



NEWSBRIEFS

Chili cook-off

The East El Paso Rotary Club and the Fabens Community Corps are looking for arts and crafts and food vendors and entertainment groups for the 2nd Annual Fabulous Fabens Chili Cook-Off to be held on Saturday, Apr. 17 at the Fabens Airport. Nonprofit booths are free, commercial booths are a nominal \$25 donation. All proceeds will benefit the Fabens Community Food Pantry. Last year, more than 400 people attended the First Ever Fabulous Fabens Chili Cook-Off conducted by the East El Paso Rotary Club and the Cotton Valley Lions Club and the local chili group — The Pod of the Pass. This year, event organizers are hoping to cast a wider net and draw more than 1,000 people to the Fabens Airport. This will be a sanctioned event recognized by the Chili Appreciation Society (CASI) and all chili cooks are welcome. Sponsorships are available. For more information, please contact H. W. "Bill" Sparks, 594-7022.

— H. W. Sparks

Food drive

According to the US Council of Mayors, hunger continues to be a serious problem in the US. Request for hunger assistance increased 26% during 2009 in major cities throughout the US according to a study released in December.

That is why, this year more than ever, the M L K Canned Food Drive will need the

support of the public to combat hunger in El Paso. From Jan. 7 -18, donations of canned and non-perishable foods will be collected at various sites throughout the city. The collected food will be sorted and distributed to organizations for people in need on MLK Day.

Drop off sites:

- El Paso Sheriff's Department Facilities
- El Paso Public Library
- Lowes Super Save
- Lowes Big 8
- Walmart Neighborhood Markets
- Albertson's
- El Paso City Hall
- El Paso County Courthouse
- El Paso Hospitality Training

— Julie Lozano

SBA seminar

Meet with Sue Malone a National SBA Lender who specializes in SBA loans from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Interested persons will be able to apply for an SBA Loan, with minimal paperwork. Loans are available for ten year terms and no pre-payment penalty. Applicants are eligible

See BRIEFS, Page 4

The truth may hurt but a lie is agony.
— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Jamie Henneman

UNDER CONSTRUCTION — Visitors to Horizon City's Town Hall are greeted by work trucks, a portable office and cramped parking lot. Horizon is gutting and refitting the original structure while housing its offices in a separate leased building and a trailer.

Horizon City upgrades town hall

By Jamie Henneman
Special to the Courier

Efforts to remodel the Horizon City Town Hall are nearing completion and staff should be fully moved into their new offices by this spring, according to Horizon City Planner Robert Coleman.

Coleman said the city established in 1988

had been suffering some serious space constraints over the past few years, making for a difficult and inefficient work area for staff.

"The lack of space was really counterproductive to getting work done and made it hard for staff to really meet and greet the public," he said.

The cramped quarters at Horizon City Hall

See HORIZON, Page 5

Munene helps bring sports, exercise to children

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — Under the umbrella of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and his own company, Franks Munene offers youngsters a structured and varied after-school sports programs previously unavailable to them.



Franks Munene

Munene, a former NCAA All American track star at UT El Paso, is general manager of KFM International Sports, a company that provides exercise, wellness and nutritional programs not only for school-age youth, but also on the corporate/business level as well.

Munene is athletics director for Region 10A of the AAU which covers Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas. An AAU document outlines the basis of its sports programs and what it offers to youth:

"By utilizing after school volunteer coaches and using (37 AAU youth sports), we'll be to provide long-term sustainable health and wellness programs..."

In particular, Munene speaks excitedly about offering a variety of sports to elementary school children from age 5 to the sixth-grade. In those years, he points out, the youngsters have primarily physical education classes in which they can develop and other athletic skills. After the sixth-

grade, middle schools and high schools then offer other more structured sports activities.

Munene sees a gap in sports development and believes the younger children deserve the opportunity to develop athletic skills.

The former UTEP athlete is casting a wide athletic net to reach these particular students from the Anthony and Canutillo Independent School Districts in the north to the Socorro, Fabens and Clint school districts to the south.

The net he casts not only will gather youth, but will sweep away concerns about the new costs. To support the expanded sports programs without being a burden on district budgets, he says the AAU offers fund-raising opportunities. Certified clinics and seminars would be held to train the volunteers needed to run the program.

The cost of enrolling the child would be only \$12, Munene notes. Liability insurance would come under AAU.

The coach suggests school districts might explore other funding sources through grant writing.

The optimistic Munene doesn't see a problem to implementing his proposal.

"Bring sweat equity; bring themselves. There is no barrier." The opportunity, he adds, is there equally for the poorer families.

"There are so many students who can benefit from these programs." He feels it's important to keep the kids busy after school with "productive" activities.

Munene says the net has the potential for reaching between 100,000 and 125,000 youth in the El Paso area.

Munene's work in reaching out to youth has

See EXERCISE, Page 4

New year means new regulation for Texas cattle

By Carla Everett
Special to the Courier

Thinking about selling, leasing, bartering or even giving away a breeding bull? On January 1, Texas bulls that undergo a change of ownership (except to slaughter) must be either certified as a virgin bull or be tested first for cattle trichomoniasis, a protozoal disease that can cause cows to abort very early in pregnancy. Infected bulls carry the microscopic "bug" that causes trichomoniasis without any signs and can transmit the single-celled protozoa to cows during breeding.

"There is no effective treatment for bulls, and once infected, they can continue to spread trichomoniasis when they breed," said Dr. Dee Ellis, who, on January 1, will be Texas' new state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "Infected cows may clear the infection, but only if they are given rest from breeding for 120-150 days — an expensive option, as a calf crop will be missed. A vaccine also is available to help in the management of infected cows, but it will not prevent infection."

The country's western states have longstanding cattle trichomoniasis regulations. About two years ago, the Texas ranching industry requested similar regulations, to protect against the introduction and the spread of cattle trichomoniasis, or "trich." For months, representatives from the state's ranching, marketing and veterinary industries worked with the TAHC to develop effective regulations to control the disease, which affects herd productivity and an operation's bottom line. In April 2009, the TAHC enacted requirements for bulls entering Texas. In-state regulations were delayed until January 1, 2010.

"For months, we have worked with the Texas cattle industry to inform producers and have participated in many meetings about cattle trichomoniasis and the regulations. More than 600 accredited private veterinarians in Texas have been certified to collect samples for trichomoniasis testing, and we are ready to implement the intrastate regulations for bulls undergoing a change of ownership in Texas," said Ellis.

Ellis said the regulations will apply to bulls being sold, traded, leased or undergoing any change of ownership (except for slaughter). The regulations include three basic steps:

- Identify the bull. Identification is essential for matching animals with virgin bull certificates or test documents. One form of identification is needed, and it may be an official USDA ear tag, breed registry brand or tattoo, an 840 flap, bangle or an 840 radio frequency identification device. If the bull originated from another state, it may have that state's official state of origin trichomoniasis ear tag (Texas does not have an official trich ear tag). An accredited veterinarian can apply an official USDA ear tag.

- Certify virgin bulls. A breeder can certify the bull as a virgin, if the animal was raised away from cows after weaning, and the bull is 24 months of age or younger. A Texas-origin bull's virgin status may be

See CATTLE, Page 2

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Flying the flag

A recent flap brought a 90-year-old Medal of Honor recipient nose to nose with his homeowners association over, of all things, a flag he had flying in his yard. They insisted it come down.

This was not just a flag that was hung up and forgotten season after season and in all kinds of weather. Every day he'd go out and take it down, carefully folding it and putting it away.

There was a hue and cry, of course, with veterans, the American Legion, the governor and even a U.S. senator getting involved. It made the television news and radio talk shows. We were all, naturally, 100 percent behind him.

The homeowners association hedged, saying it didn't have a problem with the flag itself, just the pole, and it threatened legal action.

He won in the end, and kept his flag proudly flying. But there never should have been an issue in the first place.

Granted, the writers of the Free-

dom to Display the American Flag Act of 2005 should have been more careful when they wrote that the law didn't have to do with "any reasonable restriction pertaining to the time, place, or manner of displaying the flag necessary to protect a substantial interest" of an association. They left open a tiny door for the association to stomp through.

I'd hate to think that this case got so much attention because its owner is a Medal of Honor recipient, as there have been other cases of homeowners being told to take down their flags. We should all have the right to fly flags.

Remember the weeks right after Sept. 11? The country was covered in flags. Personally I'd like to see that all the time.

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

Over 1,200 attend pachanga

Hola mi gente. On Jan. 1, most people were relaxing from

the previous night's celebration. My staff and I were hard at work preparing for my annual Pachanga which took place that day at 2:00 p.m. An hour before the event was to begin, over three hundred people were lined up outside the Mission Valley Ballroom waiting for the event.

Just before 2:00 p.m., we were graced by the visit of perhaps our next Texas governor. Bill White, former mayor of Houston, flew out to attend and to greet the many guests. He was accompanied by Senator Mario and Mrs. Gallegos and by County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia from Houston. Our special guests and I stood at the entrance welcoming the people as they walked in. White, Gallegos and Garcia were all astonished at the number of people who continued to enter for over an hour.

The Pachanga was a great success. We served to a minimum of 1,200 residents from District 75. In addition

to the honor of having Mayor White, many candidates attended and visited with the attendees. Many of the candidates were also astounded at the turnout.

This year's event was truly the kickoff to the political season this year. Just three days later, Jan. 4, the deadline for filing to run for office this year closed the process for filing. As it turned out, no one filed to oppose me in the primary or the general election. That means that I will be re-elected as your State Representative and to attend the 82nd Legislative Session that convenes in January of 2011.

I am very grateful to the voters of District 75 for their support and for letting potential opponents know that I and my staff have earned the right to represent the district. We had heard rumbling about possible individuals who were thinking about filing. All of them were discouraged from going forward.

You might think that we are going to work the period between now and the next session at a slower pace. You would be wrong. Prior to the new year, my office had already estab-

lished legislative issues that we wanted to start working on from the very beginning of the year.

One of those issues has to do with the massive tire dump that my office discovered in East El Paso County. The complaint to the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality was filed by my office. We also requested that a newly created office for statewide criminal prosecutions of dumping look into the possibility of becoming involved.

One of the things we are going to strongly research is the environmental fee that consumers pay with each tire purchase. As it stands now, the fee fails to guarantee that thousands of tires are disposed of properly. We may consider having the fee redirected in a manner that truly disposes of the tires properly instead of dumping in the desert and enriching dishonest individuals. If that doesn't work, we may work to abolish the fee altogether. I don't think El Paso consumers should pay a fee that does not produce the intended results.

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

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of Texas

Cattle

From Page 1

extended to 30 months, if the virgin certificate is signed also by the breeder's accredited veterinarian. Virgin bulls are not required to have a trichomoniasis test prior to change of ownership. Virgin bull certificates are available at no cost on the TAHC web page at www.tahc.state.tx.us.

- Test older or non-virgin bulls. Bulls older than 30 months or bulls that were maintained with cows after weaning must have a negative trichomoniasis test within 30 days prior to change of ownership. A certified, accredited veterinarian must collect the sample for testing at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. While awaiting test results, which usually takes about a week, the bulls must be kept away from cows. Upon receipt of the negative test re-

sults, the animal is ready for change of ownership.

"Breeding bulls that haven't been certified as virgins or tested are considered to be slaughter-only bulls," said Ellis. "In some cases, however, buyers may want an untested bull, although they may be buying trouble. We have provisions under the regulations for untested bulls to be identified and moved under a TAHC-issued hold order and movement permit. The animal must be isolated from female cattle, and cannot be moved until it is tested within 30 days of purchase at the owner's expense."

"In Texas, two tests are accepted. One is the Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction test, or PCR, which looks for the DNA of the protozoa. Because only one PCR test is needed to detect infection, this may become the preferred method for producers who want to move cattle more quickly. The second acceptable test is the culture test, and it involves

looking for the protozoa under a microscope. A series of three culture tests is needed, each conducted at least seven days apart," said Ellis.

"Because cattle trichomoniasis is a reportable disease, we will be notified regarding test-positive animals," explained Ellis. "Test-positive bulls may undergo a confirmation test, provided the owner or the accredited, certified veterinarian makes the request within five days of the positive results."

Texas' trichomoniasis entry requirements for breeding bulls is similar to the intrastate regulations, but allows out-of-state bulls to be certified as virgins only until 24 months of age. Exhibition or competition bulls may enter Texas without a trichomoniasis test, but must be kept away from female cattle.

The TAHC's cattle trichomoniasis regulations and additional information are available on the TAHC web site at: www.tahc.state.tx.us.

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37 Years
2010

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$35. Delivery via 1st class mail.

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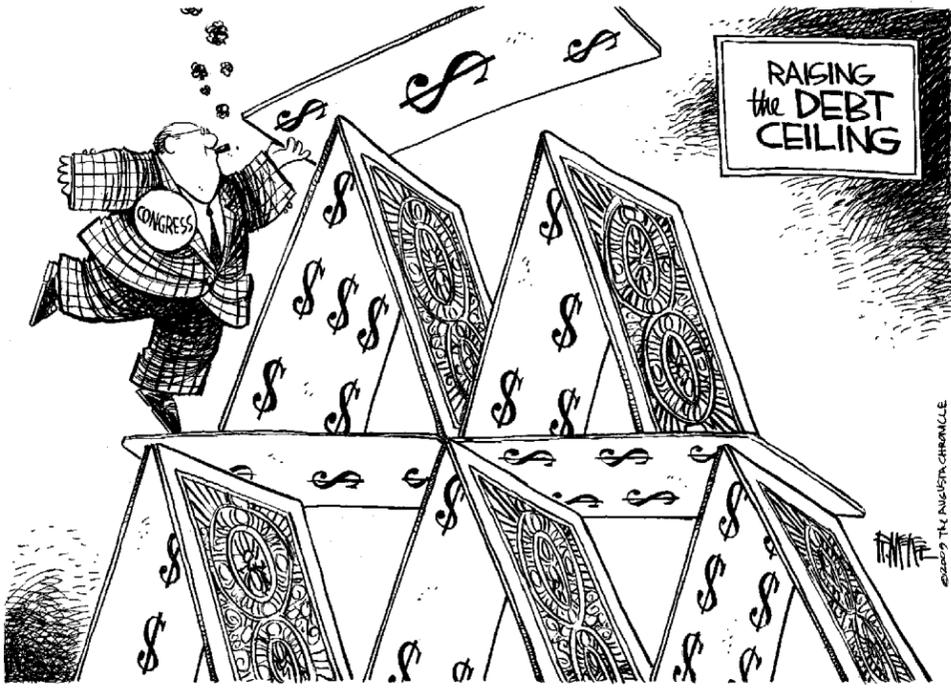
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THERE ARE SOME THINGS MONEY CAN'T BUY. FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, THERE ARE TAXPAYERS.



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

Green teen

Teens will be teens! While parents seem to understand this, the motivation behind adolescent action is dubious. In fact, it is not the raging hormones that make teenagers do what they do, but rather the teen brain itself. The issue becomes of paramount importance when focus is directed at teen driving and the influence of alcohol, substance abuse, and cellular telephone usage on its performance and dangers. Biology and physiology don't lie, and brain scans indicate that the adolescent brain undergoes a thinning of the gray matter or thinking part of the brain around puberty. While motor and sensory areas of the teen brain, as well as reward centers, mature early, the areas of a teenager's brain controlling plans, decision-making, and impulses and emotions remain immature until the middle 20s. Voilá, parents, educators, and the general public at large are faced with a potential recipe for disaster when the immaturity of the teenage brain, a propensity for high-risk behaviors and potential substance abuse, and the inexperience of adolescent drivers are all combined. So, how does this all translate? The KISS ("Keep it simple, Stupid!") principle, in this particular case, leaves no room for misinterpretation when it states that teen brain changes can result in high-risk behaviors, substance abuse, and mental illness, that control over high-risk behaviors is still maturing during the teenage years, and that over 2.7 million children and adolescents suffer from behavioral or emotional ills.

The statistics are sobering! Each year 5,000 teens die in automobile accidents, and 400,000 are seriously injured. Teenagers are only 10% of the U.S. population, but account for 12% of all fatal car crashes. It is as if Russian roulette is being played on our roads, with 16-19-year-olds four times more likely than others to "crash and burn," and with risk of a car crash highest during the first year of driving. Teenagers cost society 30% or \$26 billion in annual automobile costs. This fact must be impressed upon them, and the only way to do so and put the financial downside in perspective is by comparison with something teens know and love dearly, namely the cost of a Microsoft XboxÆ or a Sony PlayStationÆ.

Machismo and machines don't mix, but try telling that to a teenager. If he or she gives you the time of day, you can explain that teenage drivers are more likely to speed, tailgate, and drive hazardously. Will teens listen, however? There seems to be a gender difference also, with teen male drivers 1.5 times more likely than teen females to die in automobile accidents. In these days of "super-sizing" and everything being bigger in Texas, teens are as likely to run into the jaws of life as they are to jaw a quarter-pounder in a fast-food joint. It is a well-known fact that adolescents have the

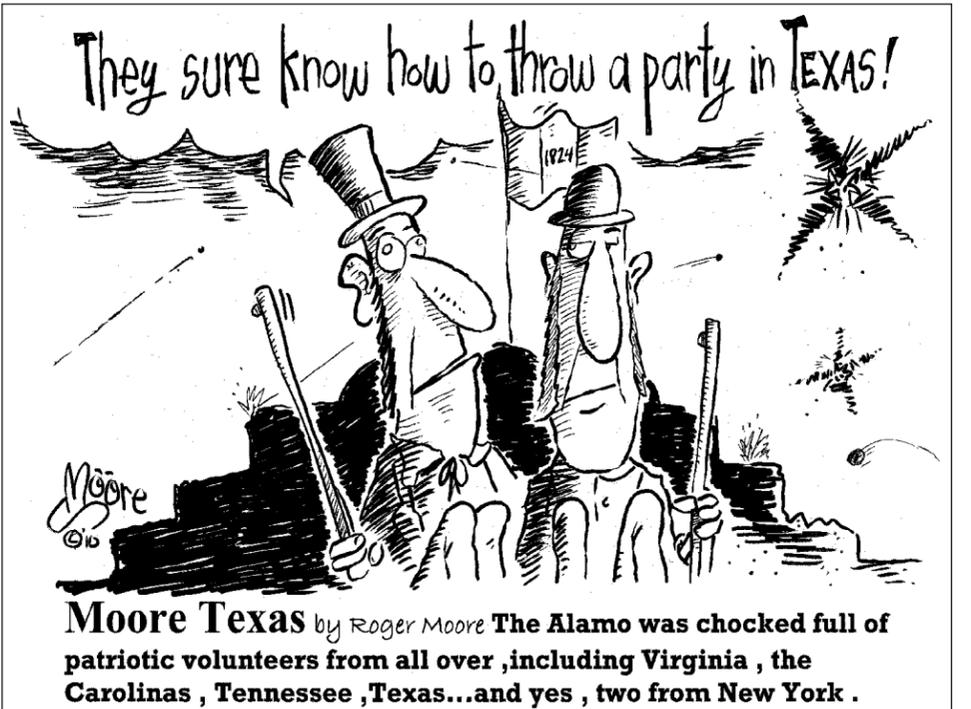
lowest rate of seatbelt use. Statistics demonstrate that of 15-20-year-old male drivers killed in auto accidents, 38% were speeding and 24% were drinking and driving. Male teen "co-pilots" who egg the young driver on make matters no easier!

We are faced with what might be called the "booze blues," although this is no light matter, by any means. The numbers bear this out. Seventy percent of high school seniors have been found to use alcohol in the previous year. Twenty-three percent of 15-20-year-old drivers who die in car crashes have blood alcohol contents greater than or equal to 0.08, which is comparable to four drinks. Of teen drivers killed in auto crashes after drinking and driving, 74% did not wear seatbelts. And if all this were not bad enough, 33% of teenagers report riding with teen drivers who drink, and 10% drive themselves while drinking. That will certainly give mothers and fathers out there something to think about!

We've all heard the expression that a brain is a terrible thing to waste, and nowhere is this idiom more applicable than in consideration of the wasted potential of the teenage brain. Studies show that the adolescent brain is particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of alcohol and other drugs and to addiction later in life, and more so than the brains of people not using such substances before age 21. We can only say "holey smoke" at this, as we learn that large amounts of alcohol close up blood vessels in the brain, causing brain cells to die in decision-making areas and resulting in "dead spots," craters, or holes. Future shock is a terrible thing, and getting an early jump on the future is not always a good idea, especially when it comes to the devastating effects of alcohol consumption. Teenage binge drinking causes the brain to become inflamed and lose cells, with massive brain shrinkage and behavioral problems arising later in life, as a result. Even the gladiators and charioteers of Ancient Rome knew better than to drink "vino" before battle or high-speed races, which is more than can be said for their modern-day counterparts!

And lest we forget the "green, green grass of home" and the almighty cellular, we are once again confronted with a brick wall. Cars are the second most popular place for smoking marijuana, and more than 2.9 million driving-age teens have reported lifetime use of marijuana. In 2005, more than 750,000 16-17-year-olds reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs, with 1 in 6 teens (15%) reporting driving under the influence of marijuana, and 16% under the influence of alcohol. Driving and talking on a cell phone is still another major distraction and possible cause of car crashes, no less serious than substance abuse. Drivers who use a wireless telephone while driving can lose situational awareness and experience inattention blindness. Parents who give their

See TEEN, Page 4



Exercise

From Page 1

the support of the AAU which considers El Paso a pilot sports program.

"We know there is a need in every community," he says. "We are bring-

ing a solution to a problem — a partnership," Munene points out. "We are giving kids a positive alternative." This positive alternative entails developing and instilling in the young people "lifetime skills" of good health and wellness.

The school districts are expressing an interest in the program.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was British author Douglas Adams, best known for writing the science-fiction comedy series "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," who made the following sage observation: "Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so."

• The original Colonel Sanders earned a grand total of 5 cents for every chicken sold in his early stores.

• The ubiquitous holiday tune "Jingle Bells" was written in 1857 by James L. Pierpont, music director of a Unitarian church. It was written for a Thanksgiving performance, though, not for Christmas. Interestingly, it became the first song broadcast from space on Dec. 16, 1965, when Gemini 6 astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra used a smuggled harmonica and sleigh bells in a rendition for Mission Control.

• The katydid hears sounds through special holes in its

hind legs.

• During Prohibition, a bootlegger was so called because many smugglers of illicit alcohol stored their liquor in flasks hidden in the upper part of their boots.

• After many years of success in Hollywood, actor, director and screenwriter David Arquette tried his hand at professional wrestling, becoming World Championship Wrestling's World Heavyweight Champion in 2000.

• It's not widely known that iconic American author Mark Twain was also an actor — albeit briefly. He played himself in the 1907 film "A Curious Dream."

• Benjamin Franklin advocated for the turkey to be our national bird rather than the eagle. He argued that the turkey was a "bird of courage," while the eagle was of "bad moral character" and didn't "get his living honestly."

Thought for the Day: "I never hated a man enough to give him his diamonds back." — Zsa Zsa Gabor

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Socorro ISD

The concept of offering an after-school sports program is not a new one in SISD. It has been an integral component for eight years. It was the brainchild of Joe Hernandez, supervisor of activities for the district. He saw the need of reaching out to economically-distressed families and children in the Lower Valley who could not pay for cost of belonging to a sports team.

"I am a true believer in after-school sports activities," Hernandez says. Involved with sports at an early age, he believes kids will do better later in life. "We need to do something for these kids."

Hernandez supports Munene's efforts. "It's a good idea."

Canutillo ISD

"He's excited and motivated about what he does," says Jose Escobedo, coordinator for school health in the Canutillo ISD. He is referring to Munene who has been in conversations with officials in the district about his after-school sports plans.

"All around, it is a plus," Escobedo adds. "These are healthy activities that will benefit our kids."

"If all the pieces fall into place, it will be a plus for the community," the CISD official says. "The sky's the limit."

Escobedo points out that no final decision has been made by the administration in regards to administering the program.

In a more global overview, Munene sees his program to the districts as an opportunity "to change and turn a generation around."

"These young people are so anxious to win — to learn. They want to develop their talent and to develop proficiency."

This, he says, "is a chance to nurture children in a positive way."

Briefs

From Page 1

to re-apply after six months and no collateral is required. Vinton City Hall, Thursday, January 14th, 2010, 436 E. Vinton Rd.

— Jessica Garza

Wanted

Luis Rivas, 19, is wanted for his part in a rash of Criminal Attempted Aggravated Robberies in the East Montana area of El Paso County that occurred in September 2009. Two of the three subjects involved in the robberies have been arrested. Handguns and ATV's were used in their attempt to commit the robberies. Rivas is 5'6" tall, weighs 150 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. He has multiple tattoos on his right arm including VERONICA, SKULLS w/ SEE NO EVIL HEAR NO EVIL SPEAK NO EVIL and POLVOS. Foot prints are tattooed on his left arm. Rivas knows he is wanted and continues eluding authorities. New information received indicates Rivas, who was previously said to have fled the Borderland, is hiding with family and friends in El Paso County. Detectives warn if anyone is caught harboring fugitives, they will be prosecuted. They are asking anyone who knows the whereabouts or has seen Rivas to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of the individuals featured.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

Crime Stoppers

A motorcyclist is killed in a late-night hit and run in the County. A man robs a bank, then another, and another, and still one more.

— James Klaes

Teen

From Page 3

teens cellulars and teenagers themselves must come to grips with the fact that automobile accidents are the leading cause of death in 15-20-year-olds. Drastic steps, measures, and laws are, indeed, warranted!

If parents and teenagers cannot police themselves, then local, state, and federal authorities must intervene to administer acute and chronic remedies that go far beyond provision of a symbolic Band-Aid™. Current proposals have run the gamut from graduated driver licensing laws and

nighttime restrictions, comprehensive underage drinking and driving laws, and restrictions on the number of teen passengers traveling with young novice drivers to restrictions on the use of cell phones, education of parents on the impairment of concentration, coordination, perception, and reaction time for up to 24 hours with marijuana, and national anti-drug media campaigns referring specifically to drugged driving.

Teens are "green," but the brutal reality of the matter is that we'd rather have them green with envy than green and six feet under!

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www.utepathletics.com



January 6 @ 7:00 pm **Men's vs. SMU**

January 8 @ 8:30 pm **Women's vs. Rice**

Heroes/ Military Night! Fire Fighters, Police EMT & Military personnel bring your ID's to get in FREE.

Independent School District! Show your School District ID or voucher and get in, NO CHARGE!

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archives: www.wtxcc.com

Horizon

From Page 1

were also creating challenges for law enforcement that was also housed in the small office space off Darrington Road.

“City staff was struggling to use outdated systems to conduct business and the police officers were nearly tripping over each other,” said Coleman. “So the city decided to make the investment to change that.”

In order to improve the working conditions for all, the city decided to remodel and upgrade the existing buildings by way of state and federal grants. A building behind city hall was also leased from a landlord willing to make the needed improvements for the police department.

“As of today the police department is in a new building and has access to modern technology thanks to a federal Department of Justice grant that allowed us to upgrade the communications systems,” said Coleman. “In total, the technology grants we received from the federal government totaled \$145,000 and we have put those to good use.”

The new police department building just behind city hall will also house the city court and city council chambers.

The other portion of the remodel project includes an interior remodel of the city hall building by Banes Construction that will restructure the interior space to make the building

more functional. A state energy grant of \$57,000 will also upgrade the heating and air conditioning units for both the city hall and police department buildings, creating a long-term energy cost savings for the city.

The interior remodel of city hall that will run approximately \$340,000 will be paid from money the city saved for that purpose.

Along with making the city buildings more pleasant to work and do business in, Coleman said the remodel projects are also part of a bigger plan.

“We are now a city of 15,000 people and we really want to put our finest face forward to the world. Our ability to prove that we are a thoroughly modern and functioning city is key to our economic growth and attracting businesses,” he said. “By focusing on economic growth and development, we are looking to improve the lives of our citizens not only in terms of employment and opportunity but also in regards to the tax base. When the business community thrives, the burden on residential taxpayers isn’t as heavy.”

Tentative plans for future upgrades of city buildings include creating a new area for the public works department and eventually improving the parking lot in 2011.

There are also two “master plans” underway as part of the city’s 2020 plan that address parks and recreation along with infrastructure.

“The new parks and recreation plan will be presented to the city council in January and the infrastruc-

ture master plan will hopefully be discussed this spring,” said Coleman.

The 2020 plans for the city reflect the new vision and goal for the community.

“We have grown beyond just being a bedroom community for El Paso,” said Coleman. “Since the town was founded we have had a growth spurt of middle age residents and families who could benefit from this town being a place where you can work, live and play. We are looking at making Horizon City its own community.”

Discussion of the proposed 2020 master plans and other city issues are discussed at the Horizon City Council meetings held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the new police station. A meeting agenda is available on the city website at www.horizoncitytx.org or by calling 852-1046.



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PUBLIC NOTICE Village of Vinton, Texas

Texas Community Development Projects

The Village of Vinton, Texas, will hold a public hearing to close out the Texas Department of Rural Affairs Contract # 727207, also known as the “Kiely Road Disaster Relief Project”, funded by the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Date: January 14, 2010
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Location: Vinton Village Hall
436 E. Vinton Road
Vinton, Texas 79821

The Purpose of this hearing is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the activities completed under this contract and the Performance Statement of the TCDP Contract. The Village of Vinton encourages its residents to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views to the Village Clerk at the Vinton Village Hall. Persons with disabilities who wish to attend this meeting should contact the Vinton Village Hall to arrange for assistance, (915) 886-5104.

El pública en general está invitado a asistir a una audiencia sobre el programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad del Estado de Texas. La presentación y las discusiones sobre este programa se haran en español para aquellas personas que asi lo deseen.

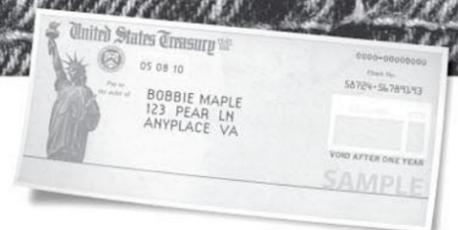
Madeleine Praino, Mayor
Village of Vinton, Texas

Published:
January 7, 2010



With the EITC you could get up to \$5,600 extra back from the IRS. Imagine how that could help you make ends meet. Single or married, with or without children, see how much you may qualify for if you:

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2009 brought some local milestone sports moments

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Has it really been 10 years since that Y2K fiasco?

Well, we made it through another decade and 2010 is finally upon us.

One of the first things everyone does when welcoming in a new year is to look back at what the previous year provided.

So let's take a look back at some of the El Paso sports stories that will always make us remember the year that was 2009.

One of the most exciting times to be an El Paso sports fan came in early April when the UTEP Miners advanced all the way to the finals of the College Basketball Invitational tournament.

After losing the first game of the 2-out-of-3 series with Oregon State, UTEP returned to the Don Haskins Center to play in front of their first sellout crowd in over three years.

In fact, the last two games of the series were sellouts as the Miners won game two but lost

the third and final game of the tournament.

But that wasn't the story. The story was the renewed interest in the program and the return of a rowdy UTEP home crowd — the kind that was commonplace during the Haskins' regime.

At \$10 a ticket, many fans who could not afford to see the Miners during the regular season, got the chance to check them out during the series. And I'm not exaggerating when I say the place has not been that loud in years.

The other UTEP basketball memory was the end of Stefon Jackson's career.

The all-time leader in scoring, and so many other categories, said goodbye to El Paso after scoring 26 points in that final tournament game.

For a school that has turned out many of the best basketball players (Bobby Joe Hill, Nate Archibald, David Lattin, Tim Hardaway and Jim "Bad News" Barnes) to play the game — it's pretty special to be at the top of the scoring list.

The UTEP football team didn't show any improvement this season but it sure was fun watching one of the best players in the country each week — running back Donald Buckram.

Buckram, who wasn't even sure he'd start this year, came out of nowhere to finish fourth nationally in yards per game (132.8) and fifth in total rushing yards (1,594).

Another great moment for El Paso didn't come on the court or the field. It actually came from a bunch of rich guys in suits.

The dapper gentlemen decided that Sunland Park's Sunland Derby would receive "graded" status beginning this year.

For those of you who still aren't sure what it means to be graded, horses qualify for the Kentucky Derby by how they do in graded races. This means that more big-time horses will make the trip here to try to qualify for a run for the roses.

It's great news for the guys at Sunland Park who have been waiting for this news for years.

And a special thanks goes out to Mine That Bird, the Sunland Park horse who won the Kentucky Derby and clinched things for the local racetrack.

And how about the Sun Bowl matchup we just had? Oklahoma and Stanford put the bowl back on the national map with two great

coaches, two great college names and the Heisman runner-up.

The game was sold out eight days early and a record crowd showed up for the thriller which the Sooners won 31-27.

But far and away the most thrilling sports story of 2009 was the state baseball championship of the Socorro Bulldogs.

Socorro carried the support of the entire city on its back when it traveled to Round Rock for the state tournament.

The 35-4 Bulldogs had little trouble in the title game, knocking off Lufkin 12-7. This came after dropping Austin Westlake 11-3 in the semifinal game.

Cory Falvey was the star of the show hitting three home runs in the final two games while coach Chris Forbes finally hoisted the championship trophy after taking many great teams to the playoffs.

They say it's always best to go out on top. So Forbes retired after the championship.

That's the way we should all go out.

As for 2010 — if this year is anything like the last one, we sports fans are in for a treat.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Sledding is a real sport

The only time you hear the words "East Coast" is when you're either in the Midwest or in the middle of a blizzard. Today, I've hit the daily double. I just flew out of Kansas City International and into the middle of the largest blizzard New York's LaGuardia Airport has seen in the past 50 years.

Midwesterners think that the "East Coast" is in league or something... as if Rhode Island and Virginia are

passing notes to each other in class. The truth is, they don't get along at all (and they think all Midwesterners are from Kansas).

Eagles fans don't get along with Jets fans, for instance, but today, we make an exception. My brother-in-law and I have to find a sled for my 3-year-old nephew. As in milk and bread, you do not wait until the day after a snowstorm to find children's snow boots and a sled. After enduring

ing a considerable amount of "schadenfreude" from the store employees at a host of places that once had — but do not currently have — sleds, we finally spot a Dick's Sporting Goods and ask if they have any for sale.

"Sledding isn't really a sport," we're told. Luckily, they have one sled left — a \$40 inflatable emblazoned with a Jets team logo. My Eagle fan brother-in-law swallows hard, and three hours later we're in the backyard, carving out a sled run.

Sledding is, of course, a sport — it's just not something we really think about in America. We're good at sports requiring high speeds and fighting. We ski and box. Sledding

and curling? Not so much. It's just too pastoral for our mindset. But, as it happens, the luge is the fastest sport in the Winter Olympics, and we actually have a world champion luger in our midst.

Erin Hamlin, 23, lives near Lake Placid, N.Y. — the only sensible place for an American luger to live. She finished 12th in the 2006 Olympics and is gearing up for Vancouver in 2010, in fact she won the singles world championship at Lake Placid this year — the first time a woman outside of Germany has managed to do that in 99 years. On the men's side, Brian Martin, 35, won silver in Torino and is expected to compete this winter, too.

In the '90s, former NFL running back Hershel Walker stirred interest in bobsledding when he tried to make the Olympic team. Now, it is NASCAR's Geoff Bodine and his efforts to transfer our race-car technology to sleds that have captured the imagination of a new generation of fans.

Will the Hamlins and Bodines of the country be enough to win over the sales attendant at Dick's and capture Olympic gold? We'll find out at the bottom of the hill.

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

Maybe It Wasn't That Heavy Shopping Bag.

Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain

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



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

9-1-1
HEART ATTACK & STROKE
Read the signs. Raise a flag.

CryptoQuip Answer

After he stupidly swallowed a whip, the poor fellow really got a tongue-lashing.

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

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

Invitation to Bid

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. is accepting sealed bids for a 14x70 mobile, manufacturer unknown. Item sold "AS IS, WHERE IS". Needs repair. Located at 451 OT Smith Rd., Tornillo, TX. Bid packages available by calling (915) 765-2139 or (325) 672-2846 ext. 3114. Sealed bids must be received by end of business January 20, 2010. WTCC: 01/07/10 01/14/10

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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.

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

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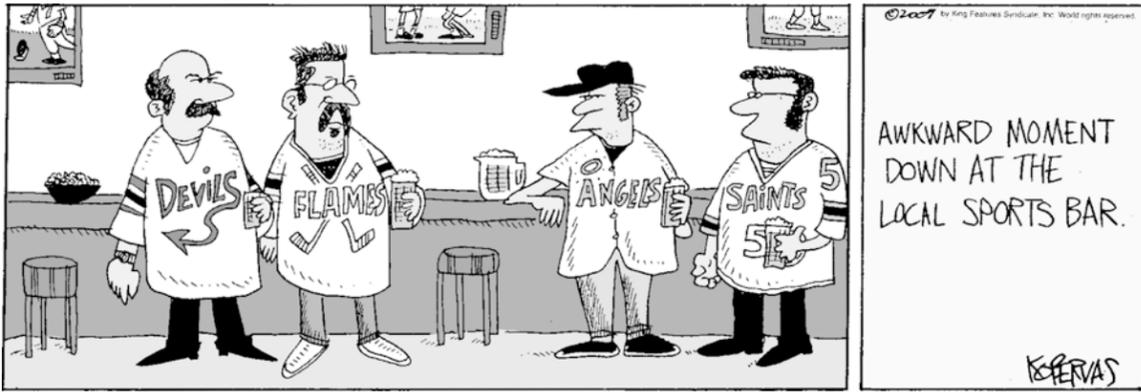
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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



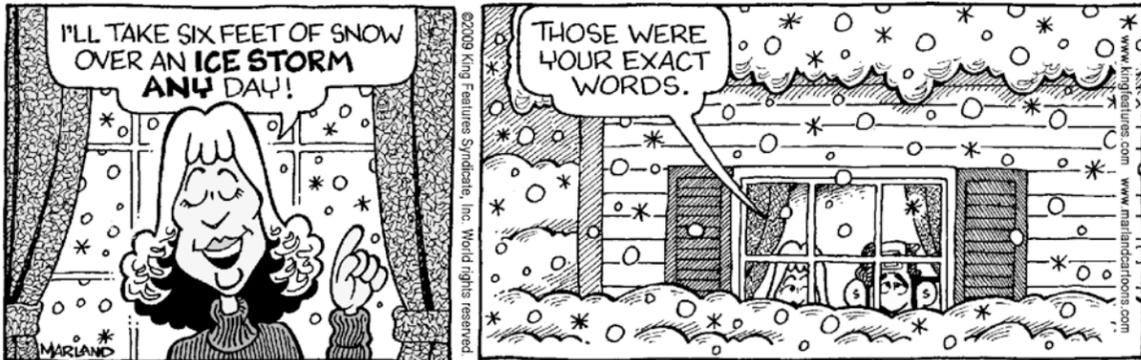
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am 20 and need your help. I felt a lump in my right breast. I told a friend about this, and she said breast cancer never happens to anyone my age. If that's the case, I am relieved. If it's not the case, what should I do? How can you tell a cancer lump from one that isn't cancer? This is on my mind all the time. — L.G.

nosis is foolish for proclaiming the lump benign or cancerous. You have to let the doctor do that; see yours today.

Incidentally, it is better to have a breast exam one week after a period. At the time of a menstrual period, many breast lumps enlarge and become tender, and this can make a difficult diagnosis more difficult.

Breast cancer does happen to young women. It's often said that it does not, but that's misinformation. It's true that breast cancer is more prevalent at older ages and that the risk for it increases the longer a woman lives. So someone your age is less likely to have it, but youth doesn't make you immune to it.

The booklet on breast cancer explains the details of this illness and its treatments. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donahue — No. 1101W, 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.

Size, how the lump feels and whether it is tightly fixed in place are some of the qualities that sway a doctor into judging a lump as being cancerous. Cancer lumps are hard. They're firmly anchored to the tissue beneath them; you can't move the lump. Cancer lumps have irregular borders. Frequently, the overlying skin of a cancer lump is drawn down toward it to form a little dimple.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am a 41-year-old woman, very petite, 5 feet 1 inch tall, and weigh 95 to 105 pounds. I am being bullied about this by my doctors. Have they supersized the height-weight tables to accommodate our increasingly obese population? I am lightweight but have no health problems. Your thoughts are welcome. — L.N.

This sounds like it's easy to tell if a lump is or isn't cancer. It's not. If a doctor, after examining the breast, cannot be sure, then he or she usually has the patient come back in a month or two to see if the lump has changed in size. If doubt still exists, an ultrasound in a woman less than 35 and a mammogram in an older woman usually can settle the matter.

Your body mass index is 18.9, which puts you in the normal weight category but at its lower end. If you feel healthy and eat a balanced diet, bully those doctors back.

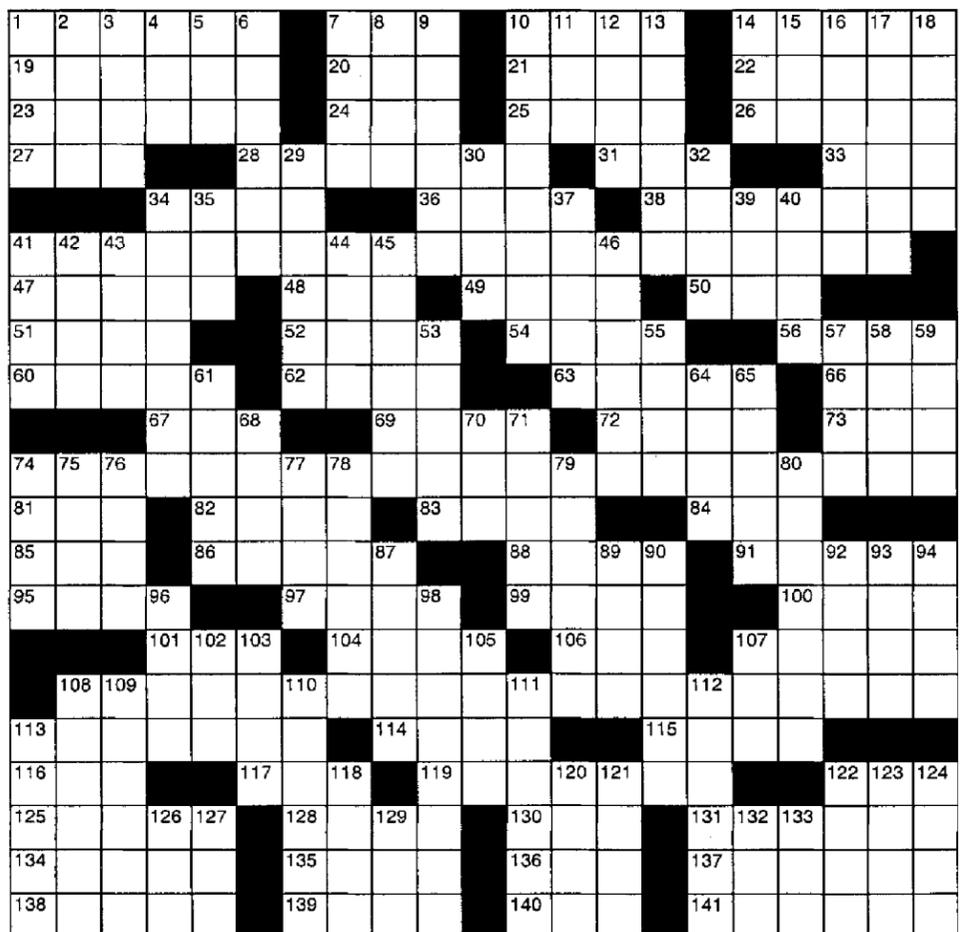
Should either of these tests not provide a definite answer, the next step is to obtain material for microscopic examination. That might be done with a very thin needle, with a larger bore needle or with a scalpel. Self-examination is good for discovering a lump. Self-diag-

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

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| BRAKE SHOES | 67 _ roll | 135 Evangelist | hit) | 98 In a morose |
| ACROSS | 69 Made wine divine | Roberts | 37 At _ and sevens | manner |
| 1 Fleet | 72 Actress Remini | 136 Bother | 39 Zilch | 102 Diving bird |
| 7 Implore | 73 Envelope abbr. | 137 Actor Helmut | 40 Social climber | 103 A whole bunch |
| 10 Comics "Andy _" | 74 Part 3 of remark | 138 Mouthful | 41 Pennant | 105 Cathedral area |
| 14 In the lead | 81 TV's "People _ | 139 Inquisitive | 42 Molten rock | 107 Dernier _ |
| 19 Laughed loudly | Funny" | 140 Caustic substance | 43 Perpetual lab | 108 Odysseus' home |
| 20 Ivy Leaguer | 82 Humorist | 141 Annette of "Cat | assistant | 109 Emergency |
| 21 Jai _ | Bombeck | People" | 44 Rock's _ Express | 110 Puff, for one |
| 22 Sibelius' " _ Triste" | 83 Young or Diamond | DOWN | 45 Sane | 111 It's down in the |
| 23 Start of a remark | 84 Dallas coll. | 1 Like the Thar | 46 The sound of little | mouth |
| by Joan St. Onge | 85 Beak | 2 Learning method | bells | 112 With hands on |
| 24 Paving material | 86 Ready partner | 3 Creche figure | 53 Minnesota town | hips |
| 25 Picnic spoiler | 88 New Jersey team | 4 Onassis' | 55 Spare fare | 113 Cheerleader's |
| 26 Shocked | 91 Happen next | nickname | 57 It becomes ewe? | maneuver |
| 27 Susan of "L.A. | 95 Sale stipulation | 5 Actress Sandra | 58 Stocking shade | 118 Copter kin |
| Law" | 97 Smeltery refuse | 6 Spice Girl Victoria | 59 Artist Benjamin | 120 Grand Ole _ |
| 28 Forsake | 99 Profit | 7 _ carotene | 61 Computer key | 121 Confiscate |
| 31 _-di-dah | 100 Baseball's Bucky | 8 Dash | 64 "Willard" extras | 122 _ lily |
| 33 Chihuahua relative | 101 Owns | 9 Pot holder? | 65 Subject | 123 Cad |
| 34 _ Valley, CA | 104 Joyce of "Roc" | 10 Big name in | 68 Curly coif | 124 Raison d'_ |
| 36 Aparicio or Alvarez | 106 _-Magnon | cruises | 70 Chemical ending | 126 Salon request |
| 38 Least relaxed | 107 Droll | 11 Chicken _ king | 71 "A Kiss Before _" | 127 Northwestern st. |
| 41 Part 2 of remark | 108 Part 4 of remark | 12 Bucket | ('91 film) | 129 Nitrous oxide, e.g. |
| 47 Nigerian city | 113 With 66 Across, | 13 Fiesta target | 74 Comic Carvey | 132 Still |
| 48 Even if, informally | Burt Reynolds flick | 14 Gregory's "On the | 75 Spring flower | 133 To and _ |
| 49 Judd Hirsch | 114 Mediocre | Beach" co-star | 76 Skater Thomas | |
| sitcom | 115 Related | 15 Crone | 77 Flightless birds | |
| 50 Arafat's grp. | 116 Sweater letter | 16 Makes merry | 78 High-flying birds | |
| 51 Profess | 117 Cutup | 17 St. Francis' home | 79 Become a blond | |
| 52 Joyce's land | 119 "The Consul" | 18 Terminal | 80 Shabby | |
| 54 Transfer | composer | 29 Acrid | 87 Stops | |
| temporarily | 122 Cow or sow | 30 Force out | 89 It may be spare | |
| 56 Exploded | 125 Range rope | 32 Rope fiber | 90 Winter vehicle | |
| 60 "En _!" | 128 Leslie Caron role | 34 Famed | 92 Big rig | |
| 62 Mafia or Downey | 130 Health resort | photographer | 93 Textbook heading | |
| 63 Gown part | 131 End of remark | 35 " _ Too Late" ('71 | 94 Emulate Whistler | |
| 66 See 113 Across | 134 More distant | | 96 "Scat!" | |

Answer Page 5



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: Is it true that if you have low income you can get help paying Medicare premiums?

A: Yes. If your income and resources are limited, your state may be able to help with your Medicare Part B premium, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts. State rules vary on the income and resource limits that apply. Contact your state or local medical assistance, social services or welfare office, or call the Medicare hotline, 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask about the Medicare Savings Programs. If you have limited income and resources, you also may be eligible for help paying for prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit any Social Security office and ask about extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage. (TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.) Online information is available at www.medicare.gov and at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: I applied for my baby's Social Security number in the hospital but have not received it. How long does it take?

A: In many states, where the birth registration process is electronic, the average wait is four weeks. But in other states, the wait can be twice or three times as long. Here's why. When a parent requests a Social Security number for a newborn as part of the birth registration process in the hospital, the state vital statistics office forwards to Social Security the information needed to assign a number to the child and issue a card. From the time Social Security receives the data, the process of assigning the number and issuing the card takes about two

weeks. Learn more about Social Security cards and numbers at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

For more information on any of the

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: U equals W

QXDBZ FB IDPKRMEO

IUQEESUBM Q UFRK, DFB KSSZ

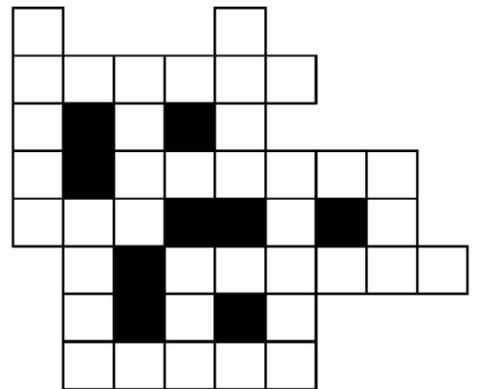
XBEESU ZBQEEO ASD Q

DSJAPB-EQIFRJA.

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- HYW
- HAWIGE
- TEWLD
- ♥ESRU
- ♥DYETAS
- ♥ESU
- REHD
- RHEWS
- DHA
- ASUHIT
- ♥RENIT
- YAAW



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



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

TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.