



NEWSBRIEFS

9/11 ceremony

The Horizon City Police Department along with the Horizon City Fire Department and the Horizon City American Legion Post 598 will be honoring our 9/11 fallen heroes. Among the 2,753 victims who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center were 60 Police Officers and 343 firefighters from New York City and the Port Authority, and 8 private emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Another 184 people were killed in the attack on the Pentagon. The overwhelming majority of casualties were civilians, including nationals from over 70 countries. Please come join us on Sunday, September 11, 2011 as we honor our fallen heroes in a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The ceremony will run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at 14999 Darrington in Horizon City in the City Hall parking lot. The event is free to the public.

— Officer Marie Casillas

Auditions

“Jesus Kids”, a Christian singing group, is recruiting new volunteer singers. Both boys and girls are welcome. To get information on auditions, practice times and participation in programs, please call Gloria Lugo, guitarist and teacher, in Horizon City, at (915) 226-6156.

— Ed Weckerly

Vet housing

Gov. Rick Perry has introduced Housing4TexasHeroes, a new \$3 million grant program to help veterans buy, build, rehabilitate or rent a home. The governor spoke at the Veterans of Foreign Wars 112th National Convention, where he also thanked our nation’s veterans for their sacrifices, courage and leadership to protect freedom around the world. “The freedoms we all enjoy are the direct result of the service and sacrifice of our veterans, who valued their country and their communities, above themselves,” Gov. Perry said. “Housing4TexasHeroes will help ensure veterans and their families have adequate housing as they ease back into civilian life and enjoy the blessings of liberty they have earned with their own valor and sacrifice.” Administered by the Texas Veterans Commission, Housing4TexasHeroes will

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Be bold in what you stand for, but careful in what you fall for.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

MEMORIAL RIDE – Clint Fallen Heroes and Patriot Guard Riders members cruise into the Old Ironsides Museum parking lot on their motorcycles for the dedication ceremony. About 30 bikers participated in the event.

Clint Fallen Heroes, Ft. Bliss Museum honor Sgt. Israel D. Garcia

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

About 100 individuals met on the last Saturday of August at Fort Bliss’s Old Ironsides Museum to pay tribute to an American hero who grew up in Clint, Texas.

Family, friends, veterans, soldiers, and dignitaries came together that sunny day to honor Sergeant Israel Devora Garcia in a dedication ceremony that unveiled the commemorative plaque that will be displayed next to an Abrams M1 tank, which the Clint Fallen Heroes organization adopted and refurbished, in his memory at the museum.

For it was during his second tour in Baghdad, Iraq, on April 1, 2006, that Garcia was killed while engaged in combat operations. He performed the ultimate sacrifice when an improvised explosive device detonated during a dismounted patrol. Garcia, a Calvary scout, was with his staff sergeant when they found a missile, and the two attempted to disarm the ordnance; but an explosion killed them both.

Lorenzo Sandoval, Garcia’s stepfather

who started the Clint Fallen Heroes organization to honor the memory of loved ones who have died in battle by adopting and refurbishing military artifacts, stated, “We are doing this to honor all the fallen heroes like my son.”

Instrumental in planning the tank dedication for Garcia was Darrell G. Mond, a disabled veteran and a Clint Fallen Heroes member. “I was an Army tanker before becoming a disabled veteran, so, I knew about the M1 tank,” stated Mond.

A few months ago, “I brought my granddaughter to look at the museum’s exhibits,” Mond said. “I saw a flier that gave information about the ‘Adopt an Artifact’ program. I found out that the program was a volunteer effort to help restore the museum’s artifacts. So, I adopted a tank and other artifacts. Then, we came up with the idea to dedicate the tank to



Sgt. Israel D. Garcia

Sandoval’s son.”

The program’s commitment requires that a person adopting a tank paint the vehicle. So, Sandoval, Mond, and other volunteers spent a few days last spring refurbishing the 64-ton M1 tank that had served in the Kosovo conflict, in 1999-2000.

“This dedication ceremony is really special for me and all the family, friends, and volunteers,” said Sandoval, whose organization is devoted not only to honoring local fallen heroes but also to raising funds for students who meet the organization’s scholastic

guidelines. Currently, funds collected are for cadets attending Clint High School’s Junior ROTC program.

Sandoval stated that they want to eventually expand the program to reach as many El Paso

See GARCIA, Page 3



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

Mauricio Rivera, left, and Alejandro Valenzuela

Rivera, Valenzuela named AP Scholars

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

Two Mountain View High School graduates have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams. Mauricio Rivera and Alejandro Valenzuela, who both graduated in June of 2011, qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher.

Mauricio Rivera graduated as the Salutatorian for the Class of 2011. Alejandro Valenzuela graduated in the top ten percent of his class.

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program (AP) provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school,

and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.9 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

Through 34 different college-level courses and exams, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced placement and stand out in the college admission process. Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams (based on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest) typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher college graduation rates than students who do not participate in AP.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Fiduciary scam

I'm trying to wrap my mind around this one: Another fiduciary scam has been uncovered. The two men who plead guilty are the fiduciary and a former Department of Veterans Affairs Field Examiner who had been appointed by the VA.

Over nine years, beginning in 1999, the two managed to steal nearly \$900,000 from 10 disabled veterans. As a fiduciary, the first man was responsible for the financial affairs of those veterans. The second was the overseer of fiduciaries in his area.

Are you a member of a service organization, perhaps the American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars? Do you serve in an elected capacity, perhaps as Adjutant or Finance Officer? Can you pay bills on time? Are you good with math? Would you consider signing up to be a fiduciary in your area?

It won't be easy, I'll tell you right up front. It's not even easy for relatives to be appointed fiduciaries for a loved one's estate. You'll no doubt be run through the wringer when you apply.

Once you're assigned a veteran to assist, you'll need to qualify (and pay for) a surety bond equal to a veteran's current and estimated future benefits. You'll be responsible for keeping his or her bills paid on time, opening a joint account in your names and completing frequent documents to describe how you've spent each penny of the veteran's money.

If you're interested in at least thinking about doing this to help out a fellow veteran, go online to www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Fiduciary/index.htm. Then hunt for "Fiduciary Forms Program Guide." This reference describes what goes in each and every box on every form that a fiduciary fills out.

Fiduciaries are asked to serve for free, but there is a small stipend that can be earned – a percentage of the veteran's benefit.

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.

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Medicare options updated

Hola, mi gente. Back in 2008 and 2009, my office was very involved in assisting seniors who were on Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans. We helped the Department of Insurance stop a significant amount of abuse by insurance agents perpetrated on vulnerable seniors.

Since then the complaints about Medicare and the Advantage plans have diminished to few or no complaints over the past two years.

I just received a very informative booklet published by Consumer Reports, a very reputable consumer oriented magazine, about new features in Medicare. Seniors should be pleased by the changes.

The 2010 healthcare bill passed by the Congress and signed by President Obama helped seniors by providing more prescription assistance. Previously, the benefits were capped at \$2,840 at which point seniors had to pay 100% of their prescription costs up to \$6,448 total for the year. At that point, Medicare provides catastrophic coverage that costs seniors 5% of the prescription prices. The lack of benefits starting at \$2,840 has been referred to as the donut hole.

With the new plan, seniors will be given discounts which will increase over the next years until the percentage that seniors will pay reaches 25% of the drug costs. This is the same rate as in the first \$2,840.

Previously, the enrollment period started on November 15 and continued to the end of December. This year, the period starts on October 15 and ends on December 7. Seniors will still have a timeframe after that to cancel an Advantage plan in order to change to regular Medicare coverage.

There will be changes to the premiums that seniors with greater wealth must pay. Although the premiums will be higher there will not be annual increases based on inflation, as is the current provision.

A very important new benefit is free preventative care. At no cost, a senior is allowed an annual "wellness visit" with their physician. There is also a list available of other exams, such as colon screening or mammograms, that are now 100% covered by Medicare. The list is too detailed to include in this article. If there is a question about that, please

feel free to call my office at 859-3111 for a more extensive list.

Another significant change that reduces the potential costs to seniors is the cap on total out of pocket expenses. Previously, there was no cap so the costs to seniors with chronic diseases could continue to drain financial resources. Now the cap is at \$6,700.

Another change will result in less overpayment expenses being paid by Medicare that is good for the solvency of the plan. This change will require that seniors be very aware of any reductions in benefits paid to their plan network.

When seniors were being victimized, part of the problem was that individuals were not studying the plans they were on. All seniors must take personal responsibility to know and understand their plan benefits and limitations.

Medicare healthcare has gotten better thanks to new federal laws. Let us all work together to keep healthcare for our seniors effective and affordable.

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

It's the law By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Sexting law effective September 1

A disturbing new practice known as sexting has become increasingly common among teenage children. This term is used to describe sending or receiving sexually explicit images via mobile telephones. When sexting involves images of minors it can become an issue for law enforcement, because sending or receiving sexually explicit images of persons under the age of 17 can constitute the promotion of child pornography.

But what happens when a high school student receives an explicit image of a boyfriend or girlfriend? Worse, what happens if the message is forwarded on to a friend? Until recently, Texas teenagers who engaged in sexting could have faced the possibility of criminal prosecution, felony convictions, and lifetime registration as a sex offender – life-altering consequences for youthful mistakes.

Imposing these severe long-term consequences on young Texans simply did not make sense. Because the Penal Code's remedies for this conduct were so severe and inflexible, Texas prosecutors and law enforcement were justifiably reticent about pursuing these cases. But harmful and improper conduct with no adverse consequences is difficult to prevent – and sexting is a dangerous practice that must be curbed.

With the Texas Legislature poised to convene for the 82nd Legislative Session, we recognized that law enforcement and the courts needed new tools to prevent teenagers from sexting without having to resort to measures that correctly apply to child pornographers. Fortunately, we found a forceful and creative ally in Senator Kirk Watson (Austin), who recognized the importance of creating an innovative statutory solution to this problem.

The result of our collaboration was Senate Bill 407, which was sponsored by Rep. Tom Craddick (Midland) and Rep. Pete Gallego (Alpine) in the House of Representatives. Under this bipartisan legislation, which Governor Perry signed in June and becomes effective on September 1, the Penal Code will have a new offense that prevents minors from intentionally and knowingly promoting or possessing text messages that contain explicit images of those 17 years old or younger. Importantly, the new offense is a misdemeanor – not a felony – and does not require that minors register as sex offenders in the state.

First-time violators who send or possess these illicit messages face a class C misdemeanor. Subsequent violations could be upgraded to a class B misdemeanor. The upgraded charge is also available for defendants who promote these explicit "with intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend

another." Minors who have two or more sexting promotion or possession convictions could face a class A misdemeanor for a third offense.

Under SB 407, there are several defenses to prosecution – including affirmative defenses for communications between minor spouses or minors within two years of age who are engaged in a dating relationship. Separate defenses were also created for law enforcement officials or school administrators who confiscate a sexting messages from minors and handle them in accordance with the law.

Minors charged with violating the new sexting law are required to appear in court. Under the new law, judges are required to compel not only the minor offender – but also their parents – to make the required court appearance. These provisions are intended to teach children and their parents about the seriousness of their offense – but do so in a reasonable way that holds them accountable without imposing severe criminal penalties. At the sentencing phase, the new law authorizes courts to require that minors complete an educational program about sexting's long-term, harmful repercussions.

In addition to court-ordered educational programs, the Texas School Safety Center and the Attorney General's Office are required to develop educational programs that school districts can use to teach students about sexting. The course addresses not only the potential legal consequences of sexting, but also the social consequences – such as lost educational or professional opportunities as well as potential removal from school-related activities.

Under SB 407, every Texas school district must make these sexting-prevention programs available on a yearly basis beginning in 2012. However, school districts have the flexibility to determine how to distribute sexting-prevention information to parents and students. The districts are also given discretion to determine which grade-levels should be required to participate.

Consistent with SB 407's goal of imposing some punishment – but not life-altering consequences – the bill allows many minors convicted of sexting offenses to expunge their convictions before they apply for college. Under the new law, eligible minors can seek an expunction order from the courts on or after their 17th birthday.

Thanks to a joint effort between Sen. Watson, Rep. Craddick, Rep. Gallego and the Attorney General's Office, law enforcement and educators will have new legal tools that allow them to hold teenagers accountable for sexting – without imposing long-term and life-altering consequences for youthful mistakes.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
of Texas

YOUR Gift
IS A WAY
TO CONQUER
LUNG DISEASE

Find out how you can help ...

www.texaslung.org

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

1-800-LUNG-USA

1973
38
Years
2011
WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ARTHUR, VINTON, CARROLL, EAST MONTANA, BOLLINGER, SOCOMO, CLINT, FARESE, SAN

PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2011 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Letters 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.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$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.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$25 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Minimum 50 issues for \$36. Delivery via 1st class mail.

MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com

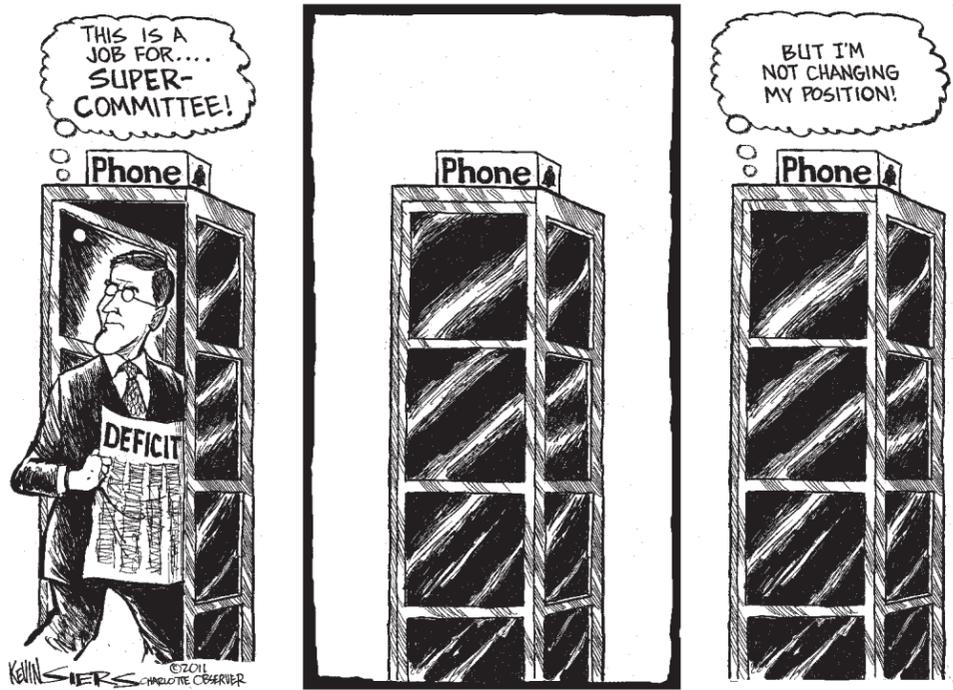
Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda

Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.

Member Texas Community
Newspaper Association



The scar has yet to heal



Dove hunting rules along the Rio Grande

By Sally Spencer
Special to the Courier

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has rules about dove hunting areas on USIBWC lands along the Rio Grande in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. During the 2011/2012 season, which runs September 1, 2011-October 23, 2011 and December 23, 2011-January 8, 2012, the USIBWC has opened additional lands to hunters. Some areas that were closed last year have been reopened. The USIBWC developed its dove hunting policy based on consultations with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Border Patrol.

Using the numbering system for the DHS Border Security Initiative markers on the border fence and corresponding markers in Mexico, the USIBWC has prepared a map of areas where hunting is permitted and where it is prohibited. The markers are blue signs approximately two feet square with bright yellow numbers. During the 2011/2012 season, hunting will be permitted from marker 52 approximately 5.5 miles downstream from the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry to marker 54 just upstream from San Elizario, from marker 59 near Herring Road downstream to marker 86 near the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry, and from marker 95 downstream from the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry to Esperanza Road (FM 192). The map is available at <http://www.usibwc.gov/Files/HuntingMap.pdf>. Although the Tornillo-Guadalupe "Fabens" Port of Entry is located within one of the permitted areas, firearms may not be discharged near the port, which is located between markers 71 and 72. Hunting regulations and the USIBWC

also prohibit hunting where people could be endangered, such as near housing areas and where others may be working on or near the Rio Grande levees.

For public safety and to avoid damage to USIBWC lands and infrastructure, hunters must abide by the following rules:

- Use existing ramps to drive onto the levee or floodplain. Driving on the levee slope or face damages the levee and is prohibited.
- Hunters are responsible for identifying legal access points to reach hunting areas and must respect private property.
- Do not damage vegetation in the floodplain. Avoid driving on grass, brush, and trees or disturbing the ground.
- Remove your trash, including any shells.
- Do not discharge firearms within 600 feet of homes or businesses or toward other people, especially those who must work on or near the levees. Do not discharge firearms near the Tornillo-Guadalupe "Fabens" Port of Entry, located between markers 71 and 72.
- Hunters who drive on the levee or hunt on USIBWC lands do so at their own risk. Hunters should be aware of security considerations along the border with Mexico.
- Hunters must have any applicable hunting license, follow state hunting laws, and use appropriate firearms. The Texas game warden will enforce state hunting laws on USIBWC lands.

To fulfill its flood control mission, the USIBWC manages lands along the Rio Grande in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas that are popular with dove hunters. The USIBWC has jurisdiction over lands on the river side of the levee but not on the land side. Hunting on USIBWC lands is not allowed in the City of El Paso. The USIBWC continues to prohibit hunting on its property along the Rio Grande upstream from the El Paso city limits.



FOR SERVICE GIVEN – From left, Roger A. Gaines, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and current national director of the 1st Armored Division Association, presents a special recognition plaque to Darrell G. Mond, disabled veteran and member of Clint Fallen Heroes organization, and Lorenzo Sandoval, Sergeant Israel D. Garcia's stepfather and Clint Fallen Heroes co-founder, for their efforts in honoring military service personnel.

Garcia

From Page 1

County high school students as possible by sponsoring scholarships in the name of all local fallen heroes.

Garcia became Sandoval's stepson when he was 6 years old. "He grew up to be a great boy," said Sandoval. "When he was in high school, he participated in Clint's ROTC program for four years."

Sergeant Garcia was born in Zacatecas, Mexico on November 25, 1982. As a child, he and his family moved to Clint, where he attended school and eventually graduated in 2001 from Clint High School.

Shortly after graduation, Garcia joined the United States Army and achieved the rank of sergeant on November 1, 2005.

Sergeant Garcia's distinguished service awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal.

On April 6, 2006, Sergeant Garcia received this nation's highest honor, his United States

citizenship, with his certificate of posthumous citizenship being presented to his mother.

He was laid to rest at San Lorenzo Cemetery in Clint.

Sergeant Israel Devora Garcia was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany.

Roger A. Gaines, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and current national director of the 1st Armored Division Association, said that Sergeant Garcia's dedication ceremony at the Fort Bliss museum marks the first time that the Division's veterans and active duty personnel participate in such an event.

The adopt an artifact program allows Army units, veterans' organizations and other interested groups to participate in the conservation of artifacts in the collection of the Old Ironsides Museum by volunteering to restore selected historical tanks and other artillery pieces. The museum has artifacts from World War II to the present, according to Peter H. Poesiger, Old Ironsides Museum curator.

For more information on the Adopt an Artifact program, call 568-7345.

Texans to benefit from new health laws

*Laws effective
September 1*

By Brent Annear
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – This week the health of all Texans will improve due to several new laws passed this year. Starting Sept. 1, patients will receive protection from new rules governing medical matters from student athletic concussions to health insurance policies to the physician workforce.

“The Texas Medical Association’s (TMA’s) goal this legislative session was to improve how we care for patients in a time of change. And thanks to the hard work of state legislators, public health and patient advocacy groups, and physicians, we accomplished our goal,” says C. Bruce Malone, MD, TMA’s president.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Newborn hearing screenings

SB229 – All babies will be able

to receive a hearing screening, even those born in previously exempt birthing facilities. Midwives attending a birth also must provide or refer the baby for a screening. This is important because it will help identify hearing problems early so families can seek whatever therapies or treatments are necessary for their children.

Student athlete concussion management

HB675 – Public school districts are required to recondition every two years football helmets that are 10 years old or older, and retire helmets after 16 years. School districts also must keep records of the age and reconditioning of helmets. The information will be available to parents upon request.

Prohibition of dangerous substances

SB331 – It’s now illegal to manufacture, sell, or use K2, also known as “Spice,” “Genie,” and “Fire & Ice.” The product is marketed as incense but actually is sprayed with a chemical compound that mimics the effects of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. K2 was marketed primarily to children

and adolescents, and sold across Texas in gas stations and smoke shops.

HB2118 – Another measure prohibits the sale and possession of substances commonly used to make “bath salts.” Bath salts (not the product used when bathing) contain dangerous materials, such as mephedrone, that are similar to amphetamines. People get high by ingesting bath salts in pill form or snorting them. They have been sold in smoke shops and online.

Obesity prevention

SB89 – More children from low-income homes will have access to healthy meals during the summer. School districts that participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program are required to provide meals for these children during the summer recess as well.

Hydraulic fracturing

HB3328 – New well operators now must disclose the chemicals they use in a process called hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking.” In this procedure, gas and oil well operators break up rock and release natural gas by injecting chemically-infused water at high pressure deep into ground. Physicians are concerned

about the chemicals being used and their effects on public health. Even though the law goes into effect on Sept. 1, the Railroad Commission of Texas has until July 2012 to adopt rules for this new law.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Prescription coverage

HB1405 – A new law protects patients from fluctuations in prescription drug prices, making it easier for Texans who have paid for insurance policies to budget for their health care costs. Health insurance companies that provide coverage to individuals and small employers (two to 50 employees) must comply with the same rules regarding drug lists (formularies) as the large-group market. For example, health plans are required to provide the same prescription benefit until the next renewal period even if they change the drug list in the middle of the plan year. Patients with individual coverage now also have the same appeal rights as patients with small- or large-group health coverage. If their prescription is denied by the health plan or pharmacy benefit manager, they can seek an independent review if their physician has determined the drug is medically necessary.

Chemotherapy

drug coverage

HB438 – Cancer patients taking oral anticancer drugs can get some financial relief. Now health plans must cover chemotherapy medications that are taken orally at the same level as they cover intravenously administered or injected anticancer medications.

PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

Graduate medical education (GME) plan

HB2908 – Legislators asked the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to include in its five-year higher education plans an assessment of the adequacy of the number of entry-level GME positions to accommodate the growing number of Texas medical school graduates. Medical school enrollments have been growing at a faster rate than GME slots, and the shortage of GME slots is forcing graduates to leave the state for their residency training. Texas has a shortage of physicians, both primary care physicians and specialists. The state currently ranks 42nd out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in the physician-to-population ratio. It’s important that the state continues to produce new physicians through its medical schools and residency programs in response to growing physician demand.

High risk pool a lifesaver for Texans with pre-existing conditions

By Bob Jackson
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – For countless Texans with a pre-existing medical condition and no health insurance through their employers – or who are out of work – the consequences are just too scary to contemplate. Texas law currently allows health insurers to deny coverage in the individual market to people with pre-existing conditions. That means if you’re among the more than half of the population with no access to health insurance through your job and have a health condition, you’re out of luck.

That’s what happened to Carolyn Hathorn, a 63-year-old retired grocery clerk from Lufkin with diabetes, arthritis and a history of heart attacks. Rejected by insurers, not old enough to qualify for Medicare and scared, she turned to a new high risk pool program called the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP). Created under the new health care law, it is the first step toward a permanent fix that will help people with pre-existing health conditions get the coverage they need.

Each state was given the opportunity to administer its own risk pool. Texas, along with 22 other states, chose to let the federal government administer it. The program is run by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is separate from another

high risk pool option enjoyed by Texans since 1998 called the Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool (THIP). The new federal risk pool is generally considered a better deal for Texans with its lower premiums and no waiting period for pre-existing conditions.

The federal risk pool covers primary and specialty care, hospital visits and prescription drugs. In Ms. Hathorn’s case, she was able to see a cardiologist and is now searching for an orthopedic doctor to treat her arthritic hip and left leg.

“It’s good to have insurance that will keep me alive,” she said of her enrollment in PCIP on July 1.

A relatively modest number of Texans are taking advantage of the new plan – about 2,000 had enrolled as of June 30 – but state officials are hopeful that this will change soon. Their optimism is buoyed by two recent changes: a simplification in the enrollment process and two premium reductions – 20 percent last January followed by an additional 24 percent in July.

Ms. Hathorn currently pays \$426 per month her plan. Another PCIP enrollee is Mr. Saeed Kazmi of Austin, a 60-year-old self-employed engineer with partial paralysis of his vocal chords. He paid \$578 per month when he joined in May, but his premiums dropped to \$440 per month in July. He is scheduled to have surgery soon in San Antonio and is in the process of getting the surgeon he has selected to join the

PCIP network of doctors.

While Mr. Kazmi will be the first to tell you that premiums aren’t cheap, they are on a downward trend. Some plan participants currently pay around \$250 per month. Initially PCIP offered just one plan with a single \$2,500 annual in-network deductible applicable to medical care and medicines. Today, there are three plan choices with in-network deductibles ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 or higher.

Also, it is no longer necessary to apply for and be denied private health insurance in order to qualify for PCIP. As of July 1, it is now sufficient to submit a letter from a doctor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner stating that the applicant has or, at any time in the past, had a medical condition, disability or illness.

Who’s eligible to participate? If you have been uninsured for six months, have a pre-existing condition and are a U.S. citizen or otherwise lawfully present in the U.S., you are eligible to apply.

AARP considers the risk pool to be a potential lifesaver for many Texans. Coverage under the program will end in 2014, when individuals will be able to buy insurance through state-based exchanges. For more information on the federal high-risk pool and to get an application, visit <http://www.pcip.gov/>.

Bob Jackson is the director of AARP Texas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan/Grant Application

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4 will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fabens ISD Rio Valle Women’s Club, 521 Mike Maros, Fabens, Texas** to receive input from the citizens on a proposed submission of an application to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4 is anticipating submission of an application for \$9,500,000 for water and wastewater improvements.

Citizens are urged to attend and state their consents or objections at this meeting. A project summary will be outlined at this time.

Citizens unable to attend may submit their views and proposals to the El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4, P.O. Box 3880, Fabens, Texas 79838-3880. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact Norma Flores at (915) 764-2212 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids should contact the District Office at least 2 days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

WTCC: 09/01/11

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

S				L				
P	I	A	N	O				
I	R			A				
R	I	G		F	R	O	G	
A		U			E		L	
F	L	E	E		P		U	
				D	E	L	E	T
						L	I	D
							P	

T	I	S		D	A	B		S	R	O		Y	M	A		A	D	A	M		
A	M	P	S		E	R	R		T	E	L	A	V	I	V		D	I	V		
P	A	I	N	F	R	E		A	G	E	T	O	N	E		A	S	E	A		
E	R	R	O	L		S	A	I	D		E	N	U	R	E		A	N	N		
I	O	W	A	N		T	W	I	S	T		N	E	S	S		P	U	T		
							W	I	T	H	O	U	T	A	N	E	T		T	O	P
M	I	D	I		P	O	E		M	O	L	E		B	A	L	E				
E	R	I	N		P	E	R	M		N	E	W	T		A	T	L	A	S		
L	E	S	L	I	E		E	K	E		R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H			
P	E	D	R	O		D	I	S	H	O	U	T		I	O	U					
D	E	L	T	A		J	E	A	N		A	B	E	T		D	A	N	T	E	
I	M	A			A	L	L	I	G	O	N	E		A	S	O	N	G			
V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A		L	A	S			C	O	D	I	F	I	F	
T	E	R	R			M	I	M	I	T		E	C	H	O		E	N	Y	A	
D	E	D	E		F	A	V	A		E	A	R		S	K	I	M				
E	P	E	E		M	I	S	S	I	N	G	L	I	N	K						
D	D	E		A	M	O	R		S	A	G	A	L		S	O	F	A	S		
O	E	R		L	A	B	O	R		U	R	I	S		N	O	S	E	S		
U	R	S	A		M	I	N	E	R	A	L		S	T	R	A	Y	C	A	T	
B	L	O	C		A	L	I	B	A	B	A		T	E	A		T	O	T	O	
T	E	N	T		S	E	C		P	E	R		S	P	I		S	P	I		

CryptoQuip Answer

A new film about how to be a successful mortgage holder has been titled “Home: A Loan.”

1	×	6	+	9	15
+		÷		÷	
4	÷	2	+	3	5
×		+		×	
5	+	8	+	6	19
25		11		18	

Application requirements for homestead exemption claims stiffened

By Dinah L. Kilgore
Special to the Courier

The recent session of the Texas Legislature imposed rigorous new standards of mandatory

disclosure for those property owners who apply for any one of several kinds of homestead exemptions starting September 1, 2011. In order to receive a homestead exemption for property tax purposes, applicants must now provide a copy of their Texas driver's license

or Texas state-issued identification card and a copy of their vehicle registration receipt with their application for a homestead exemption. The addresses shown on each of the documents must be the same as the address for which the homestead exemption is sought.

- spouse; and
- Exemption for manufactured (mobile) home.

Each of the exemptions cited above have their own requirements for qualification. However, all applicants must provide the additional documentation. For those seeking homestead exemption status on a manufactured home, the applicant must also provide documentation as noted below:

- Statement of ownership and location issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
 - A copy of the purchase contract or payment receipt that the applicant is the purchaser of the manufactured home, OR, a sworn affidavit that:
 - The applicant is the owner of the manufactured home;
 - The seller of the manufactured home did not provide the applicant with a purchase contract; and
 - The applicant could not locate the seller after making a good faith effort.
- The modified homestead exemption is posted on the El Paso Central Appraisal District website at www.epcad.org.

Those who do not own a vehicle will be required to submit a notarized affidavit certifying that fact and provide a copy of a current bill received from a utility company. The address on the utility bill must be the same as the address on the application for a homestead exemption. The Legislature has authorized appraisal districts to access the database of the Texas Department of Public Safety so that differences in addresses reported for driver's license and property tax reasons can be audited electronically.

The new requirement applies to any one of the several ways property owners can qualify for a residential property homestead. These include the following:

- General residential exemption;
- Over-65 exemption;
- Disability exemption;
- 100% disabled veterans exemption;
- Extension of exemption for a surviving

Briefs

From Page 1

issue grants to help veterans buy or repair their home, or renovate a home to meet special needs caused by service-related disabilities. For more information on Housing4TexasHeroes, please visit <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/>.

— Catherine Frazier

Crime Stoppers

A man enters a business on the far-east side in the middle of the night and steals property without the owner's permission, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." In the early morning hours on Monday, July 25th, 2011, approximately 1:30 a.m., a man made entry into Imports and More Auto Salvage located at 13471 Montana Avenue in the Montana Vista area. The suspect entered through a hole in the metal ceiling that was next to where a new evaporative cooler had recently been installed. Surveillance video shows that the man was talking to someone on his cell phone while he searched the business for items to steal. The only item he ended up taking was a new computer that the business owner had recently purchased. The suspect is described as an Anglo or Hispanic man in his 20s or 30s, medium build, with medium length hair, long side burns, and a mustache. He is seen wearing a dress style hat and a white t-shirt with no lettering or logo on it. If you have any information about the identity and location of this suspect, please call Crime Stoppers immediately at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or

on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— James Klaes

Wanted

Emmanuel Elizalde, 25, who also uses Emmanuel Herrera and Emmanuel Barrera, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. Elizalde is 5'7" tall and weighs 270 pounds. He has brown hair and eyes and has tattoos on his arms and neck. Last Thursday morning, Arson Investigators with the Paso Fire Department were called to investigate a house fire at 6333 Osage Road in El Paso. During their investigation,



E. Elizalde

EPFD Fire Marshals determined Elizalde was involved in this arson. Fire Marshals have secured a warrant of arrest for the apprehension of Elizalde for his role in this and other arson cases. He is also wanted on other unrelated charges that include violent actions and weapons. Elizalde knows he is wanted. He may be in the Borderland where he has several friends and relatives. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Elizalde they can contact 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

Classified Ads

LEGALS

City of Socorro

Adoption of Ordinances

On July 21, 2011 the City of Socorro, Texas adopted the following ordinance:

1. ORDINANCE 291, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR CONTEMPT IN FAILING OR REFUSING TO OBEY ANY SUBPOENA OR TO PRODUCE ANY BOOKS, PAPERS OR OTHER EVIDENCE AND FOR PUNISHMENT OF CONTEMPT IN CONNECTION WITH ANY SUBPOENA, COURT PROCEEDING, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION HEARING OR OFFICIAL HEARING CONDUCTED BY THE CITY OF SOCORRO OR ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS,

COMMISSIONS, AND HEARING OFFICERS EXERCISING OFFICIAL AUTHORITY, AND FOR DISRUPTION OF ANY PUBLIC MEETING OR HEARING CONDUCTED BEFORE THE SOCORRO MUNICIPAL COURT, THE SOCORRO BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, THE SOCORRO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, THE SOCORRO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, THE SOCORRO HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION, THE SOCORRO CITY COUNCIL, OR BEFORE ANY OFFICIAL HEARING APPOINTED TO HEAR MATTERS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, AND FOR ALL OTHER MATTERS GERMANE THERETO.

Copies of the ordinance are available for

review at the City Administration Building, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas 79927; Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Manuel Rubio
City Clerk
WTCC: 09-01-11

El Paso County Emergency Services District No. 2

Public Notice

The El Paso County Emergency Services District No. 2, is currently taking applications for two part time FIRE INSPECTORS. The ideal candidates will have, at the minimum, certification as a current Structural Firefighter by the TCFP, certifications as current Inspector 1 by TCFP or IFSAC, certification in the FEMA NIMS is 100, 200, 700 and 800, and at least five years of supervisory experience in Fire Prevention is preferred. Salary

range is \$15.00 to \$18.00 per hour for 32 hours a week, depending on qualifications.

Closing date for resumes is 12 September 2011.

To apply send completed resumes to:

El Paso County Emergency Services District No. 2
PO Box 683
Clint, TX 79836

or e-mail: wadler@epcountyesd2.org

or fax: (915) 886-2313

The El Paso County Emergency Services District No. 2 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Rebecca Terrazas
Administrator

WTCC: 09-01-11
09-08-11

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.

PROPERTY

20 ACRE SPECIAL NEAR FT. HANCOCK \$12,900, \$50.00 DOWN, \$95.00 P/MONTH CALL 915-779-3495.

SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL WINDOW TINTING • FREE ESTIMATES (915) 562-1300 Proline

SELF-HELP

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

— CORRECTION — Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The CITY OF SOCORRO conducted public hearings on August 18, 2011 and September 8, 2011 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the CITY OF SOCORRO from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 1.23 percent.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year's tax rate of \$0.496757 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$3,940,433.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.496757 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$3,985,409.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.496757 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$4,046,082.

The City Council of CITY OF SOCORRO is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 20, 2011 at City Hall located at 860 N. Rio Vista at 5:30 PM.

WTCC: 09/01/11

Changing a name will not change a reputation

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I have to admit that I love a good human-interest sports story.

You know what I'm talking about, a story about a young kid who suffered some kind of horrible disease and then defied all the odds to beat it and eventually become a champion through hard work and dogged determination.

I love those. But I also love stories that are more – let's say – ridiculous and laughable.

So I had to write about one of the most absurd pieces of news I've heard in a long time.

Shakespeare's Juliet once asked, "What's in a name?"

That's a good question. Because even if you change the name of something, does that change what it really is? Of course not.

Someone will have to explain that to Los Angeles Lakers forward Ron Artest.

You see, the infamous thug who has made a reputation for himself as a malcontent, a brawler, an instigator and a bit of a cancer on every team he's played on, wants to change

his name.

He wants to change it to Metta World Peace. (Metta is defined as the Buddhist virtue of kindness.)

Yes, one of the most violent men in the NBA wants to be referred to as World Peace.

That's like Pete Rose changing his name to Naïve Boy Scout, or Oprah changing her name to Overtly Shy Introvert, or Lady Gaga changing her name to Remotely Talented.

Any way, Artest was the guy who instigated the Pacers-Pistons brawl with fans after racing into the stands and was then suspended for 86 games.

He was suspended for a playoff game for an elbow to the head of Manu Ginoboli. He's admitted to drinking Hennessy cognac at halftime of games. He was suspended for destroying a reporter's camera and he's also been arrested for domestic abuse.

I've got an idea, instead of Metta World Peace, some of the more fitting names for Ron Artest could be "Causes Some Damage" or "Often Loses Mind" or "Cusses Quite Often" or "Can't Stop Fighting" or "Bad Role Model" or "Fights With Fans" or "Can't Control Temper" or "Arrested Once Again"

or "Out Of Control" or "Speaks With Fists" or even "Itty Bitty Brain."

No one would have a problem with any of those – not even Juliet.

Texas turmoil

There's no truth to the rumor that signs will be posted at every entrance of Texas Rangers' Ballpark in Arlington stadium that read, "enter at your own risk."

What is going on there?

I don't mean to make light of any tragedy but one does have to scratch his head at the latest news involving another fan falling over a railing over 20 feet to the pavement.

I don't remember the last time I fell three feet to the floor.

We all remember that horrible incident earlier this summer of that man falling over the railing trying to catch a ball tossed to him with his young son looking on.

Of course, that gentleman fell to his death.

Last weekend, a male fan was leaving the ballpark down a stairwell a little early with a group of friends. At some point he fell over the railing about 21 feet to the ground.

The 24-year-old man survived and at last report was showing some improvement.

But police were still investigating how this happened.

Naturally, something unusual happened for the guy to fall over a railing. Things like that don't just happen to people who are walking down stairs.

One of two things must have happened – horseplay, or he was thrown off.

And fans who were around the incident say he wasn't thrown off.

Last year, another fan fell about 30 feet to the lower level of seats trying to catch a foul ball there.

In the Rangers first official game at the new ballpark in 1994, a female fan was posing for a photo when she fell over the railing about 35 feet to seats below.

She didn't die but sued for \$200,000.

I don't believe I actually have to give out this advice but I'll do it anyway, fans at stadiums all over the country, and the world for that matter, stay in your seats unless you want to stand up and cheer – that's it.

And please walk down the stairs, don't skip or jump or cartwheel or dive or dance or twirl or somersault or hurdle or even pirouette – just walk.

It'll save your life.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Hard time for Plaxico Burress

A man we'll call Ron Doe was convicted for a murder he did not commit when he was 34 and sentenced to hard time.

Fifteen years after Doe's conviction, his defense attorneys discovered notes from the prosecution that indicated that a chief witness in the case had made contradictory statements that helped convict him. Five years later, after

a brutal court battle, Doe was released. He promptly turned around and launched a \$20 million federal civil-rights lawsuit for wrongful imprisonment.

He settled for \$900,000 – an agreement that guarantees him \$50,000 cash and payments that amount to a little more than \$3,500 a month for the next 11 years – compensation that amounts to

\$45,000 for every year he spent behind bars.

Plaxico Burress is 34. On June 6, 2011, he was released from a protective custody unit of the Oneida Correctional Facility in Rome, N.Y. That's where he had spent two years serving out a sentence for accidentally shooting himself in the thigh with his own illegal handgun in the VIP room of a Manhattan nightclub. And while he was released from the hospital just days later, a jury said his reckless endangerment of others was enough to convict, despite pleas for leniency.

Despite the fact that he had once caught the deciding touchdown pass for the New York Giants in the greatest upset in Super Bowl history a year earlier.

Plax was routinely jeered by inmates, but kept separate from the population save for his three showers a week, three hours of daily recreation and weekend visits. And those visits had to be truly heartbreaking. His wife was pregnant, and he had a 3-year-old son at the time of his conviction. While it may be hard to weep for a guy who collected a \$1 million signing bonus weeks after being released by his former employers, you've got to feel for the kid.

My 2-year-old kid wonders where daddy goes when he leaves the house. Wife tells him I'm a "newsman." Works for him. What

did Mrs. Burress tell her kid?

I can't speak for Ron Doe's incarceration, but I'm guessing it wasn't a cakewalk. I think it's safe to say that since he was wrongfully convicted, the compensation probably won't make up for the distress and two decades shorn off of his life.

As for Plax? He was guilty as charged, and he did his time. And a little more than a month later, he received a one-year contract from the New York Jets worth more than \$3 million. That translates into \$187,500 to play toss-and-catch for 16 football games this season.

Hard time... right, Plax?

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

MINER GAME DAY SEPTEMBER 3RD
vs stony brook 7:00pm

staycation weekend
\$10, \$15, \$20 tickets
*GA, Bronze, and donor seat levels
tickets: utepathletics.com

Miner Kick-off bash
Music, Inflatables, giveaways, and fun.
Geology lawn 2-6 p.m.

Join the Kick-off tailgate, with a Pep rally leading up to 6:00 p.m. with the Band, cheerleaders, goldiggers, and Paydirt Pete.

the action begins

We will be honoring the 2011 National champion cheerleaders at halftime and presenting them with their rings.

2,000 Rally Towels and 3,000 Koozies provided by AT&T yellow pages, 10,000 Pete's Pennies, 5,000 schedule cards as giveaways.

1973 **38** Years 2011 **WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER**
SERVING: ANTHONY VINTON, CASULLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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

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

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

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Phone: _____

TRUE TEXAS FACTS *by Roger T. Moore*

Sept. 4, 1766 – The first recorded hurricane in Texas hits the coast near Galveston.



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		+		15
+		÷		÷	
	÷		+		5
x		+		x	
	+		+		19
25		11		18	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 8 9

Answer Page 4

© 2011 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

Social Security Q&A *By Ray Vigil*

Save labor, apply for benefits online

If you're like most workers, you've labored hard throughout the year. This Labor Day weekend, it's nice to be able to kick back and take a rest from all of your hard work. But it may also be a good time to take a look at your retirement plans.

The best starting point is to visit Social Security's Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. The Retirement Estimator is an easy way to get an instant, personalized estimate of future retirement benefits. The Estimator uses your actual earnings history to compute a benefit estimate. However, for privacy purposes, we do not display your earnings. You can enter a variety of scenarios, such as different earnings amounts and retirement dates, to find out how they will change your benefit amount.

If the picture looks better than you anticipated, you might decide it's time to punch your last time card and leave the labor force for retirement sooner than you expected. If that's the case, the easiest way to apply for retirement is online.

It used to be a labor to apply for benefits. It used to mean making a trip to a Social Security office and then being required to fill out paperwork. Now, you can visit www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline

to find out everything you need to know about applying online for retirement benefits — and to proceed with filing the application online in as little as 15 minutes.

In most cases, once you submit your online application electronically, that's it. There are no additional forms to sign or paperwork to complete. In rare cases where we need additional information, a representative will contact you.

This Labor Day, picnics, family, and friends are all part of the fun you've earned on a holiday set aside to celebrate the fruit of your labor. But spend a few moments considering what your labor has earned you through Social Security protection for you and your family.

Learn more about Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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: F equals E

L MFD ZYQH LIUVS GUD SU IF L

CVAAFCCZVQ HUBSWLWF

GUQTFB GLC IFFM SYSQFT

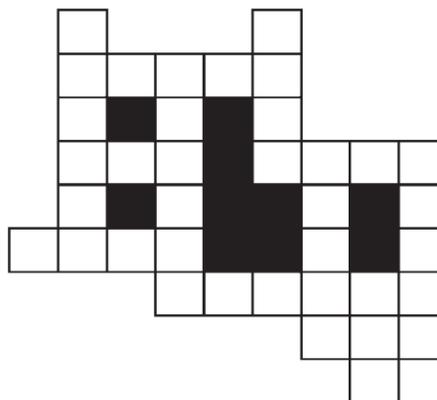
"GUHF: L QULM."

Answer Page 4

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.



- DLI
- PLIARS
- ♥PLEER
- ORGF
- TEEDLE
- GIR
- ♥EFEL
- APION
- ♥ITP
- RUDAGE
- ♥DULGE
- ♥AFLO



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.

© 2011 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was revered American comedian Bill Cosby who made the following sage observation: "Human beings are the only creatures that allow their children to come back home."

- Here's a disturbing statistic for parents: If your child is like the average American youth, between the ages of 5 and 15 he or she will see approximately 13,500 people killed on television.

- Most languages change dramatically over time. If we in modern America were to try to read "Beowulf" (which was written in Old English), for instance, only those who have spent time studying the language would be able to make out more than a word or two here and there. If you're from Iceland, however, this isn't the case; the written language there has remained virtually unchanged for more than 1,000 years. Modern Icelanders have no trouble reading sagas that were written in the 10th century.

- Relative to body size, humans — unsurprisingly — have larger brains than any other animal. Of non-human animals, it's the bottlenose dolphin that has the largest brain.

- When Great Britain's current Queen Elizabeth — then Princess Elizabeth — wed Prince Philip, their wedding cake weighed a whopping 500 pounds.

- As legend has it, in 1288, when Dusseldorf, Germany, was granted its city charter, children all over the city began turning cartwheels for joy. The cartwheel has been an enduring part of the culture there ever since, and in 1937 the city even inaugurated an annual international cartwheel championship.

- Those who study such things claim that when you're playing Monopoly, you're likely to land on Illinois Avenue and the B&O Railroad more than on any other squares.

Thought for the Day: "I always find it more difficult to say the things I mean than the things I don't."

— W. Somerset Maugham

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.