



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Genealogy workshop

El Paso Museum of History, located at 510 North Santa Fe Street, will present a Family Histories of El Paso Workshop to compliment the current permanent exhibit Neighborhoods and Shared Memories. Join Ana Maria Rodriguez at 2 p.m., Saturday, September 14, for a fun, family-friendly workshop on how to trace your ancestral roots. This workshop is free and open to the public. Ever since the famous TV series of Roots premiered, genealogy has become a favorite pastime. While most of us don't have aristocratic roots or hidden noble titles, we all have a family that has a story to tell or a dark little secret. Recently a new program, called "Who Do You Think You Are?" has sparked a renewed interest in family histories. This workshop will help you get started on your family stories. Rodriguez has been researching her family for about ten years. Raised in the Segundo barrio, she is a proud graduate of Bowie High School. She has been a volunteer for both the History and Archaeology museums for the past four years. As a researcher, she has learned many ways to make finding your family roots easier. For more information and to reserve a seat, contact Sue Taylor at 351-3588 or taylorst@elpasotexas.gov.

— Alfredo Vasquez

### Ex-Lion wanted

Clint High School's Outstanding Alumni Selection Committee is seeking nominations for this year's "Outstanding Clint High School Ex." Nominations must be submitted on the official nomination form which can be collected at the high school's main office or downloaded from the website under the Public Files tab: <http://www.epsilen.com/grp/CLINTHSGroup>. A résumé and written testimonial must accompany the application. The deadline is September 27, 2013 by 3 p.m. Applications may be dropped off at Clint High School or mailed to: Clint High School Alumni Award, 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, TX, 79928. The winner of the award will be notified the week before homecoming and will participate in the homecoming parade on Wednesday, October 9. The recipient will also be announced at the homecoming game during the half time show on Friday, October 11.

— Serena Rivera

### Wanted

Jacob Plaut is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He also uses Jacob Fox and Joseph Fox. Plaut is 6' tall, weighs 200 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. He is wanted for cocaine possession and for fleeing from authorities over the weekend. Judge Patrick Garcia of the 384th District Court has issued an arrest warrant, without bond, for Plaut. He is very familiar with the area and may

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— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**PRAYING FOR REFORM** – Marco Raposo, director of El Paso Diocese's Peace and Justice Ministry, center, was facilitator for the recent solidarity prayer service held along the border fence in the desert hills near Sunland Park, NM. Concerning the present immigrant reform debate in the U. S. Congress, Raposo said, "We want reform that will allow for families to be united... The mechanism that will allow workers who would like to come and work legally to be adjusted to reflect reality... and we oppose the militant protection of the border. Yes, a sovereign nation has the right to protect its border but that protection needs to be in a humane fashion."

## Religious leaders meet at border fence to support immigration reform

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

Catholic Bishops from Mexican dioceses in Juárez, Piedras Negras, Sonora, Nuevo Laredo, and Matamoros, met recently with their American counterparts from San Angelo, San Antonio, Laredo, Brownsville, Las Cruces, and El Paso to show their solidarity regarding immigration reform.

The religious clergy along with more than 100 other concerned individuals came together in the desert hills outside Sunland Park, NM where the chain-link and concrete border fence divides the two countries. The meeting was part of a solidarity prayer service where participants on both sides of the fence took turns speaking and praying for immigrants.

Catholic leaders along the border and across the country have mobilized during the current U.S. congressional recess to advocate for immigration reform. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops recently

called for bishops and priests to preach a coordinated message backing changes in immigration policy.

During the solidarity service, the bishops from the border dioceses made a pledge to continue working with migrants spiritually and also to press elected officials to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Gustavo Garcia Sillar, archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, told the audience, "Faith is what has sustained us in this fight of love we have for others, who have faces, who have souls and who have names. And here together on this border, we want to build on this faith, on this love and hope through our prayers, that we may renew our strength against all the challenges that we have."

Alonso Garza, bishop from Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, stated, "We pray for our brothers and sisters who have the hope of legalizing their situation in this country... and that in their countries where they come from – El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico – that there be a

better distribution of riches."

Toward the end of the service, the bishops stood together and read their statement of commitment: "I commit to work for protection of all migrants, just immigration reform, the end of gun trafficking, gun violence, and for the protection for all victims of gun violence in our midst."

After the service, Rev. Arturo Bañuelas, of St. Pius X Catholic Church, told reporters that it is important that churches and church leaders, especially along the border, take a stand. "We live on the border and immigration reform affects everyone on the border. We're talking about our brothers and sisters... The broken immigration system affects children and separates families and complicates lives," Bañuelas said.

"Immigration reform must look more at the immigrants and the contributions they are making instead of seeing them as a problem to be dealt with. Immigrants contribute to the economy and bring family value and a value system that benefits our country in the long run," Bañuelos added.

## Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta to be at Tom Mays Park

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier



— Photo courtesy of Franklin Mountains State Park

**BORN HUNTER** – Houdini the Harris Hawk will appear at 10 a.m. at the entertainment stage area during the Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta at Tom Mays Park. Houdini is a 12-year-old Harris Hawk that came to the El Paso Zoo in August 2012. Harris Hawks hunt in packs earning them the nickname "Wolves of the Sky". They can be found in Southwest United States all the way down to South America. Like all raptors, Harris Hawks naturally help control animal populations. They help keep ecosystems in balance and so protecting their habitats is very important.

and Gear, will offer a climbing class at Sneed's Cory- which is along the roadway up to the West Cottonwood Springs trailhead. Also, the Serna Ranch Youth Leadership group will provide free horse rides and hay rides to various sites in the park. And, a food booth will sell Navajo fry tacos, chili beans, nachos, chips, water, and sodas.

Another scheduled activity will be the Agostini-Justiniani the Hermit guided tour. The approximately 30-minute walk along Sunset Trail is named after a man who was said to roam these mountains in the 1800s.

According to local legend, Agostini-Justiniani, "El Ermitano" (the Hermit), was born in 1800 to a wealthy Italian family. As a young man he studied to be a priest but for unknown reasons decided against taking his vows. He spent his life traveling, mostly by foot, through Europe, Mexico, South America, Cuba and the United States. In 1869 he made his home in La Cueva, a natural shelter in the Organ Mountains (presently located in Dripping Springs Natural Area).

As the story goes, for protection against his solitary lifestyle the hermit told his friends in Mesilla NM to watch out for his safety by

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Men fight for freedom and then start making laws to get rid of it.

— Quips & Quotes



## Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

# VA gobbledygook

The title of the report by the Office of the Inspector General sounded interesting: Audit of Non-Purchase Card Micro-Purchases. The first thing I learned was that “micro” doesn’t necessarily mean small.

A micro-purchase in the Department of Veterans Affairs is one that is less than \$3,000. Last year, the Veterans Health Administration spent \$3 billion on micro-purchases. Non-purchase cards were used, and those cards earn rebates. The audit was to learn if the Veterans Health Administration could increase efficiency and cost effectiveness with the non-purchase cards.

What the OIG concluded was that medical facilities could have saved \$20 million by using non-purchase cards. Out of 729,000 non-purchase card purchases, they missed 279,000 chances (38 percent) to get a rebate. That would have come to \$4 million and could zoom to \$133 million over the next five years.

The OIG’s recommendation is that the VA Office of Management “establish policies and procedures” to increase the use of non-purchase card micro-purchases.

There were reasons for the non-use of the cards, the OIG says: use of vendors who didn’t take purchase-cards, payments to veterans for tort claims and pharmacy co-payments.

It’s possible, however, that the reason the non-purchase cards weren’t used can be found in the manual on the use of those cards. It says the spending limit is \$3,000 – except for “acquisitions of construction,” which has a \$2,000 limit. Or how about “acquisitions of services subject to the Service Contract Act,” which has a \$2,500 limit. Or how about those purchases “established by FAR 2.101,” which has a \$150,000 limit.

What follows in the manual are many, many pages of details about the specifics of card use and the penalties for abuse. Given all that, I don’t know if I’d want to take a chance on using a non-purchase card either.

*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](mailto:columnreply2@gmail.com). (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.*

## Finances

By Jason Alderman

# How to survive an IRS audit

Few events inspire more dread than an IRS tax audit. Even if you’re confident you’ve accounted for every cent of income and only taken legitimate deductions, it’s hard not to worry what a close examination of your tax returns might uncover – not to mention the time spent tracking down old records.

Here are a few pointers to help allay your fears and better prepare in case you should ever get chosen for the dreaded IRS audit:

There are three basic types of IRS audits:

- Correspondence audit, which is conducted entirely by mail. You’ll receive a letter from the IRS asking for additional information about specific items on your tax return.
- Field audit, where an IRS agent comes to your home or business to examine records and observe where you work.
- Office audit, where you must be interviewed at an IRS office.

According to Chris Kollaja, a certified public accountant and partner at A.L. Nella & Company in San Francisco, California, if you’re having a correspondence audit and you feel your records are too voluminous to mail, you can request a face-to-face audit.

“You can also ask a representative, such as your accountant, tax preparer or lawyer, to help prepare for the audit and even attend it in your place, if allowed,” says Kollaja. “An experienced tax professional can tell you what to expect, guide your responses and keep the audit on track should you get tongue-tied or start sharing more than is necessary.”

The chances of being audited are low. “Sometimes returns are randomly selected for audit, but more often it’s because something jumped out in the computer analysis each return receives,” he explains.

Common items that might trigger an audit:

- Taxable income listed on your return doesn’t match amounts W-2 or 1099 forms, 401(k) plan or IRA distributions, brokerage accounts, etc.
- Taking above-average charitable deductions relative to your income.
- Deducting business meals, travel and entertainment.
- Claiming the home office deduction.
- Failure to report foreign bank account assets.
- Concealing cash income or receipts.
- Excessive cash transactions over \$10,000.
- Your close relationship to another taxpayer being audited.
- Someone reports suspicious activity by you (the IRS offers a Whistleblower Award).

Kollaja recommends several ways to prepare for and attend an audit:

- Respond to the IRS within the stated deadline – usually 30 days.
- Organize paperwork and receipts pertinent to the issues they’ve identified.
- If you won’t have everything ready in time for the audit, contact your auditor to discuss whether it can proceed anyway, or if they’ll agree to postpone it.
- Bring or send only documentation requested in the initial notice. At an in-person audit, keep you answers brief and don’t voluntarily provide information that could launch a fishing expedition.
- If the examiner questions you on an item not mentioned in the initial notice, you’re allowed to ask for additional time to fulfill additional requests.
- Never give original receipts to the IRS agent – they are not responsible for lost paperwork.
- You’re allowed to make an audio recording of the audit provided you sent your agent written notice 10 days before the appointment. Video recordings are not allowed.
- Always be polite. Acting belligerent or evasive can only hurt your cause.

Kollaja suggests reading IRS Publication 556 to learn more about how the audit process works and reviewing the section on itemized deductions in Publication 17, both available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Bottom line: Think positively – you might even come out of the audit with a tax refund – it happens.

*Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.*

THE BEST TIME TO LEARN THE SIGNS OF STROKE IS BEFORE YOU HAVE ONE. STROKES ARE THE NUMBER-THREE KILLER IN THIS COUNTRY, YET MANY PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE. THEY DON'T KNOW THAT MORE OF THE BRAIN CAN BE SAVED IF A STROKE IS DETECTED AND TREATMENT IS RECEIVED IMMEDIATELY.

**A STROKE ATTACKS THE BRAIN. THE BRAIN ALERTS YOUR BODY TO DANGER. SEE THE PROBLEM?**

STROKES BEGIN WHEN A BLOOD VESSEL IN THE BRAIN BECOMES BLOCKED OR BURSTS. BLOOD FLOW IS CUT OFF. TISSUE IS STARVED FOR OXYGEN, AND PARTS OF THE BRAIN DIE. IF NOT TREATED QUICKLY, ABILITIES AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE CAN BE LOST. YOUR BRAIN IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION. GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE.

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

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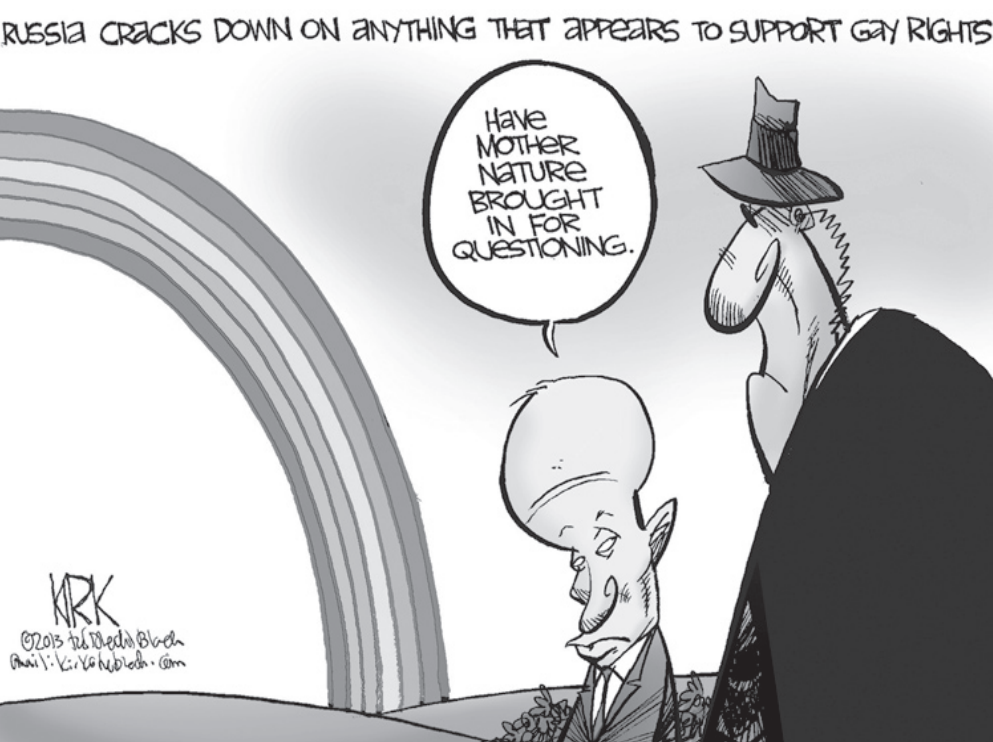
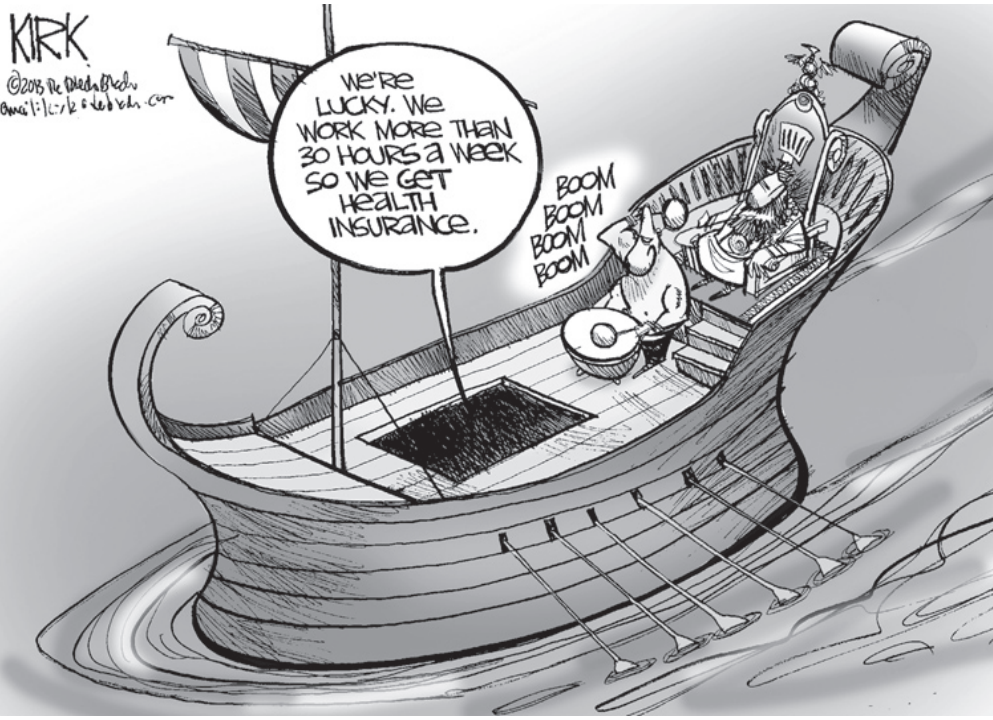
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It's the law

By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Outsmarting online child predators

Every day, law enforcement officers around the state who specialize in cyber crimes investigations work tirelessly to identify and locate potential child sex predators who troll Internet chat rooms for underage victims. Since its launch in 2003, the Office of the Attorney General's Cyber Crimes Unit has arrested 150 suspects who used the Internet to prey upon children – and we often do so by pairing up with local and federal law enforcement officers.

In a series of undercover sting operations during the month of June, for example, our cyber crimes officers teamed with officers in the Round Rock Police Department and the FBI to identify, locate and arrest eight suspected child predators in Williamson and northern Travis counties. All eight suspects were charged with online solicitation of a minor, a felony punishable by at least two years in prison.

During the undercover operation, Cyber Crimes Unit officers identified and arrested three suspected online predators who placed or responded to online advertisements seeking sexual encounters with children. In one case, investigators determined that Emmanuel Alejandro Gonzalez, 27, had posted an online advertisement seeking sexual activity. When someone he thought was a 15-year-old girl responded to the advertisement, Gonzalez conducted sexually graphic online chats with her and arranged to meet her in Round Rock. The "girl" was actually an undercover Cyber Crimes Unit investigator. Cyber Crimes Unit officers identified and arrested Gonzalez, transporting him to the Round Rock Police Department.

Cyber Crimes Unit officers also arrested five suspects who initiated online chats on social networking sites to sexually proposition children. One of the suspects arrested was Noel Santos Torres, a 31-year-old restaurant chain manager. According to investigators, Torres initiated online chats and exchanged sexually graphic text messages with someone he thought was a 15-year-old girl. The "girl" was actually an undercover Cyber Crimes Unit officer. Torres sexually propositioned the girl and arranged to meet her on June 12 at a location in Round Rock. Cyber Crimes Unit officers identified and arrested Torres when he

See PREDATORS, Page 4

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: 09/12/13



## Predators

From Page 1

arrived at the meeting.

We are grateful to the local, state and federal law enforcement officials from Central Texas who helped make these eight arrests possible and continue to work with the Cyber Crimes Unit to protect Texas families.

The results of our undercover summer sweep demonstrate that collaboration between state and federal authorities and police and sheriff’s departments statewide offers the best pathway to success.

Another key to our unified approach to encouraging cyber safety and protecting children online is parental involvement. Cyber predators pose a constant and very real threat to

young Texans’ safety and well-being, so Texas parents must remain vigilant to their children’s online activity. Specifically, parents must remind their children and teenagers about the potentially dangerous criminals hiding behind seemingly benign online profiles or online advertisements.

Since criminals use today’s technology to be more creative

in their illegal pursuits, parents should also establish boundaries for children’s mobile phone usage. Our Cyber Crimes Unit officers have arrested several sexual predators – including some of those taken into custody during our summer sweep – who used wireless devices in an attempt to call or text children. These communications often include sexually explicit language

### Safety tips

Parents can establish safe online environments for children and teens by setting the following boundaries:

#### Internet access

- Place the computer in a public room at home. Do not permit children or teens to use Web cameras.
- Make sure children know never to agree to a face-to-face meeting with someone they meet online and never to divulge personal information to an Internet stranger.
- Establish ground rules, including the hours children and teens may be online and the kinds of websites they may visit.

#### Wireless devices

- Teach children and teens to avoid calling or texting people they don’t already know.
- Save any inappropriate images or texts a child or teen receives and provide them to law enforcement officials.
- Use the wireless service provider’s parental controls to monitor and manage children’s cell phone use.

or images intended to lure children into a sexual encounter. Wireless devices that allow users to surf the Internet may also give children an opportunity to go online and access sexually explicit content, chat rooms and social networking sites without a parent’s knowledge.

Texas families seeking more information about cyber safety should access the Attorney General’s website at [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov), which includes publications, videos and tips from cyber investigators on making the Internet a safe and valuable tool for families.

### Briefs

From Page 1

have taken refuge and hiding with friends in the same immediate area. He knows authorities are looking for. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Plaut they can call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of the Plaut.

– Jesse Tovar



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CryptoQuip  
Answer

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### Schedule of Events: Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta at Tom Mays Park

9:00 a.m. – Short Conservation Tours

10:00 a.m. – Houdini the Harris Hawk from the El Paso Zoo

10:15 a.m. – Short Conservation Tours

11:00 a.m. – Agostini-Justiniani the Hermit guided tour

11:30 – Champion Studio-Children Folklorico

Noon – Zills in the Desert-Adult Belly Dance Group

12:30 p.m. – Little Zills- Children Belly Dance Group

1:00 p.m. – Desert Snakes from the El Paso Zoo

1:30 p.m. – Tezcatloc Aztec Drums

2:00 p.m. – Agostini-Justiniani the Hermit guided tour

## Fiesta

From Page 1

saying, “I shall make a fire in front of my cave every Friday evening while I shall be alive. If the fire fails to appear, it will be because I have been killed. I shall bless you daily in my prayers.”

One Friday night in the April of 1869, the hermit’s fire was not seen. A group from Mesilla came up the mountain and found the hermit lying face down, stabbed in the back. On his gravestone in the Mesilla cemetery the

following is written in Spanish: “Juan Maria Justiniano, Hermit of the Old and New World. He died the 17th of April, 1869, at 69 years and 49 years a hermit.”

The desert fiesta is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the help of volunteers from the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition. Every year the event attracts hundreds of people to the desert mountain park in northwest El Paso.

For more information about the upcoming event, contact Franklin Mountains State Park at 566-6441 or visit its website at [www.chihuahuandesert.org](http://www.chihuahuandesert.org).

### PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* office is closed.

The office will open again on Monday, September 30, 2013.

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mkt research analysis. Monitor mkt & industry past & current trends & statistics in order to create mkt behavior projection matrixes. Assist Developmental Agent in dvlpg new stores & remodels. Req'd: Bach's in Mktg. Approx 25% of travel req'd. Res: Samson Development Corp., Attn: Carol English, Developmnt. Spec., 1119 N. Virginia St., Ste# A, El Paso, TX 79902

### Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2013 on Thursday, September 19, 2013, at 3:00 p.m., at the offices of the District, 14100 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928. 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:

Benny Davis, Maureen Singleton, Florence Thomas, Gordon Jarvis, and Bonnie Moorehouse

AGAINST the proposal:

NONE

PRESENT and not voting:

NONE

ABSENT:

NONE

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)	0.4687/\$100	0.4900/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$0.0213/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	4.54%	
Average appraised value	\$ 106,337	\$ 105,716
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 106,337	\$ 105,716
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 498.40	\$ 518.01
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 19.61	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 3.93%	

#### 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.

## To Our Valued Subscribers

The *Courier* apologizes for your paper being late the last two weeks.

The United States Postal Service has decided to enforce an additional 20¢ of postage – an effective increase of 50% – per paper for “sorting” it by hand.

This is despite the fact that the *Cou-rier* is posted as first-class matter and not at a lower printed matter rate. It is also delivered to the postal system *pre-sorted*.

The alternative is to “tab” (tape) the paper on its edges. We don’t believe you want to deal with tape on your paper.

Instead of notifying the *Couier* that they would do this, the postal system ran the papers – two weeks running – back through their system to our office.

This, as you may imagine, took them some time to accomplish. We were not aware of the problem in time to correct it until seven days after their decision had been made. Hence two weeks of late papers.

Again, our apologies.



# Miners need a defense to go with their offense

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

The UTEP Miners opened their 2013 football season last weekend with a hard-fought 42-35 overtime loss to the New Mexico Lobos in the Sun Bowl.

It was a very good game. It didn't supply us with the desired result, but it was still fun to watch.

I noticed a lot of differences in this year's version of the Miners.

There was a difference on the sidelines with new coach Sean Kugler. The UTEP band was sitting in a different location, the UTEP football team was standing at a different side of the field and the opening ceremonies were a little different with the return of the loud motorcycles.

So many things were different, except for one glaring exception – the Miners' are still the not-so-proud owners of a bend, and break, defense.

Over the years, the Miners have had no problem putting points on the board but

they've had score 30 points or more to have a chance to win any games.

And many times, like the 35 they put up against the Lobos, even that isn't enough.

Nolan Ryan used to go into baseball games with a disadvantage; every batter on the other team knew what he was going to throw.

He was going to throw fastball after fastball. All the other team had to do was hit it. And even though they knew what was coming, they often couldn't do anything about it.

Going into last Saturday's game, the UTEP coaching staff talked all week about New Mexico's vaunted running attack – which was shut down by new Conference USA member UT San Antonio in week one, by the way.

The UTEP defense knew what was coming and they still couldn't do anything about it.

The Lobos didn't just run the ball on the Miners' defense; they ran through huge gaping holes that I'm sure my dad could have run through.

And he has a bad hip.

The UTEP secondary had to have got up sore the next morning after all the tackles they had to make – when they were able to make

them.

The Miners grab-and-try-to-hold-on defense allowed a jaw-dropping 395 yards rushing and 483 total yards.

The one guy they had to stop, New Mexico's Kasey Carrier, ran around, between and through the defense for 291 yards and four touchdowns.

Not bad for a guy that was held to just 54 yards in his first game against UT San Antonio – the team UTEP opens up conference play against in two weeks.

The good news is that the Miners may have found a star running back of their own.

Although they already have Nathan Jeffery, who has proven that he can run against anyone, it was the emergence of former Burges High runner Aaron Jones who has the town talking.

After playing for the Mustangs last season, Jones rushed for 127 yards and scored two touchdowns in his first collegiate game.

That included an electrifying 65-yard catch-me-if-you-can sprint down the sidelines. By the way, they couldn't catch him.

Quarterback Jameill Showers was adequate

in his first game with the Miners, but it appeared that the UTEP coaches had him on a very tight leash.

All he did was attempt short passes near the line of scrimmage all night long. It would be nice if the wide receivers on the team had a chance to stretch their legs and catch some balls downfield.

Anyway, there's no doubt that Kugler will point the Miners in the right direction. Don't forget that his team is made up of former Mike Price players, and they didn't have a history of success.

It's going to take a couple more years for Kugler to recruit the type of players he needs to match his style of play, which is more of a Nolan Ryan try-to-stop-us brand of football.

If the Miners are going to finish 6-6 this season, which would be an accomplishment seeing how seven of their last 11 games are on the road, their defense is going to have to be average.

After years of finishing at, or near, the very bottom of the national defensive rankings – just having an average defense would be a step in the right direction.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Optimism in Oakland

Spending time in Oakland, Calif., is a sporting event all unto itself.

Oakland is a weird place in that it suffers in the shadow of its larger and more famous sister city of San Francisco. First-time visitors often are amazed at the architecture, such as the Oakland Tribune building, a

landmark that appears ripped from the comic-book pages of Gotham. Most people don't even know it's right across the bay from San Francisco and the city has suffered from a rash of bad headlines in recent years. The crime rate is high, and the policing here is known to

be a bit extreme too, as the Occupy Oakland riots proved.

But as I return from the Burning Man festival, I find the Oakland A's occupying first place and eyeing a clear path to the playoffs. Going head-to-head with the Texas Rangers in early September and with the Yankees surging and knocking Baltimore back on their heels, the A's would have to lose at least six games in a row to fall out of wildcard contention. That would be tough to do, as they have

no games scheduled with any other likely contenders for the rest of the season.

Meanwhile, over in Berkeley, the Golden Bears once again are showing signs of life. With a no-huddle offense and a true freshman quarterback named Jared Goff, the Golden Bears almost pulled off an upset win against Northwestern to open the season. The kid played his heart out, passing for more than 440 yards and five touchdowns – though two were for the opposing team. Despite the loss, fans were excited to be talking about a quarterback in Aaron Rodgersesque ways.

Even the Golden State Warriors were on people's minds. Overheard

in the sports bar was the fact that the Warriors will be nationally televised this year more times than ever before. I also was surprised to learn that Golden State Warrior fans believe that Golden State Warrior fans are the greatest basketball fans in the nation. After a round of that discussion, I head to leave.

Outside, one of the colorful local inhabitants without a home shouts like a maniac about things I cannot describe here.

I turn back around. Yeah... Golden State will be pretty good this year. Great fans. Great fans.

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

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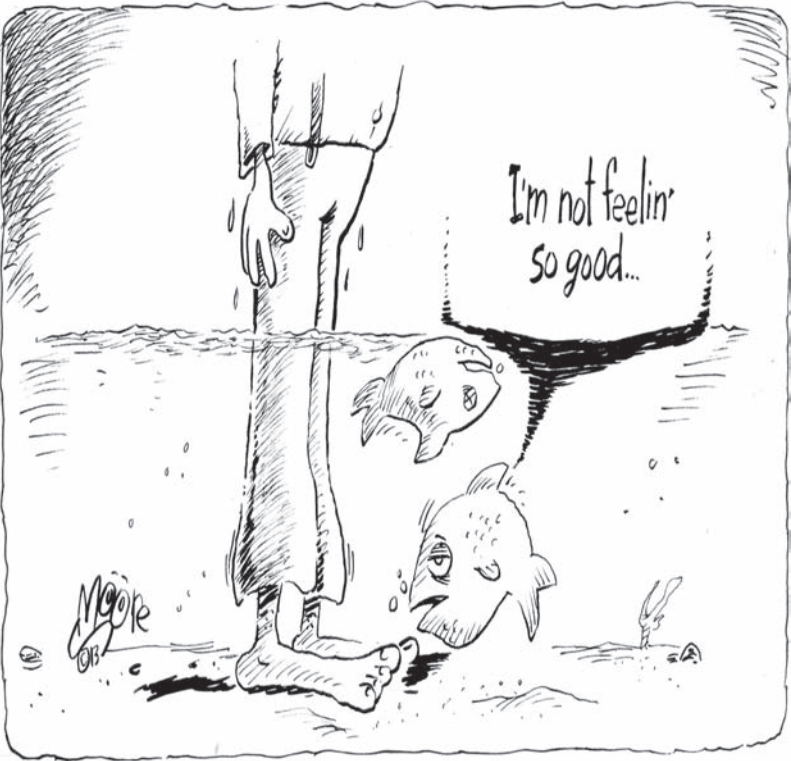
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**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore **When Sam Houston was baptized the preacher said the water washed away all his sins. Sam responded “Lord have mercy on the fish!”**



**GO FIGURE!** by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate   ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		x		21
+		x		x	
	x		-		26
x		-		+	
	x		+		17
28		28		29	

1 2 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4   ★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

# Spanish is no problem

DuringNationalHispanicHeritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15, people across the country will join in recognizing the many contributions of Hispanic Americans, and in celebrating Hispanic heritage and culture.

For years, Social Security’s website has been a leader in providing information and services in Spanish. Find out what we have to offer by visiting [www.segurosocial.gov](http://www.segurosocial.gov).

This year, we launched a brand new mobile-friendly site that offers the same great service on your mobile device when you’re on the run. Try it out on your smartphone at [www.segurosocial.gov](http://www.segurosocial.gov). There, you can learn all about our programs and online services, and view more than 100 Spanish public information pamphlets, leaflets, and fact sheets.

Computer and tablet users can do even more at [www.segurosocial.gov](http://www.segurosocial.gov). In addition to all the information and materials we offer in Spanish, you also can take advantage of several of our popular online services in Spanish. One of the best features of the site is the Spanish-language Retirement Estimator located at [www.segurosocial.gov/calculador](http://www.segurosocial.gov/calculador). The Retirement Estimator allows

visitors to receive an instant, personalized estimate of future retirement benefits. And what’s better, visitors can try out different scenarios to see how their future benefits would change, like changing future wage estimates or retirement dates. It is a great tool for planning your financial future.

When you are ready to retire, you can apply online for retirement benefits ... all in Spanish ... and in as little as 15 minutes! Once you complete the online application for benefits, in most cases, that’s all there is to it. No papers to sign or documents to provide. Give it a try when you’re ready to retire at [www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/soliciteporinternet](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/soliciteporinternet).

If you need to visit an office and speak with someone in Spanish, we have interpreter services available in the event that there is not a Spanish-speaking representative working in the office. To learn about our interpreter services, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/interpreter.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/interpreter.htm).

In addition, our national toll-free number (1-800-772-1213) provides automated prompts in Spanish for all callers. Toward the beginning of the call, you will be asked to continue in English or Spanish; it’s

**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: A equals N

UXGYMBX LNXBZHXAR SZAGVSA

LNXXDXNNXH RV HIXSS ZA RKX

DVNXBR, Z BMLLVBX KX IYB YA

YUX ZA RKX IVVHB.

Answer Page 4

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**FEAR KNIGHT**

By: rj johnson

CONQUER THE WHIRLED

UER  
♥TUCSLO  
♥GIENB  
♥NEAC  
WISDON  
WVO  
NEBE  
WORLD  
♥OGD  
♥DEBVAR  
♥VOSRE  
♥YARW


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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as easy as that to get service in the language with which you’re most comfortable.

So, whether it is on a computer, a mobile device, through face-to-face office visits, or over our national 800 number, Social Security remains committed to providing quality service to an increasingly more diverse American public.

This National Hispanic Heritage Month, visit [www.segurosocial.gov](http://www.segurosocial.gov) on your computer, tablet, or mobile device to learn about Social Security.

**STRANGE BUT TRUE**  
By Samantha Weaver

- It was noted wit Ambrose Bierce who made the following sage observation: “All are lunatics, but he who can analyze his delusion is called a philosopher.”
- When the famous “Hollywood” sign was constructed in 1923, it read “Hollywoodland.” It was an advertisement for a new housing development and was expected to be in place only about a year and a half. The sign became such a recognizable symbol of the new film industry in Los Angeles that it has been refurbished and rebuilt as necessary for 90 years.
- In January of 2004, the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of maggots as a medical device for cleaning wounds.
- If you’re planning a trip to Laramie, Wyo., you might want to make a pilgrimage to the Ames Pyramid. At the end of a 2-mile dirt road, in the middle of featureless pastureland, you’ll find this 60-foot-tall monument seemingly plunked down at random. The pyramid was built in 1882 near a line of the Union Pacific railroad and in honor of the railroad’s financiers. It was thought that the monument would be a welcome distraction to railroad passengers traveling through the plains of Wyoming. The decline of railroad travel, however, caused many tracks to be removed, including the line that ran by the pyramid. Now only cows are left to admire this relic of the industrial age.
- The 1979 horror movie “Alien” has become a cult classic, but not many people realize that it was originally titled “Star Beast.”

Thought for the Day: “Hollywood is a place where they’ll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss and 50 cents for your soul. I know, because I turned down the first offer often enough and held out for the 50 cents.”

– Marilyn Monroe

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