

NEWSBRIEFS

Pasqualone retires

El Paso County Commissioners Court honored the retiring Executive Director of the Domestic Relations Office (DRO), Terry Pasqualone. County Judge Anthony Cobos presented him with a plaque in appreciation and recognition for his dedication and devotion to the principles and ideals of the Domestic Relations Office and his service for the County of El Paso. Pasqualone, a former Family Judge, will retire after nine years of continuous service leading the El Paso County Domestic Relations Office. "The DRO has met its challenges through your administration and you've handle them with dignity and integrity. You are truly an example of good government that works for the people," said County Commissioner Pct. 1 Anna Perez. Pasqualone has served as the DRO Executive Director since 2000. He will retire effectively on July 31, 2009.

— Aracely Lazcano

Wanted

The hunt is on for Rosa Buendia. Buendia is 35-years-old, 5'5" tall and weighs 158 pounds. She has brown hair and green eyes. Buendia and an accomplice visited Hoy Fox located at 7200 Viscount, El Paso, Texas and submitted a loan application to purchase two vehicles; a 2008 Infiniti worth \$66,129.63 and a second 2008 Infiniti worth \$60,000.00. The applications were approved and the vehicles were sold. It was later discovered Buendia fraudulently used another woman's identity (from Illinois) to purchase both vehicles. Buendia was positively identified in a photo line-up by car salesmen. Authorities attempted to catch up to Buendia and retrieve the vehicles but it was too late. Buendia knows she is wanted and remains on the run eluding capture. It is believed she remains in the El Paso area. Sheriff's Officials are asking the Public if anyone has seen or knows the whereabouts of Buendia they are urged to call 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.



Rosa Buendia

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

Night out

National Nightout is Tuesday, August 4. Communities across the nation will be hosting gatherings to promote community awareness and fight crime. The Horizon City Police Department will host an event from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Oz Glaze Senior Center (13969 Veny Webb). They invite the community to come meet both police officers and fire fighters on "America's Night Out Against Crime."

Nothing great was ever done without an act of decision.

— Quips & Quotes

Fabens, Tornillo water projects funded by county commissioners

By Aracely Lazcano
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Thousands of Colonia resident's located far-east of the county will have access to quality water for the first time, thanks to the approval of \$1.5 million for two water improvement projects on Aug. 27.

The members of commissioners court unanimously approved both proposals allocating money from the 2002 and 2007 Capital Improvements Fund.

The first project which involves close collaboration with Lower Valley Water District

through a 3.5 miles extension of a 12 inch water line to provide clean water to about 150 families or 600 residents of the Lourdes and El Conquistador sub-divisions located adjacent to Fabens.

"My priority is to close the gap in potable water needs in all the county, families in El Paso deserve access to water in order to have better quality of life," said County Commissioner Pct. 3 Willie Gandara.

The second project which involves close collaboration with the Tornillo Water Supply Corporation is the construction of new water well in the area of Tornillo. This will provide approximately 300 families or 1,200 resident's access to first-time water.

Socorro ISD revises bus stop procedures for student safety

By Daniel Escobar
Special to the Courier

The Socorro Independent School District has revised its procedures for releasing students at bus stops during afternoon routes. Starting with the 2009-2010 school year, all Pre-K through 2nd grade and special needs students will need to be picked up by an authorized adult. Historically, only Pre-K through Kindergarten and special needs students were required to be greeted by an authorized parent or guardian.

"Our bus drop-off guidelines are in place

solely to ensure the safety and security of our students," said Manny Rubio, Director of Transportation. "It is our number one priority."

Under the guidelines, students that are not greeted by an authorized adult will be returned to their campus where an authorized person will be contacted to pick up the student. In addition, students have the option to remain on the bus and be returned to their campus if they feel threatened or unsure of their surroundings.

For additional information on the District's transportation program, please visit the SISD Web site at www.sisd.net or call 915-937-0602.

Canutillo ISD receives grant for safety

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) was awarded recently a \$3,000 loss prevention grant from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Risk Management Fund.

"The grant monies will help CISD continue its loss prevention and safety initiatives to reduce the potential for property losses, on-the-job injuries, and raise safety awareness," stated Renee O'Donnell, CISD Human Resources executive director.

The award is part of over half a million

See GRANT, Page 5



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Canutillo Independent School District receives \$3,000 Loss Prevention Grant for its safety efforts. From left are Renee O'Donnell, CISD Human Resources Executive Director, holds check, while Dell Harrington, TASB Senior Loss Prevention Consultant, presents award certificate to Mike Gonzales, CISD Workers' Comp/Risk Management Specialist.

Clinics offer back-to-school immunizations

New vaccine rules take effect August 1

By Tammy Fonce-Olivas
Special to the Courier

EL PASO — The City of El Paso Department of Public Health is offering back-to-school immunizations.

The department through its Immunization Program is offering vaccines for school-age children, including the vaccines students must have under new state requirements to take effect Aug. 1.

The vaccines are provided by appointment or on a walk-in basis at the program's five health centers: Henderson, 721 S. Mesa; Northeast, 5587 Transmountain; Tigua, 7862 San Jose; Ysleta, 110 Candelaria; and Westside, 5195 Mace. The health centers are open 7 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Tuesdays through Friday with alternating Saturdays.

The cost is \$10 for one vaccine or \$20 total if two or more vaccines are provided during the same visit. To make an appointment at any of the health centers or to find out more about the school vaccines required by the Texas Department of State Health Services call the City's Immunization Program at (915) 771-5822.

According to the state, the changes to school immunization requirements mainly affect students entering kindergarten and seventh grade. The changes include:

- Students entering kindergarten must have had two doses of the Hepatitis A vaccine.
- Students entering kindergarten must have had two doses of the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine. Students in grades 1 through 12 must continue to meet the current requirements of two doses of a measles-containing vaccine and one dose each of mumps and rubella vaccine.
- Students entering kindergarten and seventh grade must have had two doses of the Varicella vaccine. Students in grades 1 through 6 and 8 through 12 must continue to meet the current requirement of one dose of the Varicella vaccine.
- Students entering seventh grade must have had one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis-Containing (Tdap) Vaccine. In addition, seventh-graders must have had a booster dose of Tdap, but only if it has been five years since their last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.
- Students in grades 8 through 12 must have had a booster dose of Tdap if it has been 10 years since their last dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine.
- Students entering seventh grade must have had one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine.

The full list of school immunization requirements is available at www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/school/6-14eng.pdf.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Missed exam will stall benefits claim

When you put in a claim for benefits, one of the first things that happens is that a Veterans Service Officer will ask for a compensation and pension exam, and will fill out the forms for it.

If for some reason you don't have that C&P exam, it's called an incomplete exam request. The Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs recently released a report on the problem of incomplete exams.

It found that a good portion of exam requests were incomplete because veterans didn't show up for appointments. Here's why:

In some cases the veterans weren't called to set the appointment times — they were simply told via mail when those appointments would be. When veterans wanted to schedule for a different time or date, those exams weren't always rescheduled. And in some cases, when veterans requested different appointment times, the exam requests were just canceled instead.

Some exams weren't done be-

cause veterans weren't contacted by phone to schedule the appointments and the mailing address on the notice was wrong. After missed appointments, at three of the four facilities studied, no one called the veterans directly to try to set another appointment time. In other cases, appointments were rescheduled or just plain canceled without notifying the veterans.

Rule of thumb: Know your status at all times. If you've got a claim in for benefits, keep on top of the scheduling of your exams. Be proactive. Don't expect a phone call or mail, because you might not get it. Make the calls yourself. Verify that they've correctly entered your address and contact phone numbers into the system.

In 2008, a probable 24,000 missed exams could have been avoided.

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com. (c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Texas health care funding

Hola, mi gente. The only bill that is actually required to

be passed during a legislative session is the appropriations bill — the funding of Texas government. Considering that the bill was over 900 pages in length, I can only touch on a few specific aspects of the bill in this article.

The session started without a really clear picture of where the state was relating to revenues. Part of that was because of the economic downturn that was gripping the nation. Prior to the elections in November of 2008, it appeared that Texas had anywhere from a \$10 billion to \$15 billion surplus.

The reality was that revenues were actually much less. Accordingly, many very deserving issues failed to be funded. The important one to El Paso was the tuition revenue bonds that would finance a third education building on the Paul L. Foster School

of Medicine Campus. There were no significant bonds passed at all this session so El Paso fared no worse than any other county.

The El Paso delegation did secure the funding needed to pay the faculty at the medical school. Without that, we would not be celebrating the first year of the school at this time.

Generally speaking, the largest increase in funding went to health and human services. The additional revenues over the next two years amount to a 9.3 percent increase over the last funding cycle.

Of utmost importance to El Paso, the funding for Medicare is slated for important increases.

Medicaid, which is funneled to indigent seniors or disabled, is increased by \$2.5 billion. The major portion of that increase, \$1.1 billion, is appropriated in anticipation of increased acute care caseloads.

The Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) will receive \$2 billion in total funds. About \$73.8 million is dedicated to anticipated increased

patient loads. For the first time, CHIP, intended for uninsured children with family incomes up to 200% of poverty, will be provided to perinatal healthcare. The actual funding of CHIP will be decreased by 3 percent this period; \$19.2 million.

The federal government provided options to the state that would allow coverage to be provided to a projected 615,993 enrollees. However, the legislature considered, but failed to pass, legislation that would have taken advantage of the additional federal monies and the additional coverage of children. Since state money is matched by federal monies, additional healthcare funds were left on the table.

Despite the downturn, I believe the legislature increased funding in some very important areas. Considering the deep recession that some states are currently experiencing, Texas is not as badly hobbled.

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

View from here By Howard Rich

Rangel surtax debate exposes 'class warfare' myth

"Make the rich pay for it, they can afford it."

For decades, this has been the modus operandi of politicians and public officials who rely on unsustainable government growth and skyrocketing taxpayer debt to pad their patronage and expand their influence. It's also the driving force behind House Ways and Means Chairman Charles Rangel's new "health care surtax," which the New York Democrat says will raise \$540 billion over the next ten years to pay for part of "Obamacare."

Who would end up paying Rangel's surtax? All joint filers making over \$350,000 — before deductions. Also, the surtax applies to all forms of income, including wages, dividends and capital gains.

This latest "bleed the (moderately) rich" scam comes from a tried-and-true big government playbook. In fact, it's every bit as predictable as the blooming of the cherry blossoms, the naming of yet another govern-

ment "czar," or whichever Beltway sex scandal du jour is dominating the cocktail party chatter. And like countless other government schemes of its kind, it will no doubt be communicated to middle class mailboxes or televisions via slick advertisements that invoke how wealthy Americans are enjoying "faster jets or bigger swimming pools" while poor people lay "starving in the streets."

Sounds familiar, right?

Unfortunately, many of the limited government advocates whose job it is to respond to this nonsense have fallen into a predictable rut of their own.

"Wealthy Americans create jobs," they remind us — and they're right.

"Wealthy Americans pay their fair share," they say. Sometimes they even point out that wealthy Americans pay not only their fair share, but the "fair share" of dozens of others who can't afford to pay anything.

But these critical points are rarely expounded upon and are almost al-

ways ignored by our intellectually incurious mainstream media. After all, it's just too easy for them to say that "rich people will be paying for new services for poor people" — even though in reality almost all of the money ends up going to bureaucrats, not services, while the money taken from the rich invariably ends up costing far too many poor people their jobs.

This is precisely what would happen under Rangel's proposal.

According to a report issued by the Heritage Foundation, over sixty percent of the returns that would be impacted by the Rangel surtax include income from small businesses or partnerships. Twenty percent of the returns receive more than half of their income from small business or partnership income.

Translation? Jobs will be lost. Lots of them, too.

Contrary to the carefully-prepared talking points of the class warfare spin doctors, the people being asked to pick up this tab are not super-wealthy Americans.

These are not "too big to fail" financial institutions or union-driven (now government-driven) automakers, these are small businesspeople — supermarket owners, retailers and website developers — in other words, the people who create the vast majority of jobs in America.

Instead of coming to Washington D.C. with their hats in hand, these businessmen and women are doing precisely what we want them to do — innovating, turning a profit and providing a livelihood for their employees so that the taxpayers don't have to.

Under Rangel's surtax, however, many of these very business owners would be forced to pay over half of their income in taxes — 52%, to be

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Publisher
Rick Shrum

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The SPACE PROGRAM, Then and Now...



What's up, doc? By Albert Balesh, M.D.

Vaccinator

Fathers, protect your daughters from the onslaught of that perverter of all that is right, good, pure, and just, namely, the HPV vaccine! The call to arms has been sounded from bellfries across the nation, to the despair of health care providers who witness another arm in their arsenal against cervical cancer cast to the wayside. The feeling of utter impotence on their parts is both frustrating and devastating, in the face of an ever-mounting body of data that appears to indicate the resounding efficacy of a vaccine that is a relentless adversary in the fight against cervical cancer, when it is unleashed in a timely fashion. Getting down to the brass tacks of the matter, perhaps you, the reader, will become convinced, and lend your daughters to the safe haven and caring hands of those who would stop a virus, the human papilloma virus (HPV), and its progression to something far more sinister dead in their tracks.

Cervical cancer is the second most frequent cancer among women, and it has been associated with HPV. The general public has not been adequately schooled on that score, and remains ignorant as to just how diffuse HPV infection is. The statistics are staggering, and go something like this. Twenty-five percent of persons between 14 and 19 years of age and 45% of those between 20 and 24 years are infected with genital HPV, with more than 80% of both men and women in the United States infected at some point in their lives. Surprised? Read on.

HPV is usually acquired within months after the first sexual intercourse, and is usually asymptomatic. If the infection is not prevented, if screening with a Pap smear for precancerous lesions owed to HPV is not conducted due to health information shortfalls or a sense of physical impunity, or if treatment of HPV's legitimate heirs, anogenital warts and cervical disease, is not instituted thoroughly and immediately, the death knoll will be sounded and direct medical costs stemming from HPV will add insult to fiscal injury. As it stands right now, each year 490,000 of this planet's women receive a diagnosis of cervical cancer and 270,000 die from it. In 2008, 11,000 U.S. women received such sad tidings and 3,900 were as a result summoned by the Grim Reaper, at a cost of \$4 billion in health care dollars. A good portion of these victims, and, if not them, future generations might be spared if reliance were to be placed on the

"Vaccinator," a full series of the HPV vaccine, costing \$375 dollars and a whole lot less blood, sweat, and tears.

The hero of the moment, called the "Vaccinator," for purposes of literary color and license, but commonly known as the HPV vaccine, has received a great deal of bad press, with the public continuing to be misinformed in many cases. So, the record must be set straight here, and then, perhaps, heads of households will be more inclined to offer their daughters on its preventive altar in exchange for a welcomed and precipitous reduction in the body count.

The HPV vaccine has been marketed by Merck & Co., Inc. since June 2006 under the name Gardasil™, and it is effective against the four high-risk types of HPV. Women between the ages of 9 and 26 years of age are targeted for vaccination in order to prevent genital warts and cervical, vulvar, and vaginal cancer. They should be vaccinated before their first sexual intercourse, because it is a sad, but true, "fact of life" that HPV infection is usually acquired within months after first sexual intercourse.

While the vaccine is effective in immunocompromised women, the same cannot be said for pregnant women. A silver lining is the fact that women with cervical disease from one high-risk HPV type may be vaccinated against the other high-risk types. Gardasil is administered intramuscularly at 0, 2, and 6 months, and the vaccine series does not have to be restarted in its entirety if, girls being girls, a dose is missed. Let the buyer beware, however! Fainting spells may occur in adolescents immediately after vaccination. So, the rule of thumb is for the physician to observe the "vaccinee" for 15 minutes after vaccination. Wow, that was a lot of information! Exclusion of still another piece of stark reality could be construed as criminal, so it needs be said that abstinence from intercourse until marriage is no substitute for the HPV vaccine, as sexual abuse or an infected marriage partner make having been a "good girl" bad.

As the Vaccinator waits in the wings for the raging debate over whether to vaccinate pre-adolescents or not to play itself out, parents of young women should take no comfort in biding their time with a less is better mentality. Even with the jury out, some verdicts are for-gone conclusions.

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— Photos by Betti Flores

THE WINNER IS — Friday Night Fight winner Cesar Valenzuela took a moment with free-lance reporter Jan Engels for this photo.

She was there... Fight Night thrills fans

By Jan Engels
Special to the Courier

I was there... on Fight Night's return to El Paso after a year-plus sabbatical and what a night it was! Golden Boy Productions and ESPN2 "Friday Night Fights" teamed up with Tecate and Quaker State to give the over 4,000 boxing fans a night to remember. From El Pasoan Cesar Valenzuela on the first card to El Pasoan Antonio Escalante on the main event, fans showed their appreciation for the return of boxing to the Don Haskins center.

The unanimous decision by Escalante over Cornelius Lock of Detroit, MI was a keeper. From round to round Escalante dominated the fight. He began, as most boxers do, by testing the waters of the other fighter. By round three, with a cut over his left eye — a lucky punch by Lock — he stepped up to the challenge and it was downhill for Lock after that. The fans loved it! Chanting "Tony, Tony" in unison time

See FIGHT, Page 5

Canutillo Independent School District SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Canutillo Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified disabled children who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; and 10) Homebound Services.

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policy FL provides for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Janine Hammock, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, (915) 877-7450.

El Distrito Escolar de Canutillo **SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL**

El distrito escolar de Canutillo provee los siguientes programas/ servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como deshabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

Programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terapia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia física; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; y 10) servicios de clases en el hogar.

Se provee servicios a niños identificados como deshabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educativos de Familia de 1974 y Ley Publica 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Poliza FL explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña deshabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Canutillo que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Janine Hammock, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, (915) 877-7450.

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Public Notice **Canutillo Independent School District** **504 Child Find**

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504, please contact the District's Section 504 Coordinator, Karen Judd, at 877-7433, or mail at P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835.

Aviso de Identificación de **Estudiantes Incapacitados bajo la** **Sección 504**

Bajo la Sección del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, el Distrito Escolar esta obligado a identificar, referir, evaluar, y proporcionar servicios educativos apropiados y gratuitos a los estudiantes incapacitados que califican bajo esta ley. Si usted desea mas información sobre los derechos de padres de niños incapacitados, o si tiene preguntas sobre la identificación, evaluación, y colocación de niños en el programa de Sección 504, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Coordinadora de 504 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo, Karen Judd, al numero 877-7433, o por correo a la siguiente dirección: P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835.

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Fight

From Page 4

after time. Even after the 10 round bell sounded, Escalante was pumped up. Jumping on the ropes from corner to corner, giving acknowledgement to the loud, excited fans. It was quite a night!

On the undercards, Valenzuela and another El Pasoan, Abraham Ham, won their bouts with ease. Their fights gave fans a taste of what might come in the future from these two boxers. Both did well.

Of course there is also bittersweet with the sweet. Such was the case of two twin boxers from Puerto Rico. While Carlos Velasquez won his fight over Juan Nazario of Middletown, CT, his twin brother, Juan, who put up a good fight, lost to José Beranza of Mexico City. The boxing community will hear move from "The Twins" in the future.

The guys and gals — and there were a lot of them in the stands — enjoyed the dance, the finesse and precision of the fights. But this writer is wondering if El Paso will ever have a gal fight in the ring.



TWIN PUNCHERS — Juan, left, and brother Carlos flanked Jan Engels for a pre-fight photo. Carlos won his bout, Juan lost.

Grant

From Page 1

dollars given in grants by the Fund to 200 Texas school districts and other educational entities this year. Instrumental in securing the loss prevention grant for CISD were Mike Gonzales, CISD Workers' Comp/Risk Management specialist, and Dell Harrington, TASB Senior Loss Prevention Consultant.

"During these difficult financial times, it is important for schools to

keep focused on ways to maintain safety and well being of all employees and prevention of losses in the workplace. The Fund is behind our members' efforts to save valuable resources by providing funding to help educate staff, secure facilities, and create a safer work environment," said Edwin Thompson, director of TASB Loss Prevention Services.

This year's grant application review focused on implementation of training programs that addressed fall prevention, use of personal lifting devices and protective equipment, facilities security initiatives, and driver

improvement and vehicle safety.

The TASB Risk Management Fund is the largest risk sharing pool for school districts and one of the largest public entity risk pools in the nation. Created in 1974, the Fund provides comprehensive risk management coverage and services in the areas of workers' compensation, property/casualty, and unemployment compensation. More than 1,100 school districts, education cooperatives, junior colleges, education service centers, and county appraisal districts participate in one or more of the Fund's programs.

Newborn enrollment ends Friday for Texas Tuition Promise Fund

By Allen Spelce
Special to the Courier

AUSTIN — Parents who want to get an early start on college savings for their newborns (children under the age of one year) have until Friday to enroll in the state's prepaid college tuition program and avoid higher costs in September, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said.

"The first enrollment period for the Texas Tuition Promise Fund ended Feb. 28, but enrollment for newborns is open until July 31," Combs said. "Instead of waiting until the next enrollment period

opens in September, parents can enroll their newborn immediately, at 2008-09 contract prices."

New sale prices based on 2009-10 academic year costs for Texas public colleges and universities will be in effect when the next enrollment period begins Sept. 1.

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund allows families to purchase tuition "units," with three levels of pricing to prepay undergraduate resident tuition and required fees at schools ranging from public community colleges to four-year state universities. Full details are available at www.TexasTuitionPromiseFund.com.

Surtax

From Page 2

precise — a ridiculously-high rate that exceeds the top marginal rate in all but three industrialized nations.

Even socialist countries aren't taxing their citizens at such exorbitant levels.

The bottom line is this — if America wants to remain competitive with the rest of the world, its leaders must realize sooner rather than later that they cannot continue to spend us

into fiscal oblivion while at the same time throwing a monkey wrench into our nation's job creation engine.

Clearly, President Obama made no bones about his desire to "spread the wealth around," but the problem with that approach is that you eventually run out of wealthy people — and the jobs they provide.

The Rangel surtax is nothing more than another predictable step in that direction.

Howard Rich is chairman of Americans for Limited Government (getliberty.org).

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TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY AND THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

Escalante, El Paso on the national fight night radar

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

What a night it was for El Paso. The city got a ton of exposure; the name "El Paso" was mentioned about a zillion and three times to a national audience; the place was packed and the crowd was loud.

And thankfully, there was no sign of John Cook and his guitar.

Win — win. Actually, it was win — win — win.

El Paso's own Antonio Escalante put on a show during ESPN2's Friday Night Fights telecast last week.

Escalante, though a little off balance at times, dominated Cornelius Lock with a barrage of body punches that wore down the game fighter from Detroit.

Though the win went to Escalante, the big victory went to the city of El Paso, which doesn't get its name in the national news very often at all.

Speaking to Escalante a couple days before the fight I couldn't help but be impressed with his attitude and his love for El Paso.

He was kind and respectful and eager for this

opportunity. He's the kind of guy who says he'll never forget his roots — and means it!

Now let's hope all the things he's been told coming into the fight do come true — like a world title shot his next time out.

Death loves company

What is going on with pro athletes?

I mean we all know they make way too much money for what they do? Many of them get into way too much trouble and way too many think an algorithm is a form of dance.

But no matter how many times they make the headlines for the wrong reasons, they don't deserve the disturbing trend that's hit sports in the last month — murder.

We all remember the day we heard that former NFL great Steve McNair was found dead.

As it turned out, for some sick reason his 21-year-old girl-on-the-side decided to shoot him several times while he slept and then finished herself off.

What a waste. McNair, long considered an ambassador for the sport, decided to put himself in a compromising situation by seeing another woman while he was still married.

And as he found out, you never know whom

you're really with while you're throwing a whole bunch of money at them.

If the promises of marriage and money suddenly end, it's hard to predict how someone will respond.

Any way, that episode was followed with the discovery of Arturo Gatti's body. Gatti was one of the most exciting boxers in the world.

Every time he fought you knew it was going to be one of those Rocky "I'll hit you a few times and then you hit me back and almost knock me out and then I'll almost knock you out" kind of fights.

Only Gatti's fights weren't choreographed, that was real sweat and blood.

Unfortunately, Gatti was finally taken down for good, his body was found while vacationing in Brazil.

At first Gatti's death was ruled a murder at the hands of his young wife but now they're not so sure what happened to the former champ.

Either way, no boxer had a bigger heart than Arturo Gatti, and someone is responsible for snuffing it out.

Before you think it all ends there, think again.

Last weekend it happened again.

Another former boxing champion, Vernon

Forrest, was putting air the tires of his Jaguar when two men approached him and tried to steal it.

The men had guns, but Forrest also had a gun and he chased them down the street and shots were exchanged.

Forrest was hit in the head and was dead after suffering another seven or eight gunshot wounds.

Oh, and all this went on while his girlfriend's young son was in the car.

Forrest was scheduled fight again on Sept. 1.

I don't know whether these are just the signs of our times but I'll tell you one thing — there shouldn't be anyone left out there who can argue the fact that there are just too many guns in this country?

I'm really not sure if this is what the founding fathers had in mind when they said that individuals as a well-regulated militia had the right to bear arms. Remember, when the founders wrote this there was a real threat on this new country from the British.

I really don't think they meant that people could walk around carrying concealed handguns and that gang-bangers could help themselves to uzi machine guns.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Forever a champion

In the end, it was the ending that mattered least.

After four rounds and 72 holes — more than 16 miles of walking the hilly links of Scotland's Turnberry — it was the final 8 feet of the 18th hole that that did in the 59-year-old Tom Watson. After leading for the tournament's first three rounds and needing a par to win the Open Championship, Watson smacked a perfect

drive down the fairway, then hit an 8-iron that landed a foot onto the green.

In America, that ball hits a softer green and Watson birdies the hole. But this is "links" golf. The original, Scottish variety of the sport features uneven fairways, rough that is basically shrubby, pot bunkers that resemble moon craters and coastal winds that can take any ball into the next county if given the chance. And

this particular link took Watson's ball and sent it to the opposite fringe. Watson three-putted and missed an 8-foot putt that would have won the championship. Instead, he was sent to a four-hole playoff, finishing six strokes behind Stewart Cink.

Do not weep for Tom Watson the golfer, for the man has had a charmed life. As a child he played golf at the Kansas City Country Club, and as an amateur he was tutored by Byron Nelson (which would be akin to a college player of today being tutored by, well, Tom Watson). He played golf at Stanford University. He has 66 professional wins — 39 on the PGA Tour, eight of which were majors. He has

worn the Green Jacket at Augusta twice. And it was at the 1977 Open Championships at Turnberry that a young Watson bested crowd-favorite Jack Nicklaus, a win that signaled a passing of the torch.

But it's OK to feel sorry for Tom Watson the man. In Kansas City — where a highway is named after him and his first signature golf course, at The National Golf Club, was designed — the stories recounted in media after the Open came from people like the golfer who told of the time Watson appeared out of nowhere to teach him how to putt after spotting him miss shot after shot on the putting green. It was the staff at

Children's Mercy who reminded everyone of the millions of dollars he had raised for the hospital over the years with his charity tournament. And it was the 30-year-old man who recalled the time a "nice man" spent most of the night in his lonely hospital room when he was 7 years old, fighting spinal meningitis.

So yes, while those 8 feet will forever live in infamy, in the end, Tom Watson proved that he was, is and will remain, forever a champion.

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

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Within 20 minutes after you smoke that last cigarette, your body begins a series of changes that continue for years.

20 Minutes After Quitting

- Your heart rate drops.

12 Hours After Quitting

- Carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal.

2 Weeks to 3 Months After Quitting

- Your heart attack risk begins to drop.

1-9 Months After Quitting

- Your lungs functions begin to improve.

1 Year After Quitting

- Your coughing and shortness of breath decrease.

5 Years After Quitting

- Your stroke risk is reduced to half of a nonsmoker's 5-15 years after quitting.

10 Years after Quitting

- Your lung cancer death rate is about half that of a smoker's.

15 Years After Quitting

- Your risk of cancers of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, kidney and pancreas decreases.

Your risk of coronary heart disease is back to that of a nonsmoker's.

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N	E	R	D



CryptoQuip Answer

I usually sit in a tall chair whenever I play cards. That way I have the upper hand.

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- 2: Write a check; then
- 3: Send both to us.

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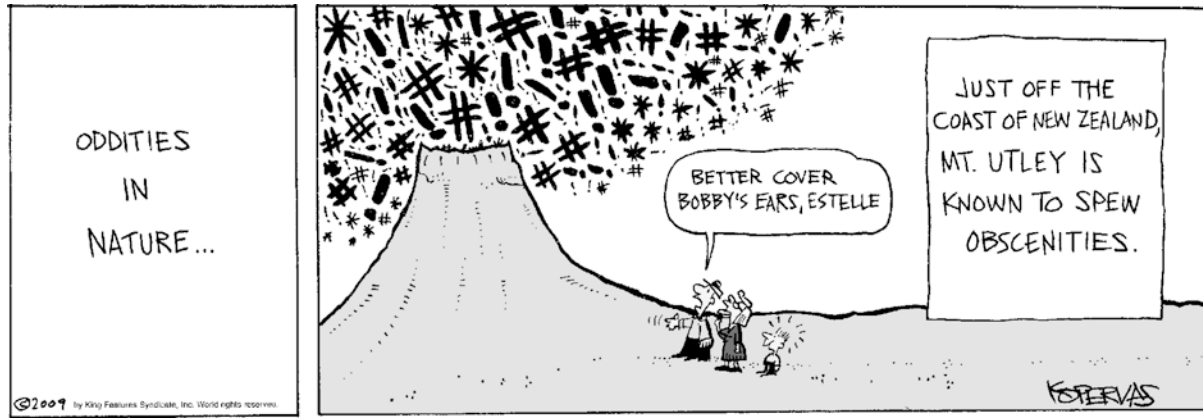
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Money lessons

By Taprina Milburn

I used to have money in my wallet, I swear, but lately it's being drained like water from a bathtub.

We had the big talk with our kids, the talk parents approach with sweat on their brow. The MONEY talk.

The allowance we started giving them when they were younger, from the looks of my bank account, isn't covering their basic entertainment, tithing and shopping needs.

I'm hearing more often, "Mom, can I have some money?"

"Dad, I want to go, but I don't have any money."

One simple word explains it, they say, "Inflation."

It's expensive to be a kid, after all.

Somewhere along the way, we'd read or heard that children should receive money because they are a part of the family. We believed chores should be associated, so we told the kids when they were younger that they would receive money for doing chores around the house, but that part of the allowance was given to them just because.

"Which part is for cleaning the bathroom and which part is 'just because' money," they soon started asking.

So the payment system in our house was in need of an overhaul. Before the talk with the kids, the husband and I tossed around how we approach the upcoming budget

negotiations. We consulted friends about their methods of paying their children. I read books — and found that some writers strongly believe that money shouldn't be connected to chores.

But we've always believed in child labor, and most of the books I read and parents we talked to do as well. The younger the kids realize that money is earned as a result of work (cleaning their bedrooms, keeping the house picked up, taking out the trash and helping with the yard) the better. After all, mom and dad have to work to earn money.

So we sat down with the children, who were asked in advance to list their categories of spending and an estimated budget. As you can imagine Dad and I had to scale back numbers a bit.

After realizing they were finally getting a raise after a decade, and wouldn't have to band together with their classmates to start a Kids for Higher Pay union, they were a little more excited to do their jobs around the house.

That is like real life isn't it? We all feel a little more pride and eagerness in our work after receiving a raise.

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.

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King Super Crossword

BERN-ING DESIRE

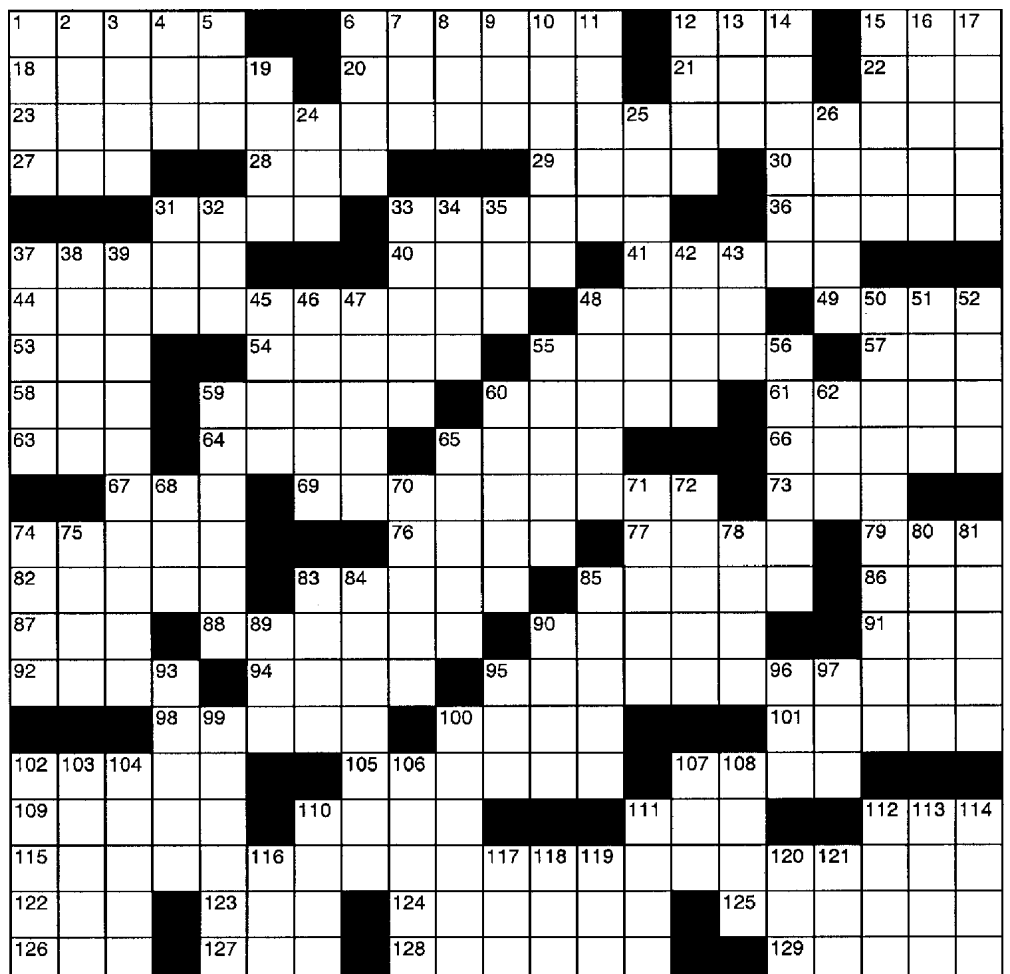
- ACROSS**
- 1 Foe
 - 6 Most adventurous
 - 12 Samoyed's smile?
 - 15 Solidify
 - 18 Half the diameter
 - 20 Actress Renee
 - 21 Unwell
 - 22 Castilian cry
 - 23 Start of a remark
 - by Billy Connolly
 - 27 He's a doll
 - 28 Maugham's "Cakes and ..."
 - 29 Ration, with "out"
 - 30 Shaggy ruminant
 - 31 Eban of Israel
 - 33 Maroon
 - 36 Coeur d'_, ID
 - 37 The Jetsons' dog
 - 40 Boxing blow
 - 41 Tom of "Adam's Rib"
 - 44 Part 2 of remark
 - 48 Songwriter
 - Jacques
 - 49 Pierce
 - 53 Corsage fastener
 - 54 Sycophant
 - 55 Border _
 - 57 Antipollution grp.
 - 58 Squid's squirt
 - 59 Undo an error
 - 60 Rock's Pink _
 - 61 October
 - Revolution name
 - 63 Average grade

- 64 Stack role
- 65 Conspire
- 66 Narrow shelf
- 67 Vitamin bottle abbr.
- 69 Part 3 of remark
- 73 Presidential nickname
- 74 Philatelist's need
- 76 Frank
- 77 _ Man" ('84 film)
- 79 Cleaning cloth
- 82 Castle campaign
- 83 Custom
- 85 Belief
- 86 Viral illness
- 87 Everything
- 88 Bacall or Chapin
- 90 Paraguayan title
- 91 UK honor
- 92 Goofy Gomer
- 94 Gourmet Graham
- 95 Part 4 of remark
- 98 Humble
- 100 It may get pickled
- 101 Hall's partner
- 102 _ Dame
- 105 Cavort in the pool
- 107 Made cotton candy
- 109 The chosen few
- 110 WWII site
- 111 Rush
- 112 Periodontists' org.
- 115 End of remark
- 122 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 123 Actor Chaney
- 124 Virgilian epic

- DOWN**
- 1 Estrada or Satie
 - 2 Church area
 - 3 Genesis setting
 - 4 "Cara _" ('65 hit)
 - 5 Brynner of "Taras Bulba"
 - 6 Motown's Marvin
 - 7 Pitches
 - 8 Trim the turf
 - 9 Baseball stat
 - 10 Children's author
 - Maurice
 - 11 Rocky Mountain range
 - 12 Extensive
 - 13 Cockpit fig.
 - 14 Worldwide
 - 15 Gagger gal
 - 16 Singer John
 - 17 Sierra _
 - 19 Clean the decks
 - 24 In the manner of
 - 25 Like Nestor
 - 26 Flounder features
 - 31 _ deco
 - 32 Singer Scaggs
 - 33 TV's "Evening _"
 - 34 With 103 Down, baseball's '64 Rookie

- of the Year
- 35 Poet McKuen
- 37 "A Dandy in _" ('68 film)
- 38 Oinkers
- 39 Barrie sprite
- 42 Put the metal to the metal
- 43 Biblical priest
- 45 To be, in Toulouse
- 46 Poke fun at the famous
- 47 Range rope
- 48 Shirley of "Hazel"
- 50 Novice
- 51 Make _ of oneself
- 52 Bete noire
- 55 Circus performer
- 56 "Mama" Cass
- 59 Kind of paint
- 60 Armada
- 62 Cartoon cry
- 65 Charlemagne's dad
- 68 Excavated
- 70 Reserved
- 71 Where Devils fight
- Flames
- 72 High-toned guy?
- 74 PDQ, politely
- 75 Mrs. Munster
- 78 It'll curl your hair
- 80 Dramatist Edward
- 81 Risk an opinion
- 83 Tints
- 84 Cuffs
- 85 Saw features
- 89 Record abbr.

- 90 Hens and pens
- 93 "_ Angel" ('55 hit)
- 95 Something for two
- 96 "_ don't say!"
- 97 Blocker or O'Herilhy
- 99 Firefly, for one
- 100 Lawn cleaner
- 102 More up-to-date
- 103 See 34 Down
- 104 Big guy
- 106 Skirt feature
- 107 Silly Caesar
- 108 Pedigreed pooch
- 110 Ballad or barcarole
- 111 Actress Lamarr
- 112 Maintain
- 113 Actor Arnaz
- 114 Hammett hound
- 116 Grab all the goodies
- 117 Vane letters
- 118 Velvet finish
- 119 Free (of)
- 120 Pro-gun org.
- 121 Bankbook abbr.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Do I qualify for other types of assistance?

A: In most states, SSI recipients also get Medicaid. If you don't have Medicaid, you should contact your local medical assistance office to find out whether you qualify. SSI recipients also may qualify for food stamps. Additionally, SSI recipients are generally eligible for social services provided by the state, city or county where they live. These may include homemaker services and arrangements for meals or transportation. More information is available at your local public assistance office. You also may want to read our online publication, Food Stamps and Other Nutrition Programs, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10100.html.

Q: My neighbor said my kids, ages 8 and 11, might be eligible for survivors' benefits since their father died. Are they?

A: Maybe. For your family to be eligible for survivors benefits, their father must have earned the required number of Social Security credits. If he did, you and your children may be eligible for benefits. You'll want to apply for survivors benefits promptly because benefits are generally retroactive only up to six months. You can apply by calling Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday. For more information, read our publication Survivors Benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10084.html or call us for a copy.

Q: What are the income and resource requirements for the extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs?

A: If your annual income is under

\$16,245 for an individual (or \$21,855 if you are married and living with your spouse), you may qualify for the extra help. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help. To get the extra help with Medicare prescription drug plan

costs, your total resources generally must be limited to \$12,510 (or \$25,010 if you are married and living with your spouse). To learn more about the extra help, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp. You also may call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

For more information on any of the

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		5	9			1		

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
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: S equals P

Q DHDECCV HQY QT E
 YECC FLEQP GLJTJUJP Q
 SCEV FEPKH. YLEY GEV
 Q LEUJ YLJ DSSJP LETK.

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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.

EOLA
 ARRO
 RNBA
 DENR

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