



NEWSBRIEFS

Adult GED

Workplace Literacy Programs of El Paso Community College will hold GED (high school equivalent) classes for adult learners needing to pass the GED certification test. The classes will be held from 3-6 p.m., Monday-Thursday, Feb. 11 through June 11 in Room B 450, Building B, at the college's Administrative Services Center, 9050 Viscount. "This is a unique GED preparation course that will prepare students to continue their education journey," said Sara Martinez, Workplace Literacy Programs director. "This course will not only provide students the opportunity to earn the GED certification, but also to explore college and career options." To register or for more information, please call MariCarmen Casavantes at 831-7729.

— Javier Sánchez

WVFD upgrades

The West Valley Volunteer Fire Department has improved its ISO rating from a Class 4 to a Class 2. The better rating is the result of eight years of work. Improvements included better training, strategically placing stations throughout the district, better equipment, getting the right type of apparatus, hydrant testing/inspection, the adoption of the 2006 International Fire Code, and doing building inspections to this standard. The ISO gives these ratings to the insurance companies, and they use this information to determine what to charge the home and business owners for their property insurance. Going from a Class 4 to a Class 2 will reduce the insurance premiums by an average of 10 percent for homeowners, and an average of 12 percent savings for business owners. There are over 45,000 fire departments (paid and volunteer) in the US. Of those, only 57 are Class 1 (14 in Texas) and just 659 are Class 2 (151 in Texas). The West Valley Volunteer Fire Department is ranked in the top 1 percent of all fire departments nationwide.

—Bill Adler

EPCESD #2 upgrading

El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 has been awarded \$786,268 dollars from the FEMA 2012 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program. EPCESD #2 includes the Clint, Fabens, Montana Vista, San Elizario, Socorro, and West Valley fire departments. The money will be used to purchase new radios for every county fire vehicle and will provide a radio for every volunteer firefighter in EPCESD #2. The new radios will meet and exceed the 2015 regulations imposed by the FCC. All current radios owned by the district do not meet the FCC "P25"

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Before proceeding with a difficult task, stop and think. Then remember to start again.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

SAFETY ZONE – The sign in front of Canutillo Middle School warns the public that no guns are allowed on school grounds. Texas law bans guns in schools unless the school has given written authorization. Arizona and six other states have similar laws with exceptions for people who have licenses to carry concealed weapons. In the awful aftermath of Connecticut elementary school shooting in December, lawmakers in a growing number of states — including Oklahoma, Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota and Oregon — have said they will consider laws allowing teachers and school administrators to carry firearms at school.

School districts review emergency plans

Officials discuss how to respond to the Newtown massacre

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

The Connecticut school massacre, that left 20 children and six adults dead, has El Paso County school districts considering new measures to make their schools safer.

To reinforce these considerations, Texas Commissioner of Education Michael L. Williams recently reminded school districts that Texas Education Code, §37.108 requires

each school district to adopt and implement a multi-hazard emergency operations plan for use in all district facilities.

Subsequently, local area school districts are reporting that they are in the process of holding administrative meetings to discuss what they need to do to ensure that something like the Connecticut tragedy does not happen in their schools.

At Clint Independent School District, Superintendent Dr. Edward Gabaldon met with campus and district leadership in December to review district and campus plans, reported Laura Cade Clint ISD public information officer.

"Principals know they have to be more cognizant of rules and regulations and more diligent about following guidelines regarding

drills, lockdowns, and shelter in place exercises," stated Cade.

Canutillo ISD Spokesperson Gustavo Reveles said that his district was in the process of a complete review of their emergency operation plans for every facility in the district.

"As we have done for the last three years, we continue to work with the El Paso Police Department and the El Paso Sheriff's Office to provide training for our students and staff on what they should do in case of an emergency. This training can come in a traditional classroom setting or in the form of lockdown drills," Reveles related.

At Socorro ISD, District Spokesperson Daniel Escobar, stated that SISD has convened

See PLANS, Page 4

HRMUD changes management company

By Robert Grijalva
Special to the Courier

HORIZON – After a year of billing problems, customers of the Horizon Regional Municipality Utility District can anticipate a dramatic improvement. The members of the HRMUD Board of Directors boldly voted to replace the management company, Southwest Water Company, and have since approved a contract with Severn Trent Services.

Southwest had managed the district since 2007 after buying out ECO, the original management company. The strength of Southwest was management of utilities that were owned by the company. In venturing into the management of non-company

See PLANS, Page 5



— Photo by Robert Grijalva

BACK ON TRACK – From left, Toby Alvarado, HRMUD Project Manager; Mark Steelman, Area Manager for Severn Trent Services; and Benny Davis, HRMUD Director say the billing issues that have dogged the District and its customers since January of 2012 should be resolved now that Severn Trent Services has begun its management duties.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Busted

Last year five men were arrested for selling, conspiring to sell and/or distributing drugs at the VA Medical Center in Bedford, Mass. There were numerous agencies involved at the local and federal levels, plus the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General. The investigation took seven months.

Let's look at the players. I'll call them by initials only.

- J sold buprenorphine to an undercover federal agent, and conspired with R to sell oxycodone to an undercover federal agent.
- R conspired with J to sell oxycodone to an undercover federal agent
- D distributed controlled substances, including heroin, oxycodone, buprenorphine and clonazepam and conspired to distribute those substances.
- It was the same for H and P.

Just for clarification, buprenorphine is used to treat opioid addiction and clonazepam is for seizure and panic disorders. Oxycodone is for serious long-term pain. We're not talking aspirin here. All of these drugs can be abused and cause addiction.

Just how bad is this? J, R and D could have gotten up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine. H could have gotten 10 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine. P could have gotten five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

So, what punishments did they ultimately get?

J was sentenced to 15 months in prison.

R was sentenced to five years of probation.

D was sentenced to three years of probation.

H was sentenced to three years of probation.

P was sentenced to two years of probation.

No, it doesn't matter that these men were veterans. What matters is that they were selling at a VA hospital with a drug rehab program, where other veterans go to get well. In some cases, they were selling the very drugs they'd been provided by the VA.

Where in the sentences they received is there any incentive not to do it again?

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) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.

Finances

By Jason Alderman

Must-have insurance plans

Many people adopt a “penny wise, pound foolish” mentality when it comes to buying insurance. When trying to lower expenses, some will drop or reduce needed coverage, gambling that they won't become seriously ill, suffer a car accident or fall victim to a fire or other catastrophe. But all it takes is one serious uncovered (or under-covered) incident to potentially wipe you out financially.

Here are insurance policies no household should be without:

Medical. This is the most critical – and unfortunately, the most expensive – coverage you need. When comparing plans, consider:

- Are your doctors in their provider networks? If not, can you afford out-of-network charges – or are you willing to find new doctors?
- Are your medications covered under the plan's drug formularies?
- Do they restrict specialized services you might need like maternity, mental health or weight reduction treatments?
- If you choose catastrophic coverage to lower premiums, can you afford the high deductible in case of an accident or major illness?

Homeowner/renter. Faulty plumbing, theft and home-accident lawsuits are only a few catastrophes that could leave you without possessions or homeless. A few tips:

- “Actual cash value” coverage repairs or replaces belongings, minus the deductible and depreciation, whereas “replacement cost” coverage replaces items in today's dollars. Depreciation can significantly lower values, so replacement coverage is probably worth the extra expense.
- Jewelry, art, computers and luxury items usually require additional coverage.
- Review coverage periodically to adjust for inflation, home improvements, new possessions, change in marital/family status, etc.
- The market is competitive, so compare your rate with other insurance carriers. Get “apples to apples” quotes since policies may have varying provisions.

Vehicle. You probably can't even get a driver's license without demonstrating proof of insurance. Consider these coverage options:


- “Liability” pays if you cause an accident that injures others or damages their car or property.
- “Uninsured motorist” pays for damage caused to you or your car by an uninsured motorist.
- “Collision” pays for damage to your car resulting from a collision and “comprehensive” pays for damage caused by things like theft, vandalism and fire. However, they only pay up to the actual cash value (ACV) minus deductibles. Because the ACV for older cars is low, repairs often cost more than the car is worth.
- Common ways to lower premiums include: Raising deductibles; discounts for good drivers, exceeding age 55 or installing security systems; comparison shopping; and buying homeowner and car insurance from the same carrier.

Life insurance. If you're single with no dependents, you may get by with minimal or no life insurance. But if your family depends on your income, experts recommend buying coverage worth at least five to 10 times annual pay. Other considerations:

- Many employers offer life insurance, but if you're young and healthy you may be able to get a better deal on your own.
- After your kids are grown you may be able to lower your coverage; although carefully consider your spouse's retirement needs.
- You probably don't need life insurance on your children, but you might want spousal coverage if you depend on each other's income.
- If your divorce settlement includes alimony and/or child support, buy life insurance on the person paying it, naming the receiving ex-spouse as beneficiary.

Don't gamble your future financial stability by passing on vital insurance coverage – the odds aren't in your favor.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.



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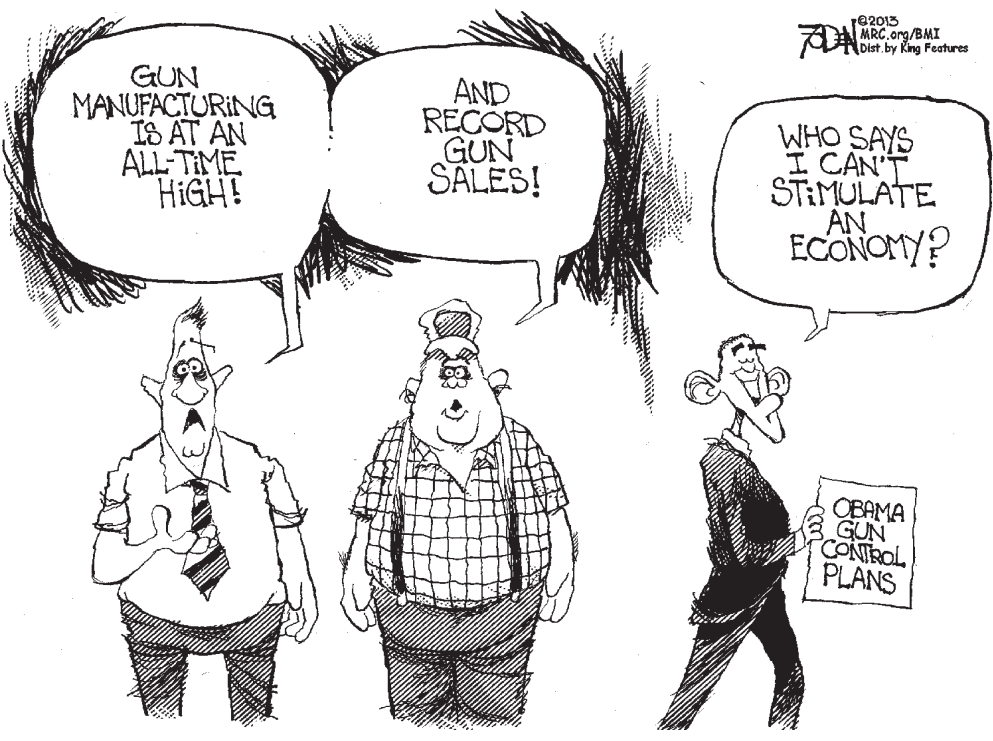
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"I still don't see why the Pentagon's announcement is such a big deal...it's not like we haven't seen combat before."



County Attorney steps into Socorro annexation plans

(Publisher's Note: The City of Socorro, in January, began to move forward with plans to annex seven parcels of land. Many of the property owners affected and representatives from other towns voiced their concerns and opposition to the annexations to the Socorro City Council during a January City of Socorro council meeting. Now El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal is weighing in on the matter. Her letter to Socorro's attorney follows.)

February 4, 2013
Mr. Jerry Wallace
Blanco, Ordonez, Mata & Wallace PC
5715 Cromo Drive
El Paso, TX 79912

RE: City of Socorro

Dear Mr. Wallace:

As you know, my office has authority to challenge a municipal annexation through authority given to me pursuant to Chapter 66 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

Both my office and individual members of Commissioners Court have been contacted by numerous citizens from Socorro and the surrounding community expressing grave concerns regarding the proposed annexation. Among the concerns are alleged procedural deficiencies in the annexation process. Primarily, however, is the overriding concern that the existing City Council is without authority to approve the annexation process and whether any of their actions related to the annexation would be void.

I am prepared to file a *quo warranto* proceeding to challenge the proposed annexation. This action will be taken with the unanimous support of the El Paso County Commissioners which was expressed today

at the Court's meeting and at the behest of numerous individual citizens in the community. I am very cognizant of the burden that further litigation will cause the City of Socorro and, in an effort to avoid litigation, I am willing to delay filing suit if the City of Socorro will agree to postpone any further action on the annexation until after the legal issues surrounding the terms of office of the council are resolved. This compromise solution will at a minimum save a considerable amount of money in attorneys fees for the City of Socorro as well as the possibility of other costs related to the litigation.

Under the circumstances, a vacant mayoral seat, two resignations within the last few days and a pending *quo warranto* proceeding by the District Attorney against the City, I believe that proceeding with annexation will not serve either Socorro or the surrounding community. I respectfully request that you deliver this offer of compromise to your individual clients. Please let me know if you intend to place this item on the agenda for your next council meeting. If I do not receive a positive response from you of your willingness to negotiate a settlement by 5:00 on Friday February 8, 2013, I will assume that the City is not interested in a compromise solution and I will proceed accordingly. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Jo Anne Bernal
El Paso County Attorney

cc:
Hon. Veronica Escobar
Hon. Carlos Leon
Hon. Sergio Lewis
Hon. Vincent Perez
Hon. Daniel R. Haggerty



– Photo courtesy Clint ISD

JACKPOT – Third graders at Desert Hills Elementary were able to take home books donated to school students by the Kiwanis Club of Horizon City. The donation is part of the Kiwanis' Read Around the World program.

Desert Hills students receive books from Kiwanis

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

HORIZON – Over 225 students in eleven third grade classes, with thank-you notes in hand, eagerly awaited their turn to choose their books during the Read Around the World event at Desert Hills Elementary. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Horizon City, the Read Around the World program provided free books to the students as part of their literacy campaign.

Kiwanis Club members Ben Narbut, Cindy Najera and Pat Randleel arrived at the campus

with 800 books on various topics and stories.

"The majority of the funds to purchase the books were from money raised by the Kiwanis Club while other funds were received through book grants," said Pat Randleel.

Each third grade student was able to choose three books to take home and keep.

The Kiwanis' Read Around the World program focuses on sharing the joy of books with young children – from reading with them to providing books they can have of their very own.

Principal Adriana Cantu said, "We are very



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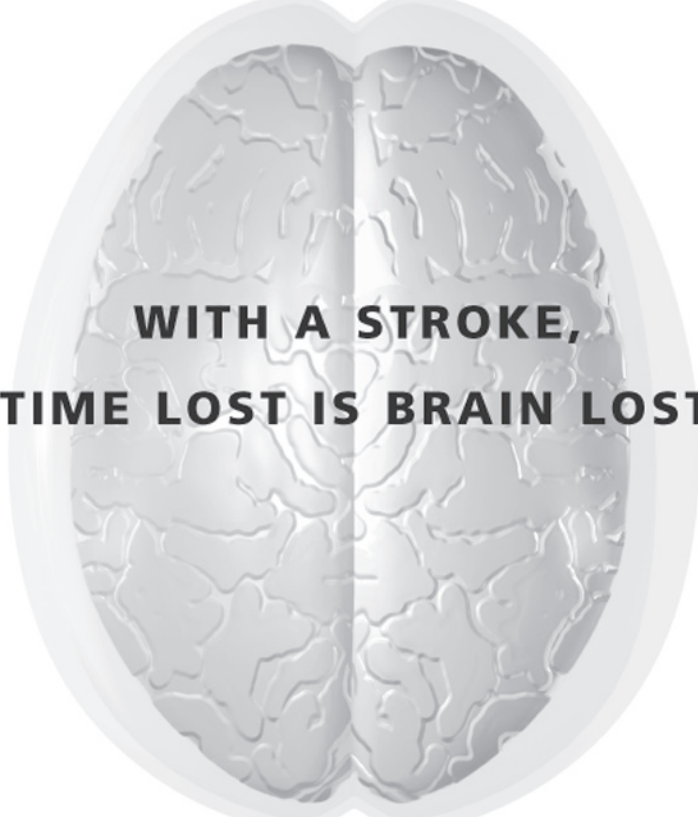
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Plans

From Page 1

its regional safety committee, with participation from local law enforcement agencies and area districts, to review safety procedures and improve collaboration in prevention and response efforts.

Clint ISD spokesperson said that some of the measures under consideration include the purchase of an identification verification system for all campuses and departments as added measure of safety. Currently, Clint ISD has fulltime security officers at all campuses.

“More than ever, we are in a continual state of heightened alert. We are conducting random intruder assessments regularly to insure the reliability of our programs and procedures. Since we do not have an armed police force, the practice of our emergency plan, drills and exercises will help to save lives in the future,” stated Cade.

Canutillo ISD spokesperson said that school officials are looking at all available options for security, including the creation of a district security force. “It is very early in the process, though, and budget restrictions are also being taken into consideration. No plans have been drafted yet, however,” Reveles stated.

“As with all programs, we continuously work to improve our efforts,” commented Socorro ISD’s spokesperson. He said that at present two district police officers are stationed at every high school and one officer at each middle and K-8 school in addition to the elementary school campuses being patrolled regularly. Escobar said that the district’s police force is supplemented by 50 security officers and that all staff members are trained on safety procedures and protocols.

However, districts are also facing tight budgets and recent cuts to state education funding. Some of measures under consideration could cost thousands of dollars to implement. More surveillance cameras, a buzz-in intercom system at the entrance and more exterior lighting, as some campus principals have requested, are too costly for many cash-strapped districts.

Another measure that has been recommended is to allow teachers to carry concealed weapons on campus. Even, Texas Governor Rick Perry recently suggested that districts should let teachers and administrators, who hold concealed-handgun licenses, bring their weapons into schools.

However, the gun-totin’ teacher idea does not seem to have much traction in El Paso county schools. Clint ISD spokesperson reported that officials there have had no discussion to allow teachers to carry guns.

Canutillo ISD spokesperson said that administrators have had preliminary discussions on this issue. But “At the moment there are no immediate plans to move forward with any plan that would allow teachers to carry concealed weapons inside our campuses,”

Reveles stated.

Escobar said, “Socorro ISD does not believe that adding firearms, carried by individuals other than peace officers, to the school environment is a viable solution.”

Most school officials agree that there is no singular answer to address school shooting dangers. Perhaps, Escobar summarized the predicament best when he determined that it will take a holistic community approach.

“There has to be an increased vigilance in the entire community and that everyone is aware about understanding the rules and policies regarding safety and security at the schools,” Escobar surmised.

Texas Education Code, §37.108 requires each school district to adopt and implement a multi-hazard emergency operations plan for use in the district’s facilities. The plan must address mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery and must provide for:

- (1) District employee training in responding to an emergency;**
- (2) Mandatory school drills and exercises to prepare district students and employees for responding to an emergency;**
- (3) Measures to ensure coordination with the Department of State Health Services and local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire departments in the event of an emergency; and**
- (4) The implementation of a safety and security audit. At least once every three years, each school district must conduct a safety and security audit of the district’s facilities and certify to the Texas School Safety Center its completion. To the extent possible, a district must follow safety and security audit procedures developed by the Texas School Safety Center or a comparable public or private entity.**

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was noted American poet Ogden Nash, best known as a composer of droll verse, who made the following sage observation: “Some tortures are physical / And some are mental, / But the one that is both / Is dental.”

• According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, if you’re like the average American, you consume 132 pounds of sugar every year. Compare that to folks in the year 1700, who consumed only about 4 pounds of sugar per year.

• If you cook a single ostrich egg, you can feed 24 people.

• When you studied history in school, you probably didn’t learn about Edward Hyde. He was a cousin to Queen Anne and was appointed to the post of colonial governor of New York, in which position he served from 1702 to 1708. Though he’s not well known now, he was quite the talk of the colonies in his day. It seems that when a delegation of colonists went to his mansion to welcome the new governor, they found him sitting on the front porch, crocheting a doily and wearing one of his wife’s dresses. At his first formal ball as governor, he wore a gown. His eccentricities continued until he was caught embezzling public money and was returned to England.

• The next time you see a shampoo commercial and note how creamy and frothy the lather seems to be, keep this in mind: The model in the advertisement probably has either laundry detergent or frothed egg whites on her hair.

• Those who study such things say that 10 years after a hot dog has been dumped in a landfill, the wiener could still be intact.

Thought for the Day: “When you stop doing things for fun you might as well be dead.”
– Ernest Hemingway

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CryptoQuip
Answer

While announcing the hot-dog-eating contest results, I said “And the wiener is ...”

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HRMUD

From Page 1

districts, their expertise fell short.

Prior to November of 2011, the billing software that Southwest used worked effectively. The company opted to change the software at that point, which proved to be disastrous. The software was designed to best meet the needs of the company in managing the in-house districts.

The new software failed to track accounts on a timely basis. Many bills were printed with incorrect due dates or were sent out late. Even though the problems were originating with the software, late fees were accruing for the customers. The consistent problem also adversely affected the credit history of households. The payment history is provided to customers who are requesting service from another utility provider. It was quite possible for the new account to be denied or for the utility to request a hefty deposit.

Horizon Region MUD began receiving hundreds of complaints monthly about the faulty billing system. The phone lines were overwhelmed and the front line employees were overburdened by the customer dissatisfaction.

In May of 2012, the MUD sent a serious letter to Southwest informing the management of their non-compliance with the service contract. Provisions requiring timely billing and maintaining a high level of customer service were not being met. Prior to the letter, the Board and Southwest discussed the problems at length. Commitments were made to correct the problems but the situation only worsened.

The Board saw no choice but to take action and exercise the option to terminate the contract. On December 20, 2012, a unanimous vote to approve exclusive negotiations with Severn Trent ended the contract with Southwest.

On January 9 the contract with Severn was finalized and signed. Severn had already started the transition in December. Southwest, for its part, was very cooperative and assisted in the process. The district is retaining all of its current employees with no lapse in service time. These factors will result in a very effective change in management and hopefully minimize problems.

To put a perspective on the complexity of the change, HRMUD provides water to 9,500 households in a district that encompasses 100,000 acres. Monthly output averages to about 150 million gallons per month.

Severn Trent Services has its main Texas office in Forney with its national headquarters in Fort Washington, PA. For more information on Severn, visit www.severntrentservices.com.

Toby Alvarado, who was the project manager with Southwest and is continuing with Severn had this to say: “We are very excited for the new management here in Horizon. Customers can expect a great improvement in service. We plan to implement a 4 cycle payment due date instead of everyone being due on the 20th. Customers will have a 24/7 phone line available to discuss any problems as well as web based billing and account information.”

The official start date for Severn was February 1.

Briefs

From Page 1

2015 compliance standard and cannot be upgraded.

–Bill Adler

Woman’s Club

The Junior Woman’s Club of El Paso will be holding their annual Friendship luncheon at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday Feb. 23 at the Woman’s Club clubhouse located at 1400 North Mesa (parking is located across the street). If you are interested in learning about the club and all that it does for the El Paso community, please come and see what we are all about The cost is \$10 per person – RSVP by Feb. 15 to Grace at 494-2293. All women 21 years and older are welcome. The Junior Woman’s Club of El Paso is a non-profit, service-based, volunteer organization dedicated to improving the El Paso community. Founded in 1934, club members devote their time and energy to local charitable organizations and social service

agencies through community service projects and fundraising events.

– Beth Podol

Busted

Just after the Super Bowl, at 9:10 p.m. on Sunday, a reserve officer from the City of Socorro Police Department pulled over a silver Ford Taurus with Texas plates TX FLF-427 on the 10200 block of Valle Suave for running a stop sign. As soon as the car stopped the occupants immediately fled the car. The officer activated his emergency button on his radio while he was in foot pursuit and was able to detain a suspect with the assistance of civilian. Back up Socorro Police Officers arrived to assist and help catch the driver of the car. When the driver was caught, a routine search turned up several baggies of marijuana. The passenger who ran was also in possession of large quantity of marijuana. The search of the car also turned up several empty small plastic baggies in the vehicle. An outstanding female juvenile suspect was also caught and brought back

to the scene. She was detained on a Direction to Apprehend warrant out of the Juvenile Probation Department. The suspects were charged on several charges to include: Delivery of Marijuana, Evading and Resisting Arrest. The investigation continues.

– David Garcia

Crime Stoppers

A westside business closes for the day and, overnight, thieves break into electrical boxes at the rear of the building to cut and take almost 500 feet of copper wire, making this the “Crime of the Week.” After Hillcrest Funeral Home at 5054 Doniphan closed on Saturday, January 26, 2013, an El Paso Electric investigator checking on copper wire thefts around the city noticed that someone had broken into the firm’s electrical boxes and had taken eight copper wires, each 60 feet in length. At \$7-8/foot replacement value, plus labor, the theft is estimated to cost approximately \$10,000. This is not the first case of copper theft in El Paso lately. A case on the eastside occurred Wednesday, January

16, 2013, at Wonder World Day Care. The loss and damages were noticed the following day. For the past few months, strip malls and businesses around the city have been victim to copper wire thefts that not only prevent the business from operating, but also cause a great amount of costly damages. Thefts include copper wire, copper tubing and brass fixtures from existing businesses as well as those under construction. Since most of the thefts occur at night or on weekends, investigators are asking people to pay attention to suspicious activity behind businesses after hours, and also to notice if a business is suspiciously “dark.” If you have any information at all about the identity of the person or persons involved in this type of crime, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-TIPS(8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward.

– James Klaes

San Elizario Independent School District

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	ESEA Title I Part A Program	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,179,333	\$ –	\$ 146,179	\$ 2,325,512
5800 State Program Revenues	30,769,096	–	604,856	31,373,952
5900 Federal Program Revenues	3,381,512	3,203,980	2,716,662	9,302,154
5020 Total Revenues	36,329,941	3,203,980	3,467,697	43,001,618
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	14,964,430	2,304,105	2,154,039	19,422,574
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	450,178	96,607	50	546,835
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	189,042	211,121	108,247	508,410
0021 Instructional Leadership	661,653	112,353	36,467	810,473
0023 School Leadership	1,977,422	5,625	36,523	2,019,570
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,064,364	889	17,097	1,082,350
0032 Social Work Services	153,503	80,422	–	233,925
0033 Health Services	434,898	75,995	16	510,909
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,378,595	–	–	1,378,595
0035 Food Services	2,460,855	–	78,744	2,539,599
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	741,624	–	–	741,624
0041 General Administration	1,976,819	–	–	1,976,819
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	3,956,532	–	–	3,956,532
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	714,526	–	–	714,526
0053 Data Processing Services	984,049	91,598	–	1,075,647
0061 Community Services	36,823	225,265	27,821	289,909
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	1,575,310	–	561,000	2,136,310
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	505,820	–	86,275	592,095
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	8,462	–	–	8,462
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	–	–	358,232	358,232
Intergovernmental:				
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent / Member Districts of SSA	–	–	2,862	2,862
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	28,577	–	–	28,577
6030 Total Expenditures	34,263,482	3,203,980	3,467,373	40,934,835
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,066,459	–	324	2,066,783
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7913 Capital Leases	515,553	–	–	515,553
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	515,553	–	–	515,553
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	2,582,012	–	324	2,582,336
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	7,872,532	–	227,054	8,099,586
1300 Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	204,615	–	–	204,615
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 10,659,159	\$ –	\$ 227,378	\$ 10,886,537

Physical sports by their very nature have inherit risks

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There is a lot of talk around the country, and the world, about safety.

Whether it’s concerning terrorists or hand guns or drunk drivers or drugs or gang members or the military or even religious clergy, everyone is concerned about keeping themselves or their loved ones safe.

The world of sports is no different.

Questions, in fact, on whether this sport or that sport is totally safe seem to dominate the headlines.

But just like in real life, there is no way in the sports world that anyone’s safety can be guaranteed everywhere, all the time.

We start comforting ourselves by putting safety helmets on our 4-year-olds when they go for a jaunt on their tricycle.

How ridiculous is that? First of all, they don’t generate enough speed to cause any cranial damage during an impact. And second of all, if they are hit by anything much bigger than they are, that cute little helmet won’t do much good.

Then we put kneepads, elbow pads and helmets on them when they turn eight for a quick spin on their skates or skateboards.

We even go as far as making sure their T-ball games end in a tie so their little sensitive hearts aren’t hurt.

The reality is that the only way to insure that a player never gets hurt is simply not to play.

Of course, even then you have to watch for the other things we mentioned at the beginning.

The NFL changes its rules every year to try to make its popular sport safer than it was the year before.

And there is no doubt that it has succeeded. There are less blind-side hits on unsuspecting souls during the kickoffs. There are fewer spearing calls being made on guys using their helmets as weapons and guys that are in vulnerable positions are being smacked less and less.

And all those are good things. Oh, somebody might slip in a cheap shot once in a while but that kind of behavior has been cut down drastically.

So why isn’t everybody satisfied?

Someone told me a long time ago that the

reason behind almost any action can be found if you follow the money.

I find it odd that many former NFL players throughout the years who refused admit they had injuries to avoid being taken out of games now find it palatable to sue the league for not protecting them.

When I played high school football back in the 1970s, we all talked about concussions and how dangerous they were. Maybe we didn’t know as much as we do now, but we all knew about the risks.

Players today complain about the risks of the hard hits they take and at the same time, complain about being flagged for making the hard hits.

What’s going to happen now? It’s gotten to the point that quarterbacks can’t be touched. But quarterbacks are starting to run with the football more.

Are they running backs now? Can they be hit like running backs?

Or is the league going to change more rules protecting the quarterback when he runs out of the pocket?

There’s also been talk about eliminating the kickoff all together.

I have no problem with the idea of increasing

player safety, but it is mathematically impossible to guarantee it.

So why does the league continue this façade? It’s because of the lawsuits and the bad publicity.

For example, the NRA is having a harder time defending its case to the American people in the face of the several shootings around the country on a daily basis.

Whether you believe in the NRA or not, the negative publicity isn’t good.

Every time prominent figures like Barack Obama or former quarterback Kurt Warner say they wouldn’t let their kids play football, the NFL takes a big hit.

If you don’t believe that limiting the number of kids playing a sport will have an impact on its future, remember this – kids stopped playing baseball 20 years ago. Look at professional baseball now – nobody calls it our national pastime anymore.

Players are going to have to compete in the NFL knowing that there are dangerous risks connected to the game and if they get hurt seriously, that’s the way it goes.

By the way: They get millions of dollars and nobody is forcing them to play.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Earl Weaver’s winning strategy

When former Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver passed away a few weeks ago, I thought back to the 1980s-era computer game “Earl Weaver Baseball.” I spent an entire year of my youth importing stats into that game, studying lineups and learning baseball through the insights of the “Earl of Baltimore.”

Basically, according to the game

engine, the winning strategy was to do nothing. Don’t bunt, don’t hit and run, don’t steal bases. Don’t take a pitch. Don’t take the pitcher out. It seemed like a joke at first. You build a video game that encourages you to do nothing. Brilliant.

But it was. Earl Weaver seized the opportunity to be the game’s namesake, and you could tell he

was happy to do so. It offered him a chance to spread his baseball philosophy – a philosophy that flew in the face of the era and a philosophy that applies to just about everything else you do in life.

His philosophy was easy to understand: The world is stacked against you. Don’t give them anything; don’t surrender an inch of whatever advantage or strength you may have. He was the manager. His job was to win and keep his job.

How he assembled his lineup, and the strategy he offered behind

it, was particularly interesting... if not making for stunning gameplay. It went like this:

1. The leadoff hitter gets on base the most and is a fast, smart base runner.
2. This is your best contact hitter. His job is not to strikeout, so he can advance the leadoff runner.
3. This is your best overall hitter. Hits for high average and power, but not so much power that he strikes out a lot. He hits a double and the leadoff runner scores or he ends up on base, too.
4. This is your thumper. His job is to hit home runs. The table is set for him, he’s just gotta eat up the next pitch and make everyone cheer.
5. This is your second best power hitter. Whatever the other guy missed or didn’t bring home... this was his job now.
6. This is another high average guy, less power. His job would be to try

and salvage whatever the 4 and 5 guy messed up or, if they hit, to extend the rally or set up a new table.

7. This is where Earl reset the lineup. This was the second-string leadoff hitter. On-base percentage and speed is key here.
8. This is your weakest hitter ... but hopefully a contact hitter.
9. If you can, try and end it with a bang.

Now replace the word “hitter” with just about anything that applies to your day-to-day to life. Maybe it’s the formula for a good speech, the order of songs on an album or setlist. Maybe it’s a menu or presentation. The point is, set yourself up to win and let nature run it’s course.

Earl had to wait for it, but that’s how he always got the win.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

FROM FAR AND WIDE – BEEMS conference participants (from left) Nikki Obregon, teacher Austin ISD (AISD); Melissa Calderon, teacher AISD; Karen Jones, assistant principal AISD; Monica Heptner, principal Dual Immersion Academy in Grand Junction, CO; and Joel S. De La Garza, principal Pickle Elementary, AISD toured classes at Canutillo Elementary School during their visit.

Regional educators visit Canutillo ISD

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Before heading to the Bilingual Educators Emphasizing Multicultural Settings (BEEMS) Conference at UTEP last weekend, bilingual school administrators from Austin and Colorado stopped at two Canutillo Independent School District campuses to see the progress being made there.

The visits were arranged by BEEMS organizers at the University of Texas at El Paso with hopes of giving participants an insight into the practices behind some of the most successful two-way bilingual programs in the country.

Bilingual educators from the Austin Independent School District and the D-51 Dual Immersion

Academy in Grand Junction, Colo., spent an entire day observing classrooms and talking to teachers at Jose Damian and Canutillo elementary schools.

“Canutillo ISD has been recognized as a leader in the movement to bring two-way, dual-language bilingual education to our schools, and this visit reflects that good reputation,” said Antonio Del Campo, Canutillo ISD’s Director of Academic Language Services. “The fact that people from so far away are spending a whole day looking at what we are doing with our kids speaks very highly of the level of teaching taking place in our classrooms.”

The visitors observed dozens of classrooms in both schools and had the opportunity to talk to teachers and administrators about best practices in two-way, dual-language education.

This approach to bilingual education emphasizes equality of educational opportunity for both English and non-English-speaking children through an educational process that validates and fully develops both languages, and instills a mutual respect for both language learners.

Del Campo said the visitors were impressed with the instruction at both campuses.

“You can see that the program is working by the way non-native Spanish speakers can communicate with native Spanish speakers. It’s truly an equal learning opportunity,” said Monica Heptner, a Grand Junction educator who visited the Canutillo ISD schools. “This type of approach does much more than just transition students into English... it gives students who speak English a chance to become learners, too.”

1973
40
Years
2013

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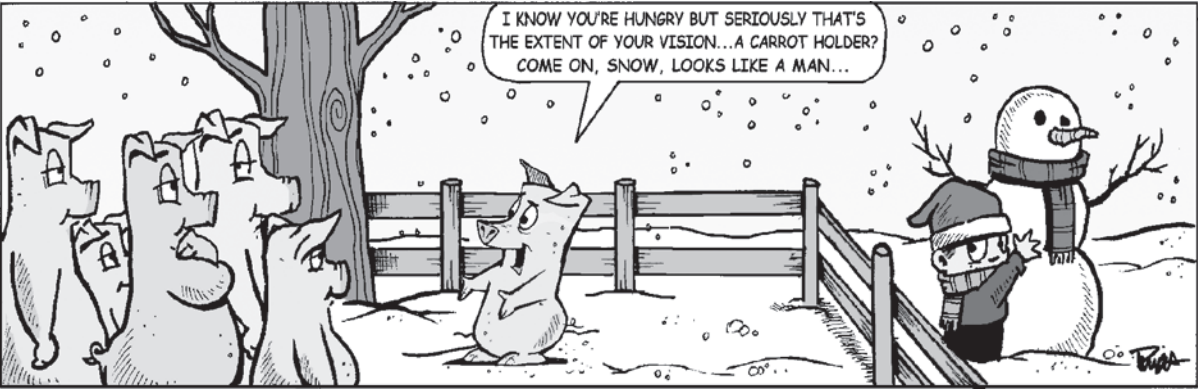
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



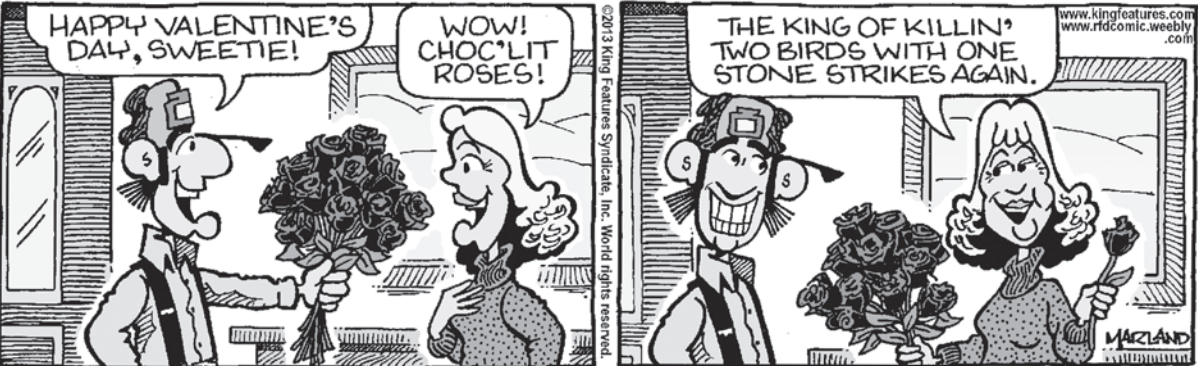
AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good healthBy Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Please, give me all the information possible about herpes. I am a carrier. – D.N.

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.

I take it you're interested in genital herpes – herpes simplex virus-2, HSV-2. The first encounter with the virus leads to an outbreak of tiny, painful blisters on red patches on the genital skin. Fever, headache, muscle pain and pain on urination often are also experienced with a first outbreak. Recurrent attacks are not as severe. Fever, headache and muscle pain do not accompany subsequent outbreaks, but the skin signs are painful.

The first year of infection is a year of more-frequent outbreaks. After that, they come less often. If a person is subject to many outbreaks, that person can suppress them by taking Zovirax, Famvir or Valtrex at the first inklings that an outbreak is about to take place. For recurrence after recurrence, a person can go on daily doses of these medicines to keep outbreaks in check.

Once infected, a person stays infected for life. That person is a carrier.

Transmission is a huge problem. Even when a person has no signs of an outbreak, he or she can pass the virus to a partner. Therefore, all sexual partners should be told about the infection. Condoms, while not 100 percent protective, afford a major degree of safety. When a visible outbreak takes place, the infected person ought not to engage in sexual contact.

You are not alone. The herpes-2 virus infects up to 20 percent of the adult population of North America. Bad as it is, it is not the end of life or the end of a sex life.

The booklet on herpes infection provides a more detailed discussion of this common malady. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 1202W, Box 536475,

Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Will you explain to me why a doctor would refuse to give a patient a shot of vitamin B-12? My former doctor, now deceased, gave me a monthly B-12 shot, and it kept me peppy. My new doctor says I don't need the shots. Would they hurt me? – B.A.

The shots won't hurt you. However, you need them only if you have a proven B-12 deficiency. At one time it was a widespread but not endorsed practice to give people shots of vitamin B-12 to energize them. It's a practice that never should have been started.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My mother made all her children chew their food at least 25 times. She claimed that it helped food digest. I gave this up when I left home at 18. Is there any evidence that chewing that number of times aids digestion? – H.H.

The object of chewing is to reduce the size of food so it can be swallowed easily and to mix saliva with the food for the same reason. Saliva starts the digestive process.

I have never heard that a prescribed number of chews is necessary to accomplish these goals.

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) 2013 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- TRIPLE ALLIANCE ACROSS
- 1 Clumsy guy
- 4 Sticky green pods
- 9 "Billy, Don't Be _" (1974 pop hit)
- 14 Instrument panel part
- 19 Most disorderly
- 21 "Max _ Returns" (1983 film)
- 22 Harass
- 23 [Arrest, Omit, Bun]
- 25 Stimulate
- 26 Some bills
- 27 "... sting like _" (Sue Grafton novel)
- 28 Corn cake
- 30 Clickable address
- 31 [Lofty, Sullen, Seemly]
- 39 TV announcer
- Hall
- 41 Lawman Wyatt's family
- 42 French river
- 43 Chief Ouray's tribe
- 44 Virgo preceder
- 45 "... sting like _"
- 46 "Take _ song and make it better"
- 48 "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
- 49 [Family, Toil, Crying]
- 55 Srs.' lobby
- 56 Ray of
- McDonald's
- 57 Radiohead singer

- Thom
- 58 Claiborne of fashion
- 61 River islet
- 64 Tattooists' supplies
- 66 Livy's 2,002
- 67 Previous to
- 68 [Fit, Loaded, Sage]
- 75 Wrap up
- 76 Garment line
- 77 Inducement
- 78 "Well, lah-di-_"
- 79 Marks, as a ballot box
- 80 Civic maker
- 82 Director Ephron
- 84 "In case that's true ..."
- 88 [Secure, Broth, Cask]
- 93 Stand by for
- 96 Nagging pain
- 97 Yuletide song
- 98 Ovine female
- 99 _ Gauche (Paris' Left Bank)
- 100 Pacific island country
- 103 Handled clumsily
- 104 Suffix with host
- 105 [Bing, Quiets, Ogden]
- 110 Whack down
- 111 Joan of rock
- 112 Pretense
- 113 "I goofed"
- 116 Author Calvino
- 118 [Garnet, Milky, Sad]

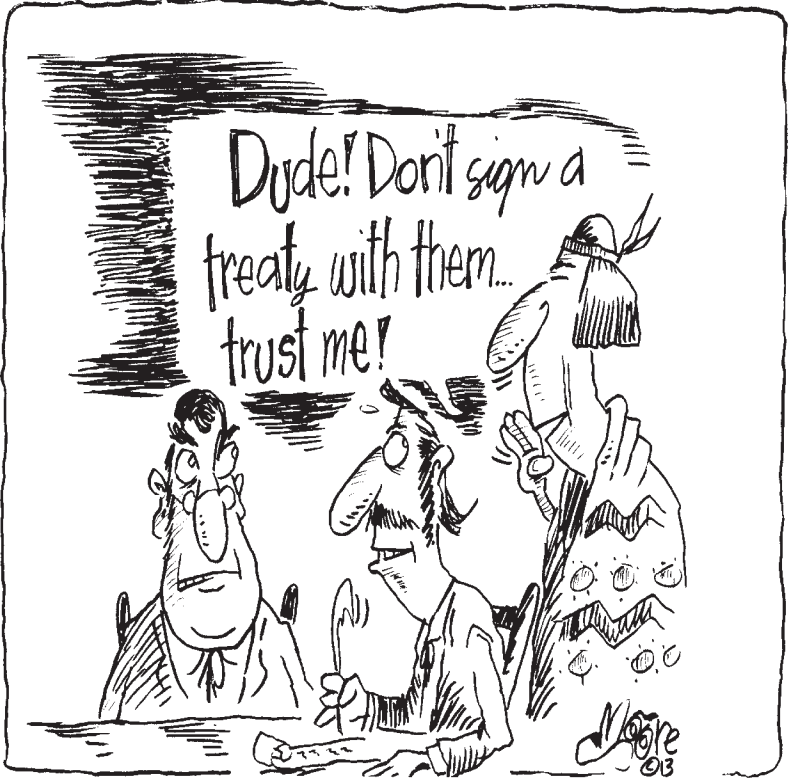
- 125 Bravery
- 126 Thundering
- 127 Eight-faced solids
- 128 Computer printer brand
- 129 Exams for future attys.
- 130 Original
- 131 Filming spot
- DOWN
- 1 Drive out
- 2 Poker cost
- 3 Main way in
- 4 On in years
- 5 White wine apéritif
- 6 Classic Olds
- 7 Cleo's biter
- 8 Set of steps
- 9 _ touch of class (creates some style)
- 10 "Ben-_" (1959 film)
- 11 Psyche section
- 12 Nader and Lauren
- 13 Being borrowed
- 14 Showed awe
- 15 Folk rocker
- DiFranco
- 16 "End of citation"
- 17 Epicure
- 18 Having no sight organs
- 20 "...daisy!"
- 24 Suffix with no-good
- 29 SSW's opposite
- 32 Be winning
- 33 Workrooms
- 34 Pulled
- 35 Sneak _ (glance)

- 36 Indian restaurant bread
- 37 P. _ (big name in hip-hop)
- 38 Soapy froth
- 39 Napoleon's isle of exile
- 40 Crème-crème
- linkup
- 46 In no particular musical key
- 47 Bagged midday meal
- 48 Brand of frozen fries
- 50 Iridescent gem
- 51 R&B singer
- India_
- 52 "Much _ surprise ..."
- 53 Humor writer
- Bombeck
- 54 Three of _
- 58 Luau wear
- 59 Apr. 15 payee
- 60 26th letter
- 62 August gripe
- 63 Fox teen drama show
- 65 Pet
- 68 Baneful spell
- 69 Ending for butyl
- 70 Product plugs
- 71 Pull hard
- 72 Nukes and such
- 73 Sister and wife of Zeus
- 74 Electric fan's noise
- 81 Maker of Asteroids

- 83 Former U.N. head
- Kofi
- 85 Estates not acquired under leases
- 86 Fastens fabric
- 87 Corrida shouts
- 88 Prevaricates
- 89 Eye: Prefix
- 90 Columnist
- Maureen
- 91 "It's _ real!"
- 92 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
- 93 Information repository
- 94 Spy's device
- 95 Open affirmations
- 100 TV "Science Guy" Bill _
- 101 Star-related
- 102 Gives voice to
- 103 World War II general George
- 106 Tennis' Borg
- 107 "The Wizard of Oz" actor Bert and others
- 108 _-fi film
- 109 Exotic juice brand
- 114 Untarnished
- 115 Chair
- 117 English lav
- 119 _ favor for
- 120 Rebel Tyler
- 121 Prefix with hazard
- 122 Safari truck, for short
- 123 No, to Scots
- 124 UPS competitor

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore 1845: The U.S. House votes to admit Texas to the Union..we are the only state admitted by TREATY.



– Photo courtesy of El Paso Museum of Archeology
HANDLE WITH CARE – The Effigy pots above are from Casas Grandes and are part of El Paso Museum of Archaeology’s collection of cultural artifacts from the ancient city of Paquime in Chihuahua and the major regions of ancient Mexico – West, Central, North and Maya.

Learn about the prehistoric people of El Paso and Mexico

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The public is invited to take a journey with El Paso Museum of Archeology Curator of Education Marilyn Guida through 14,000 years of El Paso’s Indian heritage including the Paleoindians, Archaic hunter-gatherers, Pit Dweller-Horticulturalists, Pueblo, Manso, Suma, Tigua and Mescalero Apache.

The free journey will be held from 2 to 3 p.m., Saturday, February 9, at the archeology museum (4300 Transmountain Road). Participants will have the opportunity to explore the El Paso Museum of Archaeology galleries including an exhibit of Casas Grandes cultural artifacts from the ancient city of Paquime in Chihuahua and the major regions of ancient Mexico – West, Central, North and Maya.

“Reservations are not necessary but contact the museum with the number of people in your group if you plan to attend,” stated Guida. Also, large groups can schedule their own tour, she added.

For more information, call 755-4332 or send email to Guida at guidamr@elpasotexas.gov.

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Will Return Next Week

Books

From Page 3

appreciative of the way the Kiwanis Club is involved with our school and how they are promoting literacy and the love of reading.”

The Kiwanis Club has been an active Partner in Education with Clint ISD through the Terrific Kids program as well as sponsoring the Clint ISD Super Scholars 5K Run.

The Kiwanis Club of Horizon City is part of Kiwanis International, a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one community and one child at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Horizon City performs many community service projects throughout the year to help serve children in the area.

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.

	+		×		20
×		+		÷	
	×		+		15
–		×		+	
	–		×		18
13		18		14	

1 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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
★★★ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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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: P equals N

TFVKM LPPYQPXVPU AFM

FYA-NYU-MLAVPU XYPAMBA

SMBQKAB, V BLVN "LPN

AFM TVMPMS VB..."

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNQT

By: rj johnson

CONQUER THE WHIRLED

EIR
♥CLAREP
DEAVE
♥DNRA
♥DEVIE
ENP
AAIR
PRINE
♥DDA
♥DREENA
DRAIC
VEOD

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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Classified Ads

LEGALS

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2013, during a Regular Council Meeting** at 15001 Darrington Rd. (Court/Police Dept. Bldg.) in the Council chambers, Horizon City, TX. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding the following:

BUILDINGS

1) 2nd Reading, Ordinance No. 0198, Amendment No. 001. An Ordinance amending the Town of Horizon City's Budget for FY2012-2013 to allow for an increase of allocated funds for various departments' operating budgets and new revenue accounts to account for the funding of the Safe Routes to Schools project.

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SERVICES

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available and need of special

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WTCC: 02-07-13