



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Park opens

Mariposa Park will officially open on April 30, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and refreshments. Located at the corner of Copper and Steel Roads in Vinton, volunteers from the Village of Vinton and students from Coronado and Franklin High schools in El Paso, donated their time to construct the playground as well as plant trees, paint butterflies, and lay cement. Mariposa Park is designed for children up to 7 years old and is the only public playground available in the North Vinton neighborhood. For more information please call 886-5104.

— Ruby Rodriguez

### Bargains and food

The Clint Youth Group at Clint Methodist Church will hold a yard sale and breakfast burrito/bake sale on Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 201 McKinney. All proceeds go to finance a mission trip in June. Call 491-0231 or 851-8144 for details.

— Staci Witte

### Spring festival

Desert Hills Elementary will hold its 4th Annual Spring Festival on Saturday May 1, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free there will be food, games and entertainment. Location: Desert Hills Elementary Cafeteria, 300 N. Kenazo in Horizon City.

### Correction

The Folklorico Dance Group that performed at the 2nd Annual Fabulous Chili Cookoff on April 17 was from O'Donnell Elementary School. The story stated, incorrectly, that they were from O'Donnell Middle School.

### Mother's Day eve

The American Legion Post 598 will be hosting an Enchilada Dinner on Saturday night, May 8, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now: adults, \$8; children 10 and under, \$4. Tickets at the door: adults, \$10; children 10 and under, \$5. To buy advance tickets call 852-4823 or stop by the Legion at 13000 Horizon Blvd. between 3 p.m. and midnight. This is event is open to the community. The proceeds benefit scholarships given by Post 598 to area students.

— Judy Burrows

### Career fair

Canutillo High School will host a career fair for the student body on May 12. As students begin the process of planning their futures, this fair will offer them the opportunity to learn about various businesses and careers. "The intent of

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*A cheap old car can be quite annoying. But so can a new expensive one.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Fabens ISD to open 'college high school'

By Don Woodyard  
Special to the Courier

FABENS — A brighter and wider academic portal to the future, once thought unattainable, now beckons to more high school students.

Cotton Valley Early College High School is the newest portal that will open its doors in August and academically challenge 75 ninth-grade students drawn from the Fabens, Fort Hancock, and Tornillo school districts.

Karen Blaine is the principal of the new high school which will be located in O'Donnell Elementary School in the Fabens Independent School District.

The Cotton Valley program is the fourth such partnership arrangement offered through El Paso Community College. The Socorro, Ysleta and Canutillo school districts already offer this program to their students.

At the heart of the program are dual credit courses that allow students to work toward and receive not only a high school diploma at the end of four years, but an associate's degree as well.

A regular high school curriculum is offered plus college-level courses taught by specially certified teachers.



Karen Blaine

"This is a great opportunity for students," says Jasminka Speer, principal of the Fort Hancock Middle School. Five students will come from Fort Hancock.

Rounding out the first freshman class will be 40 students from Fabens, and 15 from Tornillo. The final 15, according to Blaine, will come from an open enrollment process.

Speer says the district is going through a process in which applicants go before an academic review committee

for final selection. "The students are very interested, very motivated," she adds, "about the opportunity being offered."

The educational opportunity comes without cost, Blaine points out. The program is free — no cost for tuition and textbooks. Funds from the Texas Education Agency and participating school districts cover the cost of the new program.

"The purpose of this collaboration," Blaine points out in a press release, "is to provide a program through which students from Fort Hancock, Tornillo and Fabens will have an opportunity to graduate from high school and complete an associate's degree in four years.

"The goal of the program," she notes, "is to attract and better prepare students for higher education, assure students of the support necessary to be successful in college and provide Cotton Valley Early College High School students a seamless transition between high school and college."

The El Paso Community College homepage adds that the early college high school is a "bold approach... a powerful motivation for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges."

Underscoring EPCC's message, Blaine emphasizes that the program reaches out to those motivated students (current eighth-graders), who have the desire and willingness to embark on a new educational path to a brighter future.

In effect, Blaine says, the Fabens students will be picked through a lottery arrangement. Selection will not be based on previous academic achievement. If, for example, 60 successfully apply for the school from Fabens, they will have an equal chance to for selection as one of the final 40.

In promoting the program, she has "made the rounds" of the school districts and talking to parents and students. Particularly she is reaching out to those economically disadvantaged students, students at risk and those families who children have not advanced beyond high school.

"We want this opportunity for all of our students," she says simply.

Starting out with a freshman class, the early college high school will add a grade each subsequent year. Academically they will be a part of Fabens ISD, but will be able to maintain athletic allegiances with their own school districts.

Blaine says that the incoming freshman class will meet for half days for two weeks in June to get acquainted with each other and adjust to their new academic surroundings. They will select a mascot, school colors and discuss various school activities and student government.

As for Blaine, who comes to Fabens from Region 19 Education Service Center, this is a dream job. "I have been smiling the whole time."

## San Eli pageant crowns Rosales, Martinez

By Ray Borrego  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — On April 17, two young ladies were crowned during a pageant held at the Adobe Horseshoe in San Elizario. Miss Cansandra Martinez was named Miss San Elizario Teen and Laura Rosales was named Miss San Elizario Veterans.

The San Elizario Pageant is the first sponsored by The Veterans Committee, which is under and part of the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society, and San Elizario High School Activities Director, Mr. Ruben Rodriguez. Eleven contestants sought the

title of Miss San Elizario Teen and Miss San Elizario Veterans Queen. All the contestants were from San Elizario High School and were competing for the top two spots. Three judges narrowed the field down to four who then drew a question from a hat.

After tallying the scores, Martinez and Rosales were crowned. All of the contestants were wonderful and any would have done great job holding the titles, but only two could represent San Elizario and the Veterans.

Both will go on to complete in the Miss El Paso Teen Pageant in May 2010. Both young ladies will hold their titles until Spring of 2011 and represent San Elizario in other events during their reign. 350 people attended the event.



Laura Rosales



Casandra Martinez



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Students from Canutillo High School's Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Chapter proudly display their recently won medals. From left are Stella Scott, CHS teacher and FCCLA advisor, and CHS seniors Laura Flores, Hector Ceballos, and Wendy Cazares.

## Canutillo students earn state titles

By Kim Guzman  
Special to the Courier

CANTILLO — Three students from Canutillo High School's (CHS) chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

recently won state titles during the 2010 Texas Leadership conference held in Dallas.

The CHS seniors advanced after qualifying in the regional contests held in Lubbock during February. CHS first place winners and their

See CANUTILLO, Page 5

## Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

# State services take hit while economy recovers

Hola mi gente. There are definitely signs that our ravaged economy is beginning to come back to life. If some recovery does occur, we might not have to face as dour an outlook next January when the next legislative session convenes. I hope

that turns out to be the case.

The Texas Comptroller has issued revenue reports showing the decline in sales tax receipts is slowing, if not stalling, and starting to increase. There is still time before the next session for a strong rebound to

reduce a deficit that some say could be as high as \$10 billion. We faced that size of deficit in 2003, my first year as a state representative.

There were not many solutions to the deficit back then other than to make severe cuts in spending across the board. Unfortunately for the less fortunate in El Paso, the cuts were made to many programs that help sustain families. Service

personnel who took applications and serviced those seeking state assistance were cut and replaced by a phone in system. This resulted in discouraging people from applying because of the difficulty in getting their applications processed.

We also did away with some agencies. One example was the state air transportation pool. There was actually a small fleet of planes made available for state officers to avoid private airlines or costly private jets.

After all was said and done, many worthwhile programs were reduced in funding while some others that had no impact on the lives of needy Texans were sustained. During the debate for the appropriations bill in 2003, many amendments were offered that took monies

from programs like the county court house renovation project and inserted those monies to programs that sustained the health of women and children. Time after time, our efforts were rejected.

We did end up with a balance budget and the state survived only to have a similar deficit this year.

One option that was considered in 2003 and never passed was gambling. Every time we have a big budget deficit, gambling is touted as the only new revenue source that will generate huge sums of money. In 2003, the leadership of the legislature was way too conservative to give gambling a second thought. Today, there is very serious consideration for some sort of gaming bill to be passed. Judging from private conversations I have had and public comments made by among others the governor, the most likely bill to pass would allow video lottery terminals (VLTs) at racetracks.

VLTs are nothing more than a slot machine similar to those in Las Vegas. There are some differences but more similarities. Should they be legalized, Speaking Rock would be able to open with the same machines.

While the comments are positive, there are forces of which many are not aware that would work against legalized gambling. After all there are four states on our borders which have legal gaming that would lose a lot of Texas gamblers. Working stealthily behind the scenes, advocates of those states helped kill gambling bills in the past.

If gaming fails to pass in some way, we only have two viable alternatives to raising revenues. Property tax increases would most likely have to occur. For one thing, the statewide leadership would not be seen as responsible for the increase. A statewide sales tax increase would be different.

I have filed and supported gambling bills in the past because they were good for El Paso. Let us hope that we finally get over the hump and do it so the likelihood of property tax increases will be significantly reduced.

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Village of Vinton, Texas

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 during the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed item(s):

- 1) Consider and make a recommendation on a request for the subdivision of tract 9M53, and 9M53A, Block 18, Upper Valley Survey, El Paso County, Texas (also known as 116 Lisa Drive).
- 2) Consider and make a recommendation on a request for a variance of model subdivision rules on Tract 3B27, WF Hagan Survey, No. 146, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas (also known as Holguin Road).

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views 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: 04/29/10

## Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

### Gulf War and health

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies has released its newest report, Volume 8 of an ongoing study: "Gulf War and Health." This time it looked at the progress of existing illnesses and new ones as well.

It was the unexplained illnesses — chronic fatigue, rashes, forgetfulness, muscle and joint pain and headache, to name a few — that first prompted the Department of Veterans Affairs to ask for the study in 1998. Not only were there the oil-well fires, but there were chemical exposures to sarin, depleted uranium and more, including the vaccinations for botulinum toxoid and anthrax that might have caused the symptoms in service personnel.

These reports, reviews of peer literature, are well worth looking at.

If you want to review the newest report, go online to [www.iom.edu/Reports.aspx](http://www.iom.edu/Reports.aspx) and put "Update of Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War" in the search box.

If you need to catch up or you're looking for a memory jogger while you fill out VA paperwork, here are the individual studies in this series:

Vol. 1: Depleted Uranium,

Pyridostigmine Bromide, Sarin and Vaccines (2000)

Vol. 2: Insecticides and Solvents (2003)

Updated Review of Sarin (2004)

Vol. 3: Fuels, Combustion Products and Propellants (2005)

Vol. 4: Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War

Vol. 5: Infectious Diseases (2007)

Vol. 6: Physiologic, Psychologic and Psychosocial Effects of Deployment-Related Stress (2008)

Updated Review of Depleted Uranium (2008)

Vol. 7: Long-Term Consequences of Traumatic Brain Injury (2008)

I like the Goethe quote they put on the title page of each volume: "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do." I wonder if there's a message in that.

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](mailto:columnreply@gmail.com). (c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.

## 1973 37 Years 2010 WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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**Ysleta Office**  
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**Clint Office**  
105 San Elizario Rd.  
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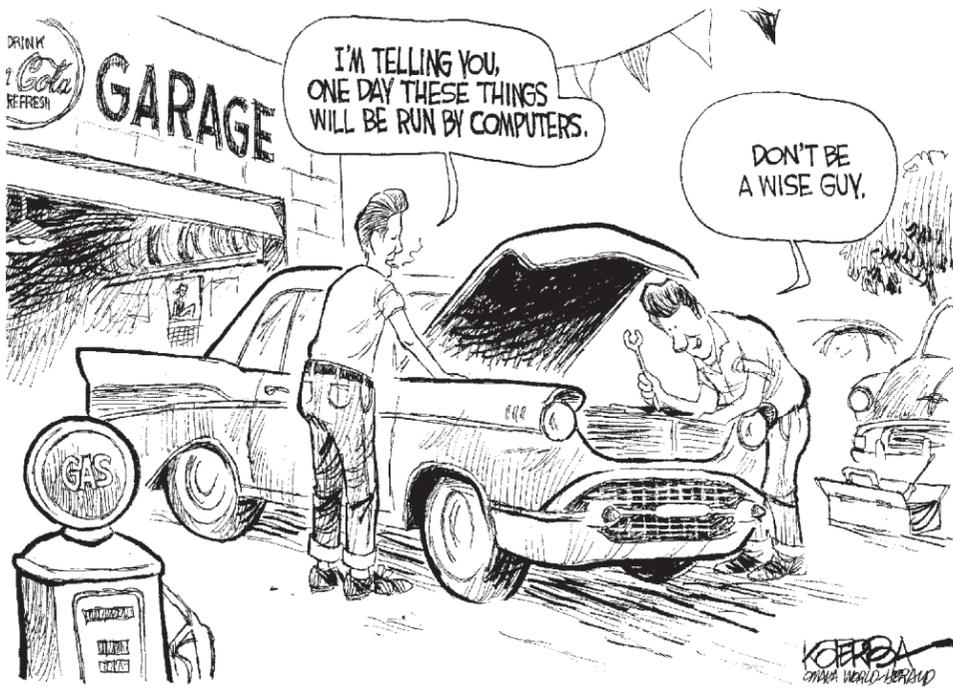
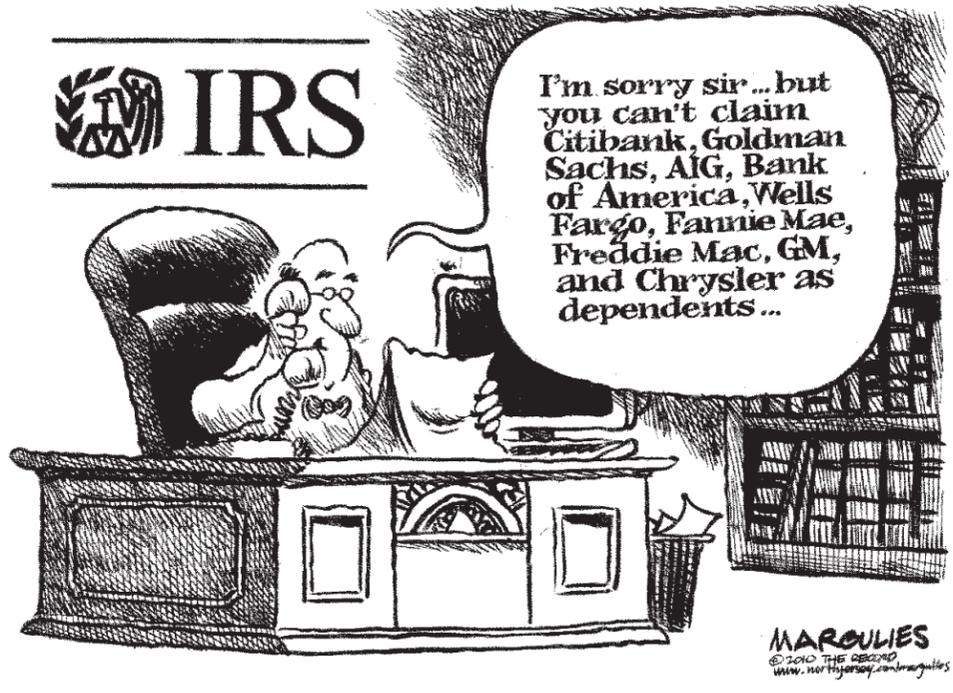
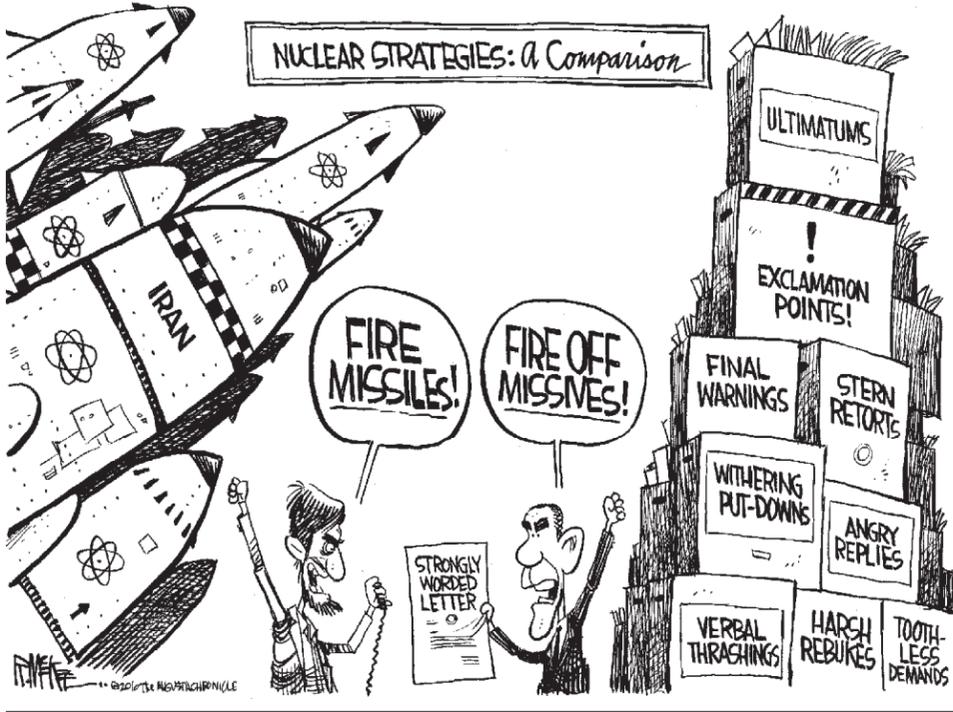
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**What's up doc?** By Albert Balesh, M.D.

# Screen saver?

For years now, doctors, nurses, health educators, and patients have sung the praises of screening and subsequent early detection, aggressive therapy, and increased longevity for breast and prostate cancers. They may have gotten it all wrong, however! In fact, recent retrospective studies done at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) and the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, and published in the October 21, 2009 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), have demonstrated the ineffectiveness of 20 years worth of screening for breast and prostate cancers, which currently account for over 25 percent of annual cancer diagnoses in the United States, in significantly reducing the death rates from those maladies. So, perhaps doctors should refrain from teaching their patients how to perform breast self-exams, until their efficacy can be proven. If that were not all, in November 2009, a federally appointed panel of experts, known as the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, all but panned baseline mammograms at age 40 in women with neither risk factors nor family history of breast cancer. The rationale behind the task force's pronouncement from on high was an end not justifying a means, with the risks of mammograms before age 50 outweighing the benefits of early detection of breast cancer. New recommendations, that women aged 50-74 years without symptoms or risk factors of breast cancer undergo mammography every other year, instead of annually, have unleashed a wave of accusations, criticisms, finger-pointing, and protests that the federal government is now rationing health care, to the detriment of its citizens. Nonetheless, evidence continues to mount that screenings are neither savers nor saviors, and even the American Cancer Society (ACS), one of the staunchest supporters of cancer testing, has had to reevaluate its position and scale back support of mass breast and prostate cancer screenings.

The change in position of the ACS and other former supporters of early, regular, and frequent screening stems from the increased detection of small, slow-growing breast tumors that may never cause harm, at the expense of aggressive tumors that arise and grow rapidly between screenings. Were that not all, repeated exposures to screening radiation, false-positive diagnoses of breast cancer, and overtreatment and extensive procedures for slow-growing tumors that may never cause problems place

women and their families in the precarious positions of being "damned if they do" and "damned if they don't." On the prostate side, controversy is no less evident, with neither the ACS nor the Preventive Services Task Force recommending or justifying routine screening for prostate cancer via prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood tests, in the face of the most common cancer in men presiding over an increased mortality risk of only 3 percent. So, satisfactory answers are not immediately forthcoming, and each patient must rely on introspection and personal health philosophy to guide judgment on the wisdom and benefits of detecting small, slow-growing, non-aggressive, and/or only remotely lethal tumors, in exchange for peace of mind that may not outweigh the burden of knowledge, the potential complications and drawbacks of overtreatment, and the financial hardships imposed. It makes no sense to inflate unnecessary screenings in these times of shrinking health care dollars.

This medical piece would not be complete, without some final affirmations and a bit of advice to the readers. While regular breast cancer screening is warranted in patients over 50 years of age with no risk factors, it does not mean annual mammograms. Women aged 50-80 with low or average risk may be screened by mammography every other year, with those over 80 perhaps no longer requiring mammograms. Worrisome are the patients who go five or more years without a mammogram, not those screened every one or two years. Self-discovery of a lump or abnormality in a breast, however, no matter how recent the mammogram, mandates immediate visit to a physician.

In the "non-fairer" sex, on the other hand, the jury is still out on routine annual PSA testing to screen for prostate cancer. For every man who avoids prostate cancer, 50 will be treated unnecessarily with subsequent incontinence and impotence resulting, due to a test that fails to distinguish slow-growing cancers that will never cause problems from the aggressive kind.

A screen saver works just fine in the inanimate, but when it comes to the living and breathing, too much of the scientific community's best of intentions does not always make for a happy ending. In fact, quite the contrary!

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## San Elizario ISD honors volunteers

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

for the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for her generous commitment to San Elizario ISD during the district's annual volunteer luncheon.

Olga Chavez put three children through San Elizario Independent School District schools and while they have all now graduated, she continues giving her time to the local schools and other students as a volunteer. For over 12 years, Chavez has devoted a significant portion of her time assisting in various capacities most recently as a volunteer at Loya Primary School. This year she excelled in the total number of volunteer hours contributed to the district by clocking in approximately 980 hours of service through the end of March. On April 23, Chavez was presented the Superintendent's Award

A total of 41 volunteers, including Chavez, were honored at the event for their extraordinary contribution of time and for their role in keeping the daily functions of the school district running smoothly. Each of the volunteers recognized at the luncheon provided at least 200 hours of volunteer service at the six different campuses in the district. One volunteer from each San Elizario ISD school was also chosen as the outstanding volunteer of the year for posting the most number of volunteer hours at that particular campus. The winners of the outstanding campus volunteer of the



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD  
Olga Chavez

## Little school wins big

By Rudy Barreda  
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — The district 3A tennis was completed on Thursday, April 15, at Americas High School. The schools involved were Tornillo, Fabens, Pecos, Clint and Fort Stockton.

The Tornillo Coyotes had a dominating performance capturing both the boys and girls district title. The team won the overall title with an impressive 105 points. Second place was Fabens with a combined score of 50 points. Tornillo won first place in four out of five events missing only the girl's singles titles.

Jesse Guerra defeated Geronimo Ornelas of Pecos to become a back to back district champion. Andrew Garcia and Danny Garcia defeated Ismael Perez and Efrén Quijas of Fabens to win the boys doubles championship. Jennifer Hernandez



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

**3A CHAMPS —** Members of the Tornillo Tennis Team, along with coaches, back right, Kika Saldana and Alex Macias.

and Lily Guerra defeated Lizette Rodriguez and Celina Hernandez of Fabens to win the girls doubles championship. Mary Ann Valenzuela and Nelson Villalobos defeated fellow teammates Angelica Apodaca and Fernie Vasquez to capture the

mixed doubles championship. Evelyn Godinez placed third in girls singles and Daisy Espinosa and Luz Rivera placed third in girls doubles. Stephanie Soria won the JV girls singles championship. The Tornillo Tennis Team is advanced nine players to the

regional tournament in Lubbock.

What makes this so special is Tornillo has a student population that would allow them to compete in 2A but in fact are competing in the 3A classification. They are the first team from Tornillo to win a District

3A championship.

“This team really proved what good old fashion hard work can do,” said Coach Alex Macias. “They competed so hard all year and really came through at district. This has been a really good year for the team.”

## Horizon Regional Municipal Water District Notice of Election / Aviso de Elección

### TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF HORIZON REGIONAL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

### A LOS VOTANTES CALIFICADOS DEL DISTRITO REGIONAL DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES DE HORIZON Y DEMÁS PERSONAS INTERESADAS:

Notice is hereby given that Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District (the “District”) will hold a Directors Election within and for the District and that the polling places listed below will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, 2010 for the purpose of duly qualified resident electors voting for three (3) directors for Directors Position Nos. 3, 4 and 5.

Por medio del presente se informa que el Distrito Regional de Servicios Públicos Municipales de Horizon (en lo sucesivo, el “Distrito”) celebrará una Elección de Directores en y que las casillas electorales sitadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7 de la mañana hasta las 7 de la tarde el Sabado 8 de Mayo de 2010 con el propósito de que los electores residentes debidamente calificados voten por tres (3) directores para los cargos números 3, 4 y 5.

### POLLING PLACES ON ELECTION DAY

### LOCALIDADES DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES

Precinct No. No. de precinto	Polling Place Lugar de votación	Judge/Alternate Juez / Alterno
147	Horizon Heights Elementary School	Ellis J. Thompson
148	Sparks Community Center	Vanessa Cordero Gastelum
157, 167, 168	Desert Hills Elementary School	Anne E. Pease

### EARLY VOTING / VOTACION TEMPRANA

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted at all locations within El Paso County, at which Early Voting is conducted by the County Elections Department beginning on April 26, 2010 and ending on May 4, 2010. (7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2010 and Tuesday, May 4, 2010) on each day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday.

La votacion anticipo en persona se llevara a cabo en todos locaciones en el Condado de El Paso, en donde se lleva a cabo votaciones tempranas manejadas por el Departamento de Elecciones del condado empezando el día 27 de abril de 2009, y terminando el día 5 de mayo de 2009 (7 de la mañana a las 7 de la tarde empezando el día 4 de mayo de 2009, y el día 5 de mayo de 2009) en los días aquí nombrados en todos los días que no sean sabado, domingo, o día oficial de vacaciones estatales.

### EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS; HOURS; PRESIDING JUDGE and ALTERNATE PRESIDING JUDGE

### SITIOS DE VOTACION POR AUSENCIA; HORAS; JUEZ PRESIDENDO y JUES SUSTITUTO PRESIDENDO

April 26, 2010 – April 30, 2010 (See Hours; Revisar Horas)

May 3, 2010 – May 4, 2010 (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

- Ann Garcia-Enriquez Mid. Sch., 12280 Socorro Rd.; 8:00 – 4:00; Yolanda Cereceres and/y Cecilia Alvarado
- Anthony City Hall, 401 Wildcat Dr.; 8:30 – 4:30; Diane Rivas and/y Sandra Meza

- Carolina Rec. Center, 563 N. Carolina Dr.; 9:00 – 6:00; Floreen Villela and/y Alma Franco
- Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio Ave.; 8:00 – 5:00; Laura Sandoval and/y Albert Mendez
- Dieter Plaza, 1605 George Dieter Dr.; 9:00 – 6:00; Velia Lujan and/y Ana Davis
- Fiesta Shopping Center, 5200 N. Mesa St.; 9:00 – 6:00; Chita Alderete and/y Mary Gomez
- Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Veny Webb; 8:00 – 5:00; Anita Bowling and/y Graciela Flores
- Pavo Real Rec. Center, 9301 Alameda Ave.; 9:00 – 6:00; Mary Padilla and/y Hortensica Guillen
- Parkland High School, 5932 Quail Ave.; 8:00 – 5:00; Ioria Cox and/y Graciela Sanchez
- Regency of El Paso, 221 Bartlett Dr.; 9:00 – 6:00; Joe DeVitto and/y Seney Sowles
- Rogelio Sanchez, 1331 N. Fabens; 8:00 – 5:00; Polly Rodriguez and/y Rebecca Gomez
- Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda Ave.; 8:00 – 5:00; Susan Blanco and/y April Rojas
- Vista Hills Shopping Center, 1840 Lee Trevino Dr.; 9:00 – 6:00; Phillip Young and/y Daniel Reyes
- West Valley Fire Station, 510 E. Vinton Rd.; 3:00 – 6:00; Ernesto Chasco and/y Edmundo Chasco
- Zaraplex Center, 1700 Zaragoza Rd.; 9:00 – 6:00; Dolores Bolanos and/y Madeline Perez
- Mobile #1; Waldo Rodriguez and/y Margret Grubbs
  - Monday, April 26, 2010; Eastwood High School, 2430 McRae Blvd.; 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - Tuesday, April 27, 2010; Hanks High School, 2001 Lee Trevino; 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - Wednesday, April 28, 2010; Riverside High School, 301 Midway Dr.; 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - Thursday, April 29, 2010; Bel Air High School, 731 Yarbrough Dr.; 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - Monday, May 3, 2010; Del Valle High School, 731 Yarbrough Dr.; 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### EARLY VOTING BY MAIL / VOTACION TEMPRANA POR CORREO

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Las solicitudes para boletas para votar en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:

**Javier Chacon, 500 E. San Antonio Rm. L-115, El Paso, Texas 79901**

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on the 30th day of April, 2010.

Las solicitudes para boletas para votar en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el día 30 de abril de 2010.

Only qualified resident voters of said District shall be entitled to vote at said election.

Únicamente los votantes calificados residentes de dicho Distrito tendrán derecho a votar en dicha Elección.

Such election shall be held and conducted and returns made to the Board of Directors of the District in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as modified by Chapters 49 and 54, Texas Water Code, as amended.

Dicha Elección se celebrará y realizará, y se dará el dictamen de los resultados a esta Junta Directiva del Distrito en conformidad con el Código Electoral de Texas, según modificado por los Capítulos 49 y 54 del Código de distribución de agua de Texas, según modificado.

/s/ John Navidomskis  
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST: /s/ Gordon (Bob) Jarvis  
Secretary, Board of Directors

**Briefs**

From Page 1

our career fair is not only to inform our students about careers in the workforce, but to help them gain an opportunity for a “hands-on” experience,” said Angelica Romo, CHS Business Education teacher. “Participating organizations will be there to help provide our students with knowledge about their careers,” she added. Several organizations and higher learning facilities are scheduled to present at the fair, including representatives of Western Technical Institute, El Paso Community College, El Paso Fire Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Agencies from Homeland Security, local television media, and the armed services.

— Kim Guzman

**Golden**

In December of 2009, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts launched the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle Program to recognize governments across Texas striving to meet a high standard of financial transparency. On April 16, 2010 the Village of Vinton was awarded “GOLD” status for its transparency efforts. It is the only city in El Paso County and smallest city in Texas to achieve “GOLD” status in the Leadership Circle Program, currently listed on the Texas Comptrollers Website. Some of the award requirements were:

- Opening books to the public;
- Providing clear, consistent pictures of spending; and
- Sharing information in a user-friendly format that lets taxpayers easily drill down for more information.

— Ruby Rodriguez

**Crime Stoppers**

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the Doña Ana County Sheriff’s Office in a continuing search for an offender who brutally murdered and El Paso woman in Chaparral, New Mexico, four years ago, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Monday, November 6, 2006, the Doña Ana County Sheriff’s Office was called to an incident in which a body was found in the desert area located off Highway 213 in Chaparral. As that investigation continued, the body was identified as that of Emely Corina Howard-Ianni of El Paso. She was severely beaten to death. The suspect in this case is Eduardo Estrada-Garcia. He is believed to have fled into Mexico, and is probably now living in Cd. Juarez. If you have any information about the location of Eduardo Estrada-Garcia, 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

**Canutillo partners slug it out for title**



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Canutillo High School senior Sammantha Velasco, defending 2009 singles tennis champ, recently battled her fellow student and practice partner for the title during the 2010 District 2-4A Championship Tournament held at America’s High School. Velasco, right, earned the championship over her opponent, CHS senior Reyna Siqueiros, with a 6-1, 6-2 win.

**Canutillo**

From Page 1

events include Hector Ceballos, for Job Interview; Wendy Cazares, for Step One; and Laura Flores, for Consumer Math. The students competed along with more than 550 other FCCLA members from across the state of Texas.

The state conference’s theme, “Beyond the Limits”, motivated 2,800 attendees in the Opening General Session, as they listened to guest speaker Brad McCoy, and two other guest speakers, who inspired participants to be the best they can be...to go beyond their limits!

“I believe in these students, as I do in all

of my students, and it is an honor to serve them,” said Stella Scott, CHS Career and Technology Education (CTE) teacher and FCCLA advisor. “My students were able to shine and go above and beyond their limits,” she added.

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7	9	2	6	8	3	4	1	5



**CryptoQuip Answer**

Sentimental pop tune that I’d guess any vampire should love: “Fangs for the Memory.”

**San Eli**

From Page 3

year were: Olga Chavez, Loya Primary; Dana Balentine, Alarcon Elementary; Leticia Garcia, Borrego Elementary; Laura Duran, Sambrano Elementary; Claudia Montes, Garcia-Enriquez Middle School; and Amalia Porras, San Elizario High School. Superintendent Dr. Mike Quatrini, Assistant Superintendent Sylvia Hopp and school principals presented all the winners with a special diamond award.

In total 128 volunteers contributed 17,416 hours — the equivalent of 435 full 40-hour work weeks — of service to the San Elizario Independent School District as of the end of March. From greeting students in the morning as they are dropped off at school, clearing away cafeteria trays during breakfast and lunch,

painstakingly preparing detailed classroom materials, decorating campuses with a cheerful touch, and keeping an eye out on students to make sure they are safe this dedicated group of volunteers contributes significantly to San Elizario ISD. For these reasons and many others, the Recognition Luncheon Committee chose “Rain or Shine – You can count on our volunteers!” as the theme of this year’s luncheon because through thick and thin, in good and bad weather volunteers come through for the students and staff of the San Elizario Independent School District.

The district’s Child Nutrition Services Department prepared a special chicken florentine lunch for the volunteers who also received certificates of recognition, corsages, and door prizes. The event was held in conjunction with National Volunteer Week celebrated this year from April 18 to 24.

**VOTE MAY 8, 2010**

**Keep Maureen Surratt**

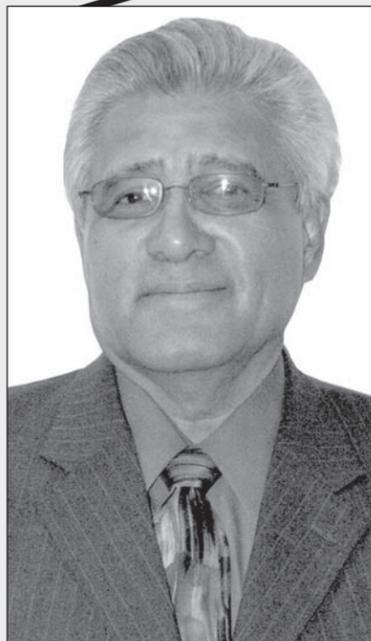


**Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District for Position Three**

- Born and Raised in El Paso County
- Resident/Homeowner, Horizon City, Texas
- Current VP of Horizon Regional MUD
- Business, water and sewer systems experience

Adpaidforby:JanetDavis,CampaignTreasurer,18990Armington,HorizonCity,TX79928

**Vote Coach Carlos Lopez For Lower Valley Water District, Place 1**



**“Professional Leadership for Positive Growth”**

- Masters Degree in Educational Administration — UTEP
- 20 Years Experience as a Jr. High and High School Principal
- 11 Years Experience as a Teacher and Coach
- 11 Years Experience in the Financial Services Industry
- Owner of Lopez-Meraz Financial Solutions, a Financial Services Firm
- Married to Edna Martinez Lopez of San Elizario
- Father of Three: Abe, Fernie and Rachel
- Grandfather of seven

*I will work hard for all clients of the LVWD. I promise to be professional in all dealings with the public and with the employees of the District. I will foster a positive working environment with other Board Members and LVWD employees. I am asking for your vote to work for a better Lower Valley Water District.*

**Early Voting: April 26 to May 4 • Election Day: Saturday, May 8, 2010**

Political Ad Paid for by Carlos Lopez Campaign; Carlos Lopez, Treasurer; 130 McKinney, Clint, TX 79836.

# Tennessee Titans roll the dice on Rolle in sixth round

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

It's unfortunate that you can't pick up a newspaper or watch a segment of Sportscenter without hearing about another athlete who either said something stupid, did something stupid, or in some way, shape or form — revealed his stupidity.

Over the last few weeks we've had guys like Tiger Woods and Ben Roethlisberger prove that even high-profile studs can fall from grace.

And of course there are the "regular" profile athletes you hear about every day who stole a car, or broke into a dorm room, or tested positive for drugs, or used their girlfriend as a punching bag, or were carrying a concealed weapon, or got into a 3 a.m. strip club scuffle, or any other number of unsavory activities.

But it's also true that for every Michael Vick there is a Derek Jeter. For every Mike Tyson there is a Peyton Manning. For every Barry Bonds there is a Joe Mauer.

Obviously, the good guys in sports aren't reported on very frequently because the public finds them boring. Everybody knows that sex

scandals sell.

Fans love to see a hockey fight break out and a vehicle flip over three times during a NASCAR event.

If we didn't love to see the worst side of people — we'd never know the names Jerry Springer, Maury Povich, Phil Donahue, Geraldo Rivera, Oprah Winfrey and Montel Williams.

It's gotten so bad out there that whenever an athlete does something utterly ridiculous, the media actually holds round table discussions on whether the penalty he or she received was too harsh.

It's like we've become immune to the severity of their depravity.

And this brings me to an athlete that really caught my eye a few months ago. Not because of anything bad — but because of his extraordinary accomplishments and his decent behavior.

And I hope none of you find this boring.

I'm speaking of Florida State defensive back Myron Rolle.

To say that Myron Rolle isn't your typical college football player is like saying Lance Armstrong isn't your typical neighborhood bicyclist.

Rolle was taken in the sixth round in last weekend's NFL draft by the Tennessee Titans.

Though Rolle would have liked to have been picked earlier, there's a pretty good reason the Titans and other NFL teams were apprehensive about taking a chance on the 6-2, 215 safety.

And it has nothing to do with anything negative.

Rolle decided to skip his final year of football eligibility to do something a little more noble — devote more time to his studies.

You see, Rolle is a Rhodes scholar and he's spent the last year studying in Oxford to become a neurosurgeon.

How about that, most guys his age, 23, can barely spell "tackling dummy."

Rolle finished his undergraduate degree in pre-med in two-and-a-half years. He went to Oxford in pursuit of his Masters in medical anthropology.

I think when I was his age I was pumping gas and trying to figure out how to give the correct change to customers.

The reason most NFL teams stayed away from Rolle is because none of them are sure how devoted he is to playing professional football for a living.

Many teams figured his true calling was in the world of medical science.

But hurray for the Titans who dared to give a young man of such character and knowledge a chance to make the team.

Imagine what an influence Rolle can be on any team to the number of young men who considered academics a burden on the way to what they really wanted — a big NFL contract.

It's true that Myron Rolle is not a household name quite yet. But the guy certainly should be. His story should be made available to all high school athletes as proof of what they can accomplish if they work hard and follow the rules.

A part of me almost hopes Rolle doesn't make the Titans' team because I know his work in the medical field is more important than anything he'll accomplish on the football field.

But it's great to see a man of his caliber get a chance to follow both of his dreams.

My goodness, for all his sacrifice and dedication and talent — he's earned it.



THE GALLERY

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Golden boys

It'd be easy to look at the world of sports and think that there was a very devious double standard at play.

Police will stop traffic for an athlete if he's late to a game because he spent the whole morning making out with Madonna — no matter if it's the Sabbath and she's still married — and he'll get the best parking spot at the stadium, guaranteed. Athletes make millions of dollars, but can call in sick if their hammy hurts. Shoot somebody and you get benched — knife somebody and you can be the MVP.

When two hockey players beat the crap out of each other on the blue line, a coliseum full of people cheer them on. I know I like hockey fights. But try that at the local rink and you won't get five for fighting, you'll get a felony conviction that could lead to five years in the clink.

For that matter, who's counting at the weigh-in when the two boxing contenders scuffle on the dais? These days, boxing promoter Oscar De La Hoya, that's who. Is there anything more scripted or phonier in all of professional sports than the obligatory "hold me back!" push

and shove at a pre-fight weigh-in? At least Mike Tyson made contact with Mitch "Blood" Green's face back in '88 when they went all betta fish in Harlem. It cost him \$45k, but at least he got something for his money — unlike those who watched him fight Frank Bruno on pay-per-view.

If you want to do drugs or assault somebody, the pros show us the simple and easy way to avoid detection: just hide in the bathroom! Outside the team's restroom, the key is to just make sure there's nobody around to corroborate a story — ask Billy Martin or Ben Roethlisberger about that move. As long as there's a union man by the door and a PR person making sure nobody with a badge or press pass can break a story or take a leak, you're golden.

Right, because the regular guy doesn't do drugs in bathrooms anymore — at least in the fancy restaurants. I was actually at a steakhouse during the NFL playoffs and the only TVs in the place were over the urinals. Twenty or so guys stood cheering the action on the field right behind some poor sap. Talk about stage fright.

And that's when it occurred to me:

The average career of an NFL player spans three years. The average human spends three years on the john. Double standard? Maybe for a while, but at the end of the day, water finds its level.

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

## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

#### Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District

#### Invitation to Bid

Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District is seeking Bids for 4 lots in Unit 25 Horizon View Estates, El Paso County, Texas. This property has been declared Surplus and is comprised of Lot 34 Block 1, Lots 36 & 42 Block 2, and Lot 1 Block 7, Horizon View Estates Unit 25 Addition. These

lots are subject to Restrictive Covenants placed on the Subdivision in which the property is located. These Covenants may limit the use of these Lots to drainage, park, and walkway uses.

Buyer is advised to inspect the property and review all restrictions regarding the lots. The lots are being sold as is and the Seller makes no representation, written or oral, regarding the condition of the lots or the use of the lots for any particular purpose.

All bids need to be submitted in a sealed envelope plainly marked **Bid for Lots** and addressed to **Toby Alvarado, Horizon Regional MUD, 1539 Pawling Drive, Horizon City, TX 79928**. Bids will be accepted until **Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 5 PM**. Bids will be opened on **Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 10 AM**. Horizon Regional MUD reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

WTCC: 04-22-10  
04-29-10

### DRIVERS

Russell Transport Now hiring OTR CDL Drivers Teams & Solo 2 years min. exp. 14 days on 2 days off Designated Routes Plenty of Home Time Please apply at 12365 Pine Springs El Paso, TX 79928 WE CAN HAVE YOUR WORKING IN 3-4 DAYS!

Now Hiring Team CDL Drivers For Dedicated Runs

From El Paso to Canada Must have clean Background, MVR & Passport 915-542-1495 Apply today start running in 2-3 days Russell Transport 12365 Pine Springs

Drivers: Company Team and Solo Runs! Great Pay & Benefits! CDL-A, 1yr OTR Exp. Req. TSI: 800-833-5908.

### LAND

Will trade Hudspeth County 20 acres

worth \$10,000 for lots in Ruidoso, Tularosa or El Paso. Can pay extra cash if good property. (915) 779-3495.

### 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, HOBBS, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABIEN, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

**CLASSIFIED AD FORM**  
25 words - \$10 per week; 40 words - \$15 per week

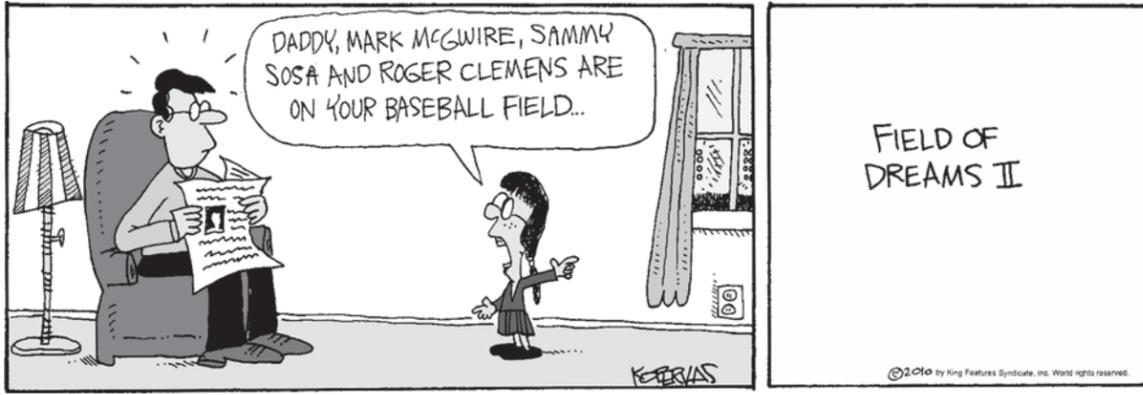
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Deadline: Mondays Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:  
**West Texas County Courier**  
15344 Werling Ct.  
Horizon City, TX 79928

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. Donohue, M.D.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** What can you tell me about a low sodium level? My visiting friend (from England) was refused embarkation on his cruise because he was acting belligerent and confused. The ship's doctor sent him to a hospital. He had scans, an EEG and numerous blood and urine tests. Everything was normal except he had low sodium. His insurance carrier sent a doctor from England to accompany him on a flight back to London. He has since seen his own doctor. His sodium level has risen. What happened to him? — B.L.

If it has not, then his doctor has to look for explanations of his erratic behavior that have nothing to do with his sodium.

The booklet on sodium and potassium explains why these minerals are so important and what happens when they are out of kilter. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue — No 202W, 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.

Sodium has many functions. It keeps body fluids at the right level. It maintains blood pressure. It's essential for muscle contractions. It participates in generating the heartbeat. It carries a positive electric charge, so it balances the negatively charged body substances.

A drop in blood sodium leads to fatigue, nausea and weakness. If the level dips farther, people become confused and dizzy. At very low levels, they could have a seizure and lapse into a coma.

Your friend's doctor has the task of finding out why your friend's sodium level fell. In quite a few instances, it comes about from an inappropriate release of a body hormone called ADH, antidiuretic hormone. This hormone stops kidney urine production. The result is too much water in the body. The extra water dilutes sodium and produces a low reading. Liver diseases, troubles with the adrenal glands and a sluggish thyroid gland are other causes for a lowering of blood sodium.

Restoring the body's sodium content is not too difficult. Tracking the reason why it dropped is.

Has your friend's mental function normalized now that his sodium level has returned

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** I have been eating ice cream and cookies sweetened with Splenda for about four years, enjoying them very much and not experiencing any bad side effects. Then someone told me that Splenda is really bug poison and that it has made a lot of people sick, so I stopped using it. I have noticed no improvement, but I didn't have anything wrong in the first place. I miss Splenda foods. What is your opinion? — N.B.

Splenda is not bug poison. It's made from sugar. It's a product that is 600 times sweeter than sugar. It is not absorbed, so it contributes no calories to those who eat it. It's FDA-approved, and I trust the people at the Food and Drug Administration more than I trust your informant. There's no reason for you not to use it.

Some people delight in passing on alarming information. Your "someone" has to be one of them.

*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.*

# Super Crossword

### FOR THE BIRDS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sagan or Sandburg
  - 5 Swarm sound
  - 9 Montana city
  - 14 Monterey Mrs.
  - 17 '58 Pulitzer winner
  - 18 Piece of fencing?
  - 19 He was "The Thing"
  - 21 Pipe part
  - 22 WREN
  - 25 Brobdingnagian
  - 26 For \_ (cheaply)
  - 27 Comic Costello
  - 28 \_ Na Na
  - 29 Mascagni opera
  - 30 Poet Wilcox
  - 33 Lohengrin's bird
  - 37 African antelopes
  - 39 LARK
  - 44 "The Optimist's Daughter" author
  - 45 Bonanza material
  - 46 Coveleski or Musial
  - 47 Vichyssoise veggie
  - 49 Tip one's topper
  - 51 Long-tailed parrot
  - 54 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
  - 56 Scandinavian city
  - 59 Griffon greeting
  - 61 Fool
  - 63 Missouri airport abbr.

- 64 Valuable instrument
- 66 Stowe sight
- 67 Screenwriter Nora
- 70 Elf
- 72 Dash
- 73 Sarah \_ Jewett
- 74 Inland sea
- 75 QUAIL
- 78 Depravity
- 79 Easy stride
- 80 Bit of gossip
- 81 Parenthesis shape
- 82 Physicist Fermi
- 84 Corset part
- 85 Alfredo ingredient
- 87 British big shot
- 89 Monsarrat's "The Cruel \_"
- 90 Tulsa commodity
- 91 Cheat at hide-and-peek
- 92 Preposterous
- 95 Sweetheart
- 99 Turn over
- 101 Darjeeling dress
- 103 Invasion
- 105 Frankfurter's field
- 106 Rent
- 109 CRANE
- 113 Church official
- 114 Oriental staple
- 115 Big rig
- 116 Channel
- 117 Actress Hagen
- 119 Plutarch character
- 122 Tole material
- 126 Be important

- DOWN**
- 1 \_ Grande, AZ
  - 2 FBI workers
  - 3 " \_ Man" ('84 film)
  - 4 Not as fatty
  - 5 Neighbor of Ger.
  - 6 Prosperous times
  - 7 Non-nonchalance?
  - 8 Nil
  - 9 Crank's comment
  - 10 Swiss canton
  - 11 Explosive initials
  - 12 Golfer's gadgets
  - 13 Avoid
  - 14 DUCK
  - 15 Toomey or Philbin
  - 16 Iowa city
  - 20 Musty
  - 21 Japanese religion
  - 23 Hard on the eyes
  - 24 Astrology term
  - 31 Brown or Baxter
  - 32 Vino center
  - 34 Corduroy ridge
  - 35 Writer Rogers St. Johns
  - 36 Formerly known

- as
- 38 Moro of Italy
- 39 One who no's best?
- 40 Distinctive period
- 41 \_ room
- 42 Singer Elliot
- 43 Bete noire
- 48 Adorable
- Australian
- 50 Tenor Corelli
- 52 One of the Judds
- 53 Tolstoy title start
- 55 Coalition
- 57 Play ground?
- 58 Bedding
- 60 At large
- 62 Word with dog or state
- 65 "Never on Sunday" star
- 66 Good-humored
- 67 Amatory
- 68 CARDINAL
- 69 \_ Dame
- 71 Anaconda, for one
- 74 As well
- 76 Pursues
- 77 Coffee pots
- 83 Ring counter
- 86 Andreotti or Cuomo
- 88 Fiber source
- 91 Swamp stuff
- 93 "Death of a Salesman" son
- 94 Pad
- 96 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star

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**VOTE MAY 8, 2010**

# ReElect John Navidomskis

Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District  
for Place Five

Ad paid for by John Navidomskis, Campaign Treasurer, 3622 Buxton Dr., Horizon City, TX 79928



**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore April 21, 1836: After the San Jacinto battle, Santa Anna tried to disguise himself.

## 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: R equals S

RFHSVPFHSXK IDI SMHF SGXS

V'A WMFRR XHL CXPIVZF

RGDMKA KDCF: "QXHWR QDZ

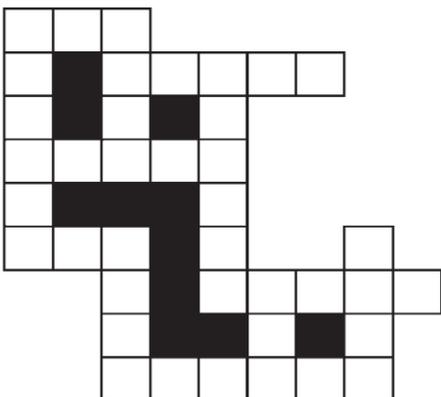
SGF PFPDZL."

Answer Page 5

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- OPH
- ENDTIM
- METOC
- MUSC
- SANETH
- ♥PTO
- NEIP
- ♥REETH
- ♥USN
- COPTIE
- PUNTI
- ♥DEEN



Answer Page 5

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

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## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** I am 61 and my ex-wife is 64. We had been married 38 years. I have always worked but she has never worked. I understand that she will be eligible for 50% of my social security benefit. If I continue to work, when will she be eligible? Is she eligible now or will her benefit be based on my age benefit. I was born in 1949.

**A:** You are right. At her full retirement age, 66; she will be eligible to receive 50% based on the amount you would be eligible to receive at your full retirement age, also age 66. Under Independently Divorced Spouse's Benefits, when you turn age 62, because you were married over 10 years, provided that the divorce has been in place for 2 years and provided she has not remarried, she is entitled to file off your social security record even though you are still working. Of course her social security benefits would be subject to a reduction because she is not of full retirement age.

**Q:** My wife doesn't have enough work under Social Security to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits or Medicare. But I am fully insured and eligible. Can she qualify on my record?

**A:** Yes. The question you've raised applies to husbands as well as wives. Even if your spouse has never worked under Social Security, she (or he) can, at full retirement age, receive a benefit equal to one-half of your full retirement amount. If your spouse will receive a pension for work not covered by Social Security such as government employment, the

amount of his or her Social Security benefits on your record may be reduced. For more information, take a look at the fact sheet, Government Pension Offset, Publication No. 05-10007 at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10007.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10007.html). Your wife is eligible for full spouses benefits at her full retirement age, or reduced spouses benefits as early as age 62, as long as you are already receiving benefits. For more information, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and select the "Retirement" tab.

**Q:** I recently received my annual Social Security Statement in the mail, and I noticed my taxes are only "estimated". How did you calculate the amount?

**A:** The Internal Revenue Service collects your Social Security and Medicare taxes. At Social Security, we do not keep a record of those taxes; we record only your earnings because your earnings are what we use to calculate your benefits. To estimate the total tax amounts we show on your Statement, we multiplied your reported earnings for each year that you worked by the tax rate for that year. We then added all the years together. If you had both wages and self-employment earnings in the same year, we estimated the taxes for that year as if the total amount was wages. If you had both Social Security earnings and government earnings that qualified for Medicare in the same year, we estimated the combined Medicare taxes you paid. To learn more, visit the Statement page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement).

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Pulitzer Prize-winning American author John Steinbeck, best known for "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Of Mice and Men," who made the following sage observation: "The writer must believe that what he is doing is the most important thing in the world. And he must hold to this illusion even when he knows it is not true."

- If you're planning a summer trip to Maine, you won't want to miss the stunning tourist attraction to be found on Peaks Island. There you'll find an entire museum devoted to housing a rather extensive collection of umbrella covers.

- In the United States, January is the least popular month for weddings.

- If you've never heard of the quagga, don't blame yourself. The creature, once found on the plains of Africa, has been extinct since 1883. An odd-looking creature, this subspecies of zebra was once thought to be half-zebra, half horse. Though the front part of its body had the zebra's stripes, those stripes faded out mid-body and the rest of the equine looked remarkably like a common horse.

- It's been claimed that 19th-century English naturalist Charles Darwin devoted eight years to studying the lowly barnacle.

- We all know that the day after Thanksgiving is commonly known as Black Friday, thanks to all the crowds seeking out deals on Christmas gifts, but have you ever wondered how it got that name? It seems that the moniker originated back in 1965 when the Philadelphia police department came up with the name after having to deal with the traffic jams and shopping crowds.

Thought for the Day: "Everybody believes in something and everybody, by virtue of the fact that they believe in something, use that something to support their own existence." — Frank Zappa

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★**

★ Moderate    ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 5

★★★ HOO BOY!

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