wednesday of the month. The next scheduled meeting is on Oct. 19 in the CISD Boardroom, 7965 Artercraft Rd. “The new meeting date will make it easier for the Administration to provide the members of the Board with thorough, accurate and up-to-date information regarding our finances,” said Board President Sergio Coronado. “We will do our best to communicate the news of the meeting date changes to the people in our community.”

– Gustavo Reveles Acosta

### San Eli Outstanding Ex

San Elizario High School recognized Jerry Al Cruz as the 2011 Outstanding Ex during homecoming festivities held in September. Cruz graduated from San Elizario High School in 1998 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in Management from the University of Phoenix in 2007.



Jerry Al Cruz

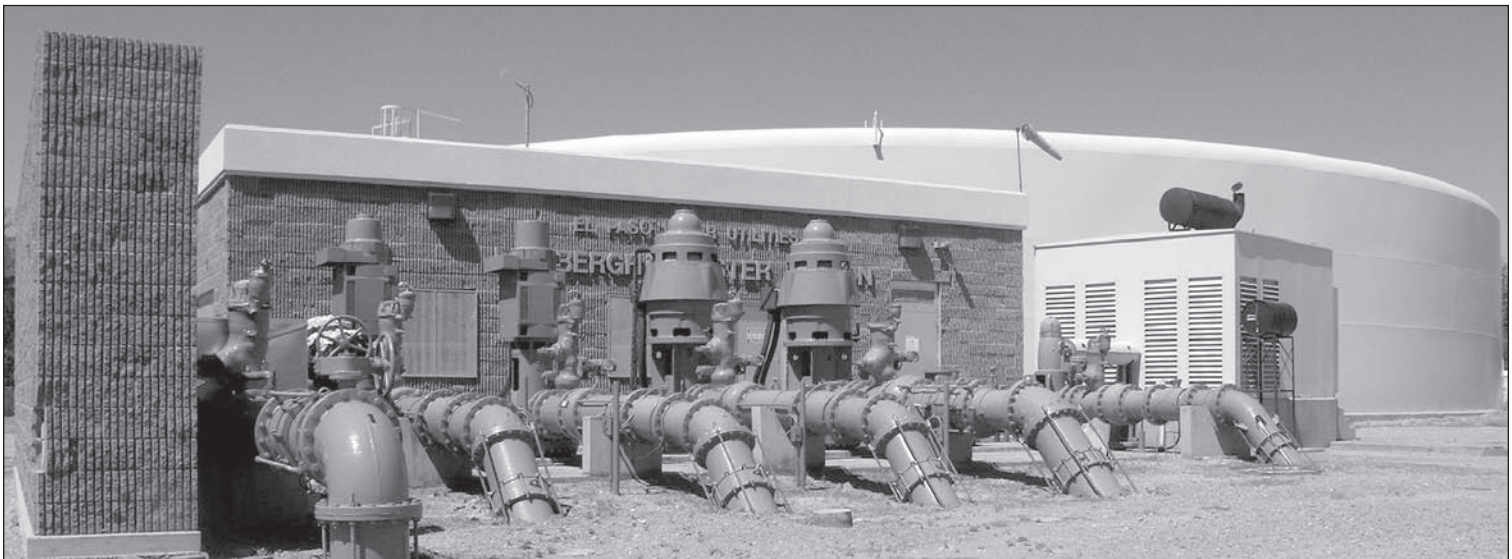
Cruz is also a graduate of the Law Enforcement Academy and currently serves as a detective for the El Paso County 384th Judicial District Court. During his time at San Elizario High School, Cruz was active in yearbook, advertisement and graphic design, technical theater, football and baseball. He is married to Claudia who is also a graduate of San Elizario High School and they have three children. Cruz is presently pursuing a master’s degree in business.

– Cynthia P. Marentes

### Attendance reward

A partnership between the Socorro ISD and Viva Suzuki has taken the District’s Make it Count attendance campaign to a whole new level. On Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011 Viva Suzuki will announce that it will give a lucky Socorro ISD senior, with perfect attendance, a brand new Suzuki SX4. With a starting MSRP of \$16,999, the crossover vehicle is the centerpiece of the District’s effort to increase its average daily attendance. “We are extremely excited about the opportunity to reward a graduating Socorro ISD senior for attending school every day and making it count,” Viva Suzuki General Manager Patrick Brown said. “We look forward to this partnership resulting in students’ increased commitment to their education. And for the lucky winner, we hope that

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– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**WATER TIGHT** – El Paso Water Utilities began formal water conservation education in the late 1980s. As a result El Pasoans, although living in a region where the annual rainfall is 8 inches, lead the state in water conservation issues. El Paso Water Utilities’ Lindbergh Booster Station, above, in West El Paso is a component of the infrastructure network that was renovated recently to pump water into an elevated water supply storage tank. The operation of the pump is governed by a low water level signal from the tank.

## El Paso is a national leader in water conservation

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Pasoans are serious about water conservation. Daily water use averaged 133 gallons per person in 2010, which is two gallons per person less than in 2009. Daily water use averaged 200 gallons per person in 1991 when the El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU), under the auspices of the Public Service Board, adopted its water resources

management plan which incorporates education, enforcement and incentives into a conservation program that addresses the city’s long-term water needs.

Once the EPWU program caught on, many El Pasoans began replacing their lawns with water-efficient landscaping and exchanged their evaporative coolers for refrigerated air. Other savings resulted from the installation of low-water-use plumbing fixtures and appliances, according to Anai Padilla, water conservation manager for the Carlos M. Ramirez Tech2O Water Resources Learning

Center.

These and other implemented measures helped curb water use; subsequently, the amount of water pumped from El Paso’s aquifers or treated from the Rio Grande was reduced. At the same time, they reduced the amount of sewage that flows into the utility’s wastewater treatment plants, said Padilla.

Reduced water use also helps EPWU keep pace with the city’s growth without expanding its water and wastewater plants. Postponing plant expansions saves millions of dollars in capital, financing and operating costs for the utility and its customers, according to the water conservation manager.

For its efforts, EPWU was one of only seven recognized public drinking water systems that received the Platinum Award for Utility Excellence from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA). EPWU received the award at the AMWA 2010 Annual Meeting held in Henderson, Nevada.

“AMWA’s 2010 award winners are industry pace-setters, where forward-looking managers and committed workforces create sustainable utilities providing high quality, affordable water and responsive customer service, while protecting the environment,” said AMWA President James McDaniel.

EPWU President and CEO Ed Archuleta received the award which recognized the outstanding achievements in implementing the nationally recognized Attributes of Effectively Managed Water Sector Utilities. EPWU was recognized for performance in areas of product quality, employee and leadership development, customer satisfaction, and community sustainability, according to an EPWU news release.

“El Paso Water Utilities is known throughout the country for its successful water conservation program, and the utility’s goal is to maintain or reduce water use through education and advances in technology,” stated Christina Montoya, Vice President-Marketing and Communication for the El Paso Water Utilities.

“The El Paso area faces unique water challenges and it is our obligation to deliver this information throughout the area to help others understand how crucial it is to work collectively as a region to address the critical water issues,” Montoya stated. “Our intent is to deliver the information in a meaningful and understanding way for all age groups.”

## College noticed at national level

By Don Woodyard  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – For its initiative in developing early college high school programs in the El Paso area school districts, El Paso Community College has received recognition on the national level.

In ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol on Sept. 27, EPCC was selected as one of the 16 national finalists for the 2011 *Examples of Excelencia* recognition.

The community college, according to an EPCC press release, was selected from among 195 competitors “as among America’s top programs that increase degree completion among Latinos at the associate, bachelor and graduate level.”

“For America to achieve President Obama’s goal of becoming the world leader in college degrees by 2020, it is vital that we increase degree completion among Latinos,” said Martha Kanter, U.S. Undersecretary of Education, at the Capitol ceremonies.

“The successful and innovative programs recognized today are examples of institutions working to do their part, and I commend Excelencia in Education for helping institutional leaders, educators and policy makers to understand these best practices.”

El Paso Community College’s efforts in this area go back to 2006 when it first began partnering and developing programs with local school districts. The first early college

high school was located in the Socorro Independent School District.

Since that time, it has formed five more early college high schools. These institutions allow select students to earn their high school diploma as well as 60 credit hours and an associate’s degree from the community college.

Subsequent early college high school programs have been developed in the El Paso school district, the Ysleta school district as well as in Canutillo and Fabens.

Fabens ISD was the fifth program. It opened last year. At its opening ceremonies, Dr. Richard Rhodes, then community college president, put the purpose and rationale of the whole program in perspective.

“Congratulations, students. You have made the right choice. You have a chance to accelerate your college careers as fast as you want to. You have the ability; you have the capacity to succeed and achieve your dreams.”

The sixth program is in the Clint ISD. It was formalized and developed on Sept. 22 in ceremonies in the Clint administration building in Horizon City. The newest early college high school is scheduled to open in August of 2012.

With major school districts now covered, Jim Heiney, marketing specialist for EPCC, says there are no plans in the foreseeable future for any other early college high school programs.

There are an estimated 50 early college high school programs in the state of Texas.

*Happiness does not come from what you have, but what you are.*

– Quips & Quotes

write stuff

**Editor:**  
As Republicans and Democrats struggle with the issue of cutting big government I believe that I have the solution to the problem.  
Why not cut the size of house Representatives and Senators, why not only have one Republican and one Democrat house representative from each state and one Republican Senator and one Democrat Senator from each state? We do not need individual district representatives. It would save trillions in a few years, less retirement pay, less blue chip healthcare, congress is what causes federal spending. They are looking for ways of cutting big government, why not start there instead of cutting school teachers, school programs, firemen, policemen, FEMA, and other vital federal programs instead?  
That would save billions of dollars each year and amount to trillions in a few years.

Also, why not cut free trade agreements and bring back to American manufacturing jobs. What happened to *Made in America*?  
We cannot afford to continue policing the world. The notion that if we cut foreign aid it would cause instability around the world is ludicrous. How about the instability in America?  
Social Security is not going broke, what the federal government needs to do is replace the funds it *borrowed* from Social Security. It does not cost the government a single nickel for Social Security, it is what we have paid into it in the form of income tax!  
I also believe that stopping the three wars plus bringing home the troops from the 150 countries around the world would cut our deficit.

Art Gallegos  
Canutillo

View from here By Tom Pauken

The cost of Texas’ severe drought

Devastating wildfires across Texas this summer have been the most visible evidence of a year-long drought that Texas officials have declared to be the worst on record. Behind the highly visible carnage caused by the fires, the drought also has inflicted a toll on the Texas economy that will have long-term ramifications across the state.  
The dry, hot conditions have placed severe strains on the ranching and farming industry, as well as threatening our recreational hunting and fishing sector. Experts with the Texas AgriLife Extension at Texas A&M University estimate that the drought has cost Texas \$5.2 billion in crops and livestock. In fact many Texas ranchers may be forced to go out of business as a result of the devastating weather conditions in our state. The drought has killed much of the grass used for grazing, and ranchers are faced with a choice. They sell off their starving cattle before they’ve fully matured, pay unusually high prices for hay in order to keep their herd alive, or move their herd out of state where conditions are better. Almost all the hay for Texas ranchers is coming from out of state, and officials with the Texas Farm Bureau say that the cost to transport a bale of hay is now more expensive than the bale itself. Meanwhile, some out-of-state hay producers are using the shortage to charge exorbitant prices.  
Understandably, many Texas ranchers have opted to sell their cattle under these circumstances. One survey by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) found that ranchers have sold off 40 percent of their cattle this year compared to an annual average of 5 percent to 10 percent. Officials with the Texas Farm Bureau believe that percentage has gone up even higher in the last month. The Farm Bureau also reports that they are hearing from many ranchers who plan to leave the business for good after they sell off their herd. TSCRA’s survey confirms that 1 in 10 ranchers have left the industry this year.  
Farmers also have suffered. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples reports that cotton farmers have lost \$1.8 billion due to the lack of rain; lost revenue from hay is \$750 million; and corn losses are \$327 million. Officials with the Lower Colorado River Authority recently announced that they may be requesting permission to cut off water to farmers downstream of Austin because water reserves are so depleted. If that happens, rice farmers in Matagorda, Wharton and Colorado counties could see losses of \$75 million and the elimination of 1,000 farm labor jobs, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman.  
Even hunting and fishing, one of Texas’ most beloved pastimes, could take a hit. Wild turkeys and deer are struggling to find water to drink and moist foliage to eat according to Kirby Brown of the Texas Wildlife Association, who reports that fawn production will likely be down. Before discounting this as just an inconvenience, consider that hunting and fishing is a nearly \$9 billion industry in Texas according to a 2006 study.  
The economically harmful effects of the drought are compounded by the fact that it is taking place as we face the most serious recession since the Great Depression. The stagnant national economy is driving up unemployment across the country, including Texas. Making matters even worse is that some of the regions of Texas with the highest unemployment – the south Texas counties near the Rio Grande – are regions where farming and ranching play a large role in the local economy.  
The economic damage done by this drought will be long lasting even if rain comes soon. Ranchers forced to sell off cattle before reaching their peak value can never recover that loss and replenishing their lost inventory will take major capital investments. The farmers and hunting-related businesses that lose income can’t make it back when the rain returns.  
The \$5.2 billion of losses in crops and livestock that the drought is said to have cost is a conservative estimate. It doesn’t include fruits, vegetables, or peanuts. Nor does it include the indirect impact of the drought that has been especially pronounced in regions where agriculture is the largest sector of the economy. Businesses that sell feed, fertilizer, seed, heavy machinery, and other agricultural supplies are adversely affected by these negative conditions.  
Texas has fared better than any other state during the current economic challenges and has led the way in private sector job creation over the past decade. That is due in part to our strong agriculture sector that has always played a vital role in our state. One out of every seven jobs in Texas is tied to that sector. But this devastating drought has imparted serious and real damage. Texans must be prepared to deal with the long term economic and human costs of this drought for years to come.

Tom Pauken is Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission and author of Bringing America Home.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The West Texas County Courier office is closed.  
The office will open again on Monday, October 24, 2011.



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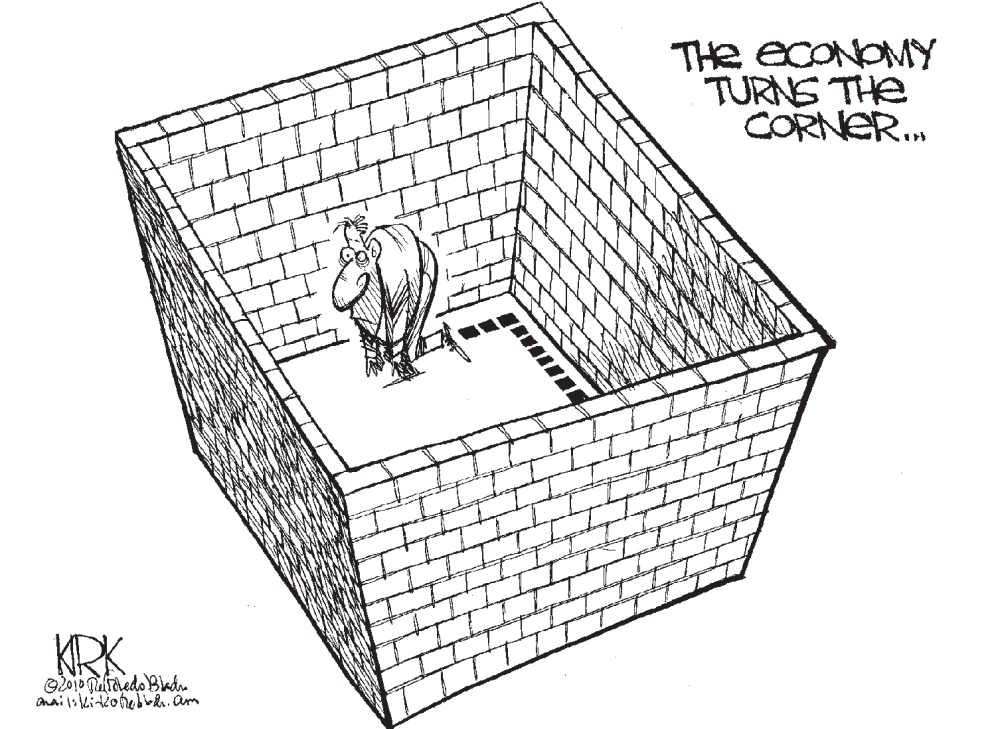
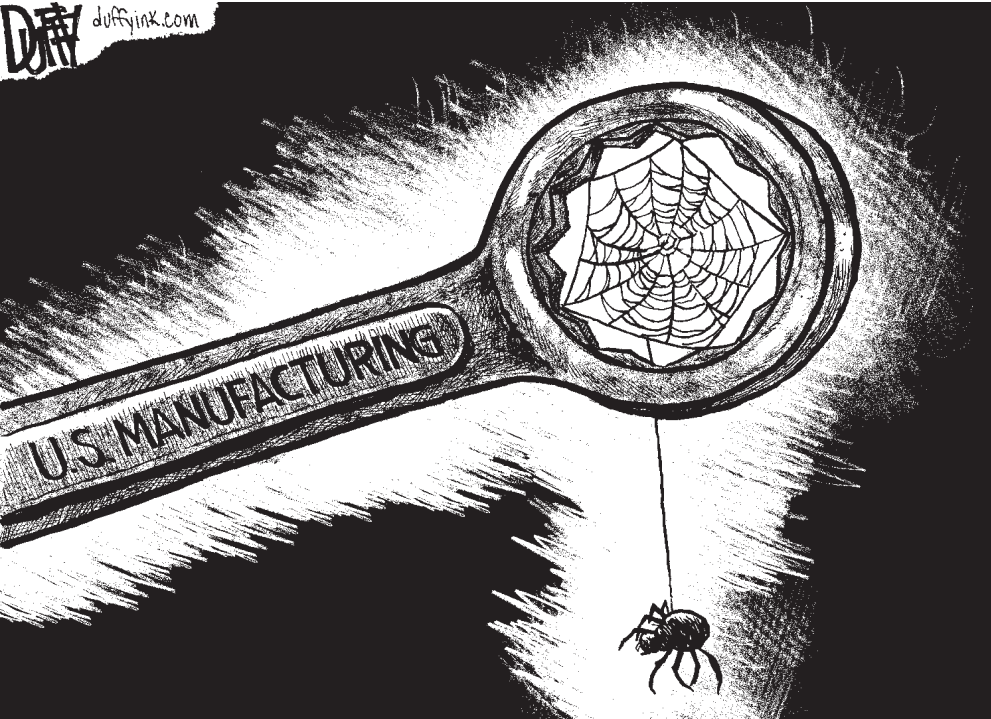
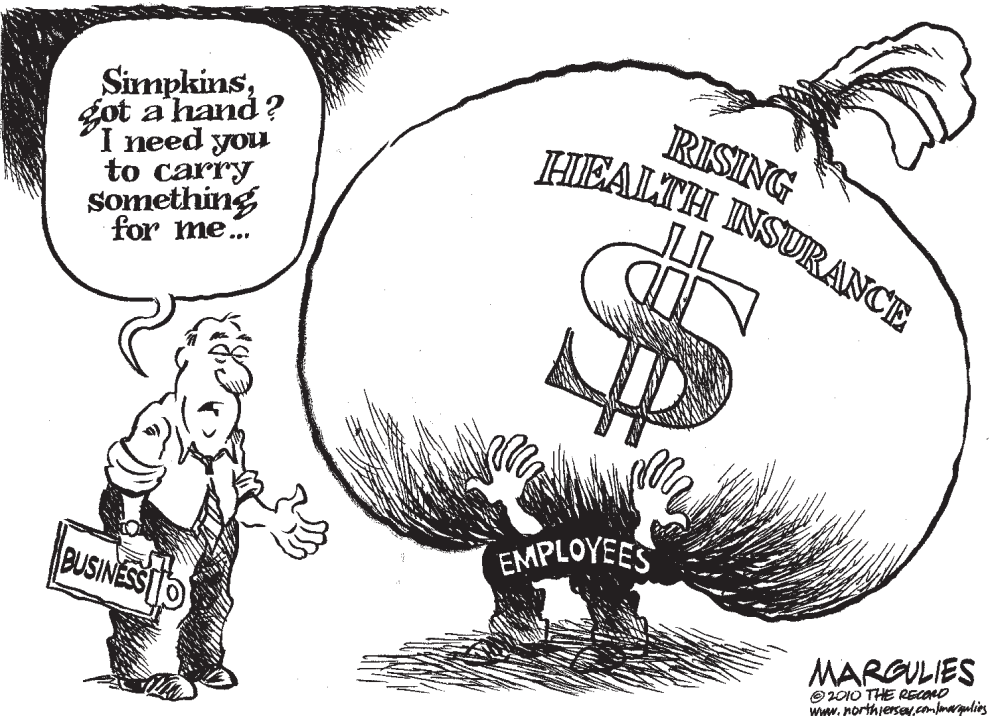
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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Deferment and election rule on ballot

Hola, mi gente. Every November that follows a legislative session, this year being the 82nd in the history of Texas, we have a limited election to approve or disapprove changes to the constitution. This year there are ten amendments.

The governor has been in the news lately about considering a stay of execution. In some of the news articles there were comments about the lack of pardons granted by the governor. The governor may grant pardons for conviction but not for those under deferred adjudication because the state constitution is very rigid.

Proposition number nine would loosen the restrictions upon the governor to make these choices where a person is granted deferred adjudication by the judge. This amounts to a not guilty verdict; but if you commit another crime, the not guilty turns to guilty with all of the punishment ramifications.

If a person completes the deferred period cleanly, then the pardon by the governor would be allowed with expunging of records to clear any background checks of the incident.

This constitutional change follows an approval by Texas voters to allow a judge or jury to choose life in prison without parole over the death penalty. It appears that Texans are very open to reasonable changes to the stiff culture of justice that has been our history. Justice may be better served by deferred adjudication and allowing an individual to reintegrate socially with a clean record.

Many of you may recall when Commissioner Escobar was contemplating a run for County Judge that she waited until after January first to announce. That is because of Texas law requiring certain local officials to be automatically resigned from office if an announcement for a different office is made before the last year in office. This is to guarantee that office holders focus on the office business and not campaigning.

Recently, a federal requirement that facilitated the vote by overseas military was changed to have ballots mailed 45 days before the election. Accordingly, Texas moved the filing dates for election to office to close in the middle of December.

If this had been in place for Escobar, she would have needed to resign in December in order to run for County Judge. Then, the voters in the now vacant office would have to elect a new commissioner costing the tax payers money.

Constitutional proposition ten would amend the state constitution to change the resignation requirement in such a case from a flat one year to one year and thirty days. This way the candidate may focus the last full year in office on both the people's business and on the campaigning. Taxpayers will be save from having to foot the bill for a special election.

The date for this election is November 8, a Tuesday. This election is just as important as are the elections for public office. Please don't shrug it off. Vote!

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

Free flu mist times, locations

Free flu mist immunizations will be available to underserved school children in El Paso County through Nov. 19. Immunize El Paso, The Caring for Children Foundation and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas are working together to provide this service. In addition to children's flu vaccinations, the group is also offering flu vaccines to adults. To help offset the cost of vaccination for adults, Medicare and many major insurance plans are accepted. The *Courier* will continue run the schedules on a regular basis.

- Tuesday, Oct. 18**
- 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Ysleta Pre-Kindergarden, 7940 Craddock, 79915
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Alicia Chacon School, 221 Prado, 79907
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Milam. Elementary, 5000 Luke Street Biggs Field, 79908
- Wednesday, Oct. 19**
- 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Dr. Sue Shook Elementary, 13777 Paseo Del Este, 79928
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Alta Vista Elementary, 1000 North Grama, 79903
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Northstar Elementary, 5950 Sean Haggerty, 79924
- Thursday, Oct. 20**
- 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Cathedral High School, 1309 North Stanton, 79902
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Camino Real Middle School, 9393 Alameda, 79907
- Friday, Oct. 20**
- 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Keys Academy and Options High, 12380 Pine Springs, 79928
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., MacArthur Intermediate School, 8191 Whitus, 79925
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Slider Middle School, 1170 School Lane, 79936
- Saturday, Oct. 22**
- 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Fabens Middle School, 800 Walker, 79838
- Monday, Oct. 24**
- 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Bowie High School, 801 South San Marcial, 79905
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Ituarte Elementary, 12860 Tierra Sonora, 79938
  - 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Del Valle High School, 950 Bordeaux, 79907
- Tuesday, Oct. 25**
- 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m., Hillside Elementary, 4500 Clifton, 79903
  - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Stanton Elementary, 5414 Hondo Pass, 79924
  - 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Sanchez Middle School, 321 North Rio Vista Road, 79927
  - 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Bel Air High School, 731 North Yarbrough, 79915
  - 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Loma Verde Elementary, 12150 Ted Houghton, 79936
  - 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Oshea Keleher Elementary, 1800 Leroy Bonse, 79936

# San Elizario ISD middle school celebrates silver anniversary

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

The main campus of what is presently known as Garcia-Enriquez Middle School in the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) marked its 25th anniversary with a silver ceremony held on September 22.

Students, staff and community members gathered inside the cafeteria for a special program and reception featuring presentations by former students as well as performances by the Garcia-Enriquez Middle School (GEMS) band and the Awiratzí Folklorico Group. History classes also welcomed San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society member Samuel Sanchez and SEISD board trustee Ramon Holguin who visited with students throughout the day.

One guest of honor, Lilian Trujillo,

provided a personal account and family stories related to the history of the campus. Trujillo stated that it was her family who donated the land to the school district where GEMS was eventually built. Other invited speakers included Olga Trujillo Hernandez, Alice Ramos, Bernice Barragan, Debra Salas, Jose Rodriguez, and Susana Payan.

Leading the preparations for the silver anniversary was GEMS school secretary and alumna Bernice Barragan who stated that recognizing the quarter-century existence of the campus was also an important milestone for the district as a whole.

“It was important to show how our community has grown over the years starting with one building with only 10 to 15 students to the six campuses and over 4,000 students that we have today,” Barragan said. Barragan added that it was also a very exciting time for SEISD especially with all

the recent housing developments in the community that she believes will bring more students and campuses to the district in the future.

After several reincarnations the facilities that are now part of Garcia-Enriquez Middle School opened their doors in 1986 and the middle school was officially designated as a separate campus. The school then became its own stand-alone facility in 1997 with the construction of San Elizario High School further down Socorro Road. It was renamed in 2005 after Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez who was a longtime resident and board member. The most recent improvements to the school have been the construction of a new library and classroom building in 2008. The GEMS exterior was also redesigned over the summer with a mission style façade and now includes a fully functional bell donated by Tom Burks of El Paso Connection.



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**MEMORY LANE –** Jose Rodriguez, San Elizario ISD Board Vice President and former Garcia-Enriquez Middle School student speaks about his experiences.

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– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

**ENLIGHTENING –** Students in the Canutillo High School’s Agriculture Science classes learn about solar power during a tour of the training area at International Business College located on El Paso’s Westside.

## Ag students get solar energy lesson

By Kim Guzman  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Agricultural Sciences students from Canutillo High School participated recently in a presentation about solar energy at the International Business College (IBC). The students learned about the technology behind solar energy and El Paso’s role in creating alternative fuels.

CHS students toured the facility as students from IBC’s newest training program Construction Technology with a specialty in Photovoltaic Installation. The program provides needed solar power job skills for

students and serves as a resource for the rapidly-growing solar energy industry.

IBC’s program is the first Texas Renewable Energy Education Consortium training site in West Texas and is meant to give students an opportunity to work in a hands-on environment focusing on construction and solar electricity.

“The new classes offered by IBC are a huge asset to any local community that is trying to move to a renewable energy program. The solar energy wave, albeit not new technology, is already having a huge impact in the Sun City and having locally trained personnel to fill the technician gap is something that I feel is going to be a huge market,” said Ron Gil, CHS agricultural sciences instructor.

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— David Stevens, CEO of El Paso Electric Co.

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# George may not get another ‘second’ shot for a while

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Some of my fondest sports memories through the years have come during the NCAA Basketball Tournament or March Madness as it is better known.

When you think of all the last-second shots and the times when the little Cinderella teams (who really have no business being on the same court with their opponent) knock a big boy out of the event – there’s really nothing else like it.

I remember Michael Jordan, just a freshman then with North Carolina, hitting that shot late to beat Georgetown in the title game.

Then there was that incredible buzzer-beater by Christian Laettner that beat Kentucky and sent Duke to the final four.

Who will ever forget Lorenzo Charles rebounding his teammates’ 30-jumper right in front of the rim and putting it in as the buzzer sounded to upset Houston in the championship game. Coach Jim Valvano ran around the court looking for someone to hug.

How about Danny Manning leading Kansas to an upset win over Oklahoma in the title game. There was Villanova’s shocking upset over Patrick Ewing and powerful Georgetown.

And how can we leave out little Texas Western’s (UTEP) monumental victory over the mighty Kentucky Wildcats. It was the first time an all-black starting lineup defeated an all-white team, dispelling the rumor that black players weren’t strong enough mentally to play as a unit and be part of a system.

There are other memorable last-second shots by Indiana’s Keith Smart, Kansas’ Mario Chalmers and Valparaiso’s Bryce Drew.

One of my favorite last-second shots was put up by UConn’s Tate George back in 1990.

With just one second left on the clock and the ball under their own basket, it seemed almost impossible that the Huskies could get the ball across the court in time to put up any kind of a decent shot attempt.

But Scott Burrell, looking a bit like Nolan Ryan, heaved a full-court pass to George, who caught the ball deep in the corner of the court. He came down with the ball, went up immediately and let it go.

The ball went through the basket to give UConn the win over a stunned Clemson team.

But the real sad thing about this basketball memory is not so much the stunned looks on the faces of the Clemson players as they walked off the court – but more the stunned looks on the faces of the many people that Tate George swindled money from 20 years later.

Just when it looked like Tate George’s legacy had already been written, a new “decidedly ugly” chapter is unfolding.

Seems George got a little bored after his short NBA career and decided to start a real estate investment firm – kind of.

He got many people, including former professional athletes, to invest in what he promised them would be high-return real estate developments projects in Florida, Illinois, Connecticut and New Jersey.

What he didn’t say is that they were really investing in was a more than \$2 million ponzi scheme.

What the authorities are saying is that between 2005 and 2011, George claimed to have a real estate portfolio of more than

\$500 million in assets as CEO of The George Group.

What George really did with new investment money was pay the principal and interest to existing investors.

He also used the money to make more creative purchases like improvements on his own home, gasoline, restaurant meals and clothing.

It’s too bad when you hear news like this and we hear it far too often. Guys who fiddle away their time in college to focus totally on their sport and have no backup plan for the rest of their lives.

By not having a real degree of any substance, they turn to the sale of illegal drugs, or like George, they turn to crime because that kind of education can be learned on the streets of almost anywhere USA.

George is only 43 years old and could receive as much as 20 years in prison if convicted.

But should we shed tears for guys like Tate George, who must have felt pressure to make money any way he could – no, of course not.

Let’s shed some tears for the people who lost their money to a selfish, sorry, swindler.



– Photo courtesy Clint ISD

## Horizon JROTC places first in competition

Horizon High School JROTC triumphed over 12 other schools from the area to win the U.S. Marine Corps, Deane Hawkins Competition on September 17, 2011. “Horizon High School was well represented this weekend... super proud of these students,” said 1SG Randall Danner, Horizon High School JROTC Instructor. The Deane Hawkins No Skills Competition is an annual event in which all JROTC units in the El Paso and Las Cruces area are invited to compete in. Unlike a traditional Skills Meet which includes events like Color Guard and Drill Team, the No Skills meet focuses on teamwork and communication in 12 separate events. The competition is scored on the lowest time in each event and the team placement. Over 300 cadets strong, the Horizon High School JROTC is the largest in the region.

– Laura Cade

## ArcelorMittal sponsors third International New Year’s E-card art contest

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

ArcelorMittal, the world’s largest steel company with a facility in Vinton, is seeking entries for its third International New Year’s E-card contest. The theme for the 2011 contest is “My dream of a happy world!”

At each local facility in the USA, an employee selection committee will identify the artwork that most clearly aligns with the theme. The winning artist will receive an ArcelorMittal backpack, art kit, and move on to compete for the top prize at the USA level. The USA winner, selected by a committee within ArcelorMittal Americas’ headquarters in Chicago, will receive a U.S. Savings Bond valued at \$500.

The USA’s first place entry will be sent to ArcelorMittal’s global headquarters in Luxembourg to be evaluated by a judging panel. One international winner will

be selected to receive a \$1,000 prize and his/her artwork will be used as ArcelorMittal’s New Year’s card. Second and third place winners will receive \$750 and \$500 respectively. The top 28 cards representing countries where ArcelorMittal has a facility will be available as an e-card via the company’s website.

To enter, a child must be six to 14 years of age, and the artwork should be created on an 8.5” x 11” size paper with landscape orientation (8.5” high x 11” wide). Entry must include child’s name; city, state and county of residence; phone and/or e-mail (one required); and local ArcelorMittal facility name. Do not include personal information on front of artwork.

Deadline is Oct. 31. Email electronic entries to ArcelorMittal. PhilanthropyNorthAmerica@arcelormittal.com

Hard copy entries should be mailed to: ArcelorMittal Foundation, c/o Sunny OH, 1 South Dearborn, 19th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603.

## Briefs

From Page 1

having a new car will help make attending college a reality.” Socorro ISD launched the Make it Count campaign at the beginning of the school year to encourage a n d motivate students not to miss school. Through positive messaging, parent and student education, and incentives the District aims



Xavier De La Torre

to increase student attendance throughout the year. For every half percentage point increase in student attendance, Socorro ISD will receive an additional \$1 million in state funding. “I’d like to thank Viva Suzuki for this very generous gift,” said Superintendent Dr. Xavier De La Torre. “Not only do we anticipate this effort improving attendance, but with students in class more regularly we anticipate continued increases in classroom achievement. This is exciting news for the District.” To be eligible for the car giveaway, senior students must have at least five (5) months of perfect attendance during the current school year and be eligible to graduate.

– Daniel Escobar

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

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

TexasSure

catches drivers without insurance.

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



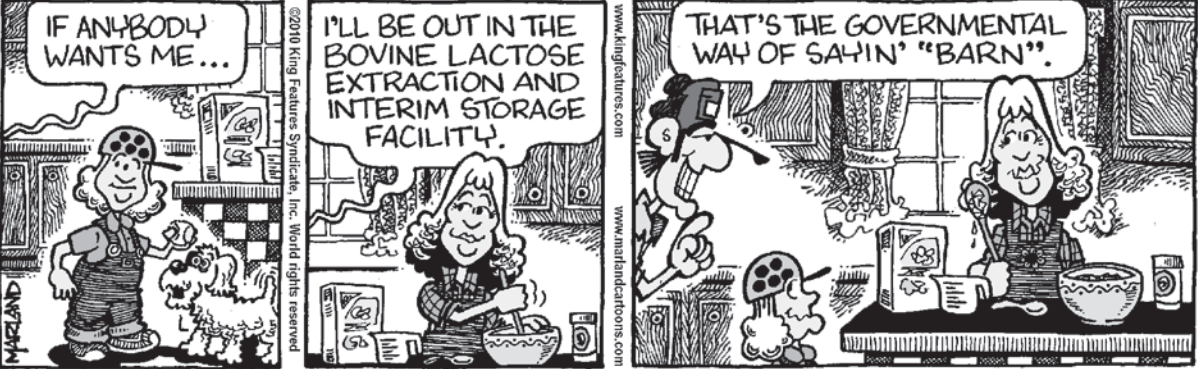
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Will you provide information on osteoarthritis of the knee? Please include steps to take if you have it. Does it hurt a lot after surgery? Do vitamins or calcium help? – W.J.

Osteoarthritis is the most common kind of arthritis. One-third of the population age 65 and older has it. It's a cracking and crumbling of the cartilage inside the joint, which makes for bone rubbing against bone. The result is pain and stiffness. Age isn't the sole factor causing it. Being overweight, heredity, misalignment of the joint bones and previous injury all contribute to its appearance. Climbing stairs, getting out of a chair and walking become challenges.

A cure has yet to be found, but there are steps to take to manage it. Weight loss, if that applies to you, makes a huge difference. Loss of only 5 percent of current weight increases joint mobility and lessens pain. Exercise helps. Walk to the point of pain, rest and then continue on your way. Strengthening the thigh and hamstring muscles protects the knees. A warm shower or bath on rising decreases stiffness.

Tylenol is a safe and effective pain reliever. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) – Aleve, Advil, Motrin and many others – work well, but their downside is stomach irritation and the possible promotion of an ulcer. Simultaneously taking medicines that blunt stomach-acid production affords protection against these side effects. Prilosec and Zantac are two examples of protective drugs. Voltaren gel, an NSAID medicine that's applied directly to the skin over the knees, reduces the threat of stomach irritation yet eases joint pain. Your doctor can inject the knee with cortisone, which often affords three or more months of relief.

Calcium and vitamins don't work. People often ask about chondroitin and glucosamine.

In spite of testimonials praising them, little evidence exists for their efficacy. If you want to try them, they won't hurt.

The ultimate treatment for severe knee osteoarthritis is replacement of the joint. I know few people so happy with their treatment than are the ones who have had this surgery. Pain after surgery is not great and is not long-lasting.

The booklet on arthritis deals with the common forms of this prevalent disorder. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 301W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My problem is excessive yawning. I will yawn 10 to 12 times in a minute or two, and do so as often as three to four times a day. What's going on? – D.B.

Sleepy people and bored people yawn more than people who are neither. Staying stimulated decreases yawning. What are you doing during the day? You have to be doing something that keeps your brain active, or you'll start to yawn.

I don't know an illness that provokes yawning. Yawning occurs in all members of the animal kingdom. It even occurs in birds and fishes.

It does not provide more oxygen for the brain. That explanation has been disproved.

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

Super Crossword

- CAMP JINX ACROSS**

1 Obscene

5 Vino center

9 Hydrotherapy site

12 Advanced deg.

15 "The Screwtape Letters" monogram

18 Concept

19 An Everly brother

20 Shape

22 Chou En- \_

23 "The King and I" setting

24 Bakery display

25 Supermodel

Warren

26 Pantry pest

27 Camper's comment

31 Munch on a mango

32 Born

33 Tyrant

35 She got an A in literature

39 Slap on

41 Seafood selection

45 81 Across' river

46 \_ breve

47 Vientiane's nation

49 German philosopher

51 Transmit electronically

52 Camper's comment

58 Serling or Steiger

59 Troop grp.
- 60 "There - atheists in the foxholes"

61 Way up

64 "Man bites dog," e.g.

66 "You can \_ horse to..."

69 Hardware item

70 '70 Jackson 5 hit

73 Camper's comment

78 " \_ whiz!"

79 Baby bovine

81 Joan of Arc site

82 Perry's creator

83 Beethoven symphony

86 Delibes opera

89 \_ de la Cite

90 Mimic

93 Camper's comment

98 Honest name

100 Lucifer

101 Learning method

102 Weft's opposite

103 Remora's host

105 Musical symbol

107 Word form for "equal"

108 Amontillado, e.g.

110 Table d' \_

111 \_ Cruces, NM

113 Cry of satisfaction

114 Camper's comment

126 Herd word

127 Esteemed
- 128 Geraint's lady

129 Praise passionately

130 Caravansary

131 Venezuelan river

132 "Heavens to Betsy!"

133 Congregational comeback

134 Order

135 Clerical abbr.

136 \_ diem

137 Say it isn't so

138 Ebb

**DOWN**

1 Actress Virna

2 Touch up the text

3 Disaccustom

4 Knight's wife

5 Enter the picture

6 Haberdashery buy

7 Row

8 "Casablanca" character

9 Tantrum

10 Western bands

11 Against

12 Ms. Falana

13 "To Sir with Love" singer

14 Pull

15 Taxonomist's job

16 "Evil Ways" group

17 Illuminated

21 Word with take or hang

28 Center of gravity?
- 29 Like some pools

30 Colorado native

34 Smith or Stout

35 Salon concern

36 Admiral Zumwalt

37 Coasted

38 Highlander's hat

39 Ginger \_

40 "Star Trek" android

42 Dayton denizen

43 Aspin or Baxter

44 \_ trip

45 Open an envelope

48 Cave man?

50 Pulver's rank: abbr.

53 Paul of "Scarface"

54 Secondhand

55 "It's \_ Never" ('60 smash)

56 Lollapalooza

57 Large tub

62 Regret

63 Sault \_ Marie, MI

65 \_ -Cat

67 Casino cube

68 Lofty spaces

70 Parker of football

71 Saloon

72 Nearby

74 Louisiana university

75 Tolerate

76 " \_ Want for Christmas" ('50 tune)

77 Require

80 Fiver

84 Barrel

85 Alias initials
- 87 Certain Communist

88 News

90 Way over yonder

91 Engine sound

92 Discern

94 Catchall abbr.

95 Marchiano or Mineo

96 Rock's \_

Speedwagon

97 Be obligated

98 Hibachi residue

99 " \_ Junction" ('56 film)

104 Actor Stephen

106 Warm lining

108 Inferior

109 Producer Prince

112 Passion

113 Oriental

115 Adventurer

Heyerdahl

116 Irritated

117 Part of UCLA

118 Negative prefix

119 Parachute

invasion

120 Take into account

121 "Bus Stop" playwright

122 Tie

123 Dalai \_

124 Kitchen appliance

125 Passed-on item

126 Pinafore part

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	
18					19					20			21					22			
23					24					25								26			
27				28					29								30				
				31					32								33			34	
35	36	37	38				39	40			41	42	43	44		45					
46							47			48		49			50			51			
52				53	54	55				56							57				
58				59				60							61				62	63	
				64				65		66			67	68			69				
70	71	72		73				74	75						76	77		78			
79			80			81							82								
83				84	85			86			87	88		89				90	91	92	
			93				94	95					96				97				
98	99			100						101							102				
103			104			105			106		107				108	109					
110									111	112				113							
	114				115	116	117	118	119				120	121				122	123	124	125
126					127							128					129				
130					131								132					133			
134					135				136				137					138			



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.

	−		x		25
+		x		÷	
	+		x		16
+		+		x	
	−		x		8
24		20		20	

**DIFFICULTY: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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by Linda Thistle

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

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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Here's some important news if you're applying for Social Security disability benefits for yourself or a loved one. There are 100 conditions that qualify for an expedited process known as Compassionate Allowances. Compassionate Allowances, which began in December 2007, are a way to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits. "We have an obligation to award benefits quickly to people whose medical conditions are so serious they clearly meet our disability standards," said Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. "We are now able to do precisely that for 100 severe conditions."

The Compassionate Allowances conditions are developed from information received at public outreach hearings, and from the Social Security and Disability Determination Service communities, medical and scientific experts, and the National Institutes of Health. We also consider which conditions are most likely to meet our definition of disability. “By definition, these

illnesses are so severe that we don't need to fully develop the applicant's work history to make a decision," said Commissioner Astrue. "As a result, Social Security has eliminated this part of the application process for people who have a condition on the list, and we can award benefits much more quickly."

The Compassionate Allowances initiative is one of two parts of the agency's fast-track system for certain disability claims. When combined with the Quick Disability Determination (QDD) process, Social Security last year approved the claims of more than 100,000 people, usually in less than two weeks. This year, the agency expects to fast-track nearly 150,000 cases. Under QDD, a predictive model analyzes specific elements of data within the electronic claims file to identify claims where there is a high potential the claimant is disabled and where evidence of the person's allegations can be quickly and easily obtained. For more information on Compassionate Allowances, including a list of all 100 conditions, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances).

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: **D** equals **P**

NC Z DLKAGE RGAS Z VOGRL

PIEYO GC VLNQOS, WG HGI

AIDDGAL OL YGIRW QLS Z

EG-PLRRH DKNFL?

**Answer Page 4**

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DRE  
SYGDOT  
DOWWI  
♥ WESP  
MEZYEN  
MSU  
♥ REEW  
SOSIA  
♥ EOW  
YETSIM  
DIGEM  
♥ ODOM

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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.

**By Samantha Weaver**

- It was 20th-century French airforce brigadier general and geopolitician – and bearer of the nickname “father of the French atom bomb” – Pierre Marie Gallois who made the following sage observation: “If you put tomfoolery into a computer, nothing comes out of it but tomfoolery. But this tomfoolery, having passed through a very expensive machine, is somehow ennobled and no one dares criticize it.”

- Gravity makes you shorter. It's true; gravity compresses your spine – in a weightless environment, you would be 2 to 3 inches taller than you are here on Earth.

• You might be surprised to learn that the first ceiling fan was introduced way back in the 1860s. The lack of electricity was no deterrent; the device was powered by a stream of running water.

- When the bubonic plague, more commonly known as the Black Death, was at its peak in Europe in the 14th century, a wide variety of remedies was prescribed, including smoking tobacco, bringing spiders into the household, inhaling the stench from a latrine, sitting between two large fires, drinking red wine in which new steel had been cooled, and bathing in goat urine.

- Those who study such things say that women are better at identifying smells than men are.

- In 1994, Singapore banned the importation and sale of chewing gum. Ten years later, lawmakers added a revision: Gum that has “therapeutic value” is now allowed.

- Over the past year, in the United States lottery sales have increased by a whopping \$1 billion.

- Human skin is about 70 percent water, and the human brain is 80 percent water.

Thought for the Day:  
 "All living souls welcome  
 whatever they are ready  
 to cope with; all else they  
 ignore, or pronounce to be  
 monstrous and wrong, or  
 deny to be possible."

– George Santayana

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