



NEWSBRIEFS

Two more issues

The *West Texas County Courier* will be published for the last two weeks of 2010. In the last issue – under the influence of wishful thinking – the *Courier* stated plans to close for two weeks. Instead, the *Courier* will maintain its normal publishing schedule.

Wastewater loan

The Texas Water Development Board has approved by resolution a loan in the amount of \$1,210,000 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund – Disadvantaged Communities Program to the Village of Vinton to finance wastewater system improvements. Vinton will use these funds to plan and design a new wastewater collection system with a lift station and a force main that will connect to an existing El Paso Water Utilities facility. The wastewater system improvements are financed with federal funds.

– Leslie Anderson

Clint hosts Santa

On December 17 Santa paid a visit to 120 children at Puddle Duck Park in Clint. Santa arrived at 3 p.m. with the aid of the Clint Police Department ATV, as he did not have space to land his sleigh at the park and had to do so at another location. All children in attendance received a bag of candy and toys and visited with Santa. The Town of Clint also sponsored a drawing through donations by the community. Given away were six bicycles, two razor scooters and eight stuffed blanket animals. The Town would like to thank all that donated and Mayor Dale T. Reinhardt and his wife Sandra would also like to thank the town employees and other volunteers who helped make this possible. This coming year the Easter Bunny and the Great Pumpkin will also visit the park.

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the El Paso Police Department in locating the person responsible for an aggravated robbery in the central part of town, making this the “Crime of the Week.” On Saturday night, November 27, 2010, at 4:00 p.m., the suspect is believed to be Dexter Albert, 23, went into the Cash American Pawnshop at 4630 Montana and pretended to be interested in buying guns. He pulled out a small, silver, semi-automatic handgun and ordered everyone on the floor. He then fled the store with two Taurus handguns, one 40-caliber and the other 45-caliber. The subject got into an older model, pearl colored 4-door Cadillac on the passenger; therefore, another subject is involved as the driver. Albert, who stole the handguns,

See BRIEFS, Page 2

Belief in yourself is a fine thing, but see to it that you are not too easily convinced.

– Quips & Quotes

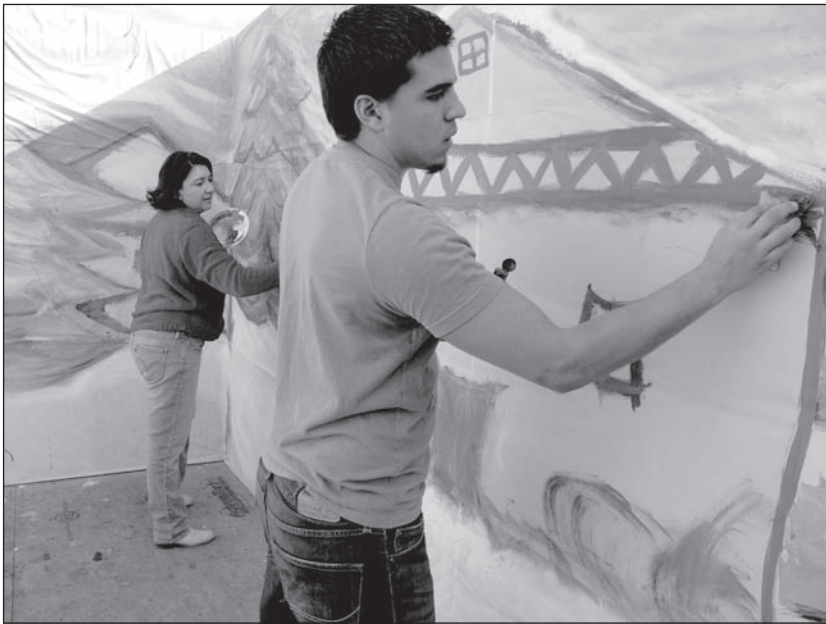


– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

Christmas in the Village

Local businesses reached out to Village of Vinton families in a show of generosity this Christmas, as town officials raised over \$6,500 in donations and received more than 100 colorfully gift-wrapped presents for children who attended its Christmas in the Village Fair held Saturday, Dec. 18. Major contributors to Vinton’s fund-raising efforts were ArcelorMittal Inc., El Paso Electric Co., Pepsi Co., PSC (Parkhill Smith & Cooper), Valley By-Products Pumping Division, Tri-State Electric, W. Silver, and First Southwest Co. Business representatives and town officials who were instrumental in supporting the Christmas event are, from left above, Olga Estrada, Vinton’s Community Outreach Coordinator; Larry Guillen, Pepsi general manager; Bonny Aranda, Pepsi administrative supervisor; Jaime Delgadillo, Pepsi service manager; Luz Sandoval, Pepsi admin.; Arturo Marin, Pepsi sales manager; Inez Lopez, Vinton Tree Board co-chair; Rosa Mendoza, Vinton Tree Board member; Corky Hall, First Southwest representative; Mike Ramirez, PSC representative; Rudy Ortega, Pepsi sales manager; Perfecto Valdez, Vinton maintenance supervisor; Penny Sexton, ArcelorMittal corporate responsibility manager; Alfredo Lopez, Vinton council member; and Yolanda Lucero, Vinton council member. Pepsi employees donated 75 gifts and over 3,000 pounds of canned foods. Pepsi Sales Manager Arturo Marin said that they donate to special events throughout the year and that this Christmas they chose to help Vinton families by sponsoring an Angel Tree and canned food drive at their local offices. “We get involved with events like these because we want people to know that we are not just about selling sodas but also about helping our communities,” Marin said. Nearly 300 children were expected to visit with Santa Claus during Vinton’s Christmas in the Village Fair held Saturday. At left, from left are volunteers Jessica Garza, Vinton town clerk, and Jacob Garza, Americas High School senior, as they finalize the holiday scene backdrop in anticipation of Santa’s arrival.

– Alfredo Vasquez



Sepulveda graduates from UTEP with highest honor

By Christine Gleason
Special to the Courier



– Photo by Christine Gleason

GOT IT – Sara Sepulveda
Hangs on to her hard earned diploma.

EL PASO COUNTY – Sara Sepulveda, the class of 2007 Fabens High School salutatorian received the University of Texas at El Paso’s highest honor at her graduation ceremony Saturday, Dec. 11. Sepulveda, a Chemistry major and Biology minor, graduated Summa Cum Laude and was selected by her professors as the Marshall for the School of Science based on her outstanding community service record and perfect grade point average. Sepulveda also received the “Outstanding Undergraduate Chemistry Student” award for maintaining the highest grade point average in a separate ceremony earlier last week. Sepulveda, who plans to become

doctor of obstetrics and gynecology, spent many hours volunteering at the Barahona Medical Center in Fabens and several nursing homes in El Paso. She has also been involved in community service activities through the Lion’s Club of El Paso, where she has been a member for the past four years. “Working in the clinic helped me confirm that I wanted to be a doctor” Sepulveda said. “It has also given me insight. I am very appreciative for what I have because unfortunately I see people who come from much worse.” Sepulveda has been accepted into medical school at the Foster School of Medicine in El Paso, Tech University in Lubbock and the San Antonio Health Center in San Antonio. She has accepted the offer at the Foster School of Medicine in El Paso and will start classes in July. Her father, Robert

Sepulveda says he’s “happy she’s staying because she can still spend lots of time with the family. Plus,” he adds, “the Foster School of Medicine is new and she’s in the third class. They have all of the latest technology and she will be learning on state-of-the-art equipment.” Like her father, Sepulveda is very glad she is staying in El Paso. “Our [medical] class is making history” she said. She will be one of eighty students to start their training in July. Based on her service record, it’s not surprising that Sepulveda is excited to be able to practice medicine in the place she calls home. As a bonus, Sepulveda will get to remain close to her family as she begins her training. “My mom is everything to me” Sepulveda said. “She made me who I am. I also give tremendous thanks to my dad and sisters for their support.”

Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Texas gains representation

Hola mi gente. I guess the previous article was not actually my last article as I noted. I received a call from the publisher who said his business was so good we had to have at least one more paper issued. So this *may* be the final article of 2010.

The United States Census just released the preliminary numbers of the census taken earlier this year. The numbers are pretty much in line with what we were hearing over the past few months.

Statewide, Texas had a tremendous amount of growth; second only to Nevada. Our population grew by 20.6% from April 1 of 2000 to April 1 of 2010. That rate of growth puts the Texas population at approximately 25.1 million citizens.

With our growth and the loss of population in many areas, Texas will gain four Congressional seats, remaining second to California. While the local population numbers have not been released, there is a great probability that the growth is in the Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and lower Rio Grande areas.

The demographic numbers have yet to be announced but it is a good bet that the Hispanic population had the highest growth. With that amount of growth, it is going to

be difficult to avoid increasing the number of minority districts in Texas; mainly Hispanic. While I feel our main identity should be American, there are certain issues that can be considered differently by more Hispanic representation and with greater benefits to our population.

The drawing of the districts won't be an easy one. Special interests will be solidly in place influencing the redistricting that is about to occur for our Congressional districts. I hope this time around, it won't be as ugly as the redistricting was in 2003. I can tell you quite honestly that many tempers were flared to a dangerous level.

For El Paso County, the numbers for the state population are close to what we used in October of 2009 when we started monitoring the census process. The numbers my office used to project the population in each House district were a little low. The actual number per district is 167,648. That means without adjustments, our county population needs to be at 838,243 residents in order to keep all five districts within the county.


There is, however, a give or take when determining the population. Each House district may be a plus or minus that number by five percent. That means the population in El Paso county can be as low as 796,330.

The State Demographer has estimated the population of El Paso County to be at 804,000 which would be very good for our representation. Other estimates ranged from 754,000 to 773,000. Our fate is in the hands of those who made the count. For months, my office had been voicing great concerns, not on the population estimates, but on the actual count. I supported my concerns with specific shortcomings in the physical count in my district. We can only wait and see the actual count at this point.

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

VILLAGE OF VINTON

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (CCN) TO PROVIDE WATER UTILITY SERVICE IN EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS



Application No. 36837-C

The Village of Vinton has filed an application to decertify a portion of CCN No. 12563 from Vinton Hills Alegre, LLC with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to provide water utility service in El Paso County.

The proposed utility service area is located approximately 15 miles north of downtown El Paso, Texas, and is **generally** bounded on the north by approximately 1,800 feet north of Vinton Rd.; on the east by Border Steel Road; on the south by Douglas Rd.; and on the west by Kiely Rd. the total area being requested includes approximately 21.4 acres and one (1) current customers. The proposed amendment affects customers *and/or* areas located in the following zip code(s):**79821**.

A copy of the proposed service area map is available at 1633 Williams Drive, Building 2, Suite 200, Georgetown, Texas 78628 or by calling **(512) 930-1317**.

A request for a public hearing must be in writing. You must state (1) your name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number; (2) the applicant's name, application number or another recognizable reference to this application; (3) the statement, "I/we request a public hearing"; (4) a brief description of how you or the persons you represent, would be adversely affected by the granting of the application for a CCN; and (5) your proposed adjustment to the application or CCN which would satisfy your concerns and cause you to withdraw your request for a hearing.

Persons who wish to intervene or comment should write the:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Water Supply Division

Utilities and Districts Section, MC-153

P. O. Box 13087

Austin, TX 78711-3087

within thirty (30) days from the date of this publication or notice. A public hearing will be held only if a legally sufficient hearing request is received or if the Commission on its own motion requests a hearing. Only those individuals who submit a written hearing request or a written request to be notified if a hearing is set will receive notice if a hearing is scheduled.

If a public hearing is requested, the Executive Director will not issue the CCN and will forward the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAR) for a hearing. If no settlement is reached and an evidentiary hearing is held, the SOAR will submit a recommendation to the Commission for final decision. If an evidentiary hearing is held, it will be a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al-512-239-0200.

WTCC: 12-23-10


Briefs

From Page 1

is described as a black man in his mid-20s, 5'6" to 5'10" tall, with a slim build, a spider web tattoo on his hand, large teeth, and moles and a burn mark on both cheeks. He was wearing a black hoodie, grey sweater, blue jeans, and a black cap. If

you have any information at all about the identity and location of the persons responsible for this crime, 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

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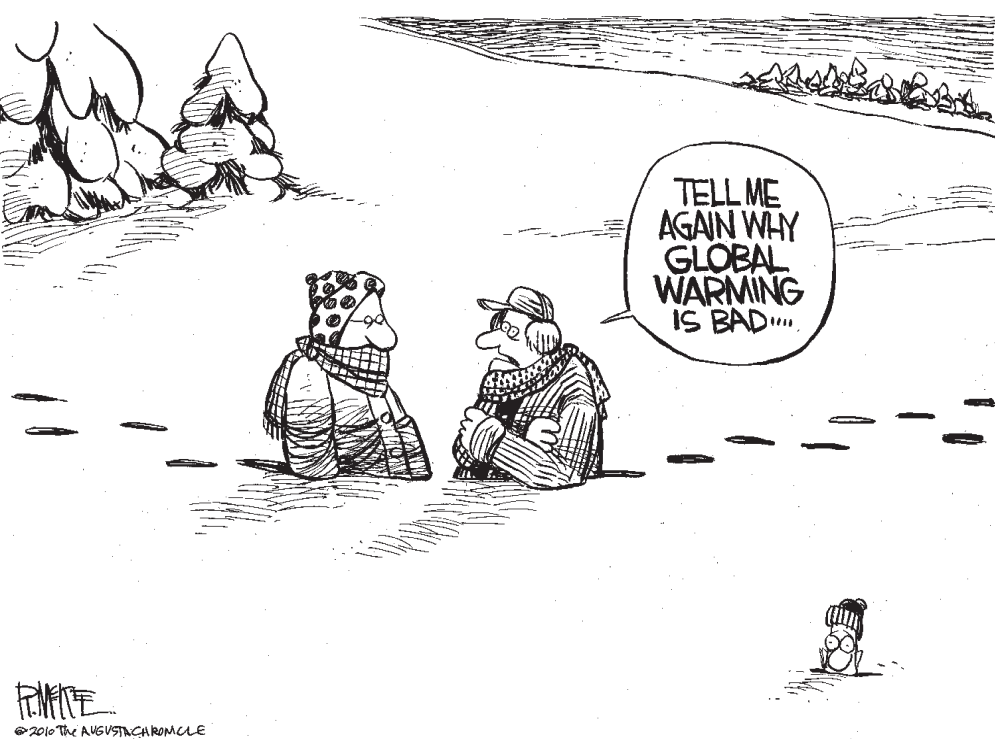
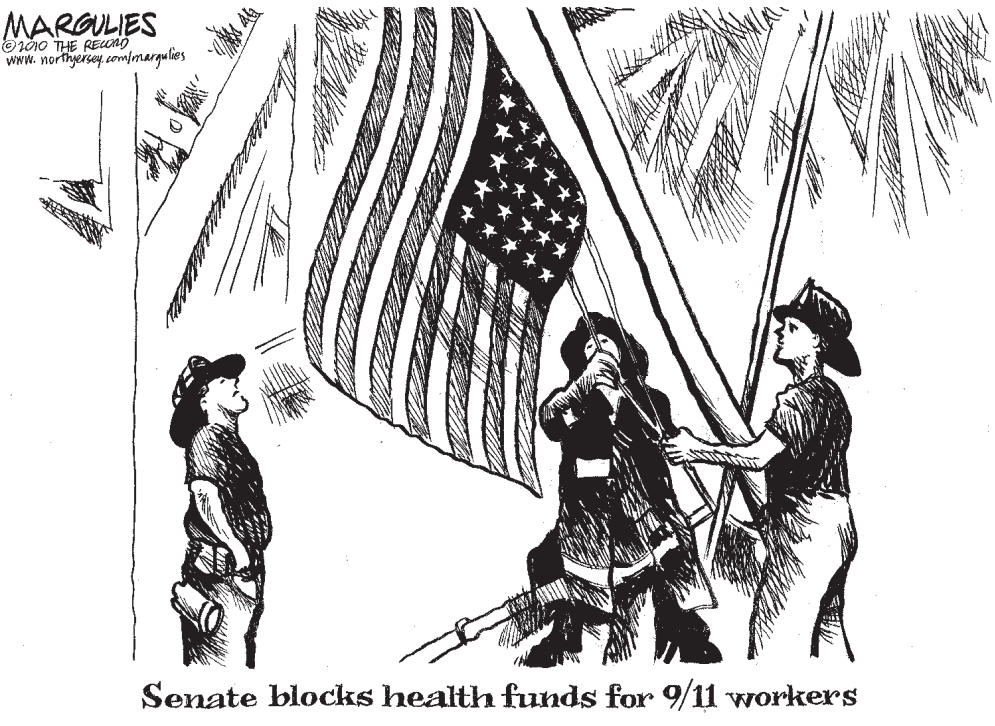
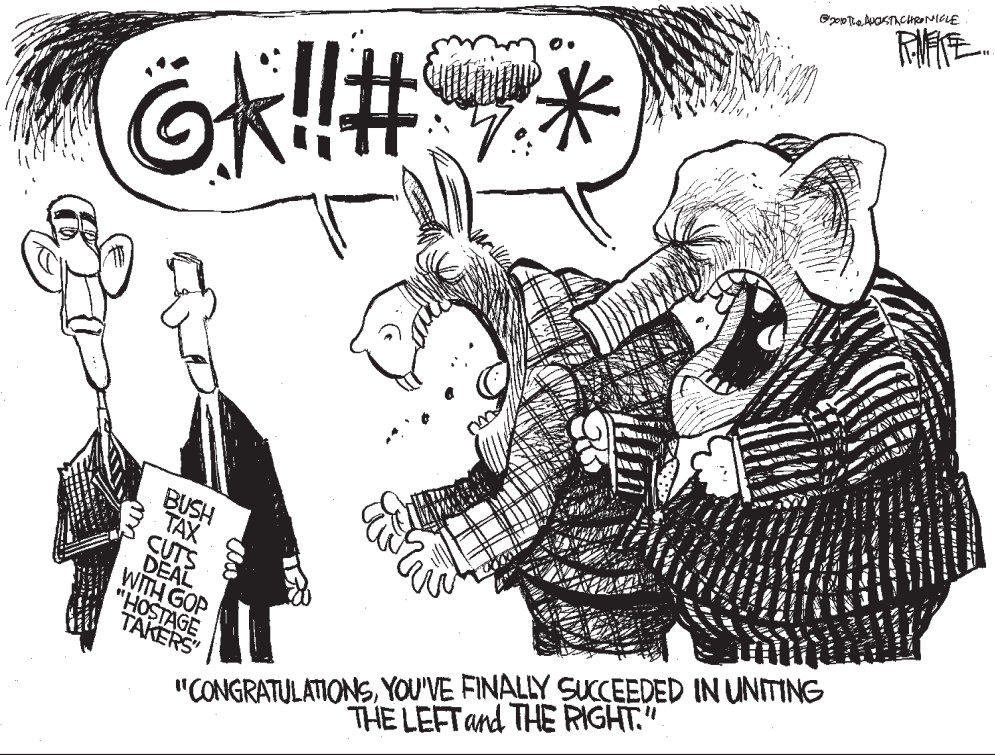
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– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD
BRINGING SOME HAPPINESS – Blue Santa – Officer Albert Aragon – and Officer Frank Del Torro made the rounds of Socorro ISD schools with coats and presents for children in the District.

Blue Santa visits Socorro ISD

By Daniel R. Escobar
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO – Some 70 students from across the Socorro ISD received a special visit from a jolly old man bearing gifts, but it wasn’t Santa Clause – it was the District’s Police Services Blue Santa surprising children with winter coats and toys.

Every year, the District’s police officers come together in support of a community benefit. Last year, the department donated funds to Operation Noel, which provides coats for underprivileged kids throughout El Paso County. For Thanksgiving, the team raised funds to purchase full turkey dinners for 26 families. This Christmas, the officers, dispatchers and office staff raised \$800 to purchase 66 coats and also collected over 120 toys for students in the Socorro ISD.

“We are blessed this year with everything we have received,” said Officer Frank Del Toro, who is part of the group spearheading

the initiative. “That is not the case for a large number of families in our District that have lost their jobs or government benefits because of the ailing economy.”

Working with school counselors, the officers identified students in the District who could use a little extra holiday cheer. With presents in tote, Blue Santa visited 19 elementary schools across the Socorro ISD delivering coats and toys at each stop.

During this time, a fire occurred at a home near Rojas Elementary School, and a family lost all they had. In the spirit of giving and helping, Police Services expanded its Blue Santa outreach and collected additional coats, toys and \$100 to help the family get back on its feet.

“This is the least we could do to try and help,” said Administrative Officer Albert Aragon, aka Blue Santa. “We hope to be able to do more for our students and families who are struggling for one reason or another, and encourage others to help those in need this holiday season.”

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Is your VA doctor licensed?

The next time you go to a medical appointment at a Veterans Administration Medical Center, you might want to wonder: Is your doctor licensed?

VA doctors are required to keep their medical license current in at least one state, and their privileges will be revoked if the license expires.

To renew a license to practice medicine, a doctor has to take a certain number of refresher courses and keep current on the newest trends in medicine.

The problem: The VA medical system isn’t all that great at keeping licensing expirations straight. This came to light when the Veterans Administration Office of the Inspector General dug around in the records when one particular doctor’s license had been expired for at least one year.

Here’s what the VAOIG found overall:

- The process to monitor, track and follow up on expirations dates wasn’t consistent.
- The computer database wasn’t always “trustworthy,” meaning they couldn’t rely on the information.

- After sending a notice to the facility, the Personnel and Accounting Integrated Data computer would automatically update the expiration date... as though it was a foregone conclusion that the license would be renewed.

Theoretically, the pharmacy is where it should come to light that a doctor’s license has expired: The machine will kick out a prescription if the date shows an expired license. The problem is that only 50 percent of the pharmacies were using the program that would monitor license expiration dates.

Your vehicle’s license plate gets a little sticker that shows when it expires. Seems like the doctors should wear tags that include not only photo and name, but the date their medical license expires.

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.

Operation ‘Feed Them for a Week’

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY – The Community Relations Board (CRB) held its Operation Feed Them for a Week event Friday, Dec. 17, at the La Tuna Correctional Facility training center, in Anthony TX. Several local area

business leaders and community members in collaboration with Anthony, Gadsden, and Canutillo independent school districts initiated this program about four years ago.

The school districts provided CRB with the names of families who are in need of a helping hand this holiday season. These ‘adopted’ families received food to last them

at least a month and also received blankets, toys, and bicycles.

“We realize the importance of family togetherness during this time of year and we would like to think of ourselves as one large extended family helping out another,” said Edward G. Miranda, Chief of Police for the Town of Anthony TX and chairperson for the Community Relations Board.



– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

RIDE 'EM – Children received a variety of toys during the special gift-giving celebration. Above, from left are brothers Anthony Ornelas, 10; Rogelio Rivas, 9; and Abel T. Ornelas, 11, with their new bikes. They attend Riverside Elementary School, in Gadsden ISD. Moncerrat Rivas, the brothers' grandmother who accompanied the family to the celebration, said that she felt very emotional. "This was a great thing that these kind people are doing for my family. I thank God that there are such generous persons, otherwise we would not have been able to provide them with very much this Christmas," she said.

LOAD IT UP – This year there were 24 families referred to CRB by the three school districts. CRB collected \$5,100 for this event. Shown in photo, left, are CRB volunteers who were on hand to help families load up their boxes of foodstuff and children’s Christmas presents. “It feels great to bring smiles on the faces of these children and their parents. As a company, we try to donate as much as we can to help the less fortunate individuals in our communities,” said Gabriel Ortiz, operations manager for New Mexico Gas Co. and a CRB member.



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

FA-LA-LA – Over 600 students in pre-pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes entertained their family and friends with a holiday program.

San Elizario students celebrate holidays at annual showcase

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The lights and sounds of Christmas were on full display inside the San Elizario High School auditorium creating a festive winter wonderland to showcase the talents of hundreds of Loya Primary School students. The annual holiday program was held over three nights from December 14-16 in order to include performances featuring

over 600 students from pre-pre-kindergarten to kindergarten classes.

The Loya Primary School Christmas Program is a yearly tradition for the San Elizario ISD community drawing packed houses of families each night for close to 15 years. Upon their return to school following Thanksgiving break students, ages 3 to 5 years old, learn song lyrics and practice choreography over several weeks while their parents become involved in creating their costumes. Teachers

joined forces to prepare their classes for the stage to offer audiences an entertaining show of Christmas carols and other holiday classics.

All monolingual classes performed on Tuesday night, kindergarten bilingual students took the stage Wednesday evening, and the pre-kinder bilingual classes wrapped up the popular event on Thursday. Adding a magical touch to all three evenings of the student holiday spectacular was San Elizario High School theater arts teacher Nick

Castañón and his group of theater production students who expertly synchronized lighting and sound to enhance each of the acts.

Magda Martinez, physical education teacher at Loya Primary School, coordinates all the logistics of the Christmas program. Martinez stated that while planning for the event was hectic, it is always successful with parents who are very pleased with the entire production.

“The teachers are also very happy with the students’ performances

and this year the new theater arts instructor was very creative,” Martinez said. Martinez added that the Loya Christmas Program would not be possible without all the volunteer time contributed by parents and the extra effort of teachers and staff.

Any parents that happen to have missed their child's performance will be able to purchase a video of the show from the high school theater art classes which will be selling DVDs as a fundraiser for their program.

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CryptoQuip Answer

Friday I was fired as
the diner's waiter.
Guess you could say
I was given the booth.

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Vinton receives \$78,151 grant

By John Perkins
Special to the Courier

VINTON – USDA Rural Development State Director, Paco Valentin, and USDA Rural Development Area Director, John Perkins, presented a ceremonial funding check to the Village of Vinton on Dec. 9. The \$78,151 grant presented to the Village of Vinton was funded through Rural Development’s Housing Preservation program.

“The cost of maintaining a home is challenging for many rural homeowners,” said Valentin. “The funding we announced today will help rural property owners make improvements to ensure their homes are decent, safe and energy-efficient.”

“I am grateful to USDA Rural Development for investing this critically needed funding into the Village of Vinton, said US Congressman Silvestre Reyes. “These resources will help families that need it the most.”

The Village of Vinton will implement a Home Owner Assistance 533 Housing Preservation Grant Initiative. This initiative will make funding available to assist low and very low-income families (a minimum of four) repair or rehabilitate their homes. The maximum assistance per dwelling will be \$21,500.

Housing preservation grants are provided to intermediaries such as town or county governments, public agencies, federally organized Indian tribes and nonprofit or faith-based organizations. The grants are then distributed to qualified homeowners and owners of multi-family rental properties or cooperative dwellings who rent to low and very low-income residents. The grants can be used to weatherize and repair existing structures, install or improve plumbing or provide access to people with disabilities. Eligible area determination is available at <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>.

Perry grants clemency to eight

By Katherine Cesinger
Special to the Courier

AUSTIN – Governer Rick Perry granted clemency to eight individuals this week after each case was favorably recommended for clemency by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Clemency was granted to:

- Christopher Brandon O’Callaghan, 33, of Houston, was convicted of criminal mischief and theft in 1996 at the age of 19. He was sentenced to one year in jail for the first offense and 90 days in jail for the second offense. He has served in the U.S. Army for more than four years. He is granted a full pardon and restoration of firearm rights.
- Joshua Daniel Stubbs, 28, of Hillsboro, Oregon, was convicted of criminal mischief in 1999 at the age of 17. He was sentenced to two years in jail, which was probated for five years, and a \$1,500 fine, and paid \$3,468.51 restitution. He has served in the U.S. Army for more than five years. He is granted a full pardon

and restoration of firearm rights.

- Paul Levi Engle, 57, of Odessa, was convicted of burglary in 1986 at the age of 32. He was sentenced to a four-year probated sentence, paid \$250 restitution and was released from probation after three years. He is granted a full pardon.

- Allison Renee Allison, formerly Allison Coleman, 46, of DeSoto, was convicted of theft in 1985 at the age of 21. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail, which was probated for 12 months, and given a \$400 fine. She is granted a full pardon.

- Genevieve O’Neil Francis, 63, of Houston, was convicted of unlawfully carrying a handgun at the age of 32. She was sentenced to three days in jail and a \$50 fine. She is granted a full pardon.

- Josephine Elaine Herrera, 48, of Round Rock, was convicted of theft in 1990 at the age of 27. She was given a \$100 fine and paid \$247.50 restitution. She is granted a full pardon.

- Lewis Ray Howell, 73, of Lake Butler, Florida, was convicted of theft in 1955 at the age of 18. He was

sentenced to three years in prison suspended and a \$500 fine. He is granted a full pardon and restoration of firearm rights.

- Lindell Francis Shumake, 61, of Hannibal, Missouri, was convicted of possession of marihuana in 1971 at the age of 21. He was sentenced to four years of probation and was released after 18 months. He is granted a full pardon.

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LEGALS

Town Of Horizon City

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held during a **Regular Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting** on **Monday, January 17, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.**, at the Town of Horizon City, Municipal Courts/Police Department building (rear of City Hall), City Council Chambers, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding a proposed rezoning of the following property:

Rezoning application #11-001RZ of the property described as:

Property west of Darrington Road and in the 14000 block of Rudi Kuefner Drive, being a portion of section 43, block 78, TSP 3, T&P R.R. Surveys, Horizon City, El Paso County Texas, containing 60.927 acres more particularly described as:

Texland, Block 1, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; and Block 2, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Proposed is the following change of zoning:

Current Zoning: M-1 – Light

Industrial

Proposed Zoning: R-MHPUD – Mobile Home - Family Dwelling Planned Unit Development

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk at the above address or call 915-852-1046. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

*Karen Ellefson
Town Clerk
Horizon City*

WTCC: 12-23-10

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TEXAS

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PROPOSALS FOR ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Village of Vinton has recently received grant awards from Texas Department of Rural Affairs under its Community Development Block Grant Program. Accordingly, the Village of Vinton is

seeking to contract for the following:

- 1) With a qualified individual or management firm to implement and administer the Planning & Capacity Grant.
- 2) With a qualified engineer or engineering firm registered to practice in the State of Texas to prepare all preliminary and final design plans, maps and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections for the Planning & Capacity project; and
- 3) With a qualified engineer or engineering firm registered to practice in the State of Texas to prepare all preliminary and final design plans, maps and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections for the rehabilitation of the municipal park.

*Karen Ellefson
Town Clerk
Horizon City*

WTCC: 12-23-10

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PROPOSALS FOR ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Village of Vinton has recently received grant awards from Texas Department of Rural Affairs under its Community Development Block Grant Program. Accordingly, the Village of Vinton is

Jessica Garza

Village of Vinton 436 Vinton Road Vinton, TX 79821 (915)886-5104 vintonclerk@vintontx.us

The locality reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms submitting proposals, in accordance with the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards Act, and may choose to retain services for three consecutive funding cycles. The locality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

The Village of Vinton is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages Historically Underutilized Businesses to submit proposal.

Madeleine Praino, Mayor

Date published: December 23, 2010

WTCC: 12-23-10

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TEXAS

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES, FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND BOND COUNSEL

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD, CWSRF &

DWSRF

The Village of Vinton has applied for and been granted funds from Texas Water Development Board under its Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Accordingly, the Village of Vinton is seeking to contract for the following:

- 1) With a qualified engineer or engineering firm registered to practice in the State of Texas to prepare all preliminary and final design plans, maps and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections for a municipal wide waste water system; and

- 2) With a qualified engineer or engineering firm registered to practice in the State of Texas to prepare all preliminary and final design plans, maps and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections for a municipal wide water system.

- 3) With an individual or firm to provide Financial Advisory services to include strategic planning, analysis of market condition, recommendation of bond proceeds, and provide recommendations to the city for an financing or capital projects or refinancing of current debt.

4) With an individual or firm to serve as Bond Counsel to the city for any capital financing or refinancing as may be necessary.

In order to be considered, proposals must be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on the 13th day of January, 2011. A complete request for proposals, outlining services required by the locality, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria, has been prepared. Interested parties may obtain copies of this Request on the city's website: <http://www.vintontx.gov/office2.com> or by contacting:

**Jessica Garza
Village of Vinton 436 Vinton Road Vinton, TX 79821 (915)886-5104 vintonclerk@vintontx.us**

The locality reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms submitting proposals, in accordance with the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards Act, and may choose to retain services for three consecutive funding cycles. The locality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Any contract or

contracts awarded under this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be a party to this RFQ, or any resulting contract.

The Village of Vinton is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages Historically Underutilized Businesses to submit proposal. This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "fair share policy", which includes EPA-approved "fair share goals" for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) & Women Business Enterprise (WBE) firms in the Construction, Supplies, Equipment, and Services procurement categories. EPA's policy requires that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to SMWBE's. Although EPA's policy does not mandate that the fair share goals be achieved, it does require applicants and prime contractors to demonstrate us of the six affirmative steps.

Madeleine Praino, Mayor

Date published: December 23, 2010

WTCC: 12-23-10

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TEXAS

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PROPOSALS FOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES

UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL

All qualified Applicants will receive consideration

for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60. Small, minority, and women-owned business enterprises are encouraged to respond. A complete version of TWDB document, "SMWBE State Revolving Fund Program Guidance Document for the Utilization of Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Enterprises in Procurement" is available online at: http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/forms_manuals/SRF052.rtf

Madeleine Praino, Mayor

Date published: December 23, 2010

WTCC: 12-23-10

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TEXAS

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PROPOSALS FOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES

UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL

All qualified Applicants will receive consideration

DEVELOPMENT

The Village of Vinton has recently received a grant award from United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development for under its **Housing Preservation Grant**. Accordingly, the Village of Vinton is seeking to contract with a qualified professional management consultant to implement and administer the Housing Preservation Grant. In order to be considered, proposals must be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on the 13th day of January, 2011.

A complete request for proposals, outlining services required by the locality, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria, has been prepared. Interested parties may obtain copies of this Request on the city's website: <http://www.vintontx.gov/office2.com> or by contacting:

**Jessica Garza
Village of Vinton 436 Vinton Road Vinton, TX 79821 (915)886-5104 vintonclerk@vintontx.us**

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retain services for three consecutive funding cycles. The locality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

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Madeleine Praino, Mayor

Date published: December 23, 2010

WTCC: 12-23-10

COUNSELING SERVICES

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

SELF-HELP

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

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

Take away the fun and the fans will do something else

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I know many of you enjoy watching the NFL.

Of course, when I say the NFL you know I'm referring to the No Fun League.

I don't know what happened but have you noticed the overly sensitive referees and their strict policing of any celebration after a touchdown?

I know you Dallas Cowboys fans have noticed.

Well, I really shouldn't say they're getting tough on every celebration but even those that are fairly modest are now considered taboo.

I agree that the NFL should get tough on any celebrations that include any foreign objects like cell phones or sharpies or anything else that doesn't belong on the football field.

I can also understand flagging any behavior that is intended to be derogatory to the other team or an opposing player.

Other than that, I don't see the problem with showing some emotion in what is unquestionably the most emotional sport on the planet.

I can remember some celebrations that are now considered part of NFL folklore.

And the fans never complained about them.

Why is the NFL purposely making decisions that are against the best interest of the fans – who does the NFL think he is, Barack Obama?

Remember Billy “White Shoes” Johnson with the old Houston Oilers? How about the Washington Redskins’ Fun Bunch? Icky Woods had the Icky Shuffle, how about the Dirty Bird dance in Atlanta... and dozens more.

I don't mind the referees trying to keep things from breaking into a full-tilt Broadway production in the end zone, but let's please inject a couple hundred ccs of common sense into the situation.

A player doing a harmless touchdown dance, or spiking the football into the ground, or even a silly little thing like jumping over another player the way Dallas’ Miles Austin did over Roy Williams earlier in the season, should be allowed.

Remember Austin's leap? It was originally thought to be the reason for the Cowboys’ excessive celebration penalty against the

Minnesota Vikings - amazingly, it was actually Sam Hurd who was penalized for celebrating by (are you sitting down) flashing the Texas Longhorns sign to Roy Williams, who went to UT Austin.

I would love for someone to explain the NFL's rationale that says a highly-visible leap over a teammate is not a penalty but the infamous Texas hook 'em horns sign is a no-no.

Did the referee think these were secret Austin, Texas gang signs?

I think every player in the league is awfully confused over what is overzealousness and what is acceptable.

I'm not sure the referees themselves even know fully what constitutes a penalty. I mean c'mon – the hook 'em horns sign? Really?

I wonder what other signs would draw a penalty flag, maybe a salute, the hand jive, a nose pick, a high five, see no evil, a handshake, the hitchhiker's thumb, the bunt sign, the tear wipe, the thinker or maybe the fist bump?

Last week Philadelphia's DeSean Jackson did one of those backward falls into the end zone against Dallas. Many people hated it, and it was stupid – but he wasn't flagged. Wasn't

he demeaning his opponent but stopping short of the goal line and then slowly falling into the end zone?

So what is acceptable and what is not?

Where's the harm in showing a little enthusiasm without belittling your opponent. It adds a little flavor to the game.

What's next, is the NFL going to disallow the Green Bay Packers’ Lambeau Leap? Is the league going to fine Brett Favre every time he sprints down the field yelling and screaming after a touchdown pass?

The scary thing is not knowing where this is going to go. Once you decide to stop the players from showing their emotion you begin to cut into the soul of the sport.

I don't mean outlandish celebrations. Anything that is obviously over-the-top should be outlawed. But small expressions of joy are part of the game – or they certainly should be.

So if any of you rules committee members from the NFL are reading this – do all of us fans a favor – stop being so rigid before you turn into the NCAA.

Keep taking the fun out of professional football and the profits from ticket sales will soon follow.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Baseball metaphor

It had been a long, sun-drenched day at the sidewalk sale and Maggie decided to take a well-earned break at the end of it all. Faced with plenty of options, she went for a soda at the local diner. Maggie garnered a few double takes... she was clearly major-league material. Plenty of

prospectors would have liked to throw a pitch or two her way, but there are limits in society... age limits, in particular.

So when some guy about 40 years her senior stepped up to the plate, slinking inside the diner behind her, the kid behind the lunch counter

who looked as if he weighed about 90 pounds soaking wet with a rock in his pocket noticed Maggie's “help me” look. Suddenly transformed into a slugger, the counter person knocked the big fan of the minors out of the park.

His reward was a few cups of coffee with her, but in the end, Maggie it seems, had broken his dreams when she immediately fell for another guy... but he didn't get all Rocky Raccoon about it... he simply moved on, figuring Maggie

was out of his league.

Maggie would grow past that relationship, too. Years later, though many of her old friends had since been secured into long-term deals, she still gamely attended her hometown's annual “winter meetings” – the late-night bar scene that grew out of the local Thanksgiving holiday's family and friend reunions.

It didn't take long for the boisterous guy in the pinstriped suit across the bar to notice she was a free agent. Already surrounded by a number of beautiful girls anyone else would love to be seen with, he neglected them and repeatedly invited Maggie to join him. When she stalled, he had one of his entourage talk him up to her. Later, he made the pitch himself – his penthouse was stocked with unused champagne from the October previous and he wouldn't take no for an answer.

Then, minutes before last call, she looked out the window and realized how close she was to the old diner. A phone call later, she was happily reunited with a familiar face – someone she wished she had spent more time with in the first place.

Yes, this column is little more than a metaphor for the Yankees' failure to win over Cliff Lee, which reminded me of their Greg Maddux heartbreak of so many years ago. I was the counter person transcribed above, and I have plenty of other stories about Maggie, Maddux and that Red Bank, N.J., diner, but I wouldn't tell you half of them.

As for Cliff Lee's story? On the whole, for even half the money, he'd rather be in Philadelphia. It's that simple.

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



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Horizon City, TX 79928

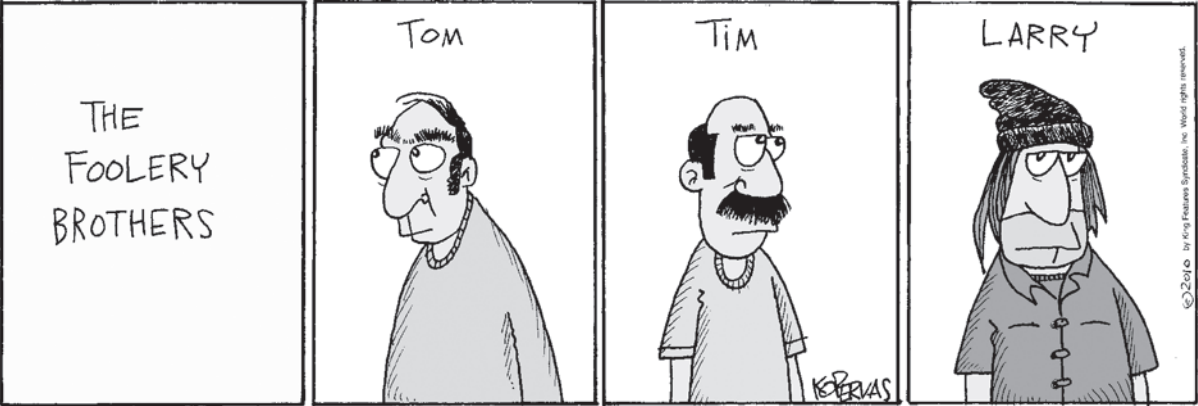
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Phone: _____

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My doctor prescribed statin drugs to control my LDL cholesterol. First I took lovastatin (Mevacor) and then simvastatin (Zocor), but I had muscle pain and weakness with them. I am reluctant to start the pravastatin (Pravachol) that he now has prescribed. Are there alternatives? How about Endur-acin? CoQ10 has been suggested. – D.L.

Statin drugs are the most potent cholesterol-lowering drugs, including lowering LDL cholesterol – bad cholesterol, the kind that clings to artery walls. They’ve been around for 20 years, and their safety record has been good. Some people develop muscle pain. Those people can try a different statin. You did. However, you might be reacting a bit too fast in rejecting pravastatin (Pravachol). It is the statin that most infrequently is involved with muscle complaints.

I don’t know any herb on the list of herbs you included (in an edited part of the letter) that compare with medicines for cholesterol control. However, there are things you can do to lower cholesterol, including reducing your saturated fat and cholesterol intake. Saturated fats are the fats found in many meats, whole-fat dairy products and many other commercially prepared foods. You have to look on the label. Omega-3 fatty acids lower cholesterol. They’re found in fish. If you cannot stand fish, take the omega-3s in pill form.

Questuran, Colestid, Welchol and Zetia are cholesterol-lowering drugs that are unrelated to statins. Niacin can increase HDL cholesterol (good cholesterol) and lower triglycerides, fats that also figure into artery clogging. Endur-acin is a slow-release preparation of niacin. Slow-release preparations were introduced to lessen flushing, one of the side effects of niacin.

Coenzyme Q10, or CoQ10, is an antioxidant made by the body and also is available in pill

form. Antioxidants counter the damaging byproducts coming from cell chemistry. I don’t see any references mentioning that it lowers cholesterol.

The cholesterol booklet gives an in-depth treatment of cholesterol. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 201W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient’s printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am an 80-year-old male. I work out on a Cybex weight machine and also on a treadmill. I was diagnosed as having an umbilical hernia. Please discuss it. Is surgery recommended at my age? Will working out aggravate it? – C.R.

All hernias are protrusions of internal organs or tissues through a defect in the wall that’s supposed to hold them in place. In your case, the defect is the umbilicus – the navel, the bellybutton. With age, the scar that closes the umbilicus (the site where the umbilical cord from the placenta attaches to the fetus) weakens, and a hernia can form.

If the hernia isn’t large, isn’t bothering you and doesn’t put a crimp in your lifestyle, nothing has to be done.

When you work out, does the hernia bulge larger? If it does, you should limit the amount of weight you lift. If it doesn’t, then you can continue as you are, so long as your doctor concurs.

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

- CELEBRITY SHOPPING ACROSS

1 Stevenson scoundrel

5 Epps of "The Program"

9 One of "The Three Sisters"

13 Monstrous dance?

17 Deserve a check

18 Possess

19 Obscures

21 Flu symptom

22 Mr. Asner's gift?

24 Esteem

25 Pal

26 Smooth transition

27 River reptiles

29 Sup in style

31 Olsen of vaudeville

32 Fury

34 Ms. Rivers' gift?

38 Lee and Bradley

42 Wheels of fortune?

43 Yule purchase

44 Frehley of Kiss

45 _ market

47 Green land

49 "Nabucco" number

53 Mr. Reynolds' gift?

57 Noblewoman

61 Like opposites

62 _relief

63 English poet

Wilfred

64 James Herriot, for one

65 Abbreviated address

68 Plopped down

70 Spartacus, e.g.

71 Swiss canton

72 David's instrument

75 Mr. Myers' gift?

78 Sharp

79 Palindromic dictator

80 Largest antelope

81 Court

82 In addition

84 Gun the engine

85 Note

86 Letters of desperation?

88 Reunion attendee

92 Word with eel or eye

94 Mr. Von Sydow's gift?

98 Dickens' Pecksniff

99 High-flying toy

101 Summer-camp activity

102 _ de France

103 Novelist Paton

107 Beloved

109 Dangers

112 Mr. Griffith's gift?

116 Director David

117 "Tobacco Road" character

118 To be, in Toulouse

119 Steen stand

122 Forum figure

126 Way

128 Pumice product

131 Ms. Conn's gift?

133 "Mila 18" author

134 Kitchen implements

135 Obligation

136 Merry abandon

137 Break suddenly

138 Doe's darling

139 Yarn

140 Unspecified amount

DOWN

1 Musical Myra

2 Big name in locks

3 Smidgen

4 Tolerate

5 Triumphant cry

6 "La Boheme" role

7 Maintain

8 Change the decor

9 Vintage

10 Actor Herbert

11 Lead through the wilderness

12 Directionless

13 Singer Davis

14 Blessed sound?

15 Coach Don

16 Bruisers

19 Quick change artist?

20 Murcia mister

23 Dread

28 NCO

30 Poetic preposition

33 Fisherman's need

35 Fail to mention

36 Postman's Creed word

37 Patou or Piaget

38 Sound of shock

39 Return address?

40 Astronaut

Armstrong

41 Belgrade denizen

46 Took down a peg

48 Levi's "Christ Stopped at _"

50 Variety show

51 Grenoble's river

52 John of "The Addams Family"

54 Inclined plane

55 _la-la

56 Lofty initials?

58 Vigilant

59 Party hearty

60 "_ Fine Day" ('63 tune)

66 More proficient

67 Biscayne Bay city

69 Haul a heap

70 Buss

72 Takes on

73 "Jane Eyre" character

74 Fasten firmly

76 Criticize

77 Painter Bonheur

78 Actor Dullea

80 CPR provider

83 _Cat (winter

wheels)

87 Exclude

89 Nolde or Jannings

90 Holler

91 Former spouses

93 Actor Everett

94 British gun

95 Downspouts

96 Adept

97 Holy day

100 Mrs. Eddie Cantor

104 Caustic stuff

105 In search of

106 "McTeague" author

108 Rug type

110 "The Gong Show" panelist

111 Negative terminals

112 "The Plague" novelist

113 Decorate

114 Gymnast

Comaneci

115 Do a double take, perhaps

120 James Herriot, for one

121 _ May Oliver

123 Actor O'Shea

124 TV's " _ 12"

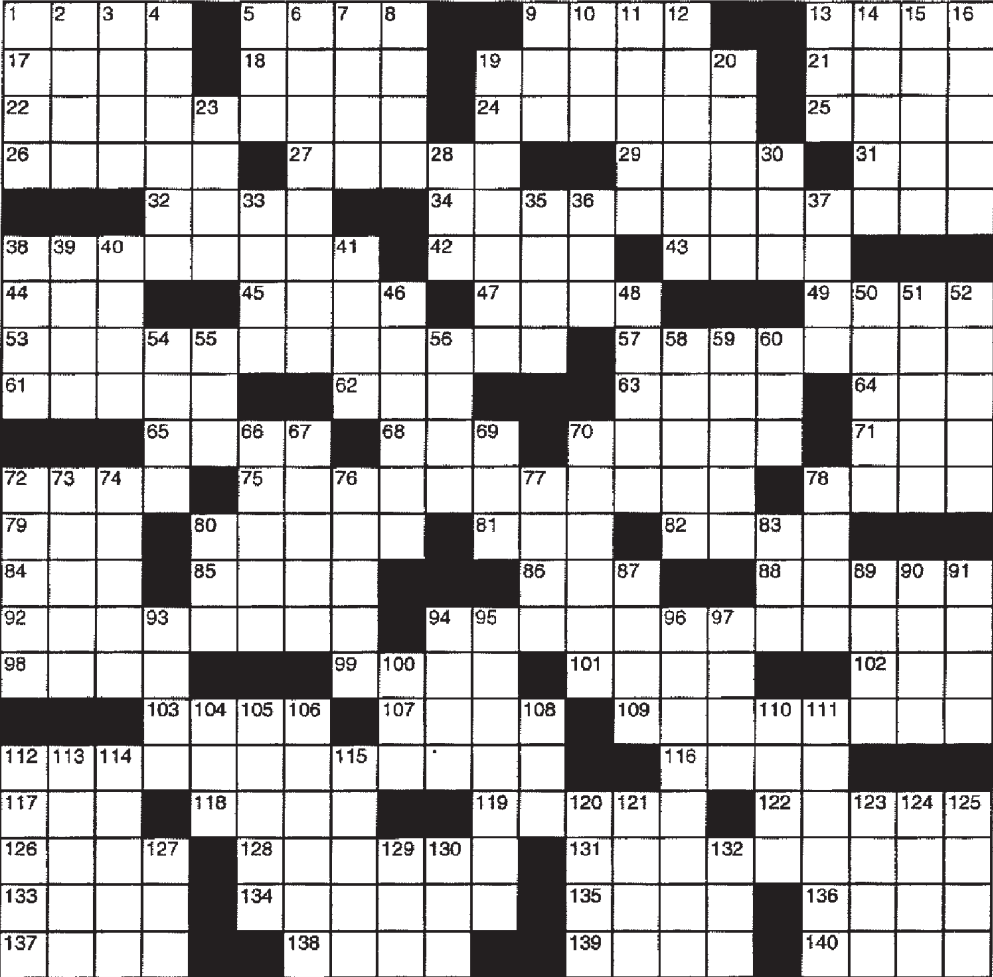
125 Workday start

127 Kreskin's letters

129 Cousteau's milieu

130 Unit of work

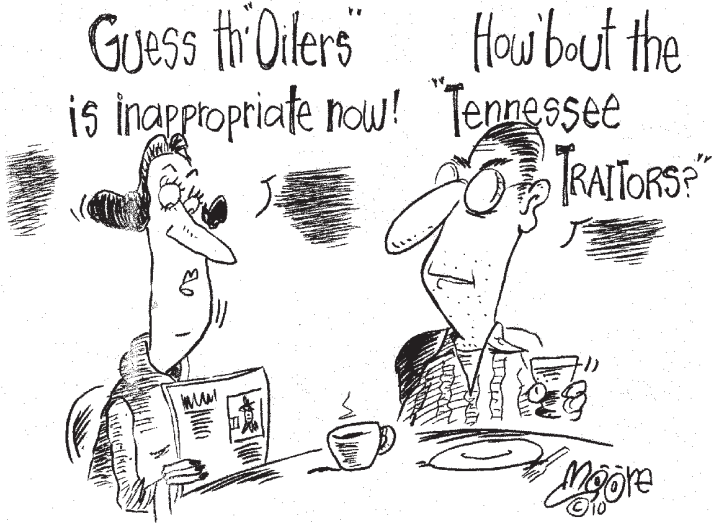
132 Sugary suffix
- Answer Page 4



Moore Texas

by Roger Moore Dec 22, 1996:

Houston Oilers play their last game in Houston before running off to Tennessee.



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.

	+		x		10
x		+		+	
	-		x		15
-		x		x	
	-		x		20
20		26		24	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 understand my Medicare prescription plan is being discontinued and that I need to make changes to my Medicare Part D coverage. When can I do that?

A: Open season for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage runs from November 15 to December 31 each year. The Medicare Part D prescription drug program is available to all Medicare beneficiaries to help with the costs of medications. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary, and participants pay an additional monthly premium for the coverage. Learn more at www.medicare.gov. In addition, if you have limited resources and income, you also may be eligible for “Extra Help” to pay for monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. The Extra Help is worth an average of \$3,900 per year. To find out more, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp.

Q: Why is there a five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits?

A: The law provides for a five-month waiting period to ensure that during the early months of disability, we only pay benefits to persons who have long-term disabilities. Social Security disability benefits can be paid only after you have been disabled

continuously throughout a period of five full calendar months. Therefore, Social Security disability benefits will be paid beginning with the sixth full month after the date your disability began. You are not entitled to benefits for any month in the waiting period. Learn more by reading our online publication, Disability Benefits, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html.

Q: What is the earliest age that I can apply for my Social Security retirement benefits?

A: If you want benefits to begin at age 62 — the earliest age you can receive reduced retirement benefits, you must be at least 61 years and 9 months of age to apply. Keep in mind your benefits will be reduced so evaluate your options carefully before you decide when to retire. Even if you are not ready to retire, you should still sign up for Medicare three months before your 65th birthday. You can do both online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

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

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: A equals S

GUPBDF P IDA GPUCB DA VQC

BPTCU'A IDPVCU. YMCAA FRM

HRMNB ADF P IDA YPECT VQC

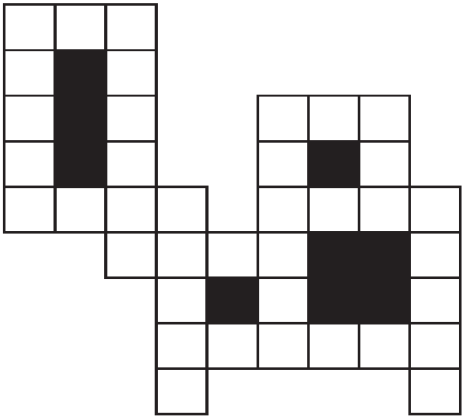
ZRRVQ.

Answer Page 4

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AWT
PINSHO
♥ARNLE
SUDO
TRIHEN
♥SWA
WALP
THIGS
AST
♥LAWLOS
PEWDI
♥HIWT



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.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was American author, social critic, economist and political commentator Thomas Sowell who made the following sage observation: “Much of the social history of the Western world over the past three decades has involved replacing what worked with what sounded good.”

• Visiting the longest chain of mountains on Earth requires some rather special arrangements — aquatic ones, to be precise. The 10,000-mile-long Mid-Atlantic Ridge, as its name indicates, is located on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. The only parts of the chain above water are a few volcanic islands, including Iceland and the Azores.

• Those who live in Florida probably won't be surprised to learn that they live in the state with the most instances of lightning every year.

• If you travel to Alaska, you can go to the North Pole — the town of North Pole, that is. It's not the real deal, though. The town is actually 1,700 miles south of Earth's geographic North Pole.

• Famed American composer Philip Glass was a member of both the cab driver's union and the steelworkers' union before he became enough of a success in his chosen field to become a member of the musicians' union.

• In 2000, psychiatrists at Italy's University of Pisa published their finding that being in love is biochemically indistinguishable from severe obsessive-compulsive disorder.

• If you're like 24 percent of the Americans who responded to a recent survey, you believe that people should be allowed to be naked in their own back yards.

• What do the lawn sprinkler, rubber shoe heels, portable ironing boards and tire treads have in common? They were all invented by the same man, Elijah McCoy, an African-Canadian inventor and engineer.

Thought for the Day: “Excess on occasion is exhilarating. It prevents moderation from acquiring the deadening effect of a habit.”
— W. Somerset Maugham

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