



NEWSBRIEFS

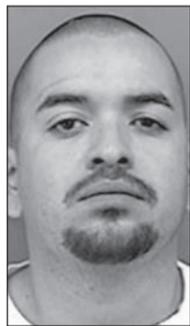
Guest speaker

Dr. Xavier De La Torre, SISD Superintendent will be the guest speaker at the Horizon City Kiwanis Club meeting at 8:00 a.m. this Saturday, Feb 20, at the Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City. De La Torre will discuss the new Eastlake High school currently under construction. The public is invited to attend. Directions are available at www.horizoncitykiwanis.org — click on the club information tab at the top of the page for driving instructions to the senior center.

— Gloria Soto

Wanted

The hunt is on for Michael Barron, 24, also known as Lonely. He is 5'4" tall and weighs 145 pounds.



Michael Barron

His hair is black and eyes are brown. Barron has tattoos on both arms — SUR 1 on the left; BRC 3 and an eagle head on the right. The names Emily, Cathy and Abigail are on his chest. Barron is wanted for an Aggravated Robbery that took

place on January 11, 2010. He claimed to be a Sureno gang member during the robbery as he brandished a knife while stealing a MP3 player from a 16-year-old boy. Authorities believe Barron is in the Borderland hiding with friends and relatives. Sheriff's Investigators are asking anyone who has any information about Barron to please 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

A rash of vehicle burglaries over a weekend in northeast El Paso escalates into a vehicle theft and the burglary of a home. The El Paso Police Department needs your help to find these criminals, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." Between the late night hours of Saturday, Feb. 6, and the early morning hours of Sunday, Feb. 7, eleven vehicles were burglarized in the 4100 block of John B. Oblinger Drive. One of the vehicle burglaries resulted in a home being burglarized and a Ford 150 pickup truck being taken from the home. The truck was located later that day in the 5000 block of Glacier Peak after being wrecked. Investigators believe the same group of

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Duty makes us do things well, but love makes us do them beautifully.

— Quips & Quotes

Vinton awarded \$330,000 to repair, improve homes

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

VINTON — For those families who still live with the after effects of the devastating floods of August 2006 that ravaged the Upper Valley, there is now hope.

For those low-income families that cannot afford necessary improvements to their homes there is also hope.

For those families that require improvements to accommodate the handicapped, there too is hope.

That hope comes in the form of a \$330,000 grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Mayor Madeleine Praino and the Vinton City Council formally accepted the funding at its Feb. 16 meeting.

The money comes from the department's HOME Program which, according to a Vinton press release, "targets families who live in substandard housing and need significant repairs to meet Texas minimum construction standards." HOME's program allows for a "variety of



Madeleine Praino

housing activities all aimed at providing decent and affordable housing for low-income families."

Praino said Monday the grant application process began last summer when the village began conducting door-to-door assessment surveys to determine the financial needs of the community. In that process, 125 households responded. Of that number, she said, 86 percent said they'd be interested in participating in the assistance program.

The mayor said 35 percent indicated they still had flood damage. Ninety-three percent of those with flood damage said they had not received any financial aid.

"We are very proud and pleased to receive this money," she said. "We are dedicated to serve the community — to give us a sense of pride."

Praino said a town hall meeting to discuss the grant will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 24 in the fire station on Vinton Road. To avoid the perception of possible favoritism in awarding individual funds, a plan administrator who has no ties to Vinton will be appointed.

The Village of Vinton has received two other grants to benefit the community. The grants, for a two-year period, come from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The first grant is for \$38,900 and will be to administer and enhance a recycling program only for users of the village's sanitation services. A collection station/drop-off area for recyclables, such as newspaper and plastics, aluminum cans is under construction behind town hall. It should be finished by the end of the month.

Although they will be able to come during the week, residents are encouraged to come on Friday with recyclables.

The second grant is for \$26,000 and covers bulk household waste drop-offs in special containers across Vinton Road from the town hall. This includes items like old refrigerators and furniture. It went into use in January and will be available every two months. The next bulk drop-off is scheduled for March 20.

Also from Mayor Praino:

- With IRS-certified employees, Vinton offers assistance in income tax form assistance at village hall from 9-7 on Fridays. The help in preparing the tax forms is not limited to residents of Vinton. All are welcome.
- The new spur road is 95 percent complete.

San Elizario ISD rewarded for energy efficiency

Electric company official presents check during board meeting

By Cynthia P. Marantes
Special to the Courier

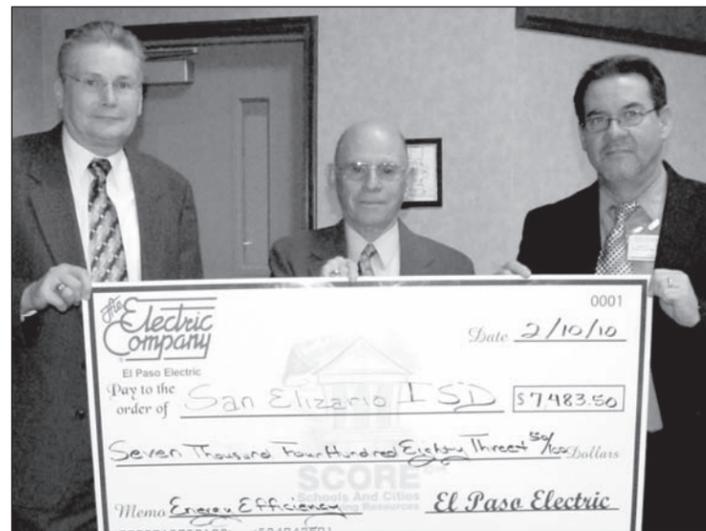
SAN ELIZARIO — San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) received an incentive check from the El Paso Electric Company (EPEC) through its Texas Schools and Cities Conserving Resources (SCORE) Program for energy efficiency efforts implemented throughout the district's facilities. Paul Royalty, EPEC Manager of Energy Efficiency and Utilization, presented the district's board of trustees with the big check on Feb. 10.

SEISD netted \$7,483.50 in monetary incentives for projects that reduced peak demand. Specifically, the district decreased energy consumption by approximately 40 kilowatts for a total annual savings of 86,734 kilowatt hours which was rewarded at a rate of \$185 per kilowatt of peak demand reduction. SEISD collaborated with the Texas SCORE Program by retrofitting lighting throughout seven facilities in the district as well as partnering on other initiatives. These initiatives for 2009 equaled to the reduction of 62.3 metric tons of carbon dioxide (greenhouse gases) or the equivalent of eliminating 11.9 passenger vehicles off the road for SEISD.

George Luevano, Support Services Director, worked with SCORE representatives help identify and determine possibilities where energy efficiency could be maximized within SEISD. "Our district has taken a number of measures to conserve energy, mostly with upgrading lighting fixtures and collecting data. That data was very instrumental with identifying areas of possible energy savings in our district," Luevano stated.

SEISD personnel to include Luevano, Louie Herrera, David Gossett, Joe Gomez, Richard Carrillo and campus administrators were instrumental in executing the different projects in order for the district to reduce energy use and receive the cash incentives.

The Texas SCORE Program works with schools and other institutions to offer no cost solutions to determine better ways of enhancing energy performance in existing or newly constructed facilities that result in peak demand savings in addition to the financial incentives. The program is funded by the El Paso Electric Company. The rebate check received by SEISD was for incentives earned last year and the district is currently in its third year of participation with the Texas SCORE Program.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

POWER DOWN — El Paso Electric's Paul Royalty, left, presents an energy incentive rewards check to SEISD board member Ramon Holguin, center, and SEISD Support Services Director George Luevano for the District's energy management efforts.

Early voting starts this week

16 locations open to registered voters

By Jamie Henneman
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — With the coming primary election holding a very full ticket of offices up for election, voters may want to take advantage of the early voting that starts Tuesday, Feb. 16 and runs until Feb. 26. The early elections process allows voters to visit any of the early elections polling places, even if it is outside of their usual precinct.

The registration deadline in order to vote in the March primary was Feb. 1.

El Paso County Elections Administrator Javier Chacon said he anticipates seeing a 5 to 6 percent voter turnout during this early voting period.

"We normally see 5 to 6 percent turnout in early voting but expect to see as high as 15 percent turnout on election day in March due to all of the local officials that are being

See VOTE, Page 5

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Were some Vets with PTSD denied benefits?

As a result of a lawsuit filed in 2008, the military is going to look through the records and re-evaluate the claims of certain Afghanistan and Iraq veterans who may have been denied benefits due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In those cases, veterans were only given a 10 percent or less rating.

Since December 2002, when PTSD has been diagnosed, a minimum rating of 50 percent has been required. The lawsuit alleges that many vets weren't given that 50 percent.

This lawsuit (Sabo vs. United States) is not for everyone who's been diagnosed with PTSD, however. There's a very narrow range of veterans who qualify. Specifically, you:

- 1) Were in the military on active duty, and
- 2) Were found to be unfit for service at least partly because of PTSD, and
- 3) Left the service after Dec. 17, 2002, but before Oct. 14, 2008.

Additional scenarios can include having received lump-sum payments or having been on the Temporary Disability Retired List.

If you meet the above requirements, you should have received a notice by the end of January that your records are being reviewed.

You have until July 24 to opt in and become part of the class-action lawsuit, if you so choose. Contact The National Veterans Legal Services program. It will help veterans navigate the process of getting the additional benefits.

If you think you should be on the list of those whose records are being reviewed but you did not receive a notice, or if you wish to join the lawsuit, contact:

National Veterans Legal Services Program
c/o SABO SCREENING
P.O. Box 65762
Washington, DC 20035
or
Telephone: 877-345-8387
Fax: 202-223-9199
www.ptsdlawsuit.com

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.
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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Meetings keep groups informed

Hola mi gente, I have mentioned before that one of the more enjoyable parts of my office is visiting with various groups in the district. Over the past weekend, my staff and I joined the Horizon City Lion's Club members for their meeting at the Flying J Restaurant.

While the Lions in general sponsor a variety of special events benefitting the community, this particular Club does some good thing for the Horizon City area. One important event is the Health fair that takes place at the Oz Glaze Senior Center. My favorite is the annual Mothers Day sale of roses for the purpose of fund raising. Every year, they provide beautiful red roses for wives, mothers and grandmothers.

Another important program assists lower income families with the mandated (in some schools) school uniforms. Buying new uniforms can be a big dent in some budgets. The Horizon City Lions Club gathers uniforms donated to them and distributes them to the right families so that their kids can go to school in uniforms that are in

very good condition.

During the meeting, we discussed a variety of issues. The first that I talked about was the upcoming census. I repeated to them my concerns about El Paso County losing representation if the count turns out incomplete and too low. I urged all of the Lions Club members to participate and to get their neighbors and friends to do the same.

Another very serious issue about which we spoke had to do with drugs and the students in the east county schools. One member informed us about a rumor that one school was preparing for a drug incident arising from the cartel wars in Juarez.

While we see the violence as being in another nation across the Rio Grande, the fact is that many El Pasoans are involved with those cartels in the drug business. The sad truth is that many students in middle and high school are swayed to assist the cartels in transporting drugs. I know of many students who have experienced the horror of being stopped and arrested by border officials for drug running.

Their lives were dramatically and tragically changed for a long time.

While it might be scary for parents to know that schools are planning for possible incidents, it should be reassuring that school officials recognize that something tragic could happen. It is better to be prepared.

My office, some time back, became aware of a student outreach program dedicated to showing the students how bad it can be if they decide to join in on the cartel activity. The program is presented by officers from the Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency. We called the Agency to get specifics on how to schedule a presentation so that the schools in the Horizon City area may take advantage of the program.

I hope that other schools will consider having the presentation made to their students. If we can prevent some students from joining the drug business, the chances of the violence spilling over to this side of the border will be reduced.

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

View from here By Michael Schwartz

An annual ritual we can do without

This is the time of year most Americans receive their W-2 and 1099 forms, putting into motion the annual process of calculating the maximum amount they can get back from Uncle Sam.

Before April 15, many Americans will devote hours attempting to make sense of the tax laws for that elusive refund while others simply throw up their hands and hire a tax professional to handle their returns. It's an industry which fetchingly promises their customers the largest tax refund they can get - if only Americans got an actual return on investment when that check arrived from the Department of the Treasury. Few people who receive tax refunds realize they're simply being paid back the interest-free loan they gave to the federal bureaucracy the previous year.

Over the last decade or so, a few thinkers have attempted to convince Americans there's a better way. Steve Forbes based two unsuccessful

for necessary government programs, there's one element missing from these alternatives which prevents them from getting traction inside the Beltway or in any state capital.

America's complex tax code allows Washington to control behavior through reward or punishment. In his recent State of the Union address, President Obama noted, "We cut taxes. We cut taxes for 95 percent of working families... We cut taxes for first-time homebuyers. We cut taxes for parents trying to care for their children. We cut taxes for 8 million Americans paying for college."

Most readers would nod their head in agreement because these are behaviors which tend to lead to productive lives. But if you become too productive by earning too much money, suddenly you're a target. And a favorite weapon of Washington insiders is pegging these tax breaks to income, phasing them out if your family's take-home pay starts to creep over a certain threshold

considered "fair" by those in charge. President Obama campaigned on "sharing the wealth," and if you happen to be someone who makes over \$250,000 he considers your wealth his to share.

Yet figures compiled by the Heritage Foundation tell a different tale, noting that the top fifth of income earners saw their share of taxation increase from 81.2% in 2000 to 86.3% in 2006 - on only 55.7% of total income. Even under the Bush tax cuts panned by Democrats as "tax cuts for the rich" the high income earners as a whole shared far more than they made. While either of the proposed alternative methods of taxation would still come down harder on those who make large salaries, they wouldn't tend to single producers out for punishment.

This fairer, flatter approach to taxation, though, flies in the face of a

See RITUAL, Page 4

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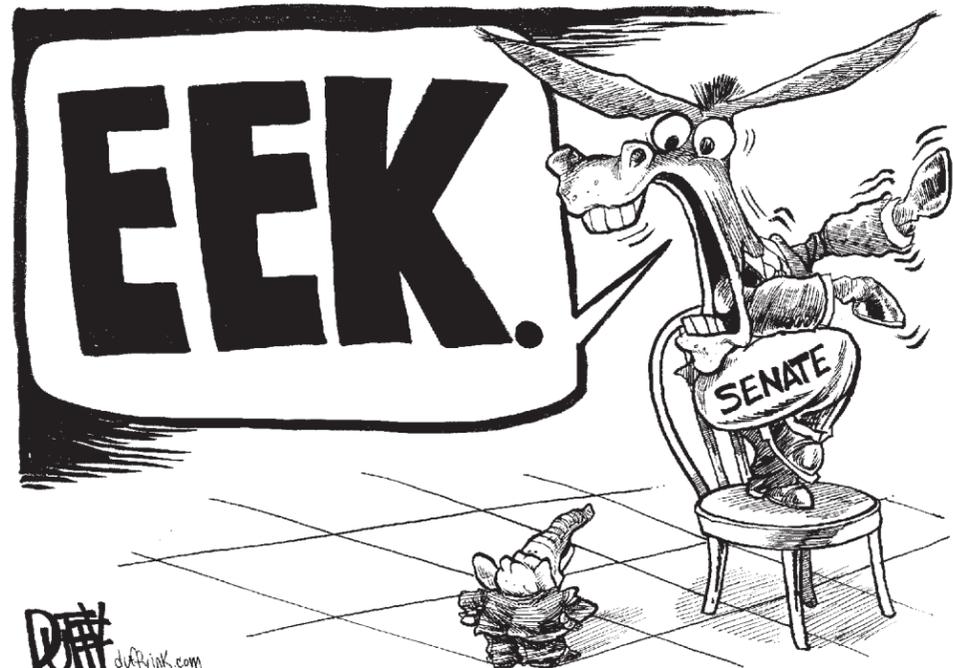
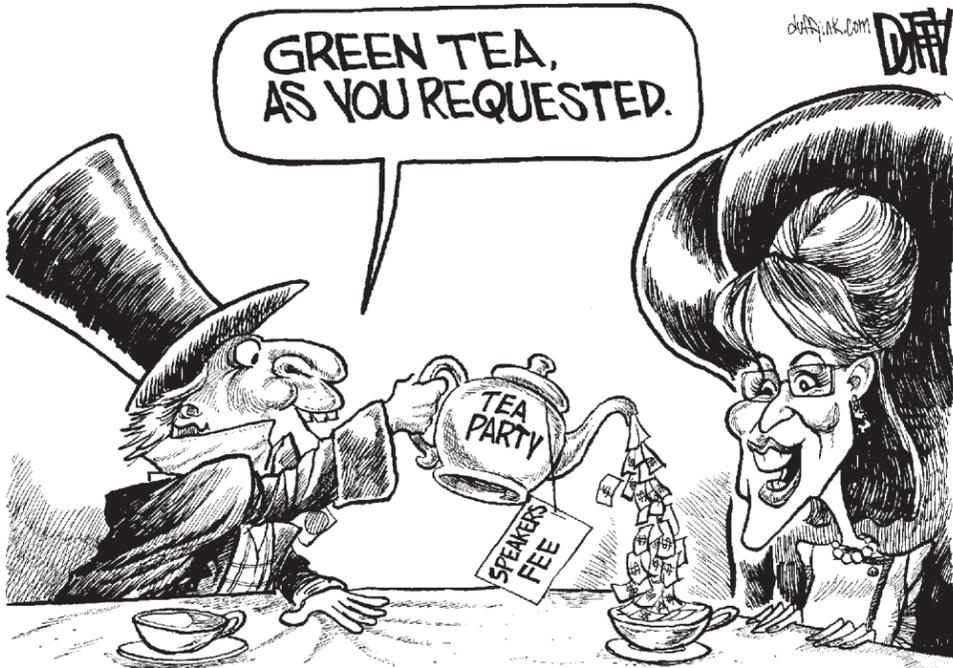
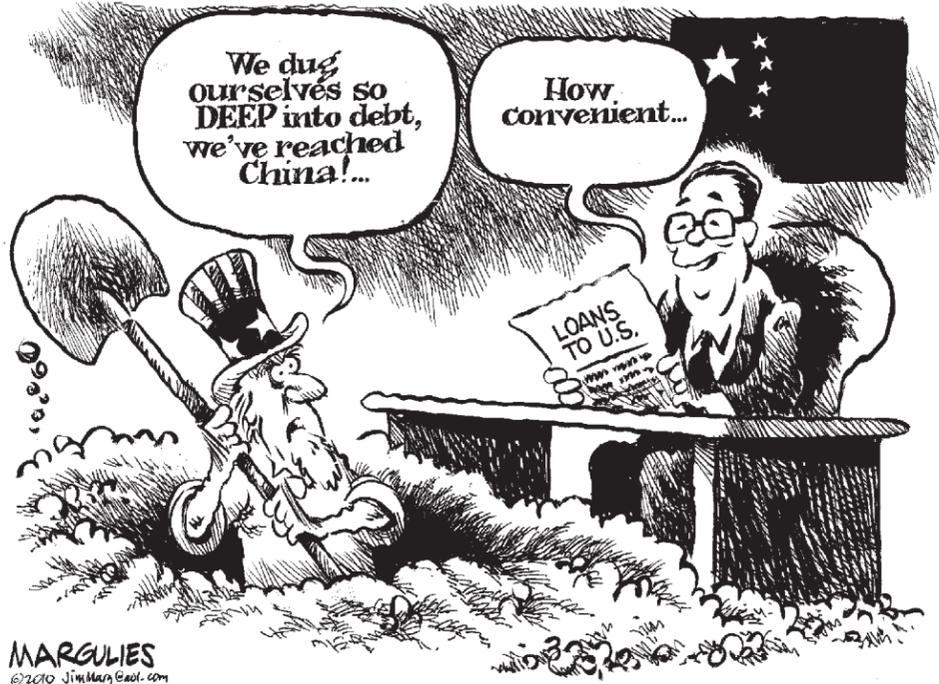
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Presidential campaigns in 1996 and 2000 on the concept of a single-rate flat tax with few deductions, while Rep. John Linder of Georgia has spent the past decade introducing a consumption-based solution dubbed the FairTax to each new session of Congress.

While both methods are long on merits and could easily be adjusted to rates assuring sufficient funds

"THIS BRINGS WHOLE NEW MEANING TO 'HELL FREEZING OVER.'"



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

Murphy's melodrama

Are we masters of our fates, or is Murphy's Law, that everything that can go wrong will go wrong, set in stone and beyond our mere mortal minds to break? How many times in our lives have we heard or pronounced, "If only I had..."? Many of us feel jinxed, doomed, or otherwise fated to fail. We drink and smoke to excess, eat like there's no tomorrow, burn the midnight oil for no good reason, and abuse the physiologic machinery lent to us by the Divine with the justification that we are failures anyway, so we might as well buckle up for the ride and enjoy ourselves. Some of us remember our fathers saying, "You will never amount to anything," and that verbal flaying has remained with us for our entire lives. If only we could think positively and place our minds over matter, we might reap dividends for both our health and wealth, not to mention a good dose of inner tranquility. Positive thinking can not only help us to reverse and write off Murphy's Law as an old witch's tale, but also avoid missteps like traveling up snowy slopes in Ruidoso, New Mexico without snow tires, four-wheel drive, or chains, driving all night to Dallas, Texas without sleeping the day or night before (as practiced by the author of this piece), and other forms of personal lunacy that have become the gold standard for those of us who feel destined to fail anyway, good for nothing, or shackled by Murphy's legacy.

Never underestimate the power of positive thinking on one's health. Studies have shown that optimistic coronary artery bypass surgery patients not only recover more quickly, but also have fewer complications after surgery than those with a gloomier outlook on life. Optimism is a healing resource every bit as powerful as the myriad of capsules, tablets, injections, potions, and elixirs promulgated by pill pushers in white, the pharmaceutical industry's juggernaut, and your friendly neighborhood pharmacists, often more concerned with the ring of cash registers than renewing old acquaintances to the tune of, "Hello, I'm not here to buy anything." Let's face it, medical outcomes can, indeed, be influenced by mental and emotional expectations. It doesn't take an advanced degree to figure that one out. Just think of the placebo effect, or the fact that some drugs or treatments with no proven medical benefits, except for a patient's belief that they will help, have been found to provide satisfactory relief for any number of medical problems. That is not to say that placebos are medical marvels, magic bullets, or gold standards. When we are really sick, we need

real medicines and procedures, but positive thinking is an important adjunct that should not be left out of medicine cabinets and little black bags. While no one really understands why a positive attitude can go far to speeding up recovery from surgery or helping to cope with serious illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, or AIDS, the answer may lie in the mind's power over the immune system. Studies of healthy first-year law students have found that those who are optimistic about the upcoming year and maintain such optimism through mid-semester, not only have more immune cells but better functioning immune cells than their pessimistic counterparts. So, an organic basis for positive thinking actually does exist. Pessimism, on the other hand, has been found to boost levels of destructive stress hormones in the bloodstream.

While we can't change the circumstances of our lives, we can certainly change our attitudes toward them. Pain can be used for good. Life-threatening and incapacitating illnesses such as AIDS, cancer, emphysema, heart attack, or liver cirrhosis, to name a few, can be thought of as "gifts," with very little stretching of the imagination. Those conditions can even empower us, by removing the blinders that hinder us from valuing each day, appreciating moments, getting priorities straight, and successfully reaching goals we never thought possible. The loss of a breast to breast cancer, the loss of a high-powered job due to a disabling illness, or the loss of mobility and perceived freedom due to age or a crippling disorder can be looked upon with despair and fatalism, as we cry in our beer, conclude that we are no good and have been singled out for suffering, fail to see a silver lining, or abandon all hope. On the other hand, "being sick" can be viewed as an opportunity to reach out and grab for all that is distinctly human, and all those missed possibilities we have swept under life's carpet because we were simply too busy or too tired to view them in the light of reason. So, while the exchange of a breast for less energy devoted to cultivating the perfect body, the exchange of a job for free reign to pursue interests and hobbies, or the exchange of mobility for the freedom to pursue deeper passions may hardly seem fair at the moment of immediate impact, a step backward and pause for reflection will most assuredly convince us of the contrary.

The philosophy of making the best of what we've got might not have saved Air Force Capt. Edward A. Murphy, an

See MURPHY, Page 4



Moore Texas by Roger Moore Dallasite John Mitchell installs the first automobile air conditioner...had to be a Texan.

Ritual

From Page 2

governmental philosophy that exists to redistribute wealth and thousands of lobbyists who make their living pitching new regulations and tax code designed to benefit those who stroke their checks at the expense of business competitors or political opponents. These are the people who are perfectly happy to maintain a complicated, unfair system where its sheer

complexity bullies taxpayers into not taking every allowable deduction and where errant filers are guilty until proven innocent.

It's a system long overdue for fundamental change, and soon we'll have the opportunity to elect politicians with the spine to undertake it.

Michael Swartz, an architect and writer who lives in rural Maryland, is a Liberty Features Syndicated writer.

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CryptoQuip Answer

A big, mythical bird was just convicted and is now serving time. It's a jailhouse roc.

Briefs

From Page 1

individuals is responsible for these crimes, and they know someone must have witnessed the individuals involved as they left the scene of the crash. If you have any information at all about the subjects who committed these crimes, 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

Murphy

From Page 3

aerospace engineer at Edwards Air Force Base in California in 1949 for whom the law was named, and who died one dark evening in 1990, while hitchhiking to a gas station, when his car ran out of gas and he was struck from behind by a British tourist who was driving on the wrong side of the road. Even though he was facing traffic and wearing white, Capt. Murphy's fate was sealed. Not so, however, for the men participating in a 2008 study conducted at the University of Rochester Medical Center, in whom it was found that their belief that

they were at lower-than-average risk for cardiovascular disease actually resulted in their experiencing a three times lower incidence of death from heart attacks and strokes.

So, as Murphy rests in peace, those of us still around may do so also.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was British journalist Jeremy Campbell who made the following sage observation: "Computers are good at swift, accurate computation and at storing great masses of information. The brain, on the other hand, is not as efficient a number cruncher and its memory is often highly fallible; a basic inexactness is built into its design. The brain's strong point is its flexibility."

- In 1911, it became illegal in China to wear a pigtail.

- One of Ernest Hemingway's early English teachers claimed that the future Nobel Prize winner would "never learn to write."

- More from the files of hangover cures from around the world: In Japan, pickled plums are reputed to ease the morning-after ails; in Italy, it's (quite sensibly) coffee. The Chinese drink strong green tea, while in the Netherlands it's the hair of the dog — the Dutch advocate beer as a remedy. Danes eat salt, while Mexicans eat shrimp (I'll take the Mexican remedy any day). Perhaps the oddest remedy is practiced in Russia: Sufferers there head to the sauna, where they proceed to whip out the toxins with leafy birch branches. No word on what they do in winter, when the birches are, presumably, leafless.

- The Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways — better known as the Interstate Highway System — is the largest public works project in the history of the world. At 46,876 miles, it's also the world's largest highway system.

- Stephen Foster, known as the Father of American Music, originally got paid a grand total of 2 cents for each of his musical scores that were sold.

Thought for the Day: "There is no nonsense so arrant that it cannot be made the creed of the vast majority by adequate governmental action." — Bertrand Russell

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Village of Vinton Notice of Town Hall Meeting Asamblea Especial

A TOWN HALL MEETING will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 24th, 2010, at the West Valley Fire Department, 510 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of this meeting is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding the following proposed items:

Affordable housing strategies and resources, participant eligibility and qualifications under the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs HOME program.

Para discutir estrategias del desarrollo de nuestra comunidad. Discutiremos diferentes topicos como el de acceso a los programas de vivienda a precios asequibles.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views or inquiries in writing to the Village Clerk at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Jessica Garza
Village Clerk

WTCC: 02-18-10

Students empty their piggy banks for Haiti

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

Piggy banks and pocket change in hand, students at Frank Macias Elementary collected money in an effort to help the people of earthquake-stricken Haiti.

"We just asked the kids to bring in money; lots of kids brought in their piggy banks and lots and lots of change!" said Julissa Esparza, school counselor.

The students were given one week by the school to collect funds for relief efforts for Haiti. The students in grades pre-K to 3rd grade did well in collecting \$2,005.

After doing some research, it was decided that the funds would be donated to Convoy of Hope, an organization that is considered a "first responder" in disaster relief providing help to people in need in the United States and around the world.



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

RELIEF FUNDS — Frank Macias Elementary students in Ms. Rivera's class proudly display a check to Convoy of Hope for \$88.00. The class collected the most money for Haiti. Total for the school was \$2,005.00 collected in just one week.

According to their website, Convoy of Hope is a non-profit organization that has helped 28 million people in 112 countries and 45 states. They provide food, clean water and supplies, focusing heavily on providing the basic necessities of life for those in need. In 2008, 93% of funds raised by the organization went directly to relief programs.

Vote

From Page 1

challenged on the ballot this spring," said Chacon.

Chacon said the number of candidates on the local level is encouraging and anticipates that many of the 375,000 registered voters in the county will be active in this primary election.

"Of the nearly 700,000 residents in the county, about half of that number are registered voters. So when we see more candidate activity at the local level, we know things are working because people are getting involved," he said.

How to vote

Registered voters need only to take their voter certificate to any of the 16 locations in El Paso County in order to cast their ballot. If the voter certificate has been lost, voters can bring

alternate identification that includes a drivers license, birth certificate or other documents. A full list of alternate identifying documents can be viewed at www.epcounty.com/elections/.

Early voting can also be done by mail, but only in certain circumstances. A mail-in ballot for early voting can be requested by voters who will be out of the county during both early elections and on election day. Voters who are sick, disabled, elderly or in jail may also request a mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots, known as ABBM ballots, can be requested from the county elections department.

The 12 early voting polling locations will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Four more mobile locations are also available and will be on a rotating schedule. The locations and schedules of the mobile locations is available on the El Paso County Elections website at: www.epcounty.com/elections/.

Early voting polling locations

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. BASSETT PLACE #110
6101 GATEWAY WEST | 7. REGENCY OF EL PASO
221 BARTLETT DR. |
| 2. CAROLINA CENTER
563 N. CAROLINA DR. | 8. ROGELIO SANCHEZ CENTER
1331 N. FABENS |
| 3. EL PASO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
500 E. SAN ANTONIO AVE. | 9. RUSHFAIR POINTE CENTER # 5113
5111 FAIRBANKS |
| 4. DIETER PLAZA # 308
1605 GEORGE DIETER DR. | 10. SUNRISE SHOPPING CENTER #22
8500 DYER ST. |
| 5. FESTIVAL CROSSING # 106
5380 N. MESA ST. | 11. VISTA HILLS SHOPPING CENTER #110
1840 LEE TREVINO DR. |
| 6. PAVO REAL REC. CENTER
9301 ALAMEDA AVE. | 12. ZARAPLEX CENTER #154
1700 ZARAGOZA |

ELECT

PATRICIA CHEW

DEMOCRAT

FOR JUDGE • PROBATE COURT #1

Political Ad Paid for by the Patricia Chew Campaign, Enriqueta Firro, Treasurer, 300 E. Main, El Paso, TX 79901

ELECT Democrat

Rosa Cervantes

For District Clerk

HONESTY • INTEGRITY • DEDICATED

Get to know me. Visit: www.cervantes4districtclerk.com

WHAT I VALUE

Trust and Honesty: Virtues I have earned from my family, friends and clients.
Integrity: This has been passed on to me by my family and those around me.
Dedication: Loyalty to my team, service to my community and hard work.

Rosa Cervantes

Political Ad paid by Campaign to Elect Rosa Cervantes for District Clerk. Treasurer Craig A. Patton 2829 Montana Suite 204 El Paso, Texas 79903

Town of Horizon City Public Notice

The Town of Horizon City will conduct an Election on Saturday, May 8, 2010 for the purpose of filling the position of Council Member, Places 1, 2, 4 and 6, for full two (2) year terms.

Qualified persons interested may apply for this place on the Town of Horizon City Election ballot beginning February 8, 2010 through March 8, 2010 at 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WTCC: 02-18-10

Fabens Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fabens Independent School District Special Education Department will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed in 2002 or before. Parents of these students may come to the Special Education Department located at 821NE "G" Ave. in Fabens on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to claim their child's file. The remaining files will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. If you have an questions, please call (915) 765-2690.

AVISO

El Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens va a destruir los archivos confidenciales de estudiantes que estaban en programa de educación especial que han graduado, se han movido, o fueron despedidos en el año escolar de 2002 o antes. Los padres de estos estudiantes pueden venir a la oficina del Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens en 821 NE "G" Ave., de lunes al viernes de 8:00-4:00 de la tarde a recoger los archivos de sus hijos. Los archivos que no sean recogidos van a ser destruidos como manda el estado en 30 días después de este aviso. Si tienen preguntas, llamen al teléfono (915) 765-2690.

WTCC: 02/18/10

UTEP BASKETBALL

February 18 @ 7:05 PM
Women's vs UAB
National Girls and Women in Sports Day
Free entrance for everyone

February 20 @ 7:05 PM
Women's vs Memphis
Pink Zone
Wear Pink, get in FREE!

Cut this ad and bring it to the marketing table during a Men's Basketball game located on the concourse behind section Y to redeem a UTEP prize.

www.utepathletics.com

Culpepper brings electricity to the Don Haskins Center

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

From time-to-time elite, athletes talk about being in the zone.

They can't really explain how they get into the zone, but once there they can accomplish amazing things.

Last Saturday night at the Don Haskins Center, El Pasoans got a taste of what it's like to see a guy in the zone.

The Miners were in a nip and tuck battle with East Carolina, a team the Miners should have handled pretty easily – and they did.

But they didn't get it going until they fell behind 16-15 about eight minutes into the game.

Then a 5-foot-10 thunderbolt struck the arena.

Randy Culpepper put on a show not seen by local sports fans in nearly 50 years.

Now I've covered UTEP basketball games for about 15 years now and sitting at courtside, us reporters have to remain composed no matter what is going on during the game.

But last Saturday, even the most stone-faced journalists couldn't help but express the disbelief at what they were seeing.

And that was watch Culpepper drain 3-pointer after 3-pointer en route to a 31-point first half, leading the Miners to a 63-33 halftime lead.

And that wasn't all. Culpepper slammed home a rebound and had a couple alley-oop dunks that brought the house down.

He threw up floaters near the basket, drove past guys for easy layups and drew fouls from bigger guys under the basket.

When it was all said and done, Culpepper threw up 18 shots in the game and connected on 14. Even more startling was the fact that he launched 12 shots from beyond the 3-point arc and nailed nine of them.

Culpepper finished the game with 45 points.

That total tied Antoine Gillespie for second place on UTEP's all-time single game list. Only Jim "Bad News" Barnes' 51-point effort in 1964 was better.

The Miners came away with an impressive 100-76 victory and are playing some inspired basketball.

Of course none of us knows what will happen over the final five games of the regular season. But UTEP is clearly playing like the class of the league right now.

I don't give out praise haphazardly, but to be honest, there aren't too many teams in the country who are playing as well the Miners are right now.

With great point-guards (Julyan Stone and Myron Strong), shooting guards (Culpepper and Christian Polk), forwards (Arnett Moultrie and Jeremy Williams) and centers (Derrick Character and Claude Britten), the Miners will be a tough challenge for any NCAA tournament opponent.

And it's becoming quite evident that if the Miners continue to play the way they are, they will certainly be invited to the big dance.

Oh, I forgot to mention another member of the team.

The much-maligned head coach of the Miners, Tony Barbee, is growing in stature with each passing game.

Even earlier in the season, when the Miners lost three of four games to drop to 10-5,

fans were questioning Barbee's basketball knowledge.

Everyone was saying he was one heck of a recruiter, but not much of a coach. They were also saying that this team couldn't play a lick of defense.

And they were right, Barbee looked lost and his team was playing defense about as well as the UTEP football team.

But no one is saying that anymore. Barbee looks like he is in total command, calling all the right shots at the right time.

And the Miners' defense at times looks like they've got eight guys on the court contending every shot, diving to knock away every pass and daring their opponents just to get the ball across midcourt.

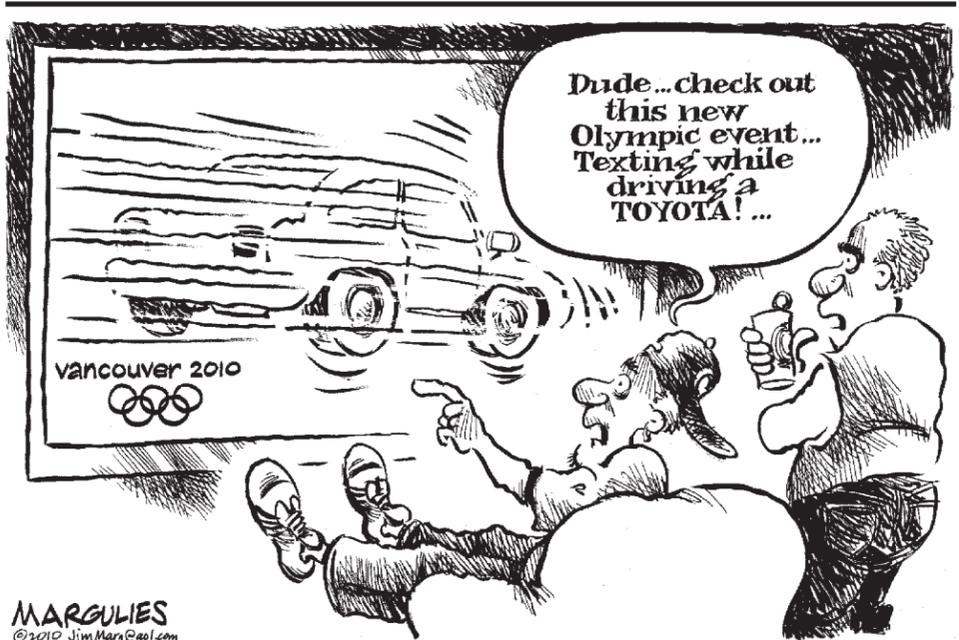
The Miners are a fun bunch to watch and Culpepper is the most exciting player.

El Paso is beginning to realize what it has in its own backyard. People are beginning to sell out "The Don" to get a chance to watch this incredibly talented group of players.

There are still some games left to play and it's never good to count chickens before they're hatched, but this team is totally fearless and has enough confidence for two or three teams.

The scariest thing of all is that no matter how far the team goes this season, there isn't a single senior among them.

If they all return for one more year I think UTEP will enjoy some record-breaking season ticket sales.



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Twin titans

A few weeks back, a few of you may remember, I put together a list of the decade's best athletes, seen from a sporting view.

Yes, we overlooked a few off-field indiscretions while making our list (Tiger Woods' sizzling sex life and Michael Phelps smoky socializations come to mind). And we had little choice than to overlook an on-court one (Serena Williams is too good to kick her off a decade's best list for cursing out a ref). But there were two glaring omissions in Peyton Manning and Tom Brady.

It was my fault, of course... I wrote the column. After a few sleepless nights, I consulted my editor and we decided that rather than do a third column, let's just pretend they were both implied. I was able to sleep after that because really, it's true. Anyone who doesn't think those two are among the best ever — let alone last decade — probably isn't reading the sports section or this column anyway.

Besides, I knew I'd get a chance to write about them both again. Mr. Manning, not surprisingly, was the first to check in a few weeks later in

the Super Bowl. I'll admit, I didn't get to see the likes of Sammy Baugh and I've only seen Johnny Unitas on tape, but I don't think there's been a better quarterback in the league than Peyton Manning. Not only does the guy possess a cannon for an arm, a field general's intellect and the constitution of a horse, he's been a great spokesman for the league and role model for our youth.

But I'm not sure if I've ever seen a ninth-year quarterback with more upside than the 30-year-old Drew Brees. Still basking in the afterglow of the Super Bowl, the notion that there can be another titan of a quarterback is starting to sink in with fans and players of the league alike. His performance in that game was a masterpiece seen by the most television viewers in history, and

it's likely to stand the test of time, replayed over and over again in highlight reels.

It was fitting that Phil Simms was in the booth, announcing the game. Besides being my favorite color commentator, his ability to describe the on-field actions of Brees and Manning made the telecast even more enjoyable (and FOX should be lauded for resisting the urge to play up the Hurricane Katrina footage or Kim Kardashian shots during the game... well done). When he

showed how Brees shortened his throwing motion to avoid being stripped, it made me aware that we were watching a quarterback at the top of his game.

Already at the mountaintop, one can't help but be excited for what's yet to come for Brees and Manning alike.

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

Classified Ads

LEGALS
must furnish the Foundation, **Workers Compensation** coverage prior to contract approval. Bids will be accepted through March 1, 2010. For more information and detailed instructions, please contact the local Foundation office at (877) 765-2139, or the Foundation Headquarters office at (800) 687-1212 Ext. 3124. WTCC: 02/18/10 02/25/10

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. is soliciting bids for the manual application of pink bollworm pheromone ropes. Ropes will be tied to cotton plants at an approximate rate of 200 ropes per acre at certain stages of growth. A minimum of 10-15 people over a two to four-week period will be needed for this activity. Applications of ropes in the El Paso and Trans Pecos areas will begin in late May or early June. Bidders

Village of Vinton

Request for Proposals

GRANT MANAGEMENT

SERVICES 79821
The Village of Vinton has recently received a Contract award from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for the HOME Program. Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified individual/management firm to administer the contract. Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for these proposed services to the address below:

Village of Vinton
City Hall
436 E. Vinton Rd.
Vinton, Texas

Proposals must be received by the City no later than 4:00 pm on the 5th day of March, 2010 to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards.

The Village of Vinton is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

WTCC: 02-18-10

COUNSELING SERVICES
DAMIAN 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.

DRIVERS WANTED
Russell Transport Now Hiring OTR Drivers Solo and Team Runs 14 days on duty 2 days off Min. 2 years Exp. required WE CAN HAVE YOU ON THE ROAD IN 3 to 4 DAYS. 12365 Pine Springs 915-542-1495

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.

1973
37
Years
2010

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CASULLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

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

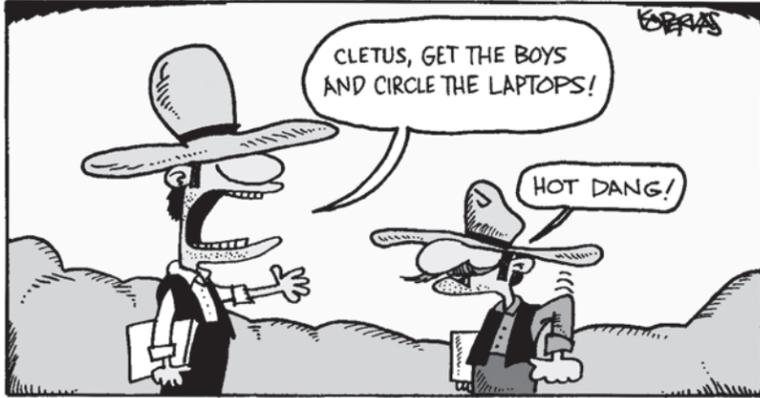
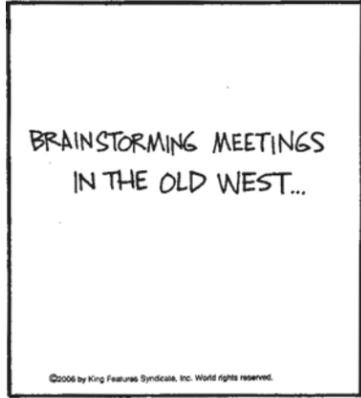
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Deadline: Mondays
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

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. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I got a sudden attack of dizziness that landed me in bed. I couldn't stand. Finally, with the help of my husband, I got to the doctor, who said I had a viral infection called vestibular neuritis. I am taking medicine and am somewhat better, but the dizziness isn't completely gone. Will it go? When? — L.T.

I have to warn readers that the causes of dizziness are diverse, and vestibular neuritis, while common, is only one of many causes. The vestibule of the inner ear has three fluid-filled canals that work like a carpenter's balance, that gadget whose center contains a fluid-containing tube with a bubble in it. The balance tells the carpenter if a piece of wood is aligned. The inner ear canals tell people if they are aligned. They send signals to the brain that keep us balanced. A viral infection of those canals or of the nerve that sends signals to the brain makes people feel like they've been put in the spin cycle of a washer.

Not only are affected people dizzy, they become nauseated and often throw up.

Symptoms of vestibular neuritis lessen in two to three days, but full recovery can take up to six or more weeks.

A cortisone drug taken within the first three days of illness can ease symptoms. And medicines like promethazine relieve dizziness and nausea, but they make some people so drowsy that they prefer the dizziness.

The booklet on dizziness discusses vestibular neuritis as well as the other dizziness causes. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donahue — No. 801W, 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.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Can

you give an explanation of and recommendation for cure of a health problem I have? Being over the age of 65 and in reasonably good health, I suffer every winter from painful cracks in my fingertips and the soles of my feet. — R.V.

The cracking indicates your skin is drying out. You can restore moisture to your fingertips with a light coat — just a dab will do you — of petroleum jelly (Vaseline or another moisturizer) before going to bed. Put Band-Aids over your fingertips, and leave them on all night. You can do the same during the day, but it's a bit inconvenient. In about three days, the cracks should be filling in. Continue this treatment every third or fourth night.

The same thing works for the feet. You don't use Band-Aids, but you do cover your feet with socks before going to sleep. Don't apply petroleum jelly during the daytime. It might make you somewhat unsteady. It takes longer for feet to heal.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Does the consumption of foods packaged or wrapped in aluminum foil pose a risk for contracting or accelerating Alzheimer's disease? — M.E.

The answer is no. The brains of some Alzheimer's patients have more than the usual amount of aluminum. Some have interpreted that as indicating aluminum as a cause. Few scientists hold to that theory.

Dr. Donahue 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.

Super Crossword

NOVEL BEGINNINGS ACROSS

- 1 "One _ Apple" ('71 song)
- 4 Broadway org.
- 9 Presidential pooch
- 13 Loudly, to Liszt
- 18 Spud bud
- 19 Propped (up)
- 21 Author Murdoch
- 22 Menotti title character
- 23 Over-laundered muumuu?
- 26 Aquarium fish
- 27 Viscount's better
- 28 Walked off with
- 29 Baby beagle
- 31 Noun suffix
- 32 Objective
- 35 Lose luster
- 38 One of the Sopranos
- 41 Embarrassed late-night host?
- 48 Humble abode
- 49 Hawke of "Training Day"
- 50 Start to cry?
- 51 Pageant prop
- 54 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
- 56 Dicta
- 59 Seek change?
- 62 Coasted
- 63 Cock and bull
- 65 Sup in style
- 66 "Rule Britannia" composer
- 68 Call _ day
- 69 Fill in
- 71 _ Scotia
- 73 Sculptor Bernini
- 74 Snead or Spiegel
- 75 Tarzan the Studious?
- 80 Ingot
- 82 Airhead
- 83 Fruit-tree spray
- 84 Biol. or chem.
- 85 _ Dhabi
- 86 Art deco designer
- 87 Sicilian volcano
- 89 Humble abode
- 93 Gershwin heroine
- 95 Wordless greeting
- 96 "Every _ You Take" ('83 hit)
- 98 Cheer competitor
- 99 Singer John
- 101 Organ of equilibrium
- 103 Maguire of "Spider-Man"
- 106 Singer Barry
- 107 Undecided activists?
- 113 Roman writer
- 114 Hit hard
- 115 Reverence
- 116 It may be fake
- 117 Author Umberto
- 119 Adjusted an Amati
- 123 Lhasa _
- 127 Come in
- 130 Good source of minerals?

DOWN

- 1 Actress Neuwirth
- 2 Auel heroine
- 3 Forest beauty
- 4 Request
- 5 "Quiet!"
- 6 Dove sounds
- 7 In _ (bored)
- 8 Cuban currency
- 9 Evergreen tree
- 10 Exist
- 11 Speech problem
- 12 Take for granted
- 13 Too big for one's breeches?
- 14 Doolittle's digs
- 15 Type of philosophy
- 16 Hurl
- 17 Panache
- 20 Dutch pottery
- 24 Sitka's st.
- 25 Work in Vegas
- 30 By means of
- 33 Cover the cake
- 34 Wrestling surface
- 36 Labor leader

ACROSS

- 37 WWII area
- 39 Qty.
- 40 Emcee's site
- 41 '54 James Arness film
- 42 A shake in the grass?
- 43 List ender
- 44 Pi follower
- 45 Cooking fat
- 46 Close
- 47 Trinidad's neighbor
- 52 Moreno or Hayworth
- 53 Inspector
- Dalgliesh
- 55 Engage, as gears
- 57 " _ Gay"
- 58 Party animal
- 60 Palladino of "ER"
- 61 Behaves like a beaver
- 64 Kid stuff?
- 67 Methuselah's dad
- 70 Borg or Ulvaeus
- 72 Subside
- 75 Reliable
- 76 As many as
- 77 Essential
- 78 Elaborate
- 79 Brilliant display
- 80 Movie piglet
- 81 Explorer Tasman
- 88 Energy source
- 90 Offensive
- 91 Churchill's

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: What is the census and why is it necessary? Will someone be coming to our house to count us?

A: The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted every 10 years, and the next Census Day is April 1, 2010. You can expect to receive your census form and a return envelope in the mail between March 15 and March 17 in areas where the U.S. Postal Service delivers forms for the Census Bureau. If you mail back the completed form, you probably won't need a personal visit from a census worker. The census is more than just counting people. Census results determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and help determine the allocation of federal funds for such things as school lunch programs, senior citizen centers, highway construction, and hospitals. More important, every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to local, state, and tribal governments based on census data. To learn more, visit www.2010census.gov.

Q: I get both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. I recently was switched from a benefit based on my own earnings to a higher widow's benefit on my husband's work record. But then my SSI check was reduced. Why did you give me money with one hand and take it away with the other?

A: SSI is a needs-based program. In other words, the amount of your SSI is based, in part, on your income and resources. So if your income goes up and your financial need decreases, your SSI payment also will decrease. When you started getting the higher widow's benefit from Social Security, your other income went up, so your SSI payment had to go down. For more information, you can visit our webpage about SSI at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi. Or you can call Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the publication, Supplemental Security Income.

Q: I'm 49 years old and have had two heart surgeries. I'm recuperating now and plan to go back to work in another year or so. But I'm worried I may not be able to. Should I go ahead and apply for disability benefits?

A: Yes. If you have a disabling condition that keeps you from working and is expected to last a year or more, you should apply for benefits now. You can learn more and get started online by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/disability. Or you can get the ball rolling by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Apply as soon as you can because disability claims can take several months to process. Be prepared to give us the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all the doctors, clinics, hospitals, etc., where you received treatment. Make a list of all the medications you take, and make a separate list of all the jobs you've held in the last 15 years, together with a summary of your job duties.

Q: My cousin and I are both retired

and get Social Security. We worked for the same employer for years, but he gets a higher Social Security benefit. Why is that?

A: Your payments are based on your earnings over your lifetime — generally your highest 35 years. In order to get the same benefit as your cousin, you and he must have had identical earnings, be the same age, and retire at the same time. To learn more about Social Security retirement benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov and select the "Retirement" link.

Q: My 4-year old girl is autistic. Another parent at her daycare told me that she might be eligible for disability benefits from Social Security. My husband and I both work full time and pay Social Security taxes. Could she really qualify?

A: If you and your husband are both working, then probably not. The only way your daughter would qualify for Social Security now is as a dependent on your or your husband's Social Security record. In other words, one of you would have to be getting Social Security retirement or disability benefits before she could be eligible. We

do run another program that pays disability benefits for children. It's called Supplemental Security Income (SSI). But it's a program for people with limited income and resources. So if your family is having a hard time making ends meet, your daughter might qualify for a monthly SSI payment. And if she gets SSI, she might also get Medicaid coverage. Learn more by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov

and selecting the "Supplemental Security Income" link.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 Answer Page 4 ★★★ 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: N equals J

Y MFQ, EPSDFVYU MFCI HYO
 NJOS VZLAFVSWI YLI FO LZH
 OWCAFLQ SFEW. FS'O Y
 NYFUDZJOW CZV.

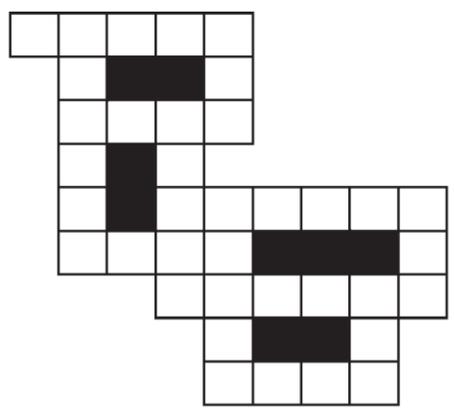
Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson
 CONQUER THE WHIRLED

- EHX
- GRINHI
- CREPH
- ARON
- ♥HORCET
- HET
- EGLE
- ♥HECSA
- ♥NOE
- GISTOP
- ♥STESA
- AXHO



Answer Page 4

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.

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



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