



NEWSBRIEFS

Wanted I

Manhunt Monday is looking for a local con artist, Victor Hernandez. Hernandez, 39, is 5'10" tall, weighs 265 pounds and has brown eyes and hair. He is wanted for scheming people out of money. He portrays himself as a contractor to remodel



Victor Hernandez

homes. Hernandez begins the work but then collects money and never returns to finish the jobs he is hired for. Over the years, he has collected thousands of dollars for work that is never completed. Hernandez knows authorities are looking for him. Her has several friends and family in the El Paso area that could be hiding him. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Hernandez they should 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 Hernandez.

— Javier Sambrano

Wanted II

Manhunt Monday is also looking for Jesus Angel Alvarado. Alvarado, 45, is 5'9" tall and weighs 195 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes.



Jesus Alvarado

In December 2013 Alvarado showed up unannounced to the home of an ex-girlfriend in northeast El Paso. When the new boyfriend answered the door Alvarado brutally assaulted him with a baseball bat. He left the area before authorities arrived. The victim was hospitalized from this attack. Charges were filed a short time later. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Alvarado they should 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 Alvarado.

— Javier Sambrano

Wanted III

A woman is held up at gun-point in a central El Paso parking lot. Detectives from the El Paso Police Department are asking for the public's help in identifying this violent criminal through the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On the afternoon of Friday Jan. 24, 2014 a woman that had just left work for the day gets into her car. A man approached her

See BRIEFS, Page 2

Paying for college Parents, students, in San Eli get options for tuition

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – San Elizario High School (SEHS) seniors are anxiously awaiting graduation only a few months away meanwhile their families may not be completely prepared to pay for rising tuition costs and other expenses. On February 5, SEHS hosted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Night to help parents and guardians access grants, scholarships, low-interest loans, and work study assistance from different sources. Thankfully for families when it comes to paying for college, financial aid is available from federal, state, higher education institutions and a variety of other outlets once they complete the FAFSA.

Despite it being a very cold Wednesday evening, over 90 parents had the opportunity to reach out to financial aid advisors and other professionals for guidance in completing the initial online form during FAFSA Night. Representatives from El Paso Community College, GECU, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, University of Texas at El Paso, and Western Technical College were on hand to assist with the lengthy application process. SEHS administrators, counselors, teachers, and staff were also available that evening facilitating in the computer labs, answering questions, and providing snacks and drinks to all the families in attendance. Immunize El Paso was also present to administer low



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

HERE'S THE DEAL – San Elizario High School teacher Donald Benson assists senior Jesus Lopez and grandparents Graciela and Jesus Lopez in navigating the online FAFSA.

cost meningitis shots since most colleges and universities now require the vaccination.

Receiving a grant, loan or work study opportunity can make a difference in making higher education more affordable for families but the first step in gaining financial aid is completing the FAFSA. That is why the SEHS Counseling Department will continue to assist students and their families in completing the FAFSA for the rest of the year.

"It was very well attended for the first round we will continue to get our seniors to come in

to the GO Center to fill out their applications." Maribel Guillen, SEHS Principal, said.

The SEHS Counseling Department urges all seniors to submit the FAFSA as soon as possible since most financial aid is awarded on a first come first serve basis. Additionally, most public colleges and universities in Texas have established March 15 as the deadline for priority funding. Senior students and their families who still have questions about FAFSA or college in general can contact the SEHS Counseling Department at 872-3970.

Romain visits Damian Elementary

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Students at Jose Damian Elementary School had a visit from one of their favorite authors and television personalities. Trevor Romain, the creator of

the popular Jack and Skye characters that appear in several PBS stations, visited Damian last week as part of a partnership between the USO and Fort Bliss.

Romain's message to the students was about self-respect, healthful living and anti-bullying methods. He used humor and storytelling to convey ideas of hope and self-improvement

to students in all grades. He also delivered a special message for the dozens of Damian students with family members in the military.

"I want to thank you for your courage and for everything you do to help your familiar deal with these very important issues," Romain said. "Students of military families have so many special challenges, and you guys do such a great job of moving forward. Thank you!"

Damian students were treated to special video presentation from Jack and Skye where they learned the importance of exercise, the need to eat healthful meals, the dangers of peer pressure and – of course – way to deal with bullies in school.

Romain complimented the school for its efforts of creating a high quality of life for its students and congratulated the children for being honest and open about their feelings.

This presentation was part of Damian's No Place For Hate programming that aims to fight bullying in schools. Canutillo ISD is the only school district in the region that is certified by the Anti-Defamation League as a No Place For Hate.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

INTENSE – Trevor Romain is serious when it comes to right living. He spoke to Damian Elementary students last Wednesday about living a good life.

Our favorite attitude should be gratitude.
— Quips & Quotes

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Thieves nabbed in fraud schemes

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General has nailed more thieves who’ve stolen money. In this case, it was from the program for government contracts for companies owned by service-disabled veterans, as well as for health-care benefits.

- New Jersey – A business owner was charged in a \$1.2 million procurement fraud. The owner claimed that her company was a service-disabled veteran-owned small business. The business was furniture, which she sold to industrial and government customers. She was never in the military; neither was her husband. Her father-in-law, however, was a retired veteran. The thief claimed that her father-in-law was the owner of the business. Even if he was, he wasn’t service-disabled. She could go to jail for 20 years and face a quarter-million dollar fine if found guilty.
- Washington, D.C. – A former Department of Defense employee was nabbed for \$2.5 million in health-care fraud for submitting false claims for health-care benefits overseas. The fraudulent claims were for prescriptions and medical items from a doctor where the employee was stationed. He managed to scam both the Foreign Service Benefit Plan as well as the VA’s Foreign Medical Program. If found guilty, he will go to prison for a very long time, with long sentences for each of the false claims.
- New Mexico – A construction-company owner pled guilty to defrauding the service-disabled-veterans program to the tune of \$11 million for its work in National Cemeteries. His son-in-

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) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

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


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

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Homesteader News, Inc.
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Finances

By Jason Alderman

Should you buy pet insurance?

One topic I’ve learned to avoid with new acquaintances until I know them better (along with politics and religion) is where they stand on the treatment of pets. Some people, when their dog gets sick or badly injured, say, “It’s an animal – that’s just part of the circle of life.” Others consider Rover a close family member and would take out a second mortgage to save his life.

Pet owners from both camps probably see the barrage of ads for pet insurance and wonder whether it’s worth the expense, which might be several thousand dollars over the life of your pet. I did some research and the best answer I can come up with is, it depends.

First, ask yourself: Do you regard pet insurance as a financial investment, where you expect to get back more in benefits than you paid out in premiums over the pet’s life? Or, is it more like auto or homeowner’s insurance, where you hope nothing ever goes seriously wrong, but you want coverage in case there’s a catastrophe?

Either way, here are some basic facts about pet insurance that may help you decide whether it’s right for you:

Pet insurance shares many features with human health insurance. Policies typically have annual deductibles, copayments and exclusions, and some limit which veterinarians, clinics and hospitals you can use.

But there are numerous differences as well. For example, pet insurers are allowed to refuse coverage for preexisting conditions and to set annual and lifetime payout limits. Among the many other restrictions you should watch for when comparing plans are:

- Premiums vary greatly depending on where you live and may increase based on your pet’s age, breed, veterinary cost inflation and other factors.
- Typically you must pay the vet or hospital bill out of pocket and get reimbursed later.
- Many plans deny or restrict coverage for congenital or hereditary conditions (like hip dysplasia in dogs or kidney failure in cats) and preventable conditions like periodontal disease.
- Along with annual and lifetime maximums on benefits paid out, there may be a limit on how much it will pay for treatment of an individual illness or accident.
- If your pet suffers a particular disorder one year, don’t be surprised if that condition is excluded at renewal – or if you’re required to pay an additional fee for future coverage.
- Pets over certain age limits frequently are denied coverage.
- Certain breeds are often excluded or only eligible for restricted coverage.
- Some carriers let you augment your accident and illness policy with optional “wellness care” coverage for things like spaying and neutering, annual physicals, vaccines and routine tests. Make sure the additional premium is worth the extra cost.

Perhaps the biggest challenge when choosing pet insurance is trying to compare plans, apples to apples. There are about a dozen carriers in the U.S. Each offers a variety of plans with varying deductible, copayment and maximum coverage amounts, as well as different covered benefits and exclusions.

You can go directly to their websites for plan details and to request a quote, or use an independent comparison website to pull quotes from multiple carriers. I’d recommend creating a spreadsheet to compare benefits and costs side by side, just as you would when shopping for auto insurance.

Bottom line: If you decide pet insurance isn’t right for you, at least be sure you’re setting money aside to cover expected – and unexpected expenses.

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

Briefs

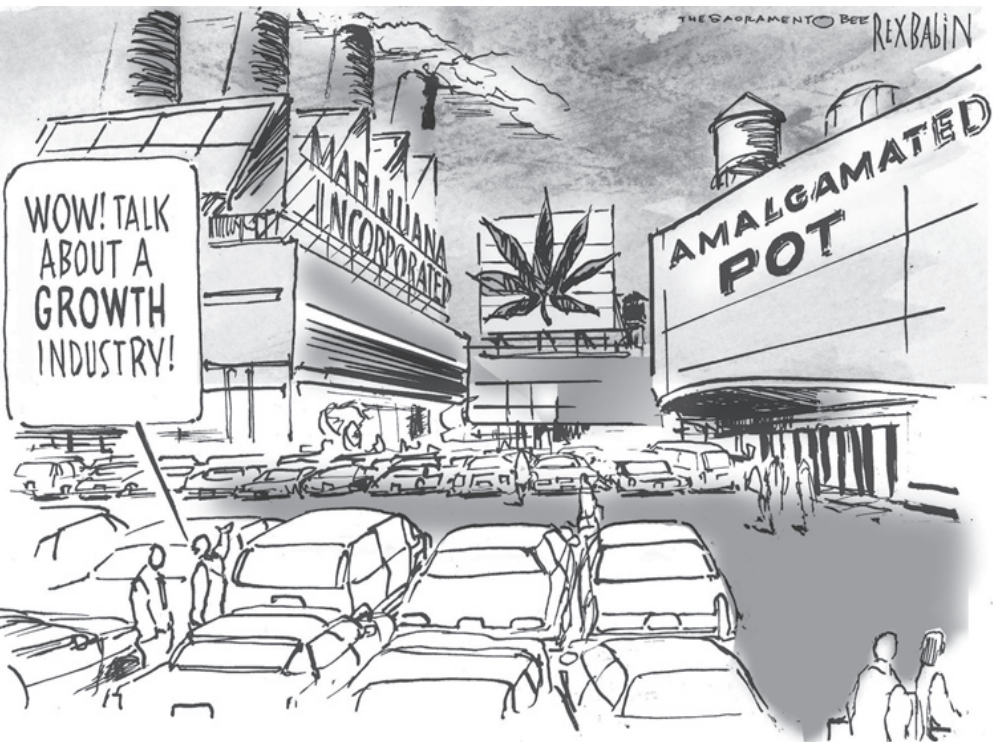
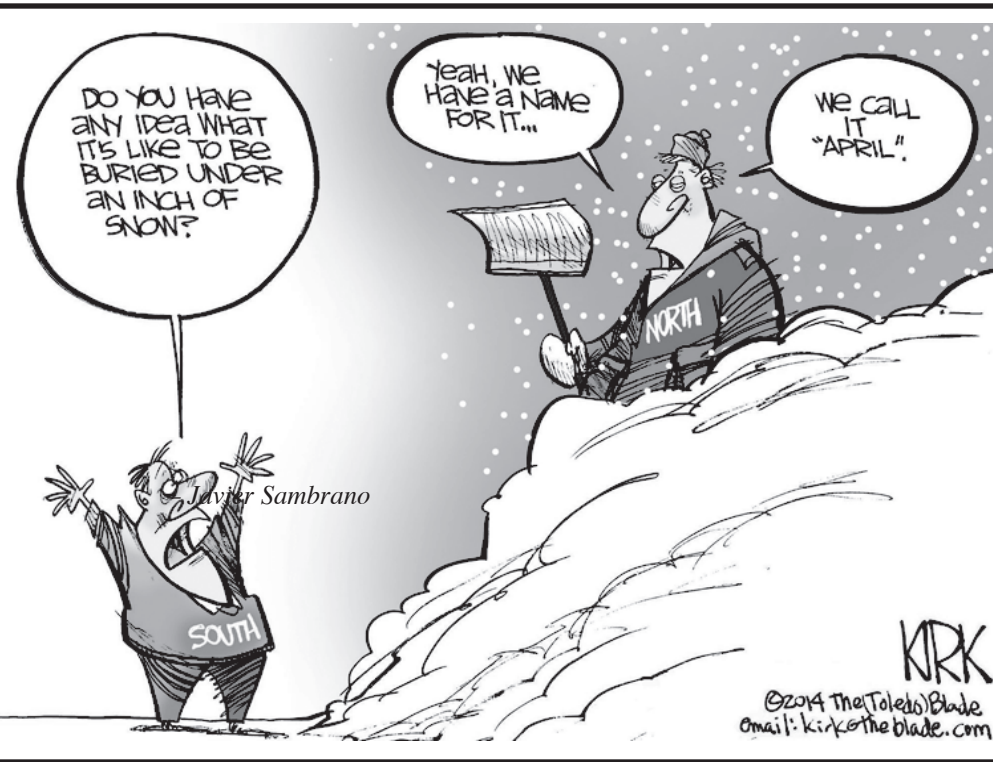
From Page 1

car from the front. The woman cracked open the door to see what the man needed and he immediately pointed a gun at her. He demand her purse and money. The woman managed to close the door and locked the car. The suspect ran away from the area.

He is described as a light skinned Hispanic male, in his early 20s. He was wearing a red or maroon colored pullover sweater. There are several restaurants and other businesses next to this parking lot and investigators are certain that someone has information on who was involved. Anyone having any information about the suspect involved in this violent robbery is asked to contact 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” (nospaceandincludethequotation 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.

– Javier Sambrano



Vinton wants to clean up

By Jessica Garza
Special to the Courier

VINTON – Each year thousands of volunteers gather throughout the country as part of Keep America Beautiful’s Great American Cleanup. Taking place annually from March 1 through May 31, it is the nation’s largest community improvement program.

Keep Vinton Beautiful will kick-off the cleanup this year on March 1 with its *Helping Hands* painting program. We are pleased that the efforts of this program include student volunteers from UTEP’s Project MOVE. Other activities in Vinton through May 31 include the Don’t Mess With Texas Trash-Off, Rio Grande River Cleanup, an Arbor Day activity and other events to keep the community beautiful. All events are open to volunteers of all ages and local community organizations.

In 2013, KVB assisted 5 homeowners beautify their homes through the *Helping Hands* project, removed 1,980 pounds of litter plus tires and other miscellaneous trash from Texas Highway 20 (Doniphan), 1,440 pounds of litter, tires and 1 carpet from the Rio Grande. 47 tons of paper, plastics and 4,540

pounds scrap metals were received through the recycling center and 191 households disposed of 34.5 tons of waste and 1,686 used tires at our Bulk Waste Collection events.

Keep Vinton Beautiful has been recognized locally and at the state level for its environmental efforts:

- 2009 El Paso Pride Award
- 2009, 2011, 2013 Governor’s Award of Excellence
- 2012 O.P Schnabel Lifetime Achievement Award, Yolanda Lucero
- 2012 Ruthe Jackson Youth Educator Award, Bill Childress Elementary
- 2012 Warren and Omega Chisum Award, Jessica Garza, Affiliate Coordinator
- 2012, 2013 Keep Texas Beautiful Gold Affiliate Status
- 2012 El Paso Pride award, Bill Childress Elementary
- 2012 EcoSummit Video Award, Deanna Davenport Elementary
- 2013 Keep Texas of Beautiful, Volunteer of the Year
- 2013 EcoSummit Community Award

For more information or to sign up a group contact 886-5104, visit the website at: www.vintontx.govoffice2.com or email: kvb@vintontx.us.

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SBOE approves state’s new high school graduation program

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Last year, Texas Legislature created the new 22-credit Foundation High School Program, which allows students to earn performance acknowledgments and four-credit endorsements in specific subjects but left decisions about many details of the plan to the State Board of Education (SBOE).

Subsequently, after considering 34 different amendments to the graduation plan, SBOE recently gave final approval to the state’s new high school graduation program, which gives students added incentives to follow a career pathway.

With the approval, SBOE finalized the state’s five new

established “endorsements” – specialized graduation plans in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; business and industry; public services; arts and humanities; and multidisciplinary studies.

Among the changes, the state board adopted two new math courses that are designed to cover much of the same material offered in algebra II, which is no longer required for high school graduation under the Legislature’s academic plan overhaul. The math shift is designed to give schools and students more flexibility to focus on vocational training for high-paying jobs that don’t necessarily require a college degree, Texas Education Agency officials stated.

The two new high-level math course alternatives are statistics and

algebraic reasoning. Both will be developed by local schools under the guidance of TEA, and are designed to cover many of the same concepts covered in algebra II.

Creating the new courses was necessary to comply with the Legislature’s new graduation plan. Only those pursuing honors diplomas or focusing on coursework in math and science will still have to pass the course. However, the math mandates for the state’s 5 million-plus public school students will still allow school districts to require algebra II. It is just no longer a state mandate.

Under the new state law, students following the Foundation High School Program must earn three credits of math that include algebra I and geometry as well as a third course. Students may select the third course from a list of math courses

including the two new courses that are expected to be available for districts to offer beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

Students who want to earn the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) endorsement must take algebra II, chemistry and physics as well as four additional courses in the STEM area, according to TEA officials.

Students who hope to gain automatic admission to the state’s public universities under the top 10 percent rule also must meet requirements that include earning credit for algebra II or meeting performance requirements on a college readiness assessment, TEA officials stated.

Under the new graduation plan, speech satisfied by a communications applications class will no longer be a required credit for all students.



ALONE – Martha Dominguez, El Paso’s State Board of Education (SBOE) representative, was the lone dissenting vote, as the state’s top school board, in a recent 14-1 vote, approved a measure that gives Texas students two more options besides taking algebra II.

However, districts will be required to ensure that students learn key communications skills such as delivering clear verbal messages and choosing effective nonverbal behaviors. Districts may incorporate these skills into an existing class, such as English, or continue to require a separate communications class, stated TEA.

Many of the recently-approved changes are intended to clarify the courses students must take to earn an endorsement in STEM, Business and Industry, Public Services, Arts and Humanities or Multidisciplinary Studies, because numerous course combinations can be used to earn these endorsements.

The board affirmed that students must take a coherent sequence of four credits from one or two disciplines (art, music, theater or dance) to earn an Arts and Humanities endorsement and may not earn the endorsement simply by taking introductory courses.

The board agreed that students would earn a Public Services endorsement, rather than a STEM endorsement, if they complete a coherent sequence of courses in health sciences.

The board added computer science courses as a route to obtain a STEM endorsement, while other technology applications courses, such as web communications,

See GRADUATE, Page 5

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development

Adults & Youth United Development Association, INC.

A.Y.U.D.A. INC will hold a public meeting February 27th at 1325 Beverly Ann El Paso Texas 79849 at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to allow residents an opportunity to become acquainted with the projects, environmental impact, service area, alternatives to the project, the amount of USDA-RD funding available, all eligible USD-RD activities, and the use of funds in these subdivisions. A . Y . U . D . A . encourages residents in the Colonias area to participate in the development of this USDA-RD application and to make their views known at this public meeting. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to A.Y.U.D.A. INC 1325 Beverly Ann, P.O. BOX 2017, San Elizario TX 79849. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact A.Y.U.D.A. INC at 915-851-0272 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact Olivia Figueroa, Executive Director, at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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WTCC: 02-14-13

CITY OF SOCORRO

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:00 p.m. at a Regular Council Meeting on February 20, 2014**, at City Hall, 860 Rio Vista, Socorro, Texas. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following:

1) Ordinance 327, An Ordinance changing the zoning of Lot 1, Block 4, San Ysidro Subdivision from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to R-2 (Medium Density Residential).

Those unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Clerk (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Copies of ordinances are available for review at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., upon request.

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WTCC: 02-13-14

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EL PASO COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director, under the direction of the Board of Commissioners, will supervise all activities of all El Paso County Housing Authority's functions and be responsible for programs, policy implementations, operational management, financial objectives, and the consistent achievement of EPCHA'S mission. Be able to understand and comply with Federal and State directives. Management experience or a bachelor's degree in Business, Public Administration, or a closely related field is required. Resume must be mailed to P. O. Box 279, Fabens, TX 79838 and postmarked no later than February 28, 2014.

Sandra Hernandez
City Clerk

WTCC: 02-13-14

Fabens Independent School District Notice of Public Meeting

Fabens Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2012-2013 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 19, 2014 in the Fabens Independent School District’s Board Room at 821 N.E. “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

The public is invited to attend. The TAPR report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Fabens ISD campuses, central office, and the district website.

For more information, call 765-2600.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens Junta Pública

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el “Reporte de Rendimiento Académica de Texas” (TAPR) del año escolar 2012-2013. El reporte será parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para de 2014 el miércoles 19 de febrero a las 6:30 p.m. en las oficinas administrativas del distrito escolar en la calle N.E. “G” Avenue #821, Fabens, TX.

Todos los individuos interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte TAPR estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas, e internet del distrito.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 765-2600.

WTCC: 02-13-14

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CryptoQuip Answer

If a piano student executes finger exercises perfectly, might you say he’s a scale model?

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Graduate

From Page 4

3-D Modeling and Animation and Digital Video and Audio and Design, would apply to a Business and Industry endorsement.

The board also included advanced journalism courses in newspaper and yearbook as options for earning a Business and Industry endorsement. Moreover, students wishing to take classes such as communications applications, creative writing, or literary genre can earn an Arts and Humanities endorsement.

Under the new graduation program, students may earn performance acknowledgments by demonstrating outstanding performance. One way to earn an acknowledgment is by earning a score of 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement test or a score of 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate examination.

Students currently in the eighth grade – the class of 2018- will be the first group required to graduate under the Foundation High School Program.

Current high school students remain under the previous three graduation plans – the Minimum High School Program, the Recommended High School Program and the Distinguished Achievement Program. However, these students may opt to move to the Foundation Program.

Canutillo Independent School District
Public Notice

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2012-2013 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) as part of a School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at the Canutillo Administrative Facility, 7965 Artcraft.

The public is invited to attend. The TAPR report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Canutillo ISD campuses, the central office and at www.canutillo-isd.org.

For more information, call 877-7482.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo
Junta Publica

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el “Reporte de Rendimiento Académica de Texas” (TAPR) del año escolar 2012-2013. El reporte sera parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el Martes, 18 de febrero del 2014 a las 6:00 p.m. en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas localizado en 7965 Artcraft.

Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte TAPR estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas y en www.canutillo-isd.org.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 877-7482.

WTCC: 02-13-14

Clint Independent School District
Public Notice

Clint Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2012-2013 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) as part of a School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2014, at the Clint Administrative Office, 14521 Horizon Blvd.

The public is invited to attend. The TAPR report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Clint ISD campuses, the Clint Administrative Office and at www.clintweb.net.

For more information, call 926-4031.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint
Junta Pública

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el “Reporte de Rendimiento Académica de Texas” (TAPR) del año escolar 2012-2013. El reporte sera parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el jueves, 20 de febrero del 2014 a las 5:00 p.m. en la oficina administrativas de Clint localizada en el 14521 Horizon Blvd.

Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte TAPR estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas y en www.clintweb.net.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 926-4031.

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Just consider this minor setback like a rain delay

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There was a bit of an uproar last week when it was announced that the El Paso Chihuahuas were going to delay their home opener to April 28.

The “half-empties” among us, who sit around waiting for any bad news they can pounce on, voiced their I-told-you-so loudly and proudly to anyone within earshot.

I have to admit that the news of the delay was a little surprising because it came a couple days after a story saying the crews were right on time and there was every indication that the stadium would be ready for the original April 11 date.

But I still don’t understand the hyperventilating going on when absolutely no one should be shocked at the news.

There are always delays in any construction project. If you have a rock wall built on your property you can bet that it will come in over budget and a few days late.

It’s frustrating. But it shouldn’t surprise

anyone.

In fact, the Chihuahuas’ organization planned for a delay.

Remember a few months ago it was announced that the team had come into an agreement with Tucson. The agreement stated that the Arizona city might have to host the first home stand or two if the stadium wasn’t ready in time.

Of course the Chihuahuas were taking into consideration anything that could cause a delay, especially bad weather.

And like true professionals, they weren’t caught in a situation they hadn’t anticipated. They had a plan in place and now they’re initiating it.

The bigger travesty is when organizations don’t have the foresight to visualize the possible perils ahead and plan for them.

Anybody signed up for Obamacare lately?

How about those of you who made it out to Eddie Holguin’s Christmas Light extravaganza? Did you notice what happens when you unveil something that is subpar or not ready or just plan embarrassingly awful?

When you settle for less, it exposes you for how you see yourself. Even CNN had a field day making fun of El Paso’s “Aw, just go with it” display.

The Chihuahuas’ front office has displayed over and over again that they are going to run a first-class program with the kind of attention to detail many El Pasoans just aren’t accustomed to.

It’s time to stop accepting the status quo and settling for second rate.

So the Chihuahuas are going to start a little later than anticipated. Isn’t it better to delay a tiny bit and do it right rather than open too soon and run the risk of more ridicule?

Of course, in El Paso the ridicule is going to come any way. So why not just do things the right way?

If they are just two weeks late, in the grand scheme of things, it’s totally worth it.

The few days are just a drop in the bucket compared to the many years of fun, thrills, entertainment and attention it will bring to the city.

And let’s be honest here, all the team will miss is four home games. That’s it! They were

scheduled to host a four-game home stand starting on April 11 and then they were going out on the road until April 28.

All the news of the delay did was give the nay-sayers among us some additional false ammunition to fling for their cause. And their cause is to keep El Paso as far from the twenty-first century possible.

I honestly don’t know why some people are so afraid of progress or change. Think of it, the fact that El Paso is just a rung under Major League Baseball is a huge step forward for the city.

It automatically gives people around the country a reason to give El Paso a second thought when considering cities on the rise.

Don’t kid yourself. El Paso doesn’t get many second thoughts outside of the region.

But a united front can go a long way toward changing that.

Come on people, the home season will start two weeks late. We can either act like it’s the end of the world – or we can celebrate the grand opening the right way on April 28.

I’m not the smartest guy in the word – but it seems like a no-brainer.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Manning up

When Tennessee lost to Nebraska 42-17 in 1997, the Vols had a man at quarterback by the name of Peyton Manning.

Manning had completed his degree at Tennessee the year earlier (speech communications) and in only three years, and even though he was assured to be a top-round pick in the NFL, he decided to return to Rocky Top and lead another charge.

It was a stunning move then, as

it would be now. Granted, America was in a bit of an economic upswing at the time. Football was still dealing in concussions and injuries. So why wouldn’t he just take the money? For legacy’s sake?

Indeed, it’s that word that has constantly followed Peyton Manning.

“People have been asking me about my legacy since I was 22,” Manning admitted at a pre-Super

Bowl press conference.

Irecall “ball coach” Steve Spurrier, then coach of the Florida Gators, taking particular zeal whenever the Gators took down Peyton Manning. I also marveled at how it was one of the few times – still is – a football coach could get away with all but taunting another school’s student athletes. Student athletes are supposed to be treated a little more gingerly and with sportsmanship... not taunts or overly critical press. It reminds one of Oklahoma State head coach Mike Gundy’s infamous “I’m a man! I’m 40!” rant in defense of his quarterback. Yet Manning was never afforded such luxuries. It has

always been Manning versus (insert team here).

Sure, he comes from a football family, and his father, Archie, was a legendary quarterback for Ole Miss and went on to play in the NFL, but he isn’t even mentioned when it comes to the “upper echelon of quarterbacks.” I mean, Roger Staubach, Johnny Unitas and Len Dawson are hardly mentioned anymore.

Say what you want about the Mannings – his two-time Super Bowl-winning brother Eli included – they dominate the mindshare of the game. History will not record the Seattle Seahawks’ win over the Denver Broncos in this year’s Super Bowl in terms favoring the Seahawks. Rather, the story will always be how Manning lost. He had just set the season record for greatness, he has been the MVP more than anyone in league history,

but they will still say, “He can’t win the big one.” (Even though he has won the big one and was the MVP for that game, too.)

Manning answered my hypothetical question: “who would you pick if your life was on the line” with the Seahawks game, but that doesn’t diminish Manning’s greatness. To be the best you need to beat the best.

Even the best, Joe Montana, agrees.

“He’s already won one, so I don’t even see why that even comes up,” he recently told The Sporting News. “He’s already proven himself over and over.”

Manning will be back for more next year, two years short of 40, but definitely and defiantly still the man.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	—		×		21
÷		—		÷	
	×		+		7
+		×		+	
	+		+		23
13		12		15	

1 2 3 5 6 7 8 8 9

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Q: How do I apply for Social Security disability benefits?

A: There are two ways that you can apply for disability benefits. You can:

1. Apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov; or
2. Call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), to make an appointment to file a disability claim at your local Social Security office or to set up an appointment for someone to take your claim over the telephone.

If you schedule an appointment, we will mail a *Disability Starter Kit* to you. The kit will help you get ready for your disability claim interview. If you are applying online or want to get started on the kit right away, it is available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Q: How do I change my citizenship status on Social Security's records?

A: To change your citizenship status shown in Social Security records:

- Complete an application for a Social Security card (Form SS-5), which you can find online at www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.html; and
- Provide documents proving your:

- New or revised citizenship status (We can only accept certain documents as proof of citizenship. These include your U.S. passport, a Certificate of Naturalization, or a Certificate of Citizenship. If

you are not a U.S. citizen, Social Security will ask to see your current immigration documents);

- Age; and
- Identity.

• Next, take (or mail) your completed application and documents to your local Social Security office. All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Q: My spouse and I are both entitled to our own Social Security benefits. Will Social Security reduce our combined benefits because we are married?

A: No. When each member of a married couple works in employment covered under Social Security and both meet all other eligibility requirements to receive retirement benefits, we calculate their lifetime earnings independently to determine their benefit amounts. Therefore, each spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her own earnings. If one spouse earned low wages or did not earn enough Social Security credits (40) to be insured for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse. To learn more about retirement, visit

www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement.

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

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was novelist, poet and playwright Gertrude Stein who made the following sage observation: "Everybody knows if you are too careful, you are so occupied in being careful that you are sure to stumble over something."
- Some people enjoy novelty when dining out, but restaurateurs take a big risk when adding new items to a menu; it seems that less than a third of diners will actually try a new menu item.
- Two-thirds of all Tony award-winning composers and lyricists have been Jewish.

- Everyone knows you should not drive while under the influence of alcohol, but riding a bike? A stationary bike? It seems that in Tennessee in 2007, a woman was arrested at her gym while riding an exercise bicycle while drunk. BUI, or simply disorderly conduct? The record isn't clear.

- If insects give you the creepy-crawlies, you might not want to read the following tidbit: Researchers have discovered a kind of caterpillar that emits a sound eerily like a human scream. This particular species is often a victim of predatory wasps. When the wasps approach, the caterpillar rubs two special organs together to produce the sound. The "scream" calls a troop of ants that protect the caterpillar, and in return the caterpillar secretes an amino acid that the ants need.

- The name of the state of Vermont comes from the French "mont vert," which means "green mountain." (If the explorers who named the state saw green mountains, they obviously were not there in the winter.)

Thought for the Day: "I don't trust a man who uses the word evil 18 times in 10 minutes. If you're half evil, nothing soothes you more than to think the person you are opposed to is totally evil."

— Norman Mailer

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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: X equals Y

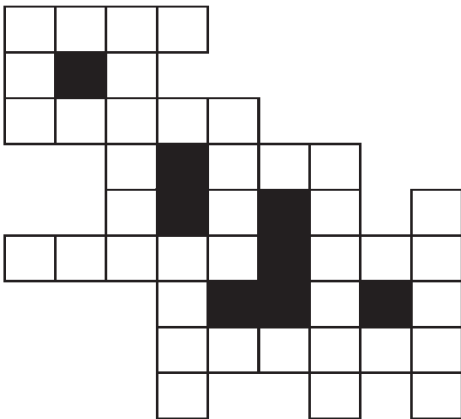
BS C OBCTW YHVNRT
RJRPHRY SBTLM RJRMPBYR
ORMSRPHIX, EBLKH XWV YCX
KR'Y C YPCIR EWNRI?

Answer Page 4

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ABC
BEFLIO
KLANE
♥ELKA
LEECAR
♥KAS
♥EAF C
OSBEE
♥NSO
HORKES
KIBNL
♥KSCA



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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