



NEWSBRIEFS

Great American Clean Up in Vinton

The Village of Vinton Mayor, City Council, and the Keep Vinton Beautiful Committee are proud to announce the kick off of the 2011 Great American Clean Up. Keep America Beautiful – Great American Cleanup. The nation's largest community improvement program takes place annually from March 1 through May 31 and involves an estimated 4 million volunteers and attendees. Vinton's goals are to preserve the natural environment and educate the public in doing so. Organizations, the Greater El Paso, Texas area and Vinton residents are welcome to volunteer for these events. For more information please call Olga Estrada at 886-5104 or visit our website www.vintontx.govoffice2.com. Events include:

- Bulk Waste Collection for Vinton Residents, March 19, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.;
- Rummage Sale, March 19, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.;
- Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off, April 2, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.;
- Earth Day 2011: A Billion Acts of Green at Bill Childress Elementary Campus Garden, April 16, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.;
- Adopt-A-River/Texas Waterway Cleanup, May 17, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Olga Estrada

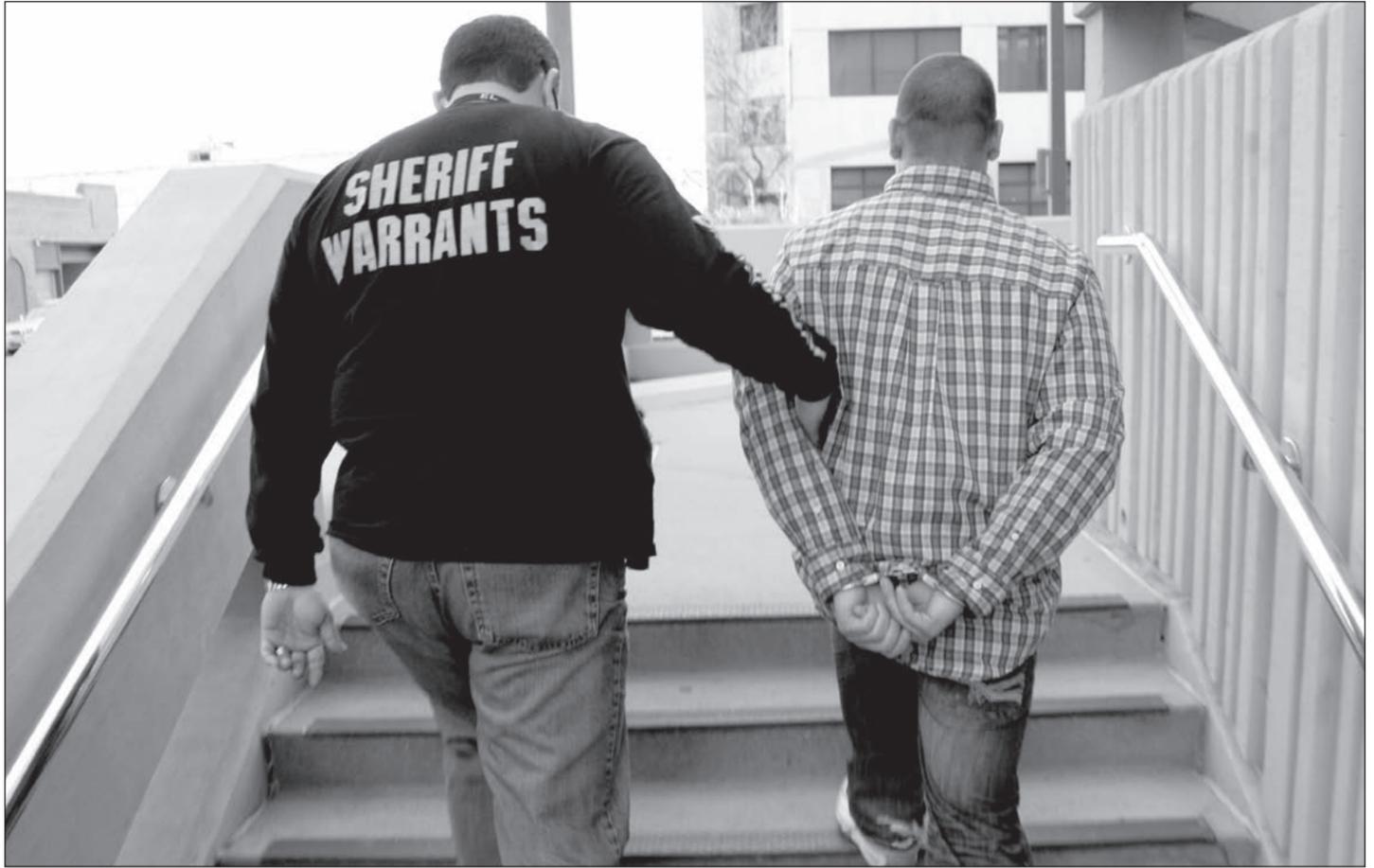
Triathlon

Triathletes and aspiring triathletes can now register for the second annual Eagle in the Sun Triathlon. In its inaugural year, El Paso's only USA Triathlon-sanctioned race sold out and introduced hundreds of new athletes to the sport. This year, participants can count on another well-organized, safe and fun race. The triathlon boasts a fast course, excellent volunteer support, top-notch facilities, and a growing fan base. Multisport competition is making its mark in the Borderland. Eagle in the Sun Triathlon will take place on September 4, 2011, at the Tigua Recreation and Wellness Center. The sprint-distance race offers a beginner-friendly course, with the option to participate as part of a two- or three-person relay team. The race is capped at 500, so athletes should plan to register early to secure their spots. As a special benefit for athletes, Spira Footwear is offering 100 pairs of their new Odyssey running shoe for \$25 to registered athletes. Athletes can choose this offer when they register; the offer will end when 100 pairs have been sold. The event benefits Family Service of El Paso, which aims to provide mental health care services to anyone regardless of ability to pay. Sponsors include El Paso Sports

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The greatest power for good is the power of example.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Elhiu Dominguez

SHOULD'VE PAID UP – A hot check writer, one of 54 arrested last week, is led up the stairs of the Downtown County Jail by a Deputy.

Hot check writers arrested

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal announced the arrest of 54 individuals with hot check warrants during a three day roundup that ended last Thursday night. Thirty officers from the El Paso Sheriff's Office, County Constables Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, and investigators

from the County Attorney's Office participated in the operation.

During the round ups the officers not only cleared 50 Theft by Check warrants, but also 50 additional misdemeanor warrants and 4 felony warrants.

Among those facing multiple charges was 40-year-old Salvador Morales (aka Salvador Muñoz) who was arrested on Wednesday March 9, 2011, at a residence in East El Paso. At the time of his arrest Morales, a

suspected Barrio Azteca gang member, faced one misdemeanor theft by check charge and one Deceptive Business Practices charge. While booking him in the county jail, officers learned that Morales had an outstanding warrant from the State of Nevada, where he faces drug charges for trafficking with methamphetamines. Morales remains in the County jail, waiting to be extradited to Nevada, and his bond was set at \$10,000.

Individuals arrested during the roundup also paid more than \$36,000 in restitution

See CHECKS, Page 2

Margo helps Vinton with certification

By Olivia Zepeda
Special to the Courier

VILLAGE OF VINTON – State Representative Dee Margo aided the Village of Vinton in obtaining a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) decertification from a private Certificate of Convenience and Necessity holder. The decertification opens the way for El Paso County to move forward on the planned northwest County Annex.

The new annex will provide county services and meeting areas to a greatly underserved area of the county. In a collaborative effort, Vinton's proposed \$4 million multi-purpose center will offer public programs such as health, citizenship and recreation. The communities affected include Vinton, Anthony and northwest El Paso, as well as the unincorporated communities of Westway and Canutillo.

"The success of these projects is a combined effort of many individuals who have been working for and with the city

See VINTON, Page 5

Beware of charitable Japan scams

By Greg Abbott
Special to the Courier

In wake of the earthquake and resulting tsunami that has caused widespread disaster in Japan and some areas of the United States, the Office of the Attorney General is cautioning generous Texans to carefully vet relief organizations before making any charitable contributions.

By doing a little research, well-meaning Texans can ensure their dollars actually help the recovery effort and aid victims – rather than funding fraudulent scams set up to capitalize on a tragedy.

Texans who are solicited for charitable contributions to relief efforts by telephone, text message, e-mail, mail, social networking sites or otherwise should consider the following:

- Ensure the relief organization is legitimate. Ask for credentials, including the soliciting entity's exact name and telephone number, particularly if the purported relief organization is not well known.
- Call the charity directly and confirm that the solicitor is actually working for that organization.
- Watch for questionable charities using names that closely resemble the names of

well-known charities.

- Find out how the donation will be used.
- Be wary of appeals that are long on emotion and short on descriptions about how charitable contributions will aid the recovery effort.
- Don't succumb to high-pressure tactics and demands for an immediate decision. A legitimate charity welcomes background checks on their operations.
- Never give a credit card or bank account number to an unknown solicitor.
- Never give cash and never agree to give money to a courier. Write a check to the charity directly – not the soliciting individual – and get a receipt.

For information about specific relief operations currently underway, Texans should contact the American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP). AIP is a national charity watchdog service that assists donors with identifying reliable charitable organizations. Texans should visit their Web site at www.charitywatch.org.

Texans who wish to file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General regarding suspicious e-mail charity solicitations may call the Consumer Complaint Hotline at (800) 252-8011 or file a complaint online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Your story is important, too

We recently lost the last surviving veteran from World War I. His name was Frank Woodruff Buckles, and he was 110 years old. He'd been so determined to serve his country that he'd lied to multiple Army recruiting offices in multiple states before he was finally accepted and sent to Europe. He was barely 16 years old when he went in. They made him an ambulance driver.

During World War II, he spent three years in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp.

His life has been made into a film documentary: "Pershing's Last Patriot: The Frank Woodruff Buckles Story," which will be out sometime this year.

Your experiences are just as important, and the Library of Congress wants your personal account. For more than 10 years, the Veterans History Project has assisted veterans in telling of their firsthand experiences in wars and archiving those for future generations.

The project covers these time periods:

- World War I (1914-1920);
- World War II (1939-1946);
- Korean War (1950-1955);

- Vietnam War (1961-1975);
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995); and
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present).

There are a number of ways you can tell your story: photos, scrapbooks, postcards, journals or memoirs, letters, military documents, or taped audio or video interviews.

Your story, as well as any of the memorabilia you contribute, will be archived forever.

The first step is to get the Project Kit, which will guide you through the process. If you don't think this is something you can handle on your own, others can help you. Read the instructions for specifics.

To get the kit, call the Veterans History Project at 888-371-5848 or go online to download it at www.loc.gov/vets. You'll need to send your completed project via Fed Ex, UPS or DHL instead of the Post Office.

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) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

It's the law By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Tax season tips

With the April 18 federal income tax filing deadline fast approaching, many Texans will undoubtedly encounter billboards, e-mails and direct mail that advertises tax preparation services. As with any contractual agreement, Texans should carefully read the fine print before entering into a financial transaction involving their income taxes. Taxpayers who understand the nature of these agreements are more likely to make informed decisions that just might save some of their hard-earned money.

For example, Texans should always avoid tax preparation services that "guarantee" the largest possible tax return. Under federal law, any deductions tax preparers make for their clients must be accurate and legally permissible. Tax preparers that submit false information in order to obtain larger refunds for a client (and higher fees for the preparer), put their clients in legal jeopardy. Competent, legitimate tax preparers will not hesitate to sign their clients' tax return, so Texans should always avoid preparation services that refuse to sign their clients' tax returns. Taxpayers who believe a tax preparer is not complying with the law should file a complaint with the Attorney General's Office.

Many businesses market "instant cash" to taxpayers seeking quick access to their income tax refunds. Tax preparation services, automobile dealerships, furniture outlets and other vendors typically market tax refund anticipation loans as an "instant cash advance" against a borrower's expected tax refund. Frequently, the "instant cash" is actually a loan that the taxpayer must repay. Refund anticipation loans often carry processing fees and high interest rates, so the amount of advance cash the taxpayer receives is typically less than the refund they are owed by the federal government.

Under Texas law, refund anticipation loans are legal as long as lenders fully and clearly disclose certain

details to borrowers. Refund anticipation lenders must provide the estimated fees charged for the loan, the annual interest rate and the loan fee schedule, in writing. Lenders who advertise in Spanish must provide the same required disclosures in Spanish.

Refund anticipation lenders must also inform borrowers about the average time it takes to receive a refund directly from the IRS, which now offers electronic tax filing and direct deposit refunds. Both options significantly speed up the refund process. According to the IRS' website, electronic refunds can be processed and deposited into taxpayers' bank accounts within 10 days or less. With that in mind, taxpayers should carefully consider which option is in their best interest: instant cash refunds reduced by interest and lender fees – or a full refund from the IRS at a slightly later date.

Although many Texans would prefer not to pay their taxes, it is well settled law that federal income taxes are NOT voluntary. Any tax professional claiming to uniformly exempt taxpayers from their federal income tax liability should be viewed with caution. U.S. courts have repeatedly rejected the argument that taxes are voluntary or optional.

Finally, taxpayers should beware of unsolicited telephone calls and e-mails from individuals claiming to be IRS agents. During these fraudulent telephone calls, fake federal agents may claim tax refunds are available via direct deposit. The scam artists' goal is to trick Texans into providing their bank account information and Social Security numbers.

Texans who receive calls or e-mails from these imposters claiming to be IRS employees must recognize that the callers are just attempting to steal taxpayers' identities. The IRS does not unexpectedly call taxpayers to demand their personal information. Taxpayers solicited in this manner should immediately hang up or delete the e-mails.

Greg Abbott is Attorney General of Texas.

View from here By Ollie Besteiro

Hunger a growing concern for Texas elderly

For thousands of Texans, eating dinner tonight is not a foregone conclusion.

Texas has the fourth highest hunger rate among the elderly. As Texans fight tooth and nail for their legislative priorities this session, many of the most vulnerable among us are losing a much more difficult battle – the fight against hunger.

During the month of March – National Nutrition Month – it is important to remember the nearly one in five Texans at risk of going hungry. And the problem goes well beyond our borders. Of the 51 million Americans who struggle with hunger every day, more than 6 million are over the age of 60. This is a problem we can solve.

AARP is leading the Drive to End Hunger program to help alleviate hunger problems among senior citizens. The campaign includes volunteer-led food drives, individual and corporate funding campaigns, and local SNAP ("food stamp") enrollment assistance. We hope to make a real difference for those most susceptible to hunger.

NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion Jeff Gordon and team owner Rick Hendrick are among those partnering with AARP. Through its Foundation, AARP has organized donations that will provide more than 146,000 meals for hungry seniors during the opening weeks of the 2011 NASCAR season. As the program grows in size and visibility, the likelihood of shrinking hunger risk will also grow with it.

As Texans watch the Legislature decide the direction of our state, it is important to remember that the priorities and changes occur outside of the capitol as much as within it. The fight against hunger does not occur within party lines or in legislative committees. It is something that everyone can be a part of, no matter your age or political beliefs.

Donations to the Drive to End Hunger program benefit the hunger programs of the AARP Foundation. AARP is making fighting hunger a top priority, but we need the help of all Texans to make it to the finish line.

Across the state of Texas, food banks provide emergency aid for nearly 3 million people each year. Meals on Wheels programs give older and disabled Texans the opportunity to stay in their homes without the fear of hunger. Any gift or volunteer time to these organizations goes a long way to stopping hunger.

As long as Texans go to bed hungry, the fight will march on. The AARP, food banks and hunger programs across the state will be available to make sure that the hunger issue never takes a backseat.

This National Nutrition Month, take time to think of our most vulnerable neighbors who struggle to find their next meal. Texas seniors are one of the groups across the country most susceptible to hunger risk. It's time to reach out a helping hand to the hungry.

To learn more and find out how you can help, visit: www.drivetoendhunger.org.

Ollie Besteiro is President of AARP Texas.

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®
of Texas

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TO CONQUER
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38
Years
2011
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COURIER

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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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\$10 for 25 words, \$15 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

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Checks

From Page 1

to local merchants. That amount, along with the \$140,000 collected since the beginning of the amnesty period on January 28, 2011, brings the total collections for the amnesty program to more than \$177,000.

Bernal said the money collected will be returned to the victims.

"We will continue to aggressively pursue those persons with

outstanding hot check warrants. I encourage those persons to pay,"

Bernal said

"I want to thank the El Paso Sheriff's Office for their support in organizing the round ups, particularly Sergeant John Rodriguez from the Warrants Division. Also I would

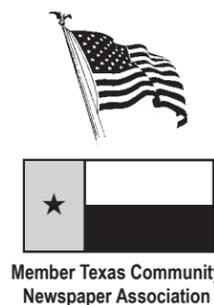


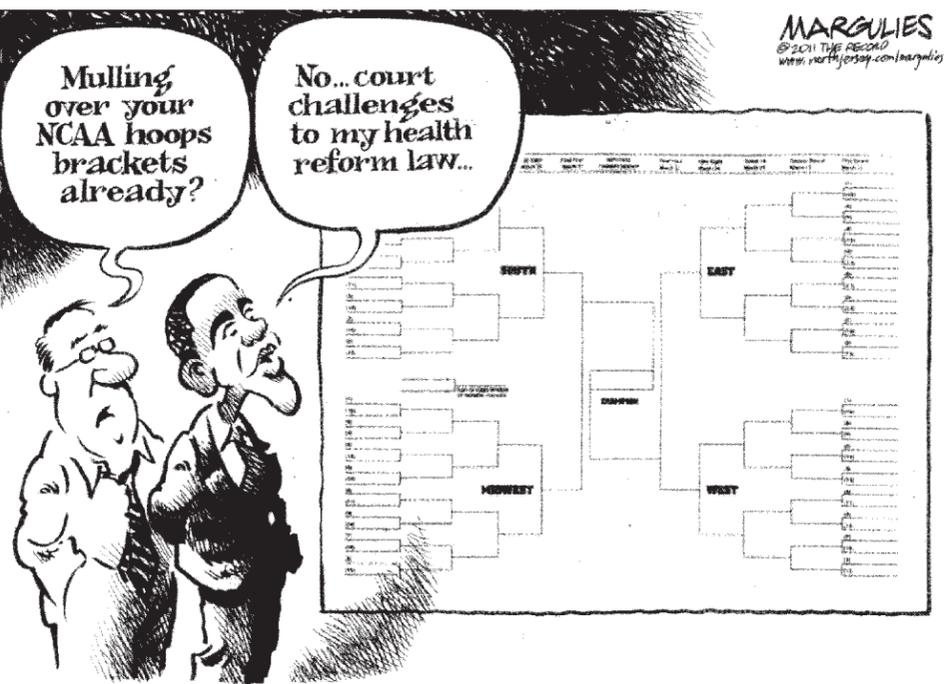
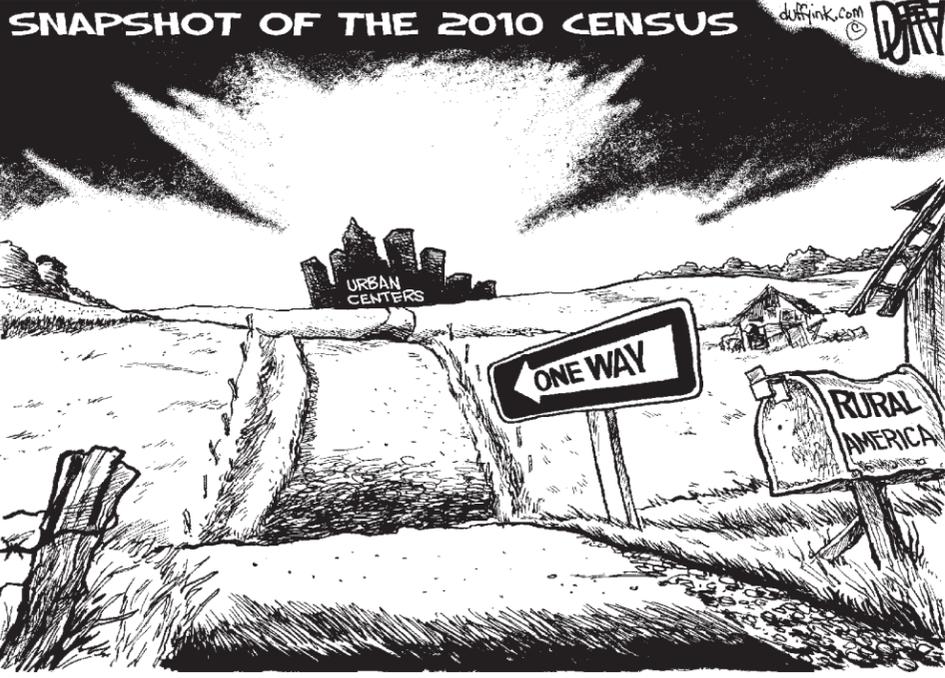
Salvador Morales

like to thank the Constables from Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 and their deputies, who helped make this hot check round up the most successful yet," Bernal concluded.

In the upcoming weeks investigators from the County Attorney's Office will continue their search for individuals with outstanding arrest warrants.

Individuals can still avoid arrest by paying their outstanding hot checks as soon as possible.





Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Last bills filed

Hola mi gente. Before the start of this legislative session, my office worked very hard to prepare four bills that, if passed, will have a tremendously positive impact throughout the state of Texas. Those bills deal with stopping the unlawful dumping of tires, providing new tools for TABC in handling problem bars (2 bills), and reforming the manifesto process.

Each of the bills has been given strong support by a variety of constituents and positive input by state agencies. These bills had been months in the process of preparation. I am confident that they will be heard on the floor and hopefully my colleagues will vote in support.

As is the case in every session, just prior to the final hour allowable for filing bills, last minute requests are received. I accepted four such bills that are important to El Paso County and to the state.

The Council of Judges for El Paso requested that we carry a bill that modifies current law to reflect how the Council processes requests for postponement of jury duty. The bill, if passed, will consolidate the process under the Council exclusively. This will allow a much more efficient system that is good for potential jurors and good for the courts.

El Paso has a very good emergency services system. A major contributor toward that end is Life Ambulance. The company came to our office asking for support for a bill that would require a modification of certain Public Health rules. There was to be a major change in how emergency medical technicians (EMTs) attain

accreditation through testing. Life Ambulance, along with many other ambulance services, would have been required by the new rules to abide by accreditation standards by 2013. The bill that I will take through the legislative process will provide somewhat of a grace period to be in complete compliance. I am confident passage of the bill will be beneficial to the ambulance companies and will result in a higher standard of EMT with less disruption to current levels of service.

Staffers from the Division of Worker's Compensation actually visited the office to discuss some changes to laws under which they are regulated. They pointed out some benefit levels that had not been adjusted for years even though the cost of living has risen significantly.

One bill amends the ceiling of the wages per hour that determines the eligibility for benefits. A worker earning \$14.50 would now be eligible as opposed to the previous level, which was \$8.50 per hour. This truly reflects the current levels of incomes in Texas.

The last bill, filed just before the cutoff time, adjusted the impairment rating to reflect a larger segment of the population.

Neither of the two bills have a fiscal impact on taxpayers. The funding for these benefits is exclusively through the unemployment insurance fund.

Overall, all of these bills will benefit El Paso.

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

Briefs

From Page 1

Commission, Zoot, Sierra Providence East Medical Center, Landmark Mercantile, Varay Systems, Crazy Cat Cyclery, Atom Cyclist, El Paso Tri Club, Up and Running and Human Performance Center. Online registration opened March 15 at <http://www.raceelpaso.com/events>.

— Gabriela Gallegos

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the El Paso Police Department in identifying and locating the person responsible for a series of attacks on women, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Wednesday, January 12, 2011, the victim was jogging in the area of 9300 Montgomery Street in the northeast, when an unknown man attacked her from behind. The suspect grabbed her from behind and began to fondle her body. The victim managed to fight off the suspect and escaped from him. The suspect smelled of alcohol. The next day, Thursday, January 13, another woman was walking down the street at the 5400 block of Wren in the northeast when she also was attacked from behind by what Police believe is the same man. The suspect grabbed the woman in a bear hug and took her down to the ground and assaulted her. The suspect was said to smell like cheap cologne and cigarettes. There were no witnesses to these incidents but both women's description of the suspect appeared to be similar, as was his method of operation. Also both incidents occurred in the northeast part of town, and only one day apart. If you have any information at all about the identity of the suspect involved in these crimes, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately 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

This week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive is an individual sought for a violent family violence assault. The target is identified as Rafael Borruel, 18, who also uses Rafael Cardenas. He is 5'3" tall, weighs 140 pounds with brown hair and eyes. Earlier this month Deputies were called to a residence in the 3800 block Judy Marie (Montana Vista area) in reference



Rafael Borruel

to a family fight in progress. Deputies arrived and met with the Borruel's father who told authorities his son had just violently assaulted him. An investigation by Deputies revealed Borruel had arrived home drunk and an argument ensued between Borruel and his father. Borruel went on to assault his father punching him several times and even biting him on the arm before fleeing the residence Borruel returned to the residence several hours later and began to throw rocks at the residence damaging the home. Charges have since been filed and Sheriff's Investigators need your help in finding Borruel. He has an extensive criminal history and has mentioned to family members his dislike of law enforcement and has stated he will not be arrested without a fight. Sheriff's Officials are asking the public for any information on the whereabouts of Borruel. People can contact the Sheriff's Office (915) 546-2280 or Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of the individual featured.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was Kurt Vonnegut, one of the most influential writers of the 20th century, who made the following sage observation: "There is no reason why good cannot triumph as often as evil. The triumph of anything is a matter of organization. If there are such things as angels, I hope they are organized along the lines of the Mafia."

• That cork you pulled out of your wine bottle was made from the bark of a tree. The cork oak has to grow for 25 years before any cork is harvested, and then it's stripped only every 10 years thereafter.

• If you can predict the future by watching the flight patterns of birds, you are engaging in ornithomancy.

• The coldest place on earth is a place known only as Ridge A in Antarctica. The average winter temperature there is -94 degrees F.

• According to archaeological research, the bikini is nothing new; evidence has been found that the two-piece garment was worn in parts of Italy as early as 2000 B.C.

• In 1950, 70 percent of all the cars, buses and trucks in the world could be found in the United States.

• According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average television screen in United States homes is growing by 1 inch every year.

• It was Ambrose Bierce, in his "Devil's Dictionary," who defined "admiration" as "our polite recognition of another's resemblance to ourselves."

• Ever wonder why magazine publisher Hugh Hefner chose a rabbit as the symbol of his Playboy magazine? Evidently, when the mogul was a small boy, one of his treasured possessions was a blanket with bunnies all over it.

Thought for the Day: "I've done the calculation, and your chances of winning the lottery are identical whether you play or not."

— Fran Lebowitz

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Exhibit

From Page 4

Indies located in Seville, Spain. It documents Spain's presence in territories stretching from Florida to California at least 100 years before English colonists landed on the East Coast.

The exhibit is presented by The El Paso Museum of History in cooperation with the Fundacion Rafael del Pino, the Archivo General de Indias and the State Corporation for the Spanish Cultural Action Abroad, in collaboration with Spain's Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation and Culture.

According to museum officials, many of these documents have never before returned to the continent where they were created. They have been safely kept in vaults for hundreds of years. But now they are returning and today's local area residents can experience some of the excitement created in Europe by the discovery of a new land, which began more than 400 years ago.

The rare exhibit will remain at the El Paso Museum of History, which is located downtown at 510 N. Santa

Fe, through April 24 and then spend another three months at the Historic New Orleans Collection before returning to Spain.

El Paso is one of only three cities in the United States chosen by the Spanish government to host this exhibition. The first stop on the tour was in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Julia H. Bussinger, museum director, stated that it is an honor for the city and for Texas to have El Paso selected for this unique exhibition.

Falia Gonzalez Diaz, head of the conservation department at Spain's General Archive of the Indies, credited Michael A. Tomor, director of the El Paso Museum of Art, with starting talks that led to bringing the exhibit to El Paso. Diaz stated that the exhibition helps educate people about Spain's role in shaping and influencing the United States, a nation that did not yet exist when these historical documents were produced.

"This exhibit puts the history of our area into a new perspective," said Frank Arrufat, an El Pasoan who visited the exhibit recently. "Spain was here first, as far as European powers go, and as a result

we have retained a lot of Spain's character."

Fee for viewing the exhibit is \$3 for museum members and \$6 for nonmembers; children 18 and under

and active military personnel get in free. For more information, contact Museum Curator, Barbara Angus at 915-351-3588 or angusbx@elpasotexas.gov.

Vinton

From Page 1

council for many months. We appreciate Representative Margo's diligent effort on our behalf in this final step to ensure that the decertification was processed timely," said Madeleine Praino, Mayor of Vinton.

"Vinton is a growing community and I'm happy to assist them in their efforts... I believe that is why I was elected. I will continue to work hard for the people of Vinton, District 78 and all of El Paso," said Margo.

Had the TCEQ decertification not been obtained by April 1st, the county intended to pull the annex project, jeopardizing a combined \$1.3 million in total direct funds, as well as indirect funds affecting park renovations, economic development and other community development initiatives.

People know Pueblo for its...



Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.



U.S. General Services Administration

Canutillo Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2010

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 14,440,121	\$ 3,404,526	\$ 32,180	\$ 127,209	\$ 18,004,036
5800 State Program Revenues	27,461,701	1,953,230	—	662,463	30,077,394
5900 Federal Program Revenues	4,604,123	—	—	8,870,941	13,475,064
5020 Total Revenues	46,505,945	5,357,756	32,180	9,660,613	61,556,494
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	24,487,640	—	—	6,793,429	31,281,069
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	660,179	—	—	298,828	959,007
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	396,032	—	—	1,021,839	1,417,871
0021 Instructional Leadership	854,626	—	—	192,356	1,046,982
0023 School Leadership	2,691,444	—	—	85,965	2,777,409
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,210,348	—	—	93,272	1,303,620
0032 Social Work Services	39,070	—	—	—	39,070
0033 Health Services	548,679	—	—	3,383	552,062
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,388,465	—	—	349,919	1,738,384
0035 Food Services	4,524,551	—	—	171,326	4,695,877
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	1,152,533	—	—	30,263	1,182,796
0041 General Administration	2,281,507	—	—	18,637	2,300,144
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	4,930,870	—	162,988	35,408	5,129,266
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	140,397	—	—	6,611	147,008
0053 Data Processing Services	1,036,801	—	—	24,137	1,060,938
0061 Community Services	237,851	—	—	544,299	782,150
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	—	2,475,000	—	—	2,475,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	—	4,817,329	—	—	4,817,329
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	233,869	—	—	233,869
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	296,056	—	433,884	—	729,940
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	232,655	—	—	—	232,655
6030 Total Expenditures	47,109,704	7,526,198	596,872	9,669,672	64,902,446
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(603,759)	(2,168,442)	(564,692)	(9,059)	(3,345,952)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	27,334,997	—	—	27,334,997
7915 Transfers In	—	—	—	190,333	190,333
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	—	1,954,355	—	—	1,954,355
8911 Transfers Out (Uses)	(139,755)	—	—	(50,578)	(190,333)
8949 Other (Uses)	—	(27,335,000)	—	—	(27,335,000)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(139,755)	1,954,352	—	139,755	1,954,352
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(743,514)	(214,090)	(564,692)	130,696	(1,391,600)
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	6,746,869	1,188,915	12,415,054	(81,679)	20,269,159
1300 Prior Period Adjustment	(78,270)	—	—	—	(78,270)
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 5,925,085	\$ 974,825	\$ 11,850,362	\$ 49,017	\$ 18,799,289

Miners can hold heads high this basketball season

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

One of the toughest things for any athlete to do is to regroup after a devastating loss.

And if it's tough for an individual athlete to put a devastating loss behind him, it must be all that tougher for an entire team to do it.

That is what the UTEP Miners faced this week.

The Miners lost in dramatic fashion against the Memphis Tigers in the Conference USA Tournament final last week.

It was a game in which the Miners led or were tied for the lead for the first 39 minutes and 53 seconds of the game. But it was in the last seven seconds that Memphis took the lead and came away with a 67-66 victory.

It was the kind of defeat that lives on in your heart and soul long after the final buzzer. It was the kind of defeat that will wake you up in a cold sweat in the middle of the night for years to come.

And now the Miners have to regroup. After their devastating loss to Memphis, they took another one on the chin when they weren't selected as an at-large team to play in the NCAA Tournament.

Oh, five 14-loss teams from bigger conferences were chosen, but not the 25-9 Miners.

Let's put that in perspective, in the last 25 years, only six 14-loss teams were selected for the tournament all together – and this year five were chosen.

So instead of dancing, the Miners settled for a spot in the 32-team NIT.

Many of us on the media table said after the

devastating loss that at least the Miners would have a home game in the NIT.

WRONG.

The Miners didn't even get a home game as they were sent to Albuquerque to take on the Lobos of New Mexico.

Of course the Lobos are no stranger to the Miners and El Pasoans as they were long-time rivals in the Western Athletic Conference.

But after not making the big dance, everybody here felt UTEP was a synch for another home game.

Ah, but these are the Miners, the Rodney Dangerfield of college basketball, a team that gets absolutely no respect nationally.

Now this column was written back on Sunday so I have absolutely no idea whether the Miners beat UNM and are playing a second-round game; or if the Miners' season is over for 2011.

But either way, you have to be proud of the job Tim Floyd did in his first year at UTEP without a couple of all-conference-caliber big men in Derrick Caracter and Arnett Moultrie.

Many people, including myself, thought there was no way UTEP would contend for a title. I figured the Miners would win 18 or 19 games and finish in the middle of the pack in C-USA.

How can you blame me? After losing those key players and completely changing a style of play for eight seniors who were used to playing another style for a number of years, how could they succeed?

But they did, and they did it because of Floyd.

It's too bad many El Pasoans didn't make it out to the Don Haskins Center to check this team out this year.

They lost out on an exciting team that played tenacious defense and hustled all over the court.

Next year the Miners will probably go through a rebuilding year with 10 new players wearing the orange and blue.

But it will be a chance for Floyd to take players and teach them how to play his way from the very beginning.

Another interesting thing to keep tabs on is whether Randy Culpepper can make the NBA?

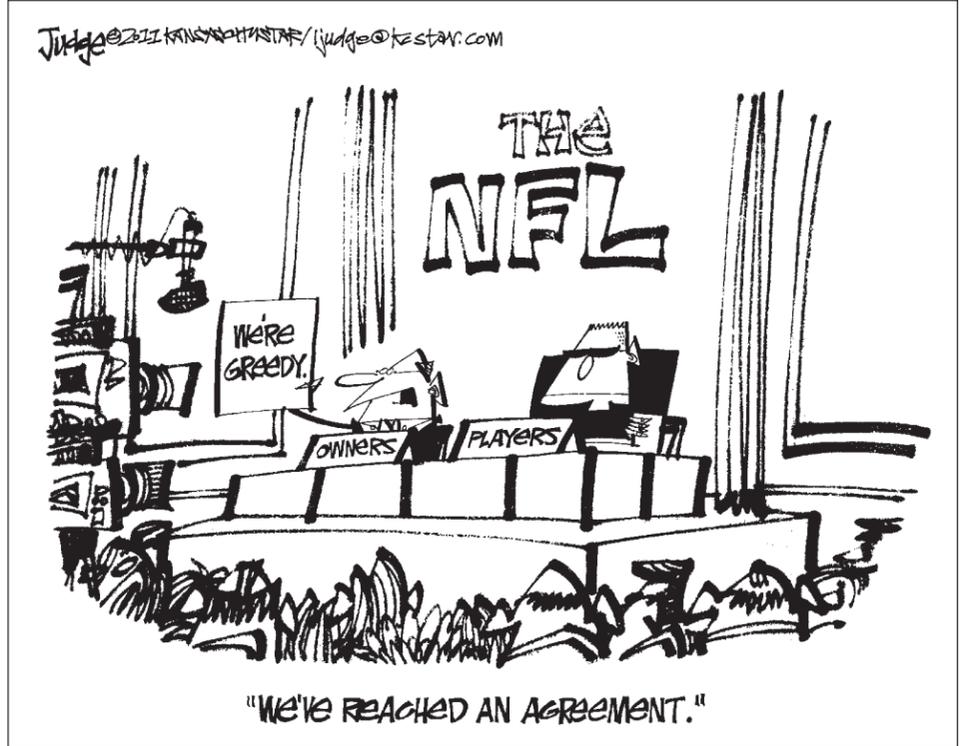
He's got all the energy and talent in the world and I believe he'll make a roster spot

somewhere. The only real question is whether the NBA thinks he's too small.

Let's not fool anyone, Culpepper is listed at six feet but there's no way he's taller than 5-9. His heart, however, stands at least 11-feet tall and that will go a long way to getting him to the next level.

And that goes for the rest of the team as well.

Recovering from disappointment and heartache isn't easy and is rarely done. But Tim Floyd and his UTEP Miners have passed with flying colors – both on the court and in the game of life.



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Boxing picks up the slack

It has come to my attention that I do not write enough about Mixed Martial Arts, which is an absolute lie – I never write about it all.

Hey, I'm down with it. Most of you reading this weren't even born when I bought the first pay-per-view "Ultimate Fighting Championship" with my friends (all I remember was some guy from Alabama knocked the teeth out of a Sumo wrestler, literally, and after we watched the show, my friends and I knocked the stuffing out of each other for solidarity's sake).

Good times. And it's not like I don't like violence for violence's sake. If I pay money for a movie ticket and popcorn, you know darn well I'm expecting a gunfight at the end of movie. I don't care if it's Ricky Nelson and Dean Martin, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford or Tom and Jerry... just whoever controls it, make them fight at some point. I mean, I even follow Sylvester Stallone on Twitter, and that, right there, shows you I know how to take a punch. (So far, all he does is lament the loss of the "Hollywood action hero." Still, I'm man enough to admit I cried a little during Rocky 6... the Adrian stuff gets me every time.)

Nevertheless, I am and will always remain a boxing guy. The sages of the sport call it the "sweet science," but I don't know about that. Aside from the cut man's ability to slather coagulant on a boxer's torn-up eye socket, too many people overthink the sport. Yes, I'm oversimplifying it

when I say "fight or flight" or "punch or be punched," but if you ask most boxing pundits and announcers – like Max Kellerman, who is easily my favorite in the game – they'd pretty much agree.

It was Kellerman who pointed out the absurdity of the title belt during

the Saul Alvarez-Matthew Hatton junior welterweight title fight last month on HBO.

"It's a promotional tool," Kellerman said when referring to the WBC belt that was on the line that night, adding that all it could really bring a boxer is a chance to appear regularly on HBO's "Boxing After Dark," which translates into dollars.

Look, if you've seen the excellent "The Fighter" movie, you know it's based on the life and times of

Mickey Ward. As great a movie it was, it didn't even address Ward's signature moments – namely the three-fight Armageddon against Arturo Gatti. Those fights were unanimously declared the fights of the year, fights of the century, what have you, but they weren't title fights.

They were just great fights – and that's what boxing needs more than ever, particularly when they're fighting as aggressive an opponent

as MMA. A belt – be it a leather number from Sears or the acronym-of-the-moment's title belt – does little more than hold up your slacks. From now on, boxing in general needs to stop slacking and remind fans of sport exactly who wears the pants in the family.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter and publisher of The Kansas City Luminary. (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

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LEGALS

TOWN OF CLINT

PUBLIC NOTICE

TxCDBG Contract No. 728086

The Town of Clint will conduct a public hearing to review the performance and to obtain citizens comments on its completed Texas Community Development Block Grant Program – STEP Fund TxCDBG Contract No. 728006 First Time Water Service Project. The public hearing will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the Clint Community Center

located at 200 North San Elizario Road. Persons with disabilities who may require auxiliary aids or services to attend this meeting should contact City Hall (915) 851-3146 at least two days before the meeting to make arrangements.

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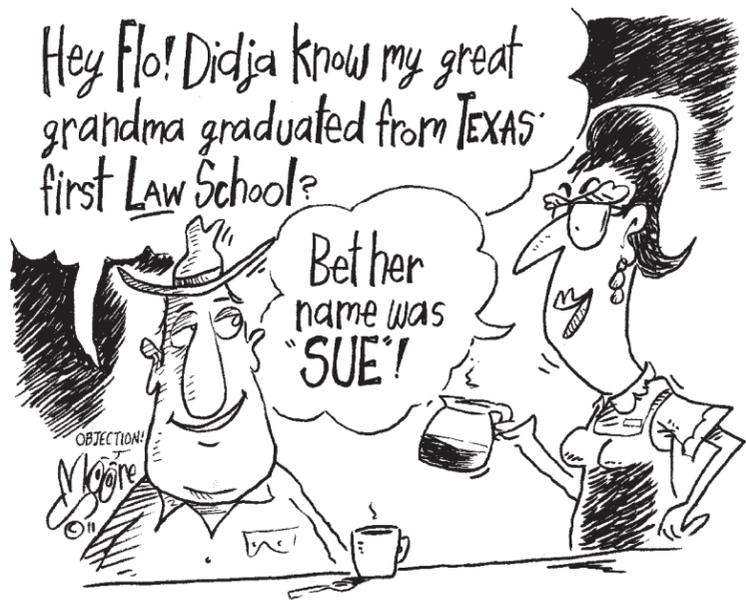
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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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.

	-		x		16
+		÷		x	
	-		x		10
÷		+		-	
	x		x		21
5		2		9	

1 2 3 4 4 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Electronic payments becoming mandatory

For years, Social Security has stressed the convenience, security, and safety of getting benefit payments electronically. Soon, direct deposit (or Direct Express) will not only be the best way to receive Federal benefit payments – it will be the only way.

That's because the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced a new rule that will phase out paper checks for Federal benefit and non-tax payments by March 1, 2013.

Here is how the transition will work.

Anyone applying for Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits on or after May 1, 2011, will receive their payments electronically, while those already receiving paper checks will need to switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013.

Anyone already receiving their benefit payments electronically will continue to receive their payment as usual on their payment day.

People receiving benefits have the option of direct deposit to a bank or credit union account (of their choice) or into a Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card account (a Treasury-recommended prepaid card option). You can visit www.GoDirect.org to learn more.

Social Security, SSI, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management benefits, and other non-tax payments are included.

For most people getting monthly benefits, this won't really be a change; already 8 out of 10 beneficiaries receive payments electronically.

Why the push for electronic

payments instead of paper checks received in the mail?

- It's safer: no risk of checks being lost or stolen;
- It's easy and reliable: no need to wait for the mail or go to the bank to cash a check;
- It saves taxpayers money: no cost for postage and paper and printing;
- It saves you money: no check-cashing fees or bank fees; and
- It's good for the environment: it saves paper and eliminates transportation costs.

If you still get your check in the mail, you don't need to wait for the new rule to go into effect to enjoy the benefits of electronic payments. Please visit www.godirect.org today and begin getting your Social Security and SSI payments the safe, easy, inexpensive, and green way – electronically.

Q: How can I get an estimate of my retirement benefits?

A: Our online Retirement Estimator uses your Social Security earnings record to estimate your future benefits. To use the Retirement Estimator, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. There, you can enter certain identifying information about yourself. As long as the

personal information you provide matches our records, you can use the Retirement Estimator to enter other information, such as your expected retirement age and estimated future wages. This information will be combined with the information that Social Security has on record about your past earnings to provide a quick and reliable online benefit estimate.

A Spanish-language Retirement

Estimator also is available at www.segurossocial.gov/calculador. Get an instant, personalized estimate of your future benefits now at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Q: How do I report a change of address if I'm on Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

A: You must report any change of address by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, or by visiting a local office within 10 days after the month the change occurs. You cannot complete a change of address online because we must obtain more specific information about the change in your living arrangement. Failure to report or filing false reports could result in a fine, imprisonment, or both. Even if you receive your benefits by direct deposit, you need to report your new address to Social Security so that you can continue to receive mail from Social Security when necessary. To learn more about SSI reporting responsibilities, read the publication What You Need To Know When You Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11011.html.

Q: What is a disability trial work period?

A: The "trial work period" allows Social Security disability beneficiaries to test their ability to work for at least nine months without losing benefits. During the trial work period, you can receive full benefits no matter how much you earn, as long as you remain disabled and you report your work activity. The trial work period continues until you have completed nine trial work months within a 60-month period. You can find more information about available work incentives in our publication Working While Disabled – How We Can Help at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10095.html.

For more information on any of the questions above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have 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: V equals N

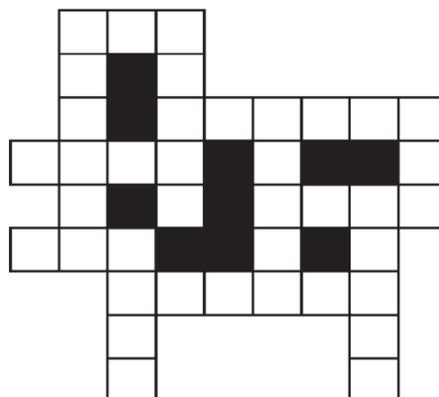
WT U JRDMIJRVQ WI UMROJ JRTU
AA RSQC UVK PWJ HRO, HRO
DWFPJ IUH HRO' CQ WV FCUSQ
KUVFQC.

Answer Page 4

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- TYE
- SHMIPI
- INLAG
- ONNA
- PENHHY
- ♥PSA
- ATTH
- ♥CAPHE
- NEH
- ♥TASECH
- ENUCO
- ♥GAST



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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