



NEWSBRIEFS

Wreaths Across America

Fort Bliss ceremonial units will participate in the Wreaths Across America Dedication Ceremony at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery, 9:45 a.m., Dec. 10. These units include the Team Bliss Color Guard, Ceremonial Rifle Team and a bugler from the 1st Armored Division Band. Wreaths Across America is a national effort to Remember, Honor and Teach about sacrifices by our veterans. In December 2010, over 500 participating locations hosted Wreaths Across America ceremonies overseeing the placement of 32,553 wreaths on the headstones of those who served and sacrificed for our freedoms. This year there are over 800 participating locations. The El Paso Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, hosts the event at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Last year's event yielded over 4,000 wreaths upon headstones at FBNC. Organizers hope to receive enough donations to place at least 6,000 wreaths this year. For more information on Wreaths Across America, contact the Civil Air Patrol, 239-6149.

— Donita Kelley

EPWU meetings

The Public Service Board, which oversees El Paso Water Utilities, will be holding public meetings to determine how to most responsibly spend ratepayers' money during the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2012. All meetings will be held at the El Paso Water Utilities administration building, 1154 Hawkins Blvd., in the PSB meeting room on the fourth floor.

- On Monday, Nov. 28, 2011, at noon, the board will discuss the storm water budget.
- On Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, at noon, the board will meet if needed to discuss issues outstanding from the previous meetings.
- On Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011, at 9 a.m., the board is scheduled to approve EPWU's FY 2012-13 consolidated budget at its regular meeting.

While the public is encouraged to attend the meetings, they are also streamed live at EPWU.org. The budget meetings will be re-broadcast the following Wednesday at 6 p.m. on City 15, the City of El Paso television channel. City 15 is available through Time Warner Cable.

— Christina Montoya

FISD evaluation

The Fabens Independent School District (ISD) Special Education Department earned a "No Stage" in the Performance Based Monitoring Analysis System (PBMAS). The Texas Education Agency uses the PBMAS as one part of its overall annual evaluation of the performance and program effectiveness of School Districts and Charter Schools. The 2011

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True thankfulness is proper gratitude for having received what we did not earn, and for not receiving what we did deserve.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

Anthony Guzman (left), West Texas Food Bank partner relations officer, ATPD Chief Edward Miranda (center), and Officer Oswaldo Gomez were on hand to help collect food for the Food Pantry. The Anthony Texas Police Department (ATPD) teamed up with local businesses and organizations to open its newly constructed Food Pantry facility.

Food Pantry opens doors in Anthony

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

About 150 upper valley families received a helping hand in providing food for their families recently as Anthony Texas Police Department (ATPD) teamed up with local businesses and organizations to open its newly constructed Food Pantry facility.

On a recent brisk November morning ATPD personnel, along with members of the United Methodist Church of Anthony, distributed food items to residents from throughout the upper valley including families from El Paso, TX and Dona Ana, NM counties to inaugurate its new food pantry program. Families received staples including rice, beans, milk, cereal, juice, and fresh tomatoes.

"Since July, when we started work on the building, we also started our fund-raising activities with the goal of becoming a partner with the West Texas Food Bank. Through this partnership, we are able to purchase food items at reduced prices," ATPD Chief Edward Miranda.

Anthony Guzman, partner relations officer for the West Texas Food Bank (WTFB), said that the El Paso food bank has about 100 partnerships established throughout the region to address hunger in the local communities.

"The face of hunger is no longer just among homeless or transient persons, it is also among working families who are struggling to pay their bills and buy food," said Guzman. He added that data shows that one in four El Paso area families qualify for some type of food assistance.

WTFB depends on state and national organizations, like Feeding America Hunger Relief, for its food stuff inventory. WTFB also has food distribution branches in Odessa and Alpine.

"We applaud Anthony's police department

See PANTRY, Page 2

San Eli High School lays out holiday feast for seniors



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Katie Martinez, left, and Manuela Muñoz enjoy their meal.

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Although Thanksgiving is just a few days away, dozens of San Elizario senior citizens have already enjoyed the traditional holiday feast of turkey with all the trimmings. These area residents were treated to a festive luncheon on November 10 at San Elizario High School where they were greeted by a group of students who waited on them with the utmost care and efficiency.

The Annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Luncheon is hosted by San Elizario High School. The school opens its doors to the local elderly not just to provide a free warm meal but to also express appreciation for their guests as important members of the

community. Everardo Lopez, a senior student and an officer with Student Council, stated that the event is also an opportunity for senior citizens to be welcomed on to campus and interact with students.

"We want to invite them (seniors) into our home and make them feel comfortable while they have a delicious Thanksgiving meal," he said.

Lopez and his fellow Student Council members set out to work on the luncheon at the beginning of the month by promoting the event through the local church and by word of mouth. The students also created the decorations and waited on their senior guests taking care of everything from pouring drinks, carrying plates and clearing tables. The menu for the

See FEAST, Page 4

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Host a party for veterans

If you’re in a veterans service organization, you still have time to organize a holiday party for patients in the closest Veterans Affairs medical center.

You’ll need food, a few small gifts... and your ear. You see, it’s your presence that will be most appreciated. Patients in our VA hospitals don’t always get visitors. Some don’t get any at all, especially the young ones whose families are clear across the country.

Here’s a plan you can use. Modify it to suit your group’s circumstances:

Call Volunteer Services at the medical center and tell them your group would like to have a Christmas party for one of the wards. Set a date and time. Lunch is ideal.

Verify that pizza or small sandwiches would be OK for the patients. Order the pizzas or sandwiches to be delivered from a nearby restaurant or deli, as well as drinks. Ask about using a large room that will accommodate everyone at tables with chairs. Gather up a CD player and holiday CDs for

music.

Ask what types of small gifts would be appropriate for the ward you’ll be visiting. (Each will likely have different rules). Your gift list can include:

- Pens and stationery;
- Candy (ask if sugar-free is necessary) in sandwich bags;
- Military caps (by branch);
- Small handheld games;
- Puzzle books, with mechanical pencils (saving nurses from having to sharpen pencils); and
- A card signed by all your members.

All of these items in wrapped individual boxes (don’t forget the bow!) will be much appreciated.

But it’s the time you spend with each patient that they’ll remember the most. No matter what your age or term of military service, you have something in common: You served. That alone will get conversations started.

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

Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Redistricting should bring better representation

Hola, mi gente. A very important issue that was addressed in the legislature this past session was redistricting. The House of Representatives and the Senate approved new boundaries for their districts. Many of those districts were contested several groups.

Redistricting is not an easy task. On the one side, political interests come into play. On the other side, certain racial or communities of interest come into play. The basis for the contests that were filed alleged that the maps were drawn in the interest of one political party at the expense of the voting rights of minorities.

The courts and the Department of Justice have been reviewing maps and testimony for several months. The federal court hearing the arguments determined that the conflicts were too extensive for a judgment at this time. In other words, after additional months of testimony and submissions of evidence, the court will be in a better position to rule on the legal arguments.

Last week, the court issued recommended interim maps that, if approved, would contain the boundaries for the primary and general election in 2012. Although it was my

feeling that the boundaries in El Paso would be unaltered, the court did find cause to amend the boundaries between districts 77 and 78 – districts in central and west El Paso County.

The El Paso delegation unanimously, and in the interest of continued harmony, approved five district boundaries that were desired by each member. The court altered the original maps in such a way as to make it more difficult for the incumbent in district 78. The changes were based on a balance of minority voters in both district 77 and 78.

In the same process, the districts in other counties were also changed. Apparently the judges had reason to believe that specific boundaries violated the rights of Hispanic communities of interest to elect a candidate of their choice based on shared values.

If the recommended interim boundaries remain, many experts believe that the current imbalance in the House membership, 101 Republicans and 49 Democrats, could be reduced immediately with complete parity after subsequent election cycles.

The process is of course necessary because of court cases in several

states where judgments decreed voting rights violations. There are concerns that several steps in the last session may result in Hispanic voters finding their right to vote impeded.

Whatever the outcome of the court cases and the reviews by the Department of Justice, the 2012 elections are being impacted.

Already, the filing period for candidates has been reduced partly because of the redistricting and also because the final filing day was changed to an earlier date. The El Paso County Elections Department has found it difficult to finalize voting precincts with all of the changes that have occurred in the past 6 months.

At one point, the Elections Director, Javier Chacon, presented to the Commissioners a map of voting precincts that culminated many, many hours of work by his staff. Now the interim maps have created the need for even more changes.

We should be very appreciative of the director and his staff for their hard work in service to El Paso voters.

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

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Canutillo ISD Board selects officers

By Gustavo Reveles
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – In a show of unity and cohesiveness, the Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees on Tuesday elected new leadership among its members. Trustees selected Laure Searls as Board President, Armando Rodriguez as Board Vice President and Leticia Gonzalez as Board Secretary.

The votes were unanimous, each new officer selecting to abstain in their respective motion for appointment.

“This is the very best board I have ever served on. I truly feel blessed to be working with such a wonderful group of individuals and public servants,” said Searls, who has served as Board President in the past. “I promise to be a vigilant President and to represent the Board and the District with honor.”

It is customary for Board members

to select officers every November. Outgoing Board President Sergio Coronado declined a nomination for re-election.

“I have had enough time as President and it is now time for the other capable members of this board to show the community that they are true leaders,” said Coronado, who was re-elected for another four-year term last year. “I have nothing but confidence that under the leadership of Mrs. Searls, this board and this school district will reach new heights. I’m looking forward to serving under her guidance.”

1973 38 Years 2011

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COUNIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARMER, SAN

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Pantry


From Page 1

for recognizing the need and doing something about it,” Guzman said about the new food pantry program.

Anthony’s new facility is located in the back of the ATPD and town hall premises (601 Wildcat Drive). It was built and financed largely through the ATPD officers’ fund-raising efforts. They were instrumental in procuring monetary and materials donations for the building’s construction, according to Miranda.

Businesses assisting with the construction project were Jobe Concrete, Zia Homes, 84 Lumber, Commercial Roofing Systems, Foxworth-Gailbraith, and Villareal and Sons Electric Co. Gary Porras, of Garrick Electric Co., helped supervise the work.

The police chief said that plans are to coordinate with community organizations like the local Methodist church to maintain the food pantry program. Also helping stock the pantry are: Sierra Providence Teen Center of Anthony, St. Patrick’s Cathedral of El Paso, St. Patrick’s Church of Canutillo, Westside Custom Classic’ Car Club, Anthony Rotary Club, L and F Distributors, Denny’s Restaurant in



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

Police Officer Mike Saavedra lends a hand during Anthony Texas Police Department Food Pantry program’s first food distribution held recently.

Anthony, Osh Kosh, Carters, Lowe’s Home Improvement (Westside), and National Truck Stop of Vado, NM.

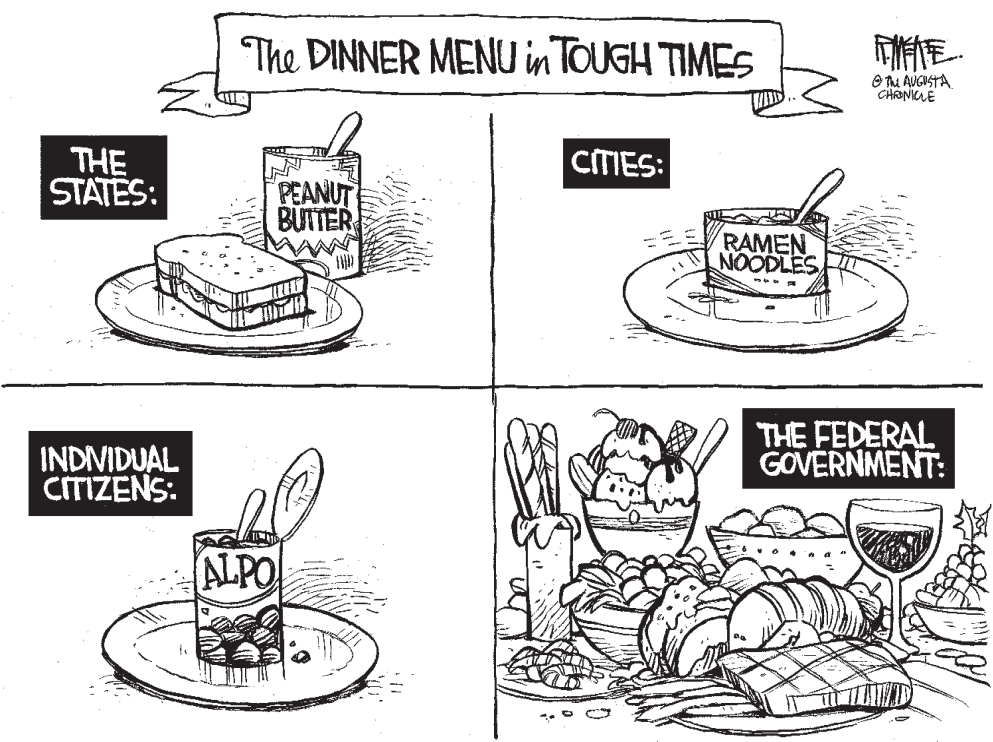
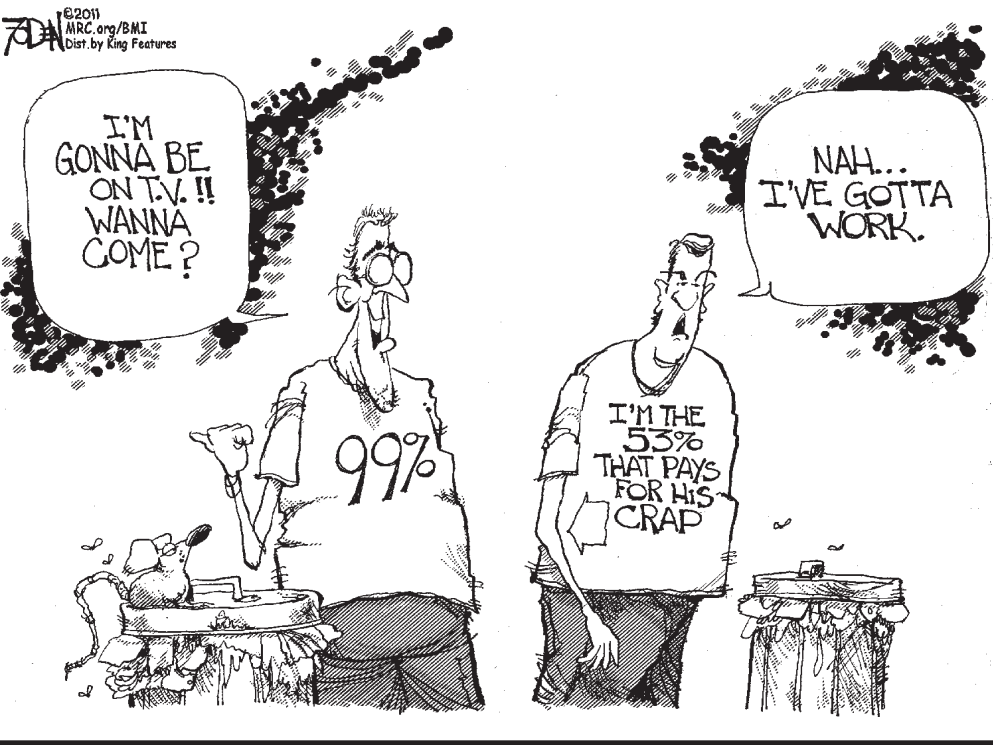
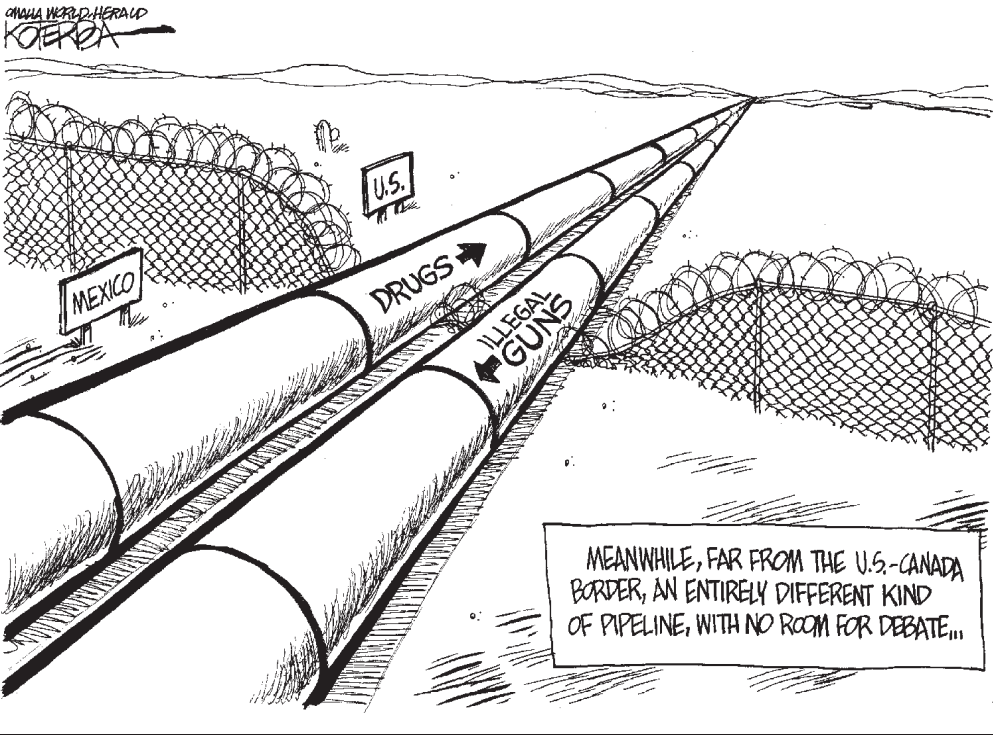
“With the help of folks like these donors, we hope to hold a community-wide food distribution event at least once a month,” stated Chief Miranda. “However, if a family needs immediate assistance we will be available to do that too.”

The police chief said that there is no income requirement, only address, family member count, and estimated income to be eligible to receive food

items from the pantry. “No one will be refused, no matter what size the family is,” Miranda said.

Rev. Francisco Escalera, pastor of the United Methodist Church of Anthony, said that they are honored to join with the police department in helping feed the struggling families in their communities.

“I believe there are many families in the area who need help especially among the unemployed and our senior citizens who are surviving on a fixed income,” said Escalera.



Shop small on Nov. 26

By Adrian Madrigal
Special to the Courier

WASHINGTON DC – The U.S. Small Business Administration is encouraging every American to support small businesses by doing some of their holiday shopping on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 26, 2011, at small businesses. Small Business Saturday® is dedicated to supporting small businesses on one of the busiest shopping weekends of the year.

“Small businesses are the foundation of our economy – half of America’s workers either own or work for a small business,” said SBA Administrator Karen Mills. “Small Business Saturday® is an opportunity to show our support for our friends and neighbors who

Briefs

From Page 1

“No Stage” designation is the highest awarded by TEA. The state measures 18 indicators, some of which include TAKS passing, TAKS/ TAKS Accommodated Participation Rate, TAKS M/TAKS ALT Participation Rate and the Least Restrictive Environment Rate, to name a few. The “No Stage” designation clearly demonstrates that Fabens ISD is meeting the six guiding principals of the PBMAS. The six principals include school district effectiveness, statutory requirements, valid indicators of performance, maximum inclusion, individual program accountability and high standards. The PBMAS is a district level, data driven analysis system developed and implemented annually since 2004 by the Performance Based Monitoring Division in coordination with other agency divisions and departments.

– Richard Ortega

Thanksgiving meals

Thirty-five families who may not otherwise have the means to celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner will have the chance to do so thanks to Operation Blessing at Canutillo Elementary School. The families received a turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pies and other food needed to cook a full Thanksgiving meal. Students and teachers from Canutillo Elementary School delivered the baskets to families last Thursday and Friday. The basket items were collected through a food drive sponsored by the school’s Mother/Daughter Program. The students of Canutillo Elementary decorated them. “This was a great chance for our students to do community service and to also think about the spirit of Thanksgiving,” said Canutillo Elementary Principal Connie Parker.

– Gustavo Reveles

Jobs

Texas’ private sector continued to grow in October, adding 13,500 jobs. Texas’ total non-farm employment has expanded by 231,600 jobs over the year to reach an estimated 10,616,500 positions in October. Overall, Texas added 2,500 jobs over the month. Texas has experienced positive annual job growth in the past 18 months with annual growth rates above 2.0 percent for the last five consecutive months. Texas’ seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.4 percent in October, down slightly from 8.5 percent in September, and remains below the national unemployment rate of 9.0 percent.

– Lisa Givens

Crime Stoppers

A woman walking with her husband on the eastside of town is struck and killed by a motorist who fled, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.”

– Deputy Jesse Tovar

throughout the year are growing our local economy, as well as supporting many local initiative and organizations.”

The second annual Small Business Saturday® supports local small businesses that create jobs, boost the economy and preserve neighborhoods around the country. First there was Black Friday, and then Cyber Monday, and now Small Business Saturday® will help drive shoppers to America’s job creators. Small businesses have generated two out of every three net new jobs over the past 15 years and employ over half of all private sector employees.

For more information on how to support Small Business Saturday® in your area, or to get great marketing tips and resources, check out www.sba.gov/saturday or visit Facebook. [com/smallbusinessaturday](https://www.facebook.com/smallbusinessaturday) and follow us on Twitter @SBAGov, #SmallBizSat.

Approximately 1:20 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 7, 2011, after a night out 32-year-old Kimberly Esparza from the 2700 block of Red Sails was walking home with her husband on Pebble Hills Blvd. Kimberly Esparza was hit by a vehicle heading east on Pebble Hills. The driver of that vehicle did not stop to render aid. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Speed is not a factor in the collision and it is unknown if alcohol was involved. The vehicle could only be described as a dark-colored SUV. Because this is a heavily traveled area, police investigators are hoping that someone saw the collision and can provide further details. It is also believed that the vehicle would now show severe damage to the front end. If you have any information at all about the identity of the suspect in this case, or the location of the vehicle, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward.

– James Klaes

Wanted

Victor Eduardo Ortega, 22, who also uses Victor Lopez, is this week’s Manhunt Monday Most Wanted for a violent assault and robbery that took place in East El Paso County on October 9, 2011. Ortega is 5’3” tall and weighs 206 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. Deputies were called to a home in Sparks where a male victim told authorities that just minutes earlier, he heard noises coming from the front of his home where his truck was parked. He proceeded to exit his home and discovered that a power generator (\$2,000 value) had been taken from his pick-up truck. He got into his vehicle and drove around in an attempt to locate the suspect(s). While driving, he spotted his power generator in the back of a Toyota pick-up truck. He approached three male subjects who were standing next to the truck to ask about the generator. A confrontation ensued where the thieves proceeded to violently assault the him, taking his cell phone, wallet and his pickup truck. He went to a nearby residence to call 911. He suffered serious but non-life threatening injuries. Ortega knows he is wanted and is now on the run eluding capture. It is believed he remains in El Paso County, hiding with friends or relatives. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Ortega they can contact Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of the Ortega.



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Student Council members welcomed and served over 40 local senior citizens at San Elizario High School’s annual Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Feast

From Page 1

by the San Elizario High School students look forward to the senior cafeteria staff and offered at no cost citizens Thanksgiving luncheon to the senior citizens. because the experience of serving others leaves them feeling personally fulfilled.

According to Student Activities Manager, Ruben Rodriguez, the lunch itself is prepared in-house

San Elizario Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Ten Months Ended June 30, 2011

Data Control Codes		10 General Fund	Title XIV ARRA State Stabilization	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,162,920	\$ –	\$ 132,554	\$ 2,295,474
5800	State Program Revenues	28,008,116	–	847,572	28,855,688
5900	Federal Program Revenues	3,273,598	2,303,586	5,064,806	10,641,990
5020	Total Revenues	33,444,634	2,303,586	6,044,932	41,793,152
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011	Instruction	13,238,216	1,753,855	4,251,890	19,243,961
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	595,578	7,530	71,133	674,241
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	182,757	–	324,632	507,389
0021	Instructional Leadership	461,976	–	216,193	678,169
0023	School Leadership	1,640,255	15,741	49,679	1,705,675
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	872,422	17,117	11,543	901,082
0032	Social Work Services	207,186	–	3,734	210,920
0033	Health Services	375,241	3,438	66,088	444,767
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,110,114	–	–	1,110,114
0035	Food Services	2,258,325	–	21,532	2,279,857
0036	Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	697,518	–	–	697,518
0041	General Administration	1,320,804	–	–	1,320,804
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	3,180,240	–	–	3,180,240
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	620,189	–	–	620,189
0053	Data Processing Services	559,253	–	77,031	636,284
0061	Community Services	1,957	–	246,843	248,800
Debt Service:					
0071	Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	1,436,000	–	545,000	1,981,000
0072	Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	557,999	–	50,756	608,755
0073	Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	5,282	–	–	5,282
Capital Outlay:					
0081	Facilities Aquisition and Construction	95,900	505,905	–	601,805
Intergovernmental:					
0093	Payments to Fiscal Agent / Member Districts of SSA	–	–	29,834	29,834
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	25,818	–	–	25,818
6030	Total Expenditures	29,443,030	2,303,586	5,965,888	37,712,504
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	4,001,604	–	79,044	4,080,648
0100	Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	3,870,928	–	148,010	4,018,938
3000	Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 7,872,532	\$ –	\$ 227,054	\$ 8,099,586

“They find that in bonding with them they come back feeling positive and good about themselves because they realize there are people out there that need help, comforting and to feel appreciated,” Rodriguez added.

Keeping to the spirit of giving thanks during the month of November, Student Council will next visit the Ambrosio Guillen Veterans Home to spend some quality time with elderly, former military service members. There are over 30 students involved with San Elizario High School’s recognized Blue Ribbon Student Council who participate in several community service projects each month. The officers include Chelsea Jurado, President; Kassandra Martinez, Vice President; Everardo Lopez, Public Relations Officer; Selena Gonzalez, Secretary; Nayely Chacon, Treasurer; Hector Mendoza, Hospitality Officer; Karla De Anda, Parliamentarian; and Luis Alanis and Danielle Alvarado, Historians.

El Paso schools
recognized for
fighting hunger

By Mary Richman
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Eleven El Paso County schools recently received a National School of Distinction status from the Schools Fight Hunger program. Fewer than 2,000 schools nationwide earned this level of distinction in the 2010-2011 school year.

The El Paso campuses are:

- Bill Sybert School;
- Campestre Elementary School;
- Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School;
- Chester Jordan Elementary School;
- Hueco Elementary School;
- John Drugan School;
- Mission Early College High School;
- Montwood Middle Sccool;
- Montana Vista Elementary School;
- San Elizario Middle School; and
- Socorro Middle School.

The National School of Distinction status is awarded to schools that demonstrate notable enthusiasm, creativity or dedication in getting involved with the hunger cause. Whether its activating students around a school-wide food drive, organizing volunteers for a local pantry or food bank or cultivating a school garden to provide fresh produce for the cause, schools all across the country have been playing a larger and larger role in helping to fight hunger nationwide.

“The students, staff and families of our School of Distinction schools should be very proud of their efforts and the impact they’re making on the hunger cause,” points out Schools Fight Hunger founder, Tim Sullivan. Of course, the short-term results are impressive, but we also love to see how our next generation of leaders are getting active in their communities at such a young age.” In a day when so much news about our kids and our schools seems so negative, these schools and these students are well worth celebrating.”

Complete details about the efforts of each school, as well as details about all 2011 honorees can be found on the “Schools Fighting” profile pages at www.schoolsfighthunger.org.

The Schools Fight Hunger program itself is a 2-year-old initiative focused on connecting schools nationwide with the hunger cause, helping those schools fight hunger most effectively, celebrating the good work of schools and students and inspiring our next generation of leaders on the value of service. Local schools looking to get involved, get help or report their own good hunger-fighting work, can learn more at www.schoolsfighthunger.org.

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			H	A	S	T	A			C	U	R	R	E	N	T	S	C	O	N	E	S
I	B	I	S		E	B	B	T	I	D	E				T	R	U					
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A	R	M	A	D	A		T	H	E	R	O	M	A	N		A	M	P	E	R	E	
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E	R	N	E	S	T		E	M	M	Y		T	A	S	K		T	E	S	T		

CryptoQuip
Answer

Funny Neil Simon play
about some Alaskans
who wear no shoes:
“Barefoot in the Parka.”

8	–	2	×	4	24
+		×		+	
6	+	9	÷	5	3
÷		+		×	
7	+	9	+	3	19
2		27		27	


“WE HAVE SO MUCH **Sun**
and so many great
resources; IT’S GOOD
TO SEE US TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEM.”

— Mary Kipp, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at El Paso Electric



Our commitment to renewable energy continues with the opening of the Roadrunner Solar Plant in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. Capitalizing on state-of-the-art technology, the plant utilizes the sun to its utmost potential. Spanning over 210 acres of land, generating 20 MW of power, the plant provides clean, environmentally sound power for thousands of homes in our region.



For a video tour of the Roadrunner Solar Plant,
go to epelectric.com and click on the  **sunny side**.



Major League Baseball creeps into the 21st century

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Of all the professional sports in America, one seems to hold on to the past way more than all the others.

Not the National Football League. It has introduced instant replay and it has Monday Night Football and the two-point conversion and the Super Bowl.

Not the National Basketball Association. It instituted the three-point shot and markets its stars better than any other sport.

It's Major League Baseball, which has the designated hitter in one league and not in the other. It has 16 teams in one league and 14 in the other. And like Count Dracula in the company of any cross, cowers at the thought of anything connected to the 21st century.

Well, finally, professional baseball is attempting to get its act together.

The sport that was so slow to realize it had a steroid drug problem will now will be the first major American professional sports league to test for human growth hormones.

I don't believe it. Baseball is going to be the first at something. There is no other sport that stubbornly holds on to its history like baseball.

History is good, you learn from history. But baseball has always seemed to hold on to its history without learning anything from it.

Along with the HGH testing, baseball will change its look in so many other ways in 2013.

The Houston Astros are moving from the National League to the American League so that MLB will consist of two 15-team leagues. Each league will have three 5-team divisions.

This makes so much sense in alignment and will make scheduling so much easier.

Also, there will be inter-league play throughout the entire season, instead of just a couple weeks out of the year. All this inter-league play will justify having the team with the best record get home field advantage in the World Series.

There will be an extra wildcard team to make the playoffs. Instead of a division winner and a single wildcard, two wildcard teams will battle it out to face the three divisional

winners in the playoffs.

This is a great idea because it keeps more fans interested in the season longer with more teams illegible for the postseason.

For the purists out there who don't want to see the baseball playoffs resemble the NBA or the NHL, where you have to work pretty hard not to make the playoffs, there will still be only 10 teams out of 30 making the postseason.

Another postseason wrinkle will be that teams from the same division will be able to play each other in the first round of the playoffs.

It used to be that if the Yankees and the Red Sox were mathematically schedule to meet in the first round, it couldn't happen because they were in the same division.

Now, it doesn't matter. You play whomever you are scheduled to play because of their record.

There are other changes coming down the pike concerning draft procedures, luxury tax, minimum salary increases, free agency and revenue sharing, but I don't want to put you totally to sleep.

The best news is that after years and years

of fans and talk show hosts making the point that all the other sports, except for baseball, were transitioning to the 21st century, the grand old game is finally listening.

For years, baseball was beginning to resemble that old grandfather who always sat and talked about how much better things were in the "old days."

For years, baseball just refused to budge from its outdated rules and regulations, always bringing up "the integrity of the sport," as it looked away while the steroid scandal was all around it.

So here's to you baseball. You're not perfect but at least you're moving in the right direction... finally.

By the way, all baseball has to do to make it perfect are four more things.

Either get rid of the designated hitter or apply it to both leagues, get rid of the winner of the all-star game having the home field advantage in the World Series, don't be afraid of using instant replay to get the calls right and shorten the season so our boys of summer aren't playing World Series games in 40-degree temperatures in November.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

It's going to get worse

Joe Posnanski is at Penn State. Not only is he at Penn State, the former Kansas City sportswriter has lived there for the past year for the purpose of writing the definitive biography of Joe Paterno. The Sports Illustrated ace columnist has received a \$750,000 advance for the book, which is supposed to hit shelves by next Father's Day.

After Paterno's firing, apparently

saddened that his book would no longer have a fairytale ending, Posnanski vented during a lecture on held on campus, a class (and I'm not kidding) called "Joe Paterno: Communications and the Media." While Posnanski has gone on record saying he felt Paterno should have been fired, he felt it was done in a classless manner (via messenger) and that the media was to blame.

A student in the class tweeted his remarks. The rush to judgment here has been extraordinary, Posnanski said, and that lack of official statements mean journalists are going to have to guess. He said that this was the fastest-moving story he'd ever seen and every reporter was trying to top one another. The 24-hour news cycle and Twitter have led to quick judgment, and this wouldn't have happened 20 years ago.

In his blog, Posnanski goes further into the abyss.

"I don't know what Joe Paterno knew," Posnanski writes. "I don't know how he handled it. I don't know if he followed up. I don't know anything about Paterno's role in this except for what little was



said about that in the horrifying and stomach-turning grand jury findings. People have jumped to many conclusions about Paterno's role and his negligence, and they might be right. I'll say it again: They might be right. But they might be wrong, too. And I'm writing a book about the man. I can't live in that world of maybes."

Well, whatever world you're living in, Joe, it certainly doesn't have many journalists. Is it a reporter's fault because they're being stonewalled by officials who are trying to cover up crimes? This is the first time there's been a 24-hour news cycle? Not the days when a newspaper would put out a morning, afternoon and late final edition? Reporters never tried to scoop one another in that world of "maybes" you write of? You say you don't know all of those things you listed about Paterno, and you're writing a big-shot book on the man!

Here's the \$750,000 question then, Joe: with all of that access... why don't you ask them yourself?

Posnanski and other Paterno apologists decry "the rush to judgment." Sandusky is in no rush. On the news show "Rock Center," it took him nearly 18 seconds to answer Bob Costas's question as to whether he was sexually attracted to young boys. So don't throw the reporters under the bus when they do what law enforcement was supposed to have done more than 15 years ago... get the facts, and then nail those responsible to the wall.

This isn't a world of maybes, it's a fact: It's going to get worse.

PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso County Tornillo WaterImprovementDistrict

United State Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan/Grant Application

El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District will hold a public hearing **on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Tornillo Jr. High Cafeteria, Tornillo, Texas** to receive input from the citizens on a proposed submission of an application to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District is anticipating submission of an application for \$3,352,177 for water and wastewater improvements.

Citizens are urged to attend and state their consents or objections at this meeting. A project summary will be outlined at this time.

Citizens unable to attend may submit their views and proposals to the El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District, P. O. Box 136, Tornillo, TX 79853. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the District Office at (915) 764-2966 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids should contact the District Office at least two (2) days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

WTCC: 11-17-11 & 11-24-11

Classified Ads

LEGALS

City of Socorro

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. at a Regular Council Meeting on December 5, 2011, at City Hall, 860 Rio Vista, Socorro, Texas. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following:

1) PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS RELATING TO APPROVAL OF TAXATION OF GOODS-IN-TRANSIT THAT

ARE OTHERWISE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION AS PERMITTED BY TEXAS TAX CODE SECTION 11.253.

Those unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Copies of ordinances are available for review at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd.

Manuel Rubio
City Clerk

WTCC: 11-24-11

City of Socorro

Adoption of Ordinances

On November 17, 2011 the City of Socorro, Texas adopted the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE 296, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND RAILROAD CROSSING ENFORCEMENT IMPOSING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR

VIOLATION, ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, PROVIDING FOR APPEAL AND JUDICIAL REVIEW ESTABLISHING TRAFFIC SAFETY FUND AND OTHER MATTERS GERMANE THERETO.

Copies of the ordinance are available for review at the City Administration Building, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas 79927; Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

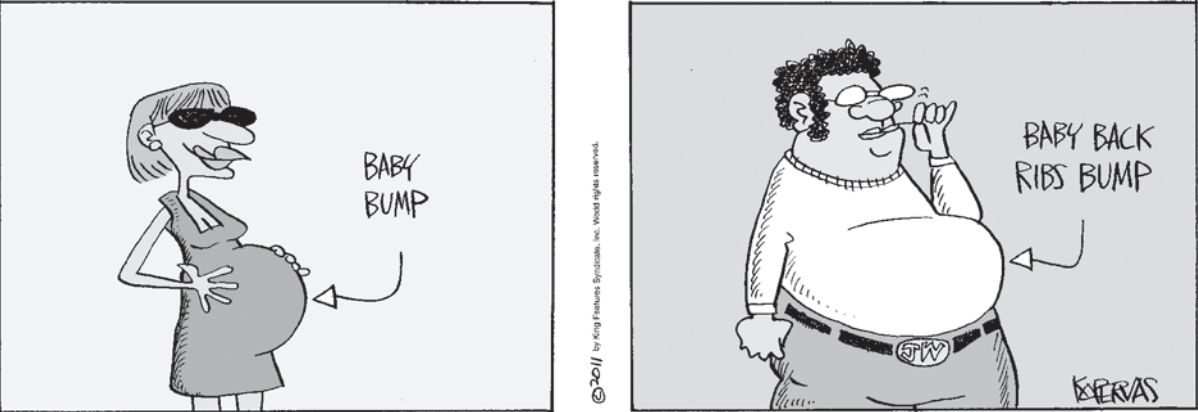
Manuel Rubio
City Clerk

WTCC: 11-24-11

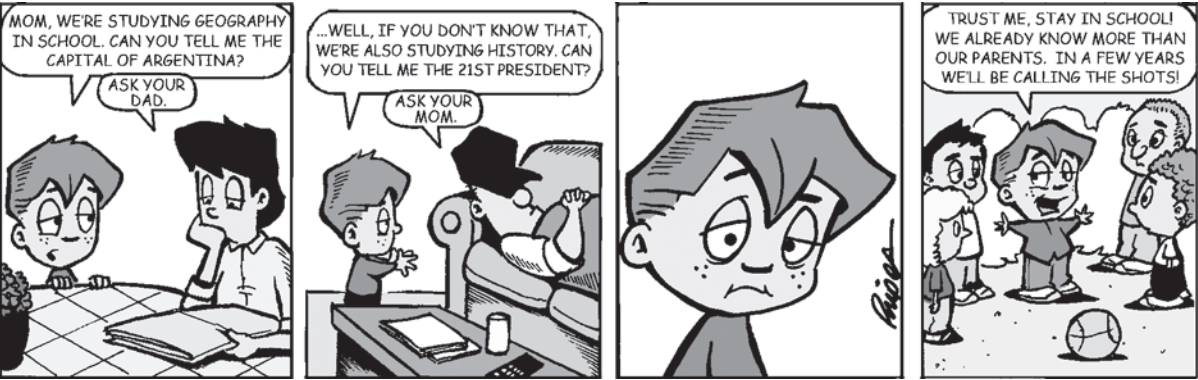
Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



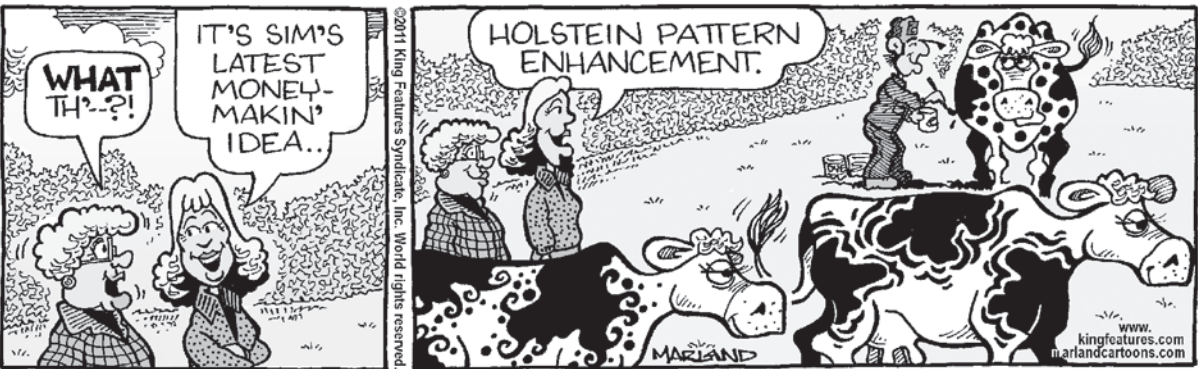
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I had my annual PSA test, and it came back 3.5 ng/ml. My doctor said anything below 4 is good. My past scores have never exceeded 0.5. I am concerned with the rate of increase from last year. Need I be? Should I get checked in six months to ease my mind? – B.B.

PSA (prostate-specific antigen) is a blood test used for the detection of prostate cancer. It's far from being a perfect test, but it is the only one we have. Not only is the test imperfect, but experts disagree on how the test numbers should be interpreted.

Many insist that a man's age should define what the normal range for it is. The younger the man, the lower should be the acceptable PSA.

Results from large studies yield conflicting information. One study suggests that a PSA of 2.5 ng/ml ought to prompt additional testing, such as a prostate biopsy. Another large study uses 4 as the cutoff for ordering more investigation. And a third sets the upper limit of normal at 3.5.

PSA velocity is another factor that enters into interpreting the test. If the PSA value increases in one year by 0.75 or more, then the possibility of cancer exists and further testing is suggested – a biopsy. Your value increased many times that number. I believe you need to have that checked out soon. In fact, if a man has a PSA value of less than 4 on previous tests, and his PSA has increased by 0.35 in one year, that man should be advised to have a biopsy.

The booklet on prostate enlargement and prostate cancer digs more deeply into these subjects. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 1001W, 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 son had surgery for diverticulitis and was discharged from the hospital two days later. He had to return to the hospital because of terrible stomach pain. The doctor did a second surgery and submitted material to the lab. The report came back that he had C. diff. I would appreciate so much any information on this. – M.M.

C. difficile (diff-uh-SEAL) is a bacterium. It can be acquired anywhere, but most often in the hospital. In the digestive tract, it is a distinct minority. However, antibiotics can kill off the normal bacteria in the tract and the C. difficile bacterium then experiences explosive growth. That can cause minor intestinal problems to major intestinal catastrophes with voluminous diarrhea and fierce pain. All of this is due to toxins (poisons) produced by this germ.

Stopping antibiotics is the first line of treatment. If that doesn't bring relief, then the antibiotic metronidazole often cures patients. Should metronidazole fail, the antibiotic vancomycin is a trusted standby. Sometimes attempts to re-establish a normal bacterial population for the colon are successful in ending the problem.

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

- SHOCK TREATMENT ACROSS**

1 Not quite closed

5 Doris Day refrain

9 Junket

13 Significance

19 Prepare a pear

20 Author Murdoch

21 Run the show

22 Five iron

23 Electrician's favorite rockers?

26 Shorthand inventor

27 Periwinkle, e.g.

32 Question for a tardy electrician?

44 Figure

46 Nice time of year

47 Genesis name

48 Wordy Webster

50 Eloquent equine

52 Boa, but not cobra

55 Raven maven?

56 Dandy

58 Quick snacks

60 Roller-coaster feeling

62 Apparel

66 Alaric, for one

68 Buddies

70 South Seas novel

71 _ Marie Saint

72 TV's " _ Haw"

73 Part of USSR

76 Electrician's theme song?

80 "- Parkington" ('44 film)

81 GI's address

82 _ down (destroy)

83 Melodious

McEntire

84 Galba's garment

86 First state

89 Paradise

90 Sleeve type

94 _ nous

95 Cen. segments

97 " _ -Tiki"

100 Clear the windshield

101 Loretta of "M*A*S*H"

102 Cuban currency

105 Ladies of the lea

107 Hosp. areas

108 " _ luego"

111 Electrician's teatime treats?

115 Wading bird

117 '65 Righteous Brothers hit

119 Capote, on stage

120 "Unforgettable" name

121 Born

122 " _ Gay"

126 One of the Titans

130 Fleet

133 Electrician's favorite history subject?

137 Tidy up

138 Relate

139 "So _ You" ('77 song)

140 _ -friendly

141 Borgnine or Gallo

142 Award for 101

Across

143 Chore

144 Work in the lab

DOWN

1 Feigns

2 Dear fellow?

3 Surface measurement

4 Dwell

5 " _ vous plait"

6 Skater Heiden

7 Loaded

8 Sailing

9 Wagner hero

10 Capek drama

11 Unwell

12 Italian specialty

13 Mischievous

14 With 29 Across, rum cocktail

15 Washington hrs.

16 Words on an electrician's sampler?

17 Lasso

18 Mortise's mate

24 Wilde work

25 Aim

30 Burro

33 Herd word

35 From _ Z

36 Page

37 Bit of parsley

38 Singer Dottie

39 Craving

40 Parent

41 Diamond

authority?

42 _ Paulo, Brazil

43 Sally Struthers' birthplace

45 Both: prefix

49 Humble house

51 Prevent

53 Torn or Taylor

54 Defect

57 Perform a pirouette

59 " _ a Lady" ('71 hit)

61 Andes animal

63 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'-"

64 Got a galley going

65 Fancy dessert

67 Relish

69 Bedtime reading

73 Mean Marquis

74 Removes the cork

75 Poet turned electrician?

77 Nebbish

78 Maris or Mattingly

79 "My word!"

85 Generation

87 La Scala songs

88 Moistens

91 Pride papa

92 Lot size

93 Stack role

96 Splinter group

98 Hold the deed

99 Safety -

103 " _ generis"

104 Hospital worker

106 Fast way to the UK

109 Lodger

110 Lincoln or Lyman

112 Betting setting

113 Learn fast?

114 End product

115 Cockamamie

116 Less adorned

118 Ms. Midler

123 Leave out

124 Turner of "Peyton Place"

125 Hill dwellers

127 _ majesty

128 Belligerent deity

129 Spanish artist

131 Enjoyed Thanksgiving

132 _ Plaines, IL

134 Clear one's throat

135 Common street name

136 NASA affirmative

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	
19					20					21					22						
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130				131	132				133	134	135					136					
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141									142					143					144		

A black and white cartoon illustration. On the left, a man with a large nose and glasses sits at a small round table with a glass and a plate. He says, "Um...this is THIN GRAVY!". Standing next to him is a woman with glasses and a dress, who replies, "Not no more!". She is holding a large rectangular sign that reads "WAMUST stop". The cartoon is signed "Moore" in the bottom right corner.

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

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