

NEWSBRIEFS

New building

The Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District will break ground on a new administration building Monday, September 21, 2009 at 10:00 am. Rapid growth has caused the district to outgrow the current administration building at 1539 Pawling Dr. The new administration building will be located on the adjoining property at 14100 Horizon Boulevard. The building once housed a Tasty Freeze and the San Miguel Hall. The new building will double current space to 6,000 square feet and will include a spacious customer lobby, a state-of-the-art boardroom, larger staff offices, a xeriscaped garden and amphitheater. The new building will be ready to occupy by early 2010.

— Ray Sanchez

Father-Son conference

In an effort to help male students reach their potential, Americas High School will host the Second Annual Father-Son Conference on Saturday, September 26. The event will be held at the school, 12101 Pellicano, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will feature keynote speaker Gerardo Valles, Program Manager for the Region 19 Education Service Center's Responsible Fatherhood Program. "We are elated to host this event for the second straight year," said organizer Art Escajeda, Americas High School social worker. "This year's conference will feature excellent speakers and workshops all designed to help dads and sons better connect with each other while learning, growing and just having fun." The purpose of the conference is to increase father (male) role model involvement in their sons' education by exploring the father's role as nurturer as well as provider, and to improve academic outcomes by strengthening father-son relationships. Fathers and all other male role models, such as grandfathers, uncles, big brothers, etc. are invited to attend the conference with their sons. Manuel Betancourt attended last year's event with his two foster children. "They are good kids and I will do anything that is going to help them become better," Betancourt said when asked why he took the time to attend the conference in 2008. The conference aims to reach boys in grades eight to 12 and their fathers or other significant male caregivers, and is open to male students from SISD. There is no cost to attend the conference and free food and door prizes will be provided. For registration information, please contact Arturo Escajeda at 937-2935 or CIS Coordinator Argelia Morales at 937-2962.

— Daniel Escobar

Car burglaries

Car burglaries are on the rise and are very difficult cases to solve because the burglars usually leave very little physical evidence behind. The crimes usually occur

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Crime begins in the mind. A man has to think wrong before he acts wrong.

— Quips & Quotes

Fabens ISD renovates and expands

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

FABENS — Renovation and expansion for education.

That sums up what's happening in the Fabens Independent School District.

Two older district school buildings, Fabens Primary and Risinger Elementary, are coming out of "retirement" and getting a new lease on life. And Fabens High is expanding to meet new needs.

Remodeling is converting the old Fabens Masonic building to an educational role as a part of the FISD family.

In a far-ranging interview, Poncho Garcia, Jr., superintendent of FISD, outlines academic activity in his district.

Fabens Primary

This is where the Early College High School program will be located. It is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010. The program targets low-income families whose children would be the first generation to benefit from education beyond the high school level. The program embraces the Fabens, Tornillo and Fort Hancock school districts.

The two-year program offers 60 hours of



Poncho Garcia

dual credit courses at the high school and community college levels. At the end of the two years, students who successfully complete the program not only will earn a high school diploma, but 60 hours of college credit as well.

Details on arrangements for and staffing of the innovative program are being worked out in on-going discussions with El Paso Community College. The Early College program is already in place in Canutillo ISD where its high school is adjacent to the Northwest campus of EPCC. The Clint ISD is also moving ahead in this area.

The old Fabens Primary school campus is presently undergoing remodeling to accommodate its new academic role. There will be 60 students in the first class. Forty will come from Fabens. Fifteen will be from Tornillo ISD, and five will travel from Fort Hancock.

Risinger Elementary

Another new area of activity is Project Head

See FABENS, Page 5

Canutillo ISD to hold tax rate election

By Patricia Tidwell
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a Tax Ratification Election (TRE) during a Special Board meeting on August 25, 2009. The TRE, which is set for Tuesday, November 3, will ask the voters of Canutillo ISD to approve a six cent increase to the current general tax rate.

The current Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate is \$1.04. If approved by the voters, the new tax rate will be:

- \$1.10 (M&O fund): only 6 cents higher than the current rate.
- \$0.25 (Interest and Sinking fund): pay for bond debt.
- Total Tax Rate: \$1.35 per \$100 property valuation.

The additional yearly cost per \$100,000 valuation would be \$60, which breaks down to \$5 a month.

Senior citizens over 65 and disabled persons would not be affected by the change.

Canutillo ISD, like other school districts in

Texas, is faced with increased costs of operating in today's economy under the state funding formula (HB1) approved in 2006 by the 79th State Legislature. Unlike other taxing entities, school districts do not receive additional revenue when property values increase. Furthermore, HB1 does not figure in additional costs for inflation.

If approved by voters, the additional six cents per household of the proposed tax rate will generate nearly \$2 million in additional revenue — nearly \$900,000 would come in matching funds from the state and \$1.1 million would be raised locally.

The additional monies generated by the TRE would be used to fund a two percent pay increase for all district employees and would allow the district to remain competitive with other area school districts. Furthermore, the money would also help cover state-mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades for several campuses, provide maintenance for a healthy fund balance, and help cover the rise of inflation costs.

"We want to remind the taxpayers that last

See CANUTILLO, Page 5

El Dorado student prepares for career in education

By Daniel Escobar
Special to the Courier

Jannette Gonzalez of El Dorado High School got a taste of the college life while studying for her chosen career with some of Texas' most talented students this past summer. Now a senior, she was one of only two students from the El Paso area and 53 statewide chosen to attend the Governor's Academy for Teaching Excellence (GATE) program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

"I applied so I could learn more about



Jannette Gonzalez

teaching and experience the college life," Gonzalez said. "I learned to work with different types of people and new ways to approach teaching. That will help me when I work with all kinds of students."

GATE is a three-week educational program for

See GONZALEZ, Page 5

Franco to head Rio Grande Council of Governments

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — Art Franco now wears two major hats.

There is the familiar and well-worn mayor of Anthony headgear that he has been wearing since he was first elected to that office in 1993.



Art Franco

The second piece of headwear is labeled "Honorable President" of the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG). He was elected to that one-year position last Friday. He moves up to the top spot after serving for a year as first vice president of the regional support organization that serves communities in West Texas and southern New Mexico.

According to its home page, the RGCOG "provides a regional forum in which local governments address issues and develop solutions that contribute to intergovernmental cooperation, (and) promote programs which make the region a better place (in which) to live, work and play."

He brushes off concerns about an excessive work load.

"I don't think I'm spreading myself too thin. It is part of my job as mayor."

Working with Franco is Cynthia Clarke, the new town clerk. She began her new duties a few weeks ago. Clerk Clarke comes to Anthony from another border town, Presidio, TX, in the Big Bend.

She has nothing but praise for Anthony. "I like it here," she says simply. "I am pleased to be here.

"It is a busy town; it is a clean town. "I am impressed by the police force."

Clarke characterizes the new housing construction as "mind-blowing."

Franco underscores Clarke's "mind-blowing" construction terminology.

"New houses are going up pretty fast," the mayor says, as evidenced by new homes sprouting up along Wildcat Drive. Other statistics:

He estimates that 10 new single-family homes are being built every month.

Thirty homes built since the first of the year.

Construction of more than 100 new homes in the last two years.

Ground-breaking for a new Carl's Jr. is scheduled next week.

A small retail center is planned in the 200 block of Franklin.

"It is good growth, steady growth," he points out. "We are not overwhelmed by it."

The mayor says that he is frankly surprised by the housing spurt, as it is running somewhat counter to the recession that is gripping much of the nation. He adds that he

See FRANCO, Page 5

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Retreats offer R&R

We could all use a break from time to time, but veterans who are just back from Iraq or Afghanistan could use some rest and relaxation most of all. Across the country, there are groups and non-profits that run programs to provide places and experiences for veterans (and sometimes their families) to relax and heal. Here are some examples:

- Veterans Retreat will challenge veterans injured in Iraq and Afghanistan through sports activities and education. Activities around the country include deep-sea fishing, scuba, sailing and other water-based activities. It also offers skydiving re-certification, bow hunting and paddling. For more information, see www.VeteransRetreat.com.

- Project Healing Waters concentrates on healing wounded veterans through fly-fishing and fly-tying outings and activities. There are fishing-oriented activities all over the country in locations as diverse as Alaska, Colorado, Maine and Pennsylvania. Check the events calendar. This year it held its first-ever "Fly Rod Building Contest." To learn more, check online: www.projecthealingwaters.org.

- Sometimes the retreats are weekends for the veteran and the family. One example is in Georgia through the United Methodist Camp Collinswood. In this case, the local American Legion post helps to coordinate and run the weekends. See www.umportal.com, and put Collinswood in the news archive search box.

- In the Chicago area in November, Mayslake Ministries will host a spiritual healing retreat for veterans who have PTSD. The retreat will be facilitated by an Army chaplain who is a Vietnam veteran. For information, see mayslakeministries.org and click on Veterans' Ministries.

No matter what kind of retreat you're looking for, it's out there. If you're dealing with physical or emotional injuries, there are retreats geared toward helping you heal. If you need a relaxed weekend with your family, that's out there, too.

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

CARES can help seniors

Hola, mi gente. In the past, this office has been very active in

reigning in agents who abused vulnerable seniors by switching their Advantage Plan. They did so for their own self interest and not the interest of the senior.

I have written articles and some have said that these articles severely hampered the sale of the product. In the articles, I consistently noted that I was not against the plans, only the few agents who committed the abuses.

During the time I was receiving complaints from victims, I offered a suggestion to responsible agents and that was to form an organization that was dedicated to doing the job right. For the most part, the suggestion was ignored.

Until now. On September 15, I returned to the Friends and Neighbors Adult Day Care, the location where my staff received the first Advantage Plan Complaint two years ago, to introduce a group of agents who are forming CARES of El Paso.

The acronym CARES stands for Community Agents for Responsible and Ethical Service. I am talking the bold move to support this group of agents because I have met with the

officers and I genuinely feel that they are sincere about their intent to treat seniors with the utmost respect and integrity.

In the summer of 2008, the Congress passed several reform bills which completely changed the way Advantage Plans may be marketed. The members of CARES El Paso abide by those marketing changes. Many agents don't. There are still agents who go door to door (which against federal law) or who send out mailers with inappropriate material.

These unethical agents give themselves an unfair advantage (forgive the pun). It is my opinion that we should reward agents, who are committed to following the federal and state laws and rules, by supporting their business. That is why I stand by them.

Advantage Plans were severely tarnished, not only here in El Paso but Texas and nationally, by the high incidence of agent abuse. The industry failed to police itself. This organization is a good first step in restoring public confidence in the sale of plans that, in my opinion, can be very beneficial to seniors and to others who qualify for Medicare.

Now agents are strongly compelled to provide long term customer service to their clients. Those agents who do so will not only be very productive agents, they will have con-

firmed the value of the advantage plans for today's seniors. This is how the industry will repair the damage done by a few crooked agents.

The agents who formed CARES understand that they will be under the microscope by other agents, the federal and state agencies and this office. I would be very disappointed if they failed to live up to their pledge, but I am confident that will not happen.

CARES El Paso is so new that I do not have a telephone number for them. If you would like to inquire about them, feel free to call my office: 859-3111.

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

CryptoQuip Answer

When a prolonged religious war erupts, does that result in a dogma-eat-dogma world?



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



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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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UTEP Volleyball

versus

Tulane

Thursday, Sept. 17 7:00 PM
MEMORIAL GYM
HOME OPENER
FREE PETE'S PENNIES COUPON BOOK
MILITARY NIGHT- Free entrance with any military ID

UTEP FOOTBALL vs. NMSU
Saturday, September 19- 6:00 PM Aggie Memorial Stadium
Show your Miner pride at the Battle of 1-10
Orange out Aggie Memorial Stadium

UTEP VOLLEYBALL vs. NMSU
TUESDAY, Sept. 22- 7:00 PM- Memorial Gym
Join the battle of 1-10 rematch to help the Miners win !!
FREE entry if you bring in a pair of shoes to donate to Soles 4 Souls
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— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

THE OFFICERS ARE: Alejandra Machado, Claudia Silva, Elizabeth Morales, Perla DeLa Torre, Erica Acosta, Karla Martinez, and April Macias.

San Elizario students ready to serve

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

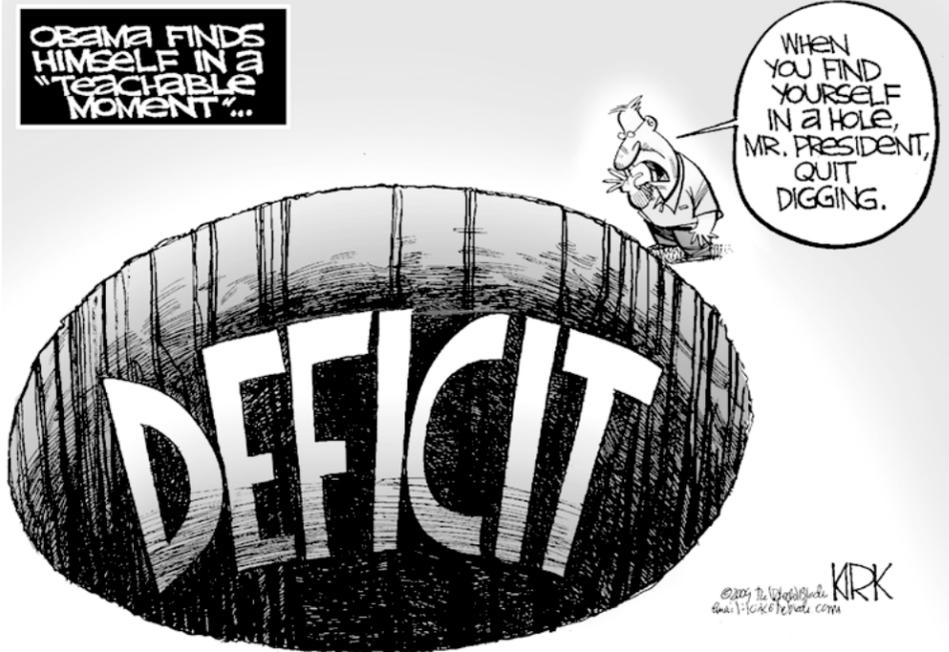
The San Elizario High School SkillsUSA chapter over the years has established a solid record of outstanding performance at both regional and state competitions. In order to continue building their tradition of competitive success, this student organization composed of students enrolled in Career and Technology Education courses such as advertising design, automotive technology, cosmetology, construction careers and information technology, have to begin preparing almost as soon as the first day of school.

cial induction ceremony held on September 2 at the high school campus. The seven SkillsUSA officers will take the lead in contributing to several events throughout the school year which will reinforce the organization's theme "SkillsUSA Champions at Work: Connecting the Opportunities." Some of the other upcoming events that the chapter officers will take part in include the Fall Leadership Conference and school spirit tailgate party.

Student Karla Martinez who was elected as the chapter's reporter is excited about fulfilling the duties of her new position. "As officers we hope to encourage people, not only in our school, but in our community to participate and take part in what we're doing such as the health fair, the drop-out prevention marathon, and making this school year fun-filled,"

The first order of business for San Elizario SkillsUSA Chapter #3562 is electing new officers for the 2009-2010 school year. The newly appointed officers were recognized at a spe-

See SAN ELI, Page 5

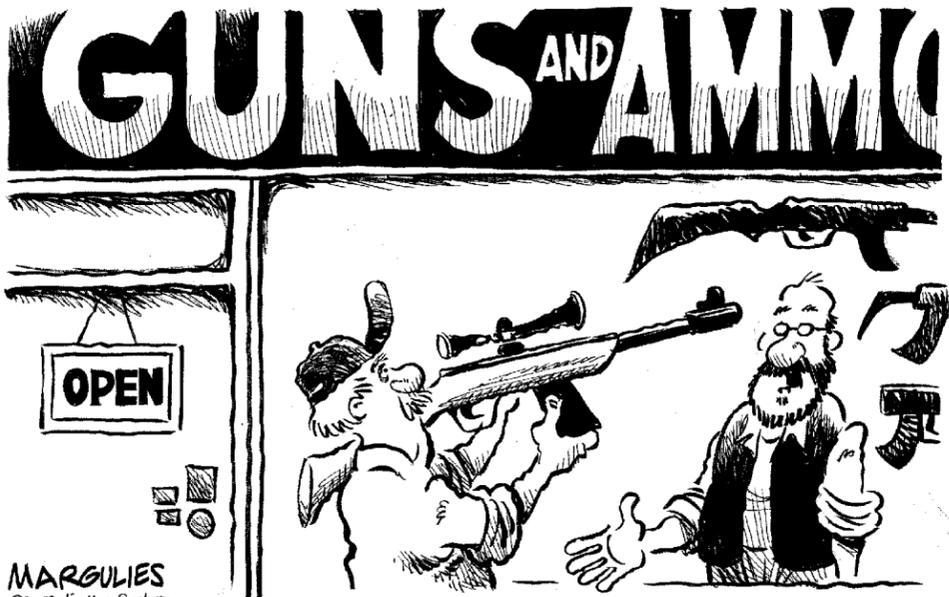


Public Notice
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The October 8 and October 15, 2009 issues will go to press on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

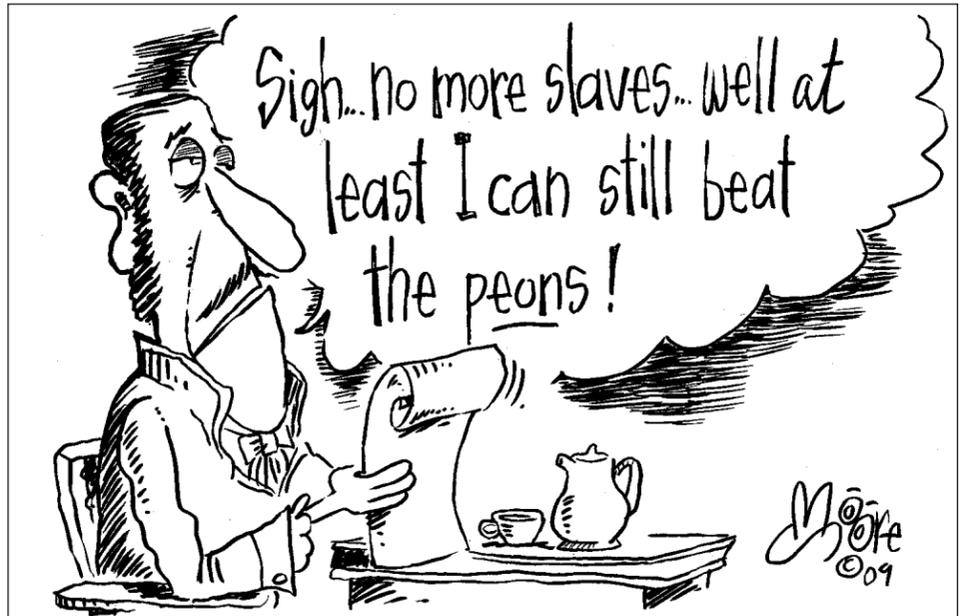
All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Friday, September 25, 2008.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Monday, September 28, 2009. The office will open again on Wednesday, October 14, 2009.



MARGULIES ©2009 Jim.Marg@aol.com

"This one goes just about anywhere... church, national park, town hall meeting... as well as back-to-school night..."



Moore Texas by Roger Moore Sept. 15, 1829: The President of Mexico issues a decree that abolishes slavery .

Briefs

From Page 1

in the early morning hours in apartment or business parking lots when it is less likely the thieves will be seen. In order to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a car burglary, the Sheriff's Department offers the following tips:

- Always close your windows and lock your car doors. An open window or unlocked door is an invitation to a criminal.
- Park in well lit areas close to the building. While parking in an isolated spot may reduce the risk of door dings, a criminal looks for cars parked out of the way in order to help ensure less attention is drawn to them.
- Remove loose valuables from your vehicle. This includes, purses, wallets, cellular phones, laptop computers, and briefcases. A car burglar loves to see items that can be grabbed easily and carried away without much effort. A brick through the window is all

it takes to gain access loose items. • Report suspicious persons wandering around in parking lots or looking into cars. Don't hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious persons. You can call and remain anonymous.

Keep a list of serial numbers for your commonly used electronic equipment. Even if you plan on never leaving a cellular phone or laptop computer in your car, you should record all of the make of item, model number and serial number.

This information is necessary in order to enter the items into the computer database. This will aid the police in trying to locate the items if the offender(s) are found with them or if they are pawned. This will also ensure the property is returned to the rightful owner.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting Police officers from the Mission Valley Regional Command Center who are investigating a series of Burglary of Habitation cases in which the burglar makes his women victims undress,

making this the "Crime of the Week." On Thursday, June 25, between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m., the suspect made entry through a front window into an apartment on the far eastside. The suspect then located the circuit breaker, and turned off electrical power to the bathroom where the victim had been taking a shower. The subject then demanded that the victim pose nude in compromising positions. This same subject is believed to have been involved in two other similar incidents. One was also in east El Paso, on Dec. 23, 2008; and the other was in Horizon City in February. The subject is described as a black man, approximately 5-foot-3 to 5-foot-6 inches tall, with curly black hair, bushy eyebrows, full lips, yellow teeth, and a deep voice. He also had a light growth of beard. In the June 25th incident, he was wearing a blue and yellow printed t-shirt, blue jeans, and black shoes. If you have any information at all about this crime, call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at

www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you could earn a cash reward up to \$1,000.

— James Klaes

Food drive

Socorro High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) is getting a head start on this year's season of giving. For the second year, the NJROTC has partnered with El Paso Coalition for the Homeless Veterans Transitional Living Center to collect canned food to help veterans in need. "We started the program a year ago and it was very successful just within our campus," said Lieutenant Commander Benjamin Spaulding, the Senior Naval Science Instructor. "This year we are branching out and inviting the entire community to help in the effort. We'll take any canned and dry food products that can help our veterans, and we'll make sure it gets to those most in need." Spaulding credits Chief Oscar Reyes and Chief Richard Diaz for the success of the initiative. Reyes

explained why his Cadets chose to continue the food drive for a second year. In Texas, there are over 15,000 homeless veterans that are in need of assistance. The majority of these individuals spend their days roaming the streets with no shelter from the scorching sun or bitter cold. Many go days without eating and look to the generosity of local food banks, homeless shelters, or Veterans Administration (VA) outreach programs for warmth, food and a safe environment before heading back out into the grueling world of homelessness. Individuals and organizations can contribute by delivering donations to the school's Veterans in Need campaign command post, 10150 Alameda Ave, Rm. 5600. Donations are being accepted Monday-Friday during non-instructional periods and after school (7:30-8:10 a.m., 1:36-2:10 p.m. and 3:55-5:30 p.m.) through November 20. For more information on how you can help, please contact Chief Oscar Reyes at 915-937-2063.

— Daniel Escobar

**Lower Valley Water District
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate**

The Lower Valley District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2009 on September 24, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas 79836. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

- FOR the proposal: Rosalinda Vigil, Henry Trujillo, Gerald Grijalva
Alicia L. Fresquez and David Armstrong
- AGAINST the proposal: NONE
- PRESENT and not voting: NONE
- ABSENT: NONE

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.211415/\$100 Adopted	0.209995/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ - 0.001420/\$100
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		- 0.67%
Average appraised value	\$ 66,407	\$ 70,033
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)	0.00	0.00
Average taxable value	\$ 66,407	\$ 70,033
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 140.39	\$ 147.07
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		+ \$6.68
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+ 4.76%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

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- Financing Available

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13400 Ingram	3/2	1,281	62,800	329 Tierra Linda	4/2	1,345	82,400
13566 Inspiration	3/2	1,005	60,800	629 Orchid	3/2	1,179	74,000
672 Danube	4/2	1,300	82,400				

Houses available in Horizon, San Elizario and Fabens



This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

**Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss
Canutillo Independent School District's
State Financial Accountability Rating**

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2009 in the boardroom of the Canutillo ISD Administration Facility, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas.

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

WTCC: 09/17/09 & 09/24/09

**Notice of Public Meeting
To Discuss San Elizario
Independent School District's State
Financial Accountability Rating**

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 7, 2009 in the boardroom of the San Elizario ISD Administration Building, 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, San Elizario, Texas.

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

WTCC: 09/17/09 & 09/24/09

Fabens

From Page 1

Start which will soon become part of the FISD family.

The agency is preparing to move its operations into the old Risinger Elementary School building. Undergoing renovation, the old school is getting a new look. Head Start is expected to open in its new, more spacious facility by the end of October.

Fabens High School

While old buildings are getting a new look, the current high school campus is also taking on a new dimension.

The high school library is expanding. A new wing is under construction and will house a computer lab. Fabens High is also adding four science labs. The cost of the projects is \$1.7 million and is expected to be completed by the end of November.

The new labs would be in operation for the start of the second semester, Garcia says.

Masonic Lodge

The school district purchased the old Fabens Masonic Lodge building for \$135,000 and is converting it to a theater arts facility. It will be used primarily by the band. Completion is expected by January of 2010.

August meeting

The Fabens superintendent says the board approved a \$18.33 million budget for the current school year. This includes a 3 percent general salary increase across the board.

Helped by economic stimulus funds, he says that the budget represents a 5 percent decrease from last year. He adds that the district is not cutting back on its services because of the recession.

In personnel matters, Joe Keith has been named principal of the middle school. Richard Lopez is the new principal of the elementary school.

San Eli

From Page 3

Martinez stated.

The other newly appointed officers include Perla De La Torre, Erica Acosta, Alejandra Machado, April Macias, Claudia Silva, and Elizabeth Morales. Advisor Jose Olivas will be helping these seven new officers prepare to become effective leaders as they serve both their school and community in various capacities. Developing communication, teamwork, and leadership skills is part of the mission of the SkillsUSA organization which also seeks to help students bridge education with business and industry.



"I hate to tell you this, Bill, but when your wife gives you a treadmill for your birthday, that's really more of a message than a gift."

Gonzalez

From Page 1

students interested in teaching careers, specifically in the fields of mathematics and/or science. The selected students receive an all-expenses-paid scholarship to attend the internship program and earn three college credits. While at the camp, Gonzalez experienced field trips, educational films, guest speakers, mentorship from exceptional educators, and firsthand teaching experience in the program's "Kid College," a summer program for elementary students.

"Jannette is a dynamic student who inspires her classmates to excel," said Donna Sianez, who nominated Jannete for the GATE program. "Hopefully, in the near future she will continue to inspire others as a teacher in the SISD."

Jannette is currently enrolled in El Dorado's Ready, Set, Teach II (RST) program, taught by Sianez. RST introduces students to the teaching profession through coursework in child and adolescent development principles as well as principles of effective teaching practices.

Jannette plans to attend The University of Texas at El Paso to study Education after graduating from El Dorado. She looks forward to teaching middle school math.

For more information on the GATE program, please visit the program Web page at <http://gate.tamucc.edu/>.

Canutillo

From Page 1

year we reduced the tax rate by four cents and gave no salary increase to employees, other than a required step increase for teachers. This year we cut over \$850,000 from the budget and still find ourselves with a \$989,000 deficit, primarily due to the state required salary increase," said Tony Reza, Chief Financial Officer for CISD.

"The fact remains that the Legislature is not adequately funding school districts across Texas. They are leaving districts with no alternative but to go to taxpayers with a tax ratification election. For Canutillo ISD, if the voters approve the tax rate adopted by the Board, it will mean nearly \$900,000 in additional State funding. The question we need to ask is whether the Legislature in the next session will be in a financial position to provide the additional funding school districts need," he added.

The district will be holding several informational meetings throughout September and October to inform the public about the TRE. For more information concerning time and location of meetings, you can call the public information office at 877-7482.

Franco

From Page 1

didn't have to let anyone go because of recessionary pressures.

He attributes much of the town's activity to the old real estate maxim — "location, location and location." He points to Anthony's location, easy access just off the interstate and its location between two major cities.

Franco has good news for the taxpayers of Anthony.

He is proposing no new taxes for the Upper Valley community. The reason is that new growth in the town provides the additional operating revenue that would otherwise come from a tax rate increase. He is also proposing an operational budget of approximately \$2.1 million.

Both proposals will come before the Town Council for consideration at its Sept. 22 meeting.

That's not the only good financial news for residents.

A money-saving joint venture with the Anthony Independent School District begins in October. The school district is providing an automotive mechanic, and the town pro-

vides a building for general automotive repairs. The mayor hopes to cut vehicle maintenance costs in half with the AISD partnership. Last year the town spent \$45,000 on vehicle repairs.

In other town matters:

- Working with certificates of obligation, the town has allocated \$600,000 for much-needed street repairs.

- The mayor says the town is in the process of doubling the capacity of its sewer treatment plant to accommodate its growth. With the new capacity, it would be able to handle projected growth until 2030. "We plan for the future, and I think it looks pretty bright."

- Franco says three grants are in the works to benefit. They total approximately \$6 million.

Budgets and bucks aren't the only thing on the mayor's mind. Quality of life issues are important as well.

He speaks of a new 51-acre park, a work in progress on the north side of Antonio Street up to Walgreens. Walking trails have been installed. Picnic tables built along with a skateboard park. Other improvements will bring the park to completion in two years, the mayor says.

Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The TOWN OF HORIZON CITY conducted public hearings on September 4, 2009 and September 11, 2009 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the TOWN OF HORIZON CITY from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 1.80 percent.

The total tax revenue raised last year at last year's tax rate of \$0.294019 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$1,776,825.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.294019 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$1,804,066.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.294019 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$1,871,572.

The City Council of TOWN OF HORIZON CITY is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 22, 2009 at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, Texas 79928 at 6:30 pm.

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Jeter is the real deal

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We've heard the names throughout our lives, names like Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra and Don Mattingly.

It's no secret that the New York Yankees have been the best organization in professional baseball for decades. And when you have the best team you usually own the best players.

Some of those "best players" also include guys like Thurman Munson, Reggie Jackson, Roger Maris and Bernie Williams.

But of all the storied players to don the Yankee pinstripes over the years, no one has ever collected more hits than Derek Jeter.

Jeter passed Gehrig last week to take over the top spot as the New York Yankees hit leader.

Jeter, who is having a tremendous season at the plate at the age of 35, inserted his name in the historic list of Yankee greats after passing Gerhig's total of 2,721 hits.

And though many of Jeter's hits have led to Yankee victories, they aren't the real reason he is such a great player.

I've heard it said that some players have "it," whatever "it" is. I think when they say "it," they mean the player has some of the intangibles that separate him from the rest of the pack.

Forget just the Yankees, Jeter has more of those intangibles than any other player in the major leagues.

Here's what makes the guy so respected among his peers.

First of all, Jeter is loaded with class. Win or lose, he always treats everyone with respect and handles himself like a true professional. How many guys can you say that about these days?

Jeter hustles on every play in the infield or at the plate. He always makes the smart decision.

And most of all he is a leader. Jeter is the captain of the Yankees and it isn't just a title that looks good on his resume. Derek Jeter is just as respected by opposing players and their fans as he is in New York and that about says it all.

But while Jeter always had the aura, now he's accumulating the stats to be considered one of the greatest players of all time.

Hitting around .330 all season, there's no doubt that Jeter will eventually become the first Yankee player ever to collect 3,000 hits - barring injury.

It's great seeing Jeter receive all the accolades he has. Too many times the sports world is dominated by players you wouldn't let stand too close to your kids or pet your dog.

It was once said that nice guys finish last. Unfortunately, too many times that saying is true.

But Derek Jeter reminds us that being decent and working hard is a virtue worth striving toward. By doing so, you'll always be considered a winner, on and off the field.

Is the Price wrong

Is Mike Price in trouble of losing his job? Some UTEP football fans think he is.

There's been a steady decline in progress in the Miners' program over the last three-plus years after Price led the team to back-to-back 8-4 seasons his first two years at the school.

Those first two years ended in bowl game appearances for the team. And though UTEP lost both bowl games, nobody cared. Price had the team winning games and playing on national TV.

But since then, the Miners are a lack-luster 14-24 and look about as bad as they ever have under Price.

UTEP has lost both its home games this season, 23-17 to Buffalo and 34-7 to Kansas, but it isn't the final score that has El Pasoans in a tizzy. It's the unusually high number of mental mistakes, penalties, bad snaps, bad tackling and the off-target passing.

There's no doubt that Price has done a world

of good for the program and his presence gives the team instant credibility — but the victories are coming few and far in between.

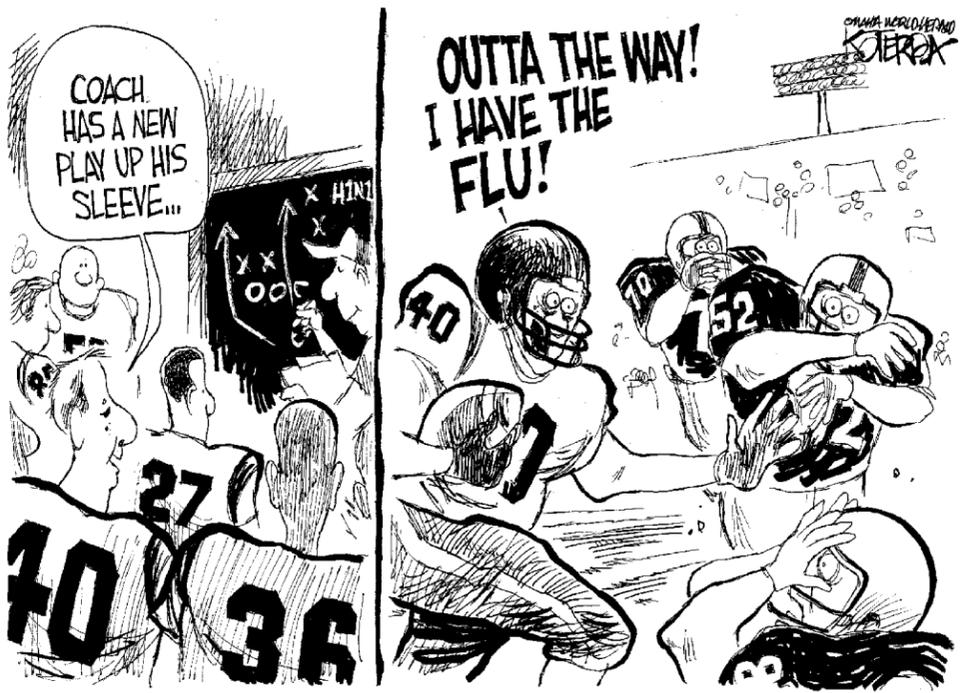
And with second-ranked Texas, Houston, Tulsa, Memphis and Rice still left on the schedule, things could really get ugly.

Oh, and I didn't mention this week's NMSU game which the Miners should win. But UTEP lost to the Aggies 34-33 a year ago, so that is no guarantee.

Would I like to see Price go — of course not.

But he was brought here to win games. If he can't get the Miners to win games in Conference USA, then anyone's job would be in jeopardy.

Meanwhile, the new offensive strategy is being planned:



Classified Ads

LEGALS

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT AN INTERIM FUEL REFUND AND SURCHARGE

On September 1, 2009, El Paso Electric Company (EPE or Company) filed an Application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or Commission) to implement an interim refund of a net over-recovery of fuel costs billed under its fuel factors through July 2009. The docket number assigned to this proceeding is PUC Docket No 37433. This filing was made under P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.237(a)(3)(B). The filing impacts only the fuel portion of the rates charged by EPE for electricity in Texas and has no effect on EPE's non-fuel base rates. This application, if granted, will affect all Texas retail customers who take service under a tariff that has fixed fuel factors.

The total amount of the net over-recovery balance to be refunded through the proposed refund is \$12,172,750, exclusive of interest, through July 31, 2009. The effect of the refund on

customers' bills will vary depending on the rate schedule under which they take service. Some non-residential customers will receive a surcharge. EPE proposes a refund period of one month and requests that the proposed refund be effective with the first billing cycle for the October 2009 billing month. For those customers receiving a surcharge, EPE proposes to spread the surcharge over a three month period, beginning with the first billing cycle for the October 2009 billing month. These changes will be subject to final review by the Commission in EPE's next reconciliation.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this petition may contact El Paso Electric Company at 100 N. Stanton, El Paso, Texas 79901 or call toll-free at 1-(800) 592-1634 (when instructed, press 7, then four-digit extension 5970 plus #) during normal business hours. A complete copy of the petition is also available for inspection at the address listed above. Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this pe-

tion, should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120 or toll-free at (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989.

WTCC: 09/10/09 & 09/17/09

AVISO DE SOLICITUD PARA IMPLEMENTAR PROVISIONALMENTE UN REEMBOLSO Y UN CARGO ADICIONAL POR COMBUSTIBLE

El 1 de Septiembre de 2009, El Paso Electric Company (EPE ó Compañía) presentó una solicitud ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (PUC ó Comisión) para implementar un reembolso provisional por una recuperación neta en exceso de los costos de combustible facturados en los factores de combustible hasta Julio de 2009. El número asignado a este procedimiento en la agenda del día es el No. 37433. Esta solicitud se

realizó en base a P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.237(a)(3)(B). Esta solicitud afecta solamente la parte de combustible de las tarifas de electricidad cobradas en Texas por EPE y no afecta las tarifas base no relacionadas con combustible de EPE. Esta solicitud, de ser autorizada, afectará a todos los clientes de menudeo de Texas que reciben servicio con una tarifa que incluye factores fijos de combustible.

Al 31 de Julio de 2009, el importe total de la recuperación neta en exceso a ser reembolsada a través del reembolso propuesto era \$12,172,750 sin incluir intereses. El efecto del reembolso en los recibos de los clientes será diferente dependiendo de la tarifa bajo la cual reciban servicio. Algunos clientes residenciales recibirán un cargo adicional. EPE ha propuesto un período de reembolso de un mes y ha solicitado que el reembolso propuesto sea efectivo con el primer ciclo de facturación del mes Octubre de 2009. Para aquellos clientes que recibirán un cargo adicional, EPE

propone repartir el cargo adicional en un período de tres meses iniciando con el primer ciclo de facturación del mes de Octubre de 2009. Estos cargos están sujetos a ser autorizados finalmente por la Comisión en la siguiente reconciliación de EPE.

Las personas que tengan preguntas o que deseen mayor información acerca de esta solicitud, pueden comunicarse con El Paso Electric Company en la dirección 100 N. Stanton, El Paso, Texas 79901 ó pueden llamar sin costo al 1-(800) 592-1634 (cuando se les solicite, oprima el número 7, seguido por la extensión 5970, seguido por la tecla #) en horas normales de oficina. Una copia completa de la solicitud se encuentra también disponible para su consulta en la dirección arriba mencionada. Las personas que deseen participar formalmente en este proceso o que deseen expresar sus comentarios en relación a esta solicitud deberán comunicarse a la

Oficina de Protección al Consumidor de la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas al P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, ó pueden llamar al (512) 936-7120 ó llamar sin costo al (888) 782-8477. Las personas con impedimento del habla o del oído que cuenten con teléfonos de texto (TTY) pueden llamar al (512) 936-7136 ó utilizar Relay Texas (sin costo) 1-800-735-2989.

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able 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. Información: 838-6264.

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AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Paul G. Donohue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Please discuss peripheral artery disease. I think I have it. I get calf pain when I walk. I have seen the ads on TV where a woman and her grandson discuss this. The boy asks her if she has it. She says she doesn't know. That's where I am. I don't know, but I think I might. — N.O.

he can check the status of your heart arteries. There are medicines for both conditions, as well as recommendations for diet changes and exercise.

Peripheral artery disease, PAD, also called peripheral vascular disease, means that arteries in the legs — the periphery — are clogged and leg muscles aren't getting enough blood. The proof comes from walking. People with PAD get leg pain when they walk a certain distance, and they can tell you almost to the inch when the pain will start. The pain leaves when they take a rest, but returns after they have resumed walking.

The booklet on peripheral vascular disease treats this topic in great depth. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue — No. 109W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

The site of pain depends on where the blockage occurs. Pain in the buttock or thigh indicates a blockage high in the leg arteries. Pain in the calf comes from a block from midthigh to knee, and pain in the foot comes from a lower blockage.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My husband is on blood pressure and cholesterol-lowering medicine. He is now trying herbal medicines ordered from a catalog. I understand that when you are on medicines, you should consult your doctor before making changes or discontinuing them. My husband says that he is going to stop all medicines. He is 57. I always thought blood-pressure medicine was for life. What is the truth? — P.

PAD is a common malady. Five percent of men and 2.5 percent of women over 60 have it, even though some have no symptoms.

The truth is that stopping medicines without consulting the doctor is foolhardy. Some people can get off blood-pressure medicine by adhering to a strict, low-salt diet, losing weight and exercising. And some people can get off cholesterol medicine by adopting a low-fat — especially low-saturated-fat — diet. Giving up medicines blindly is asking for trouble, as is substituting unproven remedies.

A doctor can make the diagnosis in the office. If there's an obstruction to blood flow in the leg arteries, the pulses at the ankle and on the top of the foot will be weak. Many doctors are equipped to take the ankle blood pressure. The blood pressure at the ankle should be the same as the blood pressure in the arm. If it's much less, that indicates an obstruction to blood flow in the leg artery.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2009 North America Synd., Inc.

People with PAD often have CAD, coronary artery disease. The same process that clogs leg arteries also clogs heart arteries. You must see your doctor. He can check the status of your leg arteries, and

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King Super Crossword

- SNAP SHOT**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Unoriginal thinker?
 - 6 Shimon of Israel
 - 11 Sack
 - 14 Actress Tilly
 - 17 Fit to feast on
 - 19 Barber of Seville
 - 20 _ Baba
 - 21 Conduit fitting
 - 22 Speaker of remark
 - at 44 Across
 - 25 Golfer's gadget
 - 26 Inventor Whitney
 - 27 Playing card
 - 28 Caustic
 - 29 Actress Alicia
 - 30 Spool
 - 31 Karloff's colleague
 - 35 Riyadh's religion
 - 37 Deal with a dragon
 - 40 Iraqi city
 - 41 "Forget it!"
 - 44 Start of remark
 - 51 Bustle
 - 52 Home on high
 - 53 Russian ruler
 - 54 Caviar
 - 55 _ Branco, Brazil
 - 56 Musical chord
 - 57 Brandy bottle
 - 59 Adds lace
 - 61 London gallery
 - 63 Always, poetically
 - 64 Bucket
 - 65 Monks' milieus
 - 67 Glowing
 - 69 Sharpshooter
- DOWN**
- 1 Marseilles mother
 - 2 Adored one
 - 3 Conservative skirt
 - 4 - Saud
 - 5 Baseball's Boyer
 - 6 Brooch
 - 7 "The _ and I" ('47 film)
 - 8 Actress Cassidy
 - 9 Miscalculate
 - 10 Couches
 - 11 Boxer Max
 - 12 " _ Really Want to Do" ('65 hit)
 - 13 More lightheaded
 - 14 Ancient science
 - 15 Actress Verdugo
 - 16 Shimmer
 - 18 Bronte heroine
 - 19 Weldon or Wray
 - 23 Mario _ Monaco
 - 24 Reserve
 - 30 Rug type
 - 31 Spiked the punch
 - 32 Dos Passos trilogy
 - 33 Kennel threat
 - 34 Paddle
 - 36 _ Tome
 - 37 Hurt
 - 38 Actress Cornell
 - 39 In progress
 - 40 Herding dog
 - 42 1970 World's Fair site
 - 43 Historic org.
 - 45 Make a doily
 - 46 "From _ Eternity" ('53 film)
 - 47 Buffalo waterfront
 - 48 Pasta peninsula
 - 49 Refusals
 - 50 _ Moines, IA
 - 57 Lost luster
 - 58 Schubert song
 - 59 Recede
 - 60 Mailer's "The _ Park"
 - 62 First name in scat
 - 64 Kid at court
 - 66 Hungarian composer
 - 68 Unwell
 - 70 Raring to go
 - 71 Distinctive eras
 - 73 British spa
 - 74 Strove
 - 75 Religious sects
 - 78 Comic Johnson
 - 80 Maintains
 - 81 Baryshnikov, familiarly
 - 82 Couturier Jean
 - 83 Diner order
 - 85 Typical
 - 86 Destined
 - 87 _ Lanka
 - 90 "Stroker _" ('83 film)
 - 94 Cops' org.
 - 95 Prohibited
 - 96 "Kookie" Byrnes
 - 97 Mispickel or galena
 - 98 "Bah!"
 - 99 Society miss
 - 103 Bucolic
 - 104 Harden
 - 106 Full of gossip
 - 107 Sea plea
 - 108 Rob of "The West Wing"
 - 109 Midwestern airport
 - 112 Church area
 - 113 Prayer finale
 - 114 Seed
 - 115 Dismounted
 - 116 Art _
 - 117 And more of the same
 - 120 Ideologue's suffix
 - 121 Singing syllable
 - 122 "Tell _ No" ('65 hit)
 - 123 Female turkey
 - 124 Bagel partner

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Canutillo students produce short film

Film shows this Friday

By Stella Gutierrez
Special to the Courier

A nerdy kid falls asleep in the library and meets up with characters like Peter Pan and Captain Hook from Neverland, and Elphaba and Dorothy from Oz.

Sound far-fetched? Not as far as you might think as 14 young people put together a short film, "A Night at the Library" at The Jenna Welch and Laura Bush Community Library in Northwest El Paso.

The exploits of young Tuck and a host of fairy tale characters will be unveiled at the premiere of the film Friday, Sept. 18, at the EPCC Northwest Library, 6701 S. Desert

Blvd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Under the tutelage of El Paso filmmaker David Flores, students from the Northwest Early College High School produced the movie. They participated in the Library's "Digital Moviemaking" class that Flores taught in July and August as part of the library's 2009 Summer Program. The class was designed to help students unlock their creative potential and teach them to work collaboratively.

Using the exceptional technology available at the Northwest Campus Library, the students developed their movie and learned to write with concise, crisp language, discovered their own voice and vision, developed leadership skills in directing actors, planned a filming schedule, and learned how to use camera angles, and sound and lighting techniques.

As part of the collaboration, stu-

dents from El Paso KIDS-N-CO. were cast in the project. With actors, costumes and make-up from the theater organization, "A Night at the Library" came to life.

The film experience was a successful partnership between the Northwest Early College High School, El Paso Community College, El Paso Public Library and El Paso KIDS-N-CO.

Student filmmakers from the Northwest Early College High School are Julian Rodriguez, Andres Rodriguez, Arturo Ayon, Sahir Nur, and Paul Alfaro.

Student actors from KIDS-N-CO. are Jim Lupercio, Mary Rochford, Eric Myers, Tori Castillo, Skyler Carreon, Brennan Patrick, Ashley Martinez, David Martinez, Kayla Lujan, and James Myers. Other students who participated, but not featured in the film, are Erin Oppenheim and Zerah Sather.

Meraz chosen for leadership program

By Christine Gleason
Special to the Courier

FABENS — Jo Marie Meraz, a Fabens High School Junior, was accepted as part of the Junior Leadership Class of 2009. Meraz is currently a member of the National Honor Society, the Cheerleading Team, and the Student Council. She plays volleyball and softball and helps coach little league over the summer.

Under the recommendation of the head little league coach, Alex Gonzalez, Meraz filled out application and was accepted into the program. She is the first student from the high school to be selected to participate in this program.

Junior Leadership El Paso is an innovative program for area high school juniors with the potential to become El Paso's next generation of leaders. Based on the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce's successful adult program, Junior Leadership El Paso is tailored for high school juniors who receive a hands-on education about El Paso's issues, history, challenges and opportunities. Participants tour the region and meet face-to-face with some of the area's top business, government, arts, health care, education, military and economic leaders.

Junior Leadership El Paso also offers the unique opportunity for students to meet and interact with other high school students from across the El Paso area, providing them with the communication skills and the confidence and leadership ability they will need to give them a running start toward success.

"I hope this opportunity will help me grow as a person," Meraz said. "I am looking forward to learning how to do things on my own and to meeting important business leaders in El Paso and all of the other students who have been selected for this opportunity. I am proud to represent Fabens."

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Canadian actor and comedian Leslie Nielsen who made the following sage observation: "Doing nothing is very hard to do... you never know when you're finished."

- A 22-year-old man who was trying to board a flight in Cairo, Egypt, bound for Saudi Arabia was recently stopped by security officers when the X-ray of his hand luggage showed some strange results. It seems that the man was attempting to transport 250 baby crocodiles and — wait for it — a live cobra. (Animal lovers will be pleased to learn that the creatures were not harmed; they were turned over to the Cairo Zoo.)

- In Thailand, it is illegal to step on any of that nation's currency.

- Are you a cacographer? You may not be, but if you spend any time at all online you've certainly run across a few. A cacographer is someone who can't quite grasp the rules of spelling.

- Researchers in Greece who recently completed a study on napping found that men who nap at least three times a week were at a 37 percent lower risk for heart-related death. So now you have an excuse to do what you want to do anyway.

- If you've ever had to navigate the transportation systems throughout Walt Disney World in Florida, you might not be surprised to learn that the theme park complex covers 47 square miles. To put the figure in perspective, that's twice the size of Manhattan Island.

- It's possible for a nectarine tree to grow from a peach pit, and vice versa.

- A man named Robert Boyd entered a lingerie shop and attempted to hold up the store using a Japanese sword. A fan of video games, Boyd claimed in his defense that at the time of the holdup, he believed he was an elf.

- Thought for the Day: "Only the madman is absolutely sure." — Robert Anton Wilson

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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: X equals I

YVKC T HGJFJCSKB GKFXSXJOE

YTG KGOHUE, BJKE UVTU

GKEOFU XC T BJSZT-KTU-

BJSZT YJGFB?

Answer Page 2

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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

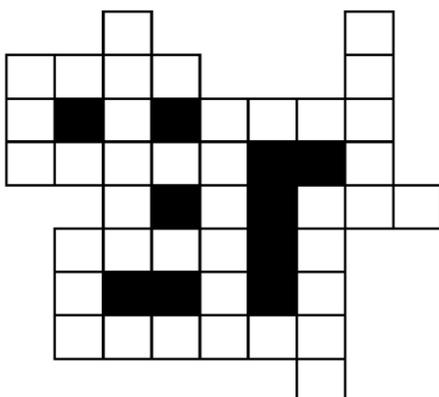
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★★★ HOO BOY!

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FEAR KNIGHT
By: rj johnson
CONQUER THE WHIRLED

- RYF
- THOGET
- RESHE
- TEDF
- ♥GASNOR
- YAR
- ♥REGO
- HOYTU
- ♥ODS
- SUFFEE
- GROOF
- ♥TARF



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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.