



NEWSBRIEFS

Roads closed

All southbound lanes on Joe Battle (Loop 375), including Joe Battle Blvd. (frontage), will be *completely closed* between the Rojas overpass and I-10 and the Rojas intersection to I-10. This closure will be in place Friday, April 13 at 7 p.m. and remain closed through Monday, April 16 at 6 a.m. Additionally, ramp closures will include:

- South to westbound ramp between Joe Battle Blvd. (south) and Gateway West;
- South to eastbound clover ramp between Joe Battle Blvd. (south) and Gateway East; and
- West to southbound clover ramp between Gateway West and Joe Battle Blvd. (south).

— Blanca Del Valle

Homestead tax cap

There's some misinformation circulating about what will be on the ballot in the upcoming May election. A spam email has been making its way across the state, warning voters that the homestead tax cap for people 65 and older is up for a vote. This simply isn't true. Here are the facts. In 2006, The Texas Legislature passed a law reducing property taxes for all homeowners. However, the legislation left out senior and disabled citizens whose property taxes were already "frozen." As a result, seniors and people with disabilities didn't receive the same reduction. AARP Texas tackled this issue during the 2007 Session, and the Texas Legislature passed a bill calling for seniors and disabled citizens to receive the same benefits from the tax reduction as other Texans. In May of that year, Texas voters passed the amendment extending property tax relief to seniors and disabled Texans. This problem was solved over four years ago. There is no constitutional amendment election scheduled in Texas in May 2012. Seniors and disabled Texans can rest easy, knowing their homestead tax cap is not at risk.

— Ashley Schmidt

No phones

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and TxDOT wants to encourage Texans to join the national effort to put away their phones while driving. Our goal is for people to not only put away their phones while driving for the month, but practice this all the time. In Texas, nearly one in four crashes involves driver distraction. Distracted driving is unsafe for drivers and others on the road and can result in traffic crashes and fatalities. Despite these dangers, drivers engage in potentially distracting secondary tasks 30 percent of the time their vehicles are in motion. In Texas, in 2011, there were 81,103

See BRIEFS, Page 4

The best way to be sure of a friendship is not to put it to the test.

— Quips & Quotes

Medrano going to HOSA Nationals

By Natalie Hay
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Three Fabens High School seniors competed at the HOSA state meet held in San Antonio from March 29-31. The students finished first in the Region 19 competition held earlier at Canutillo High School.

Senior Mayra Medrano qualified for the state meet after she placed first in the extemporaneous health poster event. "When they announced my name, I thought I heard second place," Medrano said. But when I sat back down they told me I had won first place – I couldn't believe it."

The competition consists of receiving an article and then creating a poster based on what is given in the article. "I couldn't really get prepared since one has to do the whole poster in three hours without knowing the topic before," Medrano said.

Her efforts in the state contest paid off. Her winning poster on sun safety and UV rays will send her to Florida in June for the National HOSA competition. That event will take place at the Orlando Disney Resort.

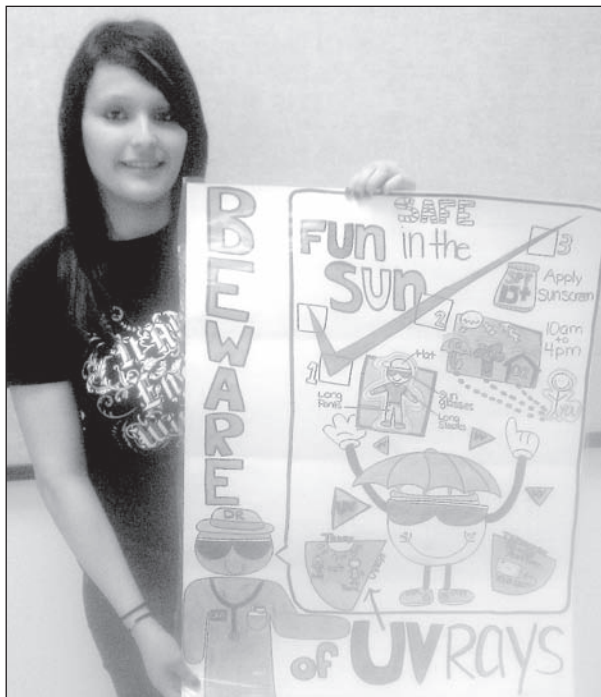
Edward Nuñez and Ashley Guillen qualified for state as a team in the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) event. "I was just stunned when I saw that I qualified for state," Nuñez said. "I looked at Ashley, my partner, and she just giggled and I couldn't help but smile."

Competitors are given an emergency scenario and must treat the patients in the most effective way possible.

"Mrs. Jimenez would give us several random case scenarios and we would just go for it," Nuñez said. "It was mainly a mental effort due to the fact that we had to memorize each and every step."

Both members of the team put countless hours into preparing for the regional competition.

"I had to stay after school and whenever I had free time, you could always find me



— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

QUICK DRAW – Mayra Medrano had just three hours to put together the poster that won her a spot in the HOSA Nationals this June in Florida.

studying," Guillen said.

HOSA advisor Olivia Jimenez also put in plenty of time preparing her students to advance to state. "We stayed after school to practice the EMT skills and went to Paul L. Foster School of Medicine to [participate in] a practice HOSA competition," Jimenez said.

Jimenez is proud of her students. All three seniors plan on pursuing a career in the medical field. Medrano specifically plans on becoming a medical nurse while Nuñez is interested in something fast paced. "In all honesty I kind of want to be an air medical technician paramedic so EMT is the first step in getting there," Nuñez said.

Though Nuñez and Guillen will not go to Florida, they did gain valuable experience and enjoyed their time in San Antonio.

Jimenez is excited with the results of the meets and hopes it will carry on through the national meet and upcoming years. "Each year I learn of more ways to help students compete in HOSA," Jimenez said. My goal is to have more HOSA members compete each year. I am very honored of the success of Fabens HOSA."

Union Pacific Mayor's lecture series highlights Nestor A. Valencia

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Nestor A. Valencia, who worked with eighteen El Paso mayors during his 50-year career in city government, will present an insider's view of past mayors' milestones as part of the El Paso Museum of History's current exhibit, *Awakening our Giants*, Celebrating our Firsts: El Paso's Mayors. The special presentation



Nestor A. Valencia – a self portrait.

is in conjunction with the museum's Union Pacific Mayors Lecture Series and will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 14, in the Seminar Room. The event is free to the public.

Valencia's lecture and visual presentation will highlight significant projects, programs and issues that were salient in the administrations of specific El Paso mayors, according to museum representative Katerine Vandertulip.

Valencia's career began in municipal government in El Paso in 1958 and lasted until 2008. During that time he worked with eighteen El Paso mayors on various community projects such as the Plaza Theatre, the Wyler Tramway, the Arts Festival Plaza and low-income housing projects.

Valencia is a professional urban and regional planner and artist. A native El Pasoan, he attended Ysleta High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art and Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Valencia retired as Director

See VALENCIA, Page 2

Attorneys offer free help with healthcare directives

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

El Paso County Attorney's Office, the University Medical Center of El Paso, and the El Paso County Medical Society, along with other community organizations, will celebrate National Healthcare Decisions Day (April 16) with two public events highlighting the importance of advance healthcare decision-making.

On April 13 and 14, 2012, volunteers from the organizations will be providing information and forms to individuals interested in talking to family, friends and healthcare providers about their medical wishes. During the events licensed attorneys will provide free assistance on how to execute advance directives (Medical Power of Attorney and Medical or "living" Wills).

The kick-off event is scheduled for Friday April 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the lobby of the University Medical Center, at 4815 Alameda. Starting at 10:00 a.m., through 6:00 p.m., local attorneys will offerer free assistance regarding advance care planning and advance directive forms.

The second event will be held on Saturday April 14, 2012 at Bassett Place Mall, 6101 Gateway Blvd. West, also from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Again, local attorneys will offerer free assistance regarding advance care planning and advance directive forms.

Advance directives are legal documents that allow you to convey your decisions about end-of-life care ahead of time. They provide a way for you to communicate your wishes to family, friends and health care professionals, and to avoid confusion later on.

A Directive to Physicians or Living Will tells how you feel about care intended to sustain life. You can accept or refuse medical care. There are many issues to address, including:

- The use of dialysis and breathing machines;
- If you want to be resuscitated if breathing or heartbeat stops;
- Tube feeding;
- Organ or tissue donation; and
- Blood transfusions.

A Medical Power of Attorney is a document that names your health care proxy. Your proxy is someone you trust to make health decisions if you are unable to do so.

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal explained that living wills, and medical powers of attorney help families avoid painful decisions during very difficult times.

"The absence of written directives may prolong invasive and often painful but ultimately fruitless therapies, or deny a patient treatment that could provide comfort," Bernal said.

"Every year our office promotes the use of advance directives with the expectation that fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions without any input from the patient. We also want healthcare providers and facilities to be better prepared to honor patient wishes when he or she becomes incapacitated," Bernal concluded.

Directive to Physicians and Medical Power of Attorney forms can be downloaded from the County Attorney's web page at www.epcounty.com/ca.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Thieves nabbed

The authorities are making headway in nailing individuals who steal from the Department of Veterans Affairs – and ultimately from veterans. Here are some of the top stories:

- A man in Tennessee has been arrested for fabricating and selling phony documents. He created military award certificates, honorable discharge paperwork and replacement documents, down to the actual agency seals used. In some cases he made up names of the document signers; in others he duplicated the signature. He collected a cool \$200,000 for making these reproductions of military documents. Not only was he selling to veterans who'd genuinely earned their awards and only needed replacement documentation, but he sold to the phonies, too. Sentencing will be this summer.

- Another pair pleaded guilty after cooking up a scheme that involved staffing at one of the VA's outpatient pharmacies – to the tune of \$8 million over seven years. It involved use of a Small Business Administration

certification and illegal gratuities.

- In Missouri, a man was found guilty of accepting gratuities from contractors for sending \$3.4 million worth of VA work their way. Others in the scam were nailed for creating a fake company that was supposed to be owned by a disabled veteran.

- In South Carolina a woman was nabbed for collecting more than \$37,000 in veterans survivor funds. She'd claimed benefits after marrying a veteran who then passed away. She neglected to notify the VA that she had separated from the veteran before his death and later remarried (when the benefits should have stopped), and even went on to claim educational benefits years afterward.

What's especially encouraging is that all of these happened this year. The sum total just on these cases alone is \$11 million plus.

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) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

STAGE PRESENCE – The Canutillo High School Stage Players put together a winning performance with their presentation of *I Remember Mama*. The cast and crew took time out for a group picture.

CHS actors continue award-winning tradition

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – You can win one championship title, and people will call you lucky. You can win two, and they can call you fortunate.

But what happens when you win 14 District 2-4A University Interscholastic League One Act Play titles in the span of 17 years?

You are called a dynasty. That's exactly what the Canutillo High School Stage Players have done. Last week, the Players won an unprecedented 14th district championship and will now advance to the area round of the playoffs in Midland this week.

The troupe presented *I Remember Mama* by John Van Druten. The play is a fictionalized account of a Norwegian immigrant family living in San Francisco at the turn of the 20th century.

"I have a great group of students who come into the One Act Play project wanting to give it everything they have," said Richard Jeffrey, the theater teacher at Canutillo High School. "It shows in our product that our team believes in this project and believes in the work we do."

The Players won the championship during the district competition at the Chamizal National Memorial Theater in Central El Paso. Schools from throughout the county participated.

Several Canutillo High School students received individual awards during the UIL competition:

- Victor Maldonado, best light technician;
- Selene Guzman, Victor Maldonado, Gloria Rodriguez, Jorge Mena and Randy Brown, best technical crew;
- Danielle Marmolejo, honorable mention All-Star Cast;
- Jasmine Talavera, Ashley Graves and Cory Friare, All-Star Cast; and
- Armando Ortiz, Best Actor.

LAURA STRATHMANN
for 388TH DISTRICT (FAMILY) COURT DEMOCRAT

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Valencia

From Page 1

of Planning for the City of El Paso after 33 years of service. He served as Vice President for Planning for the El Paso Community Foundation from 1991 to 2007. Since then, he has studied art at UTEP with various professors including Robert Massey, Vera Wise and Wiltz Harrison. More recently he has studied under the direction of Aleksander Titovets and David Leffel.

Valencia is a member of the Portrait Society of America and owns Valencia Art Studio where he and his wife, Xochitl, paint. His painting, "Mexican Revolution Soldadera" currently hangs in the El Paso Museum of History.

The Saturday program is made possible with a grant from Union Pacific. Audience participation is welcome. Please RSVP as space is limited.

For more information or to reserve a space, please contact Sue Taylor at 915-351-3588 or email at taylorstl@elspasotexas.gov.

FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
Open rate – \$25 for 25 words, \$15 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate – \$25 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

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Minimum 50 issues for \$36. Delivery via 1st class mail.

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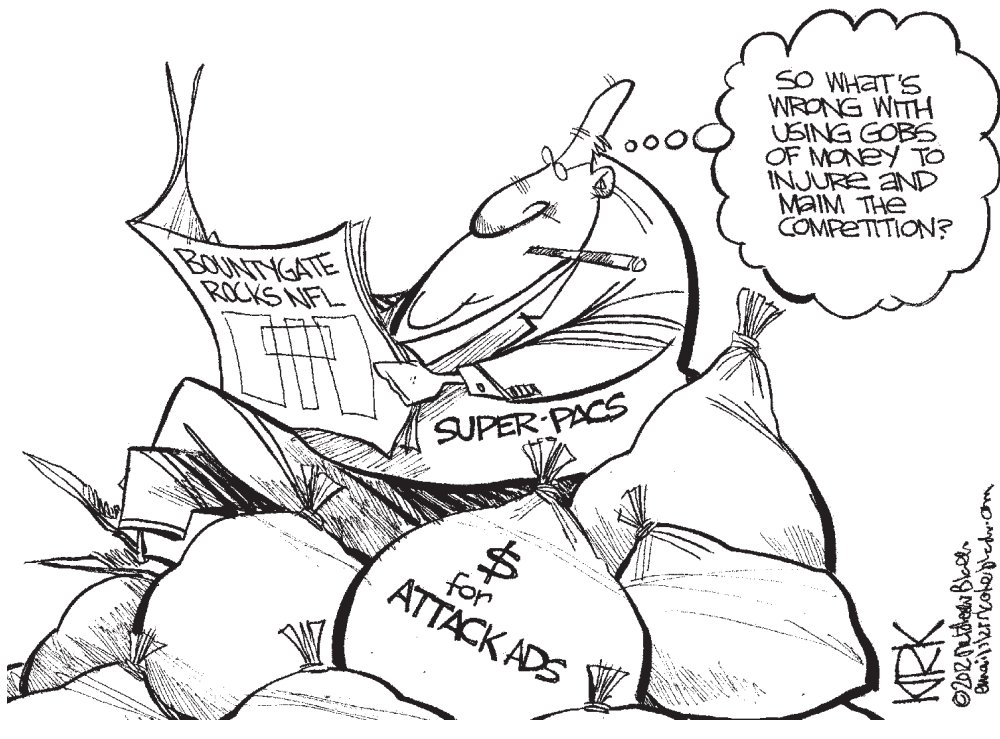
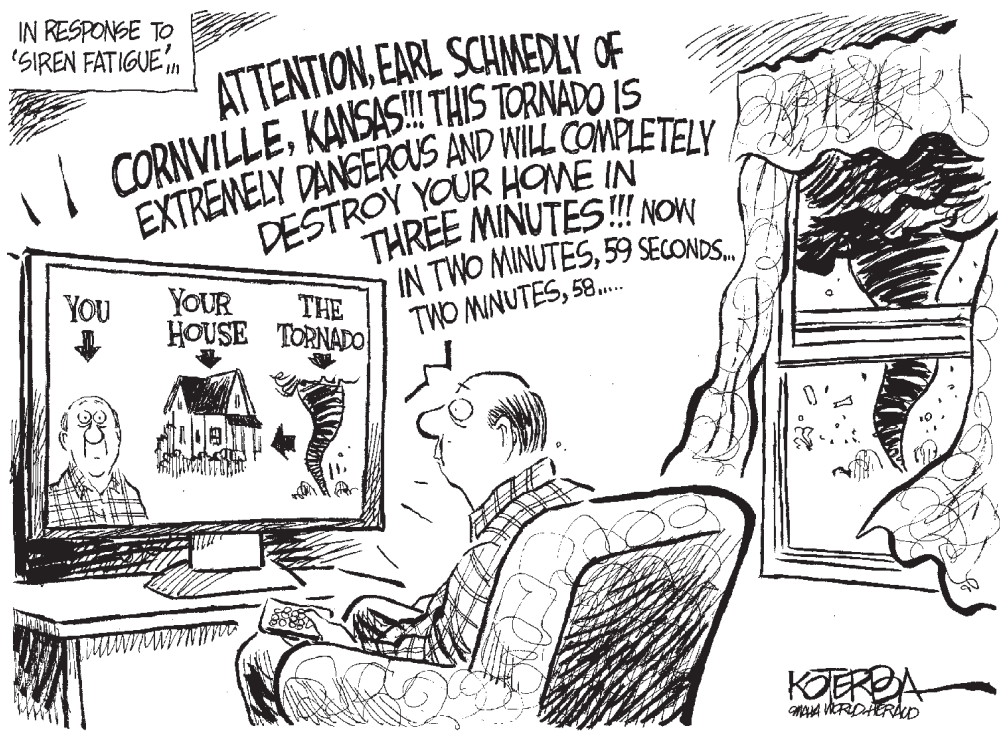
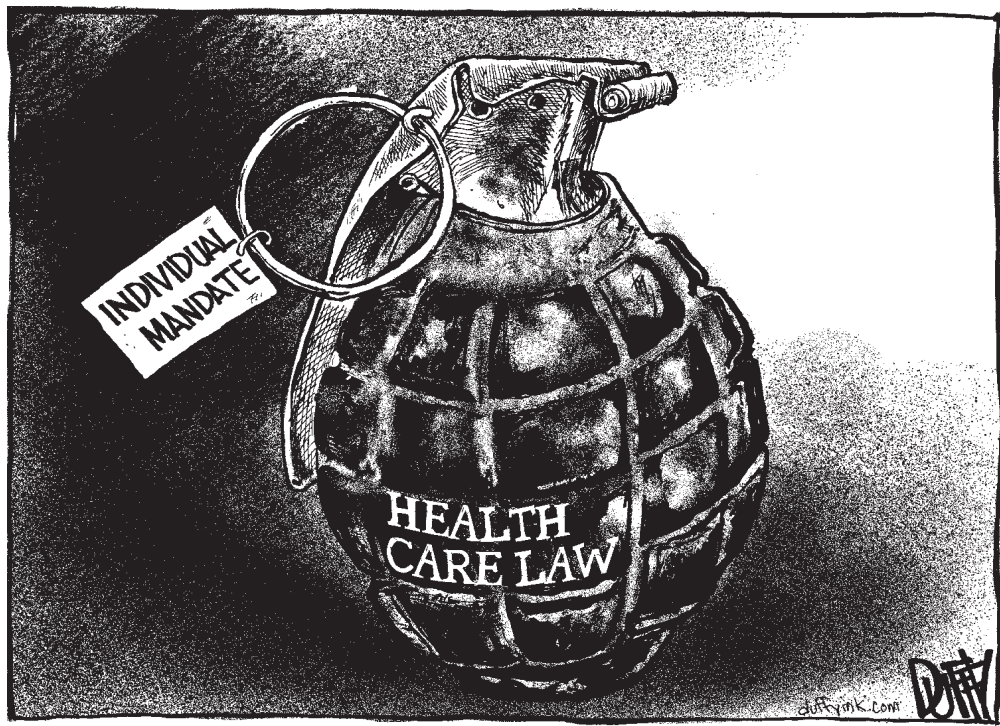


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Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda



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...IN CORPORATE TAX RATE

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Unintended consequences

Hola, mi gente. On more than one occasion, I have shared with you stories about the unintended consequences that have arisen from the passage of certain laws. Inevitably, a bill with the best intentions is worded in such a way that it opens the door for some to interpret the law in a way that is not in the best public interest.

In this session, two stand out as paramount examples.

Back two sessions, the voters approved a property tax exemption for life to veterans who were 100% disabled. What was not done then was to extend that same exemption to the surviving spouse of the veteran after death. In 2009, the effort to include the spouse was unsuccessful.

In the last session, 2011, the same amendment came before the legislature and was passed. The voters approved the exemption. Finally, the spouses of deceased veterans eligible for the exemption would now be honored in the same manner; or so it seemed.

The intent of the law was to cover spouses retroactively. The wording was not specific enough for the exemption to be granted to surviving spouses of veterans who passed away before the effective date of the law.

The authority rests with appraisal districts to grant the exemption by their interpretation. The local office is not granting the exemption to spouses of disabled vets who died prior to the effective date of this bill. It should be granted; the local taxing entities can influence the appraisal district but apparently are not going in that direction. It is my understanding that the final word is in the hands of the Attorney

General who will hopefully rule on that soon.

Another bill that created unintended consequences had to do with the election dates of municipalities. Although the bill was quite comprehensive, the part that is causing problems locally and in other parts of the state has to do with term limits and the city charter.

Municipalities may, by voter approval, set the terms of city government elected officials to 2, 3 or 4 year terms. Many are set for 3 years and with an election in May of even years.

Certain wording in a bill that passed this past session was so vague that some have interpreted the law to allow suspension of a charter for the resetting of election dates and terms. The legislature certainly has the authority to pass laws regulating local governments "notwithstanding" (regardless of) an existing charter. But in this case, too much was not addressed so some are extending terms regardless of what the charter allows.

My office has spoken with the Attorney General's office, Secretary of State office, the Legislative Council (which drafted the bill), the author of the bill, the elections committee, and the Municipal League with none offering any definitive answer as to the propriety of changing terms without a charter change.

I have been informed that a hearing by a joint Elections/Defense and Veterans Affairs committee will take this up after the primary election. I have already put on the table the need for an answer to the question regarding the charter and terms.

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



- Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

HEALTHY GOALS - From left are Mario Macias, Maria Fraire, Laura Rodriguez, Alejandra Diaz, Arisbe Aguilar, Sandra Carreon, Jacqueline Rojas and Elizabeth Saenz. They were in the HOSA State competition in San Antonio from March 28-31.

Future San Eli health pros compete at state

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO - Andrea Ceron, health science technology education teacher at San Elizario High School, can often be seen surrounded by her students during lunch, walking around campus, and monitoring clinical rotations at different sites. From March 28-31 Ceron led eight of her students from San Eli to San Antonio to compete in the Texas Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference.

The San Elizario High School HOSA students who qualified for the chance to participate in the different contests at the state level were: Maria Fraire, Laura Rodriguez, Alejandra Diaz, and Mario Macias in the group health education category; Elizabeth Saenz and Arisbe Aguilar in career health display; Sandra Carreon in the medical art poster contest; and finally, Jacqueline Rojas

in concepts of health care.

These HOSA students are enrolled in the health science technology education program at the high school which exposes them to careers in the medical field and prepares them to obtain certifications such as a Pharmacy Technician or Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). According to Ceron, HOSA enhances what is learned in the classroom by providing those students who are serious about pursuing a career in the medical field opportunities to increase their knowledge, skills and leadership development.

"It (HOSA) is a stepping stone to their introduction and preparation for a health career and the skills that they will need to be successful professionals," Ceron added.

Even though the HOSA club meets only twice a month, Ceron stated that students form a close-knit bond with her and with each other because they spend a lot of time studying together and working on community

Morales, Alva represent Clint ISD in debate competition

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST MONTANA – Clarissa Alva and Martyn Morales, seniors at Mountain View High School, placed second at the area UIL Cross Examination competition in February advancing them to UIL State Cross Examination Competition held in March in Austin, Texas. In addition to placing in the local UIL competition, the team had to compete in eight rounds of interschool competitive debate as well to qualify for state.

This is their first year debating and it is the first time a team from Mountain View High School qualifies to the state competition.

“It is a big accomplishment for these students to have qualified for the state competition during their

first year of debating,” said Christina Luna, MVHS Debate Coach.

Alva and Morales competed in the El Paso area against schools such as Americas, Coronado, Franklin, Eastwood, and Ysleta prior to the UIL event. At the Chapin debate tournament they advanced to quarterfinals and took 5th place out of 19 teams. At the Burges Debate Tournament they garnered second place out of 22 teams that competed. The Cross Examination tournaments begin with three preliminary rounds. Then depending on speaker points and wins teams are selected for quarterfinals. From that point the teams are placed in brackets similar to the way a basketball tournament is run.

“As for preparing there is a lot of hard work and time involved,” said Luna. “All of this is done after school since we do not have a debate class.”

The students must research and write a case that will be debated. They also must have a box with evidence to debate against other teams. The team also participates in scrimmages and practices speaking style to prepare.

This is their first year debating and it is the first time a team from Mountain View High School qualified for the state competition. Alva and Morales reached the second round of competition at the state level.

San Eli

From Page 3

service projects throughout the year. She is not surprised that HOSA students excel in their other classes at school as well with many of them eventually becoming top ten students in their graduating class as a result of their commendable work ethic and dedication.

Senior and HOSA president Sandra Carreon is one such student who has shown the commitment and determination that Ceron refers to. She qualified for state competition last year but was unable to participate motivating her to work harder this school year for another opportunity to compete.

Although no San Elizario student advanced to the HOSA National Leadership Conference to be held in Florida over the summer, they were excited nonetheless to travel out of town not only to compete in their respective categories and attend a leadership training but to also enjoy the sights and sounds of San Antonio with their fellow HOSA classmates.



– Photo courtesy Clint ISD

WHAT'D YOU SAY – Martyn Morales, left, and Clarissa Alva represented Clint ISD in the state UIL debate competition in San Antonio in March.

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF CLINT, TEXAS

FAIR HOUSING STATEMENT

The Town of Clint hereby declares its support of fair housing practices. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the locality to bring about, through fair, orderly, and lawful procedures, the opportunity of each person to obtain housing without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental handicap, marital status, parenthood, or age.

It is further declared that such policy is established upon the recognition of the inalienable rights of each individual to obtain housing and further, that denial of such rights is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the locality and constitutes an unjust denial or deprivation of such inalienable rights which is within the power and the proper responsibility of government to prevent.

The locality has a Fair Housing Policy that may be examined and copied by interested groups or individuals during office hours. The month of April has been proclaimed “Fair Housing Month”; copies of the official proclamation are available at the Clint Town Hall between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

POLICY STATEMENT ESTABLISHING NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON HANDICAPPED CONDITIONS

The Town of Clint announces that it has adopted a policy of nondiscrimination based on handicapped conditions concerning access, participation, and benefit of programs and activities operated or conducted by the locality. This policy is in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 24 CFR, Part 8, “Non-discrimination Based on Handicap in Federally-Assisted Programs and Activities of HUD,” dated June 2, 1988. Interested individuals or groups may obtain copies of this policy statement by calling the Town Clerk, who has been assigned to coordinate compliance with this policy and may be contacted at (915) 851-3146.

POLICY STATEMENT ON PROHIBITING THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Town of Clint announces that it has adopted a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement personnel within its jurisdiction against an individual engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations. This policy is in compliance with Section 519 of Public Law 101-44, 1990, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act. Copies of this policy statement may be obtained by calling the Town Clerk at (915) 851-3146.

COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

In order to comply with the requirements of the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) and of 10 T.A.C. Section 178.1 and Section 178.2, the locality has citizen complaint procedures intended to provide a timely written response to all complaints made against its proposed or completed TCDP efforts. Responses to complaints will be made within no more than ten (10) working days. A copy of the complaint procedures can be obtained upon request at (915) 851-3146. The established complaint procedures are an element of the local Citizen Participation Plan, and meet the requirements of USHUD Section 504 (24 CFR) concerning nondiscrimination based on handicapped conditions.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

The Town of Clint is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer.

Dale Reinhardt
Mayor

West Texas County Courier
April 12, 2012

Classified Ads

LEGALS

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

TUESDAY MAY 1, 2012

FULL LINE FOODS MILK/DAIRY, BEVERAGE/ SNACK, MEXICAN FOOD, BAKERY BID NO. 050112-035 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME

NON-FOOD ITEMS BID NO. 05012012-035 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME

Proposal packets may be picked up at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 NE G St., Fabens, TX 79838 between 8:00am

and 4:00pm Monday through Friday.

Sealed proposal packets will be received at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 NE G St., Fabens, TX 79838.

WTCC-04/05/12
04/12/12

City of Socorro

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 5:00 p.m. at a Special Council Meeting on April 17, 2012, 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) ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE PERMITTING, FEES, LICENSING, PENALTIES AND INSURING OF EACH FIREWORKS STAND SELLING OR OTHERWISE DEALING

IN OR WITH FIREWORKS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS AND WITHIN 5,000 FEET OF THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS.

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 (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., upon request.

Manny Rubio
City Clerk

WTCC: 04-12-12

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Request For Proposals:

Sealed bids/proposals to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

THURSDAY APRIL 26, 2012

WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICE RFP NO. 042612-051 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME

Proposal packets may be picked up beginning, Thursday, April 12, 2012 at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 NE G St., Fabens, TX 79838 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Gilbert Alarcon, Asst. Supt. of Finance at (915) 765-2600. Note: Proposals are also available at district's website: www.fabensisd.net.

Sealed proposal packets will be received at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 NE G St., Fabens, TX 79838.

WTCC-04/12/12
04/19/12

We shouldn't need to bail out millionaire athletes

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

With the economy the way it is, most Americans have had to learn to live within their means.

Some have had to stick to watching games on television because they can no longer afford to throw down the kind of money it takes to attend live events.

And it gets a whole lot worse when you figure the cost for tickets, parking and snacks for a family of four or five.

All Americans have been affected by higher gas and food prices, but it's the middle-income people, the \$30,000 to \$60,000 households that are really struggling.

Those making more money can afford to spend more and those making less can receive enough in entitlements to keep them afloat.

Anyway, people that are struggling to make ends meet in the country have to do so by cutting down on the luxuries they'd love to have but cannot afford.

That's why I have absolutely no remorse for someone like Warren Sapp.

Though I was always a big fan of his on the football field, I cannot defend his lifestyle off it.

The former Tampa Bay defensive tackle made a living by instilling fear in the hearts of NFL quarterbacks and running backs.

For 13 years, Sapp made a name for himself by tackling ball carriers and for his larger-than-life persona.

Now he's being talked about as the guy who filed for bankruptcy for debts of \$6.7 million.

Along with owing a number of creditors, he also owes back child support and alimony.

It doesn't bother me that a guy is paid millions for playing a sport. What I really disrespect is his unwillingness to live within his over-inflated means.

Why is Sapp filing for bankruptcy? Well, maybe it's because rather than coughing up the money for his kids, he owned 240 pairs of Jordan athletic shoes worth almost \$6,500, a \$2,250 watch and a lion skin rug worth \$1,200.

He also reported losing his 2002 Super Bowl ring with the Bucs and his 1991 national championship ring from the University of Miami.

I believe he also misplaced his dignity and common sense somewhere along the way.

People go nuts every month or so when the lottery goes over \$10-million. They went insane last week when the Mega Millions pot reached \$640-million.

To put things in perspective, 99.99% of us will never make a million bucks in our lifetime. Well, if we're lucky enough to make \$30,000 a year for 40 years – we'll accumulate \$1.2-million.

Some players are fortunate enough to make \$10 to \$25-million a year.

Sapp, who made \$50-million over the last eight years of his career, is now broke.

I don't care who you are, if you make \$50-million – your family should be taken care of for several lifetimes.

It doesn't seem fair does it? Everyday people lose their jobs, their cars and their homes because they couldn't get the help they needed.

And yet a multi-multi-millionaire like Sapp goes out and frivolously blows it all in a few short years and expects to receive the protection of the federal government.

He'll get that protection and others like him

will follow suit.

It's dangerous when you mix tons of money with a stupid 22-year-old. Most of them have too much time on their hands so they invent things to spend their money on.

Most of the time it consists of women, drugs, jewelry, weapons, vehicles, an entourage and unfortunate decision-making after 2 a.m.

Sapp's current average monthly income is \$115,881, and includes \$45,000 for a final contract payment with Showtime; \$48,000 for an appearance with CCA Sports; and \$18,675 as an advance for a book deal.

Imagine making that kind of money and still not being able to pay your bills.

What I don't understand is the fact that many of these players (or millionaires) end up complaining about the amount of money they're getting.

It doesn't matter the sport, it always seems that players are unhappy with their contracts. Remember, if they make \$30-million, it's probably because they asked for \$60-million.

Anyway, I don't know if it's a crime to squander away that kind of money away – but like any other business that wastes their way to insolvency – they shouldn't be bailed out.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

A real underdog story

One of my favorite things about visiting Philadelphia is the humor of the city's denizens.

For unlike, say, New York, Los Angeles or Chicago, towns that have a lot of out-of-area transplants, you can be reasonably sure that the person you're talking to in the bleachers at a Phillies game is from Philadelphia. The same goes for Baltimore, Detroit, Cleveland and any other number of cities that seem to be just outside the reach of larger

metropolitan areas. They've got a bit of an underdog mentality.

But Philadelphia's caustic brand of "I'm not joking" jokes strike me as being funnier – if you're into that sort of thing. They say that sarcasm is the last vestige of the weak-minded. Philadelphia must be a bunch of geniuses then because it's their first vestige.

I'm reminded of a time I was at a wedding reception in a very charming, historic hotel in

downtown Philadelphia.

"Nice place," I said.

"Yeah? You like this place?"

the guy waiting in line next to me for ice cream says to me. "It's the birthplace of Legionaire's Disease. Did you know that?"

"No, I did not know that."

"Well think about that before you touch any of the doorknobs."

I don't really know what Legionaire's Disease is, and I'm sure it's been eradicated by now, but I do not touch doorknobs in Philadelphia anymore.

The week of the wedding, "Rocky Balboa" was released, and like any good consumer of Americana, I went to see the film. Nobody in Philadelphia likes to discuss Rocky – at least not too much. It's like talking about cheesesteaks... they'd rather talk about the roast pork sandwiches. Still, I couldn't resist talking about it to three of my friends as we stood around the cotton candy maker. The consensus

was they didn't like the movie. I loved it, however.

"How could you not like that movie? It had Spider Rico in it!" I exclaimed.

"Yeah, well, it had a little too much Spider Rico in it for my taste," replied one of the guys.

Since most guys have about four go-to topics of discussion (and the weather is not one of them), in a few moments we mentioned the word "pizza." The consensus usually is that pizza in Philadelphia sucks. But pizza is an annoying subject in any city because people get very territorial about it. And, for whatever reason, the guy standing behind us thought we were a friendly bunch and tried to get into the discussion.

"Right? I know. The pizza in Philadelphia is terrible! I'm from New York. I know."

The eyes of the guy next to me narrowed.

"You're not from New York," he

said, barely glancing at the other guy. "You're from Schenectady."

The guy was stunned. "I am from Schenectady. How did you know that?"

The Philadelphian turned to him, looked him straight in the eye and said, "your pizza tastes like Spider Rico [went to the bathroom] on a roof shingle."

The guy was on his heels and I spit out my lemonade in laughter.

"Now hike back to Union College."

Well, I don't know much about Schenectady, N.Y. I bet they have some good pizza up there somewhere, but I do know one thing: They've got a great hockey team up there at Union College. Made it to the finals this year at the NCAA tournament.

Now that's a real underdog story.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

Farris beats field at Tailwind Invitational

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Victorious at a track meet last weekend in Albuquerque, distance runner Elliott Farris now has his sights set on the UTEP Invitational track meet April 14.

With a time of 8: 44, Farris took first in the 3,000-meter race in a field of 14 runners. One of the runners was a member of the UTEP track team.

In a previous interview with the County Courier before the New Mexico race, the young runner had expressed confidence in victory. Expecting to win, he'd said "I'll be ready for that one."

He was.

"He ran smart to outsmart the others," says his coach, Franks Munene. "He not only ran smarter, but he ran stronger. It's not how fast you run, but rather how smart you run," Munene points out.

Farris, 19, exudes confidence about his victory at the New Mexico Tailwind Invitational. He reports he crossed the finish line

four to five seconds ahead of the second place runner.

"I was fairly confident I could win. I wanted to get a fitness level on myself – to see just how fast I was.

Without a hint of boasting in his voice, Farris adds, "I ran a very good race. It was easier than I thought.

"I am very excited; I am getting better. I am improving very quickly."

Beyond the UTEP Invitational, Farris looks to compete April 20 in the 54th Annual Mt. Sac Relays in Walnut, CA.

The Mt. Sac relays website say the event is "where the world's best athletes compete."

After Mt. Sac, the focus will be competing in the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon, in June.

Munene, who has been coaching Farris for nearly three years, is optimistic about the youth's future.

"I wouldn't close the door (on his competing) in London," he said in an earlier Courier story. "He is developing well; he is ahead of schedule and is improving by leaps and bounds."



Elliott Farris



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Canutillo ISD golfers are champs

SIX SHOOTERS – The Canutillo High School boys golf team – from left, Adam Menchaca, sophomore; Isaiah Williams, senior; Robert Simental, senior; Patrick Espalin, junior; and AJ Canales, senior – has won the District 2-4A golf championship for the sixth year in a row. They will represent the area in the regional tournament in Abilene on April 16-17.

– Kim Guzman

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



LARRY THE SECURITY COP MISTAKENLY USES HIS ELECTRIC RAZOR INSTEAD OF HIS TASER TO SUBDUED AN ASSAILANT.

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: My husband has had a cough that seems to have lasted forever. He saw several doctors. Each gave him a different diagnosis and different treatment. None worked. The last doctor believed he had whooping cough and tested him for it. He did have it. The doctor said the cough would go away. He put him on antibiotics, but he said they wouldn't shorten the cough. Why did he give them to him? Isn't whooping cough a thing of the past, and wasn't it a children's disease? - K.P.

a resurgence and spreading across the country. Some infants have died from it. One reason is that many parents have opted to not have their children immunized out of fear of vaccine complications. Vaccines have been one of medicine's greatest achievements in prevention of diseases. Fear of them is unsound and dangerous.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: On seven occasions, I have had severe pain in my right big toe. It hurts so bad that I feel like going to the emergency room, but I feel stupid about going for toe pain. My uncle has gout and diabetes. Can you have gout without having diabetes? What should I do? - J.P.

Whooping cough - pertussis is the medical name - used to be a frequent childhood illness. It is highly communicable, and in some infants, it proves to be fatal. The vaccine practically eliminated it. Adults get it, too, even if they were vaccinated in childhood. The vaccine loses its power in five to 10 years. Booster shots are necessary to shield people from the bacterium that causes the illness.

At your next attack, you should go to a doctor immediately. You can have gout without having diabetes. They're not related.

The typical course of whooping cough in a youngster consists of a week where the child appears to have cold symptoms. Then the child experiences explosions of a hacking cough that can be so violent that the child vomits after coughing. When the cough calms and the child takes a deep breath in, a high-pitched whooping sound is heard. The cough disappears gradually in a month. When treated early with the antibiotics erythromycin or azithromycin, the course of the infection is shortened.

The pain of gout is severe. You are not the least bit stupid for seeking relief from it. The attacks you have sound like gout. You've had seven attacks; you're likely to have more. You can obtain effective medicine to stop them.

The pamphlet on gout explains what gout is and how it is treated. To obtain a copy, write: Dr. Donohue - No. 302W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 3283-6475. 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.

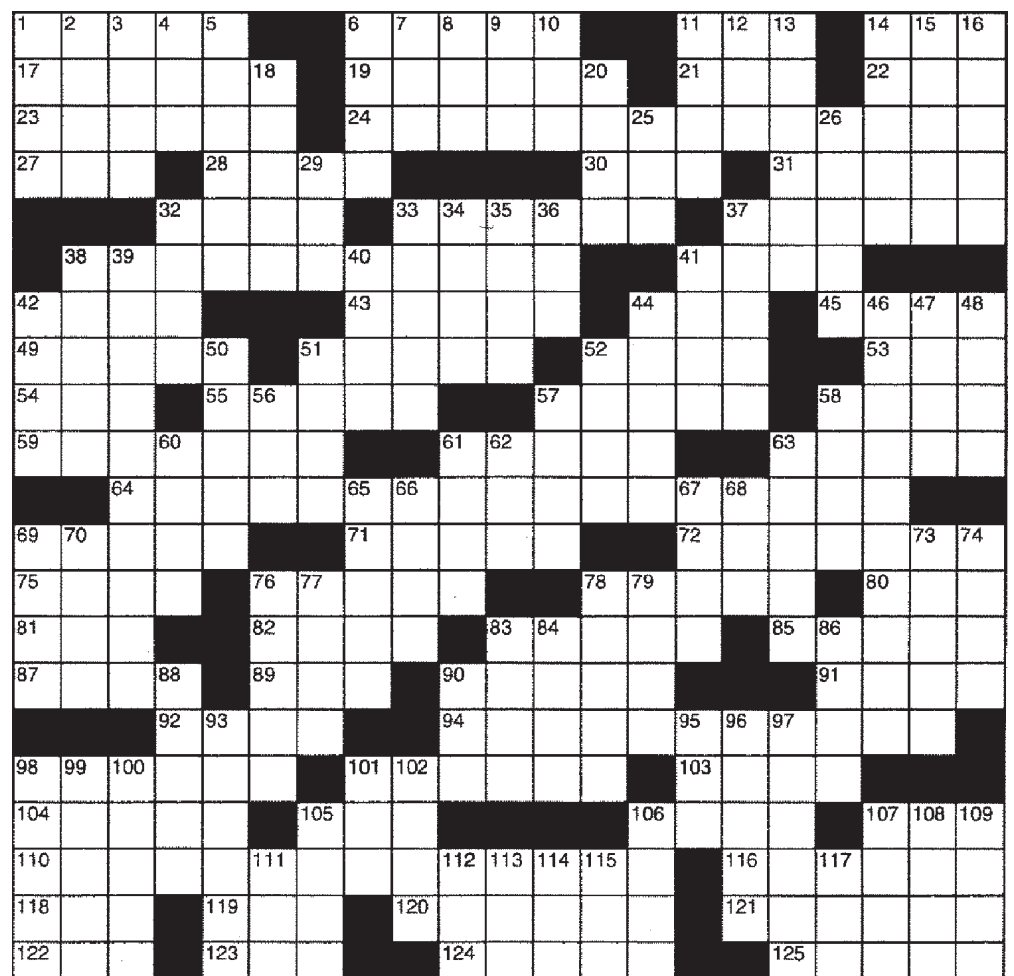
Adult whooping cough is different. No whooping sounds are made. Adults cough and cough, and may do so for months. They are usually seen far too late for antibiotics to do any good. However, the antibiotics are prescribed to stop the spread of the whooping cough bacterium. Whooping cough is making

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) 2012 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

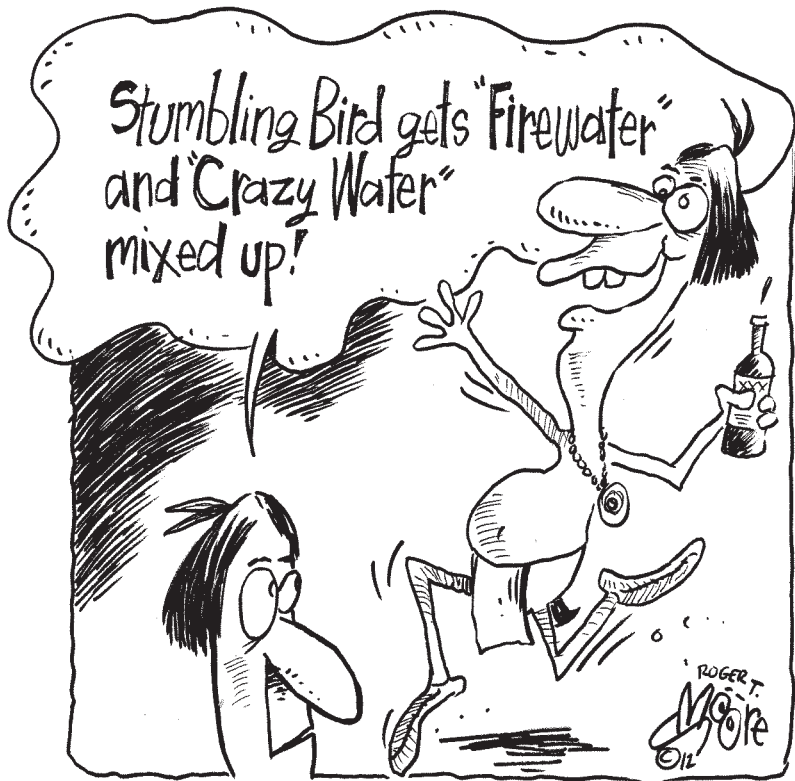
Super Crossword

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 58 Explorer Hedin | 118 Out _ limb | 29 Buddhist movement | 74 All ears |
| 1 "Dracula" prop | 59 '68 Tom Jones hit | 119 Gumshoe | 76 Too experienced | 77 Had bills |
| 6 _ mignon | 61 Shatter | 120 Update a story | 32 Merriment | 78 Bit of a beach |
| 11 Roast beef au _ | 63 _ suit | 121 Ida of "The Sea Wolf" | 33 Beer storage? | 79 Be bombastic |
| 14 Enjoy the Alps | 64 Part 2 of remark | 122 Fashion monogram | 34 Humorist | 83 Disparage |
| 17 Tropical treat | 69 Raid | 35 Cry of concern | Bombeck | 84 Palo _ , CA |
| 19 Classical hunk? | 71 Sinuous dances | 36 Dress size | 37 Like a peach | 86 Cast |
| 21 A Turner | 72 Jihad | 37 Like a peach | 38 Photo finish | 88 Scout rank |
| 22 Another Turner | 75 Verve | 38 Photo finish | 39 Narrow-minded | 90 Presidential nickname |
| 23 Toed the line | 76 Posada of baseball | 39 Narrow-minded | 40 One of the Marches | 93 Trattoria treat |
| 24 Start of a remark | 78 Thin porridge | 40 One of the Marches | 41 Rub out | 95 Heifer or hen |
| by 38 Across | 80 Thurman of "The Avengers" | 41 Rub out | 42 Nullify | 96 Last |
| 27 Prom wear | 81 Deighton or Dawson | 42 Nullify | 44 Swindle | 97 Telescope sighting |
| 28 Idle | 82 Blows away | 44 Swindle | 46 Sausage type | 98 Croce's Mr. Brown |
| 30 Fury | 83 Isaac's mom | 46 Sausage type | 47 Precinct | 99 "Hee Haw" host |
| 31 "Garfield" cartoonist | 85 Remove varnish | 47 Precinct | 48 Lack | Buck |
| 32 Shalit or Siskel | 87 Lug | 48 Lack | 50 Bendix role | 100 Mount Everest's locale |
| 33 Ned of "Deliverance" | 89 Morning moisture | 50 Bendix role | 51 " _ Breaky Heart" ('92 hit) | 101 Absent |
| 37 Stir up | 90 Comic Sherman | 51 " _ Breaky Heart" ('92 hit) | 52 Wharf | 102 Grumpy guy |
| 38 Speaker of remark | 91 " _ It a Pity?" ('70 song) | 52 Wharf | 56 Prepare to feather? | 105 Singer Springfield |
| 41 Carrey title start | 92 Got older | 56 Prepare to feather? | 57 Seeks change? | 106 Alzado of football |
| 42 Windmill part | 94 Part 3 of remark | 57 Seeks change? | 58 Fluctuate | 107 See 106 Across |
| 43 Violinist Mischa | 98 Yearned | 58 Fluctuate | 59 Flung | 108 Pro _ (free) |
| 44 Singer Scaggs | 101 Titania's hubby | 59 Flung | 61 Peevishness | 109 Perpetual lab assistant |
| 45 Cabbage concoction | 103 "Java" man? | 61 Peevishness | 62 Genetic info | 111 Soho snack |
| 49 Aquatic animal | 104 Tom of "Adam's Rib" | 62 Genetic info | 63 Vends | 112 PBS benefactor |
| 51 Bodybuilder Charles | 105 Woody herb | 63 Vends | 65 Flung | 113 Accounting abbr. |
| 52 " _ Show" ('94 film) | 106 With 107 Down, "Chocolat" actress | 65 Flung | 66 Warm embraces | 114 Tiny |
| 53 Private pension | 107 Kimono closer | 66 Warm embraces | 67 "No dice!" | 115 " _ of You" ('84 hit) |
| 54 Robert of "Quincy, M.E." | 110 End of remark | 67 "No dice!" | 68 Farm tool | 117 "Tarzan" extra |
| 55 Restive | 116 Like some recordings | 68 Farm tool | 69 Crafter's cloth | |
| 57 Trumpeter Berigan | | 69 Crafter's cloth | 70 Toast topper | |
| | | 70 Toast topper | 73 _ acid | |



Moore Texas by Roger Moore The spring water in Mineral Wells was once thought to cure insanity...hence the name "CRAZY WATER".



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: If I call 1-800-772-1213, can a Social Security representative take my application for Medicare prescription drug help over the phone?

A: If an interviewer is available when you call the 800 number, he or she can take your application over the phone. If an interviewer is not immediately available, we can schedule a telephone appointment for you. For the fastest and most convenient way to apply for Medicare prescription drug help, go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp.

Q: I prefer reading by audio book. Does Social Security have audio publications?

A: Yes, we do. You can find them at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs. Some of the publications available include What You Can Do Online, How Social Security Can Help You When A Family Member Dies, Apply Online For Social Security Benefits, and Your Social Security Card And Number. You can listen now at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Q: My dad, who is receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray will be coming to live with me. Does

he have to report the move to Social Security?

A: Yes. An SSI beneficiary must report any change in living arrangements within 10 days after the month the change occurs. If the change is not reported, your dad could receive an incorrect payment or he may not receive all the money that is due. Also, your dad needs to report his new address to Social Security so that he can receive mail from us. Even if benefits are paid by direct deposit, we need to be able to get in touch with him. He can report the change by telephone, mail or in person at any Social Security office. Keep in mind that failing to report a change to Social Security could result in incorrect payments that may have to be paid back or a penalty deducted from SSI benefits. Just call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). You can get more information in the booklet Understanding SSI, at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
By Samantha Weaver

- It was beloved American humorist Will Rogers who made the following sage observation: "You can't say civilization don't advance, for in every war they kill you a new way."

- Elkhart, Ind., has the dubious distinction of being the RV capital of the world.

- According to a survey by the magazine Vegetarian Times, if you're a vegetarian, you have 3 percent of the U.S. population for company. Only half of 1 percent of Americans are vegans, consuming no animal products at all, while 10 percent say they follow a "vegetarian-inclined" diet.

- The Hawaiian alphabet has only 12 letters.

- In 1743 one Dr. John Cohausen wrote a book called "Hermippus Redivivus," in which he described how anyone could live to the ripe old age of 115 - a particularly impressive feat in the 18th century. His recipe for a long life involved burning gum olibani, styrac, myrrh and a variety of herbs, then inhaling the fumes, while at the same time "imbibing the exhalations of the nearest little girl."

- According to the law in the town of Chester, England, if you catch a Welshman within the city walls after the sun has gone down, you may shoot him with a longbow.

- Those who study such things say that the asteroids are so rich in minerals that one cubic kilometer of one of these heavenly bodies would provide the materials to make enough steel to supply the world's industry for more than a decade, with more than a century's worth of nickel, to boot.

- The shortest complete sentence in the English language is "Go."

- If you're like half of all Americans, you live within 50 miles of your childhood home.

Thought for the Day: "If you live to the age of a hundred, you've got it made, because very few people die past the age of a hundred."
- George Burns

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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.

	x		-		23
÷		+		-	
	+		+		15
x		x		x	
	-		x		25
7		10		15	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4 ★★ HOO BOY!

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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: K equals D

NT B ECRXJ PT JORL HCMMOK

PTT B AOSW XMOAOS HMPW,

N'K LBW ZJBZ'K EO B

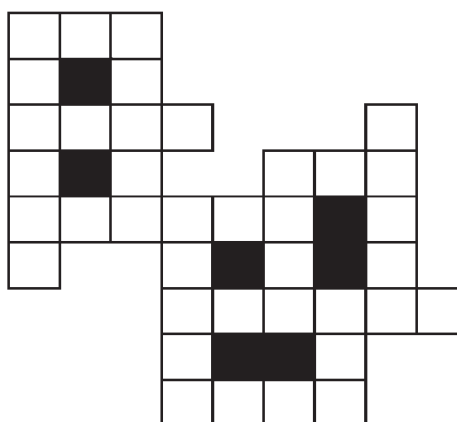
XJNXFOR XPCH.

Answer Page 4

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- AMN
- LIBMEN
- ♥ TREBU
- ♥ RABG
- ♥ TARNEL
- ♥ GTU
- ♥ EMNA
- UHMTR
- ♥ UTB
- BOYNGE
- ANEEM
- NOGT



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.

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