



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Anthony parade

The Town of Anthony will have its annual Lights Parade on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 6:00 p.m. The parade will start on Wildcat Drive and proceed to Main Street north to Franklin and then east on Franklin to Las Torres Altos where it will end. The Park Lights Festival will be at Henry Miramontes Memorial Park on Sunday, Dec. 18 starting at 4:00 p.m. and will have mariachis and matachines with Santa arriving at 6:00 p.m.

— Art Franco

### Luminarias

The annual Luminarias/Posadas event in San Elizario will be celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at 1521 San Elizario Road, Los Portales Museum and Veterans Memorial plaza. The historic area of San Elizario will be glowing with luminarias. Luminarias are paper sacks filled with sand and a burning candle placed inside. Volunteers from Hanks ROTC, San Elizario School district, San Elceario Church confirmation classes and other organizations will help in preparing the 3,000 luminarias as well as outline and light up the historic area with these old traditional candleabras. The placita will feature a live nativity set and Christmas decorations. Local students from San Elceario's confirmation class will become actors for the Posadas pageant and the childrens choir will sing Christmas carols. Hot chocolate and cookies will be given to all children who attend. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be passing out goody bags to all the children. Traditional tamales, champurrado, menudo, will be available for a small donation. El Paso Mission Trail will be hosting the Luminarias Christmas Market as well from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

— Eloisa Levario

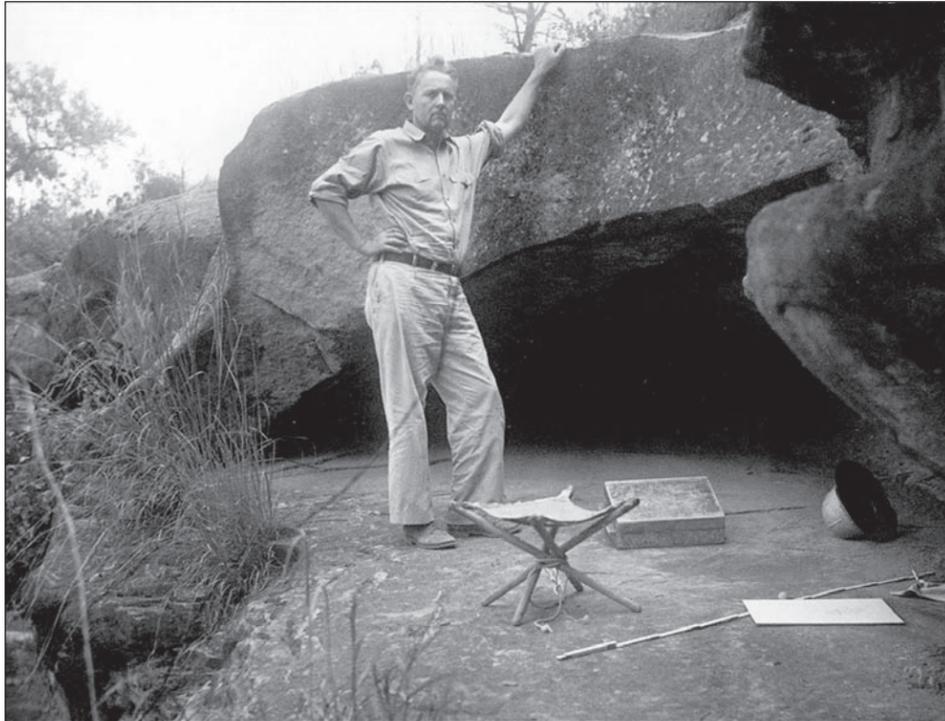
### E-cigarette risk

There is a perception that electronic cigarettes are safer than conventional cigarettes. According to the Food and Drug Administration, there are potential health risks associated with electronic cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes are also known as e-cigarettes. They are battery-operated devices that generally contain a cartridge filled with nicotine, flavor and other chemicals. They turn nicotine and other chemicals into a vapor that is inhaled by the user. Nicotine is highly addictive. E-cigarettes are now found in locations where conventional cigarettes are sold. The Food and Drug Administration is concerned about the safety of electronic cigarettes. Clinical studies about the safety of e-cigarettes have not been submitted to the FDA. Consumers currently have no way of knowing

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*Wise are the people that fortify their life with friendships.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photos courtesy of Texas Beyond History, the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, the University of Texas at Austin

Forrest Kirkland at a worksite, documenting rock art.

## Watercolors document Hueco Tanks rock art

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

Forrest Kirkland's images of rock art at Hueco Tanks are currently on display in the auditorium gallery at The El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road. The on-going exhibit is free to the public.

Kirkland was the first artist to systematically document prehistoric rock art in Texas, thus his work is well known and admired by those interested in Texas archaeology, stated Marilyn Guida, curator of education for the El

Paso Museum of Archaeology.

"The twenty six images in this exhibit, which include hundreds of pictographs, are full color reproductions scanned at high resolution from Kirkland's plates. The original watercolors are no longer in a condition to be exhibited because the paper and paints are brittle and light sensitive," Guida stated.

The images on display are provided courtesy of Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin.

According to Guida, Kirkland's interest

See ROCK ART, Page 3

## Auto thieves get very busy during holidays

By Michelle Lanham  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Not everyone has the holiday spirit this time of year. Take, for instance, auto thieves – who are more than ready to play the part of Grinch to spoil the season. But these thieves aren't interested in your Christmas tree... they want your car, your purchases, your property, and your identity!

The Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), a division of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, reminds drivers that a vehicle is burglarized every two minutes and stolen every eight minutes in the state. These crimes escalate during the holiday season when drivers are frequently out shopping for gifts and traveling to visit friends and family. During these times, drivers are more likely to leave belongings within view inside vehicles. And to make matters worse, a thief won't necessarily stop with taking your vehicle and the things inside. They may also look for personal documents that can help them steal your identity or indicate where you live so they can rob your home of additional property. In other words, the theft or burglary of your vehicle may simply be a gateway to the commission of additional crimes.

Auto burglars scout malls, shopping centers,

entertainment venues, hotels, and other business parking lots this time of year looking for opportunities to break into vehicles. Drivers need to understand that almost anything they leave inside their vehicles can be valuable to a thief. And when vehicles are left unlocked and unattended, drivers are inviting thieves to walk away with everything they see inside, which, unfortunately, often includes gifts, purses, wallets, packages, electronics, suitcases, garage door openers, keys, and personal information.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, thieves committed 263,479 acts of vehicle burglary and stole 68,219 vehicles in Texas during 2010. In some jurisdictions, more than half of vehicle thefts occurred because doors were unlocked and keys left inside. But drivers can avoid becoming part of these statistics. The ABTPA and its 28 vehicle crime task forces in Texas offer three basic safety tips to motorists to help prevent vehicle crimes during the holidays and throughout the year – HIDE, LOCK, AND TAKE – remove belongings from view, lock vehicles, and take keys. In addition to practicing the "hide, lock, take" philosophy, drivers should park in areas that are well-lit, near surveillance cameras (if available), and near heavy foot and vehicle traffic. The more thieves feel threatened by detection, the less likely they are to focus on targets in such vulnerable areas.

## Social media is a contributing factor in holiday burglaries

*Security gone in 140 characters or less*

By Eric Garner  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Lock the doors... check. Close all windows, upstairs and down... check. Leave a key with Bob next door... check. Just when you thought you had mastered the art of burglar-proofing your home, a new danger has emerged that could compromise the safety of your residence this holiday season. And that culprit is social media.

The holidays may bring "tidings of comfort and joy," but they also bring nearly 400,000 burglaries nationwide in November and December, with family homes targeted most frequently, according to the FBI.

"Social media is definitely a factor in many of today's burglaries. Instead of watching for mail to accumulate outside your residence, burglars can case your home by simply scanning your Twitter feed and monitoring your Facebook status for any signs you're away," said Joanna Moore, Mercury Insurance chief claims officer. "And it's only getting easier with new features like Facebook Places, which allows users to divulge their exact location by simply checking in."

Studies show that 70 percent of burglars are amateurs simply looking for an easy target, and 65 percent of the time the offender isn't a stranger.

Perhaps, a follower on Twitter? A friend on Facebook?

"You risk tipping off burglars to your home's vulnerability by 'tweeting,' 'updating,' 'posting' or 'checking in' during your holiday travels. There's nothing more convenient for robbers than when their victims are away for an extended period of time," said Moore. "And you never know whose hands into which your information is falling."

So now, making sure no one in your family, including the kids, is posting information about your holiday travel plans should be added to your pre-trip checklist because criminals use social media, too.

Moore offers these additional social media tips to consider before taking off on your holiday vacation:

- Use social media to your advantage. Update social media to give the impression that your family is home. This may deter any potential outside interest in your property.

- Resist the urge to upload photos during your vacation. Wait until you're home to flaunt your family's Christmas trip to the Bahamas.

- Shut-off your home computer. Disconnect from the internet, especially if you store any personal information on your PC. An unattended computer connected to the internet is an easy mark for hackers.

Warning your family about social media and how it pertains to home safety will allow you to focus on more important holiday matters.

## Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

### Post-deployment brain tests

Military personnel who served in Iraq or Afghanistan should have been given a post-deployment test specific to Traumatic Brain Injury, in addition to the standard post-deployment health assessments.

In 2008, Congress mandated that all military personnel be given tests of brain function before and after being deployed. Initial tests would set a baseline. The "after" tests would show differences and discrepancies, if any, and anyone needing care for TBI would get it.

National Public Radio, in conjunction with ProPublica, conducted an investigation into how all that testing-plus-treatment was working out for veterans.

What NPR and ProPublica discovered was that while most military personnel (millions) were given the tests pre-deployment, a scant few got the tests later – when it would matter the most.

The test, called Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metric, either was or wasn't designed to reveal TBI, depending on whom you ask. (But, if the media stories are correct, no other test was considered because the Army itself developed the

program.)

Some medical types thought that any test was better than none, especially if the "after" test was done quickly. Others wanted to wait until the "right" test came along, and the "after" test results were ignored.

The Army wants a good test, of course, so it wants to compare others that are available – which will take years.

Meanwhile, how many cases of mild TBI won't be diagnosed?

To read the long NPR story go to: [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) and put "Military's Brain-Testing Program a Debacle" in the search box. Follow the links in the article to the companion piece on ProPublica, "Brain Wars."

For another version of this story, go online to Stars and Stripes at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com) and put "Testing program fails soldiers" in the search box.

*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](mailto:columnreply@gmail.com). (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.*

## Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

### Every elected office is important

Hola, mi gente. Recently, the El Paso daily newspaper contained comments by an office holder who announced for a different office. His comments basically characterized the office of county commissioner as a lesser office than that of a state representative.

In addition, in the body of the news story, the journalist made no attempt to clarify from the elected official why the county office was inferior to the state office. That should have been the first thing the journalist did before asking me for my opinion.

While the state office attends to the laws of the entire state, it does not have the same authority in the county as does the commissioners' court. Even more so, the state legislature only meets formally every two years and then for only 140 days unless the governor calls a special session.

The office that I have held for nine years does have immediate access to the state agencies. My staff and I have connected constituents directly with state personnel to resolve many issues.

However, the real authority to get important things done lies in the county office. This is especially true with the areas outside of municipalities. Most of the requests for assistance to my office have come from residents living in the unincorporated areas, probably because there is no local municipal government and the failure of the county government to respond to their requests for help.

Going forward with the same mission as we have had

as a state office, my staff and I sincerely believe that we can do more good through the county office.

The county, as you well know, is a taxing entity. Property taxes for the county and hospital district are set by the commissioners' court. There are only four commissioners as opposed to 150 house members. It is much easier to affect the outcome of a budget as a commissioner than it is for a state representative. Actually, just 10 members appointed by the speaker and Lt. governor decide the final budget in the house. That makes an individual member that much more separated from the budget process.

A county commissioner has a direct line to county departments that impact the lives of our constituents. The Public Works Department touches the lives of so many in the unincorporated areas by assisting property owners in obtaining electricity and of course roads management. Other departments determine how the senior centers are maintained. These are two very important areas that constituents have reached out to my office for assistance.

As you can see, there is nothing subordinate in holding a county office.

Either office is what the office holder makes of it. My view of the office of county commissioner sees the office as a better tool to improve the lives of those who live outside of El Paso proper.

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

## View from here By Margot Dorfman

### Big business tax holidays are bad for small business, bad for America

If small business owners decided to stop paying our fair share of taxes, we'd be sent to jail. Big business tax dodgers want Congress to reward them with a tax holiday.

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes legislation in Congress that would reward U.S. multinational corporations with massive, unwarranted tax discounts to bring back hundreds of billions in U.S. profits they shifted offshore to avoid paying taxes in the first place.

So called "Repatriation Tax Holidays" are nothing more than unfair, anti-American giveaways to big businesses that have lobbying and political donor clout in Washington, D.C.

Rewarding big business for anti-American and anti-competitive behavior, which undermines small business, is not the way to lead America back to prosperity and economic leadership. And it's sure not the way to create American jobs. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, between 1999 and 2008, U.S. multinational corporations reduced their domestic employment by 1.9 million jobs; they increased their employment overseas by 2.4 million jobs.

Small businesses care about America, our communities and our families. We care that our government has the funds to keep our roads and transportation working, educators preparing our next generation, and resources to defend our country. We create most of America's new jobs.

We don't have millions to spend on lobbyists for the purpose of securing undue and unwarranted favoritism. It is time to end, not extend, the double standard for big businesses, which employ thousands of

lobbyists, accountants and attorneys for the purpose of not paying their fair share of U.S. taxes.

To make matters worse, many of these big businesses are profiting from big federal government contracts – contracts paid for by taxpayers. Big businesses receive unfair cost advantages that make it harder for small businesses to compete and win federal contracts. And they systematically rob the United States of tax dollars by shifting their U.S. profits offshore through tax havens and other anti-American tax dodging.

We should not reward this behavior. We should stop it.

Studies have shown that a similar supposedly "one time" 2004 repatriation tax break did not achieve positive results. It did not produce promised U.S. jobs or increased investments in research and development, or reduce our deficit. Instead, big firms paid out more dividends and engaged in stock buy-backs, increased their executive compensation and increased their stockpile of money offshore.

Rather than helping America, another big-business tax holiday will continue to undermine America's economy and reinforce the offshoring and anti-American tax strategies employed by big multinational firms. The congressional Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that the tax breaks under consideration would cost the U.S. Treasury nearly \$80 billion over ten years.

Big business tax-dodging schemes are grossly unfair to America's Main Street businesses. We've seen the shrinking small business share of business receipts over the last decade. A report published by the U.S. Small Business Administration

Office of Advocacy, Development in Women-owned Businesses, found that between 1997 and 2007, publicly-held firms (companies whose stock is publicly traded), which represent only 3 percent of all firms in the U.S., dramatically grew their percent of total business receipts from 55 percent to 64 percent. During this same period, private firms lost a wrenching 9 percent market share.

That was before the economic meltdown, which devastated small business. The continued growth of big business squeezing out revenues-based market share growth has at its roots the many and growing advantages big businesses secure through Congressional influence every year.

Tax breaks, tax havens, tax holidays, bailouts and all the other unwarranted privileges afforded big business must stop. America can't afford to keep treating Main Street businesses like second-class citizens.

It's time to restore American values, including holding big business accountable for paying their fair share of taxes to support our domestic economy and infrastructure.

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce demands that Congress stand up for Main Street American businesses who must compete in a marketplace that is already skewed against us. Our lawmakers should reject a new tax giveaway for big business. They should tell America's big businesses to stop their tax dodging through offshore tax havens – and just bring the money home!

*Margot Dorfman is CEO of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce™. © American Forum. 12/11.*

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

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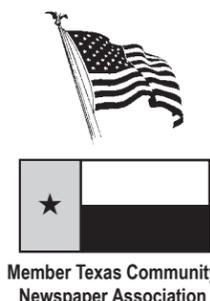
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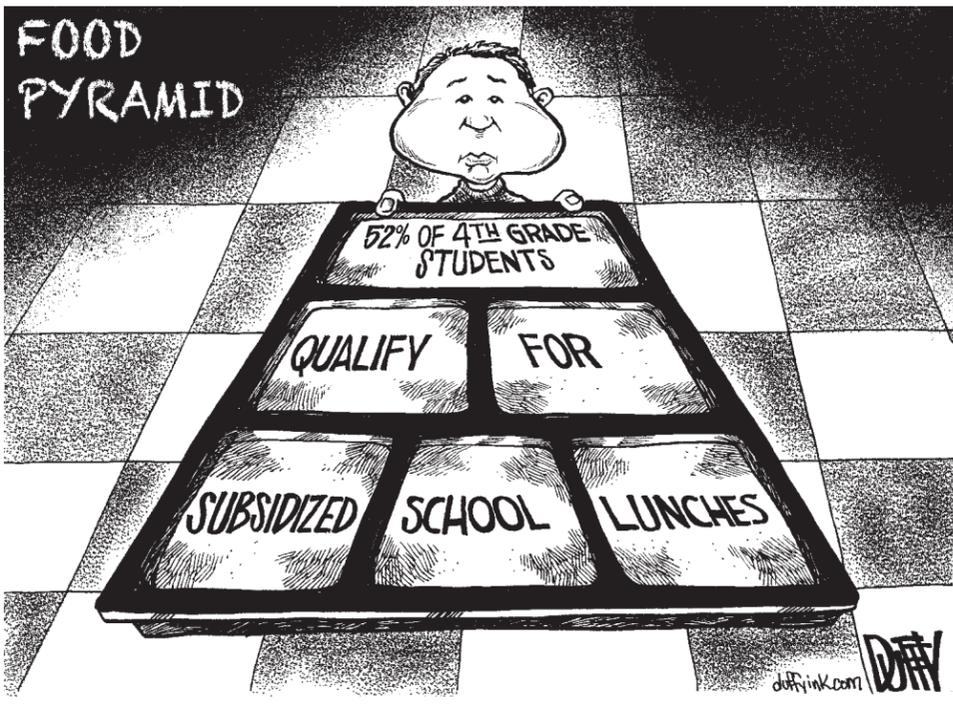
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– Photo by Maria Benavidas

PLAY ON – Members of the Anthony High School Band provided music for Vinton's Christmas in the Village celebration.



SOON TO OCCUPY A FOOTNOTE IN HISTORY

### Vinton hosts 6th annual Christmas celebration

By Rachel Alvarez  
Special to the Courier

VINTON – The 6th Annual Christmas in the Village was held on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Vinton Municipal Park. More than 200 children received Christmas stockings filled with toys, games and candy. “This event is a real joy for many of the families in our city and it’s amazingly satisfying to see the joy on all the children’s faces, said Mayor Madeleine Praino, “It’s an event that is very important to our community this time of year.”

The event, hosted by the Village of Vinton, kept the many families busy throughout the day while the children waited for Santa’s arrival. All the activities, stockings and prizes were free for the children thanks to generous donations from local businesses. Activities for the children included hayrides, a petting zoo from Emiliano Zapata Charro’s, face painting, ornament decorating and hot chocolate with buñuelos.

The Anthony High School Band, Bill

Childress Elementary Choir and the children in the Mother/Daughter, Father/Son program entertained families throughout the day. In between groups music was provided by L&L from Canutillo and Santa’s arrival was provided by the West Valley Fire Department.

The Keep Vinton Beautiful volunteers were on hand to man the various activities, along with volunteers from ArcelorMittal Vinton, who often work together throughout the year on a variety of events and activities for the community. “We are extremely grateful for all the volunteers and businesses who have come out annually to support the city and its staff for this event,” stated Jessica Garza, Village Secretary. “Our staff takes on the additional responsibility to put this event together and make it better each year.”

Sponsor of this year’s event were: ArcelorMittal Vinton, El Paso Electric Company, Keep Vinton Beautiful, W. Silver, Parkhill Smith & Cooper, Valley By-Products, El Paso Disposal and Keithly & English, LLC.



One of Forrest Kirkland’s watercolors of Hueco Tanks Rock Art (a pictograph).

### Rock art

From Page 1

in rock art was generated after a visit to the petroglyphs (ancient images painted on stone) near Paint Rock, Texas, in 1933. Over the next eight years he copied rock art at more than 80 sites across Texas, including Hueco Tanks.

Kirkland was a founder of the Dallas Archeological Society and a fellow of the Texas Academy of Science. Kirkland died of heart failure in 1942. Many of his watercolors were reproduced in the book *The Rock Art of Texas Indians*.

Today many of the Hueco Tanks images Kirkland rendered in watercolor have faded or disappeared while others in sheltered locations are still visible. The rocks and shelters of Hueco Tanks hold one of the most remarkable collections of pictographs in North America. Much of the art of Hueco Tanks is distinctive for its diminutive size, variety of styles, and—in many cases—almost secretive locations. Researchers estimate that there may be as many as 5,000 painted symbols on the rocks.

For more information, call 915-755-4332, send email to [guidamr@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:guidamr@elpasotexas.gov), or visit the archeology museum’s website at [www.elpasotexas.gov/arch\\_museum/](http://www.elpasotexas.gov/arch_museum/).

**Briefs**

From Page 1

whether e-cigarettes are safe for their intended use or what type or concentrations of potentially harmful chemicals or what dose of nicotine they are inhaling when they use these products. The FDA has analyzed a small sample of electronic cigarettes. The FDA found diethylene glycol – a chemical found in antifreeze that is toxic to humans. Several other samples the FDA analyzed detected carcinogens, including nitrosamines.

– Victor Parra

**Consumer alert**

A malicious new spam email claiming to originate from the Council of Better Business Bureaus has recently hit inboxes across Texas. The unsolicited email message, which may include the subject line, “Complaint from your customers,” intentionally creates a false appearance of legitimacy because the return email address is riskmanager@bbb.org. The end of the spam message also deceptively includes the Council of Better Business Bureaus’ address, which is intended to

confer legitimacy by associating the email with the national office of the Better Business Bureau system. According to the Council, the return email address is not actually used by the BBB. The Council warned that the email message contains a malicious link to a non-BBB website. Recipients should not respond to the sender or click on any Web links that may appear within the message. Activating Web links that appear in unexpected emails may direct users to fraudulent websites or allow identity thieves to capture users’ sensitive personal information. Texans can protect their email addresses from spammers by working with their Internet service providers to install free filters, blocks and other junk mail management services. All computer users should also familiarize themselves with a website’s privacy policy before providing their email addresses. Most legitimate vendors allow users to prevent the company from sharing their information with unauthorized third parties.

– Greg Abbott

**Crime Stoppers**

An eastside neighborhood becomes the victim of an extreme case of criminal mischief when the

neighbors discover that the tires on their vehicles had been slashed, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 25 and 5:48 a.m. on Saturday, November 26, 2011, tires were slashed on approximately twenty-five vehicles in the blocks of Sal Berroteran, David Forti, Two Towers, and Stone Castle. The damages are estimated to be in the thousands of dollars, and an entire neighborhood was victimized as their vehicles were all disabled and unable to move. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department’s Pebble Hills Regional Command Center are asking for the public’s help in identifying and locating the persons responsible for this crime spree. If you have any information at all about the identity of the suspect or suspects in this case, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward.

– James Klaes

**Wanted**

Ruben Christopher Ramirez, 17, and Albert Alvarez, 19 are

this week’s Manhunt Monday targets. Ramirez is 5’4” tall and weighs 130 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. Alvarez is 5’5” tall and weighs 160 pounds. He has brown hair and

**Ruben Ramirez**

eyes. Both have tattoos. Most noticeable is the teardrops tattoo by Alvarez’ right eye. Alvarez is also affiliated with the Latin Kings gang. On Nov. 28, 2011 at approximately 10:50 p.m., a Sheriff’s Deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a Silver Ford Taurus for a moving violation in East El Paso County. The driver of the Taurus refused to stop leading Deputies on a vehicle pursuit that stretched for several miles. The vehicle came to an abrupt halt as the occupants exited the vehicle fleeing on foot. Deputies gave chase but lost the subjects in the dark desert area. Further investigation revealed Ramirez and Alvarez were the subjects who occupied the vehicle. Deputies located several items inside the vehicle that may be linked to recent burglaries in the area. Warrants of arrest have been issued for the apprehension of Ramirez who is also wanted on a burglary warrant from the City of El Paso (EPPD) and Alvarez who is also wanted by EPPD on an unrelated assault and weapons charge. Both Ramirez and Alvarez know they are wanted and are believed to remain in the area hiding with friends or family. Please contact Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) if you have any information on the whereabouts of Ramirez or Alvarez. Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of the Ramirez or Alvarez.

**Albert Alvarez**

– Deputy Jesse Tovar

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

**STRANGE BUT TRUE**  
By Samantha Weaver

• It was American inventor and businessman Thomas Alva Edison who made the following sage observation: “Opportunity is missed by most people because it comes dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

• If you’re planning a trip to Peru to ring in the new year, you might want to bring along some yellow underwear. In that country it’s considered lucky to wear it on the first day of the new year.

• Another story to add to the file on clueless criminals: In 2010, two men in Portland, Ore., went to a supermarket and started removing price tags from items and filling their backpacks with the loot. However, they didn’t even make it out of the store with their ill-gotten gains. It seems that the would-be crooks decided to do their shoplifting during a “Shop With a Cop” promotion, and there were 60 police officers already in the store – in uniform.

• You may be surprised to learn that the Statue of Liberty is not located in New York. While it is on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, it’s technically within the territorial waters of Jersey City, N.J.

• If you’re going to be traveling to California anytime soon, you might want to keep this in mind: In that state, shooting game from a moving vehicle is illegal – unless the animal you’re aiming for is a whale.

• A baseball will travel farther on a hot day than on a cold one.

• The oldest bakery yet uncovered was found by archaeologists digging in the Egyptian city of Giza in 2002. They say that the baking trays, bread molds and ovens there date back to 2500 B.C., right around the time the pyramids were being built.

Thought for the Day: “Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn’t.”  
– Mark Twain

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ERATO OJAI STALE TOAD  
DETER SIFT HONED ERMA

**CryptoQuip Answer**

If I sneezed a lot but had no influenza, I guess it might be much achoo about nothing.

**Math:**  
2 + 7 ÷ 3 = 3  
x - x =  
5 - 4 × 8 = 8  
+ × ÷  
1 × 5 + 6 = 11  
11 15 4

# San Elizario seniors surprised with UTEP scholarships

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – As San Elizario High School seniors prepare for the start of their final semester before graduation, many of them are already looking ahead to finalizing their college plans. On December 7, the University of Texas at El Paso gave six seniors a little extra help in making their college dreams a reality by surprising them with scholarships.

Students Melanie Castillo, Viviana Gonzalez, Christa Luna, Kassandra Martinez, Valerie Vaquera and Belen Vargas walked into the campus library that Wednesday morning completely unaware that they were about to be presented with awards from the UTEP Scholars Excellence Program in front of their families and campus staff and administration. Karina Canaba, a UTEP scholarship advisor, worked with the counselors Jesse Cobos, Paula Hernandez and Laura Mercado in planning a special ceremony for the scholarship recipients. The UTEP Office of Scholarships began staging the award presentations at area high



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**POSSIBILITIES** – From left, Melanie Castillo, Christa Luna, Belen Vargas, Valerie Vaquera, Kassandra Martinez, and Viviana Gonzalez were all awarded scholarships to UTEP at a surprise ceremony in front of family and friends. T-shirts were included in the package.

schools last year.

“It is a nice event to hold to surprise the students with the scholarships

and to have their parents present,” Canaba said.

The UTEP Scholars Excellence

Program has four levels of Academic Scholarship with an annual award of \$1,500. Each scholarship has different criteria and all are renewable for three years. Students will have another opportunity to earn UTEP scholarships in the spring and must submit all application documentation before March 1.

# CHS seniors earn UTEP scholarships

By Kim Guzman  
Special to the Courier



– Photos courtesy Canutillo ISD

Krystal Duran with parents John and Isela Duran.

CANUTILLO – Two Canutillo High School (CHS) seniors, Krystal Duran and Melissa Ibarra, were awarded presidential scholarships totaling \$28,000 from the University of Texas at El Paso. The girls received their surprise awards during a reception held in the CHS GO Center today.

Duran and Ibarra were chosen from a field of 4,500 applicants for the awards. To qualify for a UTEP Presidential Scholarship, students needed to be in the top 3 percent of their class, hold a 96 GPA, achieve at least a 1220 on the SAT or a 27 on the ACT. In addition, the Presidential Excellence Scholarship also requires exceptional leadership abilities and achievements.

Paulina Alvarado, from the Scholarships office at UTEP, presented Ibarra with a \$3,000 per year award for the Presidential Scholarship, which is a total award of \$12,000. Duran was awarded a \$4,000 per year Presidential Excellence Scholarship, which is a total award of \$16,000.

“I am very proud of the accomplishments of these two students. I would like all our CHS students to understand that the hard work they put into their academics will pay off. Krystal and Melissa had to earn these scholarships; they were not just given to them. These students are just a couple of the many outstanding students on our campus and I congratulate them for their achievements,” said Jim Fry, CHS Principal.



Melissa Ibarra with parents Veronica and Jose Luis Ibarra.

**The West Texas County Courier is taking a two week break. Next issue: January 5, 2012.**



*Happy Holidays*

The Christmas and New Year Holiday is a time of love, giving and sharing. Please remember to stay safe.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

**Javier GARCIA**  
FOR  
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 6



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# Heisman committee picks a deserving player for trophy

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

After all these years of watching the Heisman Trophy go to players on an annual basis, you would probably think I would be tired of the whole thing and that I had become kind of numb to the event.

And you'd be right.

Over the last 10 years or so I've seen so many winners become busts in the NFL. Or I've seen the trophy go to someone I felt was undeserving of it.

But this year I began to take a second look at the whole process.

There's no doubt that the pomp and circumstance connected to the announcement has taken on a kind of P.T. Barnum feel.

And instead of the trophy going to the guy who really deserves it, it has usually gone to the most popular player or to simply the best player who happens to play on the best team.

So I was intrigued on who would get the trophy this season.

There's no doubt that there were many deserving players. And let's be honest, with Andrew Luck having a very good season, but not an outstanding year, the trophy was up for grabs.

I didn't watch the show live. I was in the middle of an unsuccessful search for a certain type of Christmas light at the time.

Any way, the first chance I got, I got on my computer to see whether the committee had the guts to chose the most deserving player – Baylor's quarterback Robert Griffin III.

To my amazement, they did.

And that restored my faith in the semi-important trophy, which carries far less weight

than it thinks it does.

But it was still nice to see that they went with the most exciting player in the college game. And Griffin isn't even playing in a BCS game this season.

My hat goes off to the voters who had the integrity to pick someone who wasn't even in the Heisman conversation at the beginning of the season.

The fact that we have to sit through another unwatchable game between Alabama and LSU in the fictitious championship, was made a little bit more palatable by the choice for the Heisman.

It gives me a little faith that the supposedly smart people running college football can get the playoff system right some day.

Not in my lifetime, of course.

But some day.

## Braun busted

Just when you thought it was safe to watch a Major League Baseball game without players who were artificially gifted with illegal chemicals, comes Ryan Braun.

The American League MVP recently failed a test for Performance Enhancing Drugs.

Who the heck saw that coming?

In a stunning turn of events, Braun, one of the presumed good guys of baseball, is suddenly lumped in with the likes of Barry Bonds, Mark McGuire, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa, Manny Ramirez, Alex Rodriguez and all the other baseball cheaters.

The 28-year-old Braun, who plays for the Milwaukee Brewers, could receive a 50-game suspension next season but is appealing the test results.

Braun has said that the results are wrong.

Gee, except for Andy Pettitte, every player

ever accused of steroids and any other Human Growth Hormone or PED, cried their innocence.

And no player has ever had his appeal turn around a bad test result. And odds are this one won't be overturned either.

This brings another thought to mind. If the most valuable player of the American League can fail a drug test, who else out there playing professional baseball is performing under the influence?

Didn't Major League Baseball declare to fans across the country that the steroid era was over? When the league talks about PEDs

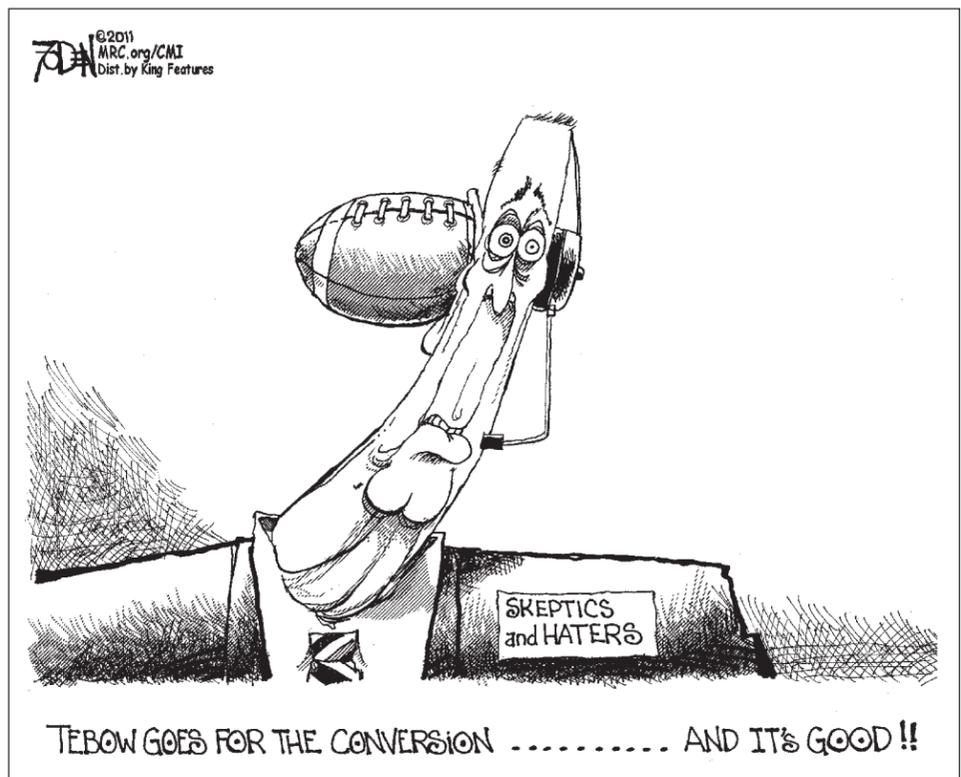
they use words that insinuate the problem is all in the past.

Well, apparently it's still here and the drugs have propelled at least one player right to the top of the league.

Braun's legacy will be tarnished severely by this positive test and that's a shame.

It does make you think about what other players are cheating the system. Especially when the system was supposedly fixed.

But when somebody like the MVP of a professional sports league fails a test, it proves that cheating is still a very real part of professional baseball.



TEBOW GOES FOR THE CONVERSION ..... AND IT'S GOOD !!

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Winter meetings fuel fan frenzy

Is there anything more captivating, anything in sport that offers more sheer excitement than baseball's winter meetings? I think not!

Do you know that the Royals are fishing for a left-handed utility player? Well, the wags down at Dallas (where the meetings were held this year) know! And the fans back in Kansas City could not possibly be more riveted. They are literally queuing up outside the department-store window displays – even when it's snowing – hands

deep in their pockets, watching the TV sets through the glass to catch the latest news headlines. (Because that's how all news is gathered, right Hollywood?)

A quizzical woman passes by, clutching her handbag and adjusting her hatpin.

"Say," she says. "Did the Royals sign Jose Batista yet?"

The man tips the lid of his fedora and pulls the pipe out of his mouth, temporarily averting his gaze from the television sets.

"Say," responds the man. "Not yet – but they may have made a swell offer to Jerry Hairston!"

"Say!" she replies. "That is swell!"

"Say!" he yells back, wild eyed, whipped into that jungle-like frenzy that the winter meetings bring out in all of us. Because whenever a general manager holds a press conference and says, "We're here to try and improve the ball club," it speaks to an ancient, some would say, primal urge to just light fires and dance. And that, of course, is exactly what all of those folks in front of the department store proceed to do (except for the lighting fire part – I mean, come on, let's not go too far

here).

They start off with a little two-step, then they kind of shake their hands in a hand-jive-meets-Michael-Jackson sort of way, before stomping their feet, doing a complete turn before tossing their heads back, throwing their hands in the air, simultaneously dropping to their knees and yelling out: "Bautista!"

This ritual is repeated all over the country. In Tampa Bay, they shoot off cannons usually reserved for the annual Gasparilla pirate festival whenever an agent drops a hint that a player might be interested in signing a long-term deal to play for the Rays. (And don't even ask what they'd do if he's a left-handed

reliever, because, oh boy! Look out! Are those real?)

And who'd have thought that the Yankees are looking to add pitching? And that the Sox are looking for a bat? I mean, these are the sort of things that can be uncovered only at the winter meetings, that wonderous three-day span which is, apparently, the only time baseball executives, managers, agents, Andrei Gromyko and Henry Kissinger can get together in the same room and communicate with one another.

Viva Bautista!

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

## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development

#### Invitation to Bid

The El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development is accepting bids for the following scope of work:

- Install a 30 foot long, 3 foot tall wrought iron rail along the front sidewalk entrance at an existing residential single family house in San Elizario; and

- Dirt fill and xeriscape the front of the house in San Elizario.

Bids will be accepted through Monday, December 19, 2011 by 4:00 p.m. Submit your bid proposal for those two tasks to: El Paso Collaborative, 1359 Lomaland Suite 538, El Paso, Texas 79935. For more information and location of the residence, contact Carol Garcia at 915-590-1210 ex 118.



WTCC: 12-15-11

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# WHERE YOU ARE, THEY ARE!

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# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



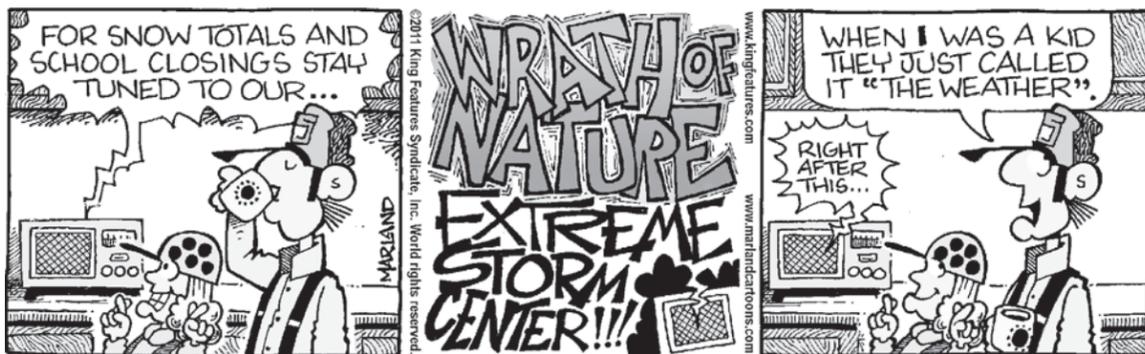
## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



## Your good health By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** I am thoroughly confused. Several months ago, I read of the benefit of wine for women. The conclusion was that it reduced a woman's chances of heart attack and stroke by 30 percent. My husband and I have started to drink one glass of wine a day. Now comes a new report that says just one glass of wine a day increases the chances for breast cancer. Should I be concerned? - M.T.

health and prevention of stroke are not so great that they should induce anyone to change from being a nondrinker to a drinker. The booklet on breast cancer explains this illness in detail. To obtain a copy, write to: Dr. Donohue - No. 1101W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Can. with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

Welcome to the army of nutrition confusion. What's good one day might be life-threatening the next. I don't rely on one report. I stick to what the majority says. If the majority changes its mind, then I change.

Wine and other alcoholic drinks lower the incidence of heart disease and, apparently, strokes. That's the current majority thinking. Moderate drinkers of alcohol - wine in particular - have a lower overall mortality rate than do alcohol abstainers and heavy drinkers. "Moderate" drinking is one glass of wine, one 12-ounce can of beer or 1.5 ounces of whiskey for women; it's two for men.

The role of wine (or alcohol) in promoting breast cancer is less clear. Analysis of 40 studies shows an increase in breast cancer for women downing three or more drinks a day. The same studies suggest that even one or two daily drinks might pose a slight danger.

Other studies show an increase in lobular breast cancer with one drink a day, but no increase in ductal breast cancer. Ductal cancer is the most common kind of breast cancer.

I am positive that equally confusing information will be forthcoming.

The best advice I have read is this: If a woman truly savors drinking wine, one glass a day is relatively safe in regard to breast cancer. The benefits of heart

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** How much stress does sex put on the heart? I don't have a heart problem. I know two fellow workers, who, according to scuttlebutt, died while having sex. They were about my age. - R.L.

Scuttlebutt isn't a reliable source of information.

Blood pressure and heart rate rise during sexual relations, but not so much as to be a source of concern for most men and women, even those who have had a heart attack. The energy expenditure is approximately the same as climbing two flights of stairs. That is, walking, not running, up those flights.

Most people who have had a heart attack can resume an active sex life within three to six weeks of having the attack. The exact amount of time has to be determined by the person's physician, who takes into account the magnitude of the heart attack and how well the heart is currently performing.

*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

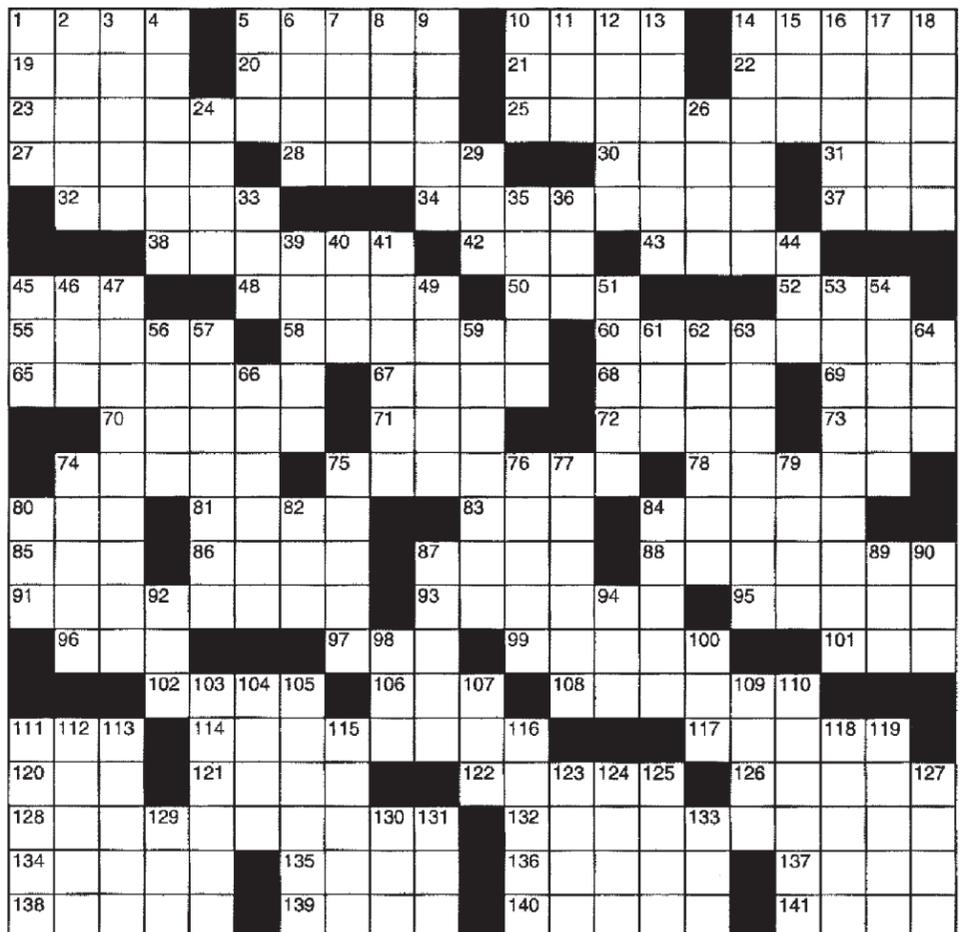
### COOL CHARACTERS ACROSS

- 1 Composer Schiffrin
- 5 Nom de crime?
- 10 Theatrical Joseph
- 14 Exclude
- 19 Way off base?
- 20 Mete out the minestrone
- 21 "God's Little ..." (58 film)
- 22 Lose one's tail?
- 23 English talk-show host
- 25 "The Alamo" actor
- 27 Kitchen utensil
- 28 Arboreal animal
- 30 Jai \_
- 31 Trombonist
- Winding
- 32 Took a shot at
- 34 Salve
- 37 Chinese principle
- 38 Fit for farming
- 42 "Ligeia" author
- 43 Conductor Jeffrey
- 45 Thurman of "Final Analysis"
- 48 Southern staple
- 50 PC key
- 52 Make wine divine
- 55 Drives and drives?
- 58 '87 Warren Beatty film
- 60 Word game
- 65 Ol' Blue Eyes' birthplace
- 67 Church area
- 68 Apple variety
- 69 Mauna \_
- 70 Coeur d'\_, ID
- 71 Skater Midori
- 72 Actress Nell
- 73 "The King and I" refrain
- 74 Subordinate to
- 75 "It Was a Good Day" rapper
- 78 Pitthy
- 80 Hazel's boss
- 81 Add color
- 83 Quiet \_ mouse
- 84 Jeweler's weight
- 85 Novelist Kobo
- 86 " \_ homo"
- 87 Neighbor of Neb.
- 88 Author France
- 91 Film site
- 93 Forceful
- 95 Neiman or Anderson
- 101 Curly poker?
- 102 Singer Wooley
- 106 TV's "My \_ Dads"
- 108 Swift savages
- 111 \_ Cob, CT
- 114 Strauss opera
- 117 Japanese porcelain
- 120 Recite a soliloquy
- 121 Pants
- 122 Addis \_
- 126 Mythical weeper
- 128 "Poetry Man" singer
- 132 "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" star
- 134 A Muse
- 135 California resort
- 136 Become boring
- 137 Warty one
- 138 Talk out of
- 139 Fluff the flour
- 140 Used a whetstone
- 141 Humorist
- Bombeck

### DOWN

- 1 The Four \_
- 2 Expect
- 3 Sweetheart
- 4 "Twelfth Night" role
- 5 Landon or Kjellin
- 6 Ulrich of Metallica
- 7 Matinee \_
- 8 As well
- 9 Brief brawl
- 10 Part of PST
- 11 Cologne cry
- 12 Paris' pop
- 13 Small shot
- 14 One of the Clintons
- 15 Yalie
- 16 Like some sweaters
- 17 Dwight's
- 18 Varnish ingredient
- 24 Mailer's "The \_ Park"
- 26 Natalie's sister
- 29 With-it
- 33 Mr. Hammarskjold
- 35 \_ Dame
- 36 It's in the bag
- 39 Feta marinade
- 40 Fleur-de- \_
- 41 Racial
- 44 Jug part
- 45 "Gross!"
- 46 Bovine bellow
- 47 "Wozzeck" composer
- 49 Chihuahua or Tabasco
- 51 Freighter
- 53 "My Little Margie" star
- 54 Ham up "Hamlet"
- 56 Pleat
- 57 Singer Davis
- 59 Guacamole base
- 61 This instant
- 62 "The Kitchen God's Wife" author
- 63 Common
- 64 Cul-de- \_
- 66 Physicist Fermi
- 74 Metropolitan
- 75 Stuff
- 76 Grammarian's concern
- 77 High-rise building?
- 79 Be important
- 80 Irate
- 82 Member of the mil.
- 84 Snag
- 87 Crab's expression
- 89 Card game
- 90 Spud bud
- 92 Ring stats
- 94 Long or Peebles
- 98 Hwy.
- 100 \_ polloi
- 103 Port
- 104 New York county
- 105 Met men
- 107 Slangy suffix
- 109 Word form for "all"
- 110 Sault \_ Marie, MI
- 111 Like Batman
- 112 Paint pigment
- 113 Summer ermine
- 115 Dog star
- 116 Humiliate
- 118 Turbine part
- 119 Steel support
- 123 Palo \_ , CA
- 124 Comic Orson
- 125 Ferris-wheel feature
- 127 The Valkyries' mom
- 129 When Satie sweltered
- 130 Klutz
- 131 Humor
- 133 Tie the knot

Answer Page 4



**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore In 1956, the town of Wink got only 1.76" of rain.



- Photo courtesy Clint ISD

**AND THEY'RE OFF** - Chilly, wet weather did not deter an 8 a.m. start for the 2nd Annual Clint ISD Super Scholars 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk. The participants made about \$17,000 for scholarships for the Clint district.

## Runners and walkers race for scholarships

By Andrew Reynoso  
Special to the Courier

**HORIZON** - Runners and walkers raced for scholarships at the 2nd Annual Clint ISD Super Scholars 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk Saturday, December 3. Participants enjoyed a beautiful, slightly chilly day at Desert Hills Elementary but warmed up with excitement as they contributed to a good cause.

"The cost of tuition at a four-year university is skyrocketing and nearly putting higher education out of reach for many students and their families in our District," Superintendent

Dr. Edward Gabaldon encouraged participants. "Thanks to you and our generous sponsors, we are helping some of those deserving students attain a college degree."

As part of the Clint ISD College Readiness Initiative, the District established the Superintendent's Scholarship Fund. All money raised or donated from the Super Scholars 5K Run provides scholarships for graduating seniors in Clint ISD schools. The total scholarship funds raised from the event this year were about \$17,000, surpassing last year's total of around \$10,000.

Clint ISD would like to give special thanks to sponsors, El Paso

Area Teachers Federal Credit Union, SureScore, participants, the Town of Horizon City, and the many volunteers for your generous donations, support and participation in the 2011 Super Scholars 5K Run & Walk.

### 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.

	+		÷		3
×		-		×	
	-		×		8
+		×		÷	
	×		+		11
11		15		4	

**DIFFICULTY: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 7 8

Answer Page 4

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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## 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: B equals S

ZO Z BDCCSCX M YTR IAR LMX

DT ZDOYACDSM, Z WACBB ZR

HZWLR IC HAUL MULTT MITAR

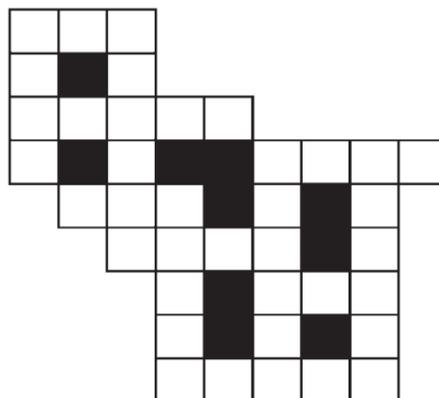
DTRLZDW.

Answer Page 4

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- ELD
- TEWDIG
- ♥ATDEC
- CEAL
- ♥MOCCIS
- OWM
- ♥NOWT
- CHITE
- ♥UMG
- HELGNT
- ♥ODWES
- ♥HMCU



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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## Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

**Q:** Can I apply online for retirement benefits?

**A:** Yes. It's quick and easy. Apply online and save yourself a trip to the office. Once you

submit your online application electronically, in most cases, you're done. There are no forms to sign or documents to send in. If we do need more information to process your application, a representative will contact you. For more information about applying online, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Q:** How does Social Security decide if I am disabled?

**A:** If you are an adult, you must be unable to work for a year or more because of a medical condition or combination of medical impairments. Overall, we use a five-step evaluation process to decide whether you are disabled. The process considers any current work activity you are doing. It also considers your medical condition and how it affects your ability to work. To be found disabled:

- You must be unable to do work you did before you became disabled and we must decide you cannot adjust to other work because of your medical condition; and
- Your disability must last, or be expected to last, for at least one year or to result in death.

Social Security pays only for total disability. We do not pay benefits for partial or short-term disability. For more information, read our publication Disability Benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html).

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://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.