



NEWSBRIEFS

Still no gambling

Texas Attorney General's Office will continue its court battle to keep the Tigua del Sur Indian tribe from offering any kind of gambling games. The state AG filed its opposition in U.S. District Court in December in response to the Tigua's recent renewed gambling request that they based on an opinion issued in October by the U.S. Department of the Interior that stated that the tribe should be allowed to offer games of chance such as bingo, pull tabs, and tip jars. The National Indian Gaming Commission, part of the Department of the Interior, stated that the Tiguas are subject to the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which places responsibility to regulate all Class II Indian gambling with the commission. However, the attorney general's office has taken the position that under the 1987 Indian Restoration Act, the Tiguas are banned from offering games of chance because the act prohibits the tribe from activities banned by Texas law. In its district court filing, the state AG cited a 20-year history of court losses. "Three times the federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected (the Tiguas' request), as did the National Indian Gaming Commission itself just five years ago," the filing stated.

— Alfredo Vasquez

The bionic senior

The National Institutes of Health is funding the development of robots that would make it easier for impaired seniors to get around, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. "To stay in their homes, elderly with mobility issues often require costly home modifications such as replacing steps with ramps or installing wheelchair lifts. The goal of this project is to develop a four-legged robot that enhances mobility, so that the elderly can remain physically active and enjoy a healthier life with reduced reliance on the assistance of caregivers or expensive home renovations," according to robotics expert Dr. Xiangrong Shen. Shen, an associate professor in the department of mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama, is part of the National Robotics Initiative that is funded by the NIH to develop "quality of life" devices for the elderly. His four-legged "smart walker" has a sort

See BRIEFS, Page 3

To really know a man, observe his behavior with a woman, a flat tire and a child.

— Quips & Quotes

Environmental groups join efforts

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Two local environmental organizations – Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition (FMWC) and the Friends of the Rio Bosque (FRB) – will host a joint meeting and dinner to help raise public awareness about their conservation efforts in the region.

The joint meeting/ dinner will be held, beginning at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the El Paso Club (18th floor, Chase Tower, 201 E. Main Street). The public is invited to participate in the informative event.

Both groups emphasize the connection between land conservation and water availability. "From the Mountains to the River" has been an on-going theme for their efforts, according to the meeting's organizers.

The two local groups have been involved in accomplishments that have

See GROUPS, Page 5



— Photo courtesy of Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition

CASTNER RANGE – Mexican Gold Poppies bloom on the eastern slopes of the Franklin Mountains. A meeting and dinner to discuss the possible fate of Castner Range will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 20 at the El Paso Club (18th floor, Chase Tower), 201 E. Main Street. Interested participants are asked to make reservations by Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Tularosa NM petroglyphs spotlighted

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

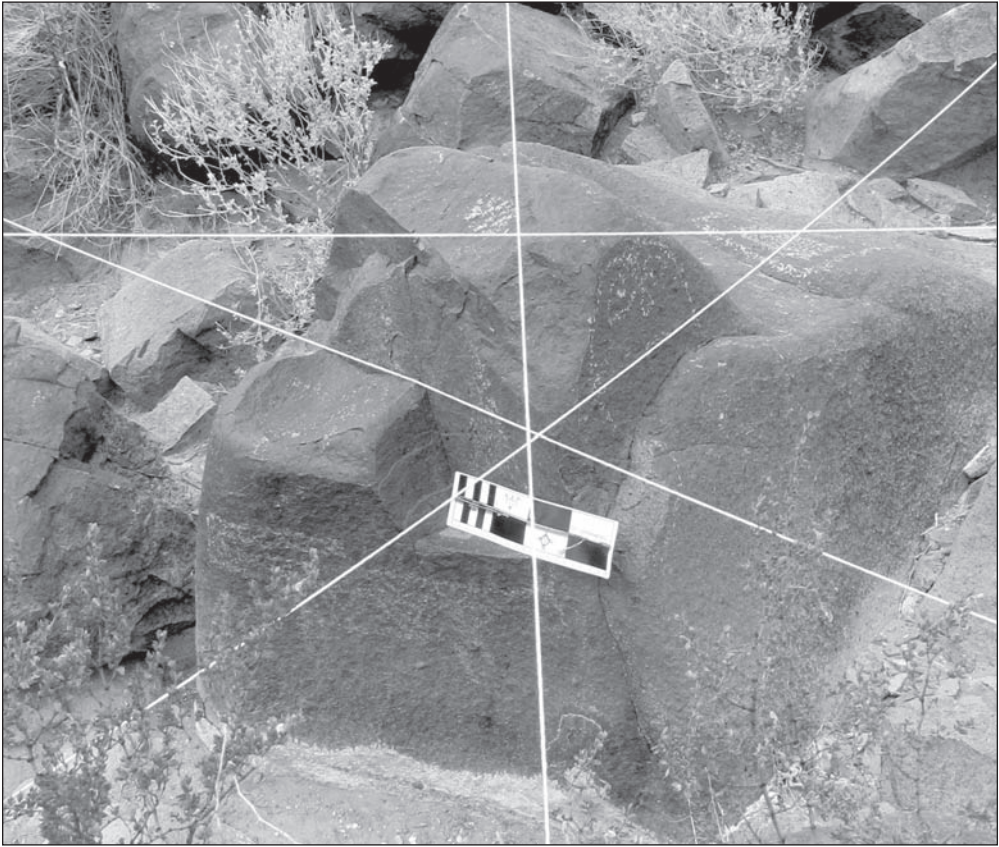
EL PASO COUNTY – Ancient Mesoamerican imagery found at Three Rivers Petroglyph site, near Tularosa New Mexico, will be the main topic of discussion at the El Paso Archaeological Society's (EPAS) next meeting, which is scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, January 16, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road.

Featured speaker for the Saturday afternoon event will be Joan E. Price, of the Jornada Research Institute (JRI) of Tularosa NM. The public is invited to attend the free program.

Price's presentation, titled "A Mimbres assimilation of the Mesoamerican jaguar cult depicted at Three Rivers Petroglyph Site", will include a PowerPoint format with many images found at the archaeological site.

"Numerous 'collared jaguar' glyphs found on rock outcroppings at Three Rivers depict the Mimbres cultural style," according to EPAS member Marilyn Guida. "The 'Collared jaguar' images are a Mesoamerican image associated with ritual warfare and royalty," she stated. The implications of this finding will be explored in detail during Price's talk, she added.

Price holds a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. With Kay Sutherland Ph.D., Price co-founded the Rainhouse Foundation in 1999. The non-



— Photo courtesy of Joan E. Price

ROCK ART – A Three Rivers petroglyph of a jaguar can be viewed on mountain rock near the hill country town of Tularosa, New Mexico – which is about a two hour drive from El Paso County.

profit endeavor aims to facilitate cultural exchange between Mesoamerican and Native American groups that specifically has focused on the nearby Hueco Tanks State Park. She has also published and produced film documentaries on prehistoric and contemporary Native American heritage.

EPAS members are currently taking part in archaeological tours and volunteer field work organized by JRI, whose mission is

to study the archaeological, ethno-historic, historic and natural resources of the northern Chihuahuan Desert; a desert that spans throughout the U.S. states of Arizona, New Mexico, and West Texas, as well as a large region of northern Mexico. For more information about JRI visit its website at <http://jornadaresearchinstitute.com/>.

EPAS, founded in 1922, is a non-profit

See PETROGLYPHS, Page 8

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

Year-round college-planning calendar for parents, students

Preparing your kids for college isn't just about the money you've put aside for tuition, room and board. It's about making deadlines, making the right choices and making sure your teen has the proper life and money skills to make college a success.

Consider a college-planning calendar you and your university-bound student can follow. Here are some seasonal activities to consider adding to yours:

Winter: No matter how you've prepared financially for your teen's college education, kick off the year with a visit to a qualified financial and tax professional. You might also consider paying

for a separate advisory session for your teen so they know how to handle money before they leave for college. January is also a good month to learn about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as the FAFSA (<https://fafsa.ed.gov>), as it's best to fill out the form right after Jan.1 to avoid missing out on available federal and state (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm>) aid going into your teen's freshman year. That first FAFSA filing will give you an idea of what your Effective Family Contribution (EFC) (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/collegeaid>) will be.

expecting your teen to contribute some part of their earnings or savings for future college costs, it's worthwhile to review earning, spending, budgeting, tax and savings fundamentals they'll need to manage money in school.

Also, if your teen hasn't been exposed to banking on a regular basis, it's time. Work with them to compare fees and services on various checking and savings accounts and consider whether it might be wise for you to bank with the same institution to allow for easier transfer of necessary funds from your account to theirs. Also encourage them to find an organized way of keeping track of their finances on paper, on computer or online (<https://www.mint.com>).

Summer: Summer is a time for fun, but it's also a good time to research potential schools and scholarship programs and even take a quick campus tour. The U.S. Department of Education's scholarship site (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>) offers basic guidance in finding such money and local companies and organizations – including places where your teen can work or intern – may offer local awards.

If your teen is heading into their senior year, the fall is going to be busy. Get admissions test dates and college admissions deadlines down on your calendar as soon as possible. Also budget for college application fees as well as fees for admissions prep tests and the main SAT or ACT tests (more on that below) which may cost well in excess of \$50 based on which test – or tests – your teen needs to take.

Fall: Fall is the season for

college admissions tests, but for students with extra time before graduation, it's also the season for test prep (<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/test-prep>). Higher-scoring students on such achievement tests generally are in a better position for admissions or certain types of financial aid. High-school sophomores take the PSAT as a primary qualification for National Merit Scholarships, but it also gives an early indication of how students may do during their junior year on their ACT or SAT test, whichever they are encouraged to take. Get your student to check directly with the colleges of their choice to see which tests they require.

Finally, the closer your teen gets to freshman year, the more specific the dates on the calendar become. For college-bound seniors, fall is the time for narrowing down college choices after visits, interviews or auditions so applications can be sent. Once acceptance letters arrive, it's time for parents and teens to evaluate financial aid packages.

Bottom line: Creating a college-planning calendar can help you and your teen target desired schools, learn about money management and break down funding obstacles. Set it up as early as possible.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered legal, tax or financial advice. It's always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

The VA thinks you're dead

It must be quite a shock to get a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs saying that you're dead and it's cutting off your benefits.

Especially if you're the one who's opened the envelope.

But that's what happened more than 100 times in the space of nine months. The VA decided a veteran was dead (or in some cases it was the surviving spouse depending on the check each month), and benefits were cut.

Florida Rep. David Jolly jumped in with both feet and asked the VA for an explanation. The VA had none, at least not so far. In one case, it had the veteran dead and buried in the wrong cemetery after having served in the wrong war. In other cases it had to do with similar names. Whatever happened to double checking Social Security or service numbers? Or making a simple phone call? In a few cases, veterans weren't able to

satisfactorily prove they were still alive until Rep. Jolly got involved and pushed for a new process to determine if there's actually been a death before benefits are cut.

The new process will include relying on the database for the Social Security Administration rather than a VA employee who can cancel benefits with a keystroke. Additionally, a letter will now be sent in advance of benefits being cut off, and the veteran (or surviving spouse) will be given 30 days to declare that they are indeed still alive.

A suggestion while the VA puts together a "it won't happen again" plan: If one phone call to the local regional VA facility doesn't solve the problem, call your U.S. representative or senator. In a pinch, call Rep. Jolly at 202-225-5961, even if he isn't your representative.

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO


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Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com



Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



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Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

AARP Texas names new president

By Mark Hollis

Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Charlene Hunter James, a long-time volunteer and community advocate in Houston, has been named AARP Texas state president. In collaboration with AARP Texas Director Bob Jackson, who announced James' appointment, James will have the responsibility, starting Jan. 1, of leading the AARP Texas Executive Council for at least the next two years. She also will work with AARP staff and volunteers to establish strategic goals and objectives on a local level that are consistent with AARP's national strategies.

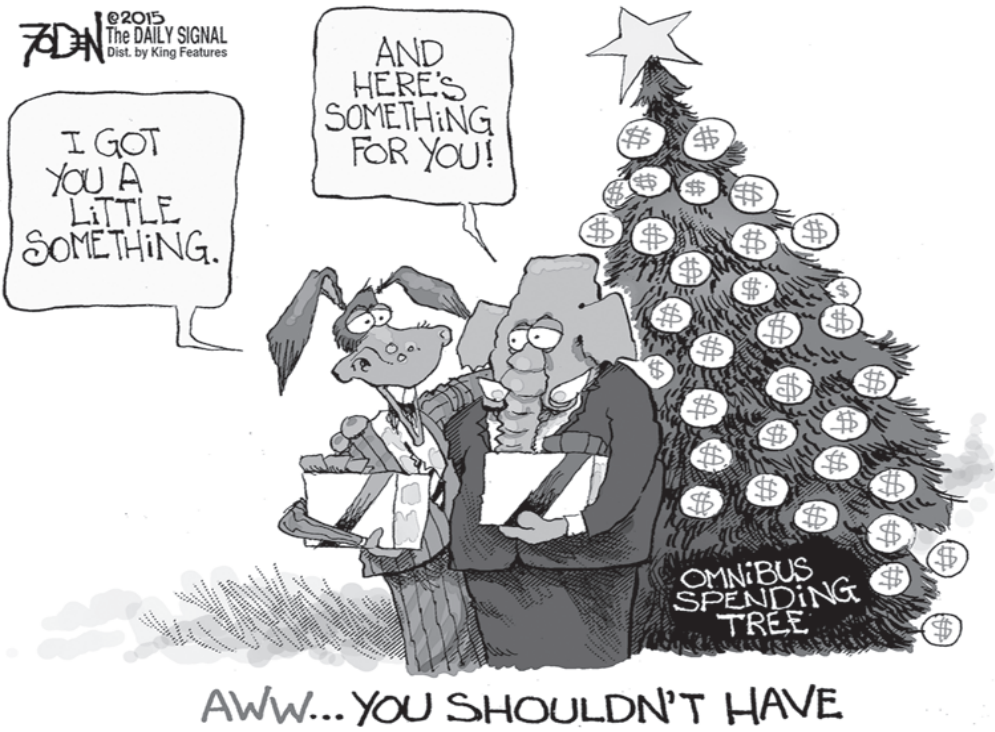
James, 64, has been a volunteer and state Executive Council member for AARP since 2008. Besides her work at AARP, she has served other organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., and Texas Children's Hospital. She holds a master's degree in public health from the University of Texas. She worked for the Houston health department for much of her career, and she served as director

of the local Area Agency on Aging. James "brings a wealth of experience and skill that directly supports AARP's mission," said Jackson. "Charlene comes from a family with a tradition of service and activism. She has already fulfilled many roles that make her an ideal choice to be state president."

James said that community service runs in her blood. "I grew up in a family in which we were taught a duty and responsibility to serve others, particularly those who are less fortunate," she said. "I'm looking forward to working with the other Executive Council members, along with staff and other volunteers so that we can help AARP members realize their real possibilities."

Ollie Besteiro of Austin, a former teacher and education association leader, has served as the AARP Texas president for six years. She remains a volunteer for AARP.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy with a membership of more than 38 million, including 2.2 million members in Texas.



City of Socorro enforces photo citations for bus stop-arm violators

By Christina Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO – The City of Socorro began enforcing photo citations for bus stop-arm violations on Jan. 5, 2016. People that pass Socorro Independent School District (SISD) school buses that are stopped with the stop-arm displayed will now be cited for the offense based on photo evidence.

In line with SISD’s initiative to make streets safer for students with the use of cameras on school buses, the City of Socorro has approved citations and fines to be issued to drivers who ignore bus stop-arms.

Every SISD school bus has been equipped with a camera system to catch bus stop-arm violators. The violation is a minimum \$300 citation. SISD is also working on agreements for citations and fines with the City of El Paso and Horizon City.

learning environment throughout the entire day and before and after school,” said Dr. José Espinoza, SISD Superintendent. “We greatly appreciate the collaboration of local law enforcement and governments in our school and neighborhood safety efforts.”

Team SISD tested the bus camera system on 10 of the district’s school buses in the 2014 spring semester. The SISD Board of Trustees approved the contract for the districtwide state-of-the-art camera system at the December 2014 board meeting and then approved a resolution in support of the districtwide camera system at the January 2015 board meeting.

SISD transports about 12,000 students daily to and from schools districtwide.

SISD transportation is run by Dallas County Schools (DCS). DCS provides transportation and other services to school districts statewide under the name Texserve (www.texserve.com). DCS, in partnership with Force Multiplier Solutions (fxsync.com) – under the name Busguard – is issuing the citations through an agreement with the City of Socorro. Busguard provides the bus camera system.

View from here By John Grimaldi

President Obama holds record for imposing costly regulations

Most American were too busy with the holidays to have noticed the White House announcement that the president seeks to impose 2,224 new regulations on us in the coming months, according to Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

The new rules include 144 regulations that are officially considered to be “economically significant” because they come with a price tag of \$100 million or more each.

“Mr. Obama, in fact, broke his own record set last spring when he announced 136 mega-buck rules, the most ever in history until then. That news came out just before Memorial Day weekend. This time around he told us about the new rules only a few days before Thanksgiving. It appears the president chooses to make these kinds of announcements at some of the busiest times of the year, hoping that few of us will pay attention to the fact that he plans to spend billions of taxpayer dollars,” Weber said.

The newest regulatory plan has a total price tag of more than \$92 billion, according to some estimates. But that’s just the tip of the iceberg. The Competitive Enterprise Institute says that in 2014 regulations cost American consumers and businesses a staggering \$1.88 trillion in lost economic productivity and higher prices. CEI says the price tag for the average American household was \$14,976

“If that is not enough to warrant Congressional scrutiny, I don’t know what is. Government spending, deficits and the national debt are out of control and we all know it, but the cost of regulations and the impact these rules have on our daily lives gets little notice. Perhaps it is because the rules are imposed without benefit of debate. It is about time, therefore, that we encourage those who we elected to be our eyes and ears inside the beltway to do what they were sent there to do-to protect our interests.”

The Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress published a study noting that liberals favor government intervention that promotes social, non-economic objectives, while conservatives see government intervention as an intrusion that makes us less competitive.

“The issue of government regulatory authority run-amok is not a political issue. It’s an American issue that requires bi-partisan attention because we simply can’t afford the nearly \$2 trillion dollar price tag,” Weber concluded.

Briefs

From Page 1

of Star Wars look to it. It allows users to “drive” it around or to easily move heavy loads at a comfortable pace.

– John Grimaldi

Old habits die hard

Vladimir Putin has a “trademark” walk with his right arm held rigidly at the ready by his side and his left swinging

loosely and now we know why, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. According to the British Medical Journal it is not Parkinson’s disease, as many suspected. Rather it is probably a habit the Russian president and former Soviet spymaster picked up when he was a high ranking member of the KGB, suggests the respected medical publication in a just published research paper. BMJ calls it the “gunslinger’s gait.”

– John Grimaldi



FUTURE HEALTHCARE – Fabens HS HOSA members, from left, are Alfredo Valenzuela, Briana Perez, Clarissa Sariñana, advisor Olivia Jimenez, Vanessa Rodriguez, Roberto Saucedo and Ashley Jimenez.

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

Vanessa Rodriguez and Roberto Saucedo placed 9th as a team in

Students competed against approximately 400 HOSA students in Area 4 that includes all of West Texas and the Panhandle region. Tests administered included CPR/First Aid, Medical Terminology, Physical Therapy, Sports Medicine, and Nursing Assistance among others and consisted of 50-100 multiple-choice questions. The next Area competition will be held at Socorro High School on March 4-5. State competition will be held in Galveston, Texas April 14-16.

Thought for the Day: "I would like to see anyone – prophet, king or God – convince a thousand cats to do the same thing at the same time." – Neil Gaiman

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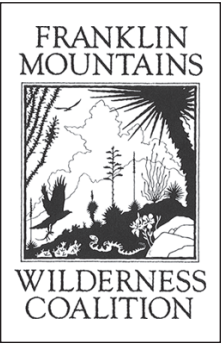
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Groups

From Page 1

had a major impact on this region’s conservation efforts.

In 1979, FMWC’s activism helped establish today’s 40-square-mile Franklin



Paso Museum of Archaeology.

Current FMWC board members are Scott Cutler, president; Kathy Barton, vice-president; Judy Ackerman, secretary; Pat White, treasurer; and at-large members include Raul Amaya, Nick Havlik, and Richard Teschner.

FRB members have supported (and sometimes worked at) the



372-acre Rio Bosque Wetlands Park near the Mission Valley community for many years. The park is designed to conserve the Rio Grande River’s former channel flow and to preserve the natural landscape surrounding it.

Current FRB board members are Richard Teschner, president; Sal Quintanilla, vice-president; Judy Ackerman, secretary; and Rene Espinoza, treasurer.

An issue that both organizations are currently pursuing is the preservation of the 7,081-acre Castner Range, which was used by the Army for artillery exercises from 1926-1966 and has been closed to the public since then. It is located at the Franklin Mountain State Park’s eastern boundary.

To weigh their options regarding the former military range, the joint meeting will feature David Soules as guest speaker. Soules is credited with playing a major role in getting the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks near Las Cruces NM designated as national monument sites by President Obama in 2012.

Individuals interested in attending the meeting/ dinner affair should make advance reservations by January 13. Admission fee is \$25. Checks may be sent to Pat White, treasurer, FMWC, at 10525 Texwood, El Paso, TX 79925. The meeting will include a cash bar and buffet dinner.

For more information, contact FMWC president Scott Cutler, at (915) 494-2193.

Reyes Elementary students to receive STEM education

By Shane B. Griffith
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – A \$50,000 grant from the Boeing Company will allow Canutillo Independent School District’s newest school to start a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program. This program, officially named “Improving Elementary STEM Education Through Inquiry-Based Curriculum,” will train 25 teachers at Reyes Elementary School the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) curriculum developed by the Boston Museum of Science.

The teachers will then instruct 500 Reyes students in grades kindergarten through three to design solutions to problems using the engineering design process. The grant is a result of the effort between the staff and faculty of the UTEP College of Education, Canutillo ISD and Reyes Elementary.

“This grant marks the arrival of STEM-related programs within our elementary schools,” said Dr. Pedro Galaviz, Superintendent of Canutillo ISD. “We are now able to instruct our children using industry-standard engineering modules to improve their skills and readiness for the workforce and link those skills

to the STEM programs we have already implemented at our high school campuses. We are grateful to everyone involved in making this possibility a reality.”

The overarching goal of the proposed project is to broaden student and teacher participation in STEM by increasing awareness, interest, and competency in engineering design early in the school experience. The objectives to meet this goal are to:

- Implement an “Engineering is Elementary” module in each classroom in grades kindergarten through three at Reyes Elementary School during the 2015-2016 school year;

- Increase the number of students who experience designing a solution to a problem using the engineering design process; and

- Evaluate the project to determine gains in teacher knowledge and student interest in engineering design.

“The vision of Reyes Elementary School of becoming a STEM-focused school is now a reality,” said Dr. Debra Kerney, Principal of Reyes Elementary. “Our teachers are ready to receive the EiE training offered by the Texas Tech University T-STEM Center and implement the STEM modules in our classrooms.”

Canutillo Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 19,956,120	\$ 5,957,319	\$ 13,218	\$ 23,780	\$ 25,950,437
5800 State Program Revenues	31,092,308	–	–	492,897	32,481,808
5900 Federal Program Revenues	4,757,113	896,603	–	4,291,309	9,048,422
5020 Total Revenues	55,805,541	6,853,922	13,218	4,807,986	67,480,667
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	29,337,673	–	–	2,459,176	31,796,849
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	702,976	–	–	183,324	886,300
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	475,364	–	–	1,276,375	1,751,739
0021 Instructional Leadership	1,200,993	–	–	218,347	1,419,340
0023 School Leadership	3,159,782	–	–	35,615	3,195,397
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,622,614	–	–	68,438	1,691,052
0032 Social Work Services	43,118	–	–	–	43,118
0033 Health Services	656,397	–	–	–	656,397
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,742,115	–	–	–	1,742,115
0035 Food Services	4,066,387	–	–	46,470	4,112,857
0036 Extracurricular Activities	1,409,708	–	–	34,474	1,444,182
0041 General Administration	3,149,236	–	–	19,106	3,168,342
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	5,489,263	–	–	66,166	5,555,429
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	383,701	–	–	–	383,701
0053 Data Processing Services	1,529,991	–	–	–	1,529,991
0061 Community Services	52,273	–	–	435,292	487,565
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	238,764	2,785,000	–	–	3,023,764
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	124,232	4,319,222	–	–	4,443,454
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	560,196	–	–	560,196
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,345,091	–	11,926,980	5,633,862	18,905,933
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	308,677	–	–	–	308,677
6030 Total Expenditures	57,038,355	7,664,418	11,926,980	10,476,645	87,106,398
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(1,232,814)	(810,496)	(11,913,762)	(5,668,659)	(19,625,731)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	–	16,870,000	–	–	16,870,000
7915 Transfers In	800,091	–	–	–	800,091
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	2,139,576	–	–	2,139,576
8911 Transfers Out	–	–	–	–	–
8949 Other (Uses)	–	(18,616,058)	–	–	(18,616,058)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	800,091	393,518	–	–	1,193,609
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(432,723)	(416,978)	(11,913,762)	(5,668,659)	(18,432,122)
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	13,186,932	3,815,564	15,700,020	10,831,306	43,533,822
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 12,754,209	\$ 3,398,586	\$ 3,786,258	\$ 5,162,647	\$ 25,101,700

A few things to watch for, or not, in sports this year

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Just like a flash, 2015 was here and now it's gone.

The past year provided us with some great memories and enough controversial subject matter to last a lifetime.

Naturally, the beginning of any era often causes us to look back on what was.

But while every other writer in the world comes out with their top ten sports stories of 2015 at this time, I'm going to predict the top ten sports stories of 2016.

I wouldn't go out and bet the farm on these predictions, because they'll probably only be about 95 percent accurate.

I've taken into consideration the laws of physics, the alignment of the planets and my last few fortune cookies, so I think you can count on these predictions.

10. In the ultimate pay-per-view event, Ronda Rousey agrees to take on the retired Mike Tyson in a three-round exhibition bout in Madison Square Garden. The event breaks all PPV records but the bout

is stopped in the middle of the second round when Rousey is disqualified for ripping off Tyson's face tattoo.

9. After getting off to a seemingly insurmountable 29-1 record, Golden State misses the playoffs with a 40-42 record after season-ending injuries to Klay Thompson and Draymond Green. The biggest blow comes when Stephen Curry suddenly retires in mid season to pursue real love – bass fishing.

8. In the biggest NFL move in the post season, the Denver Broncos trade Peyton Manning to the New York Giants for his brother Eli. Fans of both teams praised the deal saying it will save them tons of money not having to go out and buy new fan jerseys.

7. The world of professional golf is shattered when a huge steroids scandal breaks out. It is reported that about 70 percent of the PGA members are doping. About 35 percent of the caddies are implicated as well. In a twist, Tiger Woods is one of the few who does not test positive, but now knows why he fell so far down in the rankings.

6. In a monumental upset, UT-Arlington

wins the NCAA basketball national championship after knocking off North Carolina 69-66 in the title game, making them only the second school from Texas ever to win a title. Unfortunately, they are stripped of the title a month later when it is learned that seven members of the team were academically ineligible. Leaving UTEP still the only Texas team to win a national title.

5. In the sports world's social event of the year, FOX NFL analyst Terry Bradshaw gets married again, this time to Kim Kardashian. Kardashian left her husband Kanye West for Bradshaw saying she just couldn't say no to his down-home folksy demeanor. When asked about the baggage that Kim brings with her, Bradshaw said that if he survived shingles, he could survive anything.

4. In an attempt to keep former NBA players relevant, Charles Barkley, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson and Shaquille O'Neal start the NBA+50 league. Contrary to popular belief, the league isn't geared toward 50-year-old former players, but for former players who are at least 50 pounds heavier than their former

playing weight.

3. In the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, officials are thrilled when only seven athletes died as a result of competing in water sports in the city's dangerously contaminated waterways. Experts had predicted that as many as 20 could perish. Olympic officials called the news a victory for humanity and said they felt totally exonerated.

2. After the unexpected retirement of Jerry Jones due to health reasons, son Stephen agrees to relocate the Dallas Cowboys to Los Angeles saying he's always wanted to live near the beach. He also said that instead of wasting money building a new stadium, he plans to airlift AT&T Stadium and place it somewhere near El Segundo.

1. In a related move, the NFL's desperate attempts to move a team to Southern California backfires when the San Diego Chargers, Oakland Raiders and St. Louis Rams all relocate to Los Angeles, giving them four teams. Only three city officials attended the news conference, the rest were out enjoying a sunny day at the beach.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The (indoor) Players Club

It's the end of the year and we, as sports fans, know what that means: It's time to take a look back at the great plays and the players who made them, lest we forget. This week we profile two instant legends from the hard court and the rink.

Basketball: Stephen Curry

How good is Stephen Curry? So good that visiting markets broadcast his warm-up routine. So good that he put Davidson College on the map (at least in theory) and gave Oakland its first basketball championship in four decades. So good that Mark Jackson, a former NBA All-Star and coach (including Curry's), openly fretted that "he's ruining the game" of

basketball.

Yes, you read that right. Kim Kardashian breaks the Internet, children break toys, and Stephen Curry breaks basketball. How does he do it?

Curry is 6 feet, 3 inches – not a giant by any means – so he knew from the start of his career that he was not going to rely on his physicality to dominate on the inside, nor was he going to spend a large amount of time above the rim. What Curry was able to do was watch his father, Dell Curry, a former NBA star in his own right, and learn how to practice, practice, practice his jump shot, his three-pointer, his passing. That was

something he could control.

It's paid off in record-smashing ways... in fact, he is in a league of his own. His record 286 three-pointers in 2015 surpassed the old mark of 272, set by Stephen Curry himself in 2013.

Hands down the league MVP in 2015 and The Associated Press Athlete of the Year, Curry has become the smiling, family-oriented face of the league. The only scary thing about Curry is that he is improving at a record pace. This season he is averaging more than 30 points per game... a full seven points higher than his championship-winning MVP season. No full-time NBA player has ever improved that much in one season, and at 27 years old, it's safe to say that the best is yet to come for young Master Curry.

Hockey: Casey Price

It's the age-old quandary:

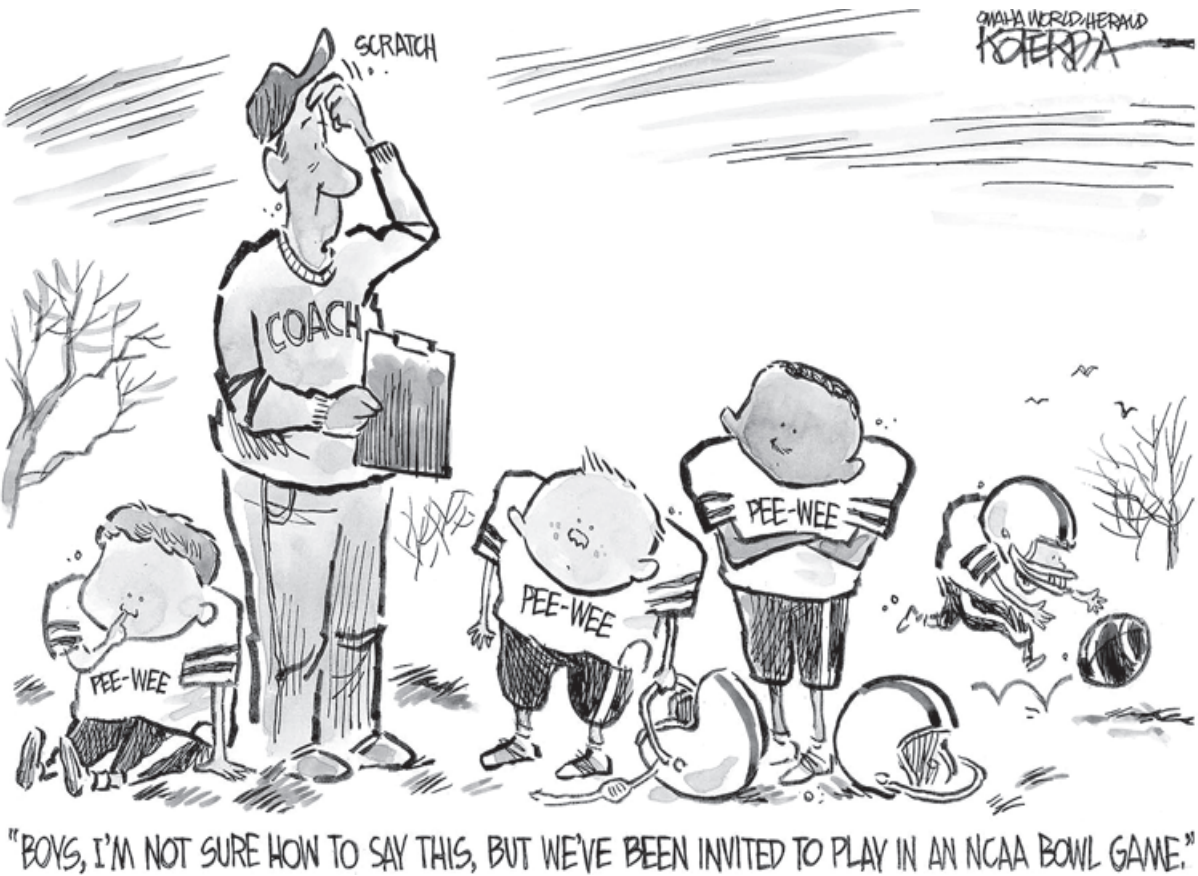
Would you rather have strong starting pitching or bleacher-blasting home-run hitters on your roster? A superstar quarterback and receiving corps to match, or a sack-happy defensive line with shutdown corners? A prolific goal scorer or a brick wall of a backstop in front of the net?

Luckily for us, the NHL has this stuff all figured out. They have this thing called the Hart Trophy, which is awarded to the most valuable player to his team. Last year, the league decided that Montreal goalie Carey Price was such a guy. He buried Capitals winger Alexander Ovechkin in first-

place votes (139-8) and led the league in wins, goals against average and save percentage – a feat not equaled since Ed Belfour did it in 1991. Price set the Canadians' record for wins in a season (44, also the NHL season best), not bad considering that the Canadians have a tiny bit of history and lore surrounding the franchise.

There's no joke to be made here; picking Price was not wrong.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.



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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

1861: Secession advocates force Gov. Sam Houston out of office for opposing Texas’ move to the Confederacy.



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!

	-		×		10
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2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: What is a Social Security Statement, and how can I get a copy?

A: Your online Social Security Statement gives you secure and convenient access to your earnings records. It also shows estimates for retirement, disability, and survivors’ benefits you and your family may be eligible for. You can get your personal Statement online by using your own my Social Security account. If you don’t yet have an account, you can easily create one. To set up or use your account to get your online Statement, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. We also mail Statements to workers attaining ages 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and older, three months prior to their birthday, if they don’t receive Social Security benefits and don’t have a my Social Security account. If you don’t want to wait for your Statement, you can access it online, whatever time of year you need it.

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

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

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

Canutillo ISD earns clean financial audit

By Shane B. Griffith
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Due to increased internal controls, enhancements to the purchasing process and financially sound management actions, the Canutillo Independent School District received excellent marks on its Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2015. The audit encompassed all facets of CISD’s fiscal operations and was conducted by RPC CPAs & Consultants, LLP. This is the first audit CISD has received with zero findings and is an improvement from last year’s report in which auditors cited seven findings.

“This is excellent news for Canutillo ISD and all of our stakeholders and is a solid example of the work we’ve done to improve the way we do business,” said Dr. Pedro Galaviz, Superintendent of CISD. “Thanks to the leadership of the Board, and the thinking and leadership of all district personnel, we’ve improved the financial integrity of the district.”

“Good internal controls lead to good finances,” said Roxie Samaniego, CPA and Partner with RPC, following the November 16 regular board meeting of the CISD Board of Trustees in which her findings were released. “The Board and Administration made some tough decisions to improve the district’s financial integrity. This was the best audit we’ve seen at CISD.”

“Receiving a clean audit is the result of what every employee does everyday from the teachers, principals, custodians, busdrivers, and food service personnel,” said Martha Piekarski, CPA, and Chief Financial Officer of Canutillo ISD. “I’m very proud of our team and appreciate the hard work of everyone involved in this important annual effort.”

The full report is posted on the District website.

Petroglyphs

From Page 1

group. Membership is open to individuals and organizations interested in anthropology, archaeology and in the preservation of prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

For more information about EPAS, contact Fernando Arias, at 915-449-9075, send email to nando79935@yahoo.com, or visit its website, at <http://epas.com/membership.htm>.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4 ★★★★★ HOO BOY!

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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: V equals I

VG KZL YVSA HZUAEAll HAAG NZ

B OLUYQK OZQIA VU

TAUUIKESBUVB, VI NOBN B

TOVEEK GVEEK GVEEAN?

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

UEC
METIAN
CWAAM
ROWC
CEMESH
OMM
♥EMCA
TECLE
♥WNO
DEWMOR
♥MADER
HOWM

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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