



NEWSBRIEFS

Charity scams

Many Texans make generous donations to charitable organizations when disaster strikes. Before reaching for their wallets to provide much-needed financial support for recovery efforts in Haiti, Texans should ask questions and check the facts. By doing a little research, well-meaning Texans can ensure their dollars actually help the recovery effort and don't end up in the hands of a scam artist seeking to capitalize on a tragedy. Texans who are solicited by telephone or e-mail and asked to make a charitable donation toward relief efforts in Haiti should keep the following in mind:

- Know the soliciting organization. Ask for credentials, including the exact name and telephone number of the organization, particularly if the charity is unfamiliar.
- Call the charity directly and confirm that the solicitor is actually associated with it.
- Be on the watch for questionable charities using names that closely resemble those of well-known charities.
- Find out how the donation will be used.
- Be wary of appeals that are long on emotion and short on descriptions about how charitable contributions will aid the recovery effort.
- Don't succumb to high-pressure tactics and demands for an immediate decision. A legitimate charity welcomes background checks on their operations.
- Never give a credit card or bank account number to a solicitor.
- Never give cash and never agree to give money to a courier. Write a check in the name of the charity, not the soliciting individual, and get a receipt.

For information about specific relief operations now underway, Texans should contact the American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP). AIP is a national charity watchdog service that assists donors with identifying reliable charitable organizations. Texans should visit their Web site at www.charitywatch.org. Texans who wish to file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General regarding suspicious e-mail charity solicitations may call the Consumer Complaint Hotline at (800) 252-8011 or file a complaint online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

— Greg Abbott

Correction

The \$700,000 figure listed in the story about the new Horizont Regional MUD (HRMUD) office was actually the cost of the building site. The cost of the building renovations and construction are estimated at \$2,250,000 according to HRMUD Board President John Navidomskis.

See BRIEFS, Page 4

A compromise is a deal in which two people get what neither of them wanted.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Jamie Henneman

EMPTY SCHOOL — Funding snafus have stopped students from moving into the new Tornillo High School. E-rate money to install computer and phone lines have not reached Tornillo ISD (TISD). Superintendent Paul Vranish says on top of not being able to finish the school, the TISD is losing other state money everyday because the students have not moved to the new facility.

Tornillo High stalled by 'bureaucratic process'

Funding issue stops computer, phone lines

By Jamie Henneman
Special to the Courier

The new high school in Tornillo is slated to be finished in three weeks but actually getting students into the building may take much longer, according to Superintendent Paul Vranish.

"There is some additional funding through the federal E-rate program that was ostensibly supposed to flow after we received our commitment letter last June, but we are still waiting to receive those funds," Vranish said.

Completion of the building will soon be stalled out because the district has not yet received the promised federal E-rate funds

to install the computer and phone lines. The E-rate program is run through the Federal Communications Commission that imposes a surcharge on communication services and then makes those funds available to schools via grant programs. The Tornillo School District won one of the E-Rate grants and was issued a commitment letter last summer but no further progress has been made to get the money to the district.

Along with potentially letting a new \$5 million building set idle, the lack of E-rate funds may also create a financial penalty for the district in regards to state funding.

"We are the 10th poorest school district in the state of Texas and because of our status we are eligible for an Instructional Facility Allotment from the state, which essentially means the state subsidizes some of our costs," said Vranish. "Every day students are not in the new building we are losing state funding

to the tune of 90 cents on the dollar."

Vranish said attempts to enlist help from federal legislators about the federal funding has been "a joke."

"If ever there was an example of unaccountable bureaucracy run amuck, this is it," he said. "It has been outright bizarre. When you do get to talk to someone, they give you seemingly poignant information that you already know."

Frustrated by the bureaucratic logjam, Vranish is hoping the 260 students at Tornillo High will soon be able to benefit from the new building.

"We made the commitment to build this new facility for the schools and the community and we want to be able to use it, but right now we are stuck waiting," he said.

Attempts to contact Congressman Ciro Rodriguez or Senator John Cornyn regarding the funding were unsuccessful at press time.

Jose Damian Elementary is a high performance campus

By Patricia Tidwell
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Jose Damian Elementary (JDE), in the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) has again made the list of high-performing schools with the The National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA). JDE made the 2009 "Just for Kids Campaign for Higher Performing Schools" in the subjects of Reading and Writing.

Schools identified by NCEA are those that exhibit outstanding performance across multiple grades and years and show solid academic achievement. NCEA focuses on schools that exhibit strong college and career readiness.

"We are elated to have been

chosen as a 'Just for Kids Campus.' The faculty and staff at Jose Damian look closely at what is working and what isn't. We identify issues, concerns, and successes. Teamwork has kept us a Recognized school by clarifying our mission, core beliefs and core values," said Maggie Porras-Grant, JDE Principal.

"This is a fantastic achievement for our students," said Roger Parks, Interim Superintendent for CISD.

NCEA identifies high-performing schools for at least three purposes — to study how the practices in high-performing schools differ from those in average or low-performing schools; to share best practices in monitoring the accomplishments of higher performing schools; and to publicly honor and reward high-performing schools and build capacity to improve education.

Eveler recognized by CoSiDA

Clint native and junior outside hitter Lauren Eveler was chosen to the Academic All-District 6 Volleyball Second Team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSiDA) and presented by ESPN The Magazine. Eveler is majoring in Communications/Media Broadcasting at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. She was part of the inaugural volleyball team that kicked off intercollegiate athletics in 2007 at OLLU. Eveler was selected for her outstanding performance both on the court and in school, where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her three years. In 2009, Eveler played a major role in helping her team reach the Red River Athletic Conference Semi-Finals in November. The Saints were ranked No. 4 in the conference and finished their season with a record of 16-11.



— Patty Constantin

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Bringing down the phonies

If last year is any indication, 2010 is shaping up to be a good year when it comes to nabbing phonies.

There was the guy in California who wore a Marine uniform to his high-school reunion. Little did he know that one of his former classmates was a legitimate Navy commander. She was suspicious of the medals, snagged a photo of the guy and the rest is history. One phony down.

There was the Colorado wannabe who claimed he'd attended the Naval Academy and had been a Marine captain. Said he was wounded in Iraq. Two veterans picked apart the guy's story and went to the FBI. Got him!

Last year, a few people took a close look at the Marine Corps Association Directory and discovered incorrect profiles with medals that weren't earned. Whether it was clerical errors or not, it shouldn't have happened. Those whose listings were incorrect should have stepped forward immediately. To let it ride

without speaking up is the same as making false claims.

It was discovered that a number of veterans were claiming former POW status and taking the benefits for it. Apparently, it's easier than it sounds: The Defense Department and the Office of Veterans Affairs don't always talk to each other to confirm.

Now we have a guy in Florida who bought and wore a bunch of medals he didn't earn. Not only did he change his discharge form, but he talked about being a hero. Got him, too. He's been charged under the Stolen Valor Act.

Bottom line: Keep your eyes and ears open. There's no need to go on a witchhunt or think that phonies are around every corner. But when the details don't sound right, get to the bottom of it.

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) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Wireless use jumps, brings jobs

Hola mi gente. Readers of this periodical probably already know that cell phone usage has increased tremendously over the past decade. It may surprise you, though, just how much things have changed.

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting with a legislative liaison from AT&T who shared some impressive numbers about cell phone usage and wireless communications in general. These numbers included cell phones of course, laptop computers with WiFi, and laptop data cards used to connect to the internet.

There is a clear victim of the trends and that is the landline telephone. Ten years ago, the majority of calls to residences were to telephones hooked up to the telephone pole in the alley or underground. At this point in time, a hefty 42% of consumers use the cell phone as their primary residence phone. No doubt that number will continue to increase and at some point in the future will approach zero.

Since 2003, the state legislature has stimulated the market for wireless by passing bills that opened

the market to wireless providers. As a result of the balanced and bipartisan legislation, the price per minute has dropped to an average of six cents per minute as opposed to the forty seven cents per minute average that existed in 1994. Clearly, wireless communication became affordable to a much greater part of the Texas population.

Affordability opened the door to more people and also resulted in users communicating for longer periods. The average use per month by wireless users skyrocketed to seven hundred minutes. That is up from an average of one hundred minutes per month usage in 1994.

Owners of cell phones not only converse with others, they also send and receive text messages. In fact, there are wireless units that are strictly for text messaging with no voice capacity. Nationally, over 48 billion text message are transmitted every month. I hope that very few of those messages were sent by people behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. Incidentally, prices for text messaging have plummeted forty seven percent over just the

past two years. As demonstrated by the numbers above, Texans are increasingly going wireless. It was estimated that there are over twenty million wireless accounts currently operating in Texas. Considering the fact that our population may be around twenty five million after the next census count, that is a lot of wireless plans. It is obvious that many adult users have multiple accounts. Individuals have the option of multiple cell phone accounts (parents and children), or cell phones supplemented by laptop WiFi accounts. Would it surprise you to know that the number of wireless users has almost doubled in just the last five years?

With this much usage, wireless providers are spending loads of money in Texas. There are now twenty five wireless carriers serving Texans. These carriers have invested billions in towers and other infrastructure. These investments result in greater employment opportunities and increased revenues for the state and local coffers.

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

View from here By Victor Morawski

Ideological profiling: Is it ethnic profiling?

The recent terrorist attempt to down a U.S. airliner and the failure of Homeland Security to prevent him from boarding the plane has raised serious questions, not only about the competence of DHS officials, but the adequacy of our screening techniques.

One prevalent fear is that we are wasting much time and limited resources casting too wide a net in our screening procedures for reasons of political correctness. The fear seems to be that narrowing our focus to those proven most likely to commit a terrorist act could result in profiling members of a specific minority group in ways that some condemn as racial or ethnic stereotyping.

The truth, however, is quite the contrary. The sort of ideological filtering that occurs in screening for terrorists is not racial or ethnic profiling at all. And even the staunchest defenders of political correctness should not object to it. Let me illustrate this from personal experience.

The fact is, I would liked to have entitled this column "The Day I was Profiled as a Terrorist." But, had I done so, few readers would have taken me seriously. Let me explain.

In 1985, while in Graduate School, I had the opportunity to participate in two separate academic conferences in the United Kingdom — one in Dublin, Ireland and the other in Aberdeen, Scotland — with ten days in between to be a tourist.

To get myself from Ireland to London after the Dublin conference, I purchased an overnight bus/ferry package. We exited the ferry in England by walking en masse up a wide ramp. Stationed on it were British immigration officials selectively stopping some of us for questioning.

To my surprise, I was one of those stopped. Of course, I had nothing to fear since my reasons for being in the country were entirely legitimate, and this was easily determined after the official viewed my US passport and asked me some routine questions. Even though I had a beard at the time, it was nicely trimmed. I thought I looked reasonably respectable and told myself that my being singled out then was a random event.

Years later, however, after seeing Gerry Adams on the news, I put two and two together. Though he has since denied any IRA associations,

there can be little doubt that his image did trigger those associations. When I walked up the ramp of that ferry, I, too, shared a certain look then associated with a group of young men who had entered England to commit acts of terrorism. Simply put, I looked far too much like Gerry Adams.

Had it been explained to me that I was stopped for questioning because some suspected IRA terrorists looked like me, or vice versa, I do not think that I would have been offended; I would have probably thought that stopping me was reasonable.

Was it ethnic profiling? I doubt it. I have no reason to believe that English authorities had conjured up some grand theory positing that there was something in the genetic make-up of an Irishman that made him predisposed to commit acts of terrorism. If there was profiling, it was ideological, not ethnic.

Some young Irishmen, who looked like me, had joined an organization whose ideology condoned acts of terrorism. And is not the situation the same in the case of radical Muslim extremists?

In singling out Middle Eastern men for increased attention from airport security, we are not presupposing some grand racial theory that says they have something in their genes making them predisposed to commit acts of terrorism. That would, indeed, be ethnic profiling of the worst kind.

Instead, we are simply doing the same sort of sagacious ideological profiling that the British authorities were doing with the IRA. We are similarly saying that some members of a particular ethnic group have adopted an ideology — that associated with a particular branch of Islam — that condones terrorism. And we have every right

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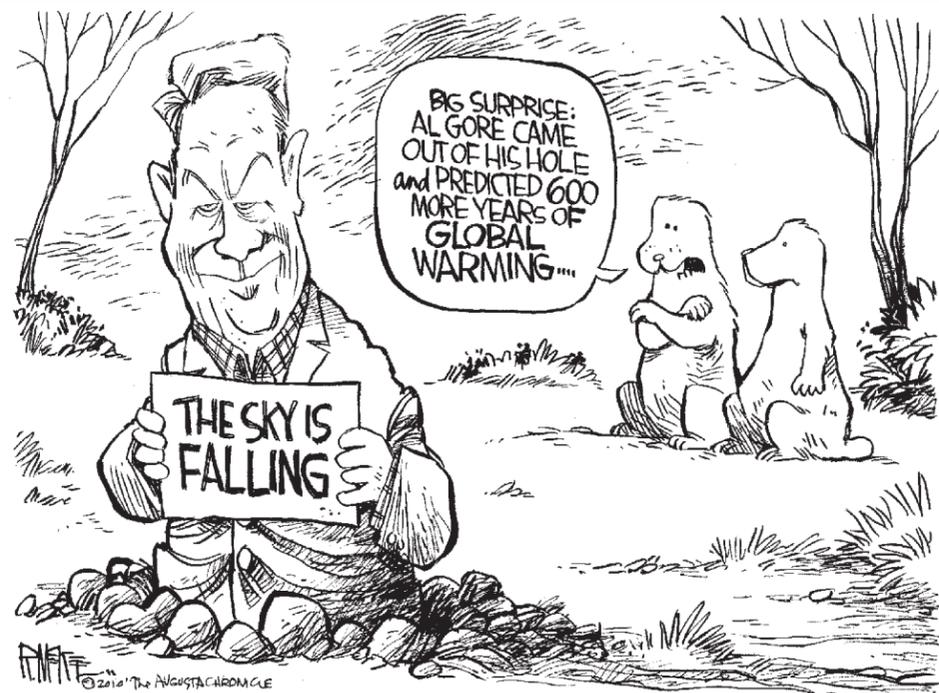


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What's up doc? By Albert Balesh, M.D.

Bleep sleep

I have a problem, a problem that is probably going to take years off my life, as well as contribute to my descent into what is called the “grouchy old man” syndrome. I don’t sleep at night. The years of stress, trials and tribulations, utter rancor and dissatisfaction with my station in life, and bitter taste in the mouth from one too many battles lost have taken their toll on my sleep-wake cycle. I have been known to literally pass out in the middle of a conversation, fall sound asleep after eating an average-sized meal in the early evening, nod off at the wheel of my car on the highway on my daily drive home from work, and start to full wakefulness at 2:00 a.m. when average Joes and Josephines are at rest under warm blankets, souls of the departed find repose and sustenance in communal camaraderie, and not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse. In short, I have “bleeped sleep,” and do what I will, I cannot reverse the tide of chronic fatigue I feel and the vicious circle I have created. Simple daily survival has become my mantra, as I no longer take pleasure in the little things in life, and I subsist solely on the caffeine or battery of other stimulants that buttress a circadian rhythm gone awry. I find myself thinking that if I can only get from the “vampire hours” to the early evening, then my day is complete, and I can surrender completely to the narcolepsy and little brother catalepsy that medical science, in all its infinite wisdom, is just now beginning to understand.

I think time would be well spent here explaining and understanding the simple workings of normal sleep, in order to arrive at a solution to my, and possibly your, problem. It is a well-known fact that insomnia, whether it be trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, affects one third of American adults. Wow! To make matters worse, insomnia can result in excessive daytime sleeping, increased appetite, reduced mental abilities, a diminished immune system, growing frustration, and a decline in daytime productivity. Now, while the amount of sleep a person requires is relative, there is a general consensus that seven to eight hours a night is needed to feel fully alert during the day. No one in this life is without worries, and an occasional bout with sleeplessness is normal. When sleep problems persist, however, beyond a few weeks, it becomes necessary to call in the heavy artillery, namely, one’s family doctor. The latter, if a lack of drowsiness on one’s part permits an understanding of the knowledge imparted, can explain the difference between the two states of a normal sleep cycle, and that is that REM (rapid eye movement) sleep is the period in which dreams occur, as opposed to deeper non-REM sleep. The number 65 is something to remember, for at that age

the sleep-wake cycle begins to function inefficiently, sleeping for long periods of time occurs less frequently, and illness, pain, medicines, or a frequent urge to urinate take their toll on ZZZZs and prolong the counting of sheep.

While I understand the problem at hand, there must be some reason why I find it hard to sleep. I refuse to believe that the motive is hidden and mysterious. Whatever the latter may be, there are things I can do to combat the utter desolation of tossing and turning, as the rest of the world regenerates its corporeal fuel cells for the coming day. An attempt at inner calmness on my part breeds a game plan from which I must deviate little. First and foremost, a bedtime routine is called for, in which I do the same thing every night before going to sleep. A quiet and dark bedroom helps and, if my inner demons don’t allow my repose in a reasonable amount of time, say 30 minutes, then a brief trip to another room before returning to bed may help. A light snack, such as warm milk or some crackers, before going to bed may be just what the doctor ordered, but knowing myself and my tendency to do everything in excess, I must remain vigilant against eating too much. A “worry wart” I am, so if I can just leave my problems outside the bedroom, and use the latter for sleeping and sex (and a lot of that!), not eating, talking on the phone, or watching television in bed, then I can become a worthy adversary to insomnia. That’s not all, however. Exercising a little each day, at the expense of daytime naps longer than 30 minutes, and avoiding alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine in the evening can’t hurt. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I must learn to retrain my body to sleep at night. What does that mean? It means that if I can go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, then maybe this Count Dracula can transform himself into an innocuous Rip Van Winkle.

If none of the above measures bring somniferous satisfaction, then “oneth by land and twoeth by sea” sleep studies are warranted to discriminate between periodic limb movement disorder (PLMD) in which legs are kicked many times during sleep, sleep apnea with repeated breathing cessation during sleep, and narcolepsy with its sudden “sleep attacks” without warning, as well as to determine the source of insomnia, snoring, or teeth grinding. I’ve been told that thorough sleep clinic monitoring of my brain activity, body temperature, breathing rates, and muscle movements during sleep can help get to the bottom of this mess I find myself in.

I’ll keep you posted as to my daily daytime quest to uncensor my “bleep sleep,” that is, if I can stay awake long enough.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was American political scientist, economist, psychologist and professor Herbert Simon who made the following sage observation: "What information consumes is rather obvious: It consumes the attention of its recipients. Hence a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention, and a need to allocate that attention efficiently among the overabundance of information sources that might consume it."

• Those who study such things claim that the act of licking a stamp burns one-tenth of a calorie.

• The shortest song in the world is "You Suffer," recorded in 1986 by the British band Napalm Death. It lasts precisely 1.316 seconds.

• Stanley Mason was an inventor who really got around, in a manner of speaking. In addition to coming with the idea for the granola bar, he also created the squeezable ketchup bottle, the disposable diaper, heated pizza boxes and the dental floss dispenser.

• There are more Polish people living in Chicago

than in any city on Earth except for Warsaw, Poland's capital.

• You might be surprised to learn that the most dangerous profession in the country — in terms of the percentage of people holding that profession who have been killed — isn't firefighter or police officer, it's president of the United States. A total of 9 percent of our presidents have been assassinated.

• Studies of statistics say that in any random group of 23 people, the chances that at least two of them share a birthday is more than 50 percent.

• In the Commonwealth of Virginia, a statute contained within what's known as the Code of 1930 prohibits bribery or corruption by anyone other than a political candidate.

Thought for the Day: "I think the biggest mistake most people make when they pick their first job is they don't worry enough about whether they'll love the work, and they worry more about whether it's good experience." — Steve Ballmer

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Briefs

From Page 1

Wanted

Francisco Javier Badillo Lopez, 35, who also goes by Francisco Badillo, is wanted for Aggravated Sexual Assault on a child. The victim is his biological 12 year-old daughter. Lopez is 5'10" tall and weighs 230 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. He has a tattoo of a skull with snakes. Sheriff's Office Crimes Against Persons Detectives have been hot on the trail of Lopez. He knows authorities are looking for him and has since fled his residence in the 500 block of Tikal in San Elizario, TX. Lopez' whereabouts are currently unknown at this time as he and his spouse have taken all of their belongings from the San Elizario residence. Lopez is a deported felon due to a federal conviction for narcotics trafficking. He is believed to still be involved in trafficking narcotics. Lopez was previously employed at a local roofing company prior to absconding. Lopez' vehicle is described as a grey 1993 4-door Suzuki with a sticker that reads "Catura Xtra". That same vehicle has recently been spotted in a village in Mexico called San Augustine which is where Lopez is said to have family. Lopez is believed to have returned to Borderland and has been recently seen once again in the San Elizario area. Sheriff's Investigator's are asking the public for any information on the whereabouts of Lopez. People can contact the Sheriff's Office (915) 546-2280 or Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may

be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of the individuals featured.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

Crime Stoppers

Fire Marshals from the El Paso Fire Department are asking for the public's help in identifying and locating the person or persons unknown who intentionally set fire to vehicles downtown over the holidays, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On Tuesday, Dec. 29, about 6:15 in the morning, four units with the Fire Department responded to a fire involving several vehicles in the 7200 block of Alameda in south central El Paso. The first unit on the scene reported heavy flames coming from several vehicles and requested additional units. Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire and keep it from spreading to other vehicles nearby. A total of five vehicles were involved in the fire. Fire Marshals were called to the scene to investigate, and they determined that all five vehicles had been intentionally set on fire and ruled that fire as Arson. Total damages for all five vehicles were estimated at over \$40,000. There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians reported. Arson is a 2nd degree felony punishable by two to 20 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. If you have any information at all about any crime, even if you don't think it's important, please call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— James Klaes

NO FEE REQUIRED NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Dinah L. Kilgore, RPA, Executive Director/Chief Appraiser, El Paso Central Appraisal District, is currently accepting application(s) for the following:

RENDITIONS

1. Business Personal Property (mandatory as of 2004 — failure to file a business personal property rendition will result in a 10% penalty).
2. Real Estate

DEADLINE FOR FILING OF RENDITIONS, PROPERTY INFORMATION REPORTS, AND REPORTS OF DECREASED VALUE IS THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010.

A filing extension will be allowed for business renditions upon receipt of a written request received by the filing deadline, Thursday, April 15, 2010.

EXEMPTIONS*

1. Residential Homestead Exemption
2. Over-65 Exemption**
3. Over 55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption
4. Medical Disability Exemption**
5. Veteran's Disability Exemption
6. Widow of Disabled Veteran Exemption

*If you previously received a Homestead and/or an Over-65 Exemption, or an Over-55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption, a Disability Exemption, or a Disabled Veteran's Exemption, it is not necessary for you to file again this year. **If the level of certified disability for the Veteran's Exemption has changed or is at 100%, you may file a new application.**

**The Over-65 School Homestead Exemption or Medical Disability Exemption can be transported to another home within Texas on a percentage basis.

TAX DEFERRAL OR ABATEMENT

Eligible persons may obtain a deferral or abatement.

PLEASE CONTACT THE APPRAISAL DISTRICT FOR EXEMPTION(S) AND DEFERRAL OR ABATEMENT FORMS AND EXPLANATION.

SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS

Agricultural Valuation - Applications are being accepted for Ad Valorem Tax purposes as provided under Article III, Section 1-d and 1-d-1 of the Texas State Constitution. Properties qualifying under these Amendments are valued on the basis of Agricultural Productivity rather than their market value. The tax that would be levied on market value is deferred. Information on agricultural use valuation is available in the State Comptroller's Publication, *Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities*. Copies are available at the Appraisal District office.

DEADLINE FOR FILING EXEMPTIONS AND APPLYING FOR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS IS FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010, FOR ALL TAXING JURISDICTIONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AT THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 5801 TROWBRIDGE, EL PASO, TEXAS 79925. TO OBTAIN APPLICATION(S) CALL (915) 780-2131 OR WRITE TO ABOVE ADDRESS OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.elpasocad.org.

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Profiling

From Page 2

to protect ourselves against their murderous behavior.

Finally, given the Homeland Security memo that surfaced a few months ago telling law enforcement officials to focus on members of certain groups who are politically right of center, I fear I must give

Gerry Adams ample warning. Were he to fly to this country today, there is a chance that he might be singled out and questioned by Homeland Security. Simply put, he looks far too much like Victor Morawski.

Victor Morawski, a professor at Coppin State University, is a Liberty Features Syndicated writer for Americans for Limited Government.



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CryptoQuip Answer

The aging dry cleaner was a white-collar criminal, infamous for money laundering.

School Boards Make a Difference

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Tornillo



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Vicente Delgadillo



Gary Gandara



Ofelia Bosquez



Sally Flores



Shonda Jordan



Robert Lara



Sylvia Gonzales



Ramon Holguin



Guillermo Gandara



Bertha Brew



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Rachel Quintana



Mary Macias



Viola Hernandez



Fernie Madrid



Michael A. Najera



Alonso Delgado



Raul Jacquez



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Carol Escarciga



Javier Morales



Yvonne Sanchez



Pat Randleel



Greg Spence



Jose Rodriguez



George Salas



Pat Guerra



Ron Haugen



Roger Parks (Int.)



Edward Gabaldon



Poncho Garcia, Jr.



Mike Quatrini



Xavier De La Torre



Paul Vranish

Superintendents

Thank You For Serving

Price cleans house trying to find a defense for the Miners

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's never fun to watch anybody lose a job — but Mike Price sat through so many 40-, 50- and even 60-point games, he knew something had to be done.

And what he did was clean house. Price got rid of three defensive coaches last week, including much-heralded defensive coordinator Osia Lewis in an attempt to improve his team.

It's easy to see why Price did what he did when you consider the fact that UTEP's defense has been the worst in the nation over the last four years.

In Price's first two seasons at UTEP, his defense was ranked 49th and 58th out of 117 teams. It wasn't perfect but clearly respectable.

And during those two seasons the Miners were 16-8 and went to two bowl games.

Over the last four years, the Miners' defense has ranked 110th, 115th, 117th, and 104th out of 119 teams.

Now those are the kind of numbers that will keep a head coach up at night.

For some reason the Miners defense started

to go south 51 games ago. In Price's first 21 games (16-5 record) at UTEP, his defense allowed 34 points in a game just three times (14% of the time).

In his last 51 games, Price's defense last allowed at least 34 points on an astonishing 33 occasions (65%). And incidentally, the Miners' record during this period is 18-33.

They say that offense puts butts in the seats and Price has certainly done that. His offense is always ranked among the best in the country, especially in the passing game.

But they also say that defense wins championships. And since his defense left him, Price's Miners have suffered through four straight losing seasons.

The Miners hired Andre Patterson to be the team's new defensive coordinator.

Patterson has tons of NFL experience and has worked with Price in the past. The trust Price has in Patterson could go a long way. They know each other and will always be on the same page.

Patterson has said that he doesn't need star players, he just wants guys that will take some pride in themselves and hustle and play fundamentally sound defense.

As far as assignments go, UTEP defensive players haven't always been where they were

supposed to be over the last four years. But the real problem is that even when they were in the right place, they simply couldn't make the tackle anyway.

Patterson has vowed to clean that up by simplifying things.

That's good, because the Miners do not have a pile of great defense players at their disposal.

The two other hires were safeties coach Adam Gonzaga and linebackers coach Robert Rodriguez.

Gonzaga has coached mostly at smaller schools with great success and I don't think Robert Rodriguez really needs any introduction.

But if you are new to UTEP football — or El Paso for that matter, Rodriguez is the former Montwood High star and WAC Defensive Player of the Year.

If Rodriguez can get his linebackers to play anything like he did while with the Miners, UTEP will see things changed for the better rather quickly.

You've got to give Price some credit, he is incredibly loyal but he knew something had to be done to right the ship — or he would probably go down with it.

I don't think the Miners will lead the league

in defense next season but it would be nice for the UTEP offense to score 42 points in a game — and still win!

Take the blinders off

I know that there are some animals, mainly horses, that wear blinders to cover their eyes so they can't see what's in front of them.

I'm sure it's done for a number of reasons, but the main idea is to keep them from seeing something that is obviously there.

I think someone should remove the blinders from St. Louis Cardinals baseball manager Tony La Russa.

La Russa has been saying for years that Mark McGwire should be cut some slack because there was no proof that he ever used steroids.

McGwire finally admitted last week that he used steroids for years while slugging home runs for Oakland and St. Louis, including the years he broke the home run record.

Now La Russa says he was totally in the dark about McGwire all those years and the years since.

Come on, how can this be possible?

Oh, I forgot — La Russa is also an attorney. I guess what they say is true — justice is blind.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Best of the decade

"A Sporting View" this week continues to profile the athletes that will forever grace the record books due to their achievements during the past decade.

Roger Federer

Best. Tennis. Player. Ever. (That is all.)

Tiger Woods

It is — depending on your personal

view — either an epic tragedy or a classic story of being brought down to Earth. Icarus or not, and with apologies to Marc Antony, I come to praise Tiger Woods, not to bury him... we'll let the gossip columnists tend to that. On the course, golf hasn't had a presence like Tiger Woods since the glory days of Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer. His resume for the decade? Three Green

Jackets, three U.S. Open titles, three U.S. Open Championships and three PGA Championships, eight PGA Tour Player of the Year awards and The Associated Press Athlete of the Decade award. Tiger may have a lot of baggage, but apparently it matches the amount of hardware he has, too.

Mariano Rivera

I'm not even going to get into the statistics, because in the case of Rivera, they're almost beside the point. Last season he had an ERA of 1.75. I don't recall anyone scoring any runs off him, ever. And not just

last season ... you have to go back to Arizona to show me a relevant blown save. If you're a baseball fan, just as the Phillies had to accept it in the Fall Classic, you have to appreciate just how incredible a presence, how great a ballplayer Mariano Rivera truly was over the past decade. With all due respect to Trevor Hoffman, Rivera was one of the decade's best baseball players and is simply the best ever at his position.

Kobe Bryant

In much the same way Tiger Woods ended the decade, Kobe Bryant began the decade in the midst of a sex scandal that was eventually settled out of court. While we might never know the details of that scandal, Bryant left an indelible mark on the hardwoods. Four rings, wire-to-wire All-Star appearances, two scoring titles,

five MVP awards (one for the NBA Finals, three for the All-Star game) and a gold medal for the "Redeem Team." While there is little doubt that LeBron James is the future, nobody — not even Shaq — can deny it was Bryant's decade.

Michael Phelps

He jumped into two Olympic pools and came out with 16 medals — 14 of them gold. OK, so maybe he didn't come out with our hearts — bong hits aren't really considered the breakfast of champions — still, this Baltimore native with the spotty grill is the second most decorated Olympian ever, and he did it under our watchful gaze last decade.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter and publisher of The Kansas City Luminary. (c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Town of Horizon City

to the Mayor for Karen Ellefson City Clerk Town of Horizon City

upon request, from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call (915) 852-1046.

will be received at Horizon City Town Hall, City Clerk's office, 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX 79928 until 12 p.m. February 5, 2010. Bids will be opened on February 5, 2010 at 2 p.m. and only names of the proposers will be read out loud at Horizon City Town Hall. Detailed specifications and proposal packages are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For additional information please call our administration office at (915) 852-1046.

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

roof. 3 yr old white kitchen appliances included. 220Tierra Linda. \$78,500. Sorry, I don't speak Spanish. 227-2131.

SELF-HELP

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

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

STORAGE

National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS
Climate Control Units: 5x5 and 5x10. Regular 5x10, 10x20 and 12x30. Call Blanca - 852-8300.

West Texas County Courier: 852-3235

PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 the Town of Horizon City approved the following ordinance(s):

Ordinance No. 0105, an ordinance regulating School Zones within the Town limits of the Town of Horizon City, Texas and repealing Ordinance No. 0105 passed on April 14, 2009.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying, upon request, from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call (915) 852-1046.

Elvia Schuller Administrative Aide

WTCC: 01/21/10

Town of Horizon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Special Council Meeting on Monday, December 21, 2009 the Town of Horizon City approved the following ordinance(s):

Ordinance No. 0176, an ordinance for a budget amendment to transfer \$500,000 from the fund balance to FY 2009/2010 budget line item 504145 Street Maintenance and to transfer \$54,177 from the fund balance to FY 2009/2010 budget line item contingency 502818.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying,

WTCC: 01/21/10

Town of Horizon City

Invitation to Bid:

Bid Number: 2010-001

Date Issued: January 20, 2010

Bid Opening Date: February 5, 2009

The Town of Horizon City is soliciting proposals for the Electrical System of the City's Golden Eagle Park project. Proposals

Elvia Schuller Administrative Aide to the Mayor for Karen Ellefson City Clerk Town of Horizon City

WTCC: 01/21/10 01/28/10

COUNSELING SERVICES

DAMIAN



CLASSIFIED AD FORM

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

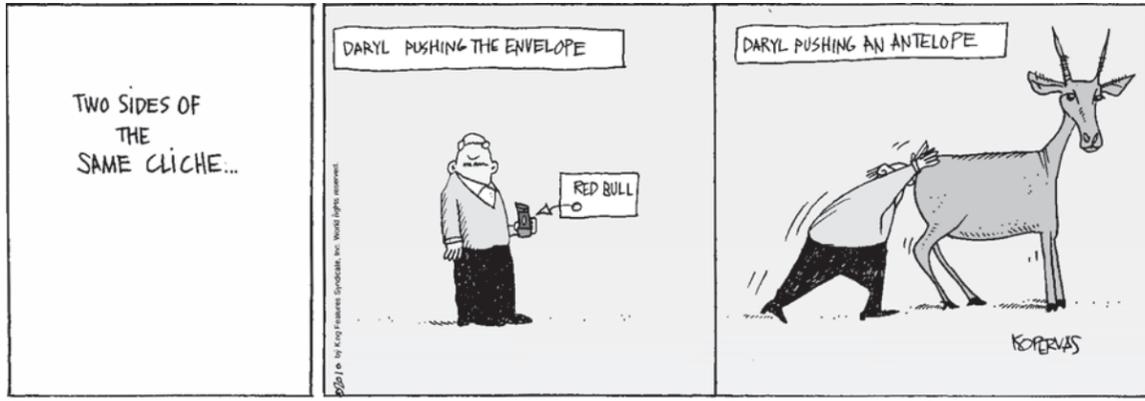
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Deadline: Mondays
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Phone: _____

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: My 50-year-old daughter has been diagnosed with fibromyalgia. She is in a great deal of pain, and medications have provided no relief. She has been told there is no cure. Exactly what is fibromyalgia? What causes it? — E.F.

provides more information on this baffling illness and its treatments. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue — No. 305W, 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.

Fibromyalgia is a baffling illness whose two principal symptoms are pain and fatigue. The pain is body-wide, on both sides and above and below the waist. For diagnosis, the pain has to have been present for three or more months. The fatigue of this condition is overwhelming, so much so that the simplest of daily tasks becomes a formidable challenge. Patients also suffer from sleep that does not refresh, and they often find it difficult to concentrate.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My friend's toenails are white. What cause that? — E.B.

Fungal infections of the nail often turn them white. Proof of fungal infections comes from a doctor examining scrapings of the nails with a microscope.

Its cause remains a great unknown.

Many medicines are on the market for treatment of such an infection. Some can be painted on the nail — Penlac is an example. The success rate is not breathtaking. Oral prescription medicines are also available. They are expensive, and they don't always work. Lots of people prefer to live in peace with such nail infections by ignoring them.

Specific tests for fibromyalgia don't exist. However, tender points — areas on the body where finger pressure elicits pain out of proportion to the pressure applied — aid in making a diagnosis. There are 18 such points, and for a diagnosis, 11 should be present.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My stomach sags around the belly button. My doctor says it's an umbilical hernia. There's no discomfort or pain. Will 100 sit-ups a day fix this? — L.W.

Other illnesses — such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Sjogren's syndrome and hepatitis, which have similar symptoms — have to be excluded, so testing for those conditions becomes part of the fibromyalgia workup.

A thousand sit-ups a day will not fix it. Sit-ups could make it worse. Only surgery can fix it. Any exercise that increases pressure within the abdomen can make the hernia protrude more. If this bothers you, get a surgeon's opinion.

Your daughter is right. No cure has been found, but sometimes symptoms improve on their own. Exercise is important. It sounds ridiculous to ask a person who is hurting and exhausted to exercise. At the start, exercise intensity can be modest, just walking. The goal is to extend exercise to 20 or 30 minutes of daily exercise and to pick up the tempo gradually.

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) 2010 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved three medicines to ease fibromyalgia symptoms. They are Lyrica, Cymbalta and the newest, Savella.

The booklet on fibromyalgia

Super Crossword

LETTER PERFECT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Exercise target
 - 5 Actuate
 - 10 Boston _
 - 14 Denzel
 - Washington film
 - 19 Kansas city
 - 20 _ incognita
 - 21 Comfort
 - 22 "Middlemarch" author
 - 23 Butcher-shop buy
 - 25 Modern
 - Mesopotamia
 - 26 Numerical word form
 - 27 Theater collection
 - 28 Director Michael
 - 30 Satyrical trait
 - 32 Vim
 - 33 Bond rating
 - 35 Neapolitan song
 - 38 Work over?
 - 39 Tarnish
 - 44 PBS benefactor
 - 45 Mrs. Nick Charles
 - 47 ABA member
 - 48 Shipshape
 - 50 Standard
 - 52 Court cry
 - 56 Start of a Nash verse
 - 60 Maestro Arturo
 - 63 Opening remark?
 - 64 To and _
 - 65 Rapper
 - 66 Rapper Tone _
 - 67 Rained and
- DOWN**
- 70 Kruger of "High Noon"
 - 72 " _ vous plait"
 - 73 To boot
 - 74 Bach favorite
 - 78 Hostage
 - 81 New Deal agcy.
 - 82 _ May Oliver
 - 83 Most enthusiastic
 - 87 Diminutive suffix
 - 88 Make minestrone
 - 90 Say please
 - 92 Actress Zellweger
 - 93 Connecticut county
 - 95 It's a guy thing
 - 98 Perplexed
 - 99 WWII site
 - 101 Kenwood competitor
 - 102 Glowing
 - 103 No, to Nureyev
 - 106 Asian soldier
 - 107 Haphazard
 - 110 Disney dog
 - 113 George Peppard series
 - 117 Korf or Sara
 - 118 What a feller needs
 - 119 Keeping
 - 120 Give in to gravity
 - 123 Walked
 - 126 Diacritical mark
 - 128 Author Ambler
 - 131 Famed disc jockey
 - 134 Irving's "The _ New Hampshire"

- 135 Amneris' rival
 - 136 Messy Madison
 - 137 European country
 - 138 High-tech missives
 - 139 Expensive
 - 140 Uses a trepan
 - 141 TV's "Ding _ School"
- DOWN**
- 1 Trim
 - 2 Sampras strokes
 - 3 Soap additive
 - 4 Chicken little?
 - 5 " _ been ages!"
 - 6 "Simple Simon" ...
 - 7 Type of sch.
 - 8 Thalia's sister
 - 9 Albert and Victoria
 - 10 Mile High Center architect
 - 11 Boathouse item
 - 12 Sacred song
 - 13 Costume sparkler
 - 14 Kid
 - 15 Castilian cry
 - 16 Hefty herbivore
 - 17 Short messages
 - 18 Stick 'em in your ear
 - 24 Actor Morales
 - 29 Singer Summer
 - 31 _ Canals
 - 34 Composer
 - Thomas
 - 36 August one?
 - 37 Big revolver?

- 38 Holstein's home
- 39 Rome's _ of Caracalla
- 40 Lucy's landlady
- 41 Marker
- 42 "Aladdin" frame
- 43 Grapefruit serving
- 46 Way
- 49 Deck of destiny
- 51 Dewy
- 53 Pickling herb
- 54 Baseball's
- Slaughter
- 55 Puerto _
- 57 City on the Allegheny
- 58 Reply to the Little Red Hen
- 59 One who no's best?
- 61 Smug smile
- 62 "The Color Purple" character
- 65 Kirsch kin
- 68 Sgt. Bilko
- 69 Campus digs
- 71 Designer Lapidus
- 73 Bronte's " _ Grey"
- 75 Tom, Dick, and Harry
- 76 Skater Cohen
- 77 Franco of "Camelot"
- 78 Cougar
- 79 Landed
- 80 Gets hitched
- 84 " _ Gay"
- 85 Big rigs
- 86 Choppers

- 88 Deal with a dragon
- 89 Newsboy's shout
- 91 Kamm or Kristofferson
- 94 Contradict
- 95 Harnessed the oxen
- 96 Bird of prey
- 97 Abbreviated address
- 100 Sodom escapee
- 104 JFK abbr.
- 105 Fine fiber
- 108 Compassion
- 109 Moved like 116
- Down
- 110 Woodworking tool
- 111 Postulate
- 112 Nile feature
- 114 Mysterious
- 115 Iron clothes?
- 116 Animal that roared?
- 119 Convent cubicle
- 121 Namu or Willy
- 122 Bloomsbury buggy
- 124 Roy Rogers' birthplace
- 125 Bruce or Laura
- 127 "Agnus _"
- 129 Journalist Tarbell
- 130 Roller-coaster unit
- 132 " _ longa, vita brevis"
- 133 Brew barrel

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I got a letter that said my Social Security disability case has to be reviewed. Am I going to stop getting benefits until retirement?

A: Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you cannot work. Your case must be reviewed regularly to make sure your disability hasn't improved and that you are still unable to work. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach full retirement age, they will automatically be converted to retirement benefits. Remember, www.socialsecurity.gov has the answers to all your Social Security questions. Or, you can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY, 1-800-325-0778).

Q: I worked for the last 10 years and I now have my 40 credits of coverage for Social Security. Does this mean that I get the maximum Social Security retirement benefit?

A: No. While eligibility for benefits is based on having 40 credits, the amount of your benefit is based on how much you earned over your lifetime. We determine your average earnings over your working years and use a special formula set by law to determine your benefit amount. For most people their benefit amount is an average of the highest 35 years of earnings. To learn more, read our online publication, How You Earn Credits, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10072.html.

Q: I run a small business and I plan to hire a few employees. How can I verify that the Social Security card is valid?

A: There are more than 50 different versions of the Social Security card, all of which are valid. And, until 1976, original cards and replacement cards were different. Although there are many versions of the card in circulation, all prior versions of the card are valid. In any case, it is the Social Security number that is important. The best way for employers to verify a name and Social Security number is to use the free Social Security Number Verification Service (SSNVS). Once an employer registers for Business Services Online (BSO) at www.socialsecurity.gov/bso the employer can start using SSNVS. SSNVS allows them to quickly verify whether a person's name and number match Social Security's records. You can also use BSO's new Telephone Number Employment Verification System (TNEV) to verify numbers at any time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Learn more at www.

socialsecurity.gov/bso.

Q: What percentage of a worker's benefit may a spouse be entitled to?

A: A spouse receives one-half of the retired worker's benefit if the spouse retires at full retirement age. If the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age, those benefits will be reduced by a percentage based on how much earlier the spouse retires. However, if a spouse is taking care of a child who is either under age 16 or disabled and receiving Social Security benefits, a spouse gets full spouse benefit (one-half of the worker's benefit) regardless of age. If you are eligible for both your own retirement benefit and for benefits as a spouse, we always pay your own benefit first. If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you'll receive a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse's benefit. Learn more at www.

socialsecurity.gov.

Q: I am receiving Social Security benefits. Can I change my address online?

A: Yes, if you receive Social Security benefits you can change your address online at www.socialsecurity.gov/coa. Once there, you will be asked a series of questions and your answers must match our records to prove your identity. Then, you can change your address quickly and easily. If you have a password, you can change your address without answering the identifying questions.

Get a password by going to www.socialsecurity.gov/password. If you have further questions, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

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.

CryptoQuip

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

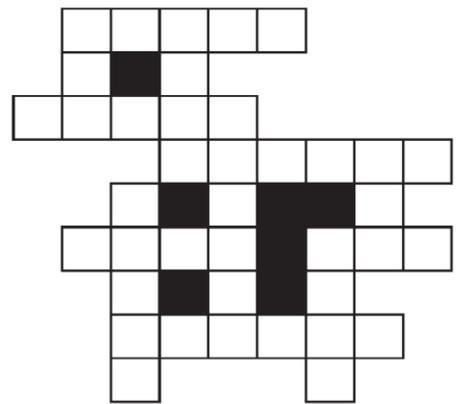
Clue: X equals I

SUH BYXLY QVJ TKHBLHV RBZ
 B RUXSH-TWKKBV TVXCXLBK,
 XLNBCWPZ NWV CWLHJ
 KBPLQHVXLY.

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- PGY
- TIMSUL
- DYLIE
- ♥GLOF
- ♥SIDRET
- YSP
- ♥DESI
- FYSTO
- ♥APY
- MYRPUG
- NOYDS
- MUGL



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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		5	4				7	8
		9	6	8				2
	4				9		6	1
1		3		2		8		
	3			5	8			7
7			2			5	8	
4		8			6	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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WWW.UTEPATHLETICS.COM

UTEP
 miners



MEN'S BASKETBALL VS TULANE

Wednesday, Jan. 27th @ 7:05 PM

Faculty/ Staff Shootout for your half time entertainment!

5,000 Pete's Pennies to be given away at the door!

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS UCF

Sunday, Jan. 24th @ 2:05 PM

"Shoot a J with J Night" Jareica Hughes Night

Come meet your favorite players and get their autographs!