



NEWSBRIEFS

Sanctuary Cities

Senator Charles Perry has filed SB 4 to eliminate Sanctuary Cities in the State of Texas. It requires local governments and law enforcement to uphold the rule of law and enforce the immigration laws currently on the books. Texas Lt. Dan Governor Patrick listed ending sanctuary city policies as one of his top 10 priorities for the session stating: “No city in Texas should be allowed to ignore the law. We will end this practice once and for all this session.” “By electing a Republican president and Republican majorities in Congress, the American people made it clear that solving our illegal immigration crisis must be a priority,” said Senator Charles Perry. “That starts by eliminating sanctuary cities, securing our border, and enforcing the immigration laws we currently have on the books. We cannot sit idly by and allow local policies to undercut efforts made at the federal and state level.” In 2015, Perry authored SB 185 that would have eliminated Sanctuary Cities within the State of Texas. Later that year, the murder of Kate Steinle in San Francisco led to a national uproar and movement to eliminate Sanctuary City policies. In July of this year, the U.S. Department of Justice released updated rules disqualifying sanctuary cities from receiving U.S. Department of Justice grant money. “Banning sanctuary city policies will help prevent criminal aliens from being put back on our streets,” continued Perry. “I have no doubt that with the help of my colleagues in the Texas Legislature, we will pass this bill.”

– Matthew Dowling

Spinach benefits

Scientists at MIT may have found yet another beneficial use for spinach, especially when it is sprinkled with what they call carbon nanotubes, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. Nanotubes are actually tiny semiconductors that when combined with leafy spinach may be capable of sniffing out bombs and other explosive devices. The plant, itself, is “very environmentally responsive,” as research team leader Michael Strano puts it. The nanotubes make it receptive to the ingredients of landmines and other such deadly devices.

– John Grimaldi

There is a sense in which no gift is ours till we have thanked the giver.
– Quips & Quotes



– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

DRAWING BOARD – UTEP officials say they will start work on a master plan for developing the former Asarco land that spans along both sides of Interstate 10.

UTEP to negotiate for old Asarco site

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) has the green light to start negotiations for purchase of the former Asarco land in northwest El Paso County, as the University of Texas Board of Regents in Austin approved recently UTEP’s request to acquire the 458-acre parcel.

The desired land is east of I-10 in the mountain area where the Miner soccer and softball fields and new student housing facility are, as well as land across the freeway from the campus where the Asarco smokestacks once stood.

UTEP officials acknowledged that they have had their eyes on that land for a long time. They stated that the property would provide room for future expansion. They pointed out that presently the university campus is landlocked by businesses along Mesa Street to the east, a historic neighborhood to the southeast, and by mountains to the northwest.

The parcel, which is divided by the Interstate-10 highway,

See UTEP, Page 2

Fabens students honor veterans

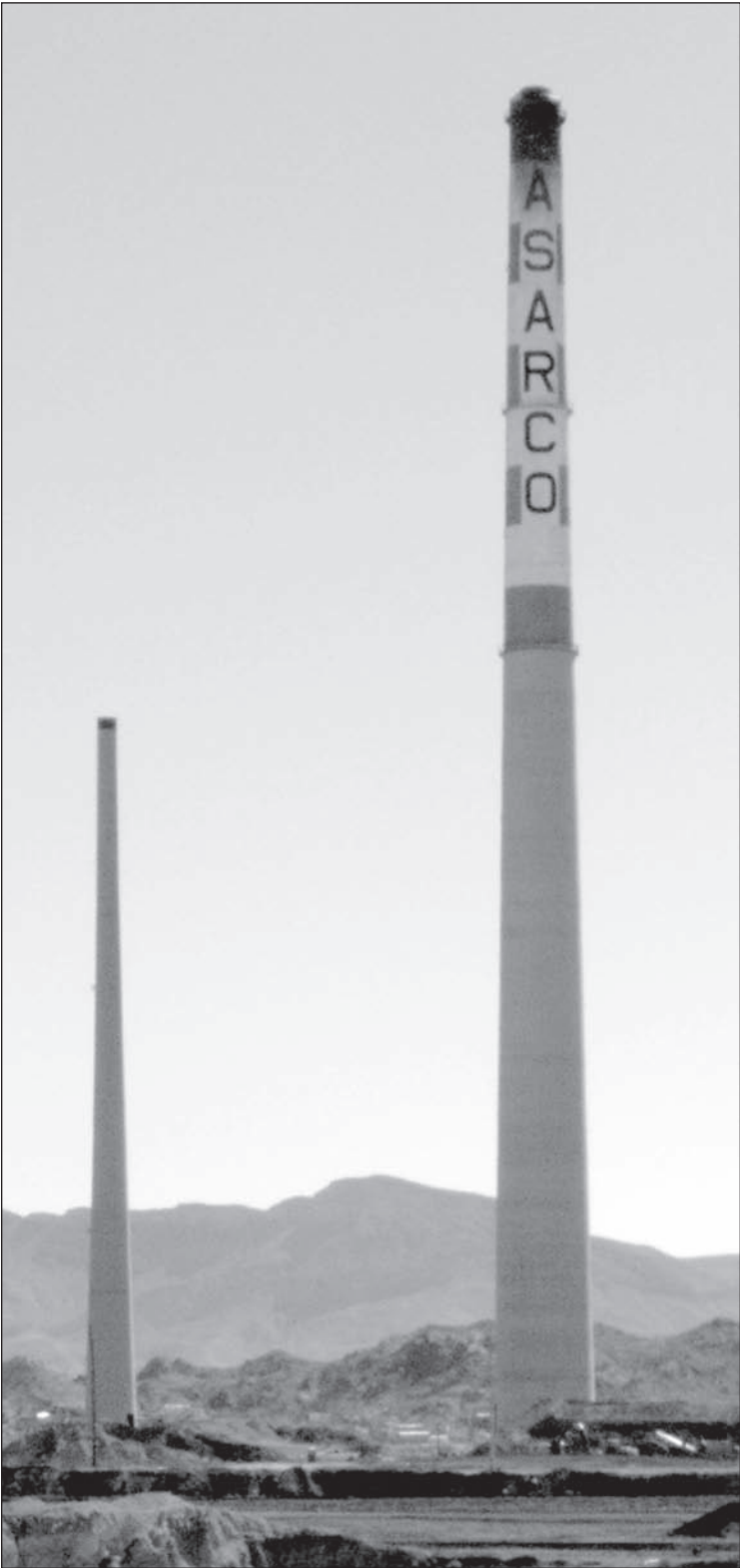
By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – On Thursday, Nov. 10 Fabens High School and Cotton Valley Early College students gathered at Fabens Veterans Park to honor community members who have served our country. Student council members from both schools escorted 61 veterans into the ceremony as the Fabens Wildcat Band played patriotic music. “Student Council’s goal is to not only serve the school but the community as well,”

sponsor Anna Alvarez said. “We felt Veterans Day was an opportunity in which we could thank those who have kept us safe and afforded us the many opportunities we have today.”

Several school officials spoke at the event. “Having served my country in the U.S Air Force, I truly appreciate the sacrifices that are made while in active duty,” Principal Ruben Carrillo said. In addition, several community members who attended the ceremony also

See FABENS, Page 4



STOOD TALL – The Asarco smokestacks – at 828 feet tall – once towered over the upper valley along Interstate 10 just northwest of downtown El Paso. The University of Texas at El Paso wants to acquire the property for expansion.

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

Year-end tax moves that could save you money

The end of the year is approaching and between visiting friends and family and celebrating the holidays, your taxes may be the last thing on your mind. However, putting off tax preparation until later could be a costly mistake. While tax season doesn't start until mid-January, if you want to affect the

return you file in 2017, you'll need to make some tax moves before the end of 2016.

You might make this a yearly tradition – while there may be slight alterations in the rules or numbers from one year to the next, many of the fundamentals behind tax-saving advice remain the same.

Sell losing investments and offset capital gains or income. Do you have property, stocks or other investments that have dropped in value and you're considering offloading? If you sell the investments before the end of the year, you can use the lost value to offset capital gains (profits from capital assets). Excess losses can offset up to \$3,000 from ordinary taxable income and be rolled over to following years.

Optimize your charitable contributions. Many people make an annual tradition of donating their time and money to support charitable causes. It's a noble thing to do and could come with a tax benefit. The value of your donation to a qualified charitable organization, minus the value of anything you receive in return, could offset your taxable income.

Charitable contributions are deductible if you itemize deductions. However, most taxpayers find it best to take the standard deduction – \$12,600 for married people filing jointly, \$9,300 for heads of households and \$6,300 for single or married people filing separately for the 2016 tax year. If it's best for you

to take the standard deduction for 2016 but you think you may itemize your deductions next year, consider holding off until the new year to make the donations.

Defer your income to next year. You might be able to lower your taxable income for 2016 by delaying some of your pay until after the New Year. Employees could ask their employer to send a holiday bonus or December's commission in January. It could be easier for contractors and the self-employed to defer their income since for them, it's as simple as waiting to send an invoice.

Don't let FSA savings go to waste. Employer-sponsored Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) let employees contribute pre-tax money into their FSA accounts, meaning you don't have to pay income tax on the money. FSA funds can be spent on qualified medical and dental procedures, such as prescription medications, bandages or crutches and deductible or copays.

FSA funds that you don't use by the end of the year could get forfeited. However, employers can give employees a two-and-a-half month grace period or allow employees to roll over up to \$500 per year. Check with your employer to see if it offers one of these exemptions, and make a plan to use your remaining FSA funds before they disappear.

What can wait until after January 1? Procrastinators will be pleased to hear that there are

tax moves you can make after the start of the new year.

You have until the tax return filing deadline, April 18 in 2017, to make 2016-tax-year contributions to a traditional IRA. The money you add could offset your income, and you'll be saving for retirement – a double win.

The maximum contribution you can make is \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you're 50 or older) for the 2016 tax year. However, the deductible amount depends on your income and eligibility for an employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Bottom line. Don't wait for the tax season to start to take stock of your situation and get your finances in order. While there are a few tax moves that can wait, what you do between now and the end of the year could have a significant impact on your return.

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.

UTEP

From Page 1

includes 248 acres on the south side of the freeway and 210 acres on the north side. Possible plans mentioned for the land north of the freeway are to build additional student housing and recreational facilities.

What to do with the acreage on the south side of the freeway – where the main Asarco smelter plant was – has not been determined. Because it stretches almost to downtown El Paso and is bordered on one side by Mexico and on the other by the freeway, UTEP officials asserted that the parcel has a number of unique possibilities.

No timetable has been set to complete plans and start construction according to UTEP officials. They say, however, that an environmental cleanup of the site had already been completed earlier this year.

The Asarco site has a long history in El Paso. Pilots routinely used the towers as a navigation aid. It is where a smelting plant first started operations in 1887. In 2005, the Asarco conglomerate filed for bankruptcy; and in April 2013, the two iconic smokestacks that once dominated the area were torn down.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Another 'gift' from Vietnam

Just when we thought we had a handle on the consequences of our service in Vietnam – Agent Orange – we now have another potential killer on our hands. Bile duct cancer, known as cholangiocarcinoma, can appear 25-40 years after eating raw fish in Asian countries.

The fish contain small worms called liver flukes that burrow into the liver ducts, where they remain, causing inflammation for many years until the liver can turn cancerous.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has turned down most of those who apply for benefits – generally the widows of veterans who have died of this cancer. It's difficult to pinpoint something that happened so long ago, especially something as oddball as eating the wrong kind of fish or wading in the wrong body of water. The denials of benefits run the standard gamut. However, it's now coming to light as more veterans are being affected, and the VA can't ignore it.

Lesser complications from fluke exposure can include

cirrhosis, liver bile-duct stones and hepatitis. If you ate the fish, swam in the water, cooked or made Kool-Aid with unsterilized water, are getting jaundiced or are losing weight for no obvious reason, go to the VA immediately.

Diagnosis can be tough. This isn't generally considered an American cancer, but it's now beginning to receive some attention, especially if you go to a VA doctor.

If you are a Vietnam veteran who has been diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma or have been denied benefits for it, make a note of these links:

- www.va.gov/vetapp12/files1/1206119.txt; and
- www.va.gov/vetapp11/files5/1144474.txt.

Both of these are appeals that were decided in favor of the veteran. The text of the 2012 appeal says that they "support a finding that the veteran's cholangiocarcinoma was due to liver fluke exposure in Vietnam."

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NEW HOUSES

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\$69,000

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Lower Valley Housing Corporation



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Clint Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

Clint Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:00 PM, Thursday, December 15, 2016, in the Central Office Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, Texas 79928.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Clint Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 11/24/16 & 12/01/16

1973
43
Years
2016

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CASATELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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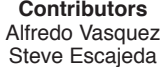
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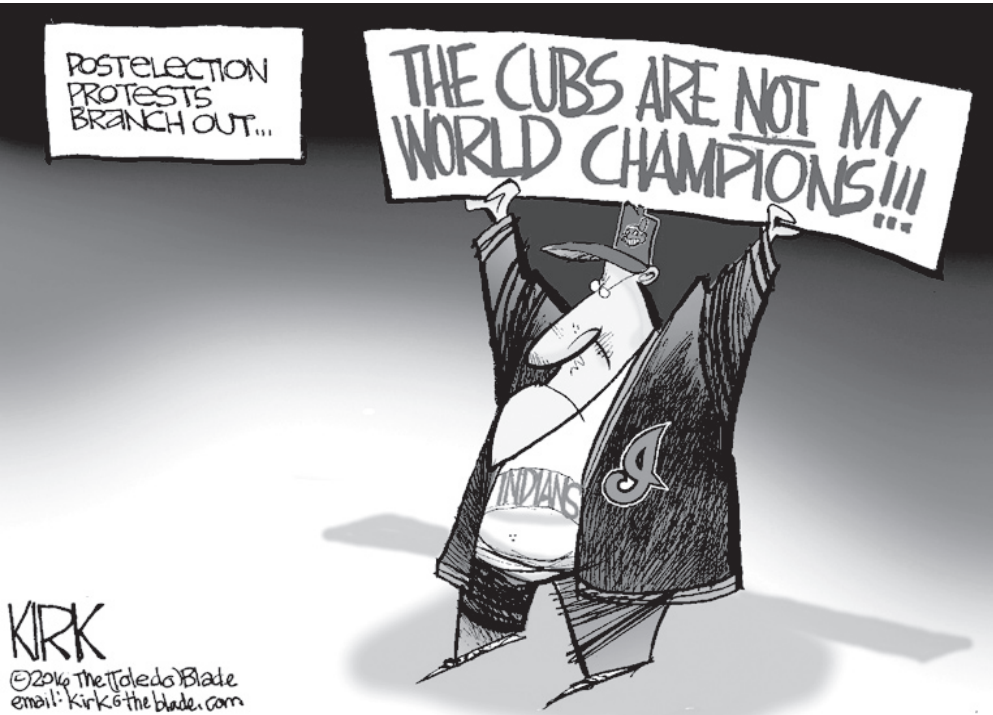
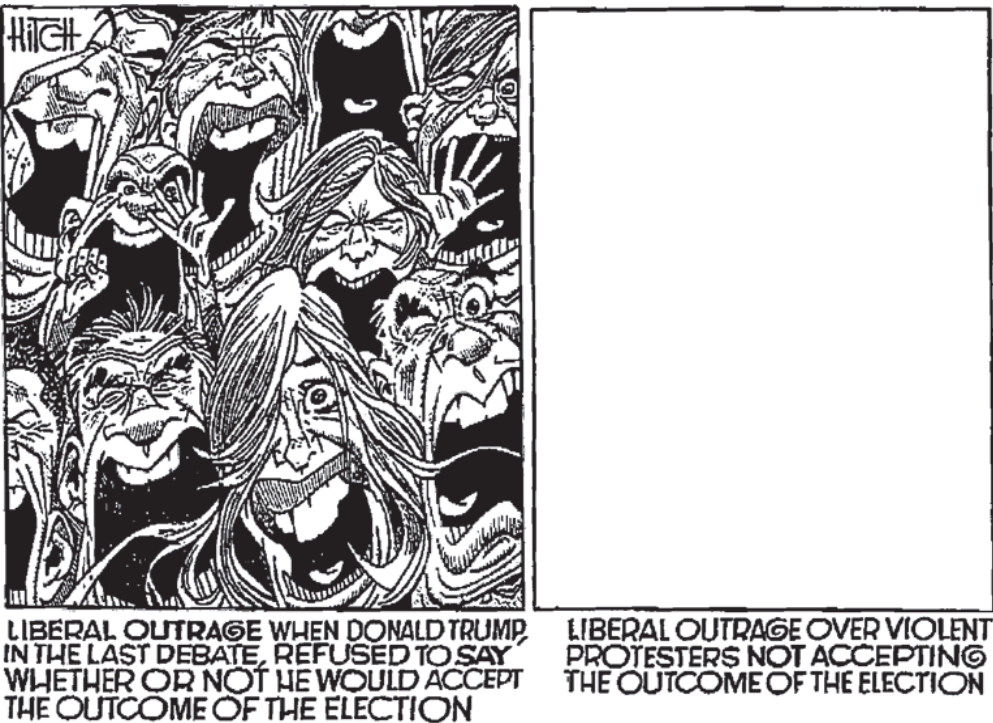
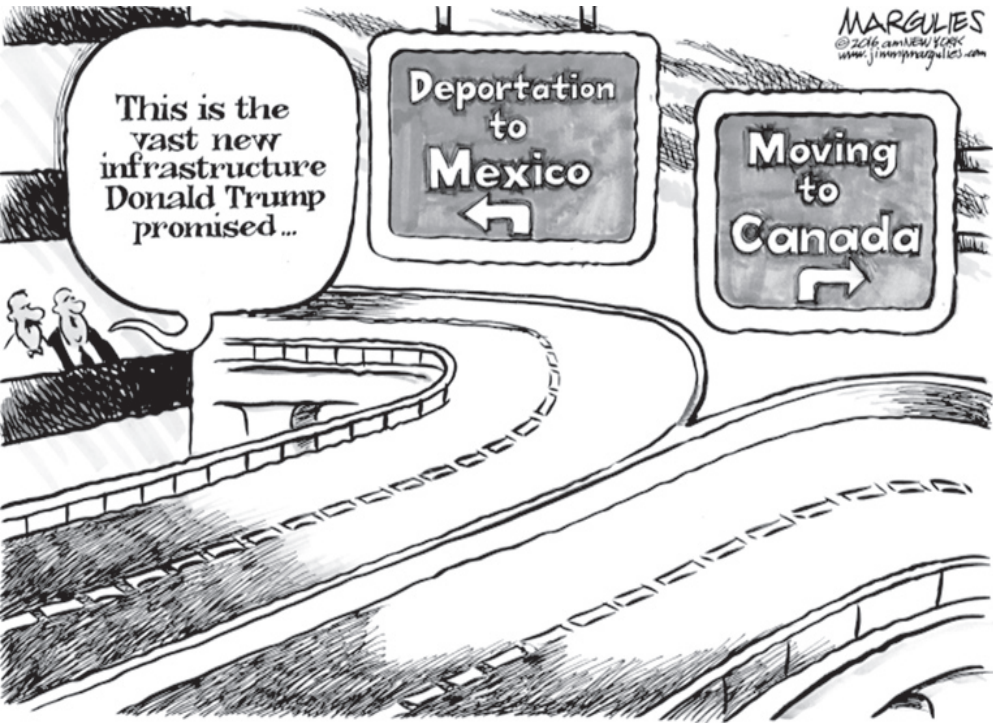
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Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



View from here By

Repealing and replacing Obamacare will be complicated

There is genuine concern that the repeal and replacement of Obamacare will be a lengthy and complicated process despite Republican control of both the White House and Congress starting in 2017.

“However,” says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens, “it can be done. There is more than one way to skin a cat, as the saying goes, although it might take longer and require more ingenuity than one might think because the Affordable Care Act was designed by Democrats to be a can of wriggling worms. The law, itself, is about 2,700 pages but the complex rules and regulations that accompany the ACA are estimated to add more than 20,000 additional pages.”

House Speaker Paul Ryan’s “Better Way” offers a market-oriented substitute for Obamacare but it has come under bi-partisan fire. Forbes Magazine columnist Avik Roy, an Obamacare expert, points out that even if the House manages to come up with a feasible way to repeal and replace the ACA, such legislation would likely be turned down in the Senate where it would need 60 votes to pass. Although the Republicans control the Senate, there aren’t enough of them to overpower Democrats anxious to preserve President Obama’s signature accomplishment.

But in a recent column, Roy explained how a bill might be constructed that can pass muster in Congress and that President-elect Trump could sign into law. “It is definitely possible for the GOP to repeal and replace Obamacare,” he wrote.

Roy notes that while Democrats could use a filibuster to preserve provisions of the law that make up the substance of Obamacare, they cannot use it as regards its financial aspects. Thus, the Republican majority can use what is called budget reconciliation to undermine the funding of key ACA provisions. Reconciliation requires only a simple majority for approval and is filibuster-proof.

Therefore, the partial repeal of Obamacare can be brought about using reconciliation, creating “a pathway to market-based universal coverage that reduces, instead of increasing, the federal role in health care.” It would allow Congress to rescind the ACA’s premium subsidies and substitute them with a system of means-tested tax credits, he explains.

Roy’s approach would also prominently feature expanded use of Health Savings Accounts (HSA), a proposal that is strongly supported by Weber’s Association of Mature American Citizens. “The Health Care Choices Act, which has been proposed in the House, would get rid of unnecessary and overburdening regulations that limit the use of HSAs. For example, under current law, HSA owners are barred from using HSA funds to cover insurance premiums, direct primary care costs, over-the-counter drugs, and several other commonsense expenditures related to their health.”

AMAC wants to change all of that. Weber says that “Americans, and senior citizens, in particular, should have complete and total control over the purchasing and saving powers inherent in an HSA. This bill puts the decision-making power back in the hands of account holders by doubling the contribution limit-empowering individuals to determine how much money they need to save for their healthcare.”

Meanwhile, if President-elect Trump and the Republican Congress have their way, next year individuals would be able to put away, tax free, as much as \$6,550 instead of the current limit of \$3,400 and families would be able to make up to \$13,100 in tax free contributions instead of the current limit of \$6,750.

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

Socorro ISD faces off with Canutillo ISD to provide shoes for children

By Ytzel A. Molina
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Socorro (SISD) and Canutillo ISD (CISD) leaders, board members, and employees faced-off for a friendly flag football match as part of the Socorro Independent School District’s annual *Warm the Soul* collection drive to benefit needy students.

Since its inception in 2014, SISD’s *Warm the Soul* initiative has collected more than 600 pairs of new

shoes for underprivileged children. This year, the district also collected blankets, scarves, socks, mittens and beanies.

“Warm the Soul is a fun and unique

See SHOES, Page 5



– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

NICE SOLES – Socorro ISD’s *Warm the Soul* initiative has collected more than 600 pairs of new shoes for underprivileged children since 2014.



– Photo courtesyh Fabens ISD

SALUTE – Each veteran was escorted by a Fabens student while being honored by Fabens JROTC cadets.

Fabens

From Page 1

expressed their gratitude to these veterans. Mr. Vincent Perez, County Commissioner; Ms. Betsy Keller, El Paso County Chief Administrator; and Mr. Mike Terrazas, EP County Water Control General Manager all had an opportunity to address the crowd.

Asasmalltokenofappreciation, veterans were gifted a United States Flag lapel pin, certificates of appreciation that highlighted art work from one of our students, and a small breakfast following the ceremony. “Our intent was to serve our veterans a warm breakfast where they could share their stories or simply catch up with one another,” said Alvarez.

San Elizario Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2016

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,404,783	\$ 48,913	\$ 399,874	\$ 2,853,570
5800 State Program Revenues	33,729,643	–	1,110,865	34,840,508
5900 Federal Program Revenues	3,824,518	–	3,532,594	7,357,112
5020 Total Revenues	39,958,944	48,913	5,043,333	45,051,190
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	18,246,171	–	2,290,114	20,536,285
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	441,542	–	8,275	449,817
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	104,647	–	1,295,104	1,399,751
0021 Instructional Leadership	746,340	–	134,379	880,719
0023 School Leadership	2,196,939	–	18,751	2,215,690
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,129,735	–	12,994	1,142,729
0032 Social Work Services	165,448	–	1,339	166,787
0033 Health Services	451,173	–	84,024	535,197
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,144,487	–	–	1,144,487
0035 Food Services	2,996,248	–	47,249	3,043,497
0036 Extracurricular Activities	1,040,040	–	102,390	1,142,430
0041 General Administration	1,653,789	–	–	1,653,789
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	4,638,920	–	–	4,638,920
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	909,320	–	–	909,320
0053 Data Processing Services	932,056	–	–	932,056
0061 Community Services	37,509	–	181,083	218,592
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	1,475,000	–	630,000	2,105,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	228,123	–	890,003	1,118,126
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	6,106	700,304	–	706,410
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	248,275	3,666,000	–	3,914,275
Intergovernmental:				
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	28,950	–	–	28,950
6030 Total Expenditures	38,820,818	4,366,304	5,695,705	48,882,827
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	1,138,126	(4,317,391)	(652,372)	(3,831,637)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	–	27,905,000	–	27,905,000
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	53,860	–	–	53,860
7915 Transfers In	–	–	1,668,446	1,668,446
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	1,963,750	–	1,963,750
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	–	(1,668,446)	–	(1,668,446)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	53,860	28,200,304	1,668,446	29,922,610
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	1,191,986	23,882,913	1,016,074	26,090,973
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	15,360,556	(1,251,283)	122,974	14,232,247
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 16,552,542	\$ 22,631,630	\$ 1,139,048	\$ 40,323,220

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish its last issue of 2016 on December 15, 2016.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Tuesday, December 13, 2016. The office will open again on Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

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CryptoQuip Answer

Because Chicago is the Windy City, do you know if banks there regularly provide overdraft protection?

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Strange
But True

By Samantha Weaver

- It was 20th-century Swiss-American psychiatrist Elisabeth Kubler-Ross who made the following sage observation: “People are like stained-glass windows: They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within.”
- At the outbreak of World War I, American financier August Belmont Jr. volunteered for the U.S. Army – at the age of 64. He served in France as a major in the Army Air Service. His wife was so proud that when one of their mares, Mahubah, gave birth to a colt in 1917, she named it in honor of her husband, not realizing that Man o’ War would become one of the greatest racehorses of all time.
- You doubtless know that a placebo is a pill or substance that is given to a patient like a medication, but in fact has no physical effect. Most people, however, haven’t heard of a nocebo—a similarly harmless substance that might make patients sick because they think it will.
- It’s not unknown for temperatures during a Siberian summer to exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Almost a thousand years before Johannes Gutenberg introduced mechanical moveable type to Europe, people in Asia were already printing messages set in type. The oldest recorded such piece, from China, translates as “Beware of Dog.”
- You might be surprised to learn that the oldest public university in the United States is the University of North Carolina.
- If you’re like the average human being, you have approximately 250,000 sweat glands on your feet alone.

Thought for the Day: “There is no human being who, as a result of desiring to build a better life, should be named or declared illegal.”
— Alejandro G. Inarritu
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9	7	2	3	4	1	6	5	8
8	1	6	5	9	7	2	3	4



– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

FRIENDLY GAME – Socorro and Canutillo ISD faced off in charity flag football match to collect shoes for children in the community.

Shoes

From Page 3

event where Team SISD and Canutillo ISD join efforts to help students in need,” said SISD Superintendent of School Dr. José Espinoza. “Buying a new pair of shoes can be difficult for some families and we want to help with that need. A new pair of shoes, scarf, mittens or beanies will keep our students warm this season, boost their confidence, and allow them to focus on the education they deserve.” The charity game, which kicked-off at 5 p.m. Nov. 16 in the Student Activities Complex, welcomed an array

of players, including the two superintendents, board members, principals, coaches and other district staff who demonstrated their best athletic abilities and united for a good cause. “This is my third year participating in Warm the Soul,” said Norma Myers, principal at O’Shea Keleher Elementary School. “Bridging two districts together to help students in need is great! We do it on a daily basis, but to do it this way is a lot of fun.” The game ended with a victory for SISD who defeated Canutillo 32-24. After the game, Dr. Espinoza thanked CISD and Team SISD

See SHOES, Page 8

Your Medicare Advantage or
prescription drug plan right for you?

Medicare’s Annual
Open Enrollment
Period is coming!
Know your options.

Whether you are considering a new plan or assessing the benefits of your current plan, we are here to help.

Get personalized health insurance counseling from a licensed insurance agent today. If you want to change plans this year, you must make a decision before December 7th!



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Notice of Public Meeting
To Discuss Fabens
Independent School District’s
State Financial Accountability
Rating (FIRST)

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 7, 2016 in the boardroom of the Fabens ISD Administration Building, 821 NE “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Fabens Independent School District’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system.

WTCC: 11/24/16 & 12/07/16

¿Su plan Medicare Advantage o
de medicamentos recetados es el
apropiado para usted?

¡Ya se acerca el Período
de Inscripción Abierta
Anual de Medicare!
Conozca sus opciones.

Ya sea que esté considerando obtener un nuevo plan o evaluando los beneficios de su plan actual, estamos aquí para ayudarle.

Obtenga hoy una asesoría personalizada sobre su seguro de salud por parte de un agente de seguros autorizado. Si quiere cambiar su plan este año, ¡debe tomar una decisión antes del 7 de diciembre!

To speak with a licensed insurance agent, please call:
Para hablar con una gente de seguros autorizado, por favor llame al:

(800) 528-0084 TTY: 711

Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm CST
de lunes a viernes de 10:00 am a 8:00 pm CST

Medicare no ha revisado ni ha aprobado esta información. Golden Outlook Insurance Services, TX Licencia # 1707502, es una agencia de seguros que trabaja con las personas inscritas en Medicare para explicarles las opciones de Medicare Advantage, Suplementos de Medicare y Planes de Medicamentos Recetados.

UTEP football needs changes from front office to locker room

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are sayings like, *never count your chickens before they’ve hatched*, and *it ain’t over ‘til it’s over*, and something about waiting until the *fat lady sings*.

And just as Hillary Clinton will attest, no matter how much of a “sure thing” something looks like – it’s never a sure thing.

That’s why the guys in Vegas love those gullible gamblers who always put their money on the next “sure thing.”

Speaking of sure things... the last two phrases you think you’d hear in the same sentence are “winning program” and “UTEP football.”

But coming into the 2016 season that’s exactly what everyone was saying. The UTEP Miners were a sure thing to post a winning record and go to a bowl game.

In fact, some publications claimed that the Miners would be helped by the benefit of having the easiest schedule in the nation.

Experts felt this was the year that the Miners would post 7-9 wins, which could

trigger a shift in the paradigm of a long-losing program.

I can hear the fat lady warming up backstage.

Instead of making waves on the football field, the Miners find themselves in a very familiar situation, drowning in a sea of disappointing losses against what was considered to be inferior opponents.

Local fans love to complain about UTEP being in a sub-par conference with a bunch of no-names. But the difficult-to-swallow truth is that UTEP’s football program is a couple notches below those no-name teams.

What does that make us?

I know the attendance figures at the Sun Bowl are always announced at 17,000-20,000, which sounds miniscule for an arena that holds 52,000. But believe me, I’m there every game and the actual number of butts in the seats are much less.

It’s got to be disheartening for UTEP players to come out onto the field 30 minutes before the game to a nearly empty Sun Bowl. Do you have any idea how much bigger the Sun Bowl looks when it’s empty?

There’s another saying about being careful what you ask for.

Local fans were asking for the head of former coach Mike Price when his teams began winning only five games a season. They forget what it was like to win five very exciting, competitive games against tough competition in a Sun Bowl with 35,000-45,000 in attendance.

Let’s face it, the Miners not only can’t string very many wins together, they play a very boring brand of football.

Except for the brother tandem of Aaron Jones on offense and Alvin on defense, UTEP is about as plain as you can get. There isn’t much imagination on offense or toughness on defense.

So questions abound about what should be done.

There’s no doubt that local fans really love coach Sean Kugler and desperately want him to succeed. But they also know that he hasn’t, and some have been suggesting that a change be made.

When you consider all the money UTEP is losing in potential ticket revenue, it’s staggering. But there’s a reason certain movies flop and some companies go under – people aren’t in the habit of dishing out

money for a bad product.

And UTEP certainly doesn’t help itself out by promoting its product. It’s no secret that many consider it one of the most fan- and media-unfriendly environments in town.

What’s worse is that all the complaints seem to fall on deaf ears. Like on the football field, there has to be more imagination in the front office as well.

The most successful businesses in the world have the ability to adapt to changing times. Those that are stuck in the past quickly fall behind and eventually become ghosts.

What is the answer? I don’t know, I’m not that smart. But I do know that the status quo isn’t even close to working, and won’t work.

So the obvious answer is to make some changes. Kugler’s record in 3-1/2 years at UTEP is 17-30 and this year’s three wins have come against teams with a combined 10-18 record.

What makes this year’s collapse all the more disappointing is all the promise it began with.

With apologies to Yogi Berra, this season was over a long time ago.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The sacking of Romo

There is something undeniable about Tony Romo. He is all but universally beloved by anybody who has ever coached or played with him. As the franchise face for America’s Team, his mug gets plastered on both sporting and celebrity gossip magazines

alike. But you know, he’s got a bad back and he has yet “to win the big one.”

“Yet to win the big one” is perhaps the most damning thing you can say about an NFL quarterback, particularly when you’re a Dallas Cowboy and

have to live up to legendary names like Don Meredith, Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman. And it’s something that Romo has heard a lot. People are always unsure about him. Is he a fearless playmaker, or is he a guy who makes bad decisions and refuses to stick to the script?

Well, we may never know that answer, at least not in Dallas, because a new story is being written there as we speak by

Rayne Dakota “Dak” Prescott. Prescott is accustomed to school records and setting the record for most passing yards in rewrites. He rewrote Mississippi State’s record book, setting 38

See SPORTS, Page 8

Moore Texasby Roger Moore

A secretary named Bette Nesmith from Dallas changed the office world when she created LIQUID PAPER in 1956.



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: **G** equals **Y**

KBDLHJB DYRDLQU RJ OYB VRFPG

DROG, PU GUH XFUV RE KLFXJ

OYBCB CBQHWLCWG NCUSRPB

USBCPCLEO NCUOBDORUF?

Answer Page 4

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Saturday, Jan. 07, 2017

Horizon Middle School 400 N. Kenazo, 79928 (Horizon City)

Race starts at 8 a.m.

CLINT ISD SUPER SCHOLAR

5K

RUN & 1 MILE WALK

& Health Fair

Events and Fees:

by 1/5/20175K run \$20.001 mile walk \$20.00

after 1/5/20175K run \$25.001 mile walk \$25.00V

Special Rate for STUDENTS and TEAMS: \$10.00/person

(10 person minimum to qualify as a team and all team member registrations must be turned in together by 1/5/2017.)

Registration:

Stop by either Up and Running store or mail to:

Up and Running Store

Attn: Race Adventures

1475 George Dieter, Suite O, El Paso, TX, 79936

Checks payable to Clint ISD

Awards:

First 300 registrants receive an official event t-shirt.

Trophy to top overall male and female winners

LARGEST TEAM! --Trophy, bragging rights

Medals to top 3 male and female age group winners in 5K Run

Age groups 0-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 5 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!
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Public Notice Village of Vinton El Paso County, Texas Texas Community Development Block Grant Program

The VILLAGE OF VINTON will hold a **public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 28, 2016, at Vinton City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas**, regarding the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The Village of Vinton encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TxCDBG application and to make their views known at this public hearing.

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Manuel Leos, Mayor, at Vinton City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the Vinton City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the Vinton City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Para más información en español, comuníquese con Andrea Carrillo al 915-886-5104.

Jessica Garza
City Clerk

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!

		-		×		25
÷			+		×	
	+			×		27
×			×		÷	
	+			×		30
24		16			15	
1	2	3	3	4	5	6
8	9					

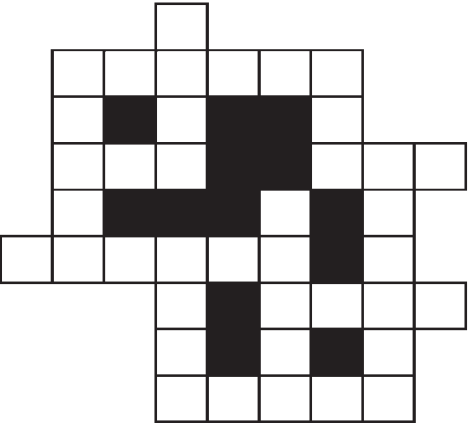
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Answer Page 4

FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

GRI
EDUNIC
♥BORAC
♥OFGL
EFIRLE
♥GBI
ULBC
♥RAFLE
IRF
GOADIA
♥DERGA
♥UBDA



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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.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

Public Notice Village of Vinton El Paso County, Texas United States Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Program

The VILLAGE OF VINTON will hold a **public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at Vinton City Hall, Vinton, Texas**, regarding the submission of an application to the USDA Community Facilities program. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the amount of funding requested, and all eligible activities. The Village of Vinton encourages citizens to participate in the development of this USDA application and to make their views known at this public hearing.

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Manuel Leos, Mayor, at Vinton City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the Vinton City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the Vinton City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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Jessica Garza
City Clerk

Shoes

From Page 5

staff for their donations and support. SISD Board President Gary Gandara, CISD Board president Stephanie Fietze, and trustee Armando Rodriguez, also thanked both teams for their participation.

“We appreciate Canutillo ISD for getting involved and bringing shoes to benefit our students,” President Gandara said. “This will definitely bring a smile to our students faces.”

Sports

From Page 6

Orange Bowl history. Picked in the fourth round by the Cowboys in 2016, he broke the rookie record for most completions without an interception as a rookie, a record once held by a guy named Tom Brady... a guy who didn't break 38 records at Michigan.

Prescott plays like the pro he is every week, he plays as if he's been there before, and he plays like a leader who will take you places that you've never been before. When you can orchestrate not one, but two game-winning full-field drives to come from behind at Pittsburgh, you are treading on untouched real estate. But that is, of course, exactly what Prescott did.

The Cowboys as a franchise know how to deal with the press. While more than a few players aren't smart enough to keep their names out of the police blotter, they know better than to tip their hand regarding the quarterback situation. “I'll let those in charge of making that decision make that decision” is the common refrain. The team's larger-than-life owner is a near-obsessive fan of Tony Romo. (He has gone on record saying that he would be heartbroken if he didn't win Romo a championship. Huh? Shouldn't that be the other way around?) Even he had to begrudgingly admit that the team had to go with “the hot hand.”

The aforementioned hand is Prescott's, and no doubt about it, it is scorching hot. Romo may be burning to get back into the game, but with each passing win – and I do mean “passing” win – the more it appears that we will be seeing Romo in another uniform come next fall. Time waits for no one, and in the NFL, you're only as good as your backup's first game.

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