



NEWSBRIEFS

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the El Paso Police Department in locating the vehicle involved in a fatal hit and run, and its driver, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Monday night, May 5, 2008, just before 9:00 p.m., Police officers responded to a hit and run collision at 10100 Cross Street in northeast El Paso. Unfortunately, it was a fatal hit and run. The preliminary investigation by officers from the Special Traffic Investigation unit revealed that 72-year-old Flavia Estrello was pushing her granddaughter, 2-year-old Aliana Gonzalez, in a stroller when they attempted to cross the street. A vehicle heading north on Cross struck both pedestrians, killing Estrello and seriously injuring the child. The vehicle then fled the scene, making a left turn from Cross onto Sun Valley Drive. Witnesses describe the suspect vehicle as dark colored and possibly a late model Ford Mustang. This vehicle should have shown damage to the windshield and to the right side of the front hood. If you have any information at all about the location of this vehicle or the identity of its driver, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward up to \$1,000.

— James Klaes

Wanted

Daniel Aguilar Jr., 28, also known as Daniel Ambur or Daniel Najera is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He is 5'7" tall and weighs 180 pounds. He has black hair, brown eyes and multiple tattoos. The most visible tattoo is EPT on his neck. Aguilar is wanted for a violent family incident that occurred in July 2008. EPPD Officers were



Daniel Aguilar, Jr.

dispatched a residence in the 4000 block of Leeds in El Paso where they met with a female victim who told authorities she and Aguilar (her boyfriend at the time) were arguing over issues when he proceeded to violently assault her. She suffered a swollen eye, nose and jaw as a result of the assault. A close relative heard yelling and went to see what was going on when he encountered Aguilar who began threatening the relative while pointing a knife at him. Aguilar fled the scene shortly after but was located and arrested later that night. Since the 2008 incident, Aguilar has violated the terms

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Minority students to make up 62 percent of Texas' school population by 2012

State educators strive to close achievement gap between white and minority students

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

The debate over reforming public education with the goal of closing the achievement gap between white and minority students in Texas has focused mostly on improving individual schools through better teaching and expanded accountability efforts.

Two Texas Education Agency (TEA) accountability ratings that glaringly demonstrate the gap between White and minority students are the completion and college-ready graduate ratings for 2009.

According to the TEA data, the statewide completion rate (students who completed high school in four years) for African Americans was 84 percent; for Hispanics, 86 percent; and for Whites, 94 percent. In El Paso County, or

Region 19, the completion rate for African Americans was 87 percent; for Hispanics, 88 percent; and for White students, 93 percent.

The same trend shows up in the college-ready graduate (students who scored at or above assessment criteria in both English language arts and math) ratings: African Americans, 29 percent; Hispanics, 35 percent; and Whites, 96 percent. In El Paso County the college-ready graduate rating was 29 percent for African American, 32 percent for Hispanic, and 92 percent for White students.

Recent studies indicate that there are a couple of practical recourses that school boards should explore to help close that gap, especially in light of the fact that minority students will make up 62 percent of the student body in Texas for the 2011-12 school year.

One research study conducted by the Century Foundation, a progressive think tank based in New York, says that school districts should look at the potential impact of policies that mix students of different income levels across several schools or an entire district.

"This research suggests there is a much more

effective way to help close the achievement gap. And that is to give low-income students a chance to attend middle-class schools. It also suggests that such policies could be more effective than directing extra resources at higher-poverty schools," stated Richard Kahlenberg, senior fellow at the Century Foundation.

According to this study, low-income students performed better when they attended affluent elementary schools instead of one with higher concentrations of poverty.

The study tracked the performance of 858 elementary students in public housing scattered across Montgomery County, Maryland, from 2001 to 2007. About half the students ended up in schools where less than 20 percent of students qualified for subsidized meals. Most others went to schools where up to 60 percent of the students were poor.

After seven years, the children in the low-poverty schools performed 8 percentage points higher on standardized math tests than their peers attending the higher-poverty schools—even though extra resources were used.

The idea is easier to apply in areas with substantial middle-class populations and more difficult in communities with large concentrations of poverty. Yet, it lends fresh support to an idea as old as the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling in 1954: Segregated schools-in this case, separated by economics not law- are rarely as good as diverse ones at educating low-income students.

A separate study's findings, which were compiled by the University Council for Education at the University of Texas at Austin, implied that recruiting more minority teachers could generate important academic gains among minority students.

"This research shows that if you can match the ethnicity and race of teachers and students, teachers tend to be more effective," stated Ed Fuller, associate director of the University Council for Education. "It's important for role-modeling and pushing those students to go to college. Of course, you want to make sure teachers are well qualified and not just thrown into a classroom because of race or ethnicity," he added.

In 2009, Texas schools employed over 400,000 teachers, of which 9.7 percent were African American, 22.1 percent were Hispanics, and 66.7 percent were White. And, Texas school districts hire about 30,000 to 35,000 new teachers every year, but the pool of minorities interested in the profession is small, according to state officials

Texas served over 4.7 million students in its public schools in 2009. African Americans comprised about 15 percent; Hispanics, 48 percent; and Whites, 34 percent of the student population.

A similar study by the Education Resources Information Center found that Hispanic students had similar benefits. According to this study, one of the reasons is that minority teachers better understand cultural differences and can break down the students' stereotypes.

"The heart of the question is, who is going into education and what are we doing to attract more minority teachers?" surmised Linda Bridges, president of the teacher group Texas AFT.

Anthony HS test scores encouraging

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY — "It comes down to great students and great teachers," says Oscar Troncoso, principal of Anthony High School.

With obvious pride, Troncoso explains the high scores earned by Anthony High students who took the ACT (American College Testing) college readiness tests.

Anthony High School, for the second time in three years, has received the College Readiness Award from the Texas ACT Council. It is presented to schools for "maintaining or increasing" the number of students taking the ACT assessment over the past five years and "significantly increasing" their composite score.

The ACT test, according to its website, "assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work."

"Less than six percent of all high schools in Texas were honored for this superior level of performance," says Karen Pennell, assistant vice president ACT Southwest regional manager. Only two other schools in the El Paso area were recognized. They were Franklin and Bel Air High Schools.

Although it is not a mandatory, but a voluntary, test, Troncoso says there was an

"expectation" impressed on the students that they would take the four-part test separately in English, science, reading and math. "We have great teachers in English, science and math," he points out. He says there has been a lot of hard work to get the students "college ready."

"It has been a team effort."

Troncoso also points out that the students are not limited to one shot at the test. They could take the test multiple times, if they wished, in order to be more familiar with the multiple choice test and consequently improve their scores in subsequent exams. They could take the test twice, and ACT grants waivers, if necessary, for additional times.

According to a press release, AISD's approach has paid



— Photo by Don Woodyard

LIFE GOALS — "... at Anthony High School...our goal is to get them ready for life after high school."

— Principal Oscar Troncoso

off.

In the past five years the state composite ACT average has increased from 20.3 to 20.8. Anthony High School has increased its composite average from 16.8 to 18.3. In 2010, nearly 145,000 students have taken the ACT tests.

"Our goal at Anthony High School," Troncoso emphasizes, "is not to just focus on the TAKS test and graduate from Anthony High School. Our goal is to get them ready for life after high school."

"They can't adequately compete with just a high school education. They have to be enrolled in some form of higher education or training beyond high school," he adds.

A kindness done today is the surest way to a brighter tomorrow.

— Quips & Quotes

View from here By Albert Balesh, M.D.

White man speak with forked tongue

The United States has long prided itself on being a guiding light and the bastion of democracy in an ever-hostile and tyrannical world. The founding fathers conceived of a government "...by the people and for the people" with "...freedom and justice for all." Wonderful words and beautiful thoughts, but are they still applicable in a changing world in which it is sometimes felt that a circling of the wagons and a ducking of heads behind Fort America is the best course of action. Should a government's leaders, indeed, provide full disclosure of facts to the public, when, in fact, such "coming clean" might compromise a country's defense, a population's safety, a nation's intelligence services, industry, infrastructure, and agriculture, not to mention popular opinion and faith in one's political leadership? This is a question that has either dominated or occupied the wings of the U.S. stage since its inception, over 200 years ago. The U.S. continues to wrestle with the issue, in the face of world terrorism, a burgeoning China and a loss of manufacturing jobs to that juggernaut that continues unabated, disillusionment on the home front due to a failing economy and rampant unemployment, and a higher education system floated on false hopes and staggering student loans.

Yes, the world has become extremely complicated, but Americans like to think that certain unalienable rights, principles, and doctrines remain immutable in the face of cultural, technological, religious, social, and moral upheaval. The "holier than thou" attitude cultivated by America and Americans is perhaps based on a myth and on

the hope that things really aren't as bad as they appear. After all, this is America, the "...land of the free and the home of the brave," as well as of Ma's apple pie. Those terrible things that happen in other countries couldn't possibly occur on home soil. After all, U.S. politicians and leaders come from the same stock as the populace, and they would never lie to the people. Little white lies, perhaps, but never those black "ops," shady dealings, and dark innuendos that threaten to shake the foundations of democracy and the moral backbone of the American people. Think again! Further fresh revelations on the John F. Kennedy assassination, which occurred almost 50 years ago, are, in fact, just coming to light today, and that is just the tip of the iceberg; lest we forget the mysterious circumstances surrounding the attack on Pearl Harbor, the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the U.S. involvement in Vietnam, the Oklahoma City bombing, the "9-11" terrorist attack on New York's World Trade Center, and the rush to judgment and rush to action in the first and second Gulf Wars.

Psychiatrists and psychologists tell us that lying is socially expedient. Many feel that we are all natural-born liars, and that an innocuous fib or a "little white lie" here and there not only helps our day-to-day conversations flow more smoothly, but keeps them from stalling, sputtering along, or just plain boring our listeners. It has been estimated that in an average 10-minute conversation with a stranger or a new acquaintance, approximately 60 percent of us lie three or more times. Men and women are equally prone to stretch

the truth, with the former fibbing to make themselves look better, and the latter to make another person feel good. Lies, for better or worse, just slip out of us, and we simply don't realize how dishonest we are until we make a conscious effort to analyze our motives or stop.

On a grand and national scale, there is a growing suspicion and permeating mentality among scientists, political thinkers, philosophers, religious leaders, and the citizenry that the U.S. Government is "holding back," so to speak, from the general public. National defense concerns are often quoted as justified or unjustified motives for reticence on the part of those who have taken a solemn oath to protect the U.S. Constitution, while at the same time giving the people what they want and not pulling the wool over their eyes. The price tag of the subterfuge involved in cover-ups and national defense excuses is not only backbreaking and heartbreaking, however, but also bank-breaking, as countless years, dollars, and human productive capacity is wasted, trying to unravel mysteries as diverse as Area 51, the Roswell landing, the Watergate debacle, and any number of other national concerns, past and present, that drain precious resources better devoted to finding solutions to problems that threaten to severely damage any legacy left to American children. Wouldn't time, money, and manpower be better spent finding solutions to the energy problem, the continuing destruction of the environment, and the growing religious and social intolerance between peoples of different race, creed, and national origins?

If the answer to the question of

whether U.S. and world politicians and leaders should come clean in all cases is to be in the affirmative and free of all shades of gray, then not only the U.S., but also her partners and enemies, must band together to create a kinder, gentler world. It has often been said that, "The truth will set you free," and nowhere is this more true than on the political scene. So, if you ask me in no uncertain terms whether U.S. and world leaders can and should always tell the truth to their people, my answer is a resounding "Yes!" Not only will the truth free up monies better used to solve far more pressing national and world problems, but a spirit of trust among the people of a single nation and between peoples of diverse nations will go far to increasing the

cost-effectiveness of those remedial measures; in other words, our money will go farther, if we spend more on solving the problems themselves, rather than putting accompanying safeguards in place to protect the actions and measures we deem necessary. While national borders and the idea of countries themselves may be fading away, as technology breaches territorial beachheads, no one would argue that truth, and nothing but the truth, from the mouths of political leaders would go far to making the process as painless and productive as possible. Not only is the pen, but also the "un-forked" tongue, mightier than the sword!

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Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Give a Vet a lift

Unless you're a Veterans Service Officer with one of the veterans groups, you probably can't help a fellow veteran push through the paperwork required to file a claim.

But there's more than just that one step to seeking medical care: Sometimes what stands between a veteran and his medical treatment is a ride to the medical center.

Many veterans, especially those in ill health or who are elderly, just don't drive anymore and don't have access to transportation, often due to low income.

That's where you can help.

Volunteer once or more a week to drive a veteran to medical appointments. On the way back, ask if you should make a pit stop at the grocery store or anywhere else, if your rider feels well enough. Think about it: If you don't have a car, even just bringing home groceries can be a chore. Or maybe a fast-food burger would be welcomed by a veteran who's basically been homebound due to lack of transportation. Call

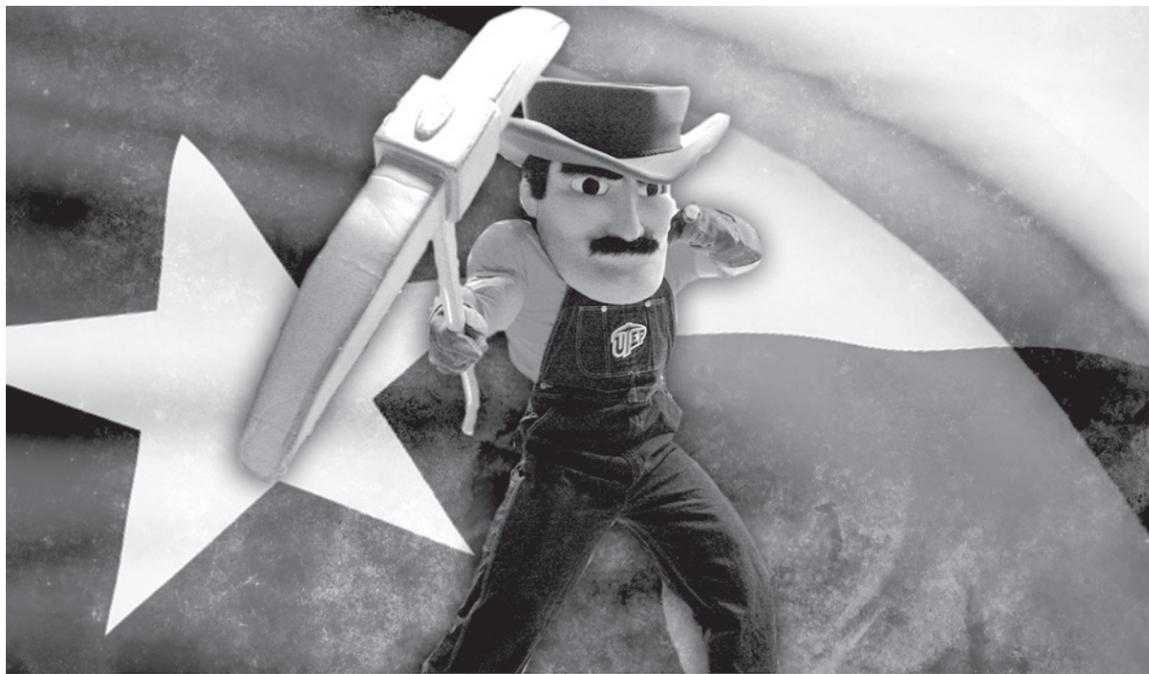
the Voluntary Services office at the closest VA Medical Center to offer your help.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) also has a nationwide Transportation Network that takes sick and disabled veterans to all of the medical facilities in the country.

If you're a veteran who needs transportation to a medical facility, the DAV has a directory that can connect you with a ride. Go to www.dav.org, click on Voluntary Services, and go down the drop-down list to VA Hospital Transportation.

Click the link to the DAV Hospital Service Coordinator Directory and look for the coordinator nearest you. Use this same link if you can offer rides and want to sign up.

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com. (c) 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.



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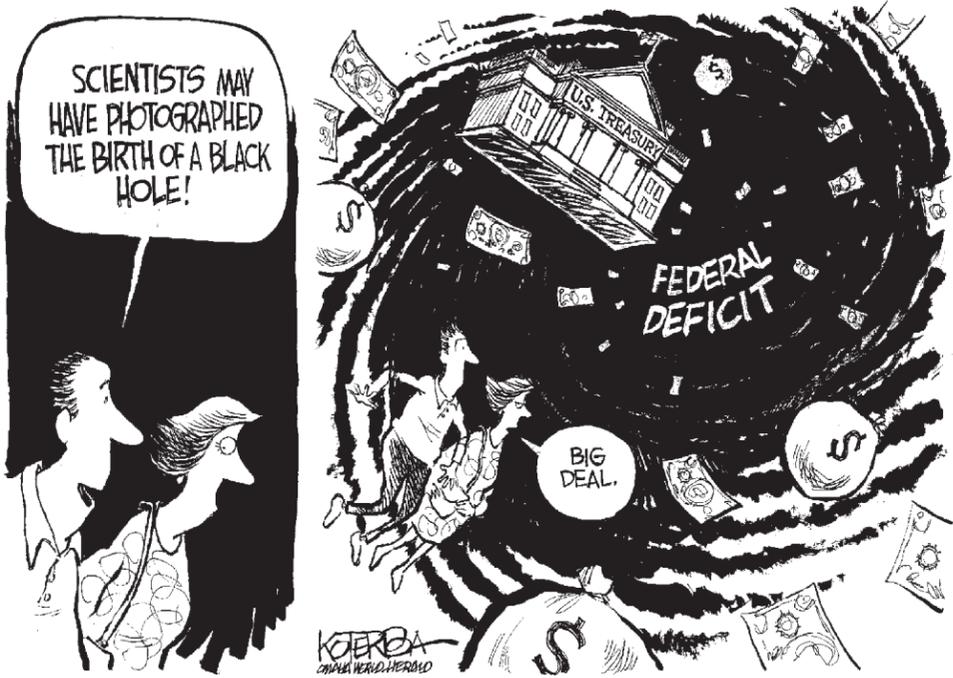
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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Manifestos are big money

Hola mi gente. Some of you may have read an article in the downtown paper about a bill that I filed relating to manifestos. A manifesto is a document that is used to refund sales taxes in Texas paid by foreign nationals.

The United States Constitution prohibits state and local entities from collecting taxes on items that are exported. It is key to remember that a product is not exported unless it has reached its destination country.

There is no question the sales taxes on items whether wholesale or retail, when taken to a foreign destination cannot be legally collected by local governments. Our current laws leave a gaping loophole allowing the sales tax to be refunded but without the product being taken outside of the United States.

Currently, any foreign national, including our friends in Mexico, can purchase items, pay the sales tax but collect the refund on the tax before returning to their home. Texas is the only state in the union allowing such an arrangement.

There is no requirement by state law for these international travelers to prove the items purchased reached a foreign destination. In place instead is a law that requires a purchaser to "state the foreign county destination" and to "state the date and time the property is expected to arrive in the foreign country destination."

This is quite the honor system if you ask me. This system has seen the State of Texas refund over \$500 million in sales taxes during the period between 2004 and 2009. Locally, the average amount of city sales taxes over that time is over \$1.2 million

per year; the county taxes averages out to \$688,000 per year.

While the entire \$1.2 million of tax refunds may not have been refunded improperly, any amount improperly refunded costs you and me more in the long run. Since the city collects 1% on the retail price of merchandise sold, it would take \$120 million in sales to produce the \$1.2 million.

That is a ton of money refunded based on an honor system. Should we implement a similar honor system where local property owners state their own appraisals?

I am certain, from anecdotal comments, there is abuse in the system. There is no way to know how much because the only thing a customs broker has as evidence the item has been exported is the good faith statement.

I believe it is a fiscally responsible action to have definite proof the item has been exported. This is the intent of the bill I filed. You can read the bill by entering *HB 344* by *Quintanilla* into Google.

I am certain the actual bill, when heard in committee, will be different from this initial draft. My office continues to research the best means by which we prevent sales taxes from being improperly refunded.

It is not my intention to harm commerce. But, it is not the responsibility of Texas taxpayers to subsidize any commerce. It is the responsibility of lawmakers, including myself, to bolster the confidence of taxpayers that sales taxes refunded to foreign nationals are confirmed to be for products "exported" outside the United States.

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

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MARCH 2011

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MARCH 2011

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– Photo courtesy Our Lady of the Lake University

ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT – Clint High School graduate Lauren Eveler, center, is surrounded by family, friends and school officials as she is recognized for contributions to the volleyball program at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

Eveler selected to CoSIDA Volleyball Academic All-District 6

By Patty Constantin
Special to the Courier

SAN ANTONIO – Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) outside hitter Lauren Eveler has been named to the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Volleyball Academic All-District 6 First Team. Eveler attended Clint High School.

The members of CoSIDA by districts selected the Academic All-District teams. The first team selections move on to the national ballot for Academic All-America honors. This is Eveler's first year being selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-District 6 First Team. She received CoSIDA

Academic All-America second team honors in 2009.

To be nominated for the Academic All-America program, a student-athlete must be at least a sophomore with a 3.3 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA) and be a starter or significant reserve. The District 6 College Division consists of all NAIA Division I colleges in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Eveler is a senior majoring in Communications/Media Broadcasting with a minor in Biology. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her college career at OLLU.

Eveler was a member of the inaugural volleyball team from

2007 that along with men's soccer, kicked off intercollegiate athletics at OLLU. In overall statistics in 2010 through 15 matches, Eveler has accumulated 27 points, eight digs, 12 service aces and 15 kills. She has been on the Dean's List and is a RRAC Scholar Athlete.

Eveler was honored at her last home match on Nov. 4 at Mabee Gymnasium in front of more than 200 fans. Coach Mark Lee next commented on the impact the senior has had on the team and the university. He expressed his gratitude to Eveler for being such an excellent student-athlete. Parents, Diane and George Eveler, presented their daughter with a bouquet of flowers during the event.

CMS student selected as UMC Ambassador

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo Independent School District recently announced that Christopher Pennington, an 8th grade Canutillo Middle School (CMS) student, was selected as an Ambassador in the University Medical Center (UMC) Foundation Kids Corps program.

The UMC Foundation Kids Corps program introduces students to the importance of community service and philanthropy. As an Ambassador representing CISD, Pennington will serve as a liaison to promote helping others, and will participate in various workshops and civic events. The program gives students a sense of purpose and empowers them to make meaningful contributions in their community.

"I take great pleasure and pride in knowing that Chris will represent his school exceptionally well. He is the type of student that any school would be proud of with characteristics such as leadership, self-motivation, good ethics, respect, responsibility, and compassion for others," said Dr. Monica Reyes-Garcia, CMS principal.

"Christopher is an exceptional learner. Not only does he learn quickly, he helps other students learn with this questions, comments, and participation in class discussions. Key words to describe him are –



Christopher Pennington

collaborative, engaged, thinker, creative, analytical, and evaluator," said Victoria Perea, CMS teacher.

Pennington, along with the other area Kids Corps Ambassadors, will receive CORE Skills Training, addressing communication skills, consensus building skills, conflict resolution skills and compassion. He will serve as a key leader within his school in the role of volunteer recruiter and in disseminating information about upcoming UMC Kids Corps volunteer opportunities.

Pennington will serve on the Kids Corps for one year, meeting monthly with his colleagues across the city. All Kids Corps members and ambassadors are sponsored through the generous donations of UMC Volunteer Corps members.

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Keep your arms and legs, your body, in the stadium

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I don't know what is going on but I have to wonder out loud, "how difficult is it not to fall out of an athletic stadium?"

I don't mean to make light of the recent deaths of people falling over the railing but honestly, what is going on?

Last weekend another fan fell to his death at a sporting event, this time it was during halftime of the Chicago Bears-Philadelphia Eagles game in Soldier Field.

Seems 23-year old Stewart Haverty ran toward a stadium ledge and jumped over it. Friends and family members say he was unaware of the 35-foot drop on the other side.

Haverty is described as loving to scale buildings and trees.

I've been to many sporting events around the country and I have to admit that I've never come close to falling over the edge to my death.

Then again, I've always walked from my seat to wherever I wanted to go - I never

jumped over any ledges.

A couple weeks ago a 2-year old child fell to his death after a Lakers game at the Staples Center luxury box in Los Angeles.

It was reported that a family lost track of the boy and he managed to climb to the edge of a railing and fell over.

Back in July a Texas Rangers fan fell 30 feet from the second deck while trying to catch a foul ball.

He didn't die but I think he'll hesitate a bit the next time he's left with the option of deciding whether to catch a foul ball or risk impaling himself on the foul pole.

In November a drunk LSU football fan fell from the second deck onto some people below him at the college's Tiger Stadium.

Witnesses said the guy did a complete summersault onto the seats below.

The moronic fan had little happen to him but he injured an elderly man who was sitting below him.

Again, I don't know what is going on but I've lived on this Earth for 50 years now and I don't remember falling out of my chair for any reason, let alone out of an enclosed complex.

I look at it this way - anyone with even

the remotest possibility of falling out of any stadium should just stay home and watch the game on TV.

It's cheaper, the restroom is nearby, and the people sitting 30 feet below will thank you.

Turning down the Heat

The National Basketball Association is well underway and the big story, as expected, is the Miami Heat.

But I don't think the story is exactly what LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh had in mind.

When the Heat put together their talented trio all the speculation was about how many championships they'd win and how long it would take for them to break the record for most wins in a season.

Now the question is whether they can finish the season over .500.

As of Monday, Miami was just 9-8. Everyone expected them to be 16-1 or at least 15-2 at this point of the season.

I mean didn't LeBron hold a special one-hour press conference to announced his big signing with Miami. Don't you only hold press conferences for big, successful things?

Turns out the Heat have three big stars on the team. Two guys who want the ball all the time and one guy who was the star of a lousy team.

Miami just forgot a few things when they put this team together, mainly a point guard, a big guy in the middle and a demanding coach on the sidelines.

Without that Miami is just - well, a slightly better than average team with no bench to speak of.

And now it appears as if the players are fighting with one another and leaking rumors about how they are fed up with coach Erik Spoelstra.

By the way, who had ever heard of Erik Spoelstra before this season?

I guess the big three in Miami should have kept their mouths quiet about how good they were going to be this season.

The way the players danced on stage and paraded in front of the microphones talking about their future success - you would think they were on a par with the Lakers or the Celtics.

Miami - call me when you're decidedly better than the LeBron-less Cleveland Cavaliers.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Debt and (back) taxes

Joe Louis' reign as heavyweight champion of the world spanned 11 years and 8 months, the longest in history. Unlike today's boxers, where they're lucky to get a bout a year, from 1937 to 1949, Louis defended his title 25 times - another record. When he retired in 1949 he

had a record of 61-1, most by way of knockout, to his credit... but that very thing - his credit - landed him in the biggest fight of his life. The opponent? The Internal Revenue Service. Louis had managed his millions poorly and owed years of back taxes to the government.

As anyone who's ever been audited knows, when the man calls you into the ring, even if you win you leave the arena battered, bloodied and scarred for life. Louis fought exhibition matches, but soon had little choice but to return to the professional ranks in order to crawl out from under his mountain of debt. Louis failed to regain the title in his first fight back against Ezzard Charles, but he managed to reel off a streak of seven wins against lightly regarded opponents. His final fight

was a brutal and sad thumping at the hands of Rocky Marciano, a fight neither of them wanted, but needed. Marciano moved forward in his quest for the heavyweight crown - Louis went back to watch an IRS agent take his portion of the fight's purse.

Louis never did recover financially, and in later years he relied on the generosity of men like Frank Sinatra to keep him afloat. When he died, he became the poster boy of "blowing it all away."

Louis wasn't the first athlete to do so, particularly in boxing, and he wasn't the last. Leon Spinx - who shouldn't be uttered in the same breath as Louis - now works as a janitor in an inner-city community center. A little further away from the poor house but an unequivocal disaster out of the ring, Evander Holyfield declared bankruptcy, despite having earned more than \$250 million. Seems investing all

of your money in real estate isn't such a good idea when you spend it on \$10 million homes, sire 11 children and amass more than \$500,000 in lawn-care bills. Mike Tyson... well, you already know that story.

According to Sports Illustrated, 78 percent of all NFL players and about 60 percent of NBA players fall into bankruptcy within a few years of retirement. The names read like an all-star roster: Johnny Unitas, Lawrence Taylor, Michael Vick, Scottie Pippen... but even Bjorn Borg and Dorothy Hamill (!) - have fallen prey to debt and back taxes.

Having the ability to play sports at a professional level is a gift... apparently some people aren't aware that gifts are subject to taxes.

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

Briefs

From Page 1

area and could possibly be hiding with friends or relatives. Sheriff's officials are asking the public for any information on the whereabouts of Aguilar. People can contact the Sheriff's Office (915) 546-2280 or Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to an arrest.

- Deputy Jesse Tovar

Name change

After many years of advocacy efforts and unanimous approval by Congress, President Obama signed Rosa's Law (S.2781) into effect on October 5, 2010. Inspired by Rosa Marcellino, a child with Down syndrome, and her family's refusal to accept the use of a stigmatizing label that did not reflect her value and accomplishments, Rosa's

law directs the elimination of the term "mental retardation" and replaces it with the term "intellectual disabilities" in federal health, education and labor statutes. In support of Rosa's Law and out of respect for people with intellectual disabilities, the Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers, Inc. has changed its name to the Texas Council of Community Centers. The name change follows a decision by the Texas Council Board of Directors to replace use of the term "mental retardation" with "intellectual disabilities" from all official Texas Council documents and publications. "Our name change is a simple, yet powerful statement of respect and regard for people with intellectual disabilities who want what every good citizen wants: family, friends, a meaningful job and the opportunity to give back to a caring community," said Danette Castle, Texas Council CEO.

- Maria Rios

Classified Ads

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.

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RECREATION

2009 Keystone Travel Trailer. 27 ft., 5th wheel, 30 amp, with single slide. \$25,000, OBO. 588-8447.

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.



CLASSIFIED AD FORM

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

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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

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Phone: _____

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		÷		2
X		-		+	
		-	X		6
÷		X		X	
	X		-		18
2		10		22	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I need to apply for disability benefits. Where do I start?

A: Start online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability. Applying online for disability benefits offers several advantages. You can start your disability claim immediately. There is no need to wait for an appointment. You can apply from the convenience of your home or on any computer. You can use the online application to apply for benefits if you are age 18 or older, have worked and paid Social Security taxes long enough to qualify, you have a medical condition that has prevented you from working or is expected to prevent you from working for at least 12 months or to end in death, and you reside in the United States or one of its territories or commonwealths. Get started now at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.

Q: Congratulations on your 75th anniversary. Who received the first Social Security check?

A: First, let's explain how things worked back then. From 1937 until 1940, Social Security paid benefits in the form of a single, lump-sum payment. The purpose of these one-time payments was to provide some "payback" to those people who contributed to the program but would not participate long enough to be vested for

monthly benefits. Under the 1935 law, monthly benefits were to begin in 1942, with the period 1937 through 1942 used both to build up the trust funds and to provide a minimum period for participation to qualify for monthly benefits. The earliest reported applicant for a lump-sum benefit was a Cleveland motorman named Ernest Ackerman, who retired one day after the Social Security program began. During his one day of participation in the program, 5 cents was withheld from Mr. Ackerman's pay for Social Security, and, upon retiring, he received a lump-sum payment of 17 cents. The average lump-sum payment during this period was \$58.06. Although Ernest Ackerman was the first person to receive a lump-sum benefit, a woman named Ida May Fuller, from Ludlow, Vermont, was the first recipient of monthly Social Security benefits. Learn more about Social Security's early days at our History Page. You'll find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/history.

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.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was 20th-century British author and Anglican priest William Ralph Inge who made the following sage observation: "Events in the past may be roughly divided into those which probably never happened and those which do not matter."

- Consider your age, then consider the following tidbit: In the 1700s, the average human lifespan was about 30 years. Sobering thought, isn't it?

- According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, the home appliances Americans consider to be the most essential are clothes washers and dryers, followed by air conditioners. Obviously, the majority of the survey's respondents weren't residents of Florida or Texas.

- Historians report that Napoleon Bonaparte, when he wasn't busy conquering, enjoyed ice skating.

- If you're frightened of bugs, you might not want to know the following tidbit: There are 10 quintillion insects alive on the planet.

- A study published in 2008 showed that the price of a pain medication had an effect on its efficacy. In the study people were given placebo pills, some at the regular price and some at a discounted price. Those who paid full price for the medication reported more relief than those who paid less.

- Half of all cookies baked in the United States are of the chocolate-chip variety.

- If you're planning to be in the San Francisco area in June, you might want to plan a stop in the nearby town of Petaluma for the Sonoma-Marin Fair. This is where the competition to determine the world's ugliest dog is held every year. In addition to earning bragging rights, the owner of the winning pooch is awarded a prize of \$1,000.

Thought for the Day: "The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is at all comprehensible."
— Albert Einstein

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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: P equals D

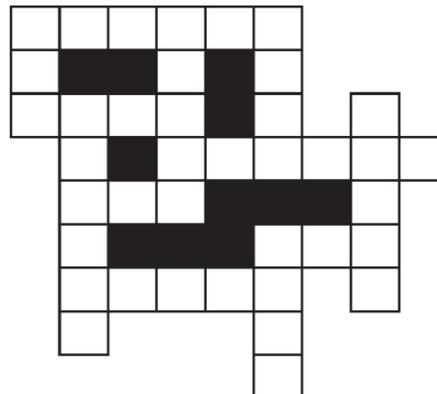
VOQ PYP M KUAQ MRWAWLF AMR
ALI PYAUXSNQ WKUA M XNYGG?
OU PYPI'S FUU SOU UVU SLAI.

Answer Page 4

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- ECU
- SARWEN
- WHYCE
- ♥IRME
- ♥TECSHY
- ♥AWY
- YARC
- TEOME
- ♥REA
- KROME C
- ♥REWSO
- AYER



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.

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