

NEWSBRIEFS



Jo Anne Bernal

County Attorney

Former First Assistant County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal was sworn-in as El Paso County Attorney on Tuesday Nov. 17, 2009. Bernal has been a practicing attorney for 22 years and represents elected and appointed officials in litigation in state and federal court. In addition to handling complex litigation, she supervises 35 attorneys who practice both civil and criminal law in areas of practice that range in diversity from civil rights litigation to juvenile prosecution. She has worked for County Attorney's office since Oct. 1993. Her term of office will run until November 2010, right after the results of the constitutional election are canvassed.

— Elhiu Dominguez

Luminarias

The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society (www.epcounty.com/sanelizario museum) will once again sponsor their annual Luminarias and Posadas Event on Saturday, December 19, 2009 at Los Portales Museum, 1521 San Elizario Road, in San Elizario. The placita and surrounding historic area will be adorned with luminarias and Christmas decorations. A live Christmas posadas re-enactment will be performed by actors/singers from the community. Traditional food, tamales, menudo, champurrado will be available for a small donation. The children will delight with Mr. and Mrs Santa Claus, and other Christmas goodies. Festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. and admission is free. Information: Eloisa Levario, 851-1682.

Schools closed

School districts across El Paso County will close for Thanksgiving. Anthony, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario, Socorro and Tornillo Independent School Districts will be closed from Nov. 23-27, 2009. Canutillo ISD will close from Nov. 25-27, 2009. All districts will resume classes on Monday, Nov. 30, 2009.

Much trouble is caused by our yearnings getting ahead of our earnings.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

COMMUNITY SERVICE — Students in Heather Atherton's first grade class, at Jose Damian Elementary School, proudly display the many food items donated during the school's recent Thanksgiving Food collection drive.

Canutillo students collect food for Thanksgiving

1,600 food items donated for the Salvation Army food bank

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Students and staff from Jose H. Damian Elementary School (JDE), in the Canutillo Independent School District, recently held a Thanksgiving food drive to help provide canned goods and other food items for the less fortunate in the community.

This is the second year that pre-kindergar-

ten through fifth grade classes have participated in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Students brought in food items on a daily basis from Nov. 4 through 13, and deposited them in collection boxes that were set up in a classroom. Donations amounted to more than 1,600 food items that will be turned over to the Salvation Army's food bank.

"The food drive took place as a service project for our students to understand that it is important to give back to our community by helping the less fortunate," said Marsha Fintell, JDE Assistant Principal.

The school organized the collection as a contest between the classes to raise aware-

ness about the less fortunate and to garner wide support from parents and the community. As incentives, three prizes including a pizza party, ice cream party, and popcorn party were awarded to the first, second and third place classes that brought in the most food items. First place was awarded to Heather Atherton's first grade class.

"My students were extremely excited about being able to help others and made it a point to bring in cans on a daily basis. They have now decided that they would like to write a story about helping others in their writing journals," said Atherton.

Clint Independent School District receives high state ratings

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

Clint Independent School District (CISD) received Gold Performance Acknowledgements for high student performance on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test and other specific indicators not used to determine accountability ratings. The announcement came earlier this month from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The District was awarded for the number of students who received commended performance in social studies and for comparable improvement in reading. In addition, eleven campuses received Gold Performance Acknowledgements for several of the 15 total indicators including attendance rate, comparable improvement in reading or math, and commended performance on the TAKS test.

The news of the Gold Performance Acknowledgement awards complimented achievements CISD realized with the 2009 accountability ratings for student performance on the TAKS test. CISD administration and all campuses showed gains in the state accountability ratings for 2009. CISD is rated "Acceptable" by TEA. Frank Macias Elementary is rated "Exemplary". Six campuses earned a "Recognized" rating and the remaining five are rated "Acceptable". All three campuses in the Clint High



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

The photo above of Surratt Elementary students hangs in the "Hall of Fame" at the Region 19 Education Service Center. Surratt Elementary is part of the Clint High School Feeder Pattern where all three schools are rated "Recognized" by TEA. Clint Junior High is the third school.

School feeder pattern each received a "Recognized" rating and include Surratt Elementary, Clint Junior High School and Clint High School.

"Our students are meeting the challenges

See CLINT ISD, Page 4



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Being thankful

Hola, mi gente. First of all, on behalf of my family and staff, I hope you and your family enjoy a very special holiday. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

As you enjoy turkey, deserts, libations and Dallas Cowboy football, please take a moment to reflect on the things for which we need to be

thankful.

Be thankful for the warmth of your home. Some residents in El Paso county have a very difficult time heating their homes. Many residents in the county do not have natural gas piped into their home so they must rely on propane. There is no payment plan for those who use propane. They must fill a tank and when it is gone, pay a premium price (which is based on the increasing gasoline prices) to replenish their heat source. Seniors on fixed incomes are especially victimized by the propane providers.

Be thankful for safe and clean water that is piped into your home. Because the American dream is only available to some in areas where there is no piped water, residents

must drill for well water or truck water in to their homes for consumption. Along with potable water, many still have septic tanks for sewage purposes. Some of them have systems that are functionally unsafe.

Be thankful for the home in which you observe Thanksgiving Day. Look around at the pictures on the wall and the furniture in the room. Imagine spending your last day in your house and looking at empty floors and barren walls. Many in our county have, in the last few years, purchased their home only to lose it in the last year because of skyrocketing mortgage payments or lost jobs.

Be thankful for the job you have. From the income you earned, you were able to pay for the gas, water and home in which you live. Many have lost their jobs and have lost so much.

Be thankful for your health and the insurance coverage by which you

remain healthy. Many without insurance must endure illness until it is so serious they must go to the emergency room. This is especially sad for parents who struggle to keep their children healthy.

Be thankful that your family members are safe either in El Paso or somewhere else in the United States. Many families have members stationed in hostile areas; especially the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. Take a moment to pray for the well being of all of our military.

Be thankful that you live on this side of the Rio Grande. The conditions over there are as close to hostile living conditions as any of us would want to be. We are after all the third safest city in the world.

Enjoy your holiday and be safe. Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

G.I. Bill backlog leaves vets in lurch

With the economy being in the shape it's in, a record number of people have decided to sit it out — and go back to school. Veterans are a healthy portion of that number.

The new G.I. Bill, with its cash benefit, is a good impetus for veterans to enroll.

The problem? Getting the money. The Department of Veterans Affairs didn't expect to be so swamped with education claims.

Recently, the delays in getting the funds out were so long that the VA came up with a way for veterans to get their checks pronto: Appear in person at the closest regional office, and a check would be cut while you wait. I imagine the VA hoped that would take care of the backlog and get things back on the right track.

Well, it didn't. Unfortunately, that payment at the regional office was a one-time deal. If you've done it once, you can't do it again.

Now the solution, it says, is to hire an outside contractor.

Don't those two words — out-

side contractor — just send a shiver down your spine?

It's said that the outside contractors will weed through the backlog by doing enrollment certification. VA personnel will actually make the claims decisions. At this point, the VA has put out a solicitation for a contractor to handle the work.

Bottom line: If you're stuck in this no-check scenario, don't give up. Stay in school. Talk to the people in the appropriate department and see if you can make arrangements to pay your tuition later. Maybe you can take out a school loan for expenses and pay it off when the checks come in. Just don't quit. These education benefits are yours. You've earned them.

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.

View from here By William Wilson

DeMint's call for term limits

If the year of the "Tea Party" and the summer of the "Town Hall" are to bring lasting change to the American political system, then the elected representatives of both parties need to heed the fundamental message that was sent.

That message? "Enough is enough."

Unfortunately, the vast majority of Washington politicians are refusing to listen — which is nothing new, sadly.

This is just one of many reasons why U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint (one of the few elected leaders who is listening to the voice of the people) couldn't have picked a better time to seize upon the necessity and importance of term limits for the U.S. Congress.

Fifteen years ago, Republicans were swept into power pledging to bring fundamental change to Washington — including term limits. Of course, along with most of the promises contained in the "Contract with America," term limits were abandoned very soon after the election.

Does that sound familiar? It should.

This year, we're seeing a whole new batch of un-kept political promises from President Barack Obama — like a "middle class tax cut" that has been drowned beneath a rising tide of bureaucratic red ink. For all his inspiring talk of "changing Washington," Obama has shown absolutely no interest whatsoever when it comes to taking on Washington's entrenched network of special interests and career politicians.

And more than anything else, this entrenched network is the problem.

In fact, if the American political experience has taught us anything over the past two decades, it's that we don't need any more politicians promising us change — we need to change the politicians. And change them regularly, as Senator DeMint has proposed.

After all, each year the ruling class in America gets a little bit further out of touch with the people they claim to represent. For example, look no further than the visceral reaction of many elected officials to the recent public outpouring of support for limited government principles. Not only do we have another epidemic of tone deafness in our nation's capital, but many of the lobbyist-led, special interest-fed "leaders" in Congress have adopted a strategy of denigrating their constituents — branding them as "brown shirts" or using other pejorative terms to paint them (and their limited government beliefs) as un-American.

More importantly, the wishes of the "not-so-Silent Majority" are nowhere to be found as several decidedly un-American bills sail through the halls of the U.S. Congress. For example, after the August recess, lawmakers briefly killed a so-called "public option" to President Barack Obama's health care bill — only to bring this anti-free market provision back to life once the bill had cleared a critical Senate Committee vote.

Also, many politicians — including U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham — are now cozying up to supporters of a "Cap and Trade" tax hike that even Obama's own Treasury Department admits will result in a huge annual increase in the average American family's energy bill. On top of all this, soaring deficits and a skyrocketing national debt are saddling current and future generations of Americans with a tab they'll never be able to repay.

Our right to protest these grievances is also coming under attack, as the Federal Communication Commission is now home to several Obama appointees who have publicly advocated in favor of the suppression of free speech on talk radio and the Internet.

Clearly, we've got to take these generic notions of "change" a step further if we are to set this nation's steps back on a path to prosperity and personal freedom.

In consistently standing up for free markets and individual liberty — and against bailouts, socialized medicine and censorship — Jim DeMint has earned a reputation as one of the few principled, fiscally-responsible lawmakers in Washington. But Senator DeMint knows that these principled stands will only take good government so far — there also must be a mechanism in place that prevents politicians from becoming part of Washington's self-serving ruling class.

By proposing that House members limit themselves to three terms (six years) and Senators to two terms (12 years), DeMint is creating this mechanism — and taking the fight directly to an age-old system of political spoils that continues to resist both parties' promises of "change."

Term limits exist already for the President, most governors and fifteen state legislatures. It's time we bring them to the U.S. Congress, and in so doing strike a blow for "change that taxpayers can believe in."

William Wilson is president of Americans for Limited Government.



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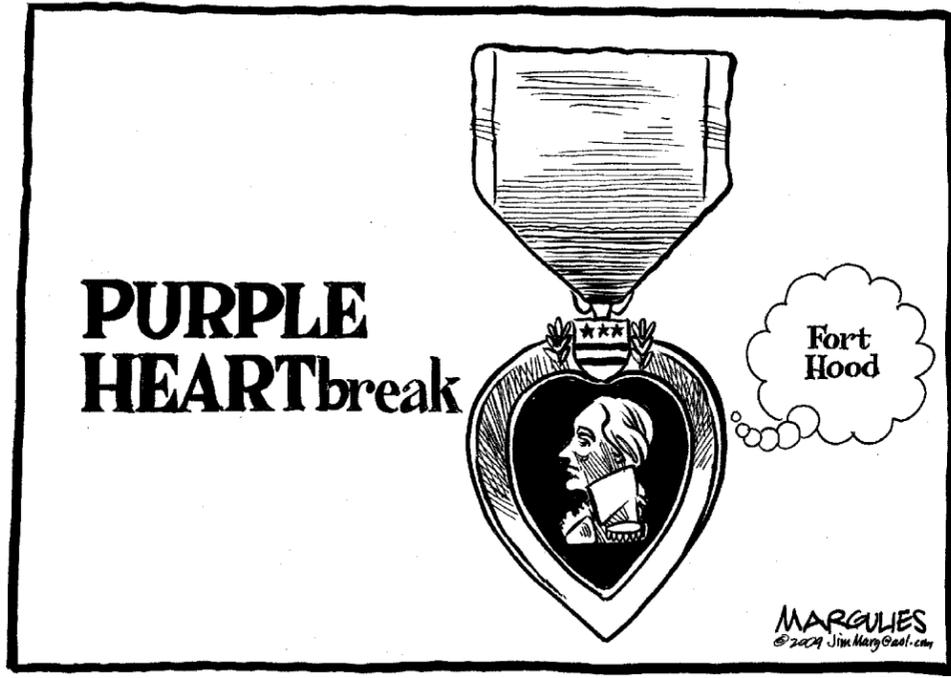
MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtcc@wtcc.com
Website: wtcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Jan Engels

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Open season is here

Time to hunt for prescription drug plans

By Ray Vigil
Special to the Courier

Hunting season is upon us; time to set your target for the Medicare prescription drug plan that's best for you.

Newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries, and current beneficiaries who are considering changes to their Medicare Part D plan, should mark their calendars for November 15. The "open season" will run from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31.

The Medicare Part D prescription drug program is available to all Medicare beneficiaries to help with the costs of medications. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary, and participants pay an additional monthly premium for the coverage.

While all Medicare beneficiaries can participate in the prescription drug program, some people with limited income and resources also are eligible for "extra help" to pay for monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. The extra help is worth an average of \$3,900 per year.

To figure out whether you are eligible for the extra help, Social Security needs to know your income and the value of any savings, investments, and real estate (other than the home you live in). To qualify, you must be receiving Medicare and also have:

Income limited to \$16,245 for an individual or \$21,855 for a married couple living together. Even if your annual income is higher, you still

may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. Some examples where your income may be higher include if you or your spouse:

- Support other family members who live with you;
- Have earnings from work; or
- Live in Alaska or Hawaii; and

Resources limited to \$12,510 for an individual or \$25,010 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks, and bonds. We do not count your house or car as resources.

You can complete an easy-to-use online application for the extra help at www.socialsecurity.gov. Click on Medicare on the top right side of the page. Then click on "Apply for help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs." To apply for the extra help by phone or have an application mailed to you, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs (SSA-1020). Or go to your nearest Social Security office.

And if you would like more information about the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program itself, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

So this open season, hunt for something that could put \$3,900 in your pocket — bag the best Medicare prescription drug plan for you and see if you qualify for the extra help through Social Security.



USDA livestock disaster assistance deadlines near

By Jaime Bustamante
Special to the Courier

WEST TEXAS — Eligible ranchers and livestock producers in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson counties have until the Dec. 10 deadline for applying for benefits under the provisions of the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for losses incurred during calendar year 2008. For losses incurred during the 2009 calendar year, the deadline to apply for benefits is Jan. 30, 2010.

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. Fire losses apply only to federally managed rangeland. Eligible livestock under LFP include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine. For losses due to drought, qualifying drought ratings are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor located at <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

It is imperative that livestock producers meet these deadlines for disaster assistance as there are no late file provisions for LFP. To insure a smooth application process, producers should

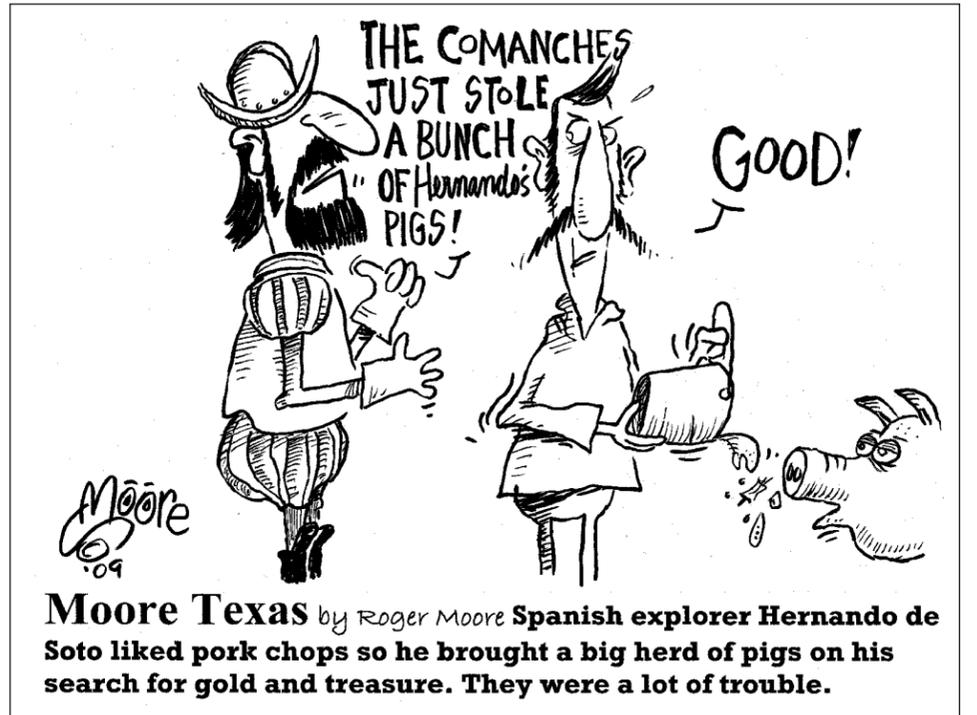
have all required supporting documentation with them at the time they visit the USDA office to apply for benefits.

In order for an LFP applicant to qualify for program benefits, the applicant must have purchased Farm Service Agency (FSA) insurance coverage through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance (PRF) program offered through the Risk Management Agency.

Producers who meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers or ranchers, as defined in the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Section 2501 (e) (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)), do not have to meet this Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) and, therefore, are not required to have paid the buy-in fee.

For more information or to apply for LFP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please contact the El Paso-Hudspeth-Culberson County FSA office at (915) 857-0351 x2. Information can also be obtained on line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Jaime Bustamante is Executive Director of the El Paso-Hudspeth-Culberson County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).



Moore Texas by Roger Moore Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto liked pork chops so he brought a big herd of pigs on his search for gold and treasure. They were a lot of trouble.

Probationers hold fifth turkey drive

By Guadalupe Silva
Special to the Courier

While Thanksgiving may not be a time to celebrate for some El Pasoans on probation, they are making sure some needy families will celebrate our national holiday with a turkey dinner.

El Paso's Adult Probation Department is kicking off its fifth annual Turkey Drive, hoping to collect at least 2,000 gobblers for distribution to such families through local nonprofit and civic organizations. Last year, the West Texas Community

Supervision and Corrections Department (a.k.a. Adult Probation) collected nearly 1,300 turkeys from as many probationers. Each probationer is expected to donate a 15 to 20-pound turkey in exchange for 10 hours of community service. More than 10,000 El Pasoans are currently on probation.

"It would be great if every probationer could donate a turkey to our drive," said Sergio Apodaca, turkey drive coordinator for Adult Probation's Community Service Program. "Unfortunately, many of them would themselves qualify to be a turkey recipient. Still, those who donate,

do so feeling great about doing something good for their community."

The Turkey Drive, which kicked off Monday, will continue until 3 p.m. November 25. All turkeys must be frozen at the time of donation to the Community Service Program Center at 1015 Campbell Street. The Center will then distribute the turkeys to Socorro Middle and North Loop Elementary Schools, as well as to other schools in the Socorro, Ysleta and El Paso districts. Turkeys also will be distributed to the Houchen Community Center, Region 19's Homeless and Migrant Education Program, to

the Grace Christian Center, Aids Empowerment and other nonprofit organizations.

"Our purpose in getting probationers involved with the community is to make them feel that despite their mistakes, they are still part of the El Paso family," Stephen L. Enders, Adult Probation director said. "By donating their money, time and effort to helping those in need, they get to raise their self-esteem through feelings of belonging."

For more information on the Adult Probation Turkey Drive call: Luis Canales or Sergio Apodaca at 771-8510.

Canutillo schools, teachers receive DATE grant stipends

By Patricia Tidwell
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Two of Canutillo Independent School District's (CISD) campuses, Alderete Middle School (AMS) and Canutillo Middle School (CMS), were awarded with the "District Awards for Teacher Excellence" (DATE) grant for the 2008-09 school year. The award provides a stipend to all the teachers and staff of each of these schools for producing outstanding student achievement at their campuses.

The DATE grant is a state incentive program for school districts the Texas Legislature created in 2006 to increase teacher performance and student success. Each campus received approximately \$192,000 in grant funding, totaling just over \$384,000.

"AMS was thrilled to receive the DATE grant," said Annette Brigham, former Principal of AMS. "All employees at Alderete have worked hard to make AMS a unique and dynamic learning environment for middle school learners. Our TAKS scores and attendance have led our district,

and this shows a commitment of excellence to all employees who serve our students," added Brigham.

DATE grant stipends were handed out at the beginning of this school year and distributed among staff at both Alderete and Canutillo Middle Schools.

The DATE grant allows districts in

Texas to create or continue a system of awards for educators, who are demonstrating success in the classroom. The program is also giving districts the opportunity to create a local award plan to reward those teachers and principals who have positively impacted student academic improvement, growth and achievement.

Clint ISD

From Page 1

presented to them. With the continued hard work of our teachers and staff and the support of our parents and community, our students will undoubtedly continue to show academic gains," said Dr. Edward Gabaldon, Superintendent.

The achievements of all CISD campuses were recognized by the Board of Trustees and



Edward Gabaldon

proudly displayed at the CISD Administration Building to note the TEA rating of each campus. Additionally, the "Exemplary" and "Recognized" schools of the District were honored by the Education Service Center for Region 19 during a "Hall of Fame" ceremony. Special photos of students from Frank Macias Elementary, Surratt Elementary, Clint Junior High, Clint High School, Desert Hills Elementary, C.T. Welch Intermediate and Red Sands Elementary hang in the "Hall of Fame" at the service center.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Serbian electrical engineer and inventor Nikola Tesla who made the following sage observation: "One must be sane to think clearly, but one can think deeply and be quite insane."

- You may be surprised to learn that in 1980, the mayor of Detroit gave the key to the city to Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

- If you're planning a trip to Minnesota anytime soon, you might want to stop in the town of Pipestone to see its claim to roadside-attraction fame: a 30-foot-long peace pipe.

- If you think postage rates are getting high now, consider this: To send mail by Pony Express originally cost \$5 per ounce — and that was when a dollar was worth a whole lot more than it is today.

- The World Health Organization does not include cockroaches on its list of insects hazardous to human health.

- It was in 2006 at a Christian youth conference in Atlanta that the world's largest recorded pillow fight took place, with some 10,000 teenagers taking part in the festivities.

- American author Ken Kesey is best known for his novel "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which is set in a veterans' hospital. He got the inspiration for the novel from work he did with patients while working the night shift at Menlo Park Veterans Hospital — a job from which he was later fired.

- If you're ever vacationing in Denmark's capital city, you might want to keep in mind this unusual statute: It is against the law in Copenhagen for an unmarried couple wearing bathing suits to kiss on the beach.

Thought for the Day: "I like an escalator because an escalator can never break, it can only become stairs. There would never be an escalator temporarily out of order sign, only an escalator temporarily stairs. Sorry for the convenience." — Mitch Hedberg

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but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/tx

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— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

STANDING TALL — The Socorro HS Navy JROTC is having its Annual Military Inspection (AMI) at the Socorro HS athletic field, 10150 Alameda Ave., on Thursday, Dec. 3. The Color Honor Guard, above, will be in the inspection. The community is invited to observe one of the best units in the country. The inspection will begin at 9 a.m. with a pass-in-review at 10:15 a.m. The inspecting officer will be Commander Brent Phillips, Commanding Officer of the Navy Recruiting District Phoenix, out of Phoenix, AZ. The inspection will consist of a personnel inspection, a basic marching drill and the pass-in-review. Following the review, the group's two award-winning drill teams will perform. Socorro's Navy JROTC enjoys being in the top 30 percent of all units in the nation for the past 21 years and has continued its winning streak at the state qualifier meet. For the first time, all of the group's special teams won a trophy. The unit has qualified for the state drill meet the last six years at Texas A&M and the Rifle Team has won the state championship the last two years.

— Daniel R. Escobar



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

THANK YOU — Students at Bill Childress Elementary School wave flags to pay tribute to local heroes as they parade through the hallways at the school on Veteran's Day.

Canutillo ISD students salute veterans

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Students and staff in the Canutillo Independent School District honored all former soldiers by recently holding Veteran's Day activities at several of the schools.

Veteran's Day has been celebrated since 1919, when November 11 was set aside as Armistice Day, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during the war and to give thanks for peace. In the 1950s, Congress passed a bill renaming the federal holiday to Veteran's Day.

Students paid tribute and held various presentations to local heroes as well as national veterans who served in the military during celebrations held at Bill Childress Elementary School, Canutillo Middle School, Deanna Davenport Elementary School, and Gonzalo and Sofia Garcia Elementary School.

The focus of CISD's Veteran's Day

Celebrations was to show the community, students, and staff the importance of thanking those individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces protecting the freedoms of this country.

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TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY AND THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

El Paso high school football teams knock off tough playoff opponents

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Over the years I've witnessed a lot of El Paso high school football playoff games.

And since the 1970s I've seen teams like Midland Lee and Odessa High and Odessa Permian and all the other Midland's, Lubbock's and Abilene's of the state treat El Paso playoff teams the way we all treated our younger siblings growing up.

Just last season we saw El Dorado make the trip to Permian, and return limping home with all the wounds of a 62-14 whipping.

But the year 2009 will always be remembered as the season when El Paso caught up with those big bad out-of-towners.

No one is suggesting that El Paso is producing any state champions. But just being able to compete with any Texas teams outside of the Sun City is a true turning of the corner.

Of course every El Paso team was a heavy underdog against those teams from District 2-5A. The only team considered to have a fairly good chance to win was the Coronado T-Birds.

But El Paso has had fairly good chances in the past and we all know how they turned out.

It was those same T-Birds that got the festivities started last weekend with their stunning 49-27 wipeout of the Midland Lee Rebels.

Midland Lee has long been one of those schools to tell their second-stringers to get ready to play because they're taking on El Paso in the playoffs.

But not last week; in fact it was Coronado which inserted second-stringers to get some playoff action with the game well in hand.

One playoff win would have been enough to satisfy even the biggest El Paso high school playoff fan. But it didn't end there.

The Amarillo High Golden Sandies finished second in District 2-5A and had registered wins over Odessa Permian and Midland Lee this season.

The Montwood Rams, definitely in a rebuilding season, struggled down the stretch of the regular season and appeared to be at least a year away from being any kind of a serious playoff threat.

But Montwood coach Chuck Veliz proved again why he is far and away the best high

school football coach in El Paso. Maybe even the best football coach — period.

All the talk prior to this one was how Amarillo was going to run all over Rams. After all they had the district's leading rusher and scorer in Heath Herrington (1,204 yards and 14 touchdowns).

When it was all said and done, the Rams shocked Amarillo 19-14 sending a second 2-5A team home in disbelief.

Oh, and Herrington was held to 30 yards rushing while Montwood's 5-foot-5 junior, Tim Rocha, rushed for 142.

Then there was the El Dorado Aztecs, who had the unenviable task of taking on Odessa Permian.

It's certainly true that Permian wasn't the team this year that they've been in the past but they were still prohibitive favorites over the Aztecs.

The mental aspect alone is worth 10 points to Permian. Remember it was El Dorado who gave up 62 points to Permian in last year's playoff matchup.

But El Dorado evidently put last year's game totally out of its mind. The Aztecs led the Mighty

Mojo 7-3 going into the fourth quarter.

El Dorado held that lead with just under four minutes left in the game. That's when Permian drove the ball 99 yards down the field, scoring a touchdown which was the eventual game-winner, 10-7.

And even though the Aztecs lost, it still proved that El Paso has suddenly caught up with the rest of west Texas in football.

The fourth and final test for El Paso resulted in the Franklin Cougars losing to District 2-5A champ Odessa High.

Franklin lost, but even this game was a respectable 37-23 encounter.

Nowhere to be found were the usual 55-0, 63-10 or 42-3 scores El Pasoans have come to expect this time of year.

Coronado (11-0) will now take on Abilene High (10-0) and Montwood (8-3) will meet Arlington Bowie (8-2).

How will things go next week? Who cares!

El Paso has turned the corner and it is the District 2-5A teams that may have a few doubts next year.

Because very often the difference between winning and losing is believing you can do it.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The over the hill gang

From 1970 to 1976, George Allen coached the oldest team in the National Football League, and they were affectionately dubbed "the over the hill gang." This motley crew went on to record seven winning seasons and a Super Bowl appearance.

The New York Yankees haven't had a losing season since 1992. So, if you're a 17-year-old Yankee fan, you've never known anything but winning. They've been in 14 of the past 15 playoffs and have won five

World Series crowns during that span, their last coming in 2000, meaning the drought is over for the Yankee fans under the age of 10.

Most of the credit will be given to the payroll — FOX commentators mentioned that starting pitchers C.C. Sabathia's and A.J. Burnett's contracts alone were worth more than \$400 million combined. Pricey, young free agents like first baseman Mark Teixeira and outfielder Nick Swisher were also brought (bought?)

into the fold for this season. Over at third base is Alex Rodriguez, who doesn't get extra points for finally hitting in the postseason (that's what he was paid to do).

The Kansas City Royals' entire payroll this season was \$81.3 million. That's an important statistic, because that is almost what the Yankees spent on their time-tested, legendary brigade of Derek Jeter, Andy Pettitte, Jorge Posada, Mariano Rivera, Hideki Matsui and Johnny Damon — an \$84 million dollar investment that, some analysts think, will earn the Yankees \$1.3 billion worth of profit due to their World Series win (I have no idea how they calculate that, but I'll take their word for it).

With exception of Damon and Matsui, the original four came up through the Yankees' minor-league system, with salaries below \$150,000 to start. They have been on the ring-winning teams and will all be enshrined in the Hall of Fame. And the correlation between those wins and their performance is also inarguable. Jeter has a lifetime World Series average of .321; Posada, in 111 postseason games, has accounted for 89 clutch runs; in 88 games Rivera has a 0.74 ERA.

Some will argue that Pettitte doesn't deserve the Hall of Fame, but he does. Pettitte has won more postseason games than any pitcher ever, with 18 (and for those who ar-

gue he had more opportunities, his numbers are still impressive). Facing the best competition in the major leagues, Pettitte has pitched 40 games, faced 1,046 batters for a record of 18-9, with 249 innings pitched and 169 strikeouts).

Yes, we know you hate the Yankees, but even the most casual of fans has to concede that these men have a mountain's worth of talent. So call them over the hill if you must — just make sure you call them winners.

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

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Town of Horizon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 during the Regular Council Meeting at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road,

Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s)/ amendment(s):

- 1) 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 0105, an ordinance regulating School Zones within the Town lim-

its of the Town of Horizon City, Texas and repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 0105, passed on April 14, 2009.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available and individuals in need of

special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address or call 915-852-1046, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
Town of
Horizon City

WTCC: 11-19-09

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

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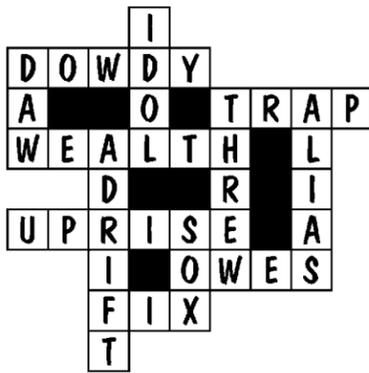
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CryptoQuip Answer

If someone takes a picture of a ceramic drinking cup, is that a mug for the camera?



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

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37	38	39	40

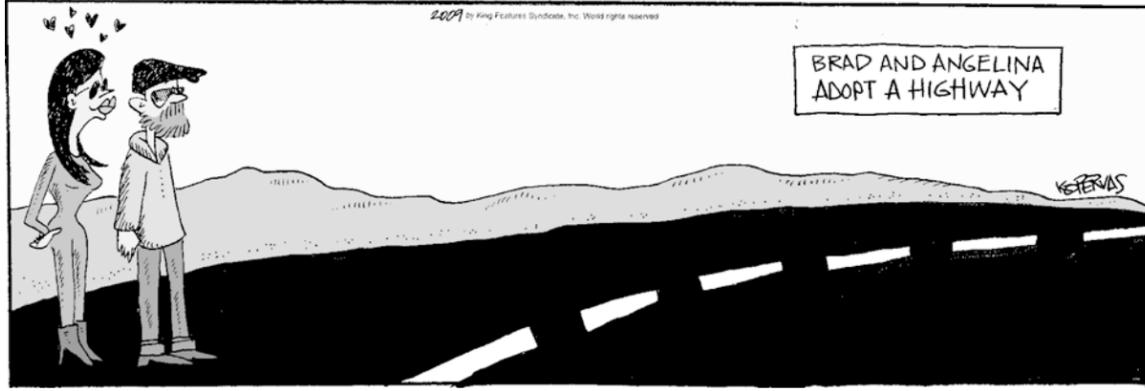
Deadline: Mondays
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
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Horizon City, TX 79928

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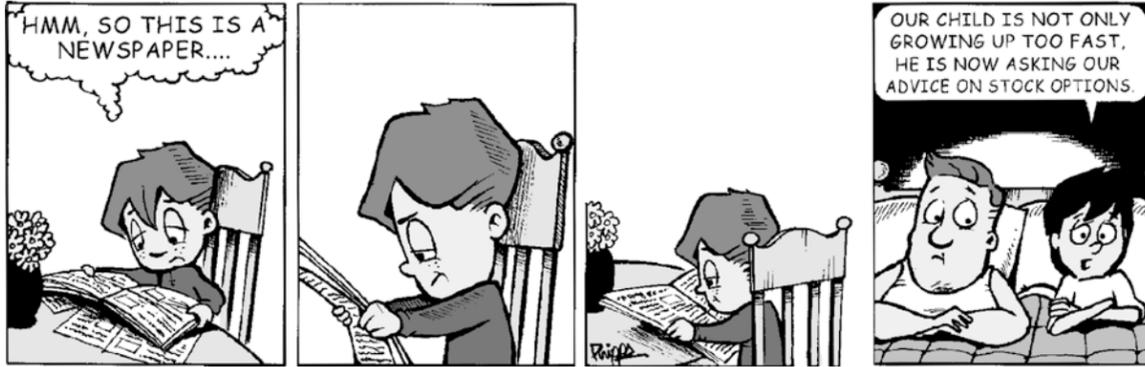
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



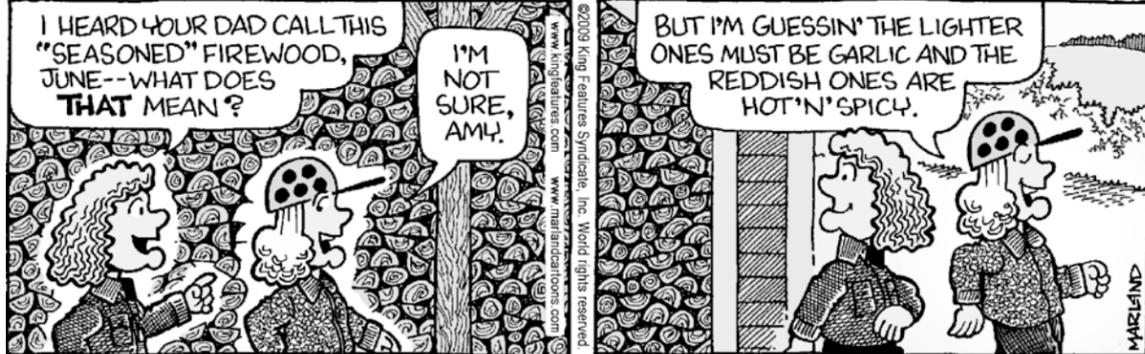
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I developed rheumatoid arthritis four years ago. I am still working, lifting 70 pounds and pushing up to 150 pounds in a handcart, and I work 10 hours a day. I had been on methotrexate, but it made me sick. Then I went on hydroxychloroquine. Next was Enbrel, and now rituximab. I am a 47-year-old woman and have worked 22 years at my job. My insurance company is denying me coverage for rituximab because I don't take methotrexate. So I have hit a wall. People tell me to write to you for a cure. Is there one? — G.G.

Nowadays, the trend is to start rheumatoid arthritis patients on the most powerful drugs so joints don't become permanently damaged. You have taken some — methotrexate and Enbrel. Rituximab (Rituxan), usually combined with methotrexate, has been quite effective for rheumatoid arthritis that's unresponsive to other medicines.

Perhaps your insurer will reconsider its position with a letter from your doctor explaining why you are not also taking methotrexate.

The arthritis booklet deals with osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue — No. 301W, 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.

There isn't a cure for rheumatoid arthritis, but so many newer treatments exist that control of it is possible for most patients. Rheumatoid arthritis is the less common kind of arthritis. It usually strikes between the ages of 35 and 50, and more women have it than men.

Rheumatoid arthritis, unlike osteoarthritis — the common kind of arthritis — is more than a joint disease. It's a systemic disease. That means the entire body is affected by it, and many organs can be involved — the lungs, the lung coverings, the heart, blood vessels, eyes, spleen and bones. Systemic symptoms include fatigue and weakness. The hands, wrists, knees, feet, elbows and neck are the joints most affected. They become swollen, red, hot, painful and often deformed. The goals of treatment are relief of pain, reduction of inflammation, stopping joint destruction and maintaining joint function.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have glaucoma. I use eyedrops daily. Does caffeine cause eye pressure to rise? — A.G.

Glaucoma comes about from a rise of fluid pressure in the eye and from damage to the optic nerve at the back of the eye. Lowering fluid pressure — often with eyedrops — preserves the optic nerve and vision.

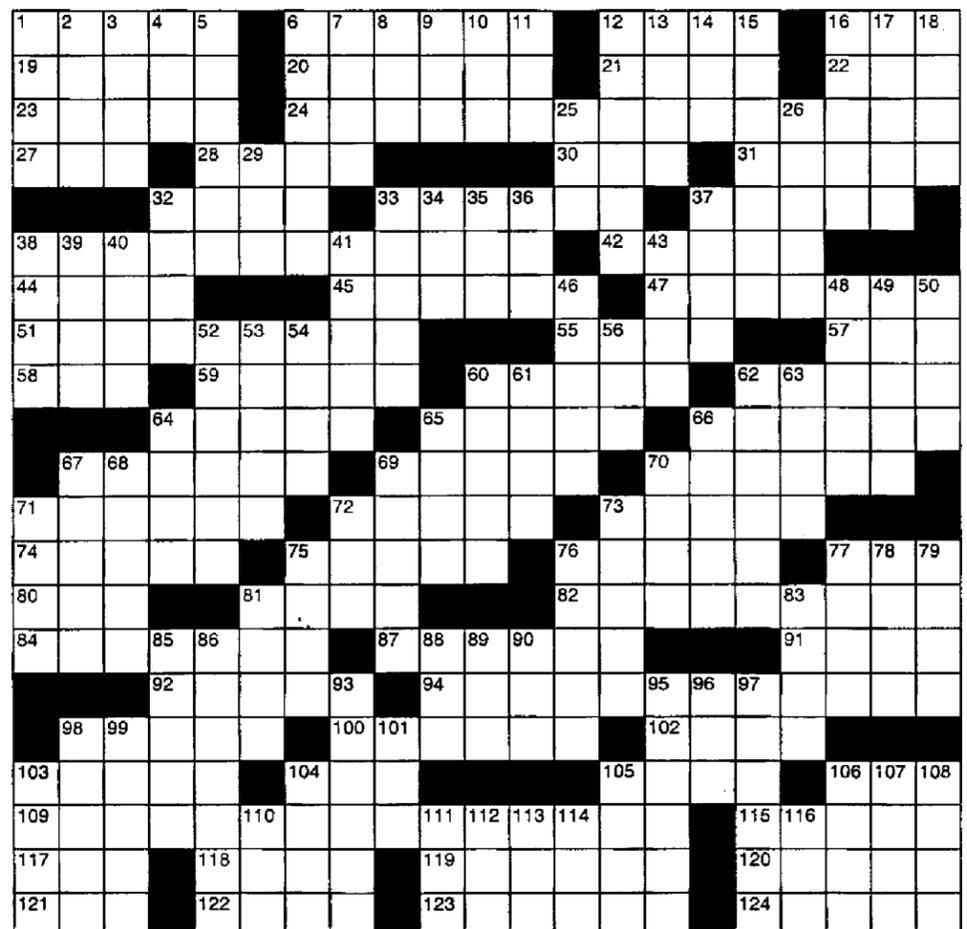
Caffeine can slightly raise eye-fluid pressure for a limited amount of time. I would stop using it until I saw my doctor again. Then I would question the doctor, who can determine if the rise of pressure would be significant for you.

There are some things you can do on your own. Exercise is important, but your job calls for exhausting physical labor, something that's not good for rheumatoid arthritis. Will your employer switch you to another position? Rest stops the stress on joints. You can try taking omega-3 fatty acids, found in fish and obtainable in pills. It has helped some.

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. All Rights Reserved.

King Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| LABOR'S LOVE | 65 Revolutionary writer | 123 Hole grain food? | 39 Author John Dickson - | film |
| LOST | 66 Made a face | 124 Calm down | 40 Southern constellation | 79 _ moss |
| ACROSS | 67 Juicy pear | DOWN | 41 French psychologist | 81 Macadamize |
| 1 Fowl family | 69 Part 3 of remark | 1 Radar presence | 43 Gulf ruler | 83 _ vu |
| 6 Drag before a judge | 71 January stoat | 2 Bravo and Grande | 46 Martin and Stockwell | 85 Spark in the dark |
| 12 Rock's partner | 72 Military headgear | 3 Start of everything? | 48 PR concern | 86 Uses frequent flier miles |
| 16 Barbecue leftover | 73 Comic | 4 Sapporo sash | 49 Missing more than mittens | 88 In addition |
| 19 Bar hop? | 74 Rental agreement | 5 Compliant | 50 Imitated | 89 Carpet |
| 20 Tchaikovsky's "Onegin" | 75 Like some signals | 6 Farm youngster | 52 Novelist Gordimer | 90 Demolished dessert |
| 21 Butter sub | 76 - boom | 7 Car | 53 Armistice | 93 Saudi salutation |
| 22 Hwy. | 77 Envelope code | 8 "That's disgusting!" | 54 Keep the pedal off the metal | 95 Inspires a smile |
| 23 Column style | 80 Big _ | 9 Fire sign | 56 Compete | 96 _ Aviv |
| 24 Start of a remark | 81 Falafel holder | 10 Burmese statesman | 60 Was concerned | 97 Exotic pet |
| 27 Pressure meas. | 82 Method | 11 Mrs. Al Bundy | 61 Subtle taste | 98 Cease the z's |
| 28 Skinny | 84 Bit of wit | 12 Portly | 62 Marmalade fruit | 99 Tendon |
| 30 Hamburger holder | 87 Narrow passage | 13 Ken or Lena | 63 Unlikely to allure | 101 Thickness |
| 31 Tinker Bell or Titania | 91 Literary pseudonym | 14 Author Wallace | 64 Benoit's buddies | 103 Do laps |
| 32 Head for the hills | 92 Some jeans | 15 Leisure lovers | 65 Unadulterated | 104 Chartres part |
| 33 Malone's portrayer | 94 Part 4 of remark | 16 Comic Auerbach | 66 Frenzied | 105 Vaudeville bit |
| 37 Strong guys | 98 Stage whisper | 17 No-nonsense | 67 Inch along | 106 Salmon snack |
| 38 Part 2 of remark | 100 Summit | 18 Actress Lamarr | 68 Muscat native | 107 Assist a felon |
| 42 Agricultural inventor | 102 Big beginning | 25 Where Sopranos shouldn't sing? | 69 Mavericks' state | 108 Soccer superstar |
| 44 Rabbit relative | 103 Circe's suitors | 26 They'll never hurt me! | 70 Doyenne deity | 110 Ruby or Sandra |
| 45 Pressed | 104 Alternative to nothing | 29 Born | 71 Czech river | 111 Arch. tool |
| 47 Rock's Loggins & _ | 105 Kirk's navigator | 32 Liberate | 72 Got scammed | 112 Med. insurer |
| 51 "Evita" setting | 106 Short snooze | 33 Half a rock group | 73 Onward | 113 Sundown, to Shelley |
| 55 Villainous | 109 End of remark | 34 From _ Z | 75 "La Boheme" heroine | 114 Actor Gulager |
| 57 Travel need | 115 Sun-dried brick | 35 Diarist Anais | 76 Ill will | 116 Apply gently |
| 58 Street greeting | 117 Likable prez | 36 Canonized Mlle. | 77 South African native | |
| 59 Sylvan setting | 118 Butte | 37 Pump part | 78 2001 Judi Dench | |
| 60 Run a meeting | 119 Audrey Tautou role | 38 Ultimate whale watcher | | |
| 62 Tremble | 120 Type of orange | | | |
| 64 Fully grown | 121 Litter sound | | | |
| | 122 Appear to be | | | |



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

"Medicare" link. Or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

archives: www.wtxcc.com

Q: When is the open season period for enrolling in Medicare's prescription drug program?

A: Newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries, and current beneficiaries who are considering changes to their Medicare Part D plan, should mark their calendars for November 15. The open season will run from November 15 to December 31. Keep in mind that the Medicare Part D prescription drug program is available to all Medicare beneficiaries to help with the costs of medications. Joining is voluntary, and participants pay an additional monthly premium for the coverage. Some people with limited income and resources also are eligible for "extra help" to pay for monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. The extra help is worth an average of \$3,900 per year. To learn more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov and click on Medicare at the top right side of the page.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible for the \$3,900 in savings with the Medicare prescription drug program?

A: To get extra help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs, there are annual income and resource limits. If your annual income is below \$16,245 (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 if you meet certain conditions. Some examples of when your income may be higher include if you or your spouse:

- Support other family members who live with you;
- Have earnings from work; or
- Live in Alaska or Hawaii.

In addition to the income limits, your total resources generally must be limited to \$12,510 (or \$25,010 if you are married and living with your spouse). Resources include the value of some things you own, though not the house

you live in. For more information see our publication, Medicare, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). To learn more, go to www.socialsecurity.gov and visit the

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 Answer Page 6 ★★★ HOO BOY!
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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: M equals T

WG FKSDKRD MEYDF E
 HWXMPAD KG E XDAESWX
 LAWRYWRV XPH, WF MQEM E
 SPV GKA MQD XESDAE?

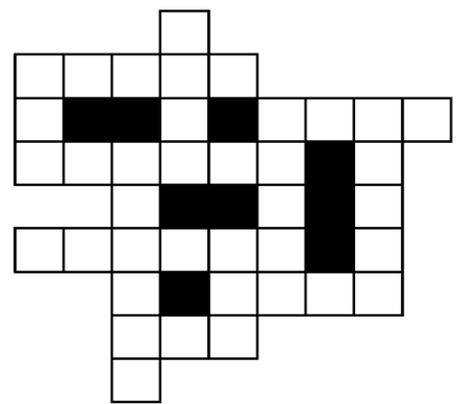
Answer Page 6

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson
 CONQUER THE WHIRLED

- XOS
- FARTID
- REWHT
- LOID
- ESPUIR
- ♥AWD
- ♥SWE O
- AASIL
- FXI
- HAWLTE
- WYDDO
- ♥APTR



Answer Page 6

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.

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