



NEWSBRIEFS

Health fair

The Word of Life Church, 11675 Pratt Ave. (near Saul Klienfeld Dr. and Pebble Hills Blvd.), is having a Health Fair on Saturday, Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be CHIP info, medical exams by a doctor, info for elderly care, etc. Come and enjoy the entertainment, refreshments and goodies from the vendors. El Paso First is sponsoring the event.

— Carmen Garite

PR meet

The Public Relations Association of the Southwest will have its January monthly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Express Downtown. The session called, "Social Media 101" will feature Chris Lechuga, Public Affairs Specialist for the Office of University Communications at The University of Texas at El Paso, and Chris Babcock, Multi-media Manager for KVIA. The session will consist of a broad overview of social media and provide a step-by-step process for development. "Social media is not an option anymore," said PRSW President Teresa Souza. "It is a must, but the platform is still very new for some entities. Attendees will walk away with more information to engage with their customers." Those interested in attending should RSVP by emailing prsouthwest@yahoo.com by January 16. The cost is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members.

— Patricia Tidwell

Business forum

The Village of Vinton presents its first business forum of the year on January 19, 2012. The forum will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the West Valley Fire Station, 510 E. Vinton Road. Local businesses, as well as those from the surrounding area, and persons thinking about starting their own business, are invited to participate in this networking opportunity. Federal and state agencies will be present to provide information and assistance regarding cost reduction programs, changes in federal wage laws and business development. CASEEM Staffing Solutions and the Doubletree are sponsoring the forum. Seating is limited; reservations will be accepted through January 13. For more information or to make reservations, call 886-5104.

— Jessica Garza

Disaster planning

Natural disasters exacted a significant financial toll on the United States in 2011. The Insurance Information Institute reports that insured losses from a series of disasters – which included devastating

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Teacher bikes 890 miles to motivate students



— Photo courtesy Hector Acosta

LONG JOURNEY – Hector Acosta gives a fist pump during his 890-mile bike ride. Acosta pedaled across the desert southwest to encourage students to pass state mandated exams.

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

Hector Acosta takes promises seriously.

So when the Canutillo High School math teacher told his students that for every pledge he would receive from them to pass either the TAKS or STAAR tests he would ride his bicycle one kilometer between El Paso and Santa Monica, Calif., he meant it.

The pledges trickled in right before the winter break. In the end well over 1,000 students said they would pass the state standardized tests just to see Acosta bike across the Southwest.

Keeping true to his word, Acosta started peddling at Canutillo Middle School on Dec. 26. Nine days later, on Jan. 3, he arrived at the Santa Monica Pier.

"I am tired... very tired," said Acosta, who rode his vintage bicycle a total of 890 miles. "But I made the promise to do this and I had the support of my kids behind me all the way. I couldn't fail."

Acosta's physical feat is impressive, but he said his quest to bike Interstate 10 to his hometown of Santa Monica was fueled completely by his desire to see the students at Canutillo High pass either the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) or the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

He said he would be talking to the students who signed a pledge, to make sure they're

See ACOSTA, Page 4



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

Motorcycle aficionados in the West Texas, Southern New Mexico region are encouraged to showcase their unique motorcycles and artifacts during the upcoming motorcycle exhibition. Contact the El Paso Museum of History for more information.

Motorcycles and museum join for fun exhibit

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

El Paso Museum of History officials announced recently that they are organizing an exhibit of one of West Texas' favorite forms of transportation, the motorcycle. And, they are inviting the public to join the fun.

Museum officials stated that plans for a Motorcycle Exhibition would be held beginning in April and remain on display through August at the Museum of History exhibit hall, 510 N. Santa Fe.

"This enthusiastic project will reach out to all motorcycle aficionados in the West Texas, New Mexico region and beyond who would like to loan unique motorcycles and artifacts to the museum for the six-month

exhibition," stated museum representative Jim Murphy.

"The El Paso Museum of History is dedicating nearly 5,000 sq. ft. of gallery space for an outstanding representation of motorcycles and memorabilia, hoping to gather the finest exhibition of motorcycles this region has ever seen," Murphy added.

For more information about the motorcycle exhibit, call 915-351-3588.

Knowledge is knowing a fact. Wisdom is knowing what to do with that fact.

— Quips & Quotes

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Arlington report

In early December, when the Wreaths Across America program put wreaths on graves at Arlington National Cemetery, I flashed back to the ongoing problem of the graves errors at the cemetery: unmarked graves, headstones with no remains, broken urns with scattered remains, graves with more than one person buried in them. The problems, it was thought at the time, could involve upward of 6,000 graves.

Congress demanded that the Army "provide an accounting" of all the gravesites at Arlington. The recently completed report counted (three times) 259,978 gravesites and took digital photos to compare to 510,000 paper records. Of those, 195,748 graves had no discrepancies. But that left 64,230 with errors to be resolved. That's fully one-quarter of the gravesites.

Supposedly the "errors" involve misspelling of names and other inconsistencies. How then does that jibe with discovering multiple remains in one grave last year, or the 117 graves with no marker whatsoever, or the 94 markers with no remains?

The report was padded with

miscellanea. For example, one narrative went on for three pages citing the problems with the spelling of a Civil War-era wife's name.

But it's what happens with those other 64,329 unresolved cases that we want to know about. What about those broken, dumped and scattered urns? And those headstones found dumped in a stream in Section 28 last year – will they be returned to the proper gravesite?

I'm lucky. Each year, in conjunction with the Wreaths Across America program, a friend visits my parents' graves at Arlington. (Yes, they both served.) I get photos back and see instantly that the grave marker is still in good condition – and that it's still there. I cannot fathom the pain some relatives must feel when they learn that their loved ones aren't buried where they believed they were.

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) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

View from here By Tim Morstad

Walking often a battle of obstacles in Texas

Walking is good for the heart, but in many Texas communities, it can be hazardous to your health and safety.

As many of us make New Year's resolutions to shed excess holiday pounds and get healthier, we often find the deck stacked against us even as we take our first step... right in our own neighborhoods. That's too bad because walking is a wonderful form of exercise. In fact, some studies suggest walking 10,000 steps per day can yield considerable health and weight reduction benefits.

The fact remains that while many of us truly enjoy walking, most of our communities simply aren't "walker friendly." They were built instead for motorists, resulting in unsafe intersections, streets without sidewalks, and a lack of benches for resting or waiting for public transportation. These and other factors prevent many of us from walking regularly and using this easy, cheap, physically and environmentally healthy mode of transportation.

Unfortunately, Texas' largest population centers fall in the "worst offender" category for pedestrian safety. A recent Transportation for America study identified Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin and San Antonio among the 25 most dangerous places for pedestrians in the country. According to the report, more than 4,200 pedestrians were killed in Texas over the past decade, including more than 500 over age 65.

This is why AARP is engaging volunteers in a statewide effort to make more transportation options available – such as bus and rail service – and to design safer roadways and sidewalks. The initiative is supported by a coalition including businesses, cycling enthusiasts and aging groups. The premise behind the effort is simple: Streets are not just for drivers but for everyone who uses them.

The ultimate goal is to pass a "Complete Streets" law in Texas that encourages transportation planners and decision makers to think in terms of access and safety when planning communities or renovating streets. This forward-thinking legislation wouldn't cost the state additional money. It merely requires cities and counties to plan with the needs of motorists, public transit users, cyclists and pedestrians in mind.

Last year, the measure was adopted by committees of both House and Senate but not by the full Texas Legislature. The coalition will try again when the Legislature convenes in 2013. In the meantime, we'll continue to educate Texans about the problem and work with cities and towns on resolutions supporting such goals.

AARP and partner organizations are talking to local officials and doing pedestrian safety audits in places like Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, El Paso, Austin and San Angelo. Older Texans are among those who depend most on a variety of transportation options

and, ironically, some of the worst intersections are in right in front of senior centers.

The solutions are often simple, and they can save lives. For example, older pedestrians or people using walkers and wheelchairs could benefit from curb cuts and walk lights that tell them how much time they have to cross the road.

There is no good reason why crossing a street in Texas should turn into a near-death experience. Any one of us can help make things better and safer for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and transit riders across Texas. To learn more, visit www.safestreetstexas.org

Tim Morstad coordinates AARP Texas' mobility initiative.

Write stuff

Editor:

On behalf of the Fabens senior citizens of the Nutrition Program, we wish to thank all of our Fabens merchants who very generously gave donations for our Christmas party. We have numerous merchants and outside people to thank.

As always, there was the Giving Tree that Kit Ryan, family and staff sponsor each year. They never forget our seniors of the Nutrition Program.

Wishing all of you a prosperous new year.

*Elena Slape
Fabens*



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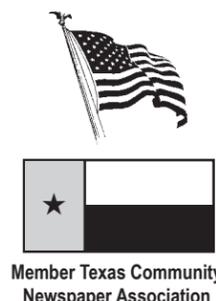
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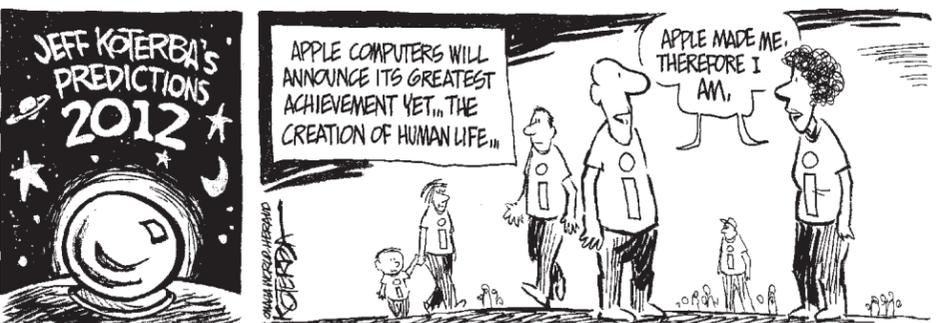




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CLOGGING the STRAIT of HORMUZ



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Redistricting is touchy topic

Hola, mi gente. During the weekly County Commissioners Court meeting, the county attorney's office and the elections office gave the court a briefing about the current status of our elections. Monday the 9th was the day that the Supreme Court was to hear arguments on the proposed interim maps for House, Senate and Congressional districts. In a nutshell, all agreed that the election process today is a mess.

The commissioners pointed out several specific problems with the delay and confusion: candidates don't know what political district to run in; voters don't know the specific date of the election; and voters don't even know where they are going to vote.

There are two reasons for this situation. The first finds its origin in the 2003-2004 fight that we had when Tom Delay came to Texas to push redistricting legislation. The second is more recent: the failure of too many communities, especially where Hispanics are the majority population, to have good voter turnouts.

In 2001, the previous census/redistricting year, the legislature created a bi-partisan map that was approved in both houses with little debate. Certain state leaders were not happy with the maps calling the "incumbent friendly maps." Subsequently, the house and senate maps were re-drawn by the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house, land commissioner, comptroller and the attorney general. This group is referred to as the Legislative Redistricting Board.

The work of the Board resulted in creating a very partisan statewide plan as opposed to the partisan plan. Of course, from this came a lopsided majority. You may recall that Delay was convicted in 2010 of laundering campaign money that helped elect that majority.

Then came the other fiasco with Tom Delay who forcefully pushed that majority to create similar congressional districts. Delay started

to live in Austin, as opposed to tending to Congressional duties. The power of his questionable campaign funds controlled the agenda in the house. When his redistricting plan came to the floor for a vote, the famous quorum busting Democrats went to Ardmore, OK and killed the bill. After three very expensive special sessions, the districts that Delay wanted became law. That is how we arrived at this position.

In 2008, the focus of Texans was electing a new president. The spirited race between Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama motivated voters who hadn't voted regularly. In the general election of November 2008, the voters once again created a balanced house. Unfortunately, it only lasted two years as the absence of voters gave the advantage to the Tea Party movement. With a super majority, the conservative leadership created districts that eventually were unacceptable to the U.S. Department of Justice and to the federal courts.

I think Texas would have been better off if the original bi-partisan redistricting plans had been accepted and put into place. The huge amount of money spent to buy new redistricting maps cost communities like El Paso millions in reduced revenues from the state; perhaps billions. One funding project of over \$50 million in 2003 was removed from El Paso to Midland; the seat of the speaker. More recently, average daily attendance funding to El Paso school districts were stifled at about \$5400 per student as opposed to as much as \$11,000 per student in wealthier communities.

We can't stop corrupt leaders from controlling agendas. But we can deny them the power they need by voting in strength in all elections in the best interest of our community.

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

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Acosta

From Page 1

doing everything in their power to pass whichever test they are slated to take this spring.

"I kept the end of my deal," he said. "I expect them to do the same."

Acosta said he would use the lessons he learned from his bicycle ride to help the students overcome

obstacles between now and the test day.

During his trip, he suffered extreme winter weather, exhaustion and several mechanical malfunctions.

But, Acosta said, with perseverance and the help of family and friends, he was able to overcome all roadblocks and make it all the way to California.

"He's a definite source of inspiration for the students and

the teachers of the district," said Canutillo High Principal Jim Fry. "Mr. Acosta didn't set out to make news or gain notoriety by doing this. He truly wanted to do it just as a tool that would help motivate his kids to do better on these test."

Word of his trip, though, spread quickly through Canutillo, and people were able to track his progress via the Canutillo school district Facebook page. Posts about

Acosta's trip received dozens of comments or reactions just minutes after they were posted.

Fry said the school will work with Acosta to develop strategies and motivational materials aimed not just for students, but also teachers.

"What Mr. Acosta has done is extraordinary," Fry. "But it is also one of the many great things that are happening in Canutillo to help make our students successful."

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• During this election season, it might be good to keep in mind the following sage observation, made beloved humorist Will Rogers: "The American people are generous and will forgive almost any weakness with the exception of stupidity."

• Mountain goats aren't actually goats; they're antelopes.

• Those who study such things say that a mosquito flaps its wings 1,000 times every second.

• If you've ever been to London – or if you've seen a movie that was set there – you might remember the iconic black taxicabs that are ubiquitous in that city; the high roofs set them apart from other vehicles on the streets. The headroom offered did once serve a purpose. When the cars were originally designed, top hats were still de rigeur for a properly dressed gentleman, and the high roofs allowed a man so attired to enter and leave the vehicle without knocking off his hat.

• You might be surprised to learn that some ants can live more than 15 years.

• Yes, there's a name for it. The next time you're opening a bottle of wine, take a moment to consider the spiral part that is inserted into the cork: It's known as a worm.

• Washington is the only U.S. state named for a president.

• Celebrated 19th-century French poet Arthur Rimbaud wrote for only a few short years in his late teens. Despite critical success, he gave up writing when he was 20 years old and spent the rest of his life as a soldier and a merchant.

• In medieval Japan, dentists removed patients' teeth with their bare hands.

Thought for the Day: "Television news is like a lightning flash. It makes a loud noise, lights up everything around it, leaves everything else in darkness and then is suddenly gone."
– Hodding Carter

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Briefs

From Page 1

spring tornadoes in the Midwest, floods in the southeast, wildfires in the southwest, and Hurricane Irene – totaled \$35.9 billion. Small businesses were hit particularly hard as many were forced to close during these disasters, causing economic injury to many that were already struggling. The factors that cause financial losses after a disaster, however, can be offset by having a recovery plan in place. On Tuesday, Jan. 17, Agility Recovery Solutions and the U.S. Small Business Administration will host a free webinar that looks at how natural disasters in 2011 caused business interruptions, with a focus on business continuity lessons learned. Agility President and CEO Bob Boyd will also discuss new trends and technology that affect disaster preparedness. The webinar will also offer practical strategies to protect your company closing its doors for good after a disaster. SBA has partnered with Agility to offer business continuity strategies via its "PrepareMyBusiness" website. Visit www.preparemybusiness.org.

org to access past webinars and get additional preparedness tips. The SBA provides disaster recovery assistance in the form of low-interest loans to homeowners, renters, private nonprofits and businesses of all sizes. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov/disaster. Space is limited. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/180067536>

– Carol Chastang

Crime Stoppers

A woman was buckling her child into his car seat when she was grabbed by a man as another man held a gun on her, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." Approximately 6:20 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011, the 31-year-old mother was at 8115 N. Loop in a Mission Valley parking lot (neighborhood Walmart) when one subject grabbed her from behind. When she pulled away from him, she saw the other subject with a pistol ordering her not to move. The victim began to scream for help and the two subjects fled from the area on foot. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department's Crimes Against Persons unit believe that many people could have witnessed this incident and that someone must have knowledge about the

individuals involved. Surveillance video shows that the subject who grabbed the woman is a Hispanic man in his late teens or early 20s, 5'08" with a slim build, wearing a red hooded sweater, and a black and white bandana. The subject with the gun is described as a Hispanic male in his late teens or early 20s, also with a slim build, and wearing a dark colored sweater with a lighter color hood and blue jeans. He had a black handgun with a white swirl emblem on the back of the slide. If you have any information at all about the identity of the suspects in this case, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward.

– James Klaes

Wanted

Jesus Gallegos, 36, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive is wanted for impersonating a police officer. He also goes by Jesus Najera. He is 5'11" tall, weighs 190 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. Gallegos was accused twice on the night of February 19, 2010 of impersonating a police officer. Around 7:00 p.m. he took \$125

from a man outside a supermarket in central El Paso while wearing an El Paso Police Department



Jesus Gallegos

Badge on a chain around his neck. Later, about 11:00 p.m., Gallegos took \$400 from another man outside a strip club using a detective's badge form the El Paso Police Department. Gallegos was later identified as the assailant and was arrested later that year in September 2010. He bonded out a short time later and has not been seen since. Gallegos is a career criminal with previous arrests for robbery, criminal trespass, assault, theft, and evading arrest. It is believed he remains in the area hiding with friends or relatives. Anyone that has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Gallegos 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 Gallegos.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar



An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that's about to change. • TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data to immediately tell law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who's driving without insurance. • So, if you're not covered, better get insured! • To learn more, visit: www.TexasSure.com

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CryptoQuip Answer

If you thought actress Jane was just incredible, I guess you would be really Fonda her.

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Jacquez, Martinez finish one-two in Anthony HS poetry contest

By Gloria Fogerson
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY – Melissa Jacquez was named champion and Ricardo Martinez finished runner-up in Anthony High School's poetry contest. The event is part of Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest. The competition, presented in partnership with the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure. Beginning at the classroom level, winners advance

to a school-wide competition, then to the statewide competition, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, DC.

On December 16, 2011, students from Anthony High School (AHS) participated in the Poetry Out Loud school contest at AHS Auditorium. They recited works they selected from an anthology of more than 600 classic and contemporary poems. Judges evaluated student performances on criteria including articulation, evidence of understanding, level of difficulty, and accuracy. Teachers introduced poetry recitation in the classroom using materials created by the NEA and the Poetry Foundation, including a standards-based teacher's guide, a website, a 'best performances' DVD, and a CD featuring poetry recitations by well-known actors and writers.

Jacquez will advance to the State contest on Feb. 25, 2012, at the Heinen Theatre in Houston. Each champion at the state level will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC, to compete for the national championship, May 13-15, 2012. The school of the state champion will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry books. Martinez is the alternate for AHS. The other students who competed in the contest were Vince Apodaca, Luis Castro, Cecilia Hinojosa, Noemi Rosales, and Meagan Singh.

Nearly 300,000 students across the country took part in Poetry Out Loud in 2008-2009. To learn more about the Texas Poetry Out Loud contest, contact the Texas Commission on the Arts web-site: <http://www.arts.state.tx.us> under Promoting the Arts or visit the national organization at www.poetryoutloud.org.



– Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

Ricardo Martinez and Melissa Jacquez

VA extends deadline for veterans with undiagnosed illnesses

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced recently that it has put into place new rules that extend the qualification time for Veterans of the Persian Gulf War who suffer from undiagnosed illnesses to qualify for VA benefits.

Under long-standing VA rules, any undiagnosed illnesses used to establish eligibility for VA benefits must become apparent by Dec. 31, 2011. The new change pushes the date back to Dec. 31, 2016.

The recent change in VA regulations affects veterans of the conflict in Southwest Asia. Many have attributed a range of undiagnosed or poorly understood medical problems to their military services. Chemical weapons, environmental hazards and vaccinations are among the possible causes.

At issue is the eligibility of veterans to claim VA disability compensation based upon those undiagnosed illnesses, and the ability of survivors to qualify for VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, commented U.S. Congressman Silvestre Reyes in his recent newsletter.

"Too many of our military veterans have suffered from diseases and ailments that are not easily explained and have suffered even more when they are not able to receive the appropriate benefits," said Congressman Reyes. "This change will make it easier for our veterans to receive the benefits they have earned and deserve."

Veterans or survivors who believe they qualify for these benefits should contact VA at 1-800-827-1000.

Further information about undiagnosed illnesses is available online at:

- <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/>; or
- <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/oeoif/index.asp>

Fire risks increase in winter

By Tiffany Miller
Special to the Courier

PATTERSON, N.Y. – The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), the longest-tenured fire sprinkler advocacy organization in the U.S., reminds families to take time during the winter months to review the dangers of fire with their loved ones. Incidents of fire occur frequently during the winter months, largely due to heating sources in homes.

"With the increased use of fireplaces and home heating systems during the winter months, families need to take the proper precautions to prevent potentially dangerous fire situations," said John Viniello, President of the NFSA. "We believe that if everyone takes a few moments to review fire safety techniques and protocols with

their loved ones, lives will be saved and potential tragedies avoided."

With winter here, the NFSA provides the following fire safety tips:

- Keep a watchful eye on space heaters, and make sure there is at least three feet of clear space around them when in operation. Do not leave a space heater on unattended.
- Keep flammable liquids free from heating sources, and store them in a cool location. Also, keep them separate from other stored items such as paper products and cloth materials.
- Check smoke detectors to ensure they are working properly and have full battery power. It's recommended that you check the batteries in your smoke alarms when it's time to turn the clocks forward or backward.
- Keep an up-to-date list of

emergency fire, police, and medical phone numbers near your telephone. Show every member of your family where this information is kept and teach all children how to call for help in case of an emergency.

• Develop an escape plan with your family from multiple rooms within your home, both upstairs and downstairs. Take time to review the escape plan with your family, including a practice fire drill.

- Consider installing residential

fire sprinklers to protect your family and property. To date, there has never been a multiple loss of life in a structure that had a competently installed and properly-maintained fire sprinkler system.

• Make sure windows of children's rooms are well marked to indicate them to firefighters.

For more information on how to protect yourself and loved ones this winter from the dangers of fire visit www.NFSA.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE Village of Vinton, Texas

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 26, 2012 during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed items:

1. A private proposal by Steelway Corporation to amend the Village Zoning Ordinance regulations (Ord. No. 088-94) in the following specified particulars:

Article IV M1, Uses Permitted by Special Permit, Section F. Uses Permitted, is proposed to be amended as follows:

"To allow for issuance of special permits in M1 Districts for automobile resale and storage."

2. Consider and take action on request by Coparts for special permit to allow automobile resale and storage business on Lot 4 Block 1 Vinton Industrial Park, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas (located on Valley Chile Road).

3. Consider and take action on request for special permit to allow for privately operated refuse collection facilities on Tract 1A1, Laura E. Mundy Survey No. 231, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas (ArcelorMittal on Border Steel Rd.).

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Clerk at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Jessica Garza
Village Clerk

WTCC: 01-12-12

Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2010-2011 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report as part of a School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at the CISD Administrative Offices, 7965 Artcraft.

The public is invited to attend. The AEIS report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Canutillo ISD campuses, the central office and at www.canutillo-isd.org.

For more information, call 877-7482.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo Junta Publica

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica" (AEIS) del año escolar 2010-2011. El reporte será parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el Martes, 17 de enero 2012 a las 6:00 p.m. en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas localizado en 7965 Artcraft.

Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte AEIS estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas y a www.canutillo-isd.org.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 877-7482.

WTCC: 01-12-12

Hardaway's number retired; Tebow retires Pittsburgh

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Watching Tim Hardaway on the Don Haskins Center floor the other night sure brought back some good memories.

Hardaway was in town last Saturday to have his UTEP number 10 retired.

His presence took me back to the late 1980s when the Miners were a lock for the NCAA Tournament every year and the only question was what kind of seed they would get.

I'm sure most of the young people in El Paso have no clue what I'm talking about because, except for a successful year here and there, UTEP is no longer the cinch for the postseason it used to be.

What the kids of today never witnesses was a full house in the arena off Mesa Street at nearly every game. Fans would jam pack the "Don" and watch one of the best teams in the country play a kind of basketball that was disciplined and mentally tough.

Of course Don Haskins wouldn't have it any other way.

When Hardaway first got to UTEP, the top assistant coach to Haskins was Tim Floyd.

And Floyd is busy teaching his very young team about things like discipline and mental toughness.

It won't happen this year but very soon, under Floyd, the UTEP Miners will return to the days of making annual trips to the Big Dance.

The big question is whether anyone cares? If the Miners win 25 games a year will the fans of El Paso come out in droves to support the team?

Even last Saturday night when Hardaway

made his acceptance speech, there were only 8,300 in attendance. That's a lousy job by the sports fans of El Paso and honestly, quite embarrassing.

I mean what else is there to do on a Saturday night in El Paso? You can catch a movie and go eat at Applebee's any night of the week.

Anyway, seeing Hardaway on the Don Haskins Center floor again gave me a little bit of hope that the program can still return to its glory days.

I'll say one thing, with Tim Floyd at the helm, the chances are greater now than they've been since "the Bear" retired.

Not again

It isn't possible that I saw Tim Tebow pull another rabbit out of his hat, or more appropriately, pull a football out of his helmet, again last week is it?

They say that even a broken clock is correct twice a day, but c'mon now! How many times can a player with extremely limited talent lead a team of professionals to victory when they had absolutely no shot?

The Pittsburgh Steelers are veterans of NFL playoffs going back to the 1970s. The Steelers are usually feared once they reach the playoffs.

In fact, Pittsburgh and Dallas are tied with the most playoff wins of all time, 34.

So when they visited the Denver Broncos last week, aside from fans that live in the mile high city, no one realistically thought Pittsburgh could lose this one.

How could you pick Denver, especially when you saw how bad Tebow looked trying to throw a football the last three weeks?

He completed just 6-of-22 passes in his last

game and there was actually talk of maybe benching Tebow early if he continued his poor play.

Unfortunately for the Steelers, that benching never came.

Tebow peppered the Steelers' secondary with five passes of over 30 yards on the way to a 316-yard passing day.

I'm not sure whether Tebow had 316 yards all season (just kidding).

Now don't get me wrong, I like the person Tebow is. He's by far the most religious player in the league and probably the most philanthropic.

He rarely talks about himself, he's never

gotten into any trouble and he never ducks an interview.

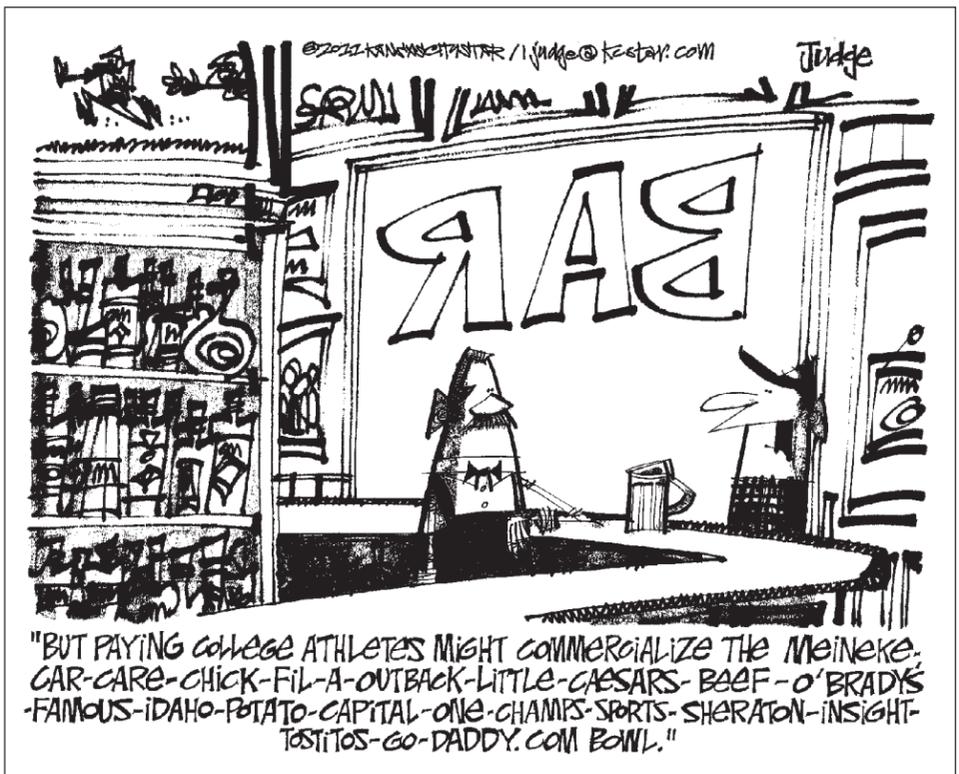
But sometimes the guy looks downright lost on the football field. At times this season it appeared Tebow couldn't hit the broad side of a church.

And yet, maybe with a little divine intervention, Tebow sometimes defies himself and turns in a gem of a performance that leads his team to victory.

Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are next for Denver and the Fighting Tebows.

And no one will give Tebow any chance of winning.

I guess we just won't learn.



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Birth of a footnote

Aaron Rogers was resting comfortably in what was supposed to be an essentially meaningless game for the playoff-bound Packers, who had flirted with an undefeated season before being shocked by the Chiefs in Arrowhead three weeks earlier.

Besides, the Packers' backup quarterback, Matt Flynn, had almost

beaten the Patriots last season, tossing three touchdowns in 31-27 loss.

So, with nothing on the line, Flynn decided to add himself into the footnotes of football history by shattering two of the Packers' all-time passing records – and the really cool ones, too. For on this day, on the frozen tundra, Flynn threw the ball 480 yards, slinging six touchdowns.

That led me to pose a question to an old high-school friend: "Does this Flynn kid remind you of anybody we know?"

The guy I sent the message to was Jeffrey Cuozzo, son of Gary Cuozzo.

In 1965, Cuozzo, a free agent signed by the Baltimore Colts out of Virginia, was finally given his shot to

start at quarterback. The legendary Johnny Unitas had the team playoff bound, riding in on a streak of six straight wins. Now sidelined with a severe back injury, it was time to see what Cuozzo could do.

Cuozzo had played so little through the years that he actually went back to school to get a degree in dentistry. So there was skepticism in the air – at least until Cuozzo replaced it with five touchdown passes. At the time, it was the single greatest performance ever for a first-time start. And even the great Unitas never passed for five touchdowns in a game.

Unitas was back the next week, however, and he made it clear to Cuozzo he wasn't going to retire anytime soon, so Cuozzo asked for a trade and got it. He became the first

quarterback for the expansion New Orleans Saints and made the cover of Sports Illustrated. This time, expectations were high.

The Saints went 3-7 their inaugural season and Cuozzo was traded again, this time to Minnesota, the team he had torched that first game in Baltimore. There, he again found himself mired behind another star quarterback in Joe Kapp, anchored to the bench. But in 1970, Cuozzo was given a chance to be the team's starter and guided the "Purple People Eaters" to their first-ever NFC Central title. Despite a last-minute touchdown pass, the San Francisco 49ers bounced the Vikings in the first round, and Cuozzo bounced around the NFL for a few more years.

Retired, he opened his dental practice and settled down to a cattle ranch in Middletown, N.J., where as kids, we would play on his football field (real goal posts!) or sled into the electrical fence surrounding the cow pasture (real dumb kids!). He watched his three sons quarterback the Middletown South Eagles (Jeff led them to a championship one year).

Tragedy struck the family when his eldest son was murdered. But Cuozzo became a born-again Christian. As a drug counselor, he has helped turn things around for those in need for years, proving a local footnote can also become one of the local heroes, too.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

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LEGALS

City of Socorro

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. at a Regular Council Meeting on January 19, 2012, 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 OR-

DINANCE OF A CURFEW VIOLATION FOR MINORS UNDER THE AGE OF 17 AND ESTABLISHING EXCEPTIONS AND DEFENSE THERETO; CREATING THE OFFENSE OF ENCOURAGING OR ASSISTING IN THE COMMISSION OF A CURFEW OFFENSE; PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF ALL PROVISIONS AND FOR A REVIEW OF ORDINANCE

PENALTY.

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 (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., upon re-

quest.

Olivia Navarro
Assistant City Clerk

WTCC: 01-12-12

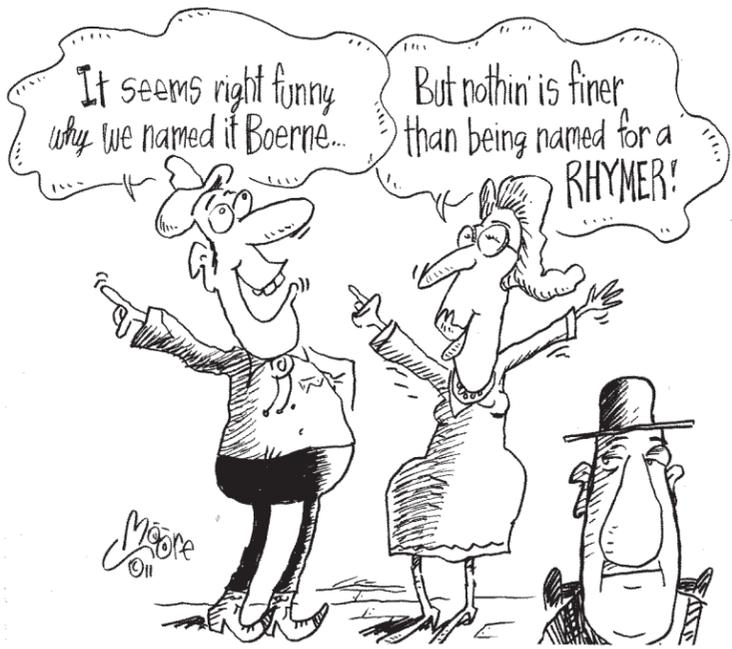
HELP WANTED

JO'S A. BANK

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JoS. A. Bank seeking a Skilled Tailor for our store in El Paso. Call the Store Mgr. at 915-581-4340. EOE

Moore Texas by Roger Moore **Boerne Texas** is likely the only town in Texas named after a famous poet (German writer Ludwig Börne).



It's the law By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Smartphone security: Protect against hack attacks

Although most computer users are aware that viruses can invade their home computers, it is generally less well-known that viruses can also target mobile telephones. Viruses and other malware can be particularly dangerous on phones and other mobile devices because users are less likely to be protected by anti-virus software. With more and more mobile phone customers conducting personal banking and other financial transactions on their unprotected mobile devices, these are increasingly attractive targets for criminals who develop viruses and malicious spyware.

Researchers estimate that more than 40 percent of American adults own a smartphone – the general term for mobile telephones that allow users to access the Internet. As these devices' processing power and data connection speeds continue to improve, their demand only increases. Thanks to these improvements, mobile phones today are used to perform the same tasks that just a few years ago required a computer. As a result, mobile devices are increasingly used to monitor email, store sensitive personal information and photos, and shop online.

Texans who want to protect their sensitive personal information, bank accounts and credit card numbers should only select and install mobile device applications from trusted sources. If a software developer or product is not well-known, mobile phone users should research the product's rating and popularity. Positive user reviews and high-volume downloads often reflect a legitimate and well-received product.

To help secure their smartphones from unauthorized access, mobile device users should enable built-in security features such as passwords. If possible, mobile devices should be set to require a password or personally identifiable number (PIN) that must be entered before software is downloaded or installed

onto a device. This feature can help prevent spyware or viruses from secretly being installed without the owner's knowledge. Smartphone owners should also install the latest security updates provided by their mobile phone service provider.

In addition to the measures outlined above, smartphone users should never respond to text messages or emails from an unknown source. Unsolicited text messages and emails actually may be phishing attacks that attempt to trick device owners into visiting malicious websites. Once an unsuspecting mobile device user clicks on a harmful link or downloads an attachment that contains a virus, it only takes seconds for mobile malware to secretly seize control of the phone and access its data.

Smartphone spyware can allow hackers to intercept text messages or gain unauthorized access to the device's photos, emails and other sensitive personal data. Some malicious smartphone viruses can even allow hackers to log – and even record – incoming and outgoing calls without the device user's knowledge. As a result, these hidden mobile device viruses can not only compromise users' personal conversations, but also their calls to banks and credit card companies – which may involve sensitive account numbers and Social Security numbers. In short, mobile device viruses are uniquely poised to subject users to a high risk of identity theft.

In light of the significant risks posed by mobile device malware, smartphone users should consider installing security software to guard against the latest security threats. Just as personal computers always should be secured with up-to-date Internet security software, smartphones should be safeguarded against hackers and spammers. Further, once security software has been installed, it is important to keep it updated.

Just as computer owners know not to install software from unknown sources, careful smartphone users should delete suspicious or unsolicited text messages and emails without opening them. With these simple steps, smartphone users can talk, text and browse without having to worry about who is secretly reading, watching or listening to their private communications.

For more information about cyber security, identity theft protection and other topics, visit the Texas Attorney General's Office online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

Keeping Smartphones Secure

- Only select and install applications from trusted sources.
- Never respond to unsolicited text messages.
- Never open unsolicited emails from an unrecognized sender.
- Utilize password protection to secure phones from unauthorized usage.
- Install smartphone security software.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	x		+		17
x		÷		+	
	-		x		27
-		+		+	
	+		+		16
2		10			22

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	3		5					2
		6		9		1		
5					8			6
		7		3			1	
6			7			9		
	8		9		2			3
		2			5	8		
	1			8				5
7			4					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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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: C equals S

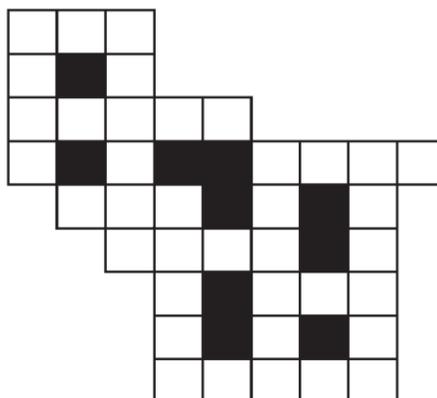
QJ MDT IBDTRBI WYIESCC LWUS
VWC LTCI QUYEXQZAS, Q
RTSCC MDT VDTAX ZS ESWAAM
JDUXW BSE.

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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