



NEWSBRIEFS

Crime stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the El Paso Police Department in identifying and locating the suspects involved in the murder of a man in the Mission Valley, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Monday night, June 9, three victims were in the 7100 block of Stiles, when an SUV pulled up and two passengers got out brandishing a handgun and demanding money. The victims were unable to produce any money, so the suspects beat the victims — one of whom was still inside his vehicle and was pistol-whipped. The suspects left the scene following the robbery. One of the victims died from his injuries the next day. Detectives from the Crimes Against Persons unit are now investigating the case as a Capital Murder. The gunman is described as an Hispanic male, mid-20's, 5-foot 10-inches to 6-feet tall, medium build, and light skin with green or hazel eyes. He was wearing a black ski mask, long sleeve dark shirt, black jeans and dark work boots. He spoke both English and Spanish. The other suspect is an Hispanic male, 5-foot 8-inches tall, medium build and complexion with very short hair, almost bald. He was wearing a short sleeve shirt. There is no description for the driver of the suspect's vehicle, but the vehicle itself is believed to be a dark blue 2000 to 2005 Ford Expedition with dark tinted windows and a beige or tan stripe across the middle. The weapon used was an unknown type handgun. If you have any information at all about this crime, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward up to \$1,000.

Bible school

The Clint First Baptist Church will host "Outriggers Island — Living God's Unshakeable Truth," this year's Vacation Bible School, July 21-25 at 200 Main Street in Clint. Children ages Pre-K through 6th grade are invited from 9 a.m. to noon. Information is at 592-9081 or 851-1599.

New pastor

The Installation Ceremony to welcome Marco Butler as the new pastor of the Horizon Bible Church will be held June 29 at 14201 McMahon Avenue, beginning at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Essay winner

The Sun-Up Optimist Club of Canutillo selected Daniel Santiago Montoya, a senior at Santa Teresa High School, as the winner of the annual essay contest, featuring a theme of "Today's Choices Shape

See BRIEFS, Page 3

Pity the poor girl who spent four years learning how to behave in polite society and the rest of her life looking for it.

— Quips & Quotes

Socorro ISD's Aubé-Barton selected as Texas' National Distinguished Principal

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Lauded as a school leader who teaches children how to take ownership for their own learning, Chester E. Jordan Elementary Principal Michelle Aubé-Barton was named Texas' 2008 National Distinguished Principal. The announcement was at the Texas Elementary Principals & Supervisors Association's Summer Conference on Thursday, June 12. Aubé-Barton will represent the state of Texas as a nominee for the National Distinguished Principal (NDP) Award. This is the first time a Region XIX Principal has been chosen for this honor. She was nominated as the Region 19 representative by TEPSA President Elect Chelaine Marion.

"I have known Michelle for about seven years both personally and professionally and she is the kind of leader I hope to be one day. She is intelligent, passionate about what she



Michelle Aubé-Barton

does, empathetic, an advocate for children, a positive role model and a motivational leader," said Marion who is an Assistant Principal at Robert R. Rojas Elementary. "When I thought about all of the excellent principals we have in

our district, she was a natural choice for this nomination. She builds capacity in her staff, fosters a positive campus climate wherever she is and effectively implements relevant and purposeful academic initiatives that develop student success."

"It was just an honor to be nominated. To represent Socorro ISD, Region 19 and the state of Texas is a great honor. This process allowed me to reflect and think about my leadership style," said Aubé-Barton.

"Effective school leaders create a culture of learning that values trusting relationships while promoting high

expectations for all stakeholders," Aubé-Barton wrote in her application. "Effective leaders set a high standard of learning by serving as a role

See BARTON, Page 3

HOBY out to train leaders

El Paso hosts HOBY seminar

By Bob Way
Special to the Courier

The 2008 Texas Far West HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth) Leadership Seminar completed its three day seminar on June 1, 2008. With over 80 students in attendance, some from as far way as the Texas Panhandle, the HOBY ambassadors completed a very full and demanding three day schedule.

The HOBY ambassadors had the opportunity to meet and talk with community leaders in the fields of education, communication, entrepreneurship, volunteerism and Homeland Security. They discussed such issues as Innovation Opportunities for Learning; The Impact of Technology; An Opportunity to Effect Change; Owning Your Own Business; and, the Future of the United States.

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar provides lifelong leadership development opportunities that empower individuals to achieve their highest potential. It encourages and assists members of this formative age group in their quest for self-identification and self-development. It gives them the chance to interface with recognized leaders in business, industry, government, science and education through give-and-take workshops using a

See HOBY, Page 2

Canutillo HS student is HOBY rep

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Dominick Ruiz, a Canutillo High School junior, has been selected to attend the World Leadership Congress (WLC), July 25 to August 2, in Washington DC as an ambassador for the Texas Far West HOBY Leadership region.



Dominick Ruiz

Ruiz's selection comes after being named the outstanding male student in the regional HOBY leadership seminar held recently at the El Paso Community College Learning Center. He will join other youths from all over the United States and the world for a weeklong, intensive educational program that will focus on empowering individuals to

See RUIZ, Page 2

Talk of eminent domain causes stir in Vinton

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

VINTON — Two little words had a big meaning and a big impact and were center stage at the sometimes stormy June 17th meeting of the Vinton Village Council.

Those two words were "eminent domain," and they were like a red flag in front of a bull.

On more than one occasion, Mayor Madeleine Praino pounded the council table with her gavel to restore order to the meeting where people saw eminent domain as an infringement on and a threat to the sanctity and privacy of their property.

The eminent domain issue came up during discussion about a proposed village ordinance. According to the agenda item, the proposed ordinance is "authorizing the village engineer and other village designees to enter private property for the purpose of conducting ground surveys and geotechnical investigations for drainage projects." It further states that it allows "village maintenance personnel to enter private property to with village equipment for the purpose of cleaning and maintaining existing arroyos and other drainage structures and facilities."

It aroused one member of the audience that he passed out copies of the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which protects citizens against illegal search and seizure of property. In strong language he said he had posted signs against coming onto his property and would take appropriate action to defend his property.

Mayor pro-tem Yassu Grier took exception to his language and described his remarks as a "terroristic threat."

The mayor and village attorney Shane English assured people that this was not an attempt to seize private property.

"We are not trying to acquire property," Praino said reassuringly. "We are only trying to help and protect homeowners (from the damaging rains and flooding of 2006.)"

English added, "we are simply trying to remediate a huge problem." He emphasized that the ordinance does not authorize the village to seize a person's property.

Grier pointed out, "we need to go into these properties to conduct studies, not to acquire property."

Some council members suggested softening the impact of the ordinance by deleting the words eminent domain. However, Jessica Garza, the village clerk, said that deletion would not change anything. Regardless, she pointed out, it remains implicit in and is an integral part of state law. She stressed the importance of supporting state law.

One motion by a council member to delete the agenda item failed for lack of a second.

A second motion to amend the ordinance likewise failed for lack of a second.

The ordinance, with eminent domain remaining in the text, finally passed. It was amended with language describing the village's liability for damages to a property

See RUIZ, Page 3



— Photo courtesy Bob Way

TAKING A BREAK — Attendees of this year's HOBY Leadership Seminar took a little time out for a group picture. Over 80 HOBY ambassadors came to El Paso event.

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HOBY

From Page 1

question-and-answer format. It motivates and stimulates these young leaders to their responsibilities and the importance of volunteerism. The Seminar gives them the opportunity

to demonstrate their leadership abilities for the betterment of their community and country through community service.

HOBY will soon celebrate 50 years as the country's top youth leadership development organization. Founded in 1958 by veteran actor Hugh O'Brien, HOBY's mission is to provide lifelong leadership development

opportunities that empower individuals to achieve their highest potential. Hugh O'Brien set out to help young people make a difference and become positive catalysts for change — in the home, school, workplace, and community. Now, with more than 355,000 alumni leading the way, HOBY is respected worldwide for its youth leadership programs.

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Ruiz

From Page 1

achieve their highest potential. The CHS junior attended the local

leadership seminar under the sponsorship of the Canutillo-Sun UP Optimist Club. Ruiz is a member of the CHS National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA), and is a mentor in the

Big Brothers Big Sisters program. He also is a member of the school's cross country and track teams. Ruiz is son of Fernando and Maria Ruiz.

The regional HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership) seminar provided leadership development opportunities to motivate young persons to make a positive difference within their communities. Over 80 students from high schools throughout Far West Texas and New Mexico participated in the local event.

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15344 Werling Ct.
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Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtccourier.com
Website: wtccourier.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Jan Engels

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

New bill to support GIs



historic new legislation that would dramatically increase educational benefits for our nation's veterans. These expanded benefits were included in the Iraq/Afghanistan emergency supplemental appropriations bill, a \$161.8 billion measure that includes war funding, an expanded veterans' education benefit, an extension of unemployment insurance and assistance for the flooding in the Midwest. I was proud to support this bill that would fully fund the cost of a four-year degree for our veterans.

The current educational benefits for veterans are insufficient, and fund only part of today's college tuition costs. Under the current law, veterans' education benefits cover only about 70 percent of the cost of a public college education and only 30 percent of the cost for a private college education.

This historic 21st Century GI Bill would fully cover the cost of tuition at in-state public schools. Under this new GI bill, servicemembers returning from Iraq or Afghanistan, who have served three years on active duty since September 11, would receive benefits to cover the costs of a four-year education up to the level of the most expensive in-state public school, along with a stipend for housing, books and other expenses. The bill also extends educational benefits to the National Guard and Reserve.

With many of our troops having served two, three, or more tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, this legislation is long past due. Our veterans have made immeasurable sacrifices for our country, and we have an obligation to invest in their future and transition to civilian life.

Texas has the highest number of soldiers (over 213,000) who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since September 11. Currently,

about 35,000 Texas troops are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Adding thousands of college-educated veterans to the Texas workforce will be a tremendous boost to the state's economy, much like the original GI bill sparked economic growth and expansion after World War II.

This legislation also includes a provision that allows servicemembers to transfer unused educational benefits to their spouses and dependents. Veterans would have 15 years to use their educational entitlement provided by this legislation.

The new GI bill is broadly supported by major veterans' organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country — they have earned these benefits and I am working in Congress to ensure that we properly honor our veterans by giving them all the tools they need to transition back to civilian life.

San Eli ISD TAKS scores improve

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

Over the course of several years involving perseverance, effective use of data, and an overall, genuine commitment to students on the part of many individuals, the San Elizario Independent School District has experienced considerable growth in TAKS scores. The gains that have been achieved by the district within a four-year period of time from 2005 to 2008 have been noted in several subject areas and grade levels tested for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

At-Risk Director Adam Starke, who is responsible for testing and disaggregating data for the district, has noted the upward trend in test performance and the efforts needed in the future to attain higher levels of achievement. "We obviously still have some pinnacles to reach but we are taking only positive steps to reach them," Starke said.

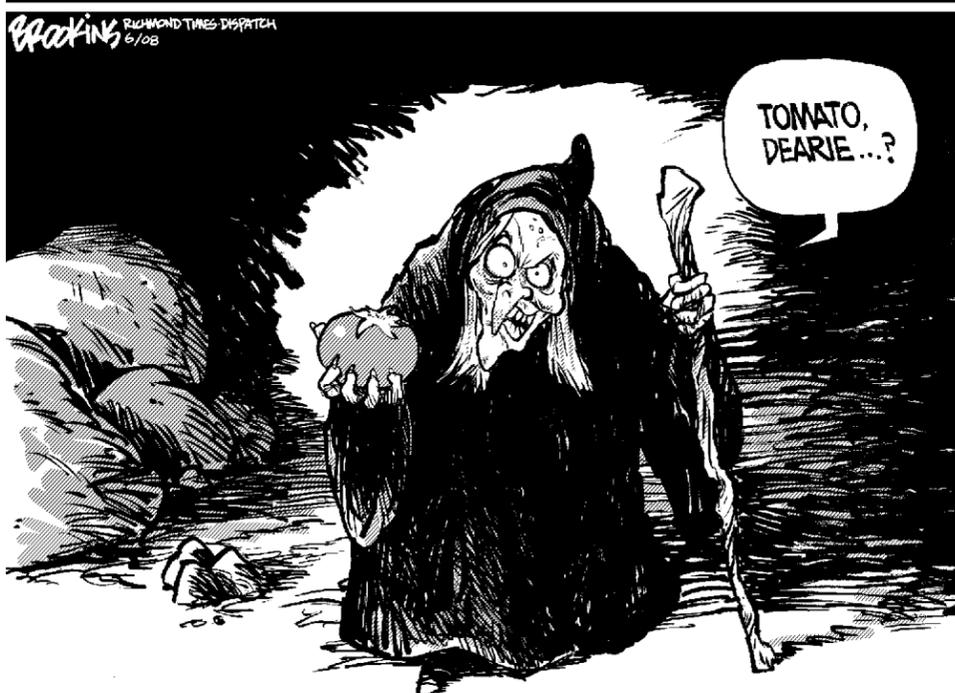
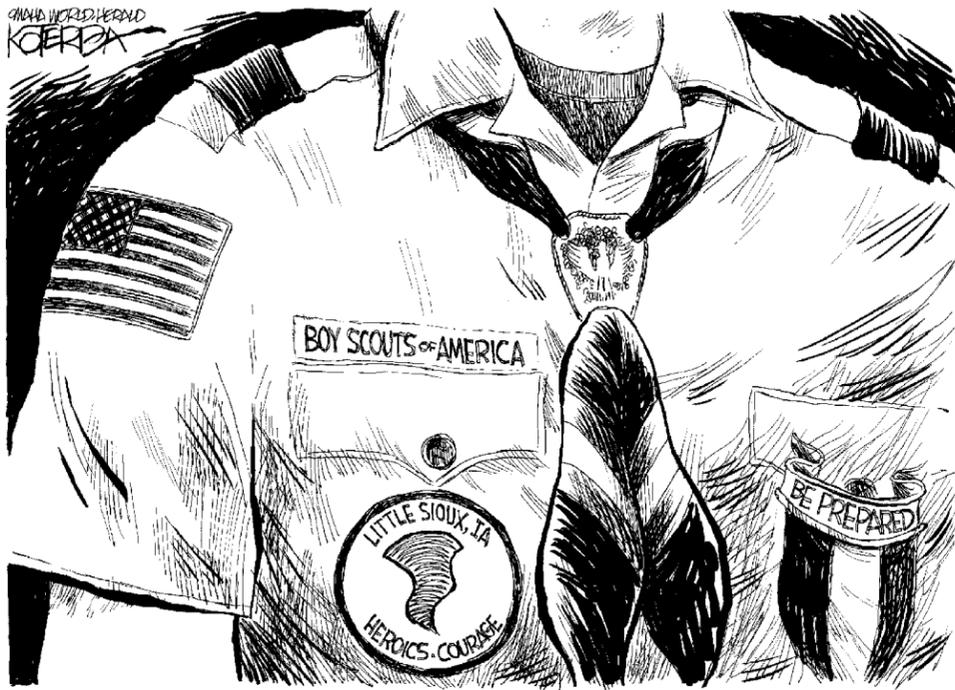
Thus far, the district's dedication to improving student academic performance as demonstrated by TAKS scores appears to be yielding fruitful results. Preliminary data analysis shows that the San Elizario Independent School District is poised to have its three elementary schools rated as recognized campuses. Al-

though the official Texas Education Agency (TEA) ratings will not be announced until August, Alarcon, Borrego, and Sambrano Elementary Schools have all improved their scores to have at least 75 percent of students meeting the TAKS standard on all subject areas. Additionally, once the results are confirmed by TEA, Borrego Elementary in particular will have garnered a Recognized Rating for four years in a row.

Students at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School and San Elizario High School have also shown remarkable growth on reading, math, social studies, and science TAKS tests.

Despite having 97 percent of students shown to be economically disadvantaged or from low-income families, mirroring the characteristics of the community, the San Elizario Independent School District is demonstrating that its students have the capacity to achieve high levels of academic success when provided the right tools by staff and faculty.

San Elizario ISD Board President Irene D. Jaquez indicated that the preliminary TAKS results point to the students' hard work and a concentrated effort on behalf of everyone in the district. "It is true evidence of team work and a common goal of dedication to our children," Jaquez stated.



Vinton

From Page 1

incurred when a survey is being carried out. At the request of alderperson Yolanda Lucero, council discussed adopting a policy

calling for a four-day, 10-hour work week. It was proposed a means to cut energy costs.

Garza said such an action would present scheduling problems and would have to be reworked.

A motion passed to retain the current schedule until the problems could be resolved. It will come up at the next council meeting.

Briefs

From Page 1

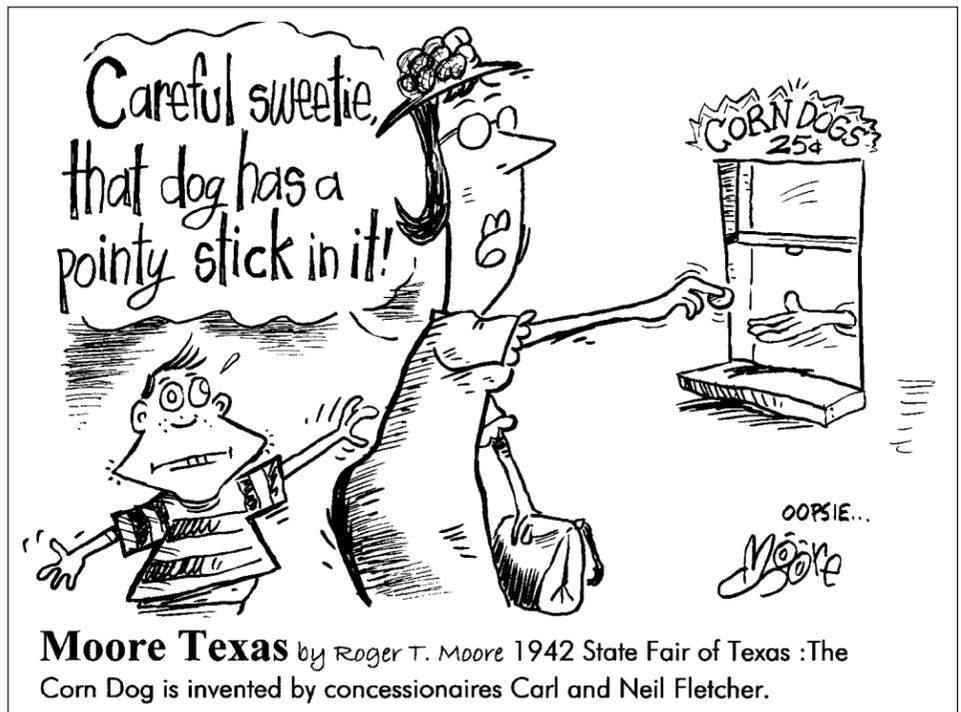
My Future." Montoya's essay scored 299 out of a possible 300 and was chosen out of 77 entries submitted from three area high schools. He and his family were honored at the Club's annual dinner held May 12, at which he shared his essay. A medallion, certificate and \$100 were included in the award. Montoya plans to attend New Mexico State University beginning this fall, majoring in Criminal Justice.

ESL/GED classes

Socorro ISD Community Education

Department is offering ESL and GED classes for adults at no cost to qualifying participants with daytime, evening and weekend classes offered. Classes will be held at various schools in the district and at the Community Learning Center. Hours range from six to 30 per week. Participants must be 18 years of age and, if attending the English/Spanish GED classes, not have a high school diploma. Computer classes are also offered. Registration for daytime classes is July 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Evening class registration varies from site to site — classes begin Aug. 4. Registration for Saturday classes will be Aug. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For specific locations and hours, call 937-1700.

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Congratulations Teachers of the Year

In alphabetical order, from the Anthony, Canutillo, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario, Socorro and Tornillo ISDs, are:



Laura Biernacki
Canutillo ISD



Ashley Broadway
Clint ISD



Noe Cantu
Tornillo ISD



Elizabeth Carreto
Tornillo ISD



Barbara Dickerson
Socorro ISD



Cecilia Enriquez
Fabens ISD



Christine Gleason
Fabens ISD



Carmelo Lopez
Canutillo ISD



Gilbert Molina
Clint ISD



Melissa Nunn
San Elizario ISD



Susan Price
Anthony ISD



Kathrin Salazar
San Elizario ISD



Reyna Salcedo
Anthony ISD

These teachers will now represent their school districts for regional honors as the Region XIX Teacher of the Year, which is part of the Texas Teacher of the Year Program. The winners, which will be announced in late August, will advance to the State Teacher of the Year program.

The Texas Teacher of the Year annual event is the highest honor that the state can bestow upon a teacher. The Texas Education Agency rewards and recognizes excellence in the teaching profession through the Texas Teacher of the Year Program.



Adria Wauson
Socorro ISD

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Social Security on the road

Summertime is here, and that means many people are busy planning their summer vacations. Some of those vacations will involve globetrotting around the world.

If you receive Social Security benefits and you're planning to travel abroad this summer, there are some things you should know to make your trip — and the delivery of your Social Security payments — go smoothly.

First, if you haven't already done so, you should sign up for direct deposit. It's the easiest and most secure way to receive your benefit payments, whether you're at home or halfway around the world. With direct deposit, you never have to worry about your check being lost or stolen. And direct deposit makes funds instantly available to you even when you are not at home to receive and cash your checks.

You should also be familiar with how your Medicare coverage works outside the United States. Be aware

that Medicare, in most cases, does not pay for hospital or medical services outside the United States, except for some emergency services in Mexico and Canada. That is the case even if you get sick or hurt while traveling.

The length of your journey may also make a difference. Keep in mind that if you plan to stay outside the country more than 30 days, other rules may apply. For example, in some countries, you cannot continue to receive benefits if you reside there for more than a month. You can find out about these rules and more by visiting our online publications at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs. Look for the publication *Your Payments While You Are Outside the United States*. Or you can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to ask for a copy to be mailed to you.

So whether you're visiting relatives in Europe or simply traveling across the country, visit us at www.socialsecurity.gov before you lift off.

Barton

From Page 1

model for the school community. As the instructional leader, I have been instrumental in supporting others to form effective teams who are self-directed learners and deliver quality instruction."

Prior to leading the Jordan Elementary, Aubé-Barton who has been a principal at SISD for seven years, was the principal at Elfida P. Chavez Elementary. She began teaching in the Socorro Independent School District in 1995 when she helped open Helen Ball Elementary. Two years later, she was promoted to Assistant Principal. Aubé-Barton earned her Masters degree from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. She will travel as the Texas representative to Washington, D.C. in October for two days of activities, including a trip to the White House.

"Michelle is an extraordinary leader who has created an enriching environment for students, parents and staff at Jordan. Under her direction, the school which opened this year is a Recognized Campus. It's a testament to her and this District that this Association has selected Michelle to be the Texas nominee," said Anna Lisa Banegas Pena, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction who was on hand to help her celebrate this honor.

"School principals are a key contributor to student success," said TEPSA Executive Director Sandi Borden. "They are the instructional leaders who dedicate their lives to the academic, social and emotional well-being of children."

Established in 1984, the National Distinguished Principals Program is an annual event to honor exemplary elementary and middle school principals who set the pace, character,

and quality of the education children receive during their early school years. The recognition afforded by the NDP designation instills pride in principals' accomplishments and reinforces their continued leadership in helping children develop a lifelong love of learning. One principal is chosen annually from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Principals representing private K-8 schools, Department of Defense Dependents' Schools, and the U.S. Department of State Overseas Schools are also recognized.

Among the qualifications for the award are:

- To be an active principal of a school in which a commitment is clearly evident through programs designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students, and through firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations;
- been an active principal for at least five years;
- is respected by students, colleagues, parents, and the community at large;
- to assume an active role in his/her community, distinguishing himself/herself as a leader in civic, religious, or humanitarian activities; and
- to show strong educational leadership by setting high expectations for school staff and students.

Each year, Texas recognizes one National Distinguished Principal from the elementary level. Mentoring Minds and Horace Mann support the Texas program. Criteria for selection of the principals are set by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the U.S. Department of Education. Since 1917, TEPSA has served Texas principals and supervisors. TEPSA has more than 5,300 members. These administrators supervise more than 150,000 teachers who direct the activities of more than 2.1 million PreK-8 school children.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

June 24, 2008
Town of Anthony, Texas
P. O. Box 1269
Anthony, TX 79821
(915) 886-3944

This notice shall satisfy the two separate but related procedural notification requirements cited above, as follows.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about July 4, 2008, the Town of Anthony will submit a request to the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Section 104(f) of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, to undertake a project known as Sewer System Improvements Project #726011, for the purpose of cleaning, CCTV, and rehabilitation of 3,300 linear feet of existing sewer line of 10" and 12" diameter; and providing eight reconnects, and appurtenances, on Doniphan Street (US80/SH20) from Franklin Street to the outfall manhole at La Tuna. The project also includes miscellaneous improvements at the existing wastewater treatment plant, consisting of: replacement of deteriorated influent pump station discharge line; replacement of the plant aerator brushes; replacement of rotor bearings, mounts, etc.; lubrication; and rehabilitation of the wet well at the existing influent lift station.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Town of Anthony has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. The Town of Anthony also has determined that the project activities are Categorically Excluded Activities, subject to 24 CFR 58.5 provisions, and do not require an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Anthony Town Hall and may be examined or copied from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on weekdays.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the office of the Mayor at Anthony Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Drive, or may mail them to the Mayor, Town of Anthony, P. O. Box 1269, Anthony, TX 79821. All comments received by July 4, 2008, will be considered by the Town of Anthony prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Individuals submitting comments should specify which part of this notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Town of Anthony certifies to the Office of Rural Community Affairs that the Hon. Art Franco, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. ORCA's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Town of Anthony to use CDBG program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) will consider objections to its release of funds and the Town of Anthony's certification received by July 7, 2008, or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the Town of Anthony approved by ORCA; (b) the Town of Anthony has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by ORCA; or (d) another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58), and must be addressed to the Office of Rural Community Affairs at P.O. Box 12877, Austin, Texas 78711. Potential objectors should contact ORCA to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Art Franco, Mayor
Town of Anthony

Date Published:
June 26, 2008

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New TV contract confirms it: The Irish are lucky

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

All my life I've been taught that there is never too much of a good thing.

I've learned that if something works — you don't fix it.

But I've also learned that when things go wrong you should learn from your mistakes.

Evidently, the higher-ups at NBC lack the ability to learn from their mistakes. It's no secret that the Notre Dame football program is (or was) the nation's most heralded football program.

Back in the 1990s, Notre Dame was so popular that NBC signed a contract to air all their home games live. And for years, this unprecedented move was paying off.

Every football fan wanted to watch the Fighting Irish because they were consistently among the best and they always played against the best.

But like the old adage goes, "that was then, and this is now."

In other words, Notre Dame has gone from one of the most respected football programs in the country to one of the most ridiculed.

For those fans and opposing players and coaches who thought that Notre Dame was receiving an unfair advantage from the network and the NCAA, these last few years have got to be sweet.

Watching the Irish get pushed around the field has been poetic justice.

It used to be a lock that Notre Dame would win 10 games and be ranked among the top five teams in the nation going into the major holiday bowl games. But the last seven years have been anything but consistent.

In the last seven seasons, Notre Dame has compiled a 48-37 record. They've won more than they've lost, but they are hardly the yearly national championship contenders they used to be.

Over the last seven football seasons, three have been winners, three have been losers, and one year ended with a 6-6 mark.

So while the beginning of the NBC agreement was lucrative, the last few seasons have proved to be less than successful. The ratings for NBC-televised Notre Dame games have plummeted over the years.

Okay, the Notre Dame-NBC partnership was great for awhile, but the experiment has long since run its course.

So when the contract was due to run out in

2010, it was time to put this partnership out of its misery.

But what did NBC do, not only did they chose not to end their relationship with Notre Dame, they renewed it for an additional five years.

Wow, that's like John calling his ex-wife Lorena Bobbitt and asking her to give their marriage one more try. Or like Barack Obama calling Hillary up and saying, "aw what the heck, I'd love to have you and Bill in the White House."

C'mon NBC, first time, shame on Notre Dame, this time it's shame on you.

And I thought all the wasteful spending took place in Washington D.C.

Last season Notre Dame was just 3-9 and it was painful to see teams push the Irish up and down the field. The Irish even lost to Navy, a team they had beaten 42 straight years.

So why would NBC want to keep televising the games of a losing team? Obviously they are betting that the Irish will return to greatness by 2015. If you watched them play last year, it's hard to believe Notre Dame will be returning to dominance any time soon.

My guess is that NBC will regret its decision. But what would you expect from the net-

work that has brought us "Celebrity Circus" and "Baby Barrowers."

USA, USA

The United States Olympic basketball team was announced this week and for the most part, its made up of some very good players.

But there were a couple of questionable selections.

Of course there was Kobe and LeBron and Carmelo and the new face of the league, Chris Paul.

But there were two players who I think should not have made the team, one because of injuries and one because he is way past his prime.

Dwayne Wade missed most of the season due to injuries, and didn't Jason Kidd just show us during the playoffs that he can't shoot and can't come close to guarding anybody.

Both have been great but being selected to this team just took a couple of spots from more deserving players.

Another problem is that the team has only one big man in Orlando's Dwight Howard.

But if it were up to me, the U.S. team would be made up of college players. But that's just me.

El Dorado baseball players sign with Ranger JC

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

The Aztec Baseball program sends

two more players to the next level. On Friday, June 20, El Dorado High School hosted letter of intent to play signing ceremony for outgoing seniors Rigo Aguirre and Nick Quinn. The pair

will be attending Ranger Jr. College in Ranger, Texas, located between Fort Worth and Abilene. Boys Varsity Baseball Coach John Beard credits them for the team's successful year. They are

the 2nd and 3rd players this year to sign and receive a scholarship this season for the Aztec Baseball program.

"These young men are a huge reason we were able to make the 1-5A playoffs in only our 2nd year of competing in this district. These young men have worked hard and are deserving of all their accomplishments," said Coach Beard.

Quinn played first base for the Aztec Team while teammate Aguirre played in the pitching and left field positions. Quinn will be pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering while Aguirre is undecided about his major. Both look forward to contributing to the Ranger program.

"I heard very good stories about the school and its baseball program. The try out went well and I'm grateful for this opportunity," said the 18-

year-old Quinn who has been playing baseball since he was three-years-old. "I want to thank the coaching staff. Without them I would not be where I am today."

"I want to get experience and try new things. I heard about Ranger Junior and knew it was a good school," said Aguirre.

"They put in a lot of time and effort into this program. It has been a joy for me to have them on the team. They are the foundation for this team. They will always have our support," said Beard. "With them going to Ranger Junior College it opens doors for our current players and shows them what can happen when you work hard."

The Aztec team finished 20-11-1 overall this past season and made the playoffs in only its second season of Varsity Boys Baseball in District 1-5A.



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick / SISD

PLAY BALL — Aztec players Nick Quinn, left, and Rigo Aguirre will suit up for Ranger JC next year.

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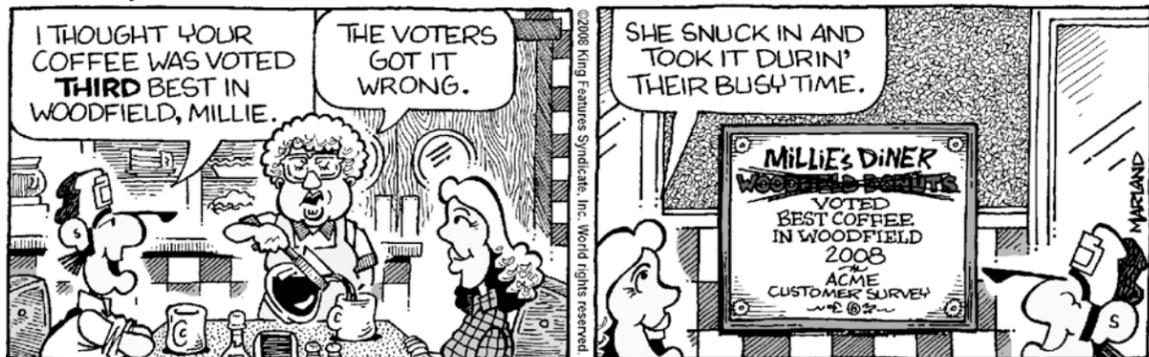
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Sleep deprivation produces must-snooze TV

By Don Flood

A recent National Public Radio story charges that TV producers — in an effort to add drama and emotional outbursts to their “reality” shows — are subjecting contestants to sleep deprivation.

Jay McCarroll, a past winner of “Project Runway,” said, “It makes people crazy.” An “America’s Next Top Model” contestant said the sleep deprivation made the girls “mentally insane.”

And sleep researcher Mary Carskadon of Brown University noted, “There’s documentation that sleep deprivation has been used as torture in prisoner of war settings.”

I don’t know about you, but for me this raises a serious ethical issue: Are TV producers using the most productive methods of torture?

(I have some expertise in this field myself, as I do my own sleep research, usually in the form of scientific naps conducted in my La-Z-Boy recliner laboratory. I plan to publish my results sometime after I get up and have a couple cups of coffee.)

As a TV consumer, I speak for all when I say I support sleep deprivation in the name of quality entertainment.

But I’m afraid some of this summer’s reality shows are going to need more “persuasive” methods to make their stars entertaining.

Case in point, Denise Richards, who won the coveted Oscar for Most Hilariously Miscast Actor of All Time award for her James Bond movie portrayal of a nuclear scientist. (She reportedly beat out the blow-up doll that later starred in “Lars and the Real Girl” — big mistake.)

Her assignment this time is just as difficult. She has to play herself, which the title of the show makes clear is going to be a stretch: “Denise Richards: It’s Complicated.”

What’s complicated? Apparently everything.

The first episode — this is true — showed Richards going to the DMV to change her driver’s license.

All I can say is, Wow! No wonder the studio honchos greenlighted this project. There’s just nothing more intrinsically interesting than watching someone take care of an errand at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

PRODUCER: Here’s the concept — Denise Richards going about her daily life as a superstar. It’s got it all — glamour, drama. It’s must-see TV.

NETWORK: What’s the first episode?

PRODUCER: You’re going to love this: Denise Goes To The DMV.

NETWORK: You mean Department of Motor Vehicles? Why?

PRODUCER: Get this — to change her driver’s license! Incredible but true!

Another “hot” reality show stars Lindsay Lohan’s mother, Dina, who — also absolutely true — was honored recently as among the Top 20 Long Island Mothers of Celebrities.

Note to Long Island celebrity moms: I’m sorry, but this doesn’t speak well of you, considering that Dina Lohan’s main qualification is that daughter Lindsay hasn’t had a car accident in the past 20 minutes. (I once signed up for e-mail alerts to let me know when Lohan had an accident, but had to cancel when my in-box kept getting clogged up.)

To be fair, this show contains a certain element of suspense, because who knows when Lindsay might drive up half-naked and take out the left wing of the house? *It could happen.*

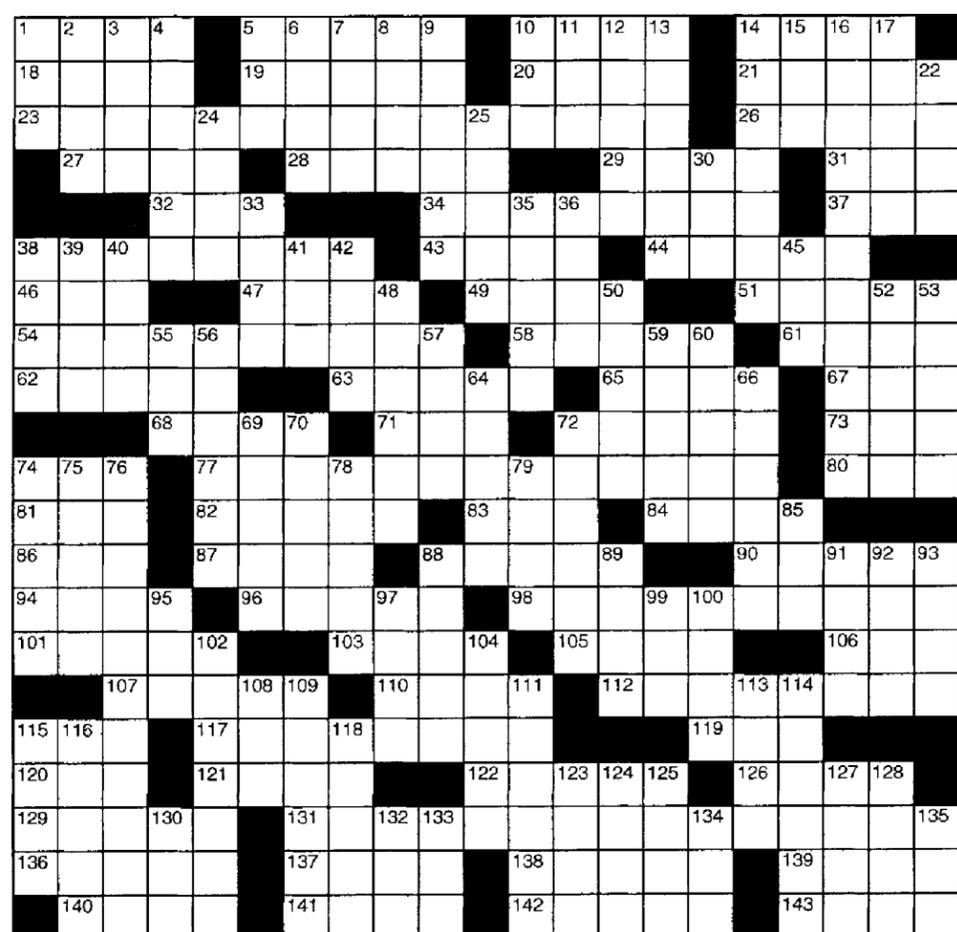
But, unfortunately, so far it hasn’t — which means that instead of watching, I may have to do more of my sleep research.

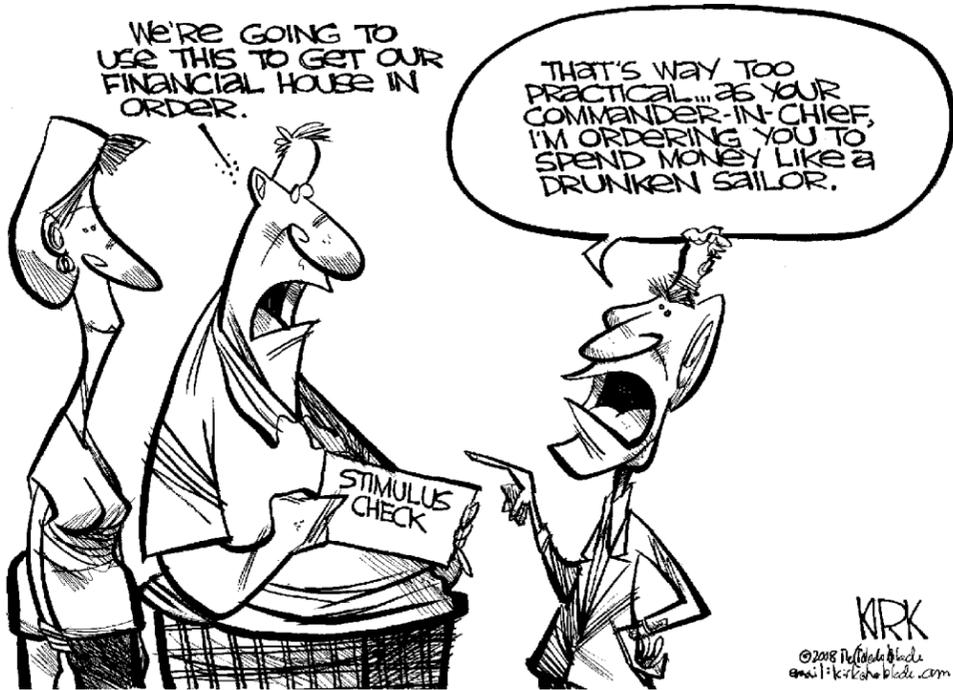
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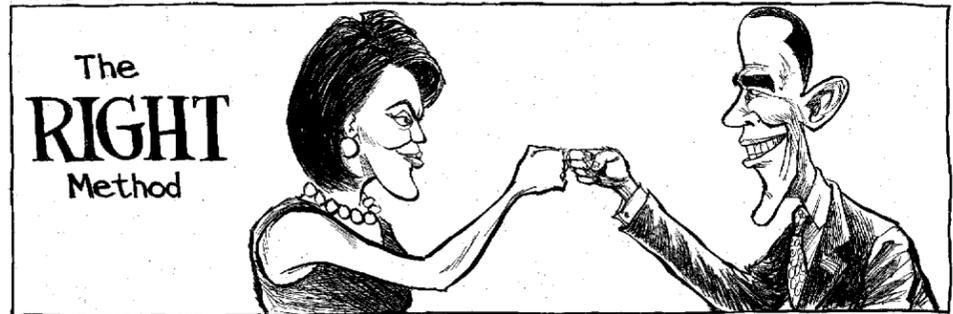
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| 19 Victorian ornament | 74 Health concern | 138 Spring for | 36 Run through | 92 Summertime treats |
| 20 Rachel's sister | 77 Billy Rose song | 139 Actress Ward | 38 Male swans | 93 Lamebrain |
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| 23 Guns n' Roses hit | 81 Poetic pot | 141 Bean on the bean | 40 Formal ceremony | 97 Tranquil |
| 26 ... nous | 82 Reference volume | 142 Hope's "The Prisoner of ..." | 41 ... blond | 99 Lilly of pharmaceuticals |
| 27 Soprano Gluck | 83 Patriotic org. | 143 North Carolina campus | 42 Goes downhill fast? | 100 Morning wear |
| 28 "... a day's work" | 84 Prepare prunes | | 45 Stephen of "Interview with the Vampire" | 102 4 p.m. vehicle? |
| 29 Sleuth Nancy | 86 Bar supply | | 48 Loses a lap | 104 Muslim dietary term |
| 31 Herriman's "Krazy ..." | 87 Linguist Chomsky | DOWN | 50 Phi Beta ... | 108 Sgt. or cpl. |
| 32 Mythical monster | 88 Scope | 1 Pitches | 52 79 Down's homeland | 109 Like lemons |
| 34 In flight | 90 Unbroken | 2 Where the tall corn grows | 53 Passover meal | 111 WWII admiral |
| 37 Adjective suffix | 94 "Divine Comedy" figure | 3 Gallagher of Oasis machines? | 55 Watching | 113 Shorten a sail |
| 38 One of "The Three Tenors" | 96 Caroline, to Ted | 4 Aftershock | 56 Petty officer | 114 Threat words |
| 43 Rock's ... & the Gang | 98 "The Name of the Rose" author | 5 New Deal agcy. | 57 Dairy-case purchase | 115 Desire deified |
| 44 Pine | 101 Send the money | 6 "Very funny!" | 59 "Upstairs, Downstairs" extras | 116 Looked longingly |
| 46 Kimono | 103 Salt serving | 7 Runner Zatopek | 60 Ornamental loop | 118 ... a customer |
| 47 Interrogates | 105 ... Alto, CA | 8 Room without a view? | 64 Gulf | 123 Concerning |
| 49 Cranny's companion | 106 Dover's st. | 9 Alaskan bear | 66 Most revolutionary | 124 Lightweight gun |
| 51 Toomey or Philbin | 107 Fight site | 10 Shady character? | 69 Divulge | 125 Large herring |
| 54 Rose Nylund's portrayer | 110 Temporary wealth? | 11 Wahine's wreath | 70 ... Lama | 127 Whirl |
| 58 Okefenokee, for one | 112 Butcher's offering | 12 Joe of "Dr. Quinn" | 72 Cocktail ingredient | 128 Christiania, today |
| 61 Skin problem | 115 "The ... and I" ('47 film) | 13 '62 Four Seasons hit | 74 It makes candy | 130 Affliction |
| 62 Irwin of "The Crocodile Hunter" | 117 "Fait ..." | 14 Glasses | 75 Austen title start | 132 Wolfram ... Eschenbach |
| | 119 Ending for "auction" | 15 Dress size | 76 "The Rose Tattoo" | 133 Squid's squirt |
| | 120 Sought office | 16 "Ramblin' Rose" singer | | 134 "Wings" abbr. |
| | | 17 Stage backdrop | | 135 Solo of "Star Wars" |

Answer Page 6





NEWS ITEM: MICHELLE AND BARACK OBAMA SPOTLIGHT THE 'FIST BUMP'



Digital meltdown

Last week's issue of the *West Texas County Courier* hit the streets with many of the graphic files corrupted and unreadable. The *Courier* is reprinting the political cartoons, Moore Texas, sports cartoon and puzzle answers from last week for the readers that like these features.

Additionally, the company that hosts e-mail services for the *West Texas County Courier* — which has been intermittent for sometime now — had equipment which stopped working last week and was still not working properly at press-time. They are in the process of fixing their systems.

If you have sent e-mail or having your e-mail returned as undeliverable, please be patient. We are working on an independent solution to this problem as well.

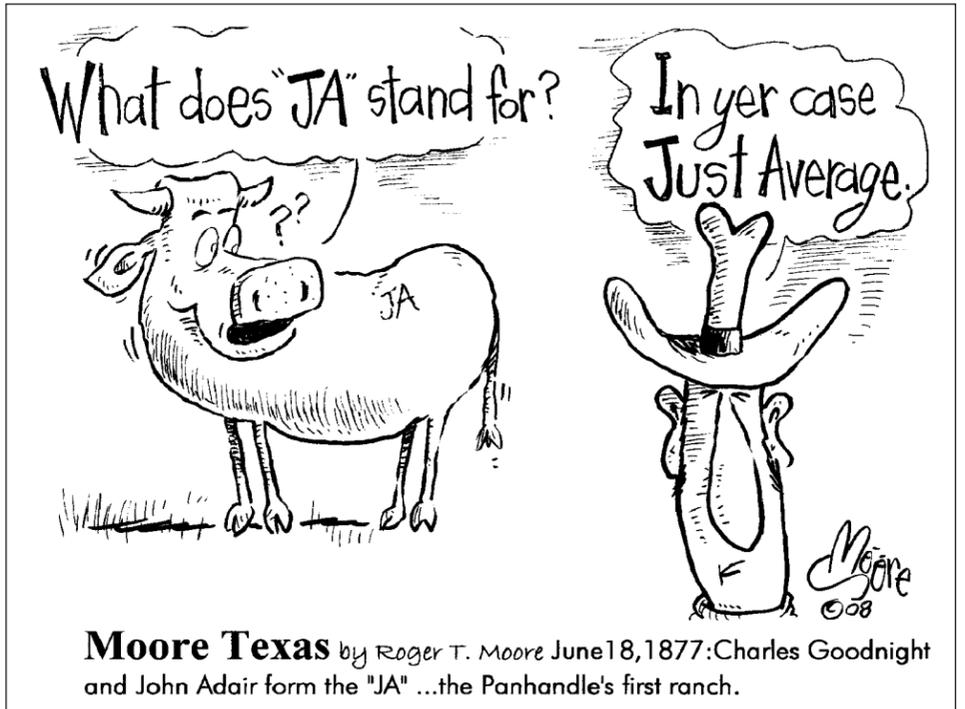
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TO THE DISMAY OF GOLFERS EVERYWHERE, IT IS REVEALED THAT TIGER WOODS DOES NOT, IN FACT, PUT HIS PANTS ON ONE LEG AT A TIME, JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore June 18, 1877: Charles Goodnight and John Adair form the "JA" ...the Panhandle's first ranch.