



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Sandbags

El Paso County residents in need of sandbags to protect their properties from possible flooding may pick them up at the county warehouses located as follows:

- Montana Warehouse, 14698 Van Lane;
- Fabens Warehouse, 1331 Fabens; and
- Canutillo 191 Canutillo Avenue

Although county officials received no word of major damage caused by yesterday's rain, clean up crews were sent this morning to clear some roads in the communities of San Elizario, East Montana, Canutillo, El Paso Hills, and Sparks.

— Aracely Lazcano

### Special reader

The El Paso Public Library will present a special Independence Day Story Time program featuring special guest reader, Congressman Silvestre Reyes. The Congressman will be reading patriotic stories to children and their parents at the Westside Branch Library, 125 Belvidere, on Thursday, July 2 at 11:00 AM. The program is free and open to the public. For more information call 543-5468.

— Noelle Nevarez

### Anthony parade

The Town of Anthony, Texas will be celebrating the Fourth of July with a parade that has been a tradition for the last 16 years. The parades theme is "Pride in Our Military Heroes" and will begin on the New Mexico side on Anthony Drive next to the Sonic-Drive In and proceed south to the Texas side and goes east on Franklin Street ending at the Anthony Municipal Park. The line up time is 9:30 a.m., the scheduled start is at approximately 10:15 a.m. The Town expects 60 to 70 units to participate in the parade. Anyone that would like to participate can call (915) 886-3838 or just show up at the time indicated join in. Another tradition for the last 16 years will be the VFW Post 4384 as the lead unit for the parade. The Town of Anthony will have a firework display at the Ernie Rascon Baseball Park on Richard White St. at 10:00 p.m. following the firework display at Wet-N-Wild Water World.

### Fireworks reminder

The July 4 holiday is almost upon us and the El Paso Fire Marshals Office would like to remind the citizens of El Paso that fireworks are illegal inside the City of El Paso. A Texas retail fireworks permit holder may sell fireworks to the public during the period starting June 24 and ending at midnight on July 4. If you are caught with fireworks inside the city, which include 5,000 feet beyond the city limits, your fireworks will be confiscated and you will be issued a citation. Fines can go as high as \$500.00. El Paso Fire Officials are asking the public to attend one of the many

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*Only Americans have mastered the art of being prosperous and broke at the same time.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

## Life is a blast for the champs

Socorro High School baseball Head Coach Chris Forbes and members of the 2009 UIL 5A State Champion Bulldogs were honored by NASA during their welcome home party. NASA sent its Launch Abort System rocket, which is scheduled to be launched from White Sands Missile Range in November, to recognize the Bulldogs as State Champs. See complete story, Page 5.

## Vranish up for Superintendent of the Year

By Barbara Williams  
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — Paul Vranish, Region 19 Superintendent of the Year from Tornillo ISD, has been nominated for Superintendent of the Year (SOTY) award sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). He will compete against 15 other superintendents from around the state.



Paul Vranish

Candidates are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving educational quality, ability to build effective employee relations, student performance, and commitment to public involvement in education. Superintendents from any of Texas' 1,036 local school districts are eligible for nomination by their school boards. Local nominees are submitted to a regional selection committee, which chooses one nominee to send to the state selection committee.

The state committee will interview regional winners in August in Austin and select five state finalists. The Superintendent of the Year will be announced October 3 at the TASA/TASB Convention in Houston. TASA is the Texas Association of School Administrators. The winning superintendent also receives an award from Balfour.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local public school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 4.7 million students. The SOTY program has recognized exemplary superintendents for excellence and achievement in educational leadership since 1984.

## Grant funds extra law enforcement over the Fourth

By Deputy Jesse Tovar  
Special to the Courier

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office, in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation, will be utilizing a Impaired Driving Mobilization Grant for additional patrols for traffic enforcement. The purpose of this program is aimed at getting speeding and impaired drivers off the roadways. Extra deputies will be out on the streets during the Independence Day holiday period. The push is to deter drunk driving. The enforcement program began Friday, June 26 and ends Sunday, July 5.

Statistics from the Texas Department of Transportation indicate Texas leads the nation when it comes to the number of traffic fatalities where the driver or motorcycle operator was legally drunk. Last year over 1,500 people died in alcohol-related crashes in Texas.

Penalties for a first-time DWI offense include:

- Up to \$2,000 fine;
- 72 hours to 6 months in jail;
- Driver's license suspension for up to one year; and
- \$1,000 annual fee for 3 consecutive years to retain drivers license.

We will also be focusing on other law enforcement issues:

- Possession of Alcohol by a Minor;
- Purchase of Alcohol by a Minor;
- Attempt to Purchase Alcohol by a Minor;
- Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor;
- Misrepresentation of Age by a Minor;
- Driving Under Influence of Alcohol by a Minor;
- Sale to a Minor;
- Purchase of Alcohol for a Minor; and
- Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor.

Just like last year for the 4th of July holiday, the El Paso County Sheriff's will be closing off several intersections along Montana

See LAW, Page 8

## Rains bring flash floods, caution urged

### Sandbags available

By Lt. Mario E. Hernandez  
Special to the Courier

Perhaps the biggest cause of flood-related deaths and injuries is the lack of respect for the severity and danger associated with floods and flash floods. Monday evening alone, El Paso Fire Department officials responded to 28 weather related calls including 10 rescue calls where firefighters had to rescue people from their vehicles as they tried to drive through flooded intersections.

Fire officials offer the following tips that can help protect El Paso residents during these heavy rains:

- Many people are killed while trying to drive or walk on roads and bridges covered by water. Though the water may look only inches deep, the pool could be far deeper and have very strong currents. It only takes two feet of water to carry away many cars and only six inches of swiftly moving (6 mph) water can sweep a person off their feet.

- Trucks, two wheel- as well as four-wheel-drive and sports utility vehicles are also susceptible to the dangers of pooled water. Such vehicles often give motorists a false sense of security, believing the vehicles are safe under all hazardous conditions. This is simply not true. For instance, large tires add to the vehicle's buoyancy and can cause it to lose traction sooner. Simply put, do not allow overconfidence in your vehicle to cost you your life.

Consequently, if you are approaching a flooded roadway, turn around and take an alternate route. Though vehicles in front of you may have passed through the high water, you may not be as lucky.

If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

Never let children play near storm drains

See FLOODS, Page 4



**Por la Gente** By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

*100% disabled vets, 100% exempt*

Hola, mi gente. Some of you may remember a constitutional amendment that was approved back in 2007 by the voters of Texas allowing certain disabled veterans a property tax exemptions. Although the constitutional amendment was passed, an accompanying bill needed to be passed by the legislature to codify the constitutional provision.

This accompanying bill is referred to as the enabling legislation. While the constitutional amendment provides for its legality, state government and local governments have no direction as to how to implement the constitutional provision. In other words, the voters approved a new clause for the constitution but nobody knew how to make it a part of everyday life without the enabling legislation.

In the 80th legislative session (2007), Senator John Carona filed

House Joint Resolution (SJR) 29 which allowed the State of Texas to give veterans who were confirmed to be 100% disabled a complete exemption from property taxes. The accompanying legislation that was needed to become law was Senate Bill 666 also by Carona.

SJR 29 was passed without any representative or senator voting against it. The enabling legislation was passed out of the senate, also without a single no vote. There was great support for the bill in both houses of the legislature.

The leadership in the House of Representatives under Speaker Tom Craddick apparently had some reservations about the enabling legislation. With a total vote of support by the house on the resolution, there was a profound sense that the bill would also pass unanimously. However, the leadership did not allow the bill to be voted on the floor of the House. I know it would have passed. Without this bill passing, the tax exemptions in HJR 29 could not be given to the 100% disabled veterans. That would have to wait until the next session, the 81st, which just adjourned.

In the 81st session, again there was great support from the members of the house. My impression was that the bill, HB 742 by Flores, would finally be voted out of the House. For whatever reason, it did not. Thankfully, however, the senate took the language in HB 742 and amended HB 3613 by Otto with it. HB 3613 did pass and was signed by Governor Perry; so the well deserving veterans who are 100% disabled will not

have to pay property taxes.

Veterans who are less than 100% disabled will continue to be exempted by an amount commensurate with their disability. The maximum exemption for those not 100% disabled is \$12,000 off the appraised value of the property.

Sometimes good laws are derailed

before becoming law. But the legislature did what was needed to make the constitutional amendment functional. The law enabling the constitutional amendment becomes effective on January 1st of 2010.

Gracias, mi gente, and I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.

**Veterans Post** By Freddy Groves

*Atomic Veterans*

If you were an Atomic Veteran and were sworn to secrecy about the atomic blasts you witnessed between 1945 and 1962, that secrecy oath has been rescinded. And, if you have service-related medical issues because of that service, you might be due compensation.

In 1990, Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and the requirement for secrecy was voided while compensation was established. Unfortunately this has stayed under the veil for a long, long time.

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Program has a Web site: [www.usdoj.gov/civil/torts/const/reca/](http://www.usdoj.gov/civil/torts/const/reca/). Look the site over carefully — the compensation qualification requirements are strict if you want to apply.


There are applications to fill out, of course, and you'll need a lot of documentation to support your claim, especially medical evidence. But the check you could receive is significant, depending on your particular service. You could receive:

- \$50,000 if you worked downwind of weapons testing in certain parts of Nevada, Utah and Arizona.
- \$75,000 if you participated onsite in the weapons tests in Nevada, Pacific, Trinity or South Atlantic.
- \$100,000 if you were a uranium miner or millworker in a number of states.

Additionally, if you are the child or spouse of an Atomic Veteran who has died from those service-related medical problems, the check would come to you as compensation for your loss.

There is another site you need to look at, too: National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc. ([www.naav.com](http://www.naav.com)). This is a comprehensive site, and I suggest you make it your first stop. Read the specific duties, dates and locations that may qualify you as an Atomic Veteran. According to NAAV, there are 195,000 of you who might not know about the oath and the compensation.

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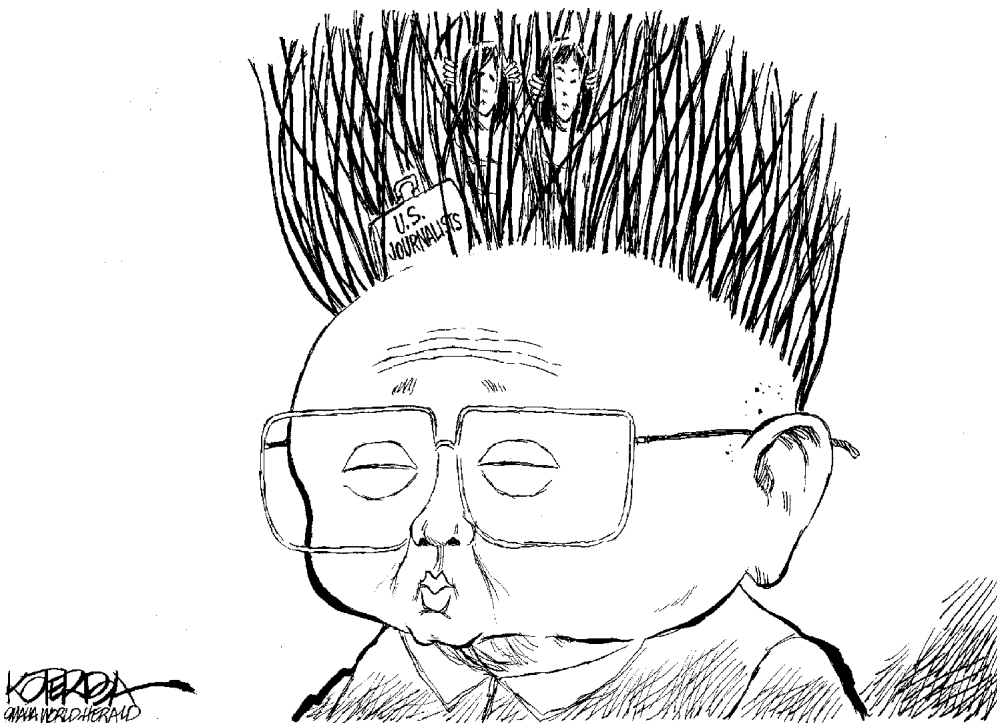
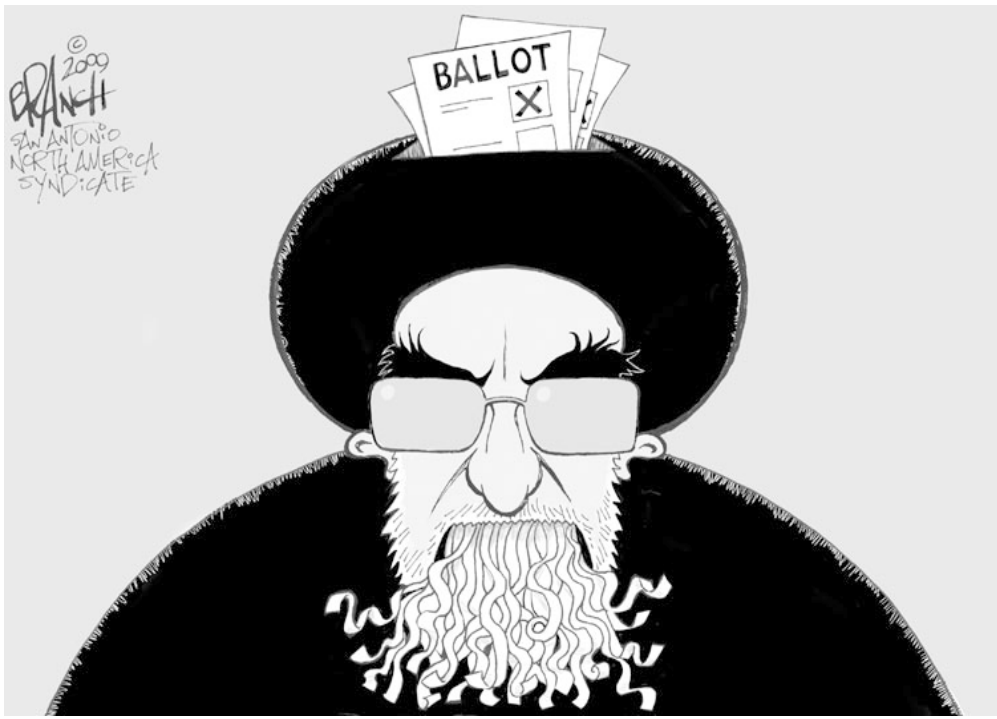
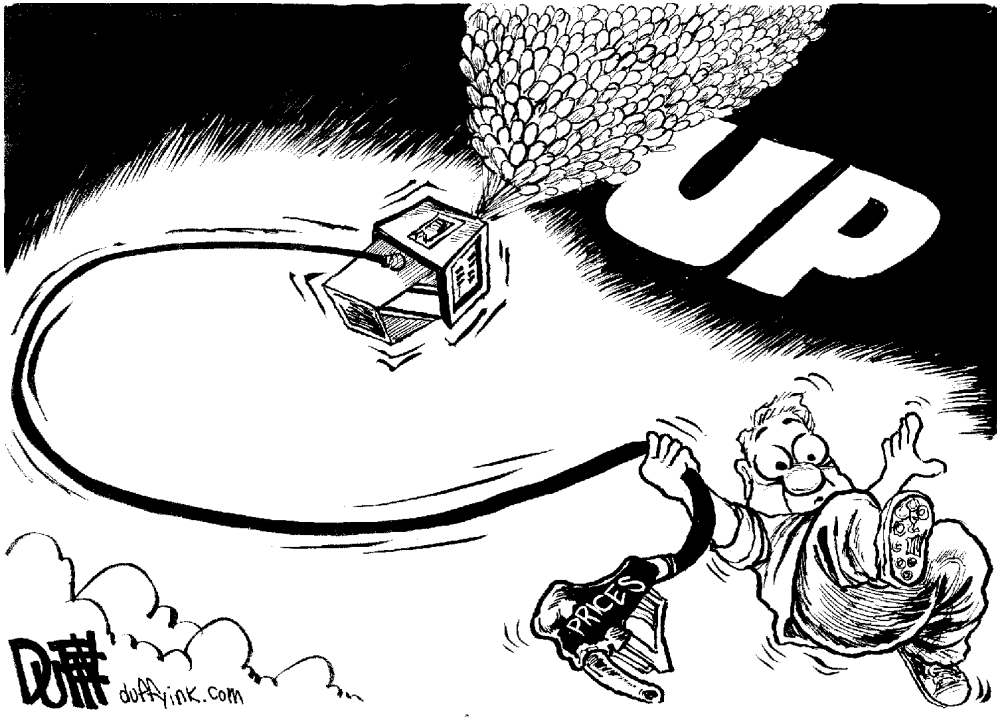
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### View from here By Robert Romano

## The House opens Pandora's Box

On Friday (June 27), the House of Representatives opened up a Pandora's Box. And although the Waxman-Markey carbon-cap bill may not contain all of the evils of humanity, it is a not-so-good start.

The only silver lining is that the American people are now keenly aware of what Congress is up to.

You see, the politicians in Washington probably thought they'd get away with it. That nobody was paying attention. That they could just jam it down the throats of the American people while nobody was watching. That there'd be no time to mount significant opposition to it. Indeed, that there was no time to even read it.

Now, millions of phone calls and emails later sent from Americans across the fruited plain to key legislators, a brief filibuster from the House Republican Leader while he read from an amendment that was filed by House Democrats at 3AM Friday morning, and now a razor-thin vote by which it barely passed, one thing is clear: They were wrong.

Although the legislation got through on the skin of its teeth, 219-212, the American people rose up and said resoundingly, "No" to the bill, HR 2454. It would force carbon-emitting industries coal, oil, gasoline, and natural gas to purchase carbon permits. The bill aims to reduce industrial emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 17 percent by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. Over time, less and less permits are available for purchase.

There is no way around it. The United States in fact depends upon carbon-emitting sources of energy for electricity, transportation, home heat, air conditioning, and just about everything else to make the economy work. Capping carbon emissions necessarily means restricting the supply of the nation's energy resources over time, the means by which the economy functions, and increasing prices to do it.

Indeed, it is the express purpose: to limit the supply of hydrocarbon energy to such an extent as to inflate prices dramatically. In turn — so the hypothesis goes — "cleaner" alternatives solar, wind, and plug-in hybrids will be incentivized with market forces intervening to deliver those alternatives, new businesses, and thus new jobs.

Of course, as with any government-planned hostile takeover of an entire sector of the economy, there are a few problems. The first, as stated above, is that the economy depends greatly upon oil, gasoline, coal, and natural gas

for just about everything.

Second, the alternatives are not really ready for mass production, let alone being the standard bearers of American energy. The bill mandates that by 2012, 6 percent of the nation's electricity must be renewable solar and wind, increasing to 20 percent by 2020.

Not only is this highly unlikely to happen, it is near impossible to properly quantify the costs.



Having far lower yields than coal or nuclear, is the legislation stating that by 2020 wind and solar must provide the same amount of electricity as 20 percent of the current electricity grid?

If so, forget about it. It will never happen, because paying for that much for these energy sources will break the nation's piggy bank into a million pieces. Instead, the most likely mechanism for increasing the percentage of so-called renewable energy would

not be increasing the availability of those sources, but in decreasing the net amount of electricity actually provided in order to meet the government quotas.

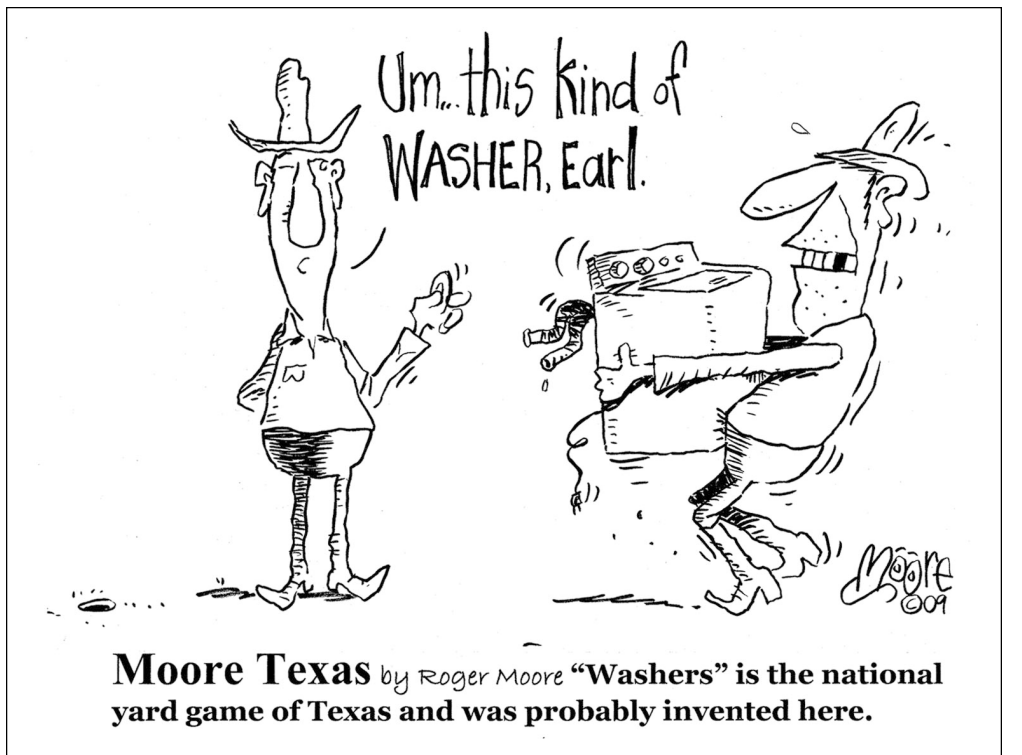
Of course, one could hope the drafters of the legislation were not talking about a percentage of watts provided when they drafted their legislation. Because, if they were, they're nuts.

Let's start off with some facts. According to Max Schulz, "Pound for pound, coal stores twice as much energy as wood. Oil packs the same amount of energy that coal does into half the weight and space. But a gram of uranium 235 contains as much energy as four tons of coal." And wind and solar? Since these sources cannot be stockpiled, such an apples to oranges comparison is not readily available. Nonetheless, according to Schulz, "Electricity from renewable energies such as wind, solar, or biomass can cost anywhere from two to six times as much as electricity from nuclear power." And produce far less, we would add.

The only means of comparison is kilowatt-hours produced. Says Schulz, "In 2005, the 103 U.S. commercial nuclear reactors operating in 31 states generated 782 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) [emphasis added]." That's about 2.142 billion kWh a day, providing about 20 percent of the nation's electricity needs of about 10.71 billion kWh a day, we'll say.

How much can a solar panel produce? Well, according to this letter to the editor to Salon.com, "The average 'sunny' location in the U.S. (say L.A.) receives on average 5.5

See BOX, Page 4



Moore Texas by Roger Moore "Washers" is the national yard game of Texas and was probably invented here.

## Floods

From Page 1

when the water is rising or is high. Every year, deaths or injuries occur as a result of people being swept away. Sadly, the most frequent victims are children.

If you live in a low-lying area, pay close attention to water levels during heavy rain events. Water levels rise rapidly during flash floods often surprising victims. Be prepared to move quickly to higher ground if water levels begin rising.

Please remember that sandbags are no longer available at the fire stations. The new locations are:

- Central — Stormwater Operations Center, 410 S. Cotton;
- Westside — 120 Kappa (near Keystone Heritage Park);
- Northeast — Nations Tobin Park, 8831 Railroad;
- Eastside — Album Park, Wedgewood and Lockerbie; and
- Mission Valley — Blackie Chesher Park, 9144 Escobar.

## Box

From Page 3

hours of sunlight per day. Simple multiplication of 273.2 watts/square meter 5.5 hours yields 1502.6 watt hours/ square meter or 1.5026 kilowatt hours per day for a 1 meter square panel. And this is better than the best possible case...” because it accounts for peak solar performance. That means in order to produce as much energy as the 103 nuclear plants in the nation as of 2005 in a single day, one would need 1.425 million square meters of solar panels, or 1,425 square kilometers! And if it gets

cloudy? 2,851 square kilometers.

So, if the central-planners were to get to the 20 percent of the electricity provided required solely on solar by 2020, that’s how much space would be required. And the cost? Unquantifiable. Astronomical. More than we can bear. That is why, to reach the 20 percent quota, the government would be forced to decrease the amount of kWh a day provided to the American people from the 2005 level of about 10.71 billion kWh a day.

Sure, try to power an economy with those sorts of inherent inefficiencies. Businesses would have to take turns just turning on the lights. That is why jobs can only be lost and none gained by this

“green” centralization of the energy sector, the third problem of the bill.

The fourth problem, and perhaps most important, is there is no climate crisis to begin with — the immediate cause for so drastically changing the way energy is produced and transforming the economy.

According to the APS Physics study by Christopher Monckton, “Climate Sensitivity Revisited,” “the [UN International Panel on Climate Change’s] estimates of climate sensitivity must have been very much exaggerated. There may, therefore, be a good reason why, contrary to the projections of the models on which the IPCC relies, temperatures have not risen

for a decade and have been falling since the phase-transition in global temperature trends that occurred in late 2001. Perhaps real-world climate sensitivity is very much below the IPCC’s estimates. Perhaps, therefore, there is no ‘climate crisis’ at all.”

Monckton’s cure for a non-problem? “[T]o have the courage to do nothing.”

Because, by opening the Pandora’s Box of capping carbon emissions, Congress will undoubtedly be creating more problems than it even claims to solve — producing many of the evils of humanity along the way.

*Robert Romano is the Senior Editor of ALG News Bureau (getliberty.org).*

## Briefs

From Page 1

professional firework displays throughout the city and offer these firework injury facts.

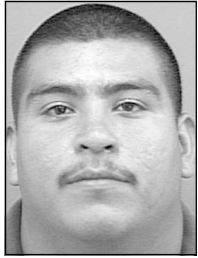
- Nearly 70 percent of all firework-related injuries take place around the 4th of July holiday.
- More than 50 percent of those injuries occur to children and teenagers.
- The top three injury-causing fireworks are firecrackers, sparklers, and rockets.
- Children most often suffer burns, lacerations and eye injuries.
- 9,600 emergency room-treated injuries associated with fireworks in 2004. 6,600 of the injuries occurred in a single month (June 19

to July 19, 2004).

— Lt. Mario E. Hernandez

## Wanted

The hunt continues for Ricardo Zinuga, age 29, for Capitol Murder. He is from California and also goes by **A u t u r o Hernandez Vargas**. He is 5’7” tall and weighs 160 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. “Mi Madre Lucia” is tattooed on his chest, “ENANO” on his back. Zinuga has been identified as the shooter in the June 22 double homicide in Socorro. The motive for the violent murders is still unclear at this time. Zinuga is believed to remain in the Borderland and



**Ricardo Zinuga**

shows a previous address in San Elizario, TX. He has contacts in Fabens, San Elizario, Socorro and El Paso. He knows he is wanted. Zinuga is considered armed and extremely dangerous. A “Wanted Bulletin” on Zinuga was issued to regional Law Enforcement last week warning authorities to use extreme caution if they come into contact and encounter Zinuga. CID Detectives continue with this investigation as more arrests are forthcoming. Investigators are asking anyone with information pertaining to these killings to please contact the Sheriff’s Office (915) 546-2280 or Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of the individuals featured. Two other men, Victor Ignacio Gomez (28) and Jose

Guadalupe Cordero (24) have been charged with Capital Murder in this case and remain in jail without bond.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

## Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting officers from the Special Traffic Investigations Unit (STI) of the El Paso Police Department in identifying and locating a suspect who ran down an elderly gentleman on a bicycle, killing him and fleeing, making this the “Crime of the Week.” On Sunday, June 21, just before 7:00 a.m., S.T.I. investigators responded to assist Pebble Hills Patrol with a traffic fatality. Their investigation revealed that 67-year-old Heinz Duerkop was riding a bicycle south in the 3400 block of George Dieter, when he was struck from behind by a vehicle. Duerkop was thrown from

the bicycle and died at the scene. The vehicle’s driver failed to stop and render aid, instead fleeing the scene. At this time, the vehicle is believed to be white in color and possibly sustained damage to the front end and hood. The victim came to El Paso as an officer in the German Army, settled here, became a U.S. citizen, and had been a volunteer at Hueco Tanks Historical Site for the past ten years. If you have any information at all about this crime or the vehicle in question, call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at [www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://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.

— James Klaes

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TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY AND THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

# NASA shows up for Bulldogs

By Daniel R. Escobar  
Special to the Courier

The Socorro High School baseball team made history when it won the state baseball championship earlier this month, earning the players and coaching staff accolades from near and far — but no one could have guessed just how far its story would travel. Along with recognition from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) the tale of the Socorro Bulldogs will reach the moon.

NASA joined the Bulldogs in celebrating their success by sending a rocket to take part in the championship parade on Monday, June 29. The rocket, Launch Abort System, is scheduled to be launched from White Sands Missile Range during the Pad Abort 1 test in November as part of NASA's Constellation Program. The program will support International Space Station missions in the next de-



— Photos courtesy Socorro ISD

**THANKS Y'ALL — Socorro High School baseball Head Coach Chris Forbes saluted the thousands of fans that lined Alameda Avenue to celebrate the historic season of the 2009 UIL 5A State Champion Bulldogs on Monday, June 29.**

cade, and later enable human exploration of the moon. After the parade, Launch Abort System engineer

Sergio Lucero, education and outreach representative for NASA and Socorro alumni, presented the team with a plaque in recognition of its accomplishments which reads:

*Socorro High School 2009 Texas State Championship Baseball Team  
In recognition of outstanding athletic achievement, effective teamwork, school spirit and community support to become the 2009 Texas State High School Baseball Champions and for being*

*an example of setting high goals and aiming for the stars in every endeavor of life.*

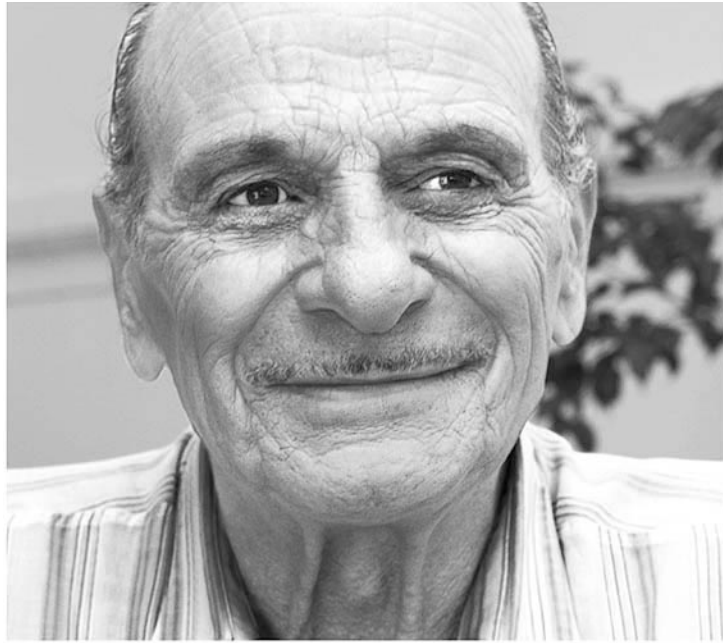
The Pad Abort 1 test will be the first in a series of launch abort system flight tests for the Orion crew exploration vehicle. It will focus on

the ability of Orion's launch abort system to pull the crew safely away from the Ares launch vehicle in the event of a problem on the launch pad. For more information on the rocket and NASA's Constellation Program, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/orion>.



**CONGRATULATIONS — NASA engineer Sergio Lucero presented Socorro Coach Chris Forbes with a plaque recognizing the Bulldogs and the hard-fought State Championship win.**

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**Javier Ortega / Broker**

# Time will show us the real NBA traders and suckers

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

When I was young, the art of trading had already been mastered by almost every kid on my block by the time we were 10.

Whether it was marbles or baseball cards or even what we had in our lunch sacks, we knew how to get the upper hand on the suckers — I mean our friends.

The National Basketball Association has been in a trading mood of its own over the last couple of weeks and some teams are going to look very different next season.

The most obvious trade occurred between the Phoenix Suns and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The biggest guy in the NBA, literally, is Shaquille O'Neil and he's going to play along side the league's best player, LeBron James.

Of course the biggest question whether this experiment going to work? It obviously failed miserably in Phoenix.

This new Shaq-BronBron version of the Cavs has a chance to win a championship because Cleveland is a methodical defense-oriented team.

The Suns run up and down the court and these days it takes Shaq about as much time to run down the court as it does me.

But as well as LeBron passes the ball, Shaq will get a lot of chances to score around the basket, something the Cavs' big men cannot do now.

So the Boston Celtics and the Orlando Magic will have their work cut out for them in the Eastern Conference.

And speaking of Orlando, the Magic advanced all the way to the NBA Finals (well, in spirit anyway) so you would think they were pretty much set for next season.

Wrong!

The Magic will look very different next year. Gone is point guard Rafer Alston, forward Tony Battie and the young but talented Courtney Lee. Also, sharp shooter Hedo Turkoglu has decided to leave the team for free agency.

But Orlando did get the explosive Vince Carter, who will finally get to play on a championship-caliber team.

The only problem is that Carter is still what Kobe used to be — a guy who would rather score 30 points and throw down at least four

"SportsCenter" dunks rather than hit the open guy for an easy basket.

With Dwight Howard, Rashard Lewis and Jameer Nelson and the emergence of Mickael Pietrus, the Magic could be formidable again next year if Vinceanity can tone it down a bit.

A team everybody forgets about, even when they're winning championships, is the San Antonio Spurs.

But I think the Spurs are going to re-emerge to challenge the Lakers in the West next season because of some masterful trades and draft choices.

First of all, they did lose some players, some older players. Bruce Bowen (age 38), Kurt Thomas (36) and Fabricio Oberto (34) were shipped to the Milwaukee Bucks.

But in return, the Spurs picked up all-star forward Richard Jefferson, who gives them another legitimate go-to guy.

Jefferson joins Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, in what is now one of the most talented starting lineups in the league.

And that's not all for the Spurs.

Other than Blake Griffin, the only other can't-miss pick I saw in the NBA draft was

Pitt power forward DeJuan Blair.

So who picked up Blair in the middle of the second round — the San Antonio Spurs.

Other deals included the laughing stock of the league, the New York Knicks.

The Knicks got rid of Quentin Richardson and sent him to the Memphis Grizzlies for underachiever Darko Milicic.

Golden State sent Jamal Crawford to Atlanta for guards Acie Law and Speedy Claxton.

The Minnesota Timberwolves got rid of Randy Foye and Mike Miller and sent them to Washington for a trio of no-names.

There were a few other lesser deals, but like me, I'm sure you wouldn't care to hear about those either.

But watching to see how all these trades work out should be interesting.

In the end, the teams who didn't do very much at all will probably find themselves battling for all the marbles — again.

The Lakers and the Celtics (with a healthy Kevin Garnett and Leon Powe) will rise above all the other quick-fix NBA teams.

Besides, there were times as a kid when I entered a trade a winner — and left a sucker.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Baby, you're the greatest

It has often been said that the "Baby Ruth" candy bar was named in such a way as to cheat Babe Ruth out of the royalties. Legend has it that a bunch of sugar-tongued confectioners claimed the candy treat was named after President Grover Cleveland's first born daughter, Ruth — a tale that held up in court, too. (Ruth tried to sue.)

This tale is trotted out from time to time in baseball circles. One par-

ticular day, I was having this discussion with two scholars — and by scholars I mean two overweight, shirtless, Old Style-swilling drunks at Wrigley Field — and the "Baby Ruth" controversy was interspersed with conversation regarding the best players of all-time. This was topical because we were watching Albert Pujols turn that day's Cardinals-Cubs contest into a Wiffleball game, hitting home runs seemingly at will.

Today's serious fan considers Pujols to be among the greatest players, if not the greatest, to have ever played the game — at least through his first nine seasons. Untainted by the steroid scandal, he's putting up monster numbers with freakish consistency: He's never hit less than 32 home runs or averaged less than .314, and he has always finished in the top 10 for MVP voting (he's won twice). When you compare his numbers to Hall of Famers, monikers like Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Lou Gehrig and Jimmie Foxx begin to pop up.

But here's the deal: Babe Ruth was, and always will be, the best ballplayer of all-time. We tend to for-

get this because he's been turned into such a caricature, such a cartoonish persona that we overlook his numbers. Did Pujols have a better start to his career as a batter than Babe Ruth? Yes, because Ruth started his career as one of the best pitchers ever. In the four seasons he primarily worked off the rubber, he reeled off two 20-plus win seasons, compiled an ERA under 2.25, and hurled 101 complete games — 17 of them shutouts.

And then he took to the plate. During his first five years as an outfielder, he hit 175 round-trippers to Pujols' 201 — but he was throwing up .394 averages and stratospheric on-base percentages (hello — .545? That's a softball statistic.). So, not to knock

Pujols — perhaps the finest first basemen of our era — let's not forget who the greatest overall player ever was: George Herman Ruth.

Oh yeah... that candy-bar business? Cleveland's daughter died tragically of diphtheria in 1904 — some 17 years before the candy bar hit the shelves. Either the Curtiss Brothers were the most demented candy marketers ever, or they were ripping off the Sultan of Swat.

Look it up yourself. As they say, the numbers don't lie.

*Mark Vasto is a veteran sports-writer and publisher of The Kansas City Luminary. (c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.*

## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

**Town of Clint**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

The Town of Clint has a pending 2009 Texas Community Development Block Grant award from the Office of Rural Community Affairs under the Community Development

Fund. We are separately soliciting (A) proposals from consultants for project administration and (B) qualifications from Texas-registered engineers to provide basic and special engineering services. Proposals and qualifications for these services will be accepted until 4:00 PM on July 16, 2009 at the City Hall, Attn: City Secretary at 200 N.

San Elizario Rd, Clint, TX 79836-0350. The same firm will not be awarded contracts to provide both services. We reserve the rights to negotiate with all firms submitting proposals or qualifications per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and UGCMS, and to reject any or all submittals. Additional submission

requirements for each service are available by calling (915) 851-3146. Affirmative Action/EOE.

WTCC-07/02/09

### COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/

Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE SCALE ACCEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

### HELP WANTED

ACE Hardware ñ Fabens, TX. 117 N. Fabens Street. Bilingual Associate/Cashier. Must be able to lift 95 pounds. Apply in person only.

### HOMES

12748 Quijano, \$87,600 reduced to \$84,000. Carlos Aguilar, (915) 269-1251. Broker.

New homes available in Horizon, Anthony and San Elizario. Prices starting from the 90s. USDA program available for

**ZERO down payment and ZERO percent closing cost. New homes also available in other areas. Call Pete at 633-6179.**

### SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

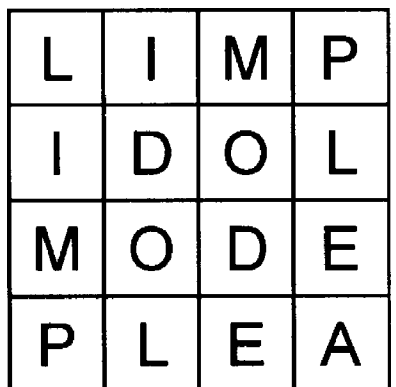
### STORAGE

**National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS**

Specials - Climate Control Units: 5x5 and 5x10 just \$1 first month. Regular 5x10 and 12x30 units just \$1 first month. Call Blanca - 852-8300.



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



### CryptoQuip Answer

If you like coastlines that continue for miles, might that make you a longshoreman?

- Place Your Classified •
- 1: Fill out the form;
- 2: Write a check; then
- 3: Send both to us.

## To Advertise Call 852-3235



## CLASSIFIED AD FORM

25 words - \$10 per week; 40 words - \$15 per week

1	2	3	4
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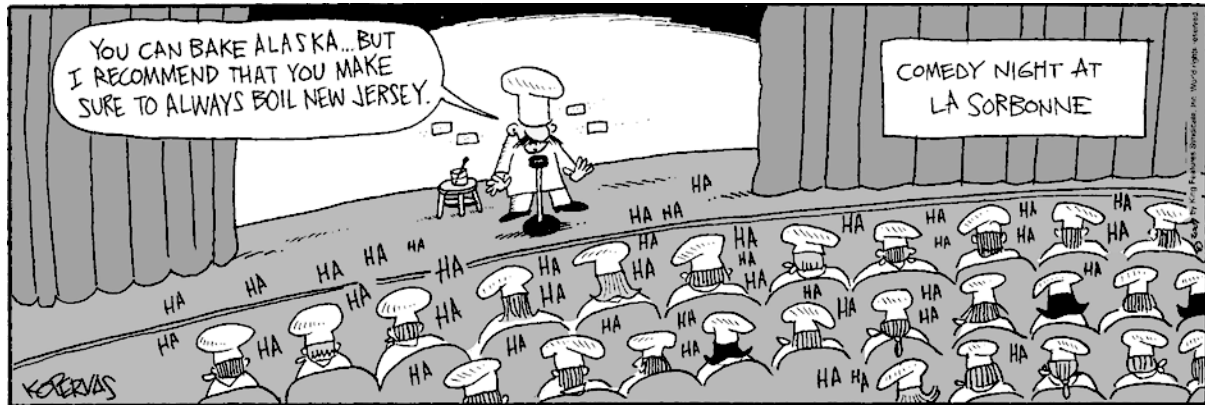
Deadline: Mondays  
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:  
**West Texas County Courier**  
15344 Werling Ct.  
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:

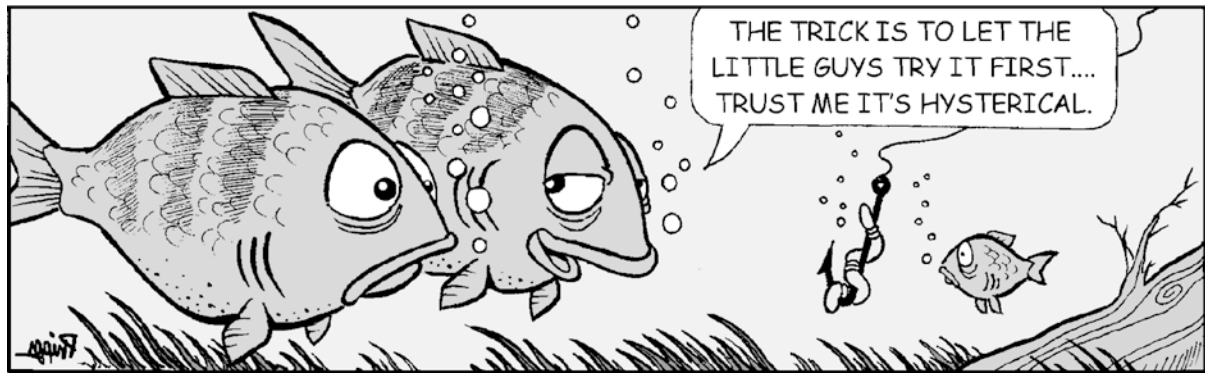
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# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



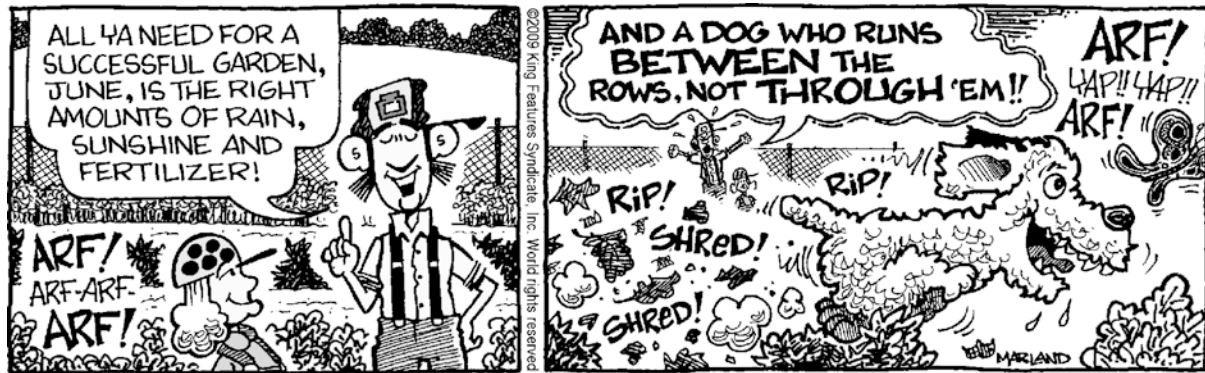
## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# The beach

By Taprina Milburn

We change into our swimsuits... at last, our beach vacation in front of us to enjoy. I haul down to the water a bag of books, snacks, sunscreen and a floppy hat.

Friends and I settle into chairs under our umbrellas and give the children a green light to run into the water, give ourselves permission to run into the water. Everything I envisioned as we planned this trip is at our disposal for the next few days — beautiful white sand, clear skies, soothing cobalt water, a stack of books to read and good friends with whom to enjoy it all.

A plump little toddler a few feet away digs ferociously in the sand, and her frustration is evident when water from waves fills up the hole. She finds another plot of land to excavate, but to her surprise the water continues to follow her. The confused girl looks to her mom, bottom lip quivering.

School-age boys, along with their dad, build an elaborate sand castle, leaving for long periods of time to splash in the water. Dad stays behind as contractor and continues working on their little piece of real estate.

A man not far from us is having work withdrawals, which is evident by the many long, drawn out, terse cell-phone calls to the office, obviously important business that

can't wait until Monday, but must be dealt with on the beach surrounded by people trying to leave behind any thoughts of work.

Within a couple of hours, my bag and its contents are full of sand. I grab the book I'm reading by its spine and turn it upside down to dump out the white sugary crystals. My kids check in with me — my teens are both in need of more sunscreen. Mothers and fathers chase their pink children with bottles of 45 SPF. "Time to reapply."

The closest I'll ever get to meditating, I believe, is walking on the beach. There's something about feet on the sand and the swooshing sound of waves that massage out of my mind thoughts, words, images, tears, gratitude and pleas for guidance long held in. If my "what if" thinking creeps in as I walk, the gritty sand beneath my feet and the sound of the water bring me back to my beach prayer, which does happen to include, "Oh please, can we stay one more day?"

I have tucked away in my Bible a picture of the ocean I walked, an image I hope will transport me back over the next few months to the beach and the sounds of all the families around us, even the frustrated toddler who just wants to be left alone to dig a hole.

Write to Taprina Milburn in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Texas

**YOUR Gift IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE**

Find out how you can help ...

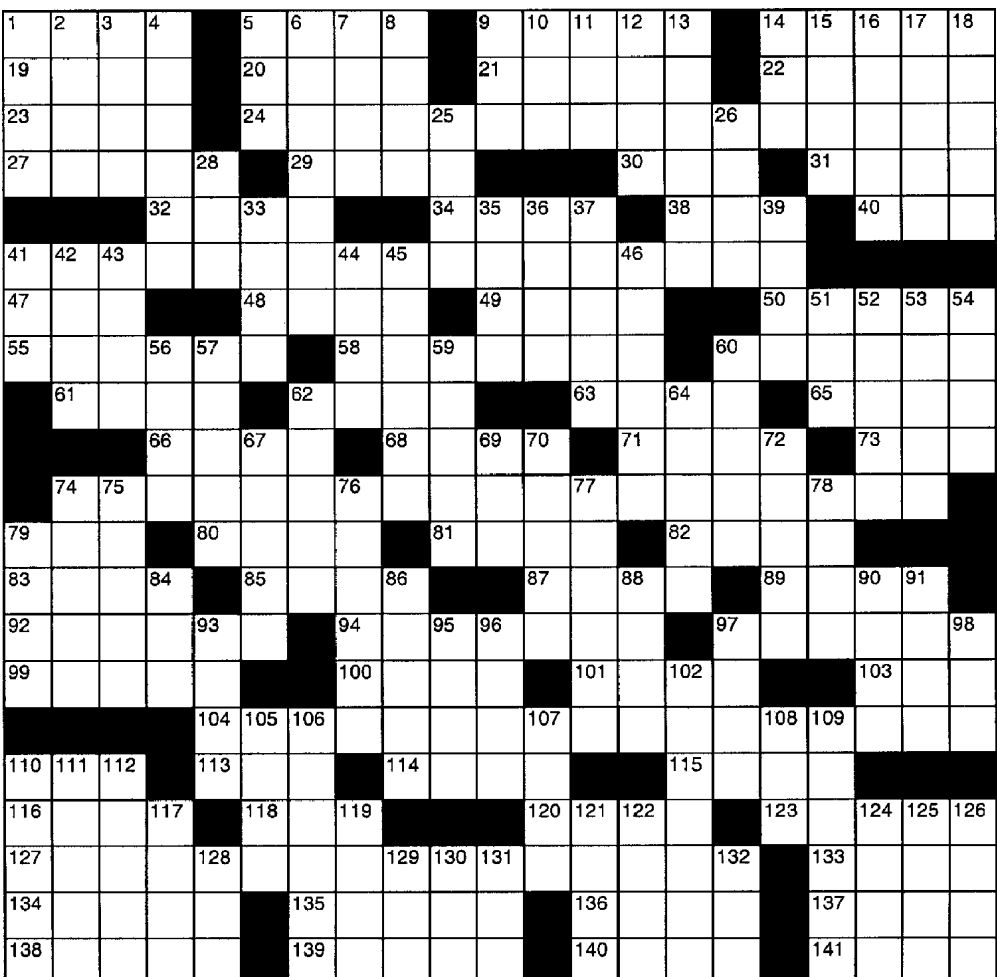
[www.texaslung.org](http://www.texaslung.org)

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

**1-800-LUNG-USA**

# King Super Crossword

- |                                |                             |                            |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>JOB REQUIREMENTS ACROSS</b> | 63 Oklahoma city            | 120 Earl _ Biggers         | 33 Salamander                        | 88 Rachel's sister            |
| 1 Summer stinger               | 65 Bristol brews            | 123 Get teed off?          | 35 Blue hue                          | 90 Elated                     |
| 5 Say "Hey!"                   | 66 Novelist                 | 127 MILLINER               | 36 Spiritual guide                   | 91 Gaffer Ballesteros         |
| 9 It rhymes with doom!         | O'Flaherty                  | WANTED!                    | 37 Usher's beat                      | 93 Short-timer                |
| 14 Jamaican cultist            | 68 TV's "Happy _"           | 133 Privy to               | 39 Stained                           | 95 Survey                     |
| 19 _ podrida                   | 71 Burn remedy              | 134 Rod Stewart's ex       | 41 Toby, for one                     | 96 Joyce of "Roc"             |
| 20 Garfield's pal              | 73 _ and outs               | 135 Pageant prop           | 42 Neighbor of Idaho                 | 97 Neighbor of Molokai        |
| 21 Slowly, to Sibelius         | 74 MAIL CARRIER             | 136 _ -friendly            | 43 Identical                         | 98 Lapidus or Lewis           |
| 22 Field marshal               | WANTED!                     | 137 Short on looks         | 44 A Karamazov brother               | 102 Began                     |
| Rommel                         | 79 Outlaw                   | 138 Get sidetracked        | 45 Dwell                             | 105 Press                     |
| 23 Exclude                     | 80 Barbara of "Perry Mason" | 139 Ski center             | 46 Sylvester's snooze                | 106 Beethoven's "Moonlight _" |
| 24 FARMER                      | 81 _ St. Vincent            | 140 Pedestal part          | 51 "Gotcha!"                         | 107 The _ 500                 |
| WANTED!                        | Millay                      | 141 _ Hari                 | 52 Antique                           | 108 Remnant                   |
| 27 Passe                       | 82 Dweeb                    | <b>DOWN</b>                | 53 Senator Lott                      | 109 Impressive lobby          |
| 29 Roman statesman             | 83 Move like molasses       | 1 Lumber                   | 54 Musical Myra                      | 110 "_ Pearl" ('71 hit)       |
| 30 Mare's morsel               | 85 Attempt                  | 2 _ mater                  | 56 Building wings                    | 111 Mature                    |
| 31 Florida county              | 87 Stare salaciously        | 3 Skirt feature            | 57 Jaclyn of "Charlie's Angels"      | 112 Romero or Franck          |
| 32 Darling dog                 | 89 97 Across                | 4 Crystal-clear            | 59 Declare                           | 117 Sicily's highest point    |
| 34 It's a long story           | ingredients                 | 5 _ Kippur                 | 60 Cherish                           | 119 "QB VII" author           |
| 38 Gum gob                     | 92 Weaken, in a way         | 6 Train                    | 62 Food fish                         | 121 Israel's Barak            |
| 40 Musical syllables           | 94 Daydream                 | 7 Bonet or Whelchel        | 64 Actress Graff                     | 122 Tabula -                  |
| 41 GAS STATION                 | 97 Brunch offering          | 8 Riga resident            | 67 Put down                          | 124 Swenson of "Benson"       |
| ATTENDANT                      | 99 Tantrum                  | 9 Day -                    | 69 Accounting abbr.                  | 125 Electrical measure        |
| WANTED!                        | 100 Sedaka or Simon         | 10 Clerical abbr.          | 70 Murcia mister                     | 126 "Only Time" singer        |
| 47 Actress Hagen               | 101 Out-of-this-world org.  | 11 Indefinite pronoun      | 72 Roger's "77 Sunset Strip" co-star | 128 Method                    |
| 48 "_ Got Tonight" ('83 tune)  | 103 "Hi, Horace!"           | 12 Henry the Fowler's son  | 74 Hyper                             | 129 Atlas feature             |
| 49 Air bear?                   | 104 CHANDELIER              | 13 New York river          | 75 Quitter's cry                     | 130 Is for two                |
| 50 Buck's "The Good _"         | SALESMAN                    | 14 Ump's kin               | 76 Found out                         | 131 Actress Grey              |
| 55 Most spirited               | WANTED!                     | 15 Parched                 | 77 "_ Bull" ('80 film)               | 132 Theater sign              |
| 58 Descend upon                | 110 Singer Davis            | 16 Vow                     | 78 Brink                             |                               |
| 60 Stick                       | 113 Paid player             | 17 Diacritical mark        | 79 Auction actions                   |                               |
| 61 Tiller                      | 114 Actor McGregor          | 18 Llama turf              | 84 Savage sort                       |                               |
| 62 Agitated state              | 115 Reunion attendee        | 25 Word with face or heart | 86 Former Buffalo Bills player Don   |                               |
|                                | 116 "Zip- _ -Doo-Dah"       | 26 And others              |                                      |                               |
|                                | 118 Wildebeest              | 28 Patriotic org.          |                                      |                               |



Answer Page 6

# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 6

★★★ HOO BOY!

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## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** I am disabled but I'd like to try returning to work. Can Social Security help?

**A:** We may be able to help you try to return to work without losing your

benefits. Social Security has several work incentive programs to encourage those who can work to try doing so. For information about these incentives, visit our "work site" online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work). You

can also read the Red Book on Work Incentives at [www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook).

**Q:** Can I apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) online?

**A:** At this time we do not have an online application for SSI benefits. However, if you are disabled, we do have an online tool that can prepare you to make the application interview go smoothly: our Disability Starter Kit. You can find it online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability). You'll find the link in the left-hand corner. While there, you can also prepare for the interview by completing the adult disability report. It's a part of the starter kit. By completing this report before your application interview, you will save time when you apply. You can schedule your appointment to apply by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Q:** I'm expecting my first baby next month. What do I need to do to get a Social Security number for my child?

**A:** The best and most convenient way is to apply for your baby's number at the hospital when you apply for the birth certificate. The state agency that issues birth certificates will share your child's information with us, and we will mail the Social Security card to you. Learn more about this process and about Social Security cards and numbers in general at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

**Q:** How long does it take to apply online for retirement benefits?

**A:** How long it takes depends on your specific situation. However, many people find that they can complete their online retirement application in as little as 15 minutes! There are no paper forms to sign, and usually no additional documents are required. You can learn more about Social Security retirement benefits, get an estimate of your future benefit amount, and when you're ready, apply for retirement benefits online, by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

For more information on any of the questions, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have 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.

## 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: Y equals U

AX NMY JARL  
 WMGIDJAQLI DVG D  
 WMQDAQYL XMC KAJLI,  
 KAZVD DVG D KGRL NMY  
 G JM QZIVMCLKGQ?

Answer Page 6

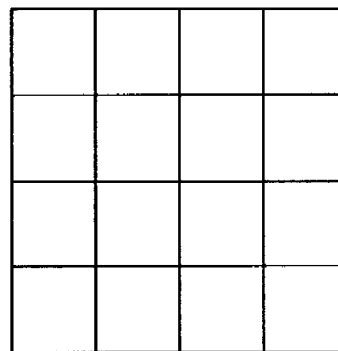
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## Across & Down

by Donna Pettman

Rearrange the letters in each group to form a word. Place the words into the diagram so that the same words read both across and down. The first word across is the same as the first word down, the second word across is the same as the second word down and so on. The letter groups are not necessarily placed next to the row of the diagram in which they go.

DEMO  
 MLPI  
 LPEA  
 DLOI



Answer Page 6

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## LOW INCOME Houses For Sale

Carlos E. Aguilar  
 Broker  
 (915) 269-1251

- No Down
- Low Interest
- Financing Available

Address	B/B	Sq. Ft.	Price	Address	B/B	Sq. Ft.	Price
13400 Ingram	3/2	1,281	62,800	1218 Colina Bella	4/2	1,292	76,500
13566 Inspiration	3/2	1,005	60,800	1437 Imogene	3/2	1,013	59,200
1412 Coronel Dr.	3/2	1,013	77,400	329 Tierra Linda	4/2	1,345	82,400
672 Danube	4/2	1,300	82,400	657 Orchid	3/2	1,067	67,600
629 Orchid	3/2	1,179	83,250				

Houses available in Horizon, San Elizario and Fabens



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## If you're not covered, you'll be discovered.



An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that's about to change. • TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data to immediately tell law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who's driving without insurance. • So, if you're not covered, better get insured! • To learn more, visit: [www.TexasSure.com](http://www.TexasSure.com)

**TexasSure** catches drivers without insurance.

## Law

From Page 1

Ave. Each intersection will have barricades and some will have a Sheriff Deputy assigned. The public will not be allowed to travel into these residential areas. Only residents of this community will be allowed to pass.

Flager St., Suwannee St., Vista del Este St., Las Casitas Ave., Krag St., Buntline Dr., Desert Meadows Rd., Oshea Dr., Acacia Dr., Century Dr., Edward Williams Dr., Snoqualmie Dr. and O'Leary will all be blocked off.

A reminder to the public that parking is not allowed along Montana Avenue (Highway 62/180) or on the shoulders or medians. These areas must be cleared for traffic and emergency vehicles. All traffic laws and signs must be obeyed.