



NEWSBRIEFS

Children's health

A regional celebration of the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day will take place on May 9, 2012 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta. More than 300 recipients of mental health services and their families are expected to participate in this event open to the public. We will have entertainment, food, and informational booths from mental health agencies. The celebration was created by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health, and that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth. Last year, the Awareness Day focused on building resilience in young children dealing with trauma. 1,000 communities across the country will be observing the day.

— Esteban Zubia

Texas jobs

Texas added 10,900 jobs in March, marking the 20th consecutive month of growth in the state's total nonfarm employment, which now stands at 10,741,700 positions. Texas added 245,700 jobs over the year for an annual job growth rate of 2.3 percent. Private sector employers in Texas added 8,000 jobs over the month, totaling 300,600 private sector job gains over the year for an annual growth rate of 3.5 percent. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 7.0 percent in March, marking the seventh consecutive month of decline. March's unemployment rate was down from 7.1 percent in February, and from 8.0 percent a year ago. Texas' unemployment rate is significantly below the national unemployment rate of 8.2 percent. "The Texas economy continues to show strength," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "We've remained below the national unemployment rate for 63 straight months, and Texas continues to show private sector job growth."

— Lisa Givens

Crime Stoppers

A man robs an eastside convenience store with a handgun and escapes in his vehicle, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On Tuesday afternoon, April 10, 2012, just after 4:00 a.m., the suspect entered the Circle K store located at 10100 Montana and walked up to the counter. He then produced what the clerk believed was a handgun, and demanded money from the cash register. The suspect is described as an Hispanic male in his 20s or 30s, about 5'8" tall, wearing a blue vest jacket over a white t-shirt, blue baseball cap, blue jeans, and black

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There is no future in any job. The future is in the person that holds the job.

— Quips & Quotes

Rivera rewarded for Alzheimer's research

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

CLINT – Curious about her mother's question about the possibility of finding a natural cure for Alzheimer's, Clint High School student Leanna Rivera decided to try and find out. After beginning her research last year and obtaining research and surgical certifications, Rivera began her project with assistance from Dr. Eddie Castaneda, Chair of the UTEP Psychology Department.

"Once I spoke to Dr. Castaneda about my research, he made the UTEP lab and rats available for my research," said Rivera.

Rivera induced Alzheimer's in laboratory rats with the drug scopolamine and studied the effects of caffeine on the memory. Of the more than 500 entries, Rivera's research garnered the Gold Award in Biological Sciences at the El Paso Sun Country Regional Science and Engineering Fair in February. In May, she will go on to compete against students from over 60

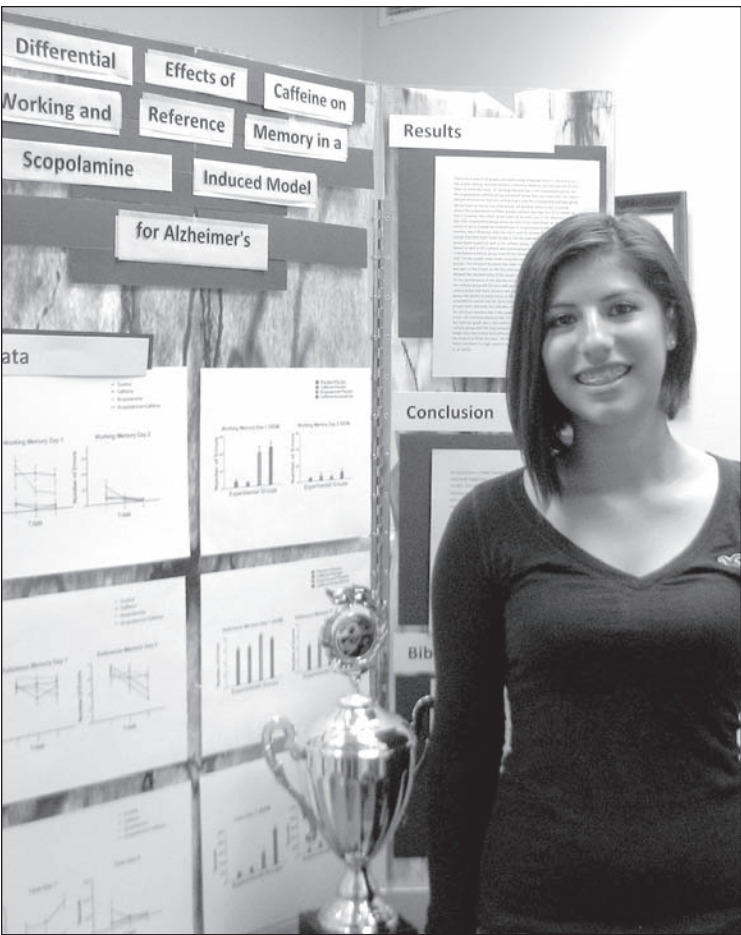
countries at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, PA.

In preparation for international competition, Rivera presented her project to officials at the Exxon Mobil Texas Science and Engineering fair in San Antonio at the end of March. She was also there to offer support to five other Clint ISD students who competed at the state level fair. Sergio Benitez, Dora Munoz, Yajaira Acosta, Jose Range and Hazel McKenzie advanced to the state competition after placing in the regional science fair. Yajaira Acosta won a special award from the US Navy and Marine Corps Office of Naval Research for her project.

Because of Rivera's research, Castaneda is now making the UTEP psychology lab available to any high school student that needs it for their research.

"Dr. Castaneda was a great inspiration to me during this process," she said.

Now due to her research and experiences with the functionality of the brain, Rivera hopes to become a neurosurgeon.



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

SERIOUS STUDY – Leanna Rivera's award winning project has earned her a trip to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair this May.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

A FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN – Robert Reyes was diagnosed with autism when he was six. One of his frustrations with autism is getting to meet and make friends. Autism can make social situations difficult for both the affected person and people unfamiliar with the effects of autism.

San Eli ISD backs autism awareness

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Watching how a pop tart develops from the production line or learning about how fast food is assembled fascinate 12-year-old San Elizario student Robert Reyes. This Garcia-Enriquez Middle School student may demonstrate an interest in seeing real world applications of engineering concepts but in his own words, he just really loves to learn about how stuff works. Robert is an A/B honor roll and gifted and talented student who admires Einstein and Edison and other great minds not

only as a result of a shared passion for science but also because they, like him, might have had an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Robert was diagnosed with autism at six years of age but his parents, Roberto and Rubi Reyes, began to see the signs of the disorder when their son was a newborn. At first it started as just persistent crying followed by difficulties with speech and failing to make eye contact with other people. The Reyes family quickly immersed themselves in learning everything about autism, going to all appointments as a unit, asking countless questions,

See AUTISM, Page 5

TEA completes fingerprinting of teachers, district personnel statewide

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced recently that it has completed the fingerprinting of almost 700,000 school district employees, both certified and non-certified, as mandated under the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 9, which was passed in the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007.

The legislation was enacted to ensure the safety of all children, teachers and staff in Texas public schools. SB 9 required that the TEA fingerprint all certified educators and non-certified school district employees during a period beginning 2008 and ending in 2011. In total, 399,509 certified educators and 293,773 non-certified school district employees were fingerprinted, according to TEA reports.

"The process went over very well," stated Jeannie Tomasek, manager of the fingerprinting division. "Our staff worked closely with school district and charter school personnel at every district in the state to ensure success."

According to Tomasek, the entire process would probably not have gone as smoothly without

the commitment of each and every school district and charter school and their willingness to work with TEA staff.

Chad Wadsworth, with L-1 Enrollment Services (the company that was contracted by the Texas Department of Public Safety to digitally scan the fingerprints), stated that the Texas education project was one of the largest on-site fingerprint project ever done.

The SB 9 law required fingerprint-based criminal background reviews for certain school employees. The legislation required the reviews on: certified educators, substitute teachers and aides, non-certified employees hired on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and charter school teachers and other professionals.

The law also required that some individuals, while not subject to the fingerprinting check, were required to undergo a name-based background check. Those included: non-certified employees hired before Jan. 1, 2008, contract employees hired before Jan. 1, 2008 who have direct contact with students, student teachers, and volunteers (excluding parents and guardians, those accompanied on campus by



See PRINTS, Page 5

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Finally, a bank does the right thing

Chase Bank is helping wounded warriors own free homes.

What an amazing statement, given the grief that banks have given homeowners in recent years. But it's true. Chase hooked up with three nonprofit groups – Military Warriors Support Foundation, Operation Homefront and Building Homes for Heroes – to provide homes as a means of apologizing for the mistakes made in foreclosing on homes owned by active military and veterans. Specifically, within five years, Chase has vowed to provide a mortgage-free home to 1,000 wounded veterans.

Chase, also known as JPMorgan Chase, didn't stop there.

- Lower mortgage interest rates: Eligible borrowers will have a 4 percent interest rate while on active duty and for a year after that. The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) limit is 6 percent.
- Improved affordable loan program: If you're having problems making payments and want a mortgage modification, Chase will go above and beyond the new Home Affordable Modification Program.

- No foreclosure for active duty personnel.
- Employment: In the next 10 years, Chase will coordinate the hiring of 100,000 veterans, working in tandem with other corporations.
- Education: Earn a Technology Education certificate via Syracuse University, courtesy of Chase, if you were active duty after Sept. 11, 2001. Study from home, as the program will be online. Check www.veterans.syr.edu for more details.
- Access: To make sure someone is available to handle veteran matters, it's opened a hotline that runs 24 hours a day. For mortgage questions, call the Chase Military Services Hotline at 877-469-0110.

I'm not a fan of banks, but when one steps up and does the right thing, it needs to be encouraged. For a look at all Chase is doing, go online to ChaseMilitary.com.

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

GETTING ALONG – Canutillo ISD students staged a play to help promote acceptance of different cultures as part of the No Place For Hate program in the district.

Canutillo ISD meets hate head on

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Few things promote understanding and acceptance like understanding different cultures.

In that spirit, and as part of the No Place For Hate anti-bullying campaign, nearly 400 students from Canutillo Middle School were treated to a fine arts presentation aimed at showcasing the different ethnic and racial cultures that make up their community.

The multicultural program featured dance numbers, choir performances, plays and even a mariachi concert, all with messages of acceptance and diversity.

“We are a family in this school district and it’s important to show one another that families take care of each other ... no matter what we look like, where we come from, or how we were born,” Canutillo Middle School Principal Dr. Monica Reyes-Garcia said. “If we respect each other and celebrate our differences, there won’t be a need for a program like No Place For Hate in the future.”

No Place For Hate is a program from the Anti-Defamation League that focuses on curbing bullying in schools. The Canutillo Independent School District is the only district in west Texas to be a certified No Place For Hate. All students sign a contract that states that they will not bully other students, and that they will report any bullying to school authorities.

Each school in the district has also committed to organize at least three activities each year that promote the message of understanding and diversity. The event at Canutillo Middle was one of those events. The fine arts performances, though, also included students from Canutillo High School and Northwest Early College High School. The performances included skits, dances and music from cultures in Africa and Latin America.

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PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

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

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Homesteader News, Inc.
Est. 1973

Member Texas Community Newspaper Association



– Photo by Amber Jipson

BLOW, BABY, BLOW – From left, Miguel Medrano, Bella Mata, Fransisco Vasquez, Omar Lozano and Benny Rosales joined 480 other Fabens students attempting a world record bubble blow.

World record attempt blows up

By Natalie Hay
Special to the Courier

FABENS – On April 5, 2012 Fabens High School’s Independent Studies class set out to break a world record and be entered into the Guinness Book of World Records (GBWR).

The goal was to blow more than 304 bubble gum bubbles simultaneously.

“We chose this record because it seemed like it would be the easiest to work with,” junior Ruben Guadian said. “We also wanted something that would bring everybody together for one big cause.”

All students from FHS and Cotton Valley Early College High School were released to Wildcat Stadium on Thursday afternoon. “We had expected around 700 to 800 students to participate, so we needed somewhere big enough to hold everybody together,” said Guadian.


Unfortunately, only a total of 480 students arrived at the field, lowering the number of possible bubble blowers. “We were disappointed with the number of people that showed up,” sophomore Kevin Leyva said. “We were expecting a lot more people to go out and help us break the record.”

Fewer than expected people was only one of the obstacles the class faced. The first challenge was making people aware of what was going on. “We made posters and posted them up around the school giving students an idea of what was going on,” sophomore Jennifer Saucedo said. “We used posters

QUIZ TIME:

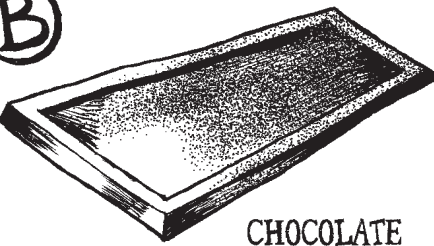
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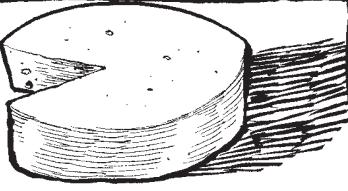
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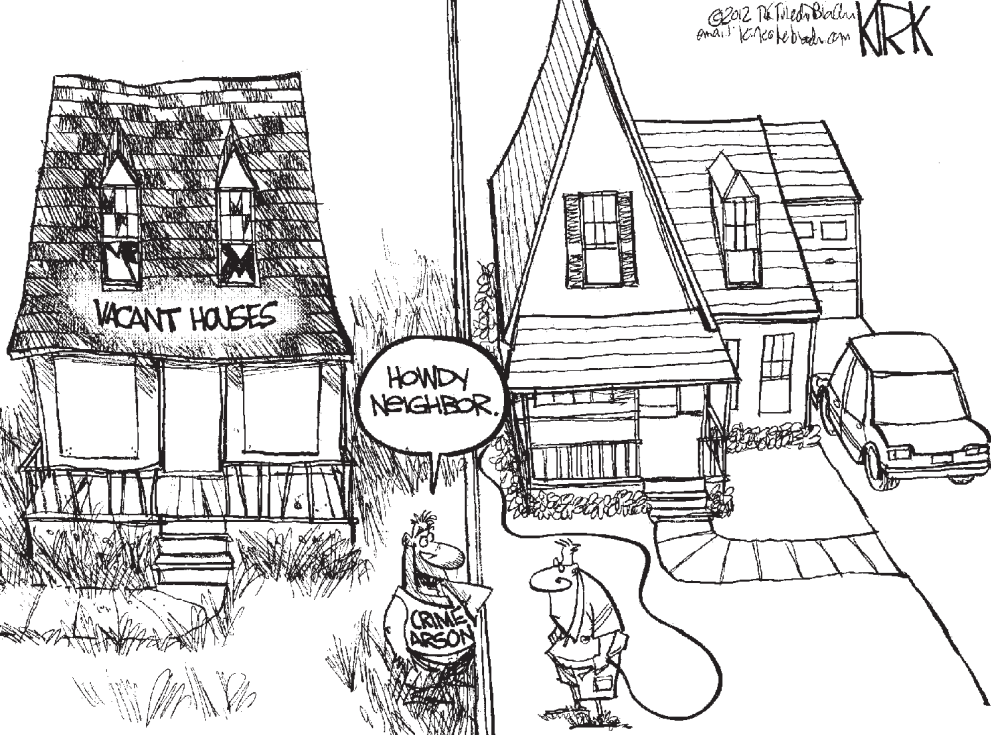
COOKIES

D



CHEESE

ANSWER: ALL OF THEM



Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Medicare money management

Hola, mi gente. Over the past years, my office has worked on many issues relating to Medicare. The most public had to do with Medicare Advantage Plan agents improperly soliciting seniors. I passed a bill that pretty much put a stop to that.

Everyone knows that Medicare is one of many programs that give seniors and certain disabled persons the security health blanket they need to live. If every penny of Medicare went specifically to the intended health care, I don't believe there would ever be a crisis of funding.

An article on the CNN website caught my eye about that very subject. According to the article, funding for Medicare will fall short and only about 87% of full costs will be paid starting in 2024. It gets worse by 2050 when Medicare will only pay 67% of full costs.

There are some obvious options such as cutting more reimbursements for the highest income patients or raising the payroll deduction from 2.9% to 4.25%. The farther you are away from retirement, the less attractive the latter alternative becomes. But it should seriously be considered. Imagine the problem of indigent care for seniors or disabled if the reimbursements from Medicare drop substantially.

One thing that is never, ever discussed is the cost of having Medicare on the open market. The amount that insurance companies make from Medicare must be substantial. The evidence is everywhere, especially during the open enrollment period.

How many times have you seen advertising where the secret to a fulfilled life is to get the latest roundabout scooter; and it is all free because Medicare pays for it. The year-round advertising by these companies for "free" scooters is also paid by Medicare. No, there is no form to fill out to get reimbursed by Medicare, but the costs are embedded in the cost for the scooter.

Shouldn't a Medicare expense be determined by a doctor? When the application for one of those scooters goes in to the company and then to the feds, does anyone check to see if it would be in the best interest for the applicant; or, perhaps it might be better for them to do more walking?

Not to be overshadowed, there are the Advantage Plans that take a federally funded and managed system and makes it a market driven system. When a program is market driven, the first thing that has to happen is to establish a gross profit margin. This margin, usually between around 30 to 35%, does absolutely nothing for those who depend on the Medicare reimbursements for their health. This margin provides the money for all business expenses needed to market the Medicare Plans. And boy are there costs.

Have you ever seen the slick mailers that are mailed multiple times and by multiple companies to prospects? People who design, write drafts, proof read drafts and print the mailer all make big time bucks.

The marketed products are further promoted by agents who perhaps themselves have marketing people who target potential customers. The commissions paid for securing patients are not trivial.

What I have shared with you is just the tip of the iceberg. They tell us that the free market is the best place for Medicare. What they don't tell us is how much of the Medicare dollars sustain private companies.

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

Attempt

From Page 2

because a lot of the time, people don't really hear what was said on the announcements, so we wanted a way to be sure everybody would know about it."

The class also found out that in order for the count of people to even be in the running to qualify for the record, the bubble had to be blown and held for 30 seconds. "This is when we started getting nervous," senior Josue Sarinana said. "Blowing a bubble is one thing, but holding it for 30 seconds is another."

In order to make the task easier for participants, the class tested roughly 15 different types of gum in order to find the best one. "The gum needed to be soft enough for a bubble to be blown, but strong enough to stay blown for the 30 seconds. And after all of the testing, we found that Hubba Bubba bubble gum was the best choice," Sarinana said.

After overcoming the main challenges, the team had to find a means of record in order to send an accurate count to the GBWR.

"Our school's media journalism class agreed to record the entire event to send an official video of the attempt," Sarinana said. "We also had our yearbook class taking pictures and smaller videos on their Flip cameras."

Despite the effort and organizational time, the record attempt fell short by about 30 people.

"Even though we didn't break the record, I'm proud of the fact that the students that came out to help us were willing to take their time and support us," Guadian said. "It really shows that some people want to come together to show unity in our school."

The idea of breaking the record came from Independent Studies class teacher, Linda Caudillo.

"When I was given the class, I wanted the students to work with logistics," Caudillo said. "The whole organizational process and problem-solving methods that the students faced throughout this ordeal were all part of the class."

The class will not try to break the record again this year, but may possibly work to try and break a different record next year and the years to follow.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS

FAIR HOUSING STATEMENT

The City of Socorro 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 Socorro City 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 City of Socorro 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 City Clerk, who has been assigned to coordinate compliance with this policy and may be contacted at (915) 859-1297.

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

The City of Socorro 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 City Clerk at (915) 859-1297.

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 that ten (10) working days. A copy of the complaint procedures can be obtained upon request at (915) 859-1297. The established complain 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 City of Socorro is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer.

Trini Lopez
Mayor

West Texas County Courier
April 26, 2011



– Photo courtesy of Corporation for National and Community Service

A new program, titled Together for Tomorrow, will identify and support exemplary programs underway that have strong capacity to manage school-community partnerships and demonstrate progress in the ABCs. It is designed to support the work of principals, teachers, school staff, parents, community organizations, and volunteers.

New initiative expands community engagement in low-performing schools

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

NATIONAL—A national initiative to promote a community culture where education improvement is viewed as everyone’s responsibility took center stage recently to spotlight existing and spur new community engagement in turning around persistently low-performing schools.

The new program, called Together for Tomorrow, was unveiled by the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

Together for Tomorrow is designed to support the work of principals, teachers, school staff, parents, community organizations, and volunteers. The initiative will identify and support exemplary programs underway that have strong capacity to manage school-community partnerships and demonstrate progress in the ABCs.

According to program officials, the efforts will focus on community and family partnerships’ ability to boost key measurable student outcomes—Attendance, Behavior, Course Performance, and College Access, the ABCs of improving low-performing schools.

Supporting services will include providing guidance on how to harness existing federal, private and nonprofit funding streams, in addition to connecting local programs with technical assistance opportunities.

“Together for Tomorrow is aimed at changing the relationship between schools and community partners so everyone feels a shared

responsibility to improve low-performing schools,” stated Joshua DuBois, special assistant to the President and executive director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. “Every child deserves an education that will enable them to succeed in a global economy. Faith and community groups are critical partners in this all hands on deck moment.”

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the initiative in Orlando, Florida, where its Memorial Middle School is one of six demonstration sites, acting as examples for effective community participation in school intervention efforts.

“Community and family involvement can be the make or break factor in successfully turning around low-performing schools,” said Duncan. “Together for Tomorrow will provide real-life examples of how to effectively transform our struggling schools and build a community-to-community support system that can help take this critical work to scale.”

In the coming weeks, the U.S. Department of Education will officially launch the initiative with a series of partnership events and a national challenge through Challenge.gov.

Following the official launch, regional Together for Tomorrow events will be held in demonstration site locations and other areas across the country in urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities.

Communities interested in details and updates on the Together for Tomorrow challenge should email edpartners@ed.gov or visit www.ed.gov/edpartners.

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CryptoQuip

Answer

If an old elfin troll began going out on the town a lot, would he be a metro-gnome?

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Prints

From Page 1

a district employee, or individuals volunteering for a single event). TEA plans to continue fingerprinting both certified educators and non-certified educators who have not previously been fingerprinted under the provisions of SB 9 as these individuals are hired. Applicants for teacher certification are required to submit their fingerprints for a background check as part of the process to receive certification.

Briefs

From Page 1

shoes. He made his escape in a white 4-door vehicle with black door handles and tinted windows. The vehicle may have been a Ford Escort. If you have any information at all about the suspect in this case, or the location of his vehicle, please contact Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You may also text CRIME1 (no space) and your tip information to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

– James Klaes

Wanted

Michael Fernandez, 24, is this week’s Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive is an individual who continues eluding capture. He is 5’7” tall, weighs 180 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. Fernandez has multiple tattoos on his arms and torso. He also has a piercing on his cheek. On August 8, 2011, EPPD Officers were called to a residence in the 6900 block of Escondido in El Paso in reference to an assault in progress. Upon Authorities arrival, it was discovered that minutes earlier, Fernandez was arguing with his then female acquaintance and began throwing items and damaging the home. As his rage escalated, a third party tried to intervene to calm him down. Fernandez violently assaulted this person. Charges were filed and Fernandez was arrested on the night of the incident. On October 14, 2011 he was arrested on an unrelated drug charge. He has since failed to show for court for either arrest. Fernandez has an extensive criminal history. He knows he is wanted and continues to hide. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Fernandez they can contact crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of Fernandez.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar

Mission ECHS students give real-life insight to educational philanthropists

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO – Students at the Mission Early College High School in the Socorro Independent School District shared their experiences and gave insight into the benefits of the school’s innovative program with a group of educational philanthropists who visited the school on April 4 as part of their Urban Education Study Tour in the El Paso area.

Forty-six participants on the tour hosted by Grantmakers for Education heard first-hand from three Mission ECHS students and one graduate of the school. The students spoke about how their unique high school is shaping their educational experience.

“I did not know rigor until I came to this school,” said sophomore Kassandra Huhn. “They have taught me to organize my time. My agenda is my best friend and I love my laptop.”

SISD superintendent Dr. Xavier De La Torre welcomed the group to Mission ECHS, which has about 495 students enrolled. The graduates of the early college high school earn a high school diploma and a college associate’s degree.

“We have a lot of great success stories because of Mission Early College High School,” De La Torre said. “This is a commitment that the Board of Trustees and I continue to support.”

The purpose of the Urban Education Study Tour was to explore grant-making strategies for improving education in El Paso,



– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

Alma Garcia, program officer with Communities Foundation of Texas and a participant in the Urban Education Study Tour, opens the presentation at Mission Early College High School.

Newark and Oakland. Participants in the tour represented organizations from across the U.S., including Texas, California, Washington, Oregon, Indiana, New Jersey and New York.

“The entire model was very inspiring, particularly how it works for low-income students,” said Nancy Lee, senior program officer in education for the Evelyn and Walter

Autism

From Page 1

and trying to learn tips from the different therapists that worked with Robert over the years. In the beginning increasing their own knowledge about autism proved difficult because literature on the subject was limited to English and some professionals could not translate their assessments to Spanish.

“It was also difficult to have therapists coming in regularly working with Robert every day and we had to be patient and not get frustrated because we did not see the results that we hoped for,” Rubi Reyes added.

While the Reyes family has devoted years to educating themselves to assist in their son’s development, ASD can be difficult to understand because it encompasses a group of complex disorders. That is why in April, the San Elizario Independent School District’s Special Education Department organized a series of activities to support Autism Awareness Month. Each school placed blue cups in the chain link fences bordering the campuses with the phrase “Know Autism.” Additionally, each Monday all district employees received brief emails providing basic information regarding autism to help increase awareness of the disability.

The prevalence and increasing rate of autism in children makes it all the more vital that everyone, especially educators strive to learn more about how to better serve

students with the disorder according to Cesar Trevizo, father to an 8-year old with Asperger Syndrome (AS). Trevizo’s son, Cesar Isaac, was diagnosed at age three, almost one year after he stopped talking and communicating. Cesar Isaac is now a chatty second-grader who excels in math, loves playing Wii sports games, and hopes to have a lot of money when he grows up.

Trevizo and his wife Minerva remember going through a difficult time and feeling a sense of desperation when Cesar Isaac was in kindergarten and they would watch him be separated from the other children. However, with time, experience, and a day by day approach they learned to address their son’s needs and make suggestions to the professionals helping Cesar Isaac by observing what methods were the most effective for him. He responded positively, for instance, to animal assisted therapy involving horses and aquatic therapy done in a swimming pool that he was referred to by district therapists.

The Trevizos realize that obtaining that type of treatment on a long-term basis could be costly but facets of those experiences could be incorporated by anybody to assist children with autism. For example, creating a calm atmosphere, repeating instructions frequently, and keeping to a schedule are a few things that support students’ behavioral development and treatment. The Trevizo family believes that constant contact with teachers, establishing and following routines, along with patience and endurance have been key to helping

their family comprehend autism. Trevizo also added that children with AS like his son have an amazing ability to learn something perfectly but at the same time might have trouble understanding figurative language so it is important that people speak to them clearly and sequentially if possible.

When Trevizo first told his son that he had AS he seemed to shrug it off and he himself stated that the only problems he has at school is not having people believe some of the things he says. While Cesar Isaac may not fully comprehend the extent that autism is present in his life, his parents do and know that it is a difficult but not an impossible challenge to face. They hope that their son will be independent, continue to study and work hard so that he is able to lead a normal life in the future.

For the Reyes family who has always had high expectations for Robert, they expect him to continue performing to the best of his ability not allowing autism as an excuse to limit him from accomplishing anything he wants to. Robert has big dreams of becoming an astronaut, or owning a factory someday but he really just wants to be like his dad. He also knows that he is a little different from other students because it takes him a lot longer to learn something and points to math as being his hardest subject at school. However, since autism is characterized in different degrees including difficulties with social interaction, Robert is most frustrated by how hard it is for him to make friends and talk to other kids.

Hass Jr. Fund in San Francisco, about Mission ECHS. “It defuncts the myths about what these students can accomplish.”

Principal Leticia Guerra and curriculum coach Nellie Ugarte also spoke to the group about the school’s background and the strategies that make the school successful.

“We have 23 students from the first cohort to earn their associate of arts degree in the middle of their junior or the beginning of their senior year. They coined the phrase ‘early early’ graduates,” Guerra said. “We went from 23 to 36 and now to 38 ‘early early’ graduates.”

Guerra also highlighted the strong partnership with El Paso Community College and the University of Texas at El Paso. “We couldn’t do all this without our partnerships and collaborations. This is a team effort,” she said.

Grantmakers for Education strengthens education philanthropy in the United States, according to the organization’s website. Its tools, programs and services allow the 280-member organizations to share best practices, learn of new developments, and advance alignment and collaboration among funders to improve educational outcomes and opportunities for students.

While in El Paso, the tour group also visited Burleson Elementary School in the El Paso ISD, heard from the principal of the Northwest Early College High School in the Canutillo ISD and Mexico border bureau chief at Belo Television Angela Kocherga and visited Sparks Colonia.

“I want to be friendly and I want everyone to know that I am friendly,” Robert stated.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that currently about one in 88 children has been diagnosed with some form of ASD. Just because Autism Awareness Month concludes at the end of April learning about the disorder and how it affects individuals differently and knowing what sets of behaviors to look for presents an opportunity to better understand and serve children with autism at any time of the year.

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U.S. General Services Administration

El Paso needs to learn how to say yes to improvements

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There’s been a lot of talk about an all-or-nothing bond issue that will probably go to a vote in November.

The \$600-800 million bond promises to make improvements to certain roads and museums, libraries, parks and a zoo expansion.

And all that sounds pretty good.

But the bond also includes some huge projects like a multi-purpose sports and entertainment arena, a Triple-A baseball stadium if we’re able to lure a team here, a soccer stadium if we’re able to get an MLS franchise and some badly needed improvements to the Sun Bowl, if we can get a long-term commitment that there will continue to be a “Sun Bowl” game.

I’ve got to be honest and confess that I get very excited every time there’s talk of improving the city I love.

However I’ve really come to realize, over the last 30 years, that you’ll get a thousand

reasons and excuses about how things can’t get done here.

I’ve heard the word “no” uttered many different ways. I’ve heard it phrased articulately and abruptly. But the same word always comes out of El Paso’s mouth – “no.”

It’s funny, it was about three decades ago that El Paso’s buddies, Phoenix and San Antonio and Albuquerque and Tucson and Austin started saying “yes” to such phrases like expansion and development and progress and quality of life.

And they knew that they would have to pay slightly more taxes to get it done. But they also knew that the money would come back in droves in the way of tourism and corporate relocation dollars.

And it has. All these cities are where many El Pasoans now go to school or go to work or go to play – to get away from El Paso.

If that doesn’t tell you anything (El Paso residents) then nothing ever will.

Imagine what a multi-purpose arena will do for the city. It always seems like the best concert schedules always go from Albuquerque to Austin and never stop in El

Paso.

Of course they don’t. There’s no venue here with the size and the acoustics needed to host a big-name concert.

If El Paso built something that housed about 18,000, think of the sporting events, the entertainment and the conventions that could be hosted here.

El Paso would suddenly be a player that could stand on its own instead of what it is thought of by other cities, a second-tier town thankful for a hand out.

I don’t know how close we are to ever obtaining a Major League Soccer franchise but if we did that would be great for the city.

And this is coming from someone who really hates soccer. But I know that a major-league anything would be great for the city and I would support it.

It seems much more realistic that El Paso will eventually receive a Triple-A baseball team. And let’s face it, El Paso may not be a major-league city yet, but we’re certainly Triple-A caliber.

The Sun Bowl press box and concession stands are in dire need of some upgrading. Our

little stadium video screen is just like the one in my living room – it needs to be upgraded to meet 2012 standards.

All the amenities the players now enjoy at the Larry K. Durhan Sports Center next door were not extended to the stadium itself – and it shows.

To be frank, I’m sick and tired of the El Paso mentality.

Nobody ever wants to talk about it. But let’s be honest with ourselves if nothing else – El Paso has always had that “feel sorry for me” attitude instead of that “let’s go get it done” mind-set.

I don’t know where it started. I don’t know how it gained momentum from a saying to a way of life.

But every El Pasoan should have the pride for once in their lives to stand up and say, “let’s get this done.”

Let’s start a new paradigm for El Paso. Let’s give our children a reason to want to stay here. Let’s give ourselves the satisfaction that we are the ones who changed this city.

We have a real chance to get it done in November.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Wooden, Tesla and the Edison question

It wasn’t a sporting match, at least not in the traditional sense, but the battle being waged between Thomas Edison and his former intern Nikola Tesla during the late 1800s was worth every bit as much – and more, considering the stakes – as any league championship or trophy. For they were fighting for the right to provide electricity to everybody.

That’s right – believe it or not, kids, there really was a ship named Titanic and somebody really did invent the light-bulb technology that now allows the Chicago Cubs to play baseball until well after the sun has set. If this is too much for you to grasp, grab another Old Style and DVR another Leonardo DiCaprio flick.

Anyway, Tesla, the experts on

the matter say, had the better plan for a universally agreed upon standard of providing electricity. Edison, however, won the day and implemented his standard, not because he had better technology, but because he had a better sense of what the marketplace wanted to hear.

“Anything that won’t sell, I don’t want to invent,” Edison said at the time. “[Our invention’s] sale is proof of utility, and utility is success.”

And as far as muscling out Tesla? Edison was less than sentimental.

“Hell, there are no rules here,” Edison said. “We’re trying to accomplish something!”

Edison died in 1931. One year later, an English major named John

Wooden graduated from Purdue. An All-American guard for the last three years of his collegiate career, Wooden seamlessly entered the collegiate coaching world and achieved success never before – or since – heard of. Both men were American titans. Wooden and Edison achieved things that parents all over the world wish for their kids, they saw nothing and made something. I mean, big stuff.

But Edison came from a time when your boss could box your ears in with a two-palm smash (which actually made him part deaf). And though Edison created things that would go on to shape our lives, securing 1,093 patents in the process, Wooden defined it in ways that Edison could never have

dreamed of... a career that produced 1,207 wins from his high-school days and beyond.

To put it in simple terms, Edison was able to pinpoint a need and then make plans to fulfill it in ways that tended toward the “throw it up there and see what sticks” method. Wooden was far more principled in his approach. Granted, he wasn’t creating light from electricity or reproducing sound on wax, but his legacy actually might surpass Edison’s in ways that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

Next week: Wooden’s Seven Rules to Live By

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

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LEGALS

Rio Grande Council of Governments

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regional Review Committee Meeting

The Upper Rio Grande Regional Review Committee (RCC) will be conducting a Public Hearing to discuss and select the objective scoring factors that will be used to score Texas Community Development Block Grant applications at the regional level. **The meeting will be on May 9th at 1:30 p.m. at the Van Horn City County Library, 410 Crockett Street, Van Horn, Texas 79855.** Any individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact Raul Gonzalez at (915) 588-1375 or at raulg@riocog.org at least two (2) days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

WTCC: 04-26-12

City of Socorro

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. at a Regular Council Meeting on May 3, 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) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AMENDED ORGANIZATION CHART FOR THE CITY.

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: 04-26-12

City of Socorro

Adoption of Ordinances

On April 19, 2012 the City of Socorro, Texas adopted the following ordinance:

1. ORDINANCE 246, AMENDMENT NO. 4, 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.

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: 04-26-12

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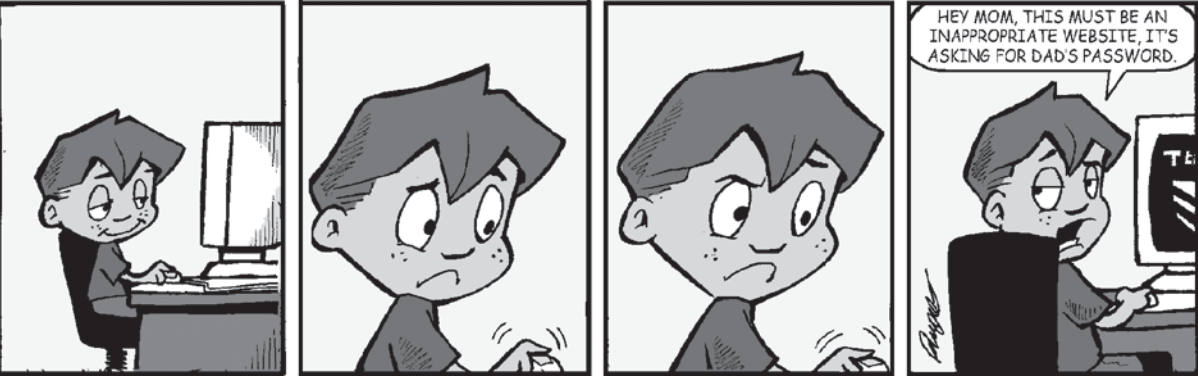
OUT ON A LIMB

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: In October of last year, my husband, age 63, died of a brain hemorrhage (stroke). He was a youthful, health-conscious man, now sorely missed by his wife, family and friends. This tragedy was due to undiagnosed high blood pressure, since he, like many men, refused to visit the doctor. Please encourage people, especially 55 and older, to have a checkup so they don't suffer a similar fate. – R.A.

pressure is that it seldom produces any signs until it's too late.

The booklet on stroke presents the different kinds, their treatment and their prevention. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 902W, 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.

My sincerest condolences to you and your family. I hope many who read your letter will take your advice.

I've written about ischemic stroke, the kind that comes from a plugged brain artery. It accounts for most strokes. The letter-writer's husband suffered a hemorrhagic stroke, one that comes from bleeding from a brain artery.

Hemorrhagic strokes have an abrupt onset. A person can be fine one minute, and the next there's a profound change. He or she can't move an arm or a leg, can't talk or has a sudden, severe headache. Shortly the person becomes unresponsive. For 50 percent of people with a hemorrhagic stroke, death is the final step, and it often comes quickly.

Differentiating a stroke caused by bleeding from one caused by artery plugging is not something for an untrained person to attempt. Confronted by someone who has the signs of a stroke, an untrained person should call for immediate help.

It is strange, and it has a name – gustatory rhinitis, a classy way of saying “runny nose when you eat.” Hot and spicy foods often provoke the reaction. Some consider it a reflex that has no useful purpose. If you're going out to eat and don't want to be embarrassed, taking an antihistamine about an hour before the meal might work. The nasal spray Astelin has a good reputation for stopping the drip. Don't use these every day. Save them for a special occasion.

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.

As Mrs. R.A. points out, high blood pressure is one of the most common medical conditions responsible for a hemorrhagic stroke. Prevention of these lethal strokes depends on knowing what your blood pressure is. Keeping blood pressure in the normal range is the best way to prevent them. The trouble with high blood

Super Crossword

- NO WHEY! ACROSS**

1 TV host John

5 Full of oneself

9 Amontillado

container

13 Beseeched

17 Nile feature

18 In good health

19 “_ Without Love” (’68 hit)

20 Sanctuary

22 Hood’s handle

23 Admiral Zumwalt

24 Tiny part of a second

25 Wagner work

26 Annealing oven

27 Flagon filler

28 Newspaper

30 Take-home

31 Start of a remark

35 Ring stat

36 Thwack

37 Compact cotton

38 “Great Expectations” character

40 Cad

42 Mythical being

44 Hateful

50 Give a little

51 Green

52 Yesterday’s thresher

53 Lillian or Dorothy

54 Ivy Leaguer

55 Fancy dessert
- 56 First dog in space

57 Where cats congregate

58 Pie _ mode

59 Lofty peak

60 Distribute the donuts

61 Keats composition

62 Middle of remark

70 Born

71 ‘87 Peace Prize winner

72 Solidify

73 “_ Shook Up” (’57 smash)

74 Corny goddess?

77 Colossal commotion

78 Malicious to the max

80 Where rams romp

81 Bus starter?

82 Thirteen, to a baker

83 Soprano Fleming

84 _ impasse

85 Dachshund or donkey

87 Pianist Jorge

88 “_ Old Cow Hand” (’36 song)

89 Objective

90 Counter change

91 Botanist Gray

92 Age

95 End of remark

104 Road to enlightenment
- 105 Generally

106 _ choy

107 Rocker Billy

108 Tracking tool

110 Manuscript enc.

111 “Surely you _”

113 Lowliest cadet

114 Caustic

115 Yemeni port

116 “New Jack City” actor

117 Beast of Borden

118 Long lunch?

119 For fear that

120 Non-stereo

121 Little ones

DOWN

1 Word form for “end”

2 Nobelist Root

3 Stiffened a shirt

4 Contains

5 Expand

6 Free-for-all

7 City on the Danube

8 Day_

9 Finger food

10 Stun

11 Less loopy

12 TV’s “_ Landing”

13 Symbol of immortality

14 Drink like a Doberman

15 Happening

16 Writer Walcott
- 17 Tyne of “Cagney & Lacey”

21 West. alliance

27 Coldest cont.

28 Audacity

29 Tevye’s portrayer

32 Sneeze and wheeze

33 Superior to

34 Chip’s chum

39 Infant oinker

40 “Greetings!”

41 Early computer

42 Buccaneers’ headquarters

43 Spare part?

44 With 47 Down, Italian export

45 Produces pies

46 Actress Long

47 See 44 Down

48 Manipulate

49 Diffident

50 Drum din

51 Nick of “Q&A”

52 Gets on

55 Perkins role

56 “Frederica” composer

57 Mature

60 Descendant

61 Ready to reduce

63 Silverware city

64 Infirmary item

65 Went wrong

66 Snowy bird

67 “Big Three” site

68 New York city
- 69 _ Bator

74 _ au vin

75 Aussie walker

76 Cell stuff

77 Dandy

78 Hailing from

Aberystwyth

79 In accord

82 Swashbuckling novelist

83 ‘48 Hitchcock film

84 Texas town

86 “I Love Lucy” surname

87 Tour-de-France vehicle

88 Adjectival suffix

90 Aptitude

91 Say please

92 Pound of poetry

93 Extend

94 Wrestling giant

96 Twangy

97 Commerce

98 Classical nonet

99 “Hedda Gabler” playwright

100 Club creed

101 What i.e. stands for

102 “Ora pro _”

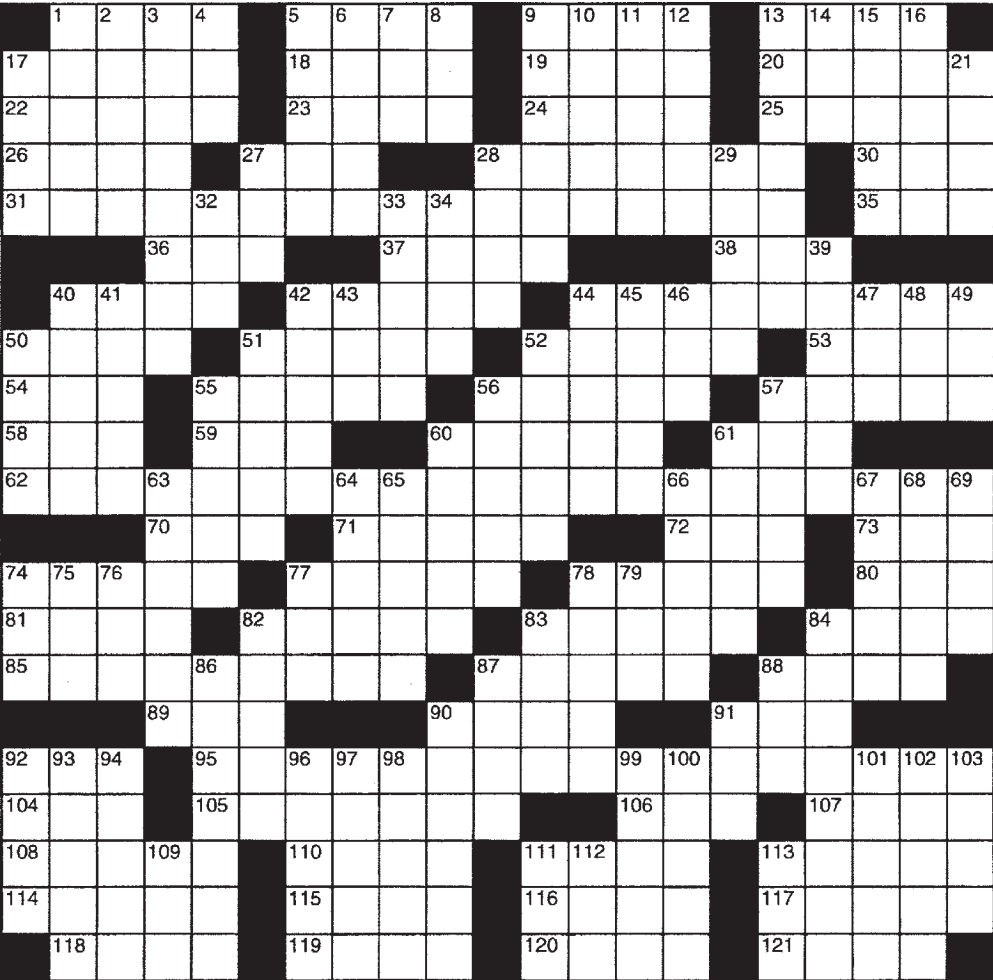
103 Painter Paul

109 Word on a pump

111 Bowie or Bakker

112 Author Umberto

113 Cosset a corgi





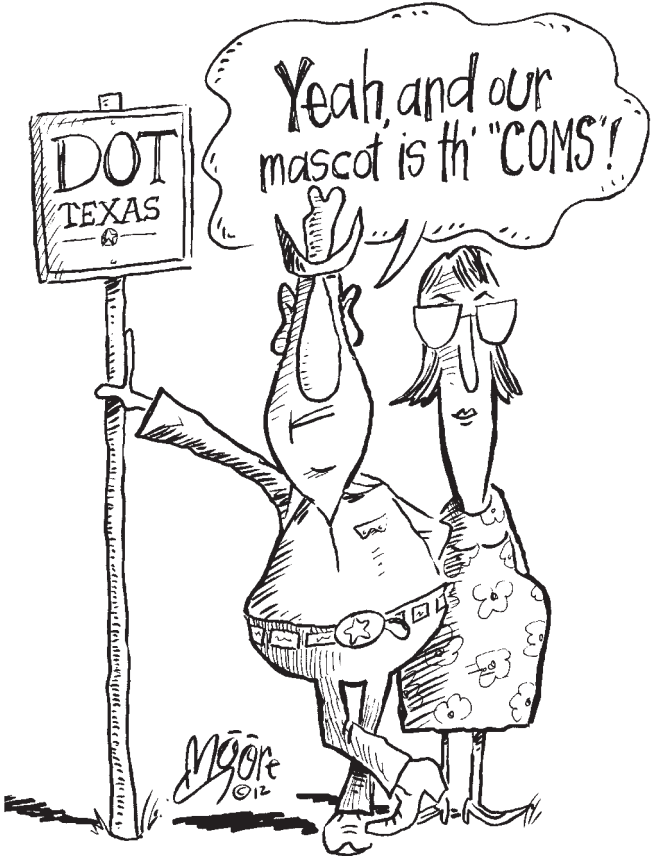
LAURA
STRATHMANN

for 388TH DISTRICT
(FAMILY) COURT

DEMOCRAT

POLITICAL ADVERTISING PAID FOR BY LAURA STRATHMANN CAMPAIGN. PHOTO © STRATHMANN, TEAGUE, 1999 STRATHMAN RD, EL PASO TX, 79932
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE VOLUNTARY LIMITS OF THE JUDICIAL FAIRNESS ACT

Moore Texas by Roger Moore There actually IS a DOT, TEXAS in Falls County. Ain't Texas grand ?



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: U equals E

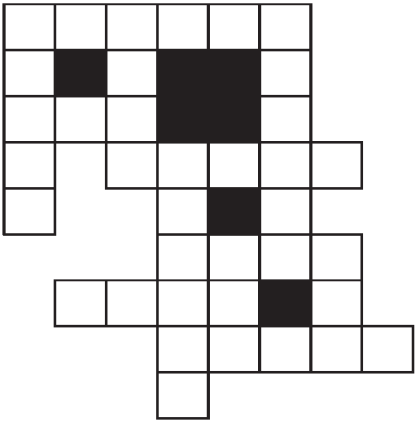
SL YF KNH UNLSF RQKNN WUMYF
MKSFM KGR KF RIU RKPF Y NKR,
PKG NH IU WU Y TURQK-MFKTU?

Answer Page 4

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PHO
GOSPIN
DENEM
♥RAHC
INAUGE
OEG
♥ROYG
NEPIO
♥NRU
OMNIRC
TYIPE
♥OHSE



Answer Page 4

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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.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I know that Social Security's full retirement age is gradually rising to 67. But does this mean the "early" retirement age will also be going up by two years, from age 62 to 64?

A: No. While it is true that under current law the full retirement age is gradually rising from 65 to 67, the "early" retirement age remains at 62. Keep in mind, however, that taking early retirement reduces your benefit amount. For more information about Social Security benefits, visit the website at www.socialsecurity.gov/r&m1.htm.

Q: Do I automatically get Medicare benefits if I'm eligible for disability benefits?

A: After you have received disability benefits for 24 months, we will automatically enroll you in Medicare. We start counting the 24 months from the month you were entitled to receive disability, not

the month when you received your first benefit payment. Sometimes you can get State Medicaid in the meantime. There are exceptions to this rule. People with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease) and chronic renal disease may be able to get Medicare earlier. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: If I retire and start getting Social Security retirement benefits at age 62, will my Medicare coverage begin then too?

A: No. Medicare benefits based on retirement do not begin until a person is age 65. If you retire at age 62, you may be able to continue to have medical insurance coverage through your employer or purchase it from an insurance company until you reach age 65 and become eligible for Medicare. For more information

about who can get Medicare, visit www.medicare.gov.

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 Canadian author Saul Bellow who made the following sage observation: "You never have to change anything you got up in the middle of the night to write."

• The U.S. military has created self-cleaning underwear. Yep. It seems they wanted skivvies that soldiers could wear for several weeks without changing. Nanoparticles and chemicals in the fabric repel liquids and bacteria.

• More books have been written about Abraham Lincoln than about any other American president – more than 15,000 to date.

• It is only to be assumed that Arabella Young, a Massachusetts woman who died in 1771, was considered to be a bit too talkative. Otherwise there would have been no need for the following epitaph: "Here lies as silent clay / Miss Arabella Young, / Who on the 21st of May / Began to hold her tongue."

• Be glad that you did not have the misfortune to be in Bangladesh during record storms in 1985. You might have been brained by the record hailstones, some weighing more than 2 pounds each.

• You might not be surprised to learn that among his Hollywood friends, screen legend and notorious drinker Humphrey Bogart was nicknamed Whiskey Straight.

• The founders of the Arby's chain were a pair of brothers, Forest and Leroy Raffel. They wanted to name the original restaurant Big Tex, but found that the name was already owned by someone else. They settled on Arby's to represent the initials R.B.'s for Raffel Brothers.

Thought for the Day: "I never blame myself when I'm not hitting. I just blame the bat, and if it keeps up, I change bats. After all, if I know it isn't my fault that I'm not hitting, how can I get mad at myself?"
– Yogi Berra

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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.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	–		×		25
÷		÷		×	
	+		×		30
+		+		–	
	×		+		29
11		5		29	

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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