

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Lawsuit

The Canutillo Independent School District will join dozens of other Texas school districts in a lawsuit claiming state funding for public education is inefficient, inequitable and inadequate, and therefore unconstitutional as per state law. The Canutillo Board of Trustees voted unanimously to join the Texas Taxpayer and Student Fairness Coalition lawsuit being spearheaded by the Equity Center in Austin, Texas. The lawsuit aims to restore the \$5 billion in state funds for public education that were slashed from the budget by the Legislature this year, and also seeks to establish a school funding formula that is equitable for property poor school districts. “The Texas Legislature has failed to implement a school funding system that lives up to the statue in the Texas Constitution to provide an efficient, equitable and adequate education to every child in the state,” said Canutillo Board President Sergio Coronado. The Equity Center lawsuit is one of three litigations currently being considered by hundreds of school districts in the state. Canutillo Board members decided to join the Equity Center lawsuit because of its goal to seeking equitable funding for all school districts, despite their location and property wealth. To join the lawsuit, Canutillo will spend about \$5,000. The district will not be liable for any other legal or liability costs that may result from this lawsuit.

– Gustavo Reveles Acosta

### San Eli parade

The historic town of San Elizario will celebrate its 15th Annual Veterans Day Parade and Celebration, on Saturday, November 5. The parade will start at 9 a.m., on Thompson and Socorro Road and travel east to the San Elizario Church and finish at the Veterans Memorial Plaza, where the rest of the ceremonies will take place. The ceremonies will begin at about 10:30 a.m. and the event itself will end about 2 p.m. “We would be honored and delighted to have veterans, organizations, and businesses participate in our Parade and Ceremonies. If you wish to be in the parade itself, you will need to report to the staging site on Thompson Road by 8 a.m. Steve Madrid will be there monitoring the parade participants,” stated Ray Borrego, Veterans Committee Chairperson of the San Elizario Geneology and Historical Society. “We also request that you provide your own vehicle and driver, and decorate vehicles in patriotic themes and have banners identifying yourself or your organization or business,” he added. For more information, call 915-383-8529 or 915-593-7007.

– Alfredo Vasquez

*When you don’t want to do anything, one excuse is as good as another.*

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**MONEY SOUGHT** – Anthony ISD officials are asking voters to approve a \$5 million bond issue to finance the much-needed projects to its three campuses and athletic facilities. Voters will go to the polls Tuesday, November 8, to decide the bond election’s fate. Early voting continues from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday and Friday, November 3-4, at the Anthony, TX City Hall.

# Anthony ISD asks voters to approve \$5 million in facilities, improvements

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY – Anthony Independent School District will find out next week whether community residents will help it meet its facilities needs which include basic electrical, building and plumbing improvements as well as ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliance requirements.

AISD officials are asking voters to approve a \$5 million bond issue to finance the much-needed projects to its three campuses and athletic facilities. Voters will go to the polls Tuesday, November 8, to decide the bond election’s fate.

During early voting, which started October 24 and ends (Friday) November 4, about 20 votes had been cast as of Thursday (Oct. 28th). Early voting will continue from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday and Friday, November 3-4, at the Anthony TX City Hall.

“Hopefully, community members will agree that it is time to get our buildings up to par for our students’ sake,” said Angel Cuellar, AISD school board president. “We can’t wait on the state to help us. If these issues aren’t addressed now, costs will only go up.”

In addition, AISD officials said that without help from taxpayers to address ADA needs the district risks losing some of its federal funds. In 2010, federal monies accounted for about \$1.5 million of the district’s \$8.9 million total budget, according to TEA reports.

“I personally have a physical disability, and it upsets me that we do not provide for our students with special needs by having proper sidewalks, ramps, and bathroom accommodations. All of our students deserve an appropriate school environment,” Cuellar said.

Should the bond issue not pass, the board president said that the district will have to

look for the money in other places including employees’ salaries which make up about 80 percent of the district’s annual expenditures.

“I know that taxes will go up if the bond issue passes, and that I will not be here if the improvements are made, but the students behind us will benefit. It will help their education and improve our community as a whole,” said Logan Brown, an Anthony High School (AHS) senior.

Another AHS senior, Danielle Medina, who is 18 and plans to vote for the bond issue, said, “I have been coming to school here since kindergarten, and I know that our elementary and middle schools need fixing, like the air conditioners, heaters, and restrooms. Not just the students but also the teachers, custodians, and bus drivers deserve better conditions.”

Yvonne Lopez, an eighth grader at Anthony Middle School, asked voters to put themselves in the students’ perspective, “We have been without these improvements for a long time; if you were us would you feel that you deserve these improvements?”

Anthony ISD’s last successful bond election was in 1998, when it passed a \$4 million bond issue that went towards building the new high school which actually cost \$7 million to construct. The rest of the costs were defrayed using the district’s reserve funds.

Another bond election was successful in 2004, but that one was to approve the district’s plan for refinancing a \$1.1 million lease purchase agreement for construction of the high school’s fine arts building.

Prior to these two bond elections district officials had not gone to the voters for bond funds since 1988.

“We want our schools to be safe and compliant. We take care of our children; very few students have fallen through the cracks. What would it cost our residents to make a sacrifice; sacrifices that our students have

been making for a long time,” said Mary Jones, AISD board member.

According to district officials, more than \$2.2 million is earmarked for instructional facilities improvements and ADA compliance upgrades including over \$1.4 million for the elementary school campus, about \$624,000 for the middle school building and close to \$180,000 for the high school facility.

Most of the proposed bond projects for the elementary and middle school facilities involve upgrades to the electrical, plumbing, and heating/cooling systems, as well as addressing major roofing and flooring needs.

About \$2.5 million would be used for student athletics facilities projects. Most of these projects would be to improve the district’s sports/special events stadium. These projects include adding new bleachers, remodeling the press box, building outdoor restrooms, adding storage area, improving the concession stand to meet health department codes, repairing and resurfacing the track and football fields, and installing a new scoreboard. Other proposed student athletic projects include expansion of the locker rooms, weight room and sports trainers’ room.

The average home value in AISD is \$91,161. With the \$15,000 homestead exemption, that value decreases to \$76,161 for school taxing purposes. Last year, the average homeowner paid \$890.06 in school taxes, about \$74.17 per month.

Voters’ approval of the bond referendum would mean an increase of 25 cents per \$100, for a total tax rate of \$1.29. The increase would make school taxes on an average-valued home in AISD about \$1,084 which would be a \$194 annual hike, or a \$16.16 monthly increase.

“Anthony is the first or last school district in Texas. It is up to us, parents, to pass this bond issue so that we all can be proud to be the first,” Jones said.



Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

# More money to help homeless veterans

The number of homeless veterans doesn't seem to be getting any less. The latest annual figures still show 76,000 veterans homeless every night, with 135,000 needing to spend at least one night in a shelter. But the Department of Veterans Affairs is trying to help.

Recently an additional \$10 million was granted to 11 states to provide more services to homeless veterans. The money is going to the National Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem programs so they can continue to help mentally ill veterans, as well as homeless women veterans and others.

This is on top of the nearly \$60 million handed out this year. Some \$3.4 billion has been earmarked for homeless programs.

The VA also has launched a program to eliminate homelessness among veterans by 2015. Instead of limiting it to emergency-shelter services, it's focusing on prevention itself, with employment and permanent housing as part of the long-term solution.

To that end, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA Supported Housing has

more than 20,000 housing units throughout the country designed for homeless veterans who need support services. The housing is available via Section 8 housing vouchers, and veterans with families are included.

Veterans have to meet certain criteria to be eligible for the vouchers, including physical disability, substance use or mental illness. Those accepted are required to take advantage of the support services and case management, but must be able to live independently on a daily basis.

If you need emergency or permanent housing help, call 1-877-424-3838. There are counselors available 24/7. You can call for yourself or for someone else who might need help. They'll ask a few questions and will have information about programs in your area. You can also go online at [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless).

*Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to [columnreply@gmail.com](mailto:columnreply@gmail.com). (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.*

View from here

By Tom Pauken

# Spending less time on tax compliance, more time on business

What is the most productive way for a business to spend its time and resources? Is it by employing tax specialists to decipher the lengthy tax code in order to minimize its tax bill? Or is it to concentrate on innovation, increasing profits, and growing the business? If you think it's the first, then you may have a career as a lawmaker. Year after year, Congress adds more laws to our tax code. The increasing complexity of the rules results in businesses owners and executives spending more time worried about correctly paying their taxes and less time on running their business.

Consider this: The federal income tax code is 3.7 million words long, taking up more than 4,000 pages. And that's just the laws that Congress passes. Once Congress is done making the laws, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) goes to work promulgating regulations that add even more layers of complexity to the system. IRS regulations fill 20 volumes of small print totaling more than 13,000 pages. Intertwined within these millions of words are the rules governing both individual and corporate income tax.

Small businesses suffer disproportionately under this system. They don't have the resources to hire professionals who can make sure they are paying the lowest amount in taxes legally possible. Most are just trying to make sure they aren't breaking any laws. Those efforts to stay legal impose a high cost. A joint study by IBM and the IRS found that for businesses with one to five employees, the cost to comply with the tax code is \$7,274 per employee. For businesses with more than 50 employees the cost is \$296.50.

Nina E. Olson, who holds the title of National Taxpayer Advocate at the IRS, notes: "Small businesses are burdened with a particularly bewildering array of laws. They face a patchwork set of rules that govern the depreciation of equipment, onerous filing requirements for employment taxes, and a vague set of factors that govern the classification of workers as either employees or independent contractors that keep businesses and the IRS battling each other for years with no obvious 'correct' answer."

Even if the current code didn't include harmful incentives to load up companies with debt (because debt is deductible under the current business tax system) while discouraging savings, employment, and capital investment, the code's bewildering complexity is enough of a reason to implement wholesale reform. There is actually a simple solution, but not one that the Washington policy makers have, thus far, been willing to support. Scrap the corporate income tax altogether (along with the employer portion of the payroll tax) and replace it with a revenue-neutral, 8 percent border adjusted business consumption tax.

Such a tax would be very simple to implement and it wouldn't require tens of thousands of pages to explain. Let's allow our businesses, both big and small, to spend less time and money on confusing tax regulations and more time increasing productivity and creating jobs.

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

It's the law

By Texas AG Greg Abbott

# Beware of online rental scams

With Texas' colleges and universities in full swing, college students around the state seeking affordable places to rent can be at risk. A few enterprising young Texans may turn to the internet in an effort to find cheap rental properties online. But before they open their checkbooks, renters should do additional research to ensure they avoid falling victim to online rental scams.

Many online rental scams identify a vacant property, claim to be the owner and post a listing for the home on free advertising websites. Online classified ads for rental properties often offer photos and virtual tours – which gives scammers a high-tech opportunity to lure unsuspecting victims. After a potential tenant expresses an interest in renting the property, the scam's perpetrator instructs the renter to wire a cash deposit and the first month's rent. Once the money has been wired, the scam artist pockets the money and disappears – and the renter still lacks a place to live.

If a savvy renter asks to personally inspect the property prior to wiring the money, scammers often claim the actual owner or landlord is out of town and unable to show the house – but still demands immediate payment to reserve the property.

In the meantime, con artists sometimes go to even greater lengths to lock in their victims. For example, scammers can break into abandoned homes and change the locks so that they can provide keys to new tenants. Unfortunately for the victims in these cases, they move in to houses that the actual owners did not intend to lease. When homeowners discover the new residents in the house, the tenants must vacate and find a new place to live.

Under another variation of the rental scheme, con artists will rent foreclosed homes to multiple victims. The scammers tempt potential renters by advertising a rental price that is significantly lower than other homes on the market. After receiving a renter's cash deposit through a wire transfer, the scammer disappears and the victim's money is lost.

Before agreeing to pay a deposit for an online rental, Texans should compare the property's lease with other rental homes in the area that have similar amenities. Prospective renters should then verify that the rental home and the person claiming to be its owner are legitimate. Most local appraisal districts operate websites that list each property's actual owner. Renters should also make sure the home's owner is local and not claiming to live overseas – where they are conveniently difficult to reach.

If the homeowner claims either to live overseas or be unavailable to meet in person, potential renters should proceed with caution. Prospective lessees should also view the property before making a cash deposit or paying the first month's rent. Most reputable landlords will allow clients to inspect the property before demanding any up front payments.


A lessor's request for up front cash deposits through wire transfers – rather than an ordinary check – should also raise a red flag for would-be renters. The Attorney General's Office often receives Texans' requests for help retrieving money that victims unwittingly wired to a scammer. Unfortunately, advance fee crooks are always on the move and nearly impossible to catch.

Texas' college and university students should carefully protect themselves – and their pocketbooks – from rental scams. Before signing a rental agreement, providing any personal information or making an up front payment, prospective renters should verify that the rental property and the landlord are legitimate. If the deal sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Points to Remember: Avoiding Online Rental Scams

- Potential renters should always compare prices of different rental homes. Deals that sound too good to be true usually are.
- When communicating with a homeowner, renters should verify that the homeowner is locally located. Landlords who claim to live overseas or are unable meet in person should be handled cautiously.
- Prospective renters should never pay advance money to a landlord without personally inspecting a rental property. Most legitimate landlords expect a potential renter to want to see the property first and welcome the client's inspection of the property.
- Potential renters should always protect their personal information and never wire money in advance to a website or online advertiser. Once money has been wired, it is nearly impossible to track down and return to the victim.

For more information about this or other consumer topics, contact the Attorney General's Office at (800) 252-8011 or visit online at [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov).




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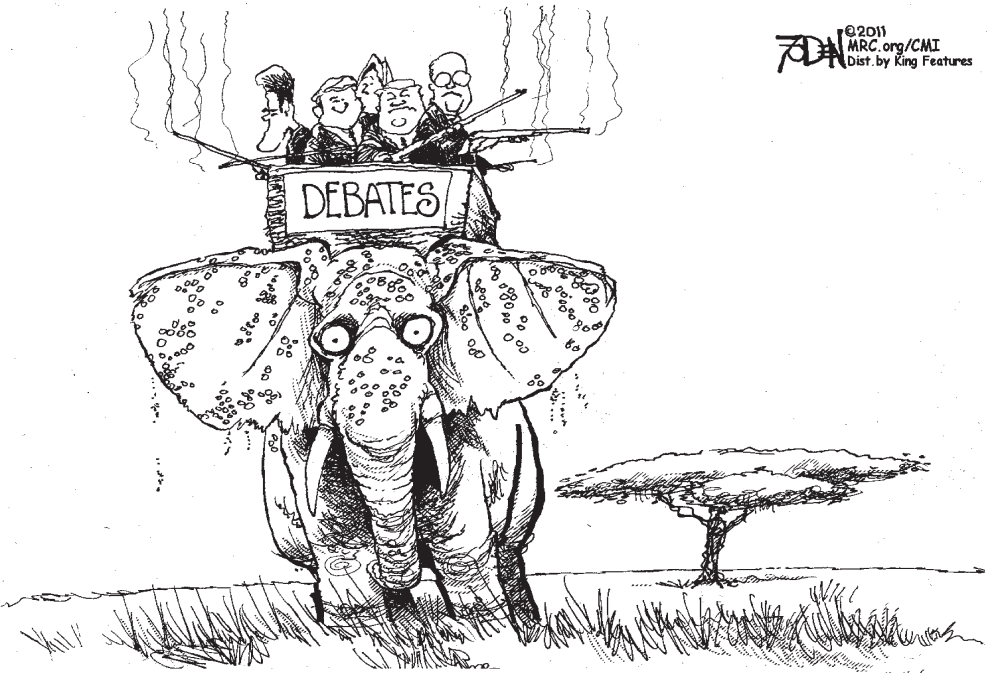
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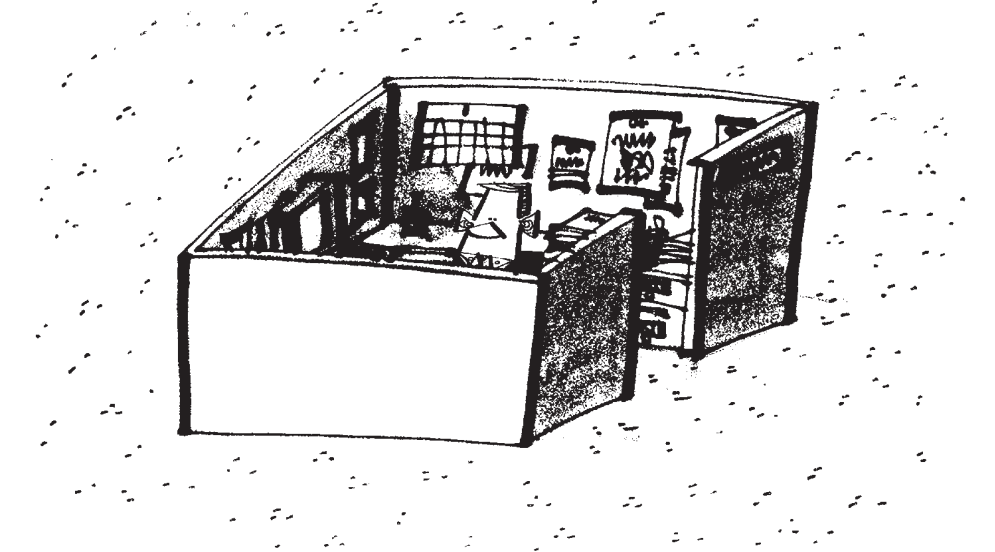




UPDATE FROM THE GRASSROOTS



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WHERE CORPORATE AMERICA SENDS YOU RIGHT AFTER TELLING YOU TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.



A GRAPHIC IMAGE THAT MIGHT DETER SMOKERS.

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Where are you from

Hola, mi gente. One of the most passionate issues being debated in the current presidential debates concerns undocumented workers; or as many of the GOP candidates say, “illegal aliens.” Some of the diatribe tends toward downright ugliness.

Candidate Cain first commented about electrifying a border fence and adding alligators in a moat. His comments suggest that we kill the people who are attempting to cross. This attitude of de-humanizing the immigrant sons, daughters, fathers and mothers and pre-ordaining a death sentence is reminiscent of a previous time when slaves were routinely lynched. When you consider the source of the electric fence and moat, you wonder why the debate suddenly has reached ridiculous lows.

When one of the candidates, Perry, has a history of common sense, then the entirety of the other candidates castigate him. Perry signed into Texas law a bill by my friend Rick Noriega that would make it easier for the children of immigrants who have attended Texas public schools to attend college.

The common sense in the bill is about making those young adults self sustaining educated adults. The history of the U.S. is filled with stories about immigrant children who contributed greatly to the success of this nation. The law that is being criticized would add to that history.

My question in this story is do Americans really want to get rid of these immigrants who are not here legally? The facts may indicate that the answer is no.

There are many stories about Mexican “illegals” working in different industries who are hard workers and who are very profitable for the industry. One giant company which sells poultry used immigrants in its Arkansas plant. One day, a fifteen year old accidentally electrocuted himself (a faulty ventilation fan short-circuited) and died. The story was published but very little was done to punish

the owner. More recently, many complaints have come to air about employers withholding pay to immigrants for work they did. The employers have an advantage in that immigrants are hesitant to file complaints. The employers pocketed their pay.

In Arizona and Georgia, crops are rotting in the field because those states passed laws targeting immigrants and their families. Both states are experiencing losses in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Very few jobless citizens have filled the vacancies on the farms to pick produce.

One small community far from the Mexican border toward the eastern U.S. saw its economy totally destroyed after certain regulations were passed by the city government. Many businesses were closed because of the massive flight of its immigrant residents.

The Texas legislature had a bill which contained provisions similar to the Arizona law that created economic havoc. It was killed in the late days of the session.

Undocumented immigrants have benefitted the profit margins of many businesses and help local economies. A measure of their value in Texas can be clearly illustrated simply by revealing the reason our Arizona immigration law died: it was killed at the insistence of the owner of Perry Homes (the largest homebuilder in Texas) and HEB (a very large grocery chain).

You and I can make a very common sense deduction: If we pass immigration reform that finally provides legal immigrant workers, we will prosper.

By the way, when you drive around our county, you may notice countless number of rock walls. They will always be a monument to the skills and hard work of undocumented immigrant workers who have provided a good service at a low price.

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

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– Photo courtesy Clint ISD

**GLAD TO HAVE YOU – Jim Pendell welcomes Principal of the school, David Medlin.**

# Clint ISD to open two new schools in 2012

**By Don Woodyard**  
*Special to the Courier*

HORIZONCITY–With the recent addition of the Clint Independent School District, the number of early college high schools in the El Paso area has grown to six.

Kick-off ceremonies were held Sept. 22 in the Clint ISD administration building to mark the establishment of the early college high school (ECHS) campus that will open in August of 2012 with 100 current eighth-graders. It will be the new school’s first freshman class.

The unique four-year program allows students to earn not one, but two degrees when they graduate from high school. The first is the high school diploma, and the second is an associate’s degree from El Paso Community College (EPCC).

Dr. Edward Gabaldon, superintendent of CISD, says some exceptional students have gone so far as to earn sufficient academic credits to qualify as a junior at UT El Paso.

The program is a collaborative effort of EPCC, The Greater Texas Foundation, the Meadows Foundation and the Texas High School Project.

The early college high school is only one aspect of the new academic look coming to the Clint school district next year.

The second is the new high school now under construction at the corner of Denton Road and Alameda in Clint. It too will open in August of 2012 and will be an integral part of the student shift necessary to provide a campus for the ECHS students.

Gabaldon says eighth-graders are currently vying for selection through a screening and application process. They will be housed in the present junior high school in Clint. It has recently undergone renovation. “The campus is ready to go,” he says.

The present junior high student body will move into the current Clint High School that will then

become a junior high campus. The high school students will, in turn, occupy the new high school next summer.

“This is a wonderful opportunity, a unique opportunity,” he says for the future ECHS students. “They are very excited.”

One part of the “unique opportunity,” Gabaldon explains, is that students can earn up to 60 hours of community college academic credit at no cost to the students’ families. He estimates a savings of \$20,000. “It saves the families two years of college costs.

“(However) it is not an easy career path,” he cautions.

The district has selected David Medlin, present assistant principal at Hanks High School in the Ysleta ISD, as principal for the new ECHS.

“I think we made a great choice,” Gabaldon says. “He has a great personality and a great passion for the program.” He has had previous experience as dean of instruction for the ECHS at the Valle Verde campus of the community college.

For certification, all teachers in the early college high school program must have a master’s degree.

“The early college high school program in the Clint ISD will be a model campus for the rest of the district,” according to an EPCC press release.

“Teaching practices which promote a rigorous curriculum and higher learning will be shared and used in other high schools, middle schools and even adapted at the elementary level,” it continues.

“El Paso continues to be a national epicenter for early college high school growth and success,” says John Fitzpatrick, executive director of the Texas High School Project.

“With the opening of Clint ISD’s early college high school, more students in the El Paso area will have a chance at greater opportunities which will ultimately benefit families, the region and our state in the years ahead.

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## CryptoQuip Answer

I want to be a world-famous plumber someday, but unfortunately it's only a pipe dream.

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# Canutillo ISD forms bond oversight committee

By **Gustavo Acosta**  
*Special to the Courier*

CANUTILLO – Twenty-three parents, community members and employees of the Canutillo Independent School District will make up the Canutillo Bond Accountability Committee (CBAC) that will oversee nearly \$44 million in construction projects and upgrades on behalf of the voters in the district.

The CISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously on Wednesday, Oct. 19, to create the CBAC and to appoint every person who submitted an application to serve on the committee.

“We have a dedicated and strong group of individuals who have stepped up to the plate and become a voice for their community,” said Board President Sergio Coronado. “The formation of the CBAC was a pledge that the Administration and the Board made to the public during the campaign for the bond, so I am very happy that the committee is finally formed.”

The CBAC will be charged with assisting the Board and Superintendent Dr. Damon Murphy by monitoring the plans, process and progress of bond program that was part of the Decision Canutillo 2011 referendum voters approved in May. Committee members will serve as an extra layer of accountability for the public in guaranteeing that all bond projects are completed as promised.

CBAC members will meet quarterly to review district documents and tour construction sites. They also will provide reports to the Board of Trustees, who will take their information into consideration when making decisions about bond projects.

The first meeting of the CBAC is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at the CISD Central Offices, 7965 Artcraft.

“We look forward to working with each and every one of the members of the CBAC,” Dr. Murphy said. “Their backgrounds and experiences are varied, so their input into the progress of our bond projects will be invaluable.”

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Call 852-3235

## Lower Valley Water District Public Notice MCL Coliform Violation (TCR 22)

The Lower Valley Water District / PWS ID 0710154 water system collected 4 water samples during May 2011, that contained coliform bacteria. This water system is required to submit a minimum of 50 routine water samples each month for bacteriological analysis. Four routine samples were coliform-found and none repeat samples were coliform-found for the month and year indicated above.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets drinking water standards in Texas and has determined that the presence of total coliform is a possible health concern. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

For water systems analyzing at least 40 samples per month, no more than five (5) percent of the monthly samples may be positive for total coliform. For systems analyzing fewer than 40 samples per month, no more than one (1) sample per month may be positive for total coliform.

After these positive samples we identified, the Lower Valley Water District performed further testing no further positive samples were found, which means that there was no health concern. If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Saul Trejo, P.E. at 915-791-4480.

WTCC: 11-03-11



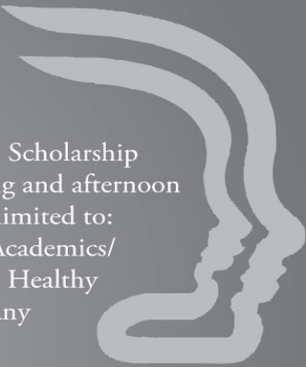
Saturday, November 5, 2011  
7:30 am - 3:45 pm

Canutillo High School, 6675 South Desert Blvd., El Paso, TX 79932  
Registration will begin at 7:30 am  
Fee: \$25 per person. Event Code: 11526

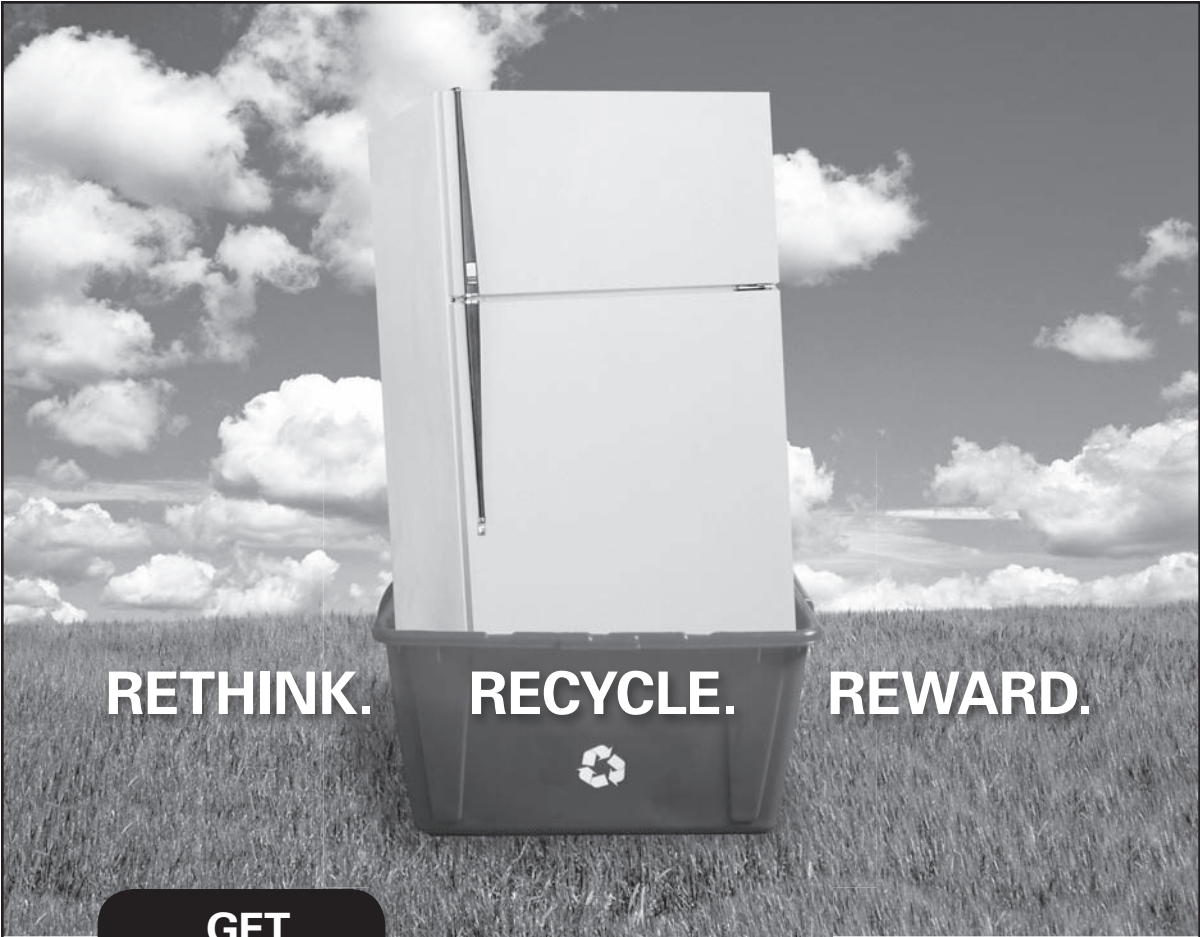


## “Diversity”: Respecting Strengths & Differences

Participants will attend a morning general session which will include a keynote address by Sergio Troncoso. Sergio is an El Paso native. He graduated from Harvard College, and studied international relations and philosophy at Yale University. He won a Fulbright scholarship to Mexico and was inducted into the Hispanics Scholarship Fund’s Alumni Hall of Fame. He is a member of PEN. The morning and afternoon breakout sessions will cover a variety of topics to include but are not limited to: Healthy Lifestyles, At-Risk Behaviors, Students with Special Needs, Academics/ College and Career Readiness, Healthy Sexuality, Financial Planning, Healthy Communication, Community Resources, Military Transition and many other topics. There will be sessions in English and Spanish.



Register online at [www.esc19.net](http://www.esc19.net). Click on the word “Workshops” or the Click & Learn Logo. Log onto your account. For more information, contact your local district parent involvement coordinator or Juan Alderete at ESC-R19 at (915) 780-6570, [jalderete@esc19.net](mailto:jalderete@esc19.net) or Selina Ruiz, [sruiz@esc19.net](mailto:sruiz@esc19.net).



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# The Rangers will be back

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

Through the years I’ve seen many teams lose leads at the end of games.

I’ve even seen teams lose games they should have won and it cost them a championship.

But I have to admit that I’ve never seen a baseball team lose the World Series in a game where they were one pitch away from winning – twice.

The monumental collapse by the Texas Rangers in game six last week was certainly one for the ages.

Though it was a great game for the fans, the Rangers had to be talking to themselves after blowing the lead five times in the game.

Heck, it’s the only game I’ve ever heard of where the relievers blew three separate save opportunities.

Whatever it was, the baseball gods just did not want the Rangers to win their first world title.

It’s funny how a seven-game series can take

on so many different personalities.

After game five, all the talk surrounded around St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa and his phonegate episode with his bullpen pitchers.

You remember the episode, LaRussa called the bullpen on the dugout phone and asked for his coach to get a pitcher up and ready.

Either LaRussa asked for the wrong pitcher or the bullpen coach misheard the veteran manager; whatever it was, the wrong pitcher came into the game and LaRussa was not very happy.

It looked like that blunder would be the legacy of this series, but that incident is ancient history now.

Now the talk is about how busy Dr. Heimlech would have been in the Rangers dugout in the late innings of game six.

Texas had a 7-4 lead heading into the bottom of the eighth inning, leaving them just six outs away from the first championship in team history.

They had a two-run lead going into the bottom of the ninth and another two-run lead

in the bottom of the tenth.

I’ve seen teams blow an opportunity like that once – but never twice – until now.

For years to come, when analysts talk about some of the biggest choke-jobs in the history of sports, this effort by the Texas Rangers will undoubtedly be up there among the worst.

The two people I feel the worst for are Rangers’ manager Ron Washington, who has to be the most animated coach in the league and a coach who the players really care for.

The other is owner Nolan Ryan who has done a remarkable job for the team he once played for and who doubles as a great ambassador for the game of baseball.

Whether you rooted for the Rangers or not, this series served as a gigantic shot-in-the-arm for baseball, which has seen its fan base drop over recent years.

With the talent on this team, the Rangers have an excellent chance to make it back to the World Series again next year.

After all, doesn’t everybody say that the third time is always the charm?

## Tebow turmoil

I know that there are times when we wish for something that we know will never come true.

Maybe we hope we’ll hit the lottery; maybe some of us would like to take out the prom queen; and I’ll bet some fans in Chicago would love to the Cubs win the World Series.

There are many impossible things we all wish for.

Having said all this, can we please put all this Tim Tebow foolishness away?

After watching some of the worst quarterback play the NFL has ever allowed on one of its fields, is there any more doubt that he isn’t a professional caliber signal caller?

It’s true, he is one of the nicest guys you’ll ever meet and there aren’t too many guys with his work ethic and ability to rally teammates.

But there are a ton of guys who simply play quarterback better than Tebow.

He’s a good athlete. Maybe the team should try to convert him to a fullback or a tight end.

Then he could help the team win games instead of being the main reason they look so bad.

Obviously, Tebow is the starting quarterback in Denver because of the popularity contest he’s wining with the fans.

But I think the Broncos fans should decide whether they like Tebow better than winning – because they obviously can’t have both at the same time.

A sporting view

By Mark Vasto

# Winners and saints

Do you believe in miracles? Tim Tebow, the newly installed starting quarterback for the Denver Broncos, surely does.

He wasn’t supposed to play high school football because he was home-schooled, but he became an

All-American. He wasn’t supposed to be a Heisman winner, yet he became the first sophomore in college football history to do so. He won two National Championships. He set records.

He wasn’t supposed to do those

things either, really. Of course, the scouts and coaching staff had great expectations. He was among the top prospects, projected to be uber-great. Their faith was rewarded.

He was supposed to be stillborn, but his devout Christian mother refused an abortion.

So maybe it’s the little things like that ... you know, not being terminated in the womb ... that probably give Tim Tebow that little extra turbo boost, the get-

up-and-go, the wherewithal to shrug off an entire stadium in Miami chanting against him. Maybe that background I described is what let him believe he could engineer the greatest comeback since the AFL merged with the NFL in that Dolphins game.

More on that game in a moment. Back to Timmy, in general.

Best selling jersey in the game? Tebow’s number 15.

Best at the box office? Tebow was announced as the starter in Miami, and 75,000 tickets sold in a snap.

Down 15-0 with four minutes left in the game? Tebow rebounds from the worst three quarters you’ve ever seen to score twice and win in OT.

But Heidi from New Jersey can’t stand him.

“He freakin’ cried at the end of his last game at Florida,” she says incredulously. “There’s no crying in football!”

But Brett Favre cried, I point out.

“Exactly,” she responds.

Ahh ... sweet salvation.

But Boomer Esiason isn’t ready to anoint Tebow just yet.

“He’s not the next coming of John Elway,” said Esiason, to the surprise of absolutely nobody who knows anything about football cliches. Still, it rings true. As good as Tebow can be, despite his promise, it’s going to take a while to approach the status of the immortals.

For meanwhile, down in New Orleans, Drew Brees, a Saint, passes successfully 31 out of 35 times and registers five touchdowns in a rout of Indianapolis.

But what does it really matter? Judgment day will be upon us soon enough, and all of football knows the winners – more than likely, the Saints – will take the grail to the sanctuary.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Classified Ads

**LEGALS**  
  
**El Paso County  
Emergency  
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District No. 2**  
  
**Public Notice**  
  
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**SALARY RANGE  
\$15.00 - \$18.00  
Hourly**  
  
**MINIMUM  
QUALIFICATIONS:**  
  
• Education and Experience: A High School diploma or GED  
  
• Licenses and Certificates: Texas Class “C” Driver's License or equivalent from another state. Must be certified as Texas Fire Inspector Texas Firefighter Basic in compliance with Texas Commission on Fire Protection Standards .  
  
**GENERAL PURPOSE:**  
  
• Under general supervision, patrol, inspect, investigate and enforce the Fire Code and , laws, to ensure life safety throughout the El Paso County ESD#2 territory .  
  
**TYPICAL DUTIES:**  
  
• Perform functions of fire prevention inspector as assigned. Involves: Inspect interiors and exteriors of commercial, industrial and other buildings to detect fire hazards, efficiency of fire protective equipment, and adequacy of fire escapes and exits. Inform and discuss conditions of building storage and equipment with owner or manager and make recommendations regarding unsafe conditions. Issue summons for uncorrected fire hazards from previous inspections and enforcing codes. Inspect gasoline distributors, delivery trucks and issue permits in compliance with fire safety regulations. Conduct fire prevention programs at public buildings and commercial businesses for employees, and school fire drills.  
  
• Issue red tags, stop work orders, correction notices or citations as required when construction does not meet Technical or Municipal codes, zoning ordinances, local ordinances or plans. Involves: Refer citations not signed by defendants to police department for service. Confer with contractors issuing verbal and written corrections as needed. Sign permits if all construction is in compliance. Maintain applicable database, records and files. Research prior inspections for approval/disapproval. Attend training and meetings. Maintain certifications.

**SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:**  
  
• Application of good knowledge of fire prevention inspection methods and techniques.  
  
• Application of good knowledge of fire hazards associated with various types of construction and storage of flammable materials and explosives.  
  
• Application of good knowledge of laws pertaining to fire prevention and the crime of arson.  
  
• Application of good knowledge of personal and/or network computers, office, word processing and database software applications.  
  
• Application of some knowledge of public speaking and public relations methods.  
  
• Ability to follow safety procedures.

**OTHER JOB CHARACTERISTICS:**  
  
• Frequent exposure to

**KNOWLEDGE,**

**h a z a r d o u s** conditions, uneven or unstable terrain, climbing ladders, **h a z a r d o u s** materials, or chemicals.  
  
• Occasional exposure to irate members of the public.  
  
• R e g u l a r operation of a vehicle through County traffic.  
  
• Walking for extended periods and climbing ladders.  
  
• Work other than standard workday or work week hours, which includes being subject to call back during non-working hours and mandatory overtime.

Email resume to [resparza@ep-countyesd2.org](mailto:resparza@ep-countyesd2.org). Deadline to receive resume is on the 8th of November. Phone: 915-549-3473  
*Rebecca Terrazas Administrator*

WTCC: 11-03-11 exposure to



**Click It or Ticket.**

**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](http://TexasClickItorTicket.com)

**Click It or Ticket TEXAS**

**Even in the back seat.**

1973  
38  
Years  
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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Deadline: Mondays  
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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: I would like to know more about restless leg syndrome. – I.J.

Roughly 7 percent of women and 3 percent of men suffer from restless leg syndrome. That gives you a lot of fellow sufferers. People describe it in many ways. Some say it's an aching in their legs. Others describe it as a creeping-crawling sensation. No matter how people express the feeling, it makes them get up and move around. Activity lessens or gets rid of the sensations, but they can and do come back. They usually appear in the evening or at night when people are sitting or when they get into bed.

No one is sure what causes the syndrome. Things that lessen its intensity and frequency are cutting back on caffeine, stopping smoking and exercising daily. Eliminating alcohol is a most helpful remedy.

Sometimes restless leg syndrome is associated with iron deficiency and the anemia due to iron deficiency. Your doctor will want to check you for that.

Pramipexole (Mirapex) and ropinirole (Requip), both drugs for Parkinson's disease, are used for this syndrome, even though it has no relationship to Parkinson's disease. They stimulate certain brain areas that control movement. Levodopa, another Parkinson's medicine, also is prescribed. There are others, should these fail.

Periodic limb movements of sleep is another condition that frequently occurs along with restless leg syndrome. It's involuntary movements of the legs and feet during sleep. The kicking and jerking last about two seconds and recur every 20 to 40 seconds. Often the affected person is unaware of them. The bed partner plays a nighttime role of being a drop-kicked football and is quite aware of

what's happening. The affected person is quite tired during the day. The same medicines used for restless leg syndrome can be used here, too. Daily exercise might put an end to the nocturnal movements.

The booklet on restless leg syndrome and nighttime leg cramps explains both conditions. To obtain a copy, write to: Dr. Donohue – No. 306W, 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. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have puffy bags under my eyes. They look like they have water in them. I am an 85-year-old woman. What's the best way to treat them? They aren't getting any better. I use ice on them, and it helps, but they come back. – M.C.

Those puffy bags under your eyes aren't filled with water; they're globs of fat. In younger years, tough strands of fiber held them in place. With age, those strands weaken, and the fat bulges out. Look around and watch for them on TV. You'll see that most people over 60 have them. They're not a sign of illness.

I have seen all sorts of ads for creams and gels that say they can shrink these bags. I can't vouch for any of them. I don't know if they work. I have reservations. One way to correct them is surgical removal. You can forget the ice treatment unless you want to keep it up. It's not a solution.

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

- PRESIDENTIAL PRETENDERS ACROSS**

1 Herd word

4 Gator's cousin

8 Forest father

12 Chicken \_ king

15 Shakespearean snake

18 Dadaism founder

19 Neighbor of Kentucky

20 Sign of sanctity

21 Postman's Creed word

22 '64 Ronny & the Daytonas hit

23 Mouth piece?

24 HARRISON

28 Beer ingredient

30 Reveal

31 Bargain

32 Former African nation

33 Apiece

35 Pancakes-to-be

39 Shade of green

40 HOOVER

44 Artist Magritte

45 Out of place

46 In addition

47 Rampur royalty

51 Tender

52 PC key

53 Tiberius' threads?

54 '60s chic

55 Symbol of industry

56 Went white

57 Time for chores?
- 58 Slit on a sunfish

59 "Fatha" Hines

60 Teapot part

62 Ersatz emerald

63 ADAMS

70 Cisco, to Pancho

71 Sudden attacks

72 Something to skip?

73 Campbell of "Party of Five"

74 Doll up

76 "The Jungle Book" character

78 \_ Na Na

81 Justice Fortas

82 "Death in Venice" author

83 Aromatic plant

85 Court-martial candidate

86 "Cornhuskers" poet

89 Like lava

90 Stage stuff

91 Take a breather

92 JACKSON

94 Wrap

96 Singer Brook

97 Like kids at Christmas

98 Bobbin

99 Sargasso Sea swimmer

100 Humorist Ogden

103 Violin part

106 KENNEDY

112 Comic Charlotte

113 Fido's morsel
- 114 "Ab \_" (from the start)

115 Portent

116 Half-baked?

117 Flub

118 Director Craven

119 Faux -

120 Trick stick

121 Looked at

122 \_ es Salaam
- DOWN**

1 Palliative

2 "Turandot" tune

3 Upset entity

4 Dot follower

5 Beat

6 Seine feeder

7 Monastery garb

8 Mother or grandmother

9 Make a doily

10 Herriot title start

11 Peanut

12 Kim or Kaufman

13 - Alamos, NM

14 "Raising \_" ('87 film)

15 Certain marble

16 Unyielding

17 Study closely

25 Made a passage

26 Capek play

27 Michael of "Dynasty"

29 Stocking shade

34 Director's cry

36 Without - (daringly)
- 37 Communications word form

38 \_ Aviv

39 "Frederica" composer

40 Jet-setter's need

41 Shortly

42 Spanish specialty

43 Land in the sea

44 Sheldon's \_ of Angels"

47 State words?

48 Pennsylvania sect

49 Nick of "Q&A"

50 Gentleman of leisure?

52 Jeanne \_

53 Strained

56 El \_ TX

57 "Gigi" author

58 Stare stupidly

59 Brink

60 TV's \_ City"

61 Third degree?

62 "Oh My \_" ('53 song)

63 Turner and Wood

64 Basic organism

65 David of "The Bishop's Wife"

66 Pitchfork part

67 Bring home the bacon

68 Salad staple

69 Bagel or bialy

74 Cause a chuckle

75 Move like a mouse

76 Aphid apparatus

77 Place for a patch
- 78 Walked like a buccaneer

79 Nest or burrow

80 Tree spray

83 Baptism site

84 Nevada city

85 Neon relative

87 Salivate

88 Hotel employee

89 "Nowhere \_" ('66 hit)

90 Appreciated, in the '50s

92 Cowardly

93 City in Pakistan

94 Fern feature

95 Reggae's - and the Maytals

96 You can retire on it

98 Old tub

99 Baseballer

Slaughter

101 4,840 square yards

102 Command to Fido

104 Williams of "Pete and Gladys"

105 Gourmet Graham

107 Clark's "Mogambo" co-star

108 Thurman of "Jennifer 8"

109 He's a doll

110 Gridiron position

111 Florid

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS

by Roger T. Moore

October 25, 1931 – The famous Texas Prison Rodeo is born.

GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY: ★★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 8 9

Answer Page 4

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	-		×		16
21		4		9	

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	3				2	5		
		9	3				4	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★ ★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4   ★★ ★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Quick Medicare coverage

You’ve made your decision: although you’re eligible to collect Social Security payments, you’re going to keep working and delay receiving your retirement benefits. But don’t forget about Medicare. Even if you decide to wait until after you are age 65 to apply for retirement benefits, most people should apply for Medicare coverage at age 65. If you’d like to begin your Medicare coverage, you should apply within four months of reaching age 65. There’s a fast, convenient, and simple way to apply online for Medicare in as little as 10 minutes – even if you’re not ready to receive retirement benefits. Just visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly). At the website, you’ll find more than just the online Medicare application. You’ll also find information about Medicare, and have the opportunity to watch a short, fun video reuniting the cast of The Patty Duke Show to tell you about the ease and convenience of filing for Medicare online. It’s important to note that people who already receive Social Security retirement or disability benefits do not need to apply for Medicare; they will be automatically enrolled. There is no additional charge for Medicare hospital insurance (Part

A) since you already paid for it by working and paying Medicare tax. But there is a monthly premium for medical insurance (Part B). If you already have other health insurance when you become eligible for Medicare, you should consider whether you want to apply for the medical insurance. You may want to consult with an insurance specialist. To learn more about this and other Medicare considerations, read our online publication, Medicare, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html).

Q: I’m getting a job and I can’t find my Social Security card. Do I need to get a new one?

A: Ask your potential employer if he or she needs to see the card or if just the number is required. Knowing your number is usually what is important. If you do need to get a replacement card, come to your local Social Security office or Social Security Card Center and show us documents proving your identity and, possibly, citizenship. You can go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber) for more specific information about the process of getting a new card and where to take

your information. At that website, you can also download a copy of the simple application to have pre-filled when you visit.

Q: If I have a question about my Medicare bill, who should I contact first?

A: First, contact your provider. If you are unable to get your question answered or problem resolved, then contact 1-800 MEDICARE. For more information about Medicare benefits, visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov).

Q: What should I do if an employee gives me a Social Security number but cannot produce the card?

A: Seeing the card is not as important as putting the correct information on the worker’s Form W-2. You can verify employee Social Security numbers by using the Social Security Number Verification Service. Just go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/bso](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/bso). This online service allows registered employers to verify employee Social Security numbers against Social Security records for wage reporting purposes. If the employee recently applied for a Social Security number but does not yet have a card when you must file the paper Form W-2, enter the words “Applied for” on the Form W-2. If you are filing electronically, enter all zeros (e.g., 000-00-0000) in the Social Security number field. When the employee receives the card, file Copy A of Form W-2C, Corrected Wage and Tax Statement with Social Security to show the employee’s number.

Q: Is there a time limit on how long I can receive Social Security disability benefits?

A: Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you still cannot work. We will review your case at regular intervals to make sure you are still disabled. If you are still disabled when you reach your full retirement age, we will convert your disability benefit to a retirement benefit at the same amount. You can learn more about Social Security disability benefits at our website: [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

Q: I worked for the last 10 years and I now have my 40 credits. Does this mean that I get the maximum Social Security retirement benefit?

A: The 40 credits are the minimum number you need to qualify for retirement benefits. However, we do not base the amount of the benefit on those credits; it’s based on your earnings over a lifetime of work. For details on how your benefit is figured go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement/howfigured.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement/howfigured.htm)

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: I equals T

R LKQI IS PX K LSGJZ-AKESVC

DJVEPXG CSEXZKU, PVI

VQASGIVQKIXJU RI'C SQJU K

DRDX ZGXKE.

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

CONQUER THE WHIRLED

BRI  
TURILA  
♥MERDA  
OVEM  
♥SOBRIT  
MUB  
DEBN  
SUTRB  
♥ADM  
IMTIVC  
♥DROEC  
♥OMRO

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.