



NEWSBRIEFS

Canutillo ISD seeks volunteers

Canutillo Independent School District welcomes individuals who are parents of enrolled students, persons who reside in the community, and business people who have an interest in the Canutillo school district to volunteer to serve on the District Advisory Committee. Volunteers and nominations for open positions are now being taken for the 2013-2014 school year. If you would be willing to serve, or you would like to nominate someone, please contact the CISD Public Information Office at pio@canutillo-isd.org, or call 877-7482.

— Kim Guzman

New stadium open

The Anthony High School Wildcat Football team played in the newly-renovated Tommy Sanchez Memorial Football Stadium for the first time August 30. They played the Mesilla Valley Christian School Sonblazers. The Wildcats won 36-29. The renovations at the stadium include a new field, an expanded seating area for 1,200 people, and new restroom facilities that are compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The total cost of the renovations was \$1.2 million, that was paid out of the Anthony Independent School District's general fund. "We have a strong tradition of athletics and pride in our community, and now we have the stadium to match," said Anthony High School Principal Oscar Troncoso. "We are proud to be able to provide our parents and community members – but moreover, our students – with the type of facility they deserve."

— Gustavo Reveles Acosta

Insurance concerns

According to research conducted by the Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association (LIMRA), roughly one-third of Americans lack the protection and other benefits that life insurance can provide. That number continues to increase. Today there are fewer American families covered by life insurance than six years ago. Women, young adults and minorities perceive themselves to be the most underinsured, according to 2013 Insurance Barometer Study, a report by the nonprofit organization LIFE Foundation. According to the report, the majority of those groups do not secure life insurance because they overestimate the actual cost of that financial security. Not only does life insurance protect families and businesses from the unexpected loss of a loved one or key employee, benefits can be accelerated by cashing in certain policies prior to

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— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

HALL OF FAMER – 1973 Fabens High School graduate Gloria Estrada holds the 25th anniversary commemorative basketball presented to her at the UTEP Women's Day in Sports event in 2000. Estrada will be the sixth female to be inducted into the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame, which was started in 2002. The other UTEP female hall of famers include 2006 inductee Charmaine Crooks, 1981-84 track and field; 2007 inductee Debbie (Mitchell) Sjöholm, 1977-80 track and field; 2010 inductee Be Stoney, 1977-81 basketball; 2011 inductee Soma Dutta-Williams, 1990-92 rifle team; and 2012 inductee Kim Turner, 1981-84 track and field.

Fabens HS grad to be inducted into UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Gloria Estrada, one of the best athletes to ever come out of Fabens High School (FHS), is finally getting the recognition she deserves as she joins four other University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) sports stars in the 12th induction class into the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame.

Estrada, along with Gus Bailey (Basketball '73-74), Harry Flournoy (Basketball, '63-66), Wayne Hansen (Football '47-49) and Greg Joy (Track & Field '75-77), will be honored at the induction banquet on Friday, October 11, at the Larry K. Durham Sports Center. They will also be recognized at UTEP football team's Saturday, October 12 game versus the University of Tulsa in the Sun Bowl.

The FHS 1973 graduate was an outstanding volleyball and basketball player throughout her high school years. In her senior year, Estrada made 31 free throws in a basketball game against Canutillo High School, and in another game she scored 60 points against Fort Hancock High School. That year, she averaged nearly 40 points per game.

After graduating from high school, Estrada went on to play on the first team in UTEP women's basketball history in the 1974-75 season. She made an immediate impact under Coach Carol Ammerman, who worked much of the offense around Estrada. She led the Miners in scoring as both a junior and senior and is tied for second in school history for most field goals made in a game- 14 against New Mexico State University during the 1977 regular season. In another game that same year against Colorado State University, Estrada led the Lady Miners to victory with 29 points.

In 1979, Estrada graduated from UTEP with Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and physical education and turned her attention to teaching and coaching. She started at San Elizario High School, where she taught English and coached the girls' volleyball and basketball teams for three years. In her last year as basketball coach, the team won the 2-A district championship.

After San Eli, Estrada returned to her hometown of Fabens and her high school alma mater to teach language arts and coach volleyball and basketball. Again, Estrada was able to produce championship teams but this time in volleyball, as her girls reached the state finals in District 3-A in 1984 and 1990. In 1984, FHS girls' team won the silver medal after barely losing in the championship game; and in 1990, they lost another close game in the quarterfinals.

After nine years at FHS, Estrada's career took her to Canutillo High School (CHS), where she coached volleyball and basketball from 1991 through 1996. In her last year as coach, the CHS girls basketball team won its first ever District 4-A championship.

Estrada might be one of just a few female coaches in Texas to win championship titles in three different district levels.

Although Estrada's coaching career ended in 1996, she remained teaching at CHS until she retired this June, after 34 years as a high

See ESTRADA, Page 4

Museum showcases borderland mission

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

El Paso Museum of History will present a special lecture as part of its Missions of Spain in the Borderlands Lecture Series and in conjunction with the Fourth Wall of Giants exhibit currently on display at the museum.

The lecture will feature Dr. Yolanda Chavez Leyva, who will give an illustrated talk, titled Socorro Mission: Heart of a Community, at 2 p.m., Saturday, September 7, at the museum (510 North Santa Fe Street).

Leyva has spent many hours at the Socorro Mission working with the Socorro residents in gathering oral histories for one of her many projects. She said that as she got to know the mission and its people, she discovered that the building is more than just a structure; it is the beating heart of a community.

Leyva stated that she has spent her life listening to and now documenting the lives of people who live on la frontera. She has directed two historical projects focused on the history of Socorro, including an oral history project that highlighted the Socorro Mission. She is completing two manuscripts- Cruzando La Linea: Mexican Children on the Texas-Mexico Border and Calling the Ancestors: Historical Memory, Indigenous Identity, and Chicana/o History.

Leyva is a Chicana historian and writer who was born and raised on the border. She is currently chair of the Department of History and an associate professor at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Leyva's presentation, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information and to reserve a seat, contact Sue Taylor at 915-351-3588 or send email to taylorsl@elpasotexas.gov.



— Photo courtesy of Dr. Yolanda Leyva

Dr. Yolanda Chavez Leyva is chair of the Department of History and an associate professor at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Practicing the Golden Rule is not a sacrifice; it's an investment.

— Quips & Quotes

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Pilot program to speed claims

Veterans with a claim lost in the pile at the Department of Veterans Affairs will be interested in a pilot program about to be launched. The American Bar Association and Legal Services Corporation are joining with the VA to help veterans get faster decisions on their claims – for free.

This pro bono program will provide attorneys to unrepresented veterans who need help with portions of their claims that require evidence to be gathered. According to a VA news release, the development stage of assembling a claim can be the longest part, taking more than 200 days.

The first steps in the pilot program will open at the Regional Offices in St. Petersburg, Fla., and Chicago. Veterans at other locations also might be included if circumstances warrant it. The plan is for the program to spread quickly across the country.

It appears, however, that veterans can't ask to be included. The VA will select claims for the program that can benefit from the legal intervention. Those veterans will get a letter asking if they'd

like to participate. The letter will list all the possible options for representation, such as Veteran Service Organizations – and the free lawyers. Those veterans also will be told of a free hotline phone number to call to find legal representation.

The attorneys will receive training, with the end goal of putting together complete “ready to approve” claims. Attorneys and veterans will be linked up based on location and complexity of the claim.

Watch your mail for a letter from the VA if you live in the two pilot locations and have a claim in.

This is just one of the steps the VA is taking to clear the claims backlog by 2015, and on the surface, it sounds good. Fingers crossed.

Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com. (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.


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Finances

By Jason Alderman

Beware of the pitfalls of public wi-fi

Ever notice how many people walk down the street completely engrossed in their smartphones and tablets? I fully expect to see one of them to walk into a light post one day.

Although it's great having access to email, social networking and online shopping anywhere, anytime, such convenience comes with a certain amount of risk, according to Jennifer Fischer, Head of Americas Payment System Security, Visa Inc. “Unless you're hyper-vigilant about using secure networks and hack-proof passwords, someone sitting at the next table – or halfway around the world – could be watching your every move online and stealing valuable personal and financial information right off your device,” says Fischer.

“There are two primary potential dangers with wi-fi,” notes Fischer. “The first is using an unsecured network – as many public hotspots are. With a little know-how and the right tools, cybercriminals could easily eavesdrop on your online activity.

“The second hazard is phony wireless networks that impersonate legitimate wi-fi hot spots. You think you're logged onto a trusted network, but instead a cybercriminal has hijacked your session and can see all the private information you access or input.”

When using public wi-fi networks, always follow these safety precautions:

- Change default settings on your laptop, smartphone or tablet to require that you must manually select a particular wi-fi network, rather than automatically accepting the strongest available signal.
- Avoid any network connections your device lists as “unsecured” (look for the “lock” icon). But if you must log on to a public network, avoid websites that require log-ins and passwords – e.g., bank accounts or email.
- Ask for the exact name of the establishment's hot spot address – don't be fooled by lookalikes.
- Only send personal data via wi-fi to encrypted websites (those whose addresses begin with “https” and display a lock icon). To be safe, you may want to

avoid conducting financial transactions on public Wi-Fi altogether; instead, use your secure home network.

- Consider using a third-party virtual private network (VPN) product to encrypt your Internet traffic.
- Regularly update virus and spyware protection software, make sure firewalls are on, and load operating system updates as soon as they become available, whether for your computer or smartphone.
- Turn off wi-fi on your device when it's not in use.
- Never leave a computer unattended while signed-in and always sign out completely at the end of a session.
- Keep an eye out for “shoulder surfers” who watch as you type in your password.
- Finally, change passwords regularly and use different ones for each website you visit. Use a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols and avoid common words and phrases. Security experts recommend using at least 12 characters instead of the minimum eight characters commonly required.

Cybercrime is a booming business. According to the 2012 Norton Cybercrime Report, its global price tag topped \$388 billion last year, more than the global black market in marijuana, cocaine and heroin combined. It impacts individuals, small and large businesses and governments alike.

On October 2, 2013, Visa Inc. is hosting its fifth Global Security Summit in Washington, D.C. “We're bringing together experts from the worlds of government, law enforcement, technology, finance, retail commerce and academia to explore how industry and government can collaborate to address cyber security,” says Fischer. “Those interested in attending can register for free at www.visasecuritysummit.com.”

Being able to access the Internet anywhere anytime can be a great convenience and time-saver. Just make sure you know what precautions to take when using public wi-fi networks.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Census Bureau offers data access training

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

The U.S. Census Bureau Denver Region, in cooperation with the local Rio Grande Council of Governments, will present a computer lab session on using census data effectively and efficiently.


The training session will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 26, at the EPCC Rio Grande Campus (100 W. Rio Grande Avenue). Participants will learn how to access Census Bureau data, which is the most relied-on source for detailed, up-to-date socio-economic statistics covering every community in Texas and New Mexico.

According to Raul Gonzalez, regional services planner for the Rio Grande Council of Governments, the lab is for local governments, business organizations and nonprofits who work in the West Texas/Southern New Mexico area that use data for budget analysis, needs assessment, grant writing and planning.

Some of the data available includes community/neighborhood profiles, population characteristics, housing quality/costs, retail sales, service industries, construction governments, transportation, employment dynamics, current economic indicators, and yearly population estimates.


For more information and to register, call Gonzalez at (915) 533-0998 ext. 137 or send email to raulg@riocog.org.

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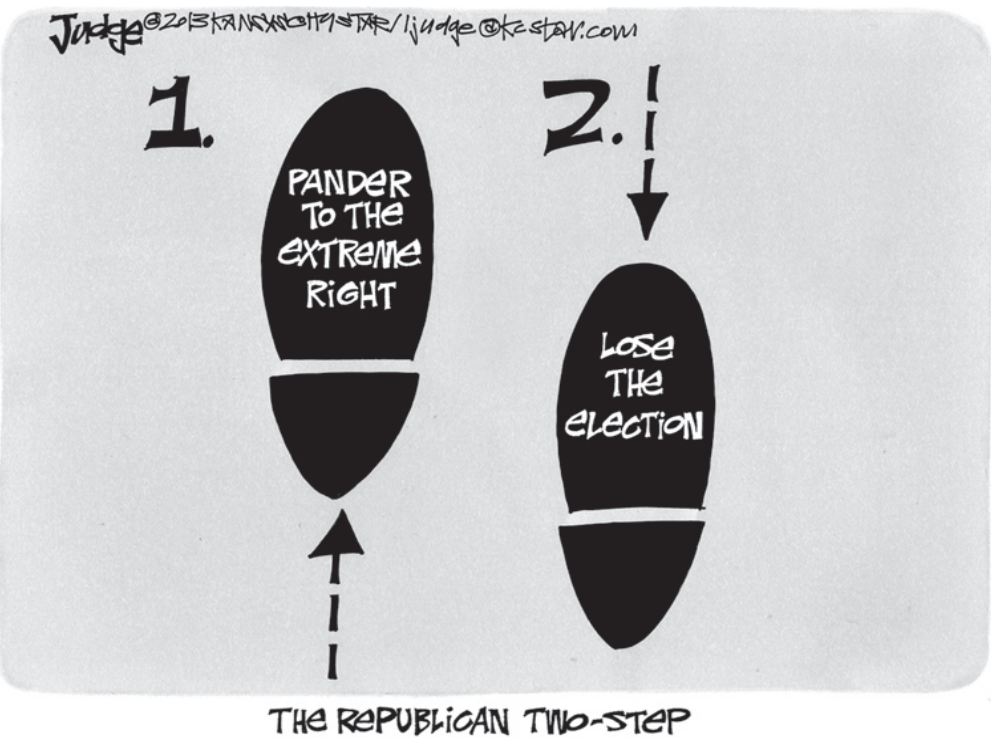
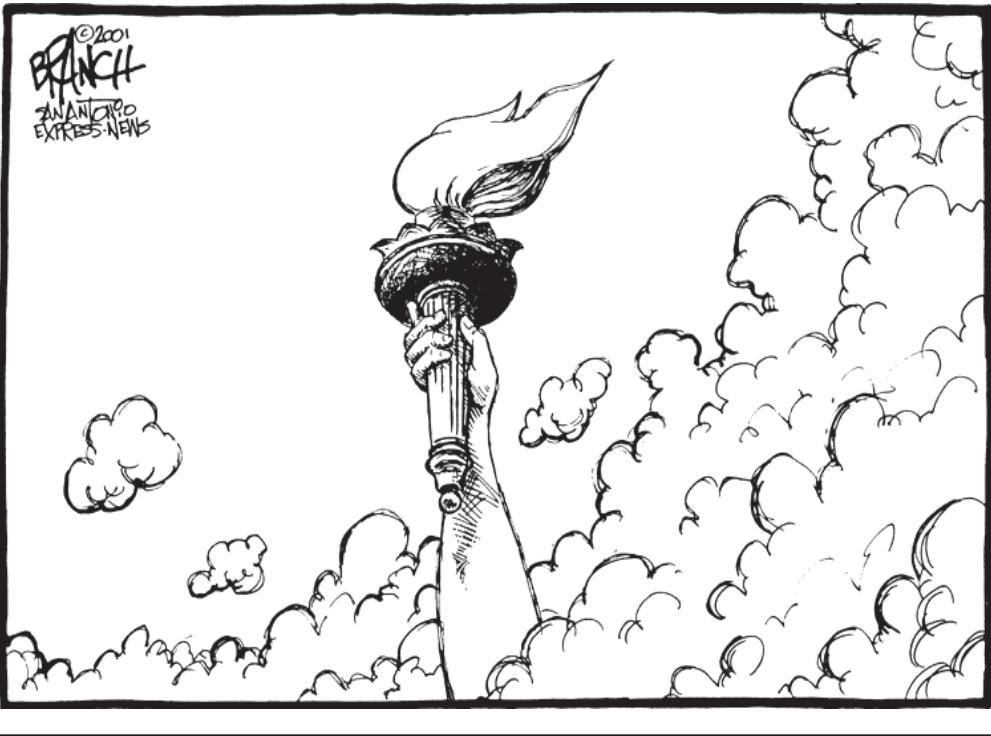
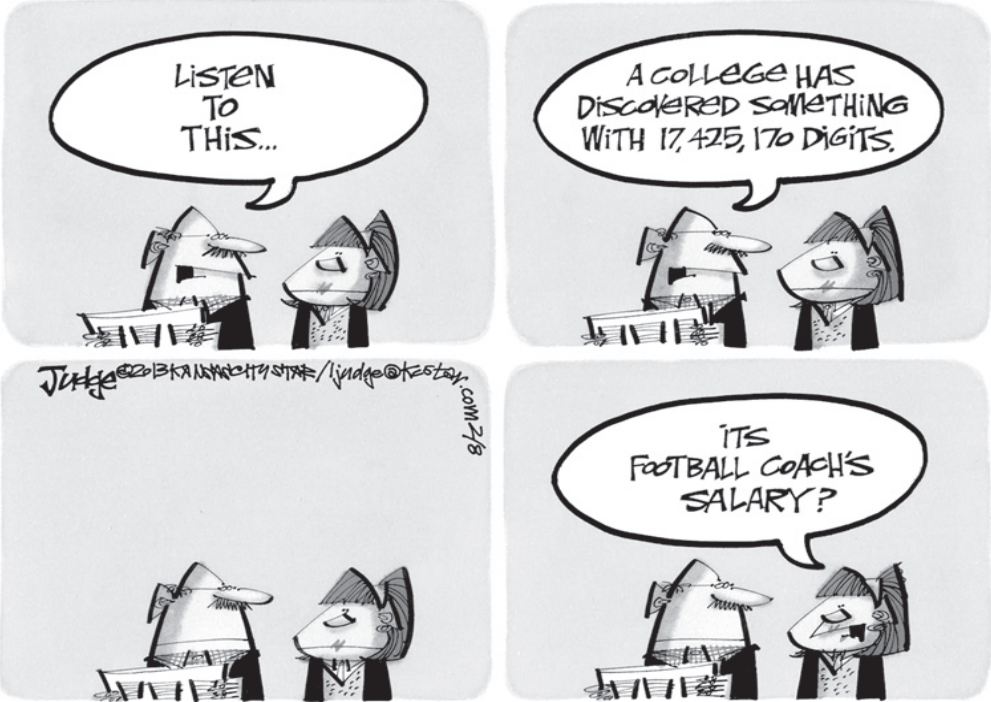
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Scholarship fund awards six Canutillo students

By Amy Francisco
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO—This fall, six 2013 graduates of Northwest Early College High School in Canutillo ISD are starting college with the help of a total of \$5,250 in scholarships from the Texas Classroom Teachers Association. The teens are among 82 deserving students across the state to receive scholarships totaling \$128,500 from the TCTA Scholarship Program, which is funded by the estate of the late Charles and Phyllis Gottlieb.

When establishing the scholarship criteria, TCTA honored Phyllis Gottlieb’s wishes, which were to create a program unlike most others. Rather than looking solely at transcripts and selecting only top academic performers, who often have multiple financial aid sources, TCTA chooses recipients who have faced hardships that make higher education unlikely without help.

The six scholarship recipients are:

- Oscar Gama – \$1,000 TCTA scholarship to attend The University of Texas at El Paso. He wants to be an engineer. “Since I was a kid I have always liked to take things apart and learn how they work, then put them back together,” he wrote in his application.
- Jonathon Martinez – \$1,000 scholarship to attend New Mexico State University, where he will pursue a degree in aerospace engineering. He also plans to earn a master’s degree in the subject from Texas A&M University. “Growing up I was inspired in the wake of the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster to develop safer and much more efficient ways to travel through space,” he wrote in his application.
- Omar Martinez – \$1,500 scholarship to attend The University of Texas at El Paso, where he will pursue a degree in criminal justice. He plans to become an attorney. “I don’t want to become an attorney so I can collect a great paycheck,” he wrote. “I want to be a game changer, an innovator, someone

who can change the dynamics of a profession and ultimately succeed.”

- Luis Morales – \$1,000 scholarship to attend The University of Texas at El Paso. He is enrolled in the university’s new forensics science program. “It’s a great opportunity to enhance my learning in this field that I am passionate about,” he wrote.

- Marisela Payan – \$250 scholarship to attend El Paso Community College. She plans to become a neonatal nurse. “I became interested in nursing the day I saw commercials on TV describing the medical situations people were living with, especially babies or those from poor families,” she wrote in her application.

- Cynthia Sanchez – \$500 scholarship to attend El Paso Community College. She plans to pursue a degree in criminal justice and achieve her dream of becoming a detective.

Now in its fourth year, the TCTA Scholarship Program awards scholarships in amounts up to \$5,000 per year for tuition and required fees. In 2010, the program first awarded a total of \$29,500 to 17 students and has increased those numbers each year, making the total awarded by the program so far \$335,000.

Scholarships must be used to pursue courses of study leading to recognized degrees at accredited two- or four-year colleges, community colleges or career/technical schools. Recipients may apply for continued assistance based on satisfaction of specific academic criteria and availability of funds. TCTA scholarship applications are due May 1 each year and can be submitted online at scholarship.tcta.org.

To be nominated, a student must: be a high school senior and a U.S. citizen and Texas resident; demonstrate financial need; have a minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale; and demonstrate the traits of strong personal character and potential for success. Nominators’ or nominees’ parents’ membership in TCTA is neither an advantage nor a disqualifier. However, teachers/counselors may not nominate their own children.



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Best Texas youth coach will win \$25,000 for team

Nominations being taken now

By Kim Miller Drummond
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Think your coach is the best in Texas? Then enter your coach in the My Plates Coach of the Year Contest to win \$25,000 for your team or organization. My Plates designs and markets new specialty license plates as a vendor for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

Anyone 13 or older can enter a coach, and parents can enter their child’s coach. Even if you are the youth coach, then enter yourself! It all starts at www.myplates.com/COACH.

People until Friday, October 11, to nominate a youth coach. Then MyPlates.com will choose up to 20 finalists in seven regions of Texas and announce them on Saturday, October 19. There is a total of \$50,000 in prizes for Texas youth organizations.

A public vote will then pick seven regional winners that will compete in a statewide vote for one winner that gets \$25,000 for his or her team or organization.

The second place prize is \$10,000

for the team, and five remaining finalists will receive the third place prize of \$3,000 for their teams.

The winning coach receives the plate message COACH13 for a ten-year term, valued at \$795. Second and third place coaches get 5-year personalized license plates from MyPlates.com, valued at \$495.

Winners will be announced December 9, 2013.

Here are a few rules:

- You have to be 13 or older to nominate a youth coach;
- Youth coach is defined as someone who coaches high school age kids or younger; and
- The nominated coach must be 18 or older, a Texas resident, and have been coaching at least one year.

The complete rules are at www.myplates.com/coach.

The contest divides Texas into 7 regions. They are Central Texas, East Texas, North Texas, Panhandle, South Texas, Southeast Texas and West Texas.

To see a map of your region, go to www.myplates.com/coach.

Since November 2009, Texans have purchased more than 159,000 My Plates, putting more than \$18.8M in the general revenue fund, which helps pay for services for all Texans.



Texas comptroller offers ‘Debt-at-a-Glance’

By R.J. DeSilva
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – To make it simpler for Texans to look at the finances of local governments in their area – and the magnitude of their outstanding debt – Texas Comptroller Susan Combs has rolled out new “Debt-at-a-Glance” web pages, which detail state and local debt in an easy-to-read, shareable format.

Debt-at-a-Glance outlines the outstanding debt of Texas, as well as the state’s 20 most populous cities and counties. It can be found on the Comptroller’s recently launched Tell the Truth Texas Web resource which is collecting useful and hard-to-find information on the finances of local governments throughout Texas.

In the detailed city and county

sections of Debt-at-a-Glance at www.tellthetruthtexas.org/debt/, web users can pick from any of the largest 20 cities or counties and see debt totals and trends, in addition to details on tax rates, debt elections, authorized but unissued debt, certificates of obligation and links to the comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for each city or county.

“Taxpayers pay the freight when government asks them to take on debt,” Combs said. “These web pages are part of our continuing efforts to help provide simple ways for taxpayers to find out what they’re already on the hook for.”

Debt-at-a-Glance also enables users to determine how each of the 20 cities and counties compares in total debt outstanding and debt outstanding per capita. The data is

updated through the end of fiscal 2012 and comes from the Bond Review Board, which compiles debt information reported by state agencies and local governments.

Debt-at-a-Glance data for the 20 school districts with the largest student populations will be added next, as will additional cities and counties and special purpose districts.

After efforts to introduce more transparency into local spending and debt never made it to a full vote in the recent legislative session, Combs announced the creation of the Tell The Truth Texas website, www.tellthetruthtexas.org, which is a one-stop source to collect all available information on local government finances in Texas to give taxpayers the information they need to make informed decisions.

Estrada

From Page 1

school language arts teacher.

“It’s kind of amazing, eight out of the ten players on that first UTEP women’s basketball team became teachers and coaches,” related Estrada. “We were a tough group of women; we really worked hard, especially on defense. I remember when Coach (Don) Haskins came to our practice and helped us with our defense,” she recalled.

Come October 11, the Fabens phenom will finally be acknowledged for being a pioneer in college athletics, at a time when equality in women’s sports was just beginning to take root nationally.

Individuals interested in seeing their sports heroes honored at the



Gloria Estrada, left, in a game against NMSU in 1975.

2013 UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame banquet are cordially invited. Tickets for the induction banquet are \$25 per person or \$160 for tables of eight and can be purchased by calling 747-8759.

The UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame was created in 2002 and is housed in the Larry K. Durham Sports Center. Since its inception, 78 athletes and teams have been inducted into the prestigious hall of fame.

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CryptoQuip Answer

Struggling to eke out a living, poets have adopted a new working motto: “Rhyme doesn’t pay.”

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Briefs

From Page 1

the death of the policyholder to assist individuals and families who face extraordinary expenses due to unforeseen circumstances. Benefits from a life policy can provide the financial means for a family to continue its mortgage payments, fund college tuition or meet other daily expenses after the loss of a loved one. Over one-third of consumers do not believe they have enough life insurance. Younger adults tend to have the highest fear of leaving behind debt for their families.

– Jennifer Cawley

Wanted

A man is believed to be responsible for the armed robberies of two Northeast El Paso businesses. Detectives from the El Paso Police Department are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying the man through Crime Stoppers. The first robbery took place on the late night of Tuesday, July 9, 2013, just before midnight at the Circle K store located at 10616 McCombs. The next robbery was a little over a week later on Thursday, July 18,

2013 at 5p.m. at the Dollar General store located at 10810 McCombs. In both cases the suspect walked into the businesses wearing a ski mask, a dark long sleeve shirt, and dark jeans. The suspect in both cases was armed with a knife. In the first case he threatened the employee and demanded money and cigarettes. In the second case the suspect only demanded the money. No injuries were reported in either incident. The suspect is only being described as a short male, approximately five feet in height and thin or medium build, however he was captured on surveillance video. Anyone with any information on the identity of the men involved in this murder is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477(TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word “CRIME1” (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward. Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc. is a non-profit organization that brings together the community, law enforcement, and the media to solve crime.

– Javier Sambrano

Classified Ads

LEGALS

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, during a Regular Council Meeting at City

Hall at 15001 Darrington Rd. (Court/Police Dept. Bldg.) in the Council chambers, Horizon City, TX.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding the following:

1) ORDINANCE

0204 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HORIZON CITY, TEXAS ENACTING THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR; FUNDING MUNICIPAL PURPOSES; AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES; AND PROVIDING FOR REPEALER

A N D SEVERABILITY CLAUSES.

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 individuals in need of special

assistance for the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915/852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this hearing.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
Town of
Horizon City

WTCC: 08-22-13

Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The CITY OF SOCORRO conducted public hearings on August 27, 2013 and September 5, 2013 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the CITY OF SOCORRO from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 5.3 percent.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year’s tax rate of \$0.565805 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$4,764,536.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.577847 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$4,929,240.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.577847 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$5,015,903.

The City Council of CITY OF SOCORRO is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 12, 2013 at City Hall located at 860 N. Rio Vista at 6:00 PM.

WTCC: 09/05/13

Lower Valley Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2013 on Thursday, September 12, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., at 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas 79836. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Rosalinda Vigil, David Armstrong, Henry Trujillo and Gina Cordero

AGAINST the proposal: NONE
PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: David G. Carrasco

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.201574/\$100	0.199301/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$0.002273/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 1.13%	
Average appraised value	\$ 72,688	\$ 72,881
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 72,688	\$ 72,881
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 146.52	\$ 145.25
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 1.27	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	– 0.87%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

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Compensation for concussions turns into money grab

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Remember when you were a kid and you rushed out of your room in your pajamas on Christmas morning to see what Santa Claus had left you?

Maybe it was a train set, or that Barbie doll, or a pair of roller skates or even the mother lode... a bicycle.

Whatever it was it was great, because basically you got something cool for doing nothing.

Oh, we all knew we had to abide by that naughty and nice thing, but we really didn't pay any attention to that until about December 1.

And it didn't take us long to learn that even though we had been bad several times during the year, Santa had a big heart and brought us stuff anyway.

Well it was sort of the same thing for about 4,500 former NFL football players last week.

Like Christmas morning, they got out of bed to find out that jolly NFL-Claus had left them a stocking stuffed with an abundance

of cash.

It's no secret that some retired NFL players have struggled since their careers ended.

Some of them have developed physical problems due to the many concussions they received while playing the game.

Led by a batch of attorneys (what a shock), many struggling players got together for a class-action lawsuit against the league saying that the NFL knew that head trauma [concussions] was more dangerous that they led on.

The NFL settled to pay the players \$765 million. For that settlement, the league does not have to prove that it knew or didn't know about head trauma.

Half of the payments will be made over the next three years while the remaining balance will be issued out over the next 17 years.

Older players that weren't compensated well during their playing days really need the money and it's good they will receive help, but some players kind of snuck in line for the money grab.

It's been reported that many former players, with no proof of any brain trauma or lasting effects from the game, were contacted by

attorneys to take advantage of the financial opportunity.

Some players, who asked to remain anonymous, said they were told that money was going to be given away and that they should stand there with their hands out.

As one player put it, "they said they were going to hand out money, I was going to make sure I was going to get mine."

And obviously the more players without injury who get involved will end up taking a chunk of money away from those who really need it – and deserve it.

Wherever you stand on the political side or things, there's no doubt that more people than ever are standing in lines with their hands out for unearned money in this country.

One by one, American cities are going bankrupt and still the money is handed out like candy.

The current NFL players have to understand that they play a dangerous game.

The hypocrisy is embarrassing. The more the NFL tries to make the game safer, the more the players complain. And yet, players are quick to blame the NFL when they struggle with injuries after they retire.

Last I checked no one is forcing individuals to play football of any kind.

And players get paid in a few short years, more than most Americans get paid in a lifetime.

A person making \$35,000 a year must work 40 years to make \$1.4 million. Most NFL players would consider \$1.4 million an insult for just one year.

From this moment forward the NFL has got to make it clear to all players that they are going to get hurt and they have got to make better financial decisions with their money for the future.

How many non-NFL workers around the country are getting Christmas day-like money for their ailments?

And yet all everyone hears from the experts is to be sure and plan for the uncertain future.

Those people in Detroit who worked all their lives putting money into their pension funds are in for a rude awakening. They are losing most, if not all, of it.

It's too bad they didn't play in the NFL. They could have filled out the paperwork (without being injured) and the money would be rolling in.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Ticket to ride

There is nothing quite as thrilling (well, almost) as the feeling of having a hard-copy ticket in your hand, paid for with cold, hard cash.

This is not a ticket you pick up at will call, not an "I'll meet you at the gate" or "pick up the ticket and parking pass from my secretary" type of deal. Those moments have their place, but there is something primal about having a paper ticket

with all the right codes and numbers on it. There's that adrenaline rush you get when you brandish it at the gate and learn whether or not it successfully affords you access.

The Beatles wrote a seminal song about purchasing tickets called "Ticket to Ride." Everyone knows the song, but it's worth another listen to if you've forgotten about the tunesmanship featured in that

song. Jingle-jangle guitar intro that inspired The Byrds, Nashville-style country lead riffs, a drumbeat laid out like a stack of bricks and backing vocals worthy of the best Stax or Motown recording of the day. The Beatles sound like a pretty good tailgate party.

The song isn't about buying tickets to a game, but it does talk about that most curious of all ticket holders – the one who has them but doesn't care. While John Lennon laments the fact that she 1) has tickets, and 2) does not appear to care about that, what really seems to offend him the most is that she didn't think

to bring him along for the ride or at least leave him tickets, too.

The concept and practice of ticketing leaves little to the imagination, and it reflects a basic tenet of the human experience: either you're in or you're out. Purchasing a resale ticket – scalping in the parlance – can take the most staid suburban house-husband and turn him into a bargaining Moroccan Berber in the parking lot.

"I'll give you \$50."

"The tickets are \$65."

"I'll give you \$55."

"Maaan... you know what? \$100. They're \$100 now."

"I'll give you \$65."

"Uh-huh."

(The previous dialogue being an actual example of my bargaining attempt at a Baltimore Oriole's game in 1995.)

And, once you're in, the

segregation and preferred status, the ranking structure is laid out in the starkest of ways. The first-class ticket, the press box, the view lounge, the private suite ... they all afford you glimpses at the event, but some are more unobstructed than others.

In fact, one of the greatest things about watching the ticketed event is finding out that while we all saw the same thing, we imparted different meanings. Did Ali land that punch to Liston's jaw? Did Ruth call that shot?

Did John Lennon really just sing "Help!" and "I'm a Loser" to a sold-out Shea Stadium crowd?

One can only hope these events are worth the price of admission.

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

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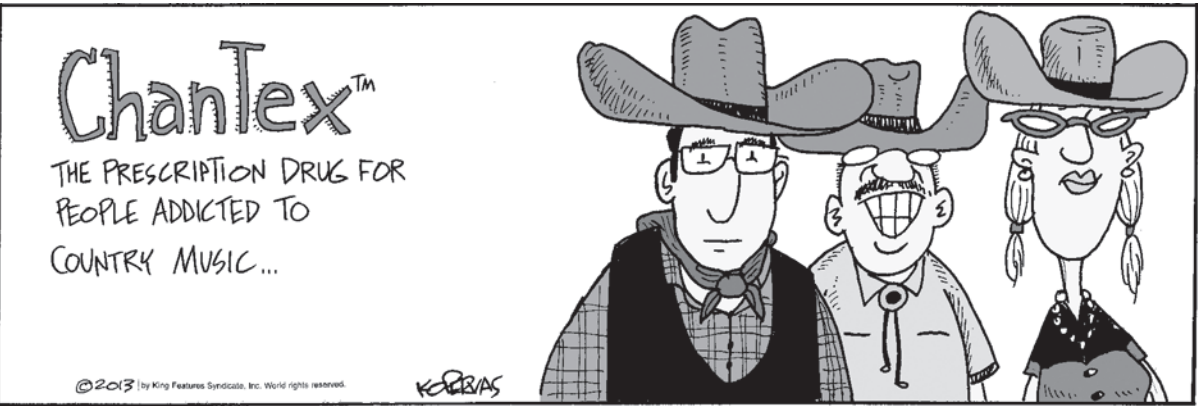
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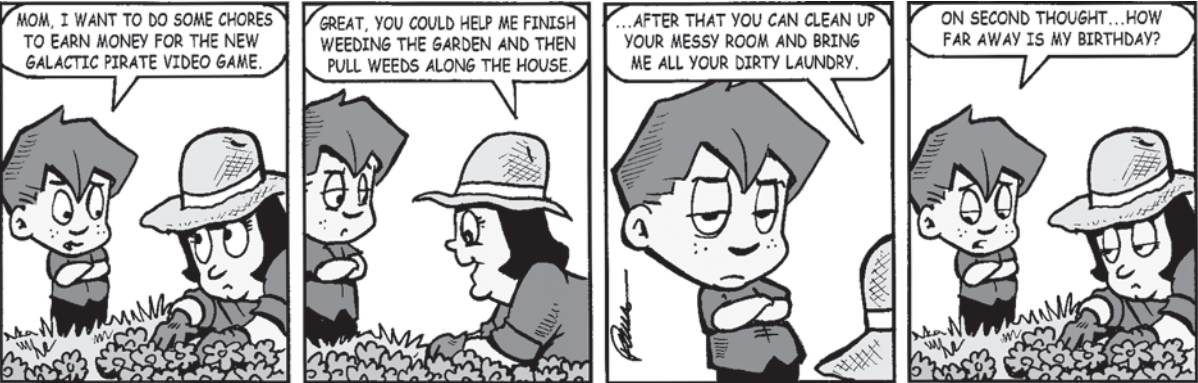
OUT ON A LIMB

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: Is it true that those of us who have to take Prilosec every day are in danger of getting a bone fracture? Should we consider stopping it? – Anon.

We need to give readers a clue to what we’re talking about. The subject is GERD, gastroesophageal reflux disease, something most call “heartburn.” It’s the eruption of stomach acid and digestive juices into the esophagus, a place not built to withstand those powerful fluids. Proton-pump inhibitors are the most effective suppressants of acid production. There are eight: Prilosec (omeprazole), Nexium (esomeprazole), Prevacid (lansoprazole), Dexilant (dexlansoprazole), Protonix (pantoprazole) and Aciphex (rabeprazole). These medicines have made life livable for people who don’t respond to other strategies or medicines for heartburn control.

All effective medicines have side effects. A side effect of proton-pump inhibitors is weakening of the hip bone with possible fracture of it. It’s not a common occurrence. When it happens, it happens to those who have taken high doses of these medicines for five to seven years. As a preventive step, take a proton-pump inhibitor at the lowest dose that controls symptoms and for the shortest time possible. You can resume taking it if and when heartburn returns.

You also can try acid suppressants that don’t have this side effect: Tums, Roloids and Maalox. Don’t eat foods that cause you to have heartburn. Frequent offenders are excessive amounts of caffeine, chocolate, alcohol, peppermint, fatty foods, citrus fruits and tomatoes. Or try a different family of acid suppressants. Zantac (ranitidine), Pepcid (famotidine) and Tagamet (cimetidine) are examples.

I wouldn’t use the unapproved treatment mentioned in the letter you sent. It appears that its distributor is playing on

exaggerated fear. The booklet on heartburn explains this illness and its treatment in detail. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 501W, 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: I am a 90-year-old senior in good health. I belong to an HMO. During my annual physical, I told the doctor I had some hemorrhoids. He insisted I get a colonoscopy. My family is ready to kill him for recommending this for someone 90 years old. I have refused the colonoscopy and received a letter stating that I would be responsible for any bills if I ever have a problem. Should I have this procedure? – H.L.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a committee of recognized authorities, says people can stop having colonoscopies at age 75 if previous colonoscopies have been normal. It also says that people older than 85 should not be routinely advised to have a colonoscopy, because the danger of colon perforation during the exam is greater than their risk of dying from cancer. However, if older people have a life expectancy of 10 years and want to be screened, their wishes should be honored.

Ask your doctor about other ways of detecting colon cancer. The fecal immunochemical test for blood is an example. Your stance is not unreasonable.

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

HOLIDAY TEAM ACROSS

1Guns, as a motor

5 Doorway

sidepiece

9 Place-setting base

12 "Scram!"

18 Rink jump

19 Morales of "Bad Boys"

20 City near Mauna Kea

21 See 5-Down

22 Holiday team member #1

25 Loving type

26 British coins

27 Holiday team member #2

29 Rains down cold pellets

31 Three-in-one M.D.

32 Atop, to a bard

33 Mlle. who's canonized

34 Holiday team member #3

41 Honolulu's home

45 Swiss river to the Rhine

46 Stew globule

47 Marine route

51 Holiday team member #4

57 Actor's quest

58 Having no wheels

59 Gold, in Rome

60 Wild cats

63 Poet Tate

64 Holiday team member #5

69 Utters again

71 Archer's skill

72 Prefix with paganism

73 Director Van

82 "The Real

85 The "4" of 4/1/11: Abbr.

86 Auto garage worker, at times

88 Rice-A-__

89 Holiday team member #7

94 Port in Denmark

97 Playa __ Rey

98 Bitter beer

99 "Guarding __" (1994 movie)

100 Holiday team member #8

106 Thurman of movies

109 Valueless

110 Quite a ways

111 Antenna

116 Holiday team member #9

123 "Leave It to Beaver" role

124 Marrying minister, e.g.

125 Holiday team

127 Like brains and ears

128 Kitchen gadget brand

129 Chilled

130 A while ago

131 Record label for Kenny G

132 Charisse of "Brigadoon"

133 Aware of

134 Storied Fed Eliot

DOWN

1 Scraping files

2 Boot out

3 Novelist Jules

4 Pizza part

5 With 21-Across, motor for a Boeing 777

6 China setting

7 "One __ meat is..."

8 Ohio State's conference

9 Very small: Prefix

10 Opposite of aweather

11 Big name in lawn mowers

12 Standard-__ (leaders of movements)

13 Sanction

14 Really eager

15 Bicycle pair

16 Unreactive

17 Concise

20 Port-au-Prince's land

23 Captures

24 Telephoned

28 Young pal of Pooh

30 Fixes, as a pet

35 __ Rizzo ("Midnight Cowboy" role)

36 Feeling of rage

37 "Science Friday" aier

38 "How about that!"

39 Partakes of

40 Dawn's illumination

41 Muppet grouch

42 "Behold __ Horse" (1964 drama)

43 Tosses

44 Breaking, as a bad habit

48 Be a suitor of

49 Cockpit datum: Abbr.

50 "I agree"

52 Paul Newman's Ohio alma mater

53 Giant in oil

54 First-rate

55 Little kid

56 Bawl

61 Amazon.__

62 Blissful

65 Hotfooted it

66 Ham-handed

67 United __ College Fund

68 Oozy stuff

70 Little, in Scotland

74 __ cavae (big blood vessels)

75 Cake finishers

76 Square ones

78 Ampersand's meaning

79 Dirt Devil, e.g., briefly

80 "The Little Rascals" girl

82 Pal

83 Axle, for one

84 Compass pt.

87 "Therein __ tale"

90 Lupino of Hollywood

91 Pal of Stimpy

92 Pixieish one

93 "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-__" (Irish lullaby)

95 Keystone Kops creator Mack __

96 Nation north of Ethiopia

101 Livy's 1,051

102 __ a bad start

103 Popular nickname for tennis star Nadal

104 Bay Area city, briefly

105 Axed down

106 Palate dangler

107 Grand house

108 Trial excuse

112 A noble gas

113 Actress __ Kristen

114 Smart-__ (wiseacres)

115 Harps' kin

117 LAX guesses

118 Tiny division of a min.

119 Tasting of wood, as some wines

120 Like albums, nowadays

121 Dianetics proponent __ Hubbard

122 Defreeze

126 Oath answer

Answer Page 4

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