



NEWSBRIEFS

5K run

Clint ISD will hold its 2nd Annual Teachers Federal Credit Union and Surescore Super Scholars 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk on December 3, 2011 at 8 am at Desert Hills Elementary School located at 300 North Kenazo. Pre-registration is \$20.00. On-site Registration is \$25.00. First 200 participants will receive a technical t-shirt and goody bag. Funds raised or donated will provide scholarships to Clint ISD graduating seniors. For details and registration information, go to www.clintweb.net or call 926-4053.

— Laura Cade

Luncheon

The Southwest Character Council Monthly Luncheon will be held Wednesday, Dec. 14, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Great American Land & Cattle Company, 701 S. Mesa Hills, El Paso. The cost is just \$10 per person for lunch, networking and training. RSVP to (915) 779-3551 to reserve your spot, and make sure enough meals are prepared. Cash or check only please.

— Kelly McCullough

Paper closed

The *West Texas County Courier* will close for the last two weeks of 2011. The office will close on Wednesday, Dec. 21 and open on Thursday, Dec. 29. There will be no paper on Thursday, Dec 22 or 29. The paper will publish again on Jan. 5, 2012.

Wanted

Carlos Mata, 31, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive for a Sexual Assault that took place in west El Paso County. Mata also uses Holguin and Pedregon for his last name. He is 6'2" tall and weighs 214 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. Just over a year ago, on Nov. 24, 2010 a woman in her 30s was sexually assaulted after attending a gathering at a residence in El Paso's Upper Valley. Mata was later identified as the assailant. Charges have since been filed and Mata is wanted for the offense of Sexual Assault. Mata knows he is wanted and is on the run. He is believed to be in the Borderland of El Paso or in Las Cruces hiding with friends or relatives. Anyone that has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Mata 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 Mata.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar



Carlos Mata

We often show command of language when we say nothing.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

TAPPED OUT – The amount of water El Paso farmers receive depends on how much water is released from Elephant Butte Dam. Recent reports show that the dam's water level is extremely low. The Rio Grande, above, is currently dry.

Rio Grande water for farmers in 2012 doubtful

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County Water Improvement District (EPCWID)

administrators warned local farmers recently that before they plant their crops for the upcoming growing season, they should check with the water district to make sure it will have water to deliver to their land.

EPCWID officials said that present

indications show that water flow for the 2012 irrigation season will be limited. "We will have a better idea in late January as to how much water we can expect for the next

See WATER, Page 2

Tech-mobile ready serve county

By Juliet Lozano
Special to the Courier

The El Paso Public Library introduced its new mobile technology center to the public on Nov. 29, 2011. The Tech-mobile vehicle is a first for the El Paso Public Library and a new concept in the delivery of technology access and programs to the residents of the El Paso Metro area. The Tech-mobile will bring free computer training as well as internet and computer access to areas of El Paso County where public access computers and broadband technology are scarce.

The public will be able to visit the Tech-mobile at each of its scheduled stops to:

- Learn how to use a computer;

- Set up an email account;
- Look for and apply for work;
- Improve literacy skills;
- Become a US citizen;
- Write a resume; and
- Search the internet or for any other computer-based activity.

A full-time instructor will accompany the vehicle to provide expert support to anyone needing instruction on how to use modern computer and broadband technology to improve their lives.

The vehicle is 42' long by 8'4" wide and 13'6" tall. It carries up to 12 computer workstations with a large screen TV and smart board for teaching. There are two wheelchair accessible workstations.

The vehicle supports satellite mobile



— Photo courtesy El Paso Public Library

ALL IN – The Tech-mobile is wheelchair accessible.

See TECH, Page 4



— Photo courtesy El Paso Public Library

RAMBLIN' VAN – The Tech-mobile will be at locations around El Paso County on a weekly basis. A schedule is on Page 4.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Incentive bonuses sometimes go awry

The Department of Veterans Affairs uses bonuses to retain employees, and they spend a lot of money doing that. Specifically, last year they spent \$111 million to retain 16,487 employees.

However, the VA's Office of Inspector General found that of the incentives it studied, 80 percent were either questionable or weren't justified, bringing the unsubstantiated amount to \$1.06 million of the total spent.

To be fair, the VA does use financial incentives to keep people in positions that are hard to fill or that require employees who have special qualifications. According to the criteria for awarding incentives, there must be a scarcity of candidates who can fill the position, efforts to recruit new employees must have been unsuccessful and the job must require special abilities.

The problem with this \$1 million in incentives is that there wasn't adequate documentation, information was missing from case files (annual reviews, for example, to determine if a bonus was deserved), incorrect salary surveys were used to determine amounts of incentives, documents

were signed off without question, financial limits were exceeded and there was a lack of training and oversight.

According to the OIG's report, the VA was often lax about it: Extra salary increased didn't always stop when they were supposed to, with extra payments continuing until it was brought to someone's attention. In one case, a senior executive received a hefty retention bonus and shortly after received a second one. There was no documented justification.

Based on the OIG's sample of selected facilities that uncovered the 80 percent problem rate, it's recommended that in the next 12 months, 100 percent of incentive payments be reviewed and unnecessary payments stopped.

If you want to report wrongdoing in VA Programs and Operations, call 1-800-488-8244, or send email to vaoighotline@va.gov.

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.



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

Water supply projections look grim for next year's crop season, according to El Paso County Water Improvement District officials. Farmers will have to revert to well pumps on their land (like the one shown above) to water their crops at least for the beginning of the planting season.

Water

From Page 1

harvesting season," said Jesus (Chuy) Reyes, EPCWID general manager.

Reyes stated during a water district public meeting in October that the Rio Grande water coming to El Paso was down to 15 Cubic Feet/Second (CFS) per day when the irrigation period ended in August. Normal water flow averages between 200 to 300 CFS per day.

Reyes added that the only reliable water available for farmers is from the recycled treatment systems including Robert Bustamante, Haskell and Jonathan Rogers Waste Water plants, which release about 65 CFS daily.

During the October meeting, EPCWID Board President Johnny Stubbs told farmers, "You're on your own this coming irrigation season. Farmers will have to take care of themselves when it comes to watering their fields. The district will only be able to share facilities. Even if we get a lot of snow in the mountains this winter, we won't see that water until June."

The message was loud and clear to area farmers: They will have to get their water pumps ready to draw water from the underground aquifers, if they have a pump installed on their land. Reyes explained that in Texas, there is a law called 'the right of capture', which means a landowner can dig a well on his or her property.

Small farmers like Lisa Haneman, who raises goats and horses and grows hay on a small spread in the Upper Valley, said that she doesn't have the resources to install a water pump on her land. "A fuel-generated water pump would cost over \$50,000 to install," Haneman stated. "I don't know how I'm going to water my hay field. I guess I'll have to buy my hay from Arizona. It's going to cost me twice as much as last year's hay prices," she said.

As for large farm owners, they have pumps to irrigate their crops including pecan, hay, chile, onion, grape, cotton, and more. However, according to one farmer, costs to grow these crops will increase significantly because of the fuel and maintenance expenses for running these pumps practically 24 hours a day for several days each month.

"This is the driest I've ever seen in my 70 years of farming," said Ross Saunders, who farms Upper Valley land in Texas and New Mexico. "We are going to have to spend more to grow our crops; and it's going to affect city folks because they will have to pay higher prices at the grocery stores," said Saunders.

"The amount of water we get depends on how much water is released from Elephant Butte Dam," explained Richard Llanez, a farmer in Anthony, New Mexico, "and right now the dam's water level is extremely low," he said.

With an average rainfall of eight (8) inches per year, irrigation in the El Paso valley naturally depends on water from the Rio Grande, and this valley has a history of an intricate irrigation network dating back to the 1800's. Orchards, vineyards, and cultivated fields to this day receive water from the Rio Grande through a system of acequias, or irrigation canals.

In the mid-eighteen hundreds, development of the

El Paso valley increased rapidly which placed a heavy demand on the irrigation system. Subsequently, private irrigation companies were established throughout the valley which laid the foundation for the present day distribution system.

Then, in 1902 the United States Congress passed the Reclamation Act to encourage irrigation development projects in the western states. In 1905, the El Paso Valley Water Users Association was formed and pushed for the construction of Elephant Butte Dam 140 miles upstream.

The Rio Grande Reclamation Act provided for the construction of the Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir on the Rio Grande in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, for the impounding of flood waters for irrigation purposes in southern New Mexico and far west Texas.

The Treaty of 1906 with the Republic of Mexico obligated the United States to deliver water to Mexico after the completion of Elephant Butte Dam.

Construction of the Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir was completed in 1916, and by 1925 the major system of canals and drains, as they exist today, were constructed including Caballo Dam and Reservoir that was completed in 1938.

This system became known as the Rio Grande Project, and includes the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 in Texas, and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District in New Mexico.

In Texas, the Rio Grande Project provides water for 69,010 acres of water right lands, all of which are located within the boundaries of the El Paso water district. The district contains 156 square miles, with over 350 miles of canals and laterals in the distribution system, and over 269 miles in the drainage system. Irrigation water is delivered through canals and laterals to more than 2,205 turnouts (irrigation gates which feed the canals that go to the farms).

The Rio Grande Project was operated and maintained by the United States Bureau of Reclamation until 1980, when the El Paso water district took over operation and maintenance responsibilities.

In 1996, the local water district accepted ownership of the canals, laterals, drains, and other waterways within its boundaries from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Today, a board of directors runs the EPCWID, with the general manager in charge of the day-to-day operations. Board members are: Indar Singh, District 1; Miguel Teran, District 2; Johnny Stubbs, District 3; Bobby Skov, District 4; Art Ivey, District 5. The board ensures that EPCWID delivers surface water from the Rio Grande to water right lands in El Paso County and assesses and collects taxes from those water right lands.

"We have made water conservation a priority, and have made many efforts towards accomplishing our goal of delivering surface water in the most efficient manner possible," the EPCWID general manager stated.

Presently, the district is responsible for delivering water to over 32,727 accounts. Although many property owners have chosen to subdivide their lands in response to the growth of the City of El Paso, the irrigation of farmland continues to account for the majority of the water used in the District.

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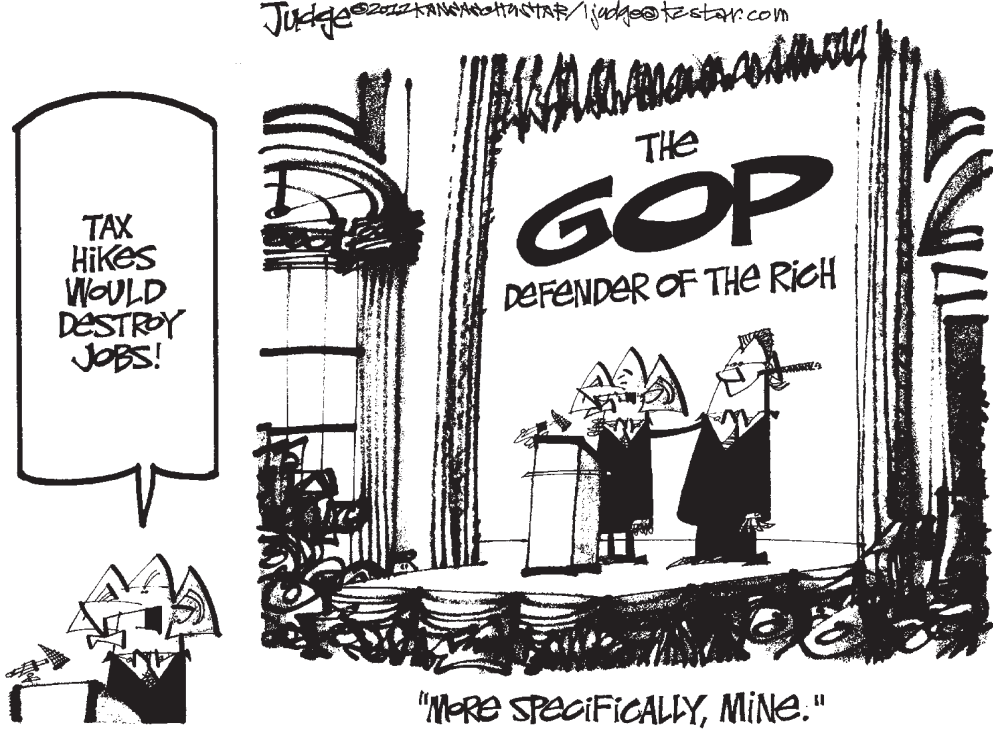
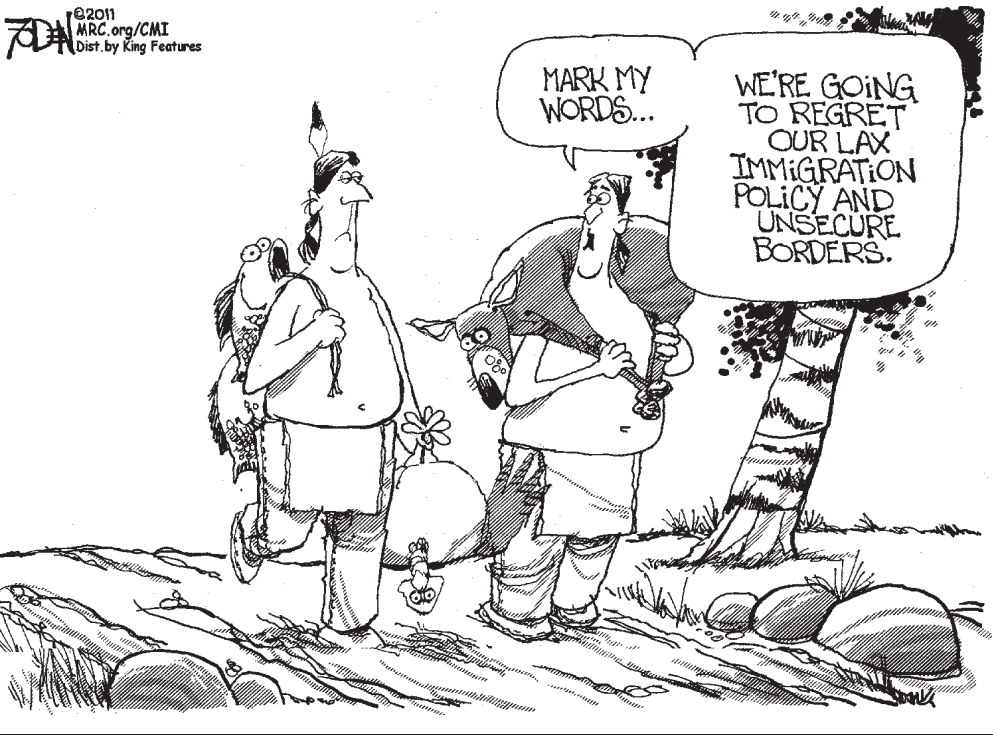
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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Redistricting affects representation

Hola, mi gente. This is a year in which the census and redistricting played a big role in the legislature. It is normal to expect some changes in the makeup of the house members and leadership.

This year, however, is dramatically different from the last post redistricting election. There was a dramatic shift in the balance between Democrats and Republicans in 2003. From a balanced number of each, the election results in November of that year yielded a big majority of Republicans. The change was because of the electorate.

This year there will be big changes in the House makeup. For one thing, I will not be running for re-election.

The big change we anticipate is already known. 24 House members have announced that they will not be seeking re-election to their seat; 20 Rs and 4 Ds, as of this date.

While the number of Rs may not be that large who are leaving, the fact that 12 of them were high up on the seniority list is a very important fact. Some of them were Chairs of committees.

Charlie Howard was not a chair, but he did have a big influence on two issues important to El Paso. He was strongly vocal and influential in defeating the efforts by the Ysleta del Sur to re-open Speaking Rock Casino. He also put the clamps on any amendments to the current Colonia laws. We need some changes to allow properties to be sold. Right now it is practically impossible to sell some undeveloped or under-developed land, which make them valueless with insignificant property tax appraisals. The county would benefit with changes.

Another Republican member not returning is Joe Driver. He recently pleaded guilty to a third degree felony for misuse of campaign funds. He double billed the state and his campaign funds benefiting him somewhere in the neighborhood of

\$20,000.

Beverly Wooley, Burt Solomons, Jerry Madden, Will Hartnett, Warren Chisum, Larry Taylor, Jim Jackson, and Rick Hardcastle all were Republicans with high spots on the seniority list. Most filled some leadership roles back in 2003 when the majority shifted to 86 Rs to 64 Ds.

Solomons was the chair of the House Redistricting Committee. He led the way in passing a new House Districts Map that was recently overturned by the court and replaced with an interim map.

One retiring Republican came as no surprise. Representative Aaron Pena announced after the interim maps were released that he would not seek re-election. The district he was seated had turned strongly Democratic by the court. Originally, it was crafted to guarantee his re-election.

Pena was a Democrat who changed affiliation after being elected in a Democratic district. Most viewed the change as self-serving.

Pena, you might recall, was one of 12 Democrats in 2003 that turned their backs on the party in support of Tom Craddick for speaker. This began an era where El Paso found it hard to get the Medical School funded, impossible to re-open Speaking Rock and disappointing to see millions of dollars shifted from our County to Midland (Craddick's home). Incidentally, standing side by side with Pena in supporting Craddick was Norma Chavez who represented El Paso at the time.

The new House makeup is unclear at this time. As bad as the last session was, if we allow the trend to continue, the next one will cost El Paso taxpayers even more in local taxes. The November vote will decide.

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

VA expands support program to more veterans, spouses

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a telephone support program to help spouses of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, after a pilot telephone support program showed significant reduction in stress for spouses.

"Returning to civilian life after living in constant combat readiness can be a shocking transition, and it is the immediate family, the spouses and children, who bear the brunt of that transition with those who served," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The more support we can provide to the family, the better the outcome will be for our veterans."

The spouse telephone support program, which is part of VA's Caregiver Support Program, builds the spouses' ability to cope with the challenges that reintegration to civilian society can bring, helps them serve as a pillar of support for returning veterans, and eases the transition for families after deployments.

Spouses in the pilot program reported decreased symptoms of depression and anxiety, with an increase in social support.

Spouses participate in 12 telephone support groups over six months. The focus is on problem solving and communication, relationships, mental health and resilience. A trained, nationwide team of VA medical center staff members, including many caregiver

support coordinators, will lead the support groups.

Typical issues spouses and veterans face after deployment include communication difficulties, the need to renegotiate family roles and responsibilities and the added stress of combat related injury. Spouses of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have reported feeling overwhelmed, depressed, anxious and frustrated.

"Providing support to family caregivers is the right thing for VA to do," said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's under secretary for health. "A simple series of phone calls can do so much good. Certainly, those who fought for our nation and the spouses who allowed them to make that sacrifice deserve this support."

The program is based on research by VA researchers Dr. Linda Nichols and Dr. Jennifer Martindale-Adams, of the Memphis VA Medical Center and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Both researchers developed and studied interventions for family members of Veterans and military personnel. Their work with spouses of post-deployed and deployed military personnel is funded through the Defense Health Program, managed by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

Local caregiver support coordinators are available to assist veterans and their caregivers in understanding and applying for VA's many caregiver benefits. For more information on the spouse telephone support and other caregiver support programs available through VA, visit its website at www.caregiver.va.gov.



– Photo courtesy El Paso Public Library

LEARNING CENTER – The Tech-mobile comes with an instructor, up to 12 work stations, access to broadband internet and wirelss services.

Tech

From Page 1

broadband and cellular communications, wireless internet and printer networks.

The vehicle cost of \$346,399.06 was paid for through a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technology and Opportunities Program.

Tech-mobile schedule

MONDAY Socorro Community Center 901 Rio Vista Socorro, TX 79927 860-8615 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Anthony, TX 79821 886-3944 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.
Mi Pueblo Adult Day Care 681 Horizon Blvd. East Socorro, TX 79927 860-8690 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	WEDNESDAY Faben’s Center 201 Camp St. Fabens, TX 79838 764-3580 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Iglesia Immaculado Corazon de Maria 8300 De Alva Dr. Canutillo, TX 79821 886-3539 8:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.
Oz Glaze Senior Center 13969 Veny Webb Horizon City, TX 79928 852-0062 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Clint Assistance Center 200 N. San Elizario Clint, TX 79836 851-3397 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.	Anthony Town Hall 401 Wildcat Dr. Anthony, TX 79821 886-3944 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Iglesia Immaculado Corazon de Maria 8300 De Alva Dr. Canutillo, TX, 79821 886-3539 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	San Elizario Center 1156 Church St. San Elizario, TX. 79849 851-1964 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FRIDAY Club de Amistad Adult Day Care Center 109 Crocker Horizon City, TX 79928 852-5006 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Anthony Town Hall 401 Wildcat Dr.	THURSDAY Iglesia Immaculado Corazon de Maria 8300 De Alva Dr. Canutillo, TX 79821 886-3539	Agua Dulce Self Help Center 15371 Kentwood El Paso, TX 79928 852-2656 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

– Jack Galindo

38% of Texas residents still do not subscribe to broadband at home

By Jessica Ditto
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Connected Texas has released new residential broadband adoption survey results revealing the top trends in technology use among key demographics in Texas. The preliminary indicators from the survey are available online, which gives a comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities for expanding broadband in targeted sectors. Most notably, the majority of low-income, rural, senior, disabled adult, and Hispanic households are without broadband at home, leaving them facing an uphill battle in keeping up with essential online resources, job and educational opportunities, and social services.

“This new research offers us critical insight into how we need to plan local and regional broadband expansion,” said Connected Texas Executive Director Don Shirley. “The goal of our initiative is quality broadband access, adoption, and use across the state. We will use these new findings to create customized plans that directly target the Texas communities and residents who face the biggest challenges to realizing the life-changing benefits that broadband can bring.”

This survey is conducted in support of Connected Texas’ efforts to close the state’s digital gap. The survey explores the main barriers to adoption – cost, digital skills, and relevance – and also provides unique insights into the national broadband landscape.

This survey reveals that:

- 1.2 million people living in rural areas do not subscribe to broadband service at home.
- When comparing to the 62% of all households that do subscribe, there remain large gaps among key demographics:

- 1. 61% of low-income households;
- 2. 59% of Hispanic households; and
- 3. 57% of seniors are without broadband.
- Approximately 865,000 children in low-income households are without access to this essential tool at home.
- 1.4 million Texas adults say a lack of digital skills and knowledge of how to use a computer and broadband is the main reason they don’t have broadband at home.
- The biggest gap is among low-income rural Texans. Only 28% of low-income rural Texans subscribe to broadband and only 47% have a computer at home.

Connected Texas will use these survey results to target solutions in communities based on the demographic and economic barriers that the surveys indicate are most relevant to those communities. Connected Texas’ 2011 residential survey was conducted in the summer of 2011 and includes responses from 3,597 residents. The survey was conducted as part of the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant program, funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment of 2009.

Connected Texas is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit in the state of Texas. The Texas Department of Agriculture is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access, adoption, and use across the state. Connected Texas was commissioned by the state to work with all Texas broadband providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and development of a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: <http://www.connectedtx.org>.

Social Security posts Spanish site online

By Don Francisco
Special to the Courier

I have good news to share with the millions of Americans who prefer to conduct business in Spanish. You can now apply online for Social Security retirement and Medicare benefits totally in Spanish. Go to www.segurosocial.gov and you will be able to take advantage of other online services offered in our language.

For years, Social Security has been at the forefront of providing online services for Americans, offering a wealth of information in Spanish. I want to tell you about the expanded suite of services offered in our language and why you should visit www.segurosocial.gov.

Let’s say that you are ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits. What would you think if I told you that you could do it online in only 15 minutes. Once you complete the online application and “sign” it with the click of a key, your application is complete. In most cases there are no documents to submit or additional paperwork to fill out. It’s the easiest way to do this transaction, and now it’s available in Spanish. You can also go to www.segurosocial.gov to apply for Medicare. That also is easy and you can complete the application online in about 10 minutes.

If you are already receiving Medicare and are having trouble with the high cost of drugs that have been prescribed, you might qualify for Extra Help from Social Security. The Extra Help can save you as much as \$4,000 each year. You can learn all about it and you can do the application online for this. If you are not ready to retire but want to get an immediate, personalized estimate of your Social Security benefit, try the Retirement Estimator. Using the actual wages posted in your Social Security record, the Estimator gives you a good picture of what to expect in retirement.

You can type in different situations and put in different amounts of wages to get the estimates that can help you plan your life. There are many things you can do at www.segurosocial.gov. There is a lot of information in this site, and you can conduct a lot of Social Security business online from the convenience and comfort of your home or office computer. Most importantly, you can conduct it in our language.

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and so many great
resources; IT’S GOOD
TO SEE US TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEM.”

— Mary Kipp, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at El Paso Electric



Our commitment to renewable energy continues with the opening of the Roadrunner Solar Plant in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. Capitalizing on state-of-the-art technology, the plant utilizes the sun to its utmost potential. Spanning over 210 acres of land, generating 20 MW of power, the plant provides clean, environmentally sound power for thousands of homes in our region.



For a video tour of the Roadrunner Solar Plant,
go to epelectric.com and click on the  **sunny side**.



UTEP hurting in both basketball and football programs

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I think a lot of El Paso sports fans tend to enjoy the Miners’ football season every year but they live for UTEP basketball.

There’s something about fitting 10,000 people into the Don Haskins Center and watching the Miners battle any good team who dares to venture in there.

I guess El Pasoans know that year-in and year-out, the Miners can battle any team in the country in basketball. The Miners may not win, but that other team is going to know it was in a dogfight.

That’s what makes this season so disappointing.

Because of the complete loss of UTEP’s veteran players, the 2011-12 Miners are made up of a ton of freshman, some error-prone sophomores, some brand new juniors and an often-injured, seldom-used senior.

And the worst thing of all is that they’re playing like it.

The Miners looked like they were totally lost in all phases of the game in last week’s

unfathomable 53-35 loss to Stephan F. Austin (yes, that’s really a school).

This team (1-3 as of last Sunday) is playing so badly that it’s already setting records they’d rather not be associated with.

In the 53-35 loss, the Miners scored the fewest number of points in the history of the Don Haskins Center.

The old record came in a 43-41 loss to Villanova in the Sun Bowl Tournament in 1980.

I think most fans knew this team was going to struggle early because of its inexperience, and gradually improve as the season wore on.

The good news was that the Miners were going to have an easy schedule to help give them confidence for when the schedule gets tougher.

But including exhibition games, the Miners have lost to former pushovers Eastern New Mexico, UT San Antonio and Stephen F. Austin.

If they’re going to get smacked around by the cupcakes on the schedule, imagine what’s going to happen when the Miners take on the big boys like Oregon and UNLV and New Mexico State and Clemson and any of the

teams in Conference USA.

This season is suddenly becoming reminiscent of Billy Gillispie’s first season.

He coached the 2002-03 Miners to a dismal 6-24 record. But he turned things around the following year to finish 24-8.

Even though his team was only 6-24, it was one of El Paso’s favorite because they hustled all over the court. If there was a ball loose on the floor, three Miners were guaranteed to be sliding toward it.

This year’s UTEP squad will have to overachieve to win six games, but honestly, there is none of that all-over-the-court hustle that made Gillispie’s team loveable losers.

Right now, the Miners are just losing.

If anyone can straighten these guys out, it’s Tim Floyd. But he’s going to have to reach deep inside the hearts and minds of this young team to help shed that deer-in-the-headlights mentality when they take the court.

The guards can’t penetrate, the big guys can’t finish around the basket and the forwards, and except for Julian Washburn, can’t create their own shots.

The UTEP fans are going to have to be patient this season. It’s going to be long, it’s

going to be difficult and at times, hard to watch.

Is the Price still right

The Miners ended their football season in increasingly familiar fashion last weekend – with a losing record.

It was the sixth straight loser for UTEP and Mike Price and it’s time for the yearly cries to oust the once-popular coach.

After going 16-5 over his first 21 games in orange and blue, Price has seen his team go 29-47 ever since.

The fix his Miners need seems to be easy enough to identify – the defense.

For years now, the Miners have played Swiss cheese defense. And even when they are in the position to make a tackle, they miss the tackle.

Even Price said after his team’s final loss at UCF that he wasn’t sure whether the Miners would invite him back next season.

That’s a tough call. There’s no doubt that Price made the Miners more viable but he also hasn’t been able to sustain it.

When you can’t stop anybody from scoring there’s no way you can win – it’s not that hard to understand.

A sporting view

By Mark Vasto

Nature or nurture?

Scouts say you can pick them out when they’re little kids.

“The rest of the good playing kids in little league are hitting a respectable .300, and then there’s that one kid hitting .700 with a dinger each game,” one such scout told me. “We can see the kid’s already gonna be a pro, and he’s not even in high school yet.”

Maybe he’s got a hitch in his swing. Perhaps he’s unsuited for the position he’s currently playing.

Doesn’t matter.

“Everybody is coachable,” a coach once told me. “But the player has to respond to the coach, or you can forget it.”

Larry Bird couldn’t stand Bobby Knight so he bailed on Indiana. Former Atlanta Falcons head coach Jerry Glanville once proclaimed that Brett Favre would never play a down in the NFL. Martina Navratilova was too chubby to ever become a real

contender on the women’s tennis circuit. Heck, Reggie Jackson couldn’t get a guaranteed spot in the Yankee lineup underneath Billy Martin.

There was a theory making the rounds a few years ago that posited anybody can attain expert level in just about anything if they spend 10,000 hours or more practicing that particular craft. If you spent every waking hour practicing, every day, that would come to about two to three years. For a more reasonable timeframe, let’s just say it’s five to six years. One of the examples they used was The Beatles. They went off to Hamburg before they became famous, honed their craft by playing jet-fueled all-night sets and returned

to Liverpool as stars.

Sounds easy, right? Of course, the notion is pretty much absurd. If that were the case, every minor league baseball player would be in the show and everyone down at the country club would be competing in the Ryder Cup.

With the exception of tennis players, quarterbacks, switch-hitting baseball players and, for whatever reason, Chinese violinists – players who had parents who really take the time to drill them (which is why the coach’s kid is usually one of the best players on the team) – most people practice what it is they’re truly talented at.

There can be late bloomers,

sure... for instance I recently had an epiphany that led me to begin playing the guitar. A friend of mine said something that clicked, taught me the A chord, and I was off and running. Now, I can confidently say that I am at the expert level at guitar, so long as you only want to hear “Wild Thing,” by The Troggs.

My kid is 2. He wants to be a drummer. So I bought him some maracas and told him the ottoman was a drum, have at it. I’ll let you know in another 9,000 hours how that’s working out.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

City of Socorro

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. at a Regular Council Meeting on December 5, 2011, at City Hall, 860 Rio Vista, Socorro, Texas. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following:

1) PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS RELATING TO APPROVAL OF TAXATION OF GOODS-IN-TRANSIT THAT ARE OTHERWISE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION AS PERMITTED BY TEXAS TAX CODE SECTION 11.253.

Those unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will

be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Copies of ordinances are available for review at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd.

Manuel Rubio
City Clerk

WTCC: 12-01-11

City of Socorro

Adoption of Ordinances

On November 17, 2011 the City of Socorro, Texas adopted the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE 296, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND RAILROAD CROSSING IMPOSING CIVIL

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION, ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, PROVIDING FOR APPEAL AND JUDICIAL REVIEW ESTABLISHING TRAFFIC SAFETY FUND AND OTHER MATTERS THERE TO.

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: 12-01-11

El Paso County Emergency Services District No. 2

Public Notice

The El Paso County Emergency Services District No. 2, is currently taking applications for six part time ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT POSITIONS. The ideal candidates must have, at the minimum, two years experience or one year of accredited business school in:

• ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE
• ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
• ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
• COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Closing date is until positions are filled. To apply send completed resumes to:

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

or e-mail: rterrazas@epcountyed2.org

or fax: (915) 886-2313

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

Rebecca Terrazas
Administrator

WTCC: 12-01-11

MINER BASKETBALL

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11 3:00pm

Sonic Battle of I-10 rivalry series

First 10,000 will receive UTEP pom poms, provided by Sonic

abc 7 KVIA-TV

POWER 102

Western Refining

Get your tickets at the utep ticket center, the miner store on zaragoza at don haskins or call 747-5234

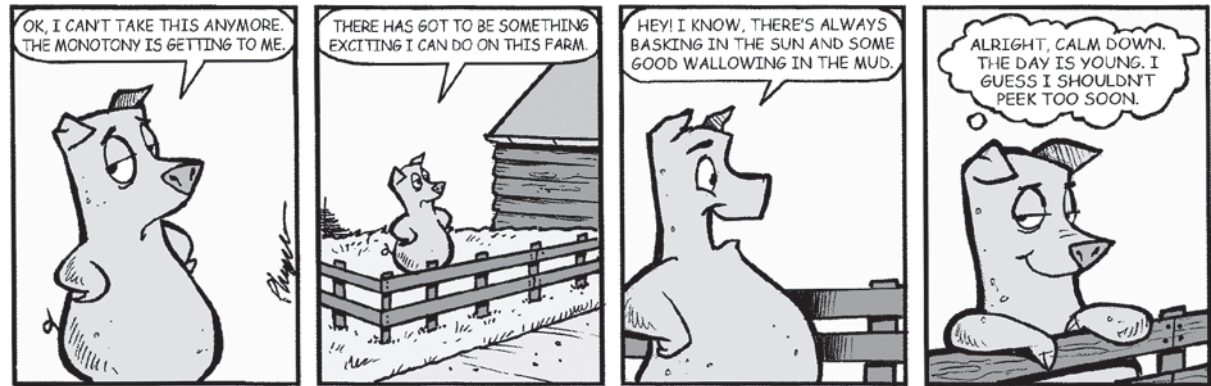


Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am recuperating from a kidney infection (pyelitis). The doctor did a culture of my urine, which showed a gram negative rod. What kind of infection is that? – S.B.

The more common urinary tract infection is infection of the bladder – cystitis. Pyelitis (PIE-uh-LITE-iss), now usually called pyelonephritis, is an infection of the kidney itself. It is a much more serious infection, and one that usually makes people take to their bed.

Pyelitis causes high fever often alternating with chills. People have intense flank pain, the side area between the lowest rib and the upper part of the pelvis. The infection also might make people urinate more frequently and with pain. These two signs, however, are more apt to indicate bladder infection.

The most frequent cause of pyelitis is the bacterium E. coli. Bacteria are classified into two large groups based on how they react to a stain used to visualize them with a microscope. The stain is the Gram stain, named after the doctor who devised it. Bacteria are either gram positive or gram negative. A gram positive bacterium turns blue with the stain; a gram negative turns red. Bacteria also are classified by their shape. Some are elongated sticks – rods. Others are oval-shaped. E. coli is a gram negative rod.

Pyelitis is a situation that calls for immediate and usually intravenous antibiotic treatment. It responds promptly to such treatment. The temperature often returns to normal within two days.

The booklet on urinary tract infections describes both upper urinary tract infections (kidney – pyelitis) and lower urinary tract infections (bladder – cystitis). Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue–No. 1204W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-

6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada. with the recipient’s printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have seborrheic keratoses and have had them for many years. Doctors say nothing can be done. I had them cut off and frozen off, but they come right back. Can you help?

Seborrheic (SEB-uh-REE-ik) keratoses are brown, warty-looking spots on the back, chest, arms, legs and sometimes the face. They are not cancers and don’t become cancers. There may be only a few, but there can be hundreds of them. Their cause is a mystery, but they appear at older ages, so aging is somehow involved. A doctor can scrape them off or freeze them. They might come back, but they can be retreated if they do. The tendency to develop them is inherited.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Years ago, after the birth of my son, the doctor said I had milk leg. It was very painful. What would this be called today? – A.R.

I’ve never heard the term “milk leg” used by a doctor, but I have seen it in print. Today the condition is called thrombophlebitis (THROM-boh-flea-BITE-iss) – a clot (thrombo) in an inflamed vein (phlebitis). In milk leg, the vein is the femoral vein, the large leg vein. It can be a complication of pregnancy even today.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2011 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

WAIST OF MONEY ACROSS

- 1 Meat cut
- 5 “_ You Babe” (’65 song)
- 9 Skimmer material
- 14 Chauvinist
- 19 Othello’s ensign
- 20 _ contendere
- 21 What the nose knows
- 22 Greene or Michaels
- 23 Be a blacksmith
- 24 Start of a remark by James Dent
- 27 Appropriates
- 29 Dutch artist Jan
- 30 Let up
- 31 Rep.
- 32 Speakeasy patron
- 33 Hoover, for one
- 35 Part 2 of remark
- 40 Beginning on
- 42 ’72 Michael Jackson smash
- 44 Impact sound
- 47 Downey of “Touched by an Angel”
- 48 Woodworking tool
- 50 New York university
- 52 “Butterfield 8” author
- 54 Rouse
- 56 Singer Payne
- 58 Plant disease
- 59 Ponti’s partner

- 60 Become a prune
- 61 Islands instrument
- 62 Baby _
- 64 Like Hercules
- 65 “Malcolm X” director
- 66 _ Mahal
- 68 Widespread
- 69 Shed
- 70 Part 3 of remark
- 75 Ambush man
- 80 Ripped
- 81 Periodontists’ org.
- 83 Bud
- 86 Tweety Pie, e.g.
- 87 Highlands tongue
- 88 Nobelist Octavio
- 90 Man from Malmo
- 92 Hersey setting
- 93 They may be personal
- 94 Ornamental mat
- 96 “Salome” character
- 97 Like some paper
- 98 Covenant
- 100 Opie’s aunt
- 101 Unit of area
- 102 Archaic preposition
- 103 Conductor Queler
- 105 Snake sound
- 107 Part 4 of remark
- 111 Slalom curve
- 113 Ruby of “A Raisin in the Sun”
- 114 Limit
- 115 Sink

- 119 Dust busters
- 121 _ squash
- 126 End of remark
- 129 Peace of mind
- 130 Soviet cooperative
- 131 “He’s making _ ...”
- 132 Buffalo waterfront
- 133 Jocular Johnson
- 134 Director Sergio
- 135 “Beau _” (’39 film)
- 136 Equipment
- 137 Actor Wallace

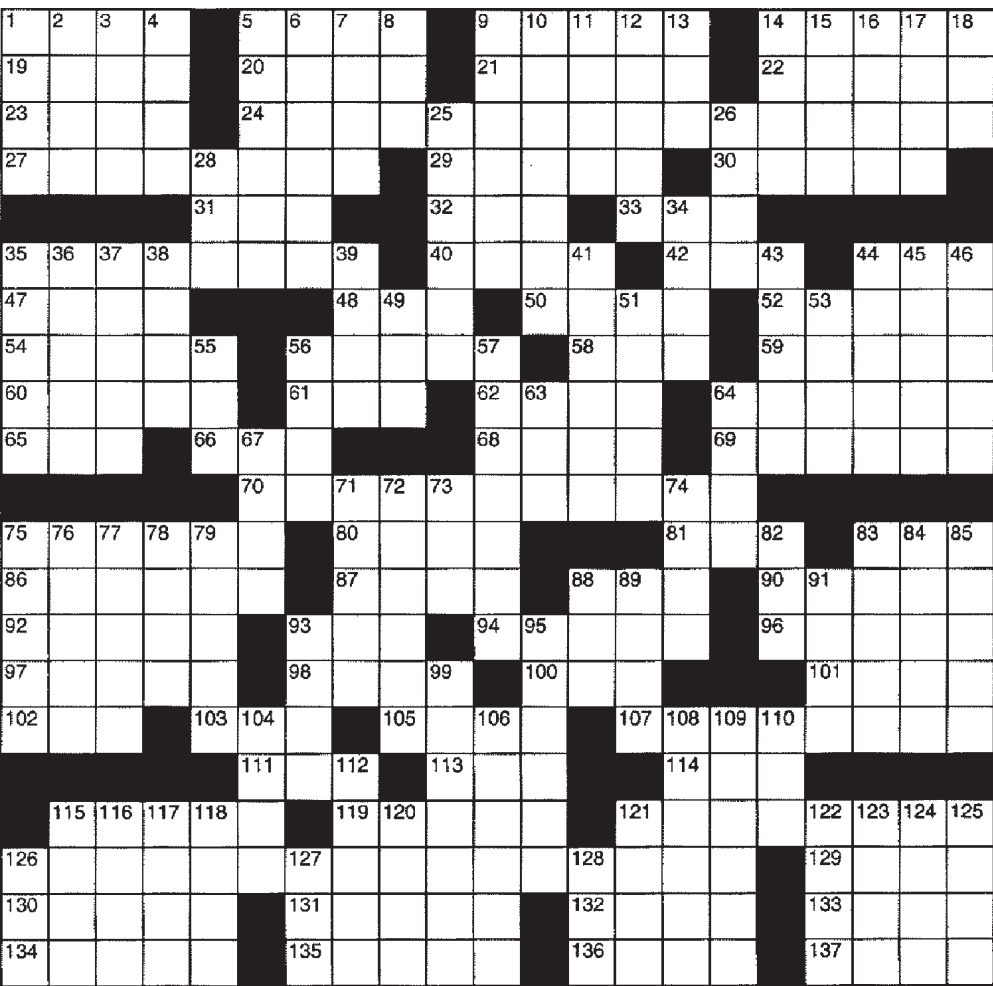
DOWN

- 1 Speech problem
- 2 Neighbor of Molokai
- 3 Violinist Oistrakh
- 4 Playwright Coward
- 5 Spectrum shade
- 6 Discuss
- 7 Auto pioneer
- 8 Petite pooch
- 9 Prepares onions
- 10 “... baby on the _”
- 11 Emulate Sinbad
- 12 Improve
- 13 Violent card game?
- 14 Hunk of gunk
- 15 Pindaric character
- 16 Pluck
- 17 Fairy-tale start
- 18 Golfer’s gadget
- 25 Disney rabbit
- 26 Tom, Dick, or Harry
- 28 No Einstein

- 34 Encourage a culprit
- 35 Go fishing
- 36 Long of football
- 37 Stun
- 38 Daily receipts
- 39 TV’s “_ Shadows”
- 41 Remote
- 43 Nick of “I Love Trouble”
- 44 Strauss aristocrat
- 45 Common contraction
- 46 Chutney ingredient
- 49 Minuscule
- 51 Reindeer name
- 53 Israeli dance
- 55 Tolkien creation
- 56 Japanese volcano
- 57 Rubbed the wrong way
- 63 Garage supply
- 64 Runners carry it
- 67 Crooked
- 71 Bara of the silents
- 72 Judd of “George & Leo”
- 73 “_ a Rebel” (’62 hit)
- 74 Unclear
- 75 It’ll give you a weigh
- 76 Lowest point
- 77 Absurd
- 78 Sheet of stamps
- 79 Carve a canyon
- 82 Furniture wood

- 83 “Thanks, Robespierre!”
- 84 Idolize
- 85 Surrenders
- 88 In-your-face item
- 89 Guinness or Baldwin
- 91 Sport
- 93 Does Little work
- 95 Preoccupy
- 99 Most methodical
- 104 Jacket feature
- 106 Hardly hyper
- 108 Small shrub
- 109 Foam
- 110 Choose, with “for”
- 112 Face lift?
- 115 Wet blanket
- 116 Concerning
- 117 WWII gun
- 118 Tropical spot
- 120 Handel’s “_ and Galatea”
- 121 Spotless
- 122 “- of the Cat” (’77 hit)
- 123 Reduce, with “down”
- 124 _ Spumante
- 125 Poverty
- 126 Baseball’s Ripken
- 127 Witty one
- 128 Foster or Tilly

Answer Page 4



Moore Texas by Roger Moore 1927: Texas enacts its first littering law...things were getting “messy” I reckon !



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.

	+		×		17
×		÷		+	
	-		×		5
-		+		×	
	+		+		16
26		10		18	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: What’s the best way to apply for extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs?

A: The fastest and most convenient way to apply for extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs is online at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp. Medicare beneficiaries with limited income and resources may qualify for extra help, which pays part of the monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments under the Medicare prescription drug program. The extra help is estimated to be worth an average of \$4,000 per year.

Q: I received a notice from Social Security recently. It said my name and Social Security number do not match Social Security’s records. What should I do?

A: It’s critical that your name and Social Security number, as shown on your Social Security card, match your employer’s payroll records and your W-2 form. If they don’t, here is what you need to do:

- Give your employer the correct information exactly as shown on your Social Security card or your corrected card; or
- Contact your local Social Security office (www.socialsecurity.gov/locator) or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) if your Social Security card does not show your correct name or Social Security number. For more

information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: If I go back to work, will I automatically lose my Social Security disability benefits?

A: Social Security has several work incentive programs to help people who want to work. You may be able to receive benefits and continue your health care coverage during a trial work period. For information about Social Security’s work incentives and how they can help you return to work, you should:

- Visit our special work site at www.socialsecurity.gov/work;
- See the Red Book on work incentives at www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook;
- Call our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778); or
- Contact your local Social Security office (www.socialsecurity.gov/locator).

For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: A equals D

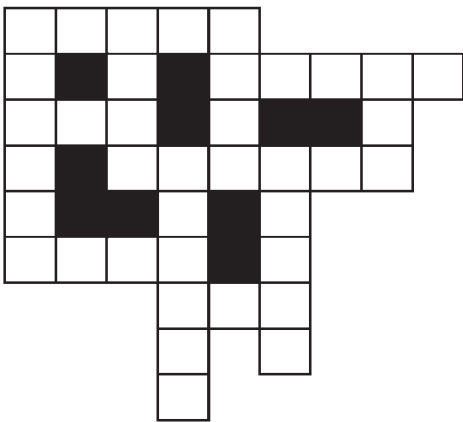
NQ Z CZNK VQ AXUVBO YZA SYX
OZUX RIAAW, N OICCVOX YX'A
KXZJJW RX Z UISIZJ QNXBA.

Answer Page 4

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RIA
DAPKIN
♥TIVCE
KADN
APTMIC
NVA
♥APTR
♥RANEC
CPA
♥RECVOT
♥DRACE
ERDN



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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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was English biologist Thomas Henry Huxley who made the following sage observation: “Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors.”

• If you put your rubber bands in the refrigerator, they’ll last longer.

• It’s not just the tiger’s fur that has stripes; its skin is striped, too.

• You probably know that the iconic film “Rocky” starred Sylvester Stallone in the leading role, but you might not be aware of the fact that he wrote the script, as well. The sale of the rights to the script came just in time; he had a total of \$106 in his bank account and was trying to sell his dog for lack of the means to feed it.

• In the winter of 1932, Niagara Falls froze solid.

• Madame Tussaud started creating her famous wax figures in 1777 and created many models during the French Revolution. She traveled around Europe displaying wax figures (both the ones she created and ones she inherited from her mentor), and she opened her first museum in London in 1831. Today there are branches located in the United Kingdom, Amsterdam, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Vienna, Moscow, Bangkok, Dubai, Berlin and Hamburg, plus five U.S. locations. It’s appropriate that there are more locations in American than in any other country, since so many Hollywood celebrities are recreated in the museums. In fact, in 2006, Shiloh, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie’s baby, became the first infant to be memorialized in wax for Madame Tussauds.

• Those who study such things say that apples are more effective than caffeine at waking you up in the morning.

• It’s not clear why, but a duck’s quack doesn’t create echoes.

Thought for the Day: “The trouble with being punctual is that nobody’s there to appreciate it.”
– Franklin P. Jones

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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