



NEWSBRIEFS

Little league

The Fabens Cotton Valley Lions Club is looking for players. Registration for baseball and softball will be held each Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., from Feb. 18 to Mar. 17. The leagues are open to players age four to 13. Parents can register their children at the little league fields at 16151 North Loop. Be sure to bring a birth certificate and league fee (\$35 - \$45, depending on level) for each child. A fund-raising tournament will be held the weekend of Mar. 10. For more information or to volunteer, call Patty at 491-7537.

— Patty Gordon

Good business

Texas has been ranked the top exporting state in 2011 for the 10th year in a row, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Commerce, a sign of Texas' continued role as a leader in the global marketplace. "For a full decade now, Texas has been the nation's epicenter for international trade thanks to the continued strength of our state economy and the opportunities created by our business climate," Gov. Perry said. "We remain committed to the bedrock conservative values of low taxes, reasonable regulations and fair courts that attract and keep employers in Texas, and we will continue to develop the world-class workforce necessary to meet the demands of any 21st century employer." Texas' exports in 2011 totaled more than \$249.8 billion, up 20.7 percent from \$206.9 billion in 2010, outperforming overall U.S. exports, which grew by 15.8 percent in 2011. The state's top export recipients were Mexico, Canada, China, Brazil and the Netherlands, which respectively imported \$86.6 billion, \$21.9 billion, \$10.9 billion, \$9.9 billion and \$9.0 billion in Texas-manufactured goods. Texas' top exporting industries in 2011 were petroleum and coal products, chemicals, computer and electronic products, non-electrical machinery, and transportation equipment. In 2011, Site Selection Magazine, DCI and Area Development Magazine each ranked Texas as the best business climate. Additionally, Texas won Site Selection Magazine's 2010 Governor's Cup for the most new and expanded corporate facilities announced over the year. According to *USA Today*, Texas has moved past New York as the nation's second largest economy, and the Wall Street Journal has credited the state's low taxes and employer-friendly environment with helping make Texas the job creation capital of the nation. Additionally, Texas consistently ranks among the top states for Fortune 500 headquarters.

— Lucy Nashed

See BRIEFS, Page 3

TEA Commissioner responds to over-testing concerns

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

As education officials implement the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR test, which ninth grade students begin taking in March and which replaces a much-maligned previous standardized test known as TAKS, serious concerns over too much testing are brewing.

During the State Board of Education (SBOE) meeting in January, board members pressed the Texas education commissioner about whether high-stakes standardized testing is warping classroom teaching to ensure students spend more time preparing for the exams than actual learning.

Robert Scott, head of the Texas Education Agency, responded that having kids cram is "a perversion of what's intended" and that tests are supposed to ensure students don't fall through the cracks while holding teachers and school districts accountable.

But Scott also acknowledged that some schools over-prepare for tests whose results have become the overwhelming standard by which education is measured statewide. Instead, he said, officials need to find a balance.

SBOE Board Member George Clayton, a Dallas English teacher, complained that some schools have become little more than testing centers, offering mini-exams every two weeks to prepare for full, end-of-the-year standardized tests.

"That's all we do is test and prepare for tests. Make an assessment, look at the data, prepare another test; from August until the end of the school year," Clayton said.

"We do have many districts and many campuses that are overemphasizing testing," Scott said. However, Scott added, "Parents care about kids; teachers care about kids. The system doesn't give a damn about kids unless you make it care, and that's really what the idea of testing and accountability was about."

Scott said that testing ensures "different subgroups of kids" are not overlooked while higher-performing students pull up the average for a school or district that is then deemed successful overall.

Scott said that while simply spending a year teaching for standardized tests "won't work" and doesn't improve students' scores, it's hard for state officials to legislate against such behavior, which has only been encouraged by how much credence Texas now gives to test results.

"I've been a proponent of standardized testing, for some things, and I want to continue to use it, for some things. But we have overemphasized it, and even if we haven't overemphasized it specifically at the state level, the perception out there is that it is the end-all, be-all, and that is causing behavior in many cases, to compound upon itself, and even



Texas Education Agency Commissioner Robert Scott was appointed the state's top education official by Governor Rick Perry in October 2007.

if that's not the intent at the state level, that's reality," stated Scott.

"And perception is reality, so once they perceive that is all that counts, that it's all we're looking at, that's all they focus on. And so I think that this new accountability system will try to bring back some of that balance and recognize that there are plenty of other things going on in schools and plenty of other things we need to be focusing on," the Commissioner said.

"What I worry about is that the policies that we set in the Legislature, and how that translates down to the local level. I think the sentiment that it comes down to is that for many years people have said that schools districts need to operate like businesses. In many

cases, they are," said Scott.

"The assessment and accountability regime has become not only a cottage industry but a military-industrial complex. And the reason that you're seeing this move toward the "common core" is there's a big business sentiment out there that if you're going to spend \$600-\$700 billion a year in public education, why shouldn't there be one big Boeing, or Lockheed-Grumman contract where one company can get it all and provide all these services to schools across the country," Scott stated. "I mean, that's really what you're looking at. We're operating like a business," he concluded.

Repurpose those pretty rose petals

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Roses – beautiful red, yellow, white flowers used to express a person's affection for another person on Valentine's Day – are pretty-much worthless days after the thrill of Valentine's Day is gone and their beauty has wilted. Or are they?

Artist Sherry White, of Las Cruces NM, will share her knowledge of how the petals of roses can be used for all kinds of things. She will give a special family oriented hands-on workshop on the uses of roses, beginning at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, in the El Paso of History Museum's Seminar Room.

According to White, beginning in ancient times, rose petals were used to make aromatic oils, to perfume bath water, and to make floors and rooms smell heavenly by crushing the dried petals either with their feet as they walked on them or in a mortar and pestle that left a scent in the air.

White said that rose petals were also used for medicinal purposes and as an ingredient in candy, but perhaps the most unusual use was to make beads for necklaces. "Have you ever wondered why a rosary is called a rosary," she stated.

In this fascinating workshop, not only will participants learn the history and trivia of roses, but they will also have the opportunity

See PETALS, Page 2

Bufford Rd. to get upgrade

By David Garcia
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO – The City of Socorro will make some changes to Bufford Rd. to improve traffic flow. Socorro's rep for District 3, Mary Garcia, met last week with Planning and Zoning Director Sam Leony and Interim-City Manager Alejandro Vidales to go over plans to re-designate traffic lanes. The road runs through District 3 and passes in front of the new Bulldog Championship Park.

"We are not widening Bufford Rd. We are simply re-aligning the traffic lanes for the safety and security of Bulldog Championship Park neighbors and visitors coming to the park," said Garcia.

Traffic will continue to flow in one east and one west bound lanes. A new turning lane will be marked out to allow residents to access their homes without impeding traffic. A de-acceleration lane will be added on park property to maintain traffic flow on Bufford Rd.

"As a complement to the park, we are going to re-align the lanes in the existing roadway from existing right of way to the existing right of way. There has been a lot of misinformation out there but not a single inch will be taken from any of the residents in front of the new park. And since it's part of the road maintenance, there will not be any additional expense," said Leony.

Construction of Bulldog Championship Park is on schedule and it is still expected to open on Memorial Day weekend.

Canutillo Elementary School to host Boys & Girls Club programs

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – In partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of El Paso, and with funding provided by ArcelorMittal, Canutillo Elementary School will begin providing after-school programs and activities this spring for youth in the Canutillo community.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of El Paso has been serving the youth of the area for 80 years. The organization began with the vision of two businessmen, who wanted to provide youth with programs that developed positive self-image, realization of self-worth, opportunities to reach maximum potential and to implement values, morals and character that would yield success in every area of club members' lives.

The club's mission is "To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens."

According to Connie Parker, CES principal, this endeavor was made possible because of the campus improvement committee's desire to keep the students engaged after hours. The program is designed to provide third-through fifth-grade students with leadership skills, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program skills, homework room, and recreational activities.

If you don't know, simply say so.

— Quips & Quotes

Canutillo ISD schedules conferences, early release days

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo Independent School District will hold parent/teacher conferences at all campuses from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., February 21-23: Elementary Schools Conferences will be Tuesday, February 21; Middle Schools Conferences will be Wednesday, February 22; and High Schools Conferences will be Thursday, February 23. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for conferencing with parents.

All students will be released under the early release schedule of 11:30 a.m. on the day of their respective conferences.

Also, all campuses will have early release day Friday, February 24, for teachers and students. All elementary schools (BCE, CES, DDE, GES, and JDE) will be released at 11:30 a.m., and secondary schools (AMS, CMS, CHS, and NECHS) will be released at 12:30 p.m.



— Photo courtesy of El Paso Museum of History

REUSE THOSE PETALS – Rose petals were used to make aromatic oils, to perfume baths, to scent a room's air, to include in medicines, to use in candy, and to form beads for necklaces and rosaries.

Petals

From Page 1

to make their own rose beads and to string their own necklace.

White is a former history teacher and while in California was named American History Teacher of the Year. She holds a Master's degree in History from Arkansas Tech University.

White is also active in the coordination of the Queens Court for the Las Cruces Renaissance Fair held each November and is the creator and producer for Flying Cloud

Productions and Old West Thunder.

New Mexico State Monuments recently presented White with the Directors Award for her living history work with the New Mexico Monument System. She is currently working as the Director of Client Care with Home Instead in Las Cruces.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Materials will be provided. Space is limited so interested individuals are encouraged to register early.

For more information or to RSVP, call Sue Taylor at (915) 351-3588 or email at taylorl@elpasotexas.gov.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Wounded Warriors have help to get to workforce

Newly returned wounded veterans have the option of entering a three-year internship program to become federal contracting specialists. The program, at the Acquisitions Academy of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Frederick, Md., is called Warriors to Workforce. Veterans can earn 24 business credits, required to become contracting professionals for the federal government, followed by the internship.

The Academy has three directions of emphasis:

- Contracting Professional School: Graduates complete the core courses to get an Acquisitions Certificate at Levels I, II and III. Possible specialties are Leasing, Health Care Services, Technology and Construction. Upon graduation, a veteran will have the education background to get a Federal Acquisitions Certification in Contracting and be eligible for positions starting at GS-11.

To qualify, a veteran must have a service-related injury that impacts employment and little education after high school. Veterans are expected to work for at least three years after certification, and are guaranteed a job in acquisitions in the VA. The cost of the course is \$97,489, which is picked up by VA funding. The first-year business courses are covered by the GI Bill.

To learn more about the program, go online to the Acquisitions Academy at www.acquisitionacademy.va.gov or call the school at (202) 461-0749.

- Program Management: Coursework will enable graduates to certify as a federal program and project manager both in the VA and throughout federal government.
- Acquisition Internship: This is a paid two-year internship starting at a GS-7 with a track to

GS-11. Emphasis is on leadership, communication, business savvy and more.

Facilities Management and Supply Chain Management courses will be coming soon.

No matter which avenue is taken, the program emphasizes training and on-the-job experience. If there's any field that needs new workers, it's acquisitions in the federal government.

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.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

1973 39 Years 2012

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CryptoQuip Answer

If you follow a cocktail with a different drink, I guess you might chase Manhattan.

3	x	5	+	2	17
+		x		x	
9	+	6	÷	5	3
x		-		+	
1	x	8	+	4	12
12		22		14	

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MEN'S

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IMPEND

OFIRES

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I F E U D A L A N D

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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Budget can't stand on its own

Hola, mi gente. If you have ever experienced really hard financial times, there is a possibility that you may have used gimmicks to get past delinquent financial responsibilities. One of those gimmicks may have been holding off paying a bill until next month hoping the situation would allow you to get back on track.

Businesses use gimmicks at times when the books are slightly unbalanced. A skilled accountant can move an item in a very simple manner that results in the balancing of the books.

Those kind of sleight of hand tricks are not out of hand because the consequences fall on individuals or companies who ultimately pay a price for improprieties.

However, these same types of bookkeeping gimmicks should be minimized or completely eliminated when dealing with public monies. When a government budget is said to be balanced, that is exactly what it should be — not accounting tricks.

Did you know that the conservative leadership pushed through an appropriations bill that was balanced but only because of accounting tricks? This was not just a few dollars. There were billions of dollars that were balanced on paper only.

For instance, in order to reduce the shortfall by about \$2 billion, the appropriations bill fails to pay school districts in August of 2012. That is right; the state expects school districts to maintain fiscal accountability for twelve months but only pays the districts for 11 months within the two-year budget cycle.

If you have family members who survive month to month because of Medicaid, you know how difficult it is for the very poor and

the elderly to balance their budgets. It may come down to health issues or groceries. It is very scary that the conservatives intentionally under-funded Medicaid for the fiscal years starting in September 2011. In this case, the leadership must be proud of a balanced budget even though those who survive on Medicaid paid for it.

Rightly so, there is a voter backlash to the gimmickry. Since the conservatives held a majority of 101 members to 49, it is only the conservatives who can be held accountable.

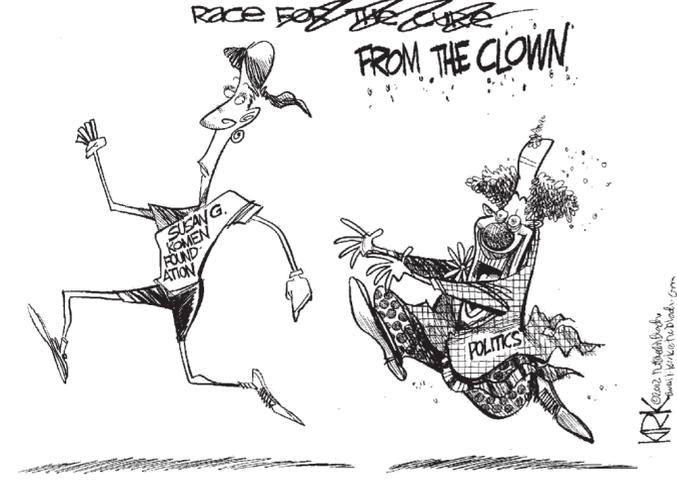
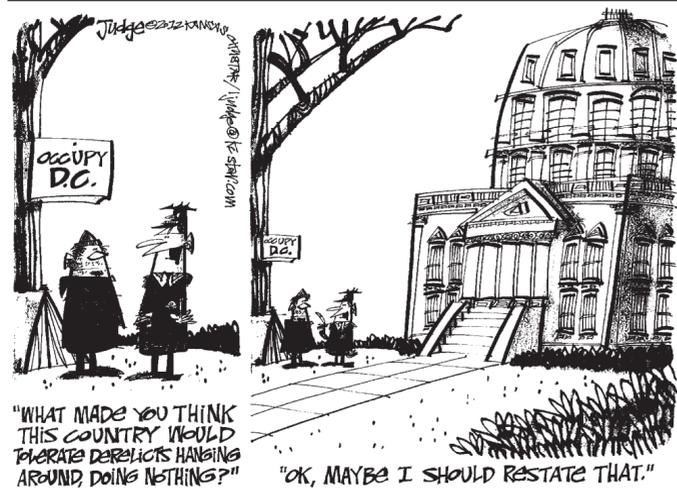
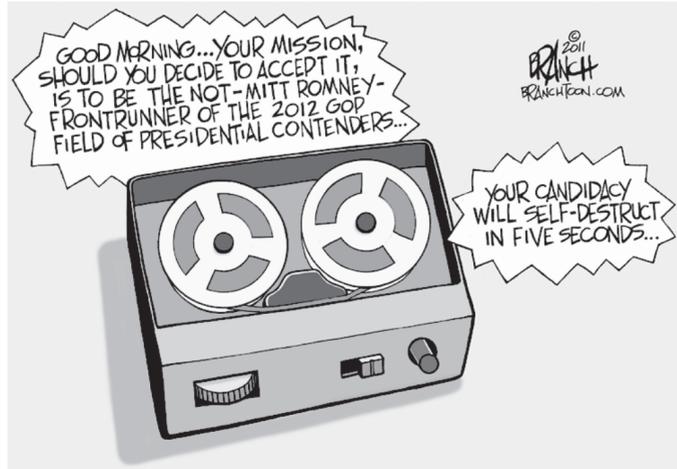
In many races throughout Texas, incumbent Republicans are being challenged on their vote for a budget that was balanced by pushing off billions of dollars to be accounted for in the 2013 session. Perhaps that is why more than 20 conservative members decided to retire.

As I understand it, to be fiscally conservative is a policy of pay as you go; never over extending the ability to pay for services rendered. If I am correct, then the comments by Republican candidates that the leadership passed a "fiscally reckless" budget are accurate.

The House Members on my side of the aisle were fighting to implement responsible ways of balancing the budget. In some cases, our efforts included raising tax revenues by reducing certain exemptions for industries such as oil and gas. The fight in reality was either balancing the budget through education and Medicaid cuts or by asking big businesses to prosper a little less.

I am sorry to report that big business won without any compromise.

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



Briefs

From Page 1

Crime Stoppers

Two men break into a home in the middle of the night to steal money and credit cards while the homeowner and two children were asleep, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On Wednesday, March 16 of 2011, two men broke into a home in the 12300 block of Red Sun on the eastside at 2:45 in the morning while the residents were asleep. One man came into the house through a kitchen window, and then let the other man in through a door. While one suspect gathered up the resident's purse, wallet, and money from the kitchen area, the other suspect went upstairs and opened one of the children's bedroom door. Surprised, both suspects fled immediately. Within an hour of the burglary, the two suspects are seen on surveillance video attempting to use a credit card stolen from the home to buy a large-screen TV. The suspect attempting to use the credit card is a man in his 20s wearing a red baseball cap, black t-shirt, blue pants, a gold necklace and cell phone. The second subject also appears to be in his 20s and was wearing a black baseball cap, black long-sleeve shirt, black pants and shoes. He was wearing sunglasses on his cap, and had tattoos on his right forearm. The suspects fled in a grey, possibly 4-door Saturn. If you have any information at all about the identity of the suspects in this case, please call Crime Stoppers of El



N. Ojeda-Garcia

Garcia was connected with the drugs. It is possible he is in the Borderland area hiding with friends and relatives. Ojeda-Garcia is a deported felon and may be using his brother's identity — Alfredo Garcia. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Ojeda-Garcia they can contact Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of Ojeda-Garcia.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar

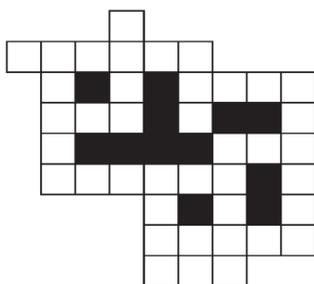
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By: rj johnson

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- FYED



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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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	
	+		÷		3
x		-		+	
	x		+		12
12		22		14	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★
 ★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 8 9

Answer Page 2

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: F equals U

RP HGF PGOOGQ N IGISANRO
 QRAE N CRPPXZXMA CZRMS, R
 JFXWW HGF TRJEA IENWX
 TNMENAANM.

Answer Page 2
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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was noted American wit and columnist Franklin P. Adams who made the following sage observation: "Elections are won by men and women chiefly because most people vote against somebody rather than for somebody." It's certainly something to keep in mind during this strife-ridden election season.

• Americans make more collect phone calls on Father's Day than on any other day of the year.

• It was a German company, Interstuhl Manufacturer, that made the world's most expensive office chair. With a price tag of \$65,500, you shouldn't be surprised that the chair is plated in gold and comes with a matching ottoman.

• Have you ever wondered where we got the phrase "the dog days of summer"? According to tradition, the dog days start in July — and not just because it's usually pretty hot then. At one time, that was when Sirius, also known as the dog star, rose at sunrise. The Romans associated Sirius (called the dog star because it is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, or "large dog") with hot weather, and at the beginning of the dog days they would sacrifice a dog in the hope of ameliorating the sultry weather.

• If you were to take the entire world's water supply and compress it into one single gallon, freshwater would make up just 4 ounces, and freshwater that is easily accessible would be just two drops.

• Considering the fact that it's home to much of the American film industry, it's probably not surprising that the sprawling city of Los Angeles has the world's third-largest GMP, or gross metropolitan product.

Thought for the Day: "An intellectual is a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows."
 — Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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 2
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I am receiving Social Security disability benefits. Will my benefits be affected if I work and earn money?

A: We offer work incentives that can help you keep your benefits while you test your ability to work. For example, there is a trial work period during which you can receive full benefits regardless of how much you earn, as long as you report your work activity and continue to have a disabling impairment.

Q: I'm going to visit relatives outside the country for two weeks. Can I still get Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) payments while I'm there?

A: Your SSI usually will stop if you leave the United States for 30 consecutive days or more. Since you are going to be away for only two weeks, your SSI should not be affected. However, it's important that you tell Social Security the date you plan to leave and the date you plan to come back. Then we can let you know whether your SSI will be affected. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: Is there a time limit on Social Security disability benefits?

A: Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you cannot work. We will review your case at regular intervals to make sure you are still disabled. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach full retirement age, we will convert those benefits to retirement benefits.

Q: My child is disabled. Can she qualify for Supplemental Security Income?

A: SSI makes monthly payments to people with limited income and resources who are 65 or older, or blind, or disabled. Your child younger than age 18 can qualify if he or she meets Social Security's definition of disability for children, and if his or her income and resources fall within the eligibility limits. We also consider the income and resources of family members living in the child's household. For more information, call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10026.html.

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

HERE WITH YOU FROM THE START

Here through more than a century of change in our landscape, transportation and technology. Through fashions and trends that come and go.

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Lin lights up our inner fan

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Let's face it, even the most dedicated NBA fans find it hard to get excited about the league's regular season games.

The same teams win, the same teams lose, and officials call traveling about once every five games.

Another downer about the regular season is that there are so many games that players take a lot of them off. Oh, they arrive at the arenas but they don't exactly give it there all — especially on defense.

There are a few stars that fans pay to see like Kobe and LeBron and Dirk and Manu. You know you've really made it when you can be identified by your first name alone.

But there's also Kevin Durant and Blake Griffin and Steve Nash and Dwight Howard and Paul Pierce and Kevin Love and Derrick Rose and many others to watch.

There's still no doubt that the vast majority of NBA regular season games are virtually unwatchable.

Then, just when you thought there was nothing new going on in NBA regular-season land, a savior comes out of nowhere to inject some life, and watchability, to the sport.

Since the New York Knicks went out and picked up Amare Stoudemire and Carmelo Anthony, they have gone out and played uninspired basketball.

But because of injuries and family emergencies, the Knicks have had to play

without their two superstars for a week.

To make up for their absence, Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni was forced to look way down his bench to find replacements.

One was a seldom-used point guard out of Harvard who had already been cut from two other NBA teams.

But once in a while — about as often as lightning strikes a tree in your backyard — a complete nobody defies all logic and rises up to become a somebody — a very special somebody.

Jeremy Lin was given the opportunity to step in and help the lowly Knicks or at least keep them afloat until the stars come back.

What Lin has accomplished in his first five games has taken the league by storm. In fact, the NBA calls it pure "Linsanity."

Since taking over the team from the all-important point guard position, Lin had led the New Yorkers to five straight victories and he has Madison Square Garden in the palm of his hand.

In his first five games as the Knicks point guard, Lin, scored 25, 28, 23, 38 and 20 points. That comes out to 26.8 points per game. He's also averaging 8.0 assists and 4.2 rebounds.

His most important stat is that his team is 5-0 with him as the leader. The Knicks and their two superstars were 8-15 before that.

In his third game as a starter, critics said what he had done was nice, but now he was going up against Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

They said that Kobe was going to be upset because Lin was grabbing all the attention and

that he was going to teach the young upstart a thing or two.

Well, although Kobe struggled (shooting just 11 for 29 from the floor) he did score 34 points. But Lin stole the show by scoring 38 points and dishing out seven assists to lead the Knicks to another win.

And what makes Lin even more popular is his attitude and humbleness. He never talks about himself; he talks about his teammates and respects his opponents.

Another thing he does is make his teammates better. That is one thing that Stoudemire and Melo have never done.

On a team loaded with no-names, Lin has instilled a belief-system in every player that

they too can compete with the best of the NBA — and they're doing it.

The big question is what is going to happen when Stoudemire and Carmelo rejoin the team?

Is coach D'Antoni going to go back to playing his megastars and losing games, or is he going to tell them that they have to adapt to Lin's style and keep the good times going?

If D'Antoni is smart and gutsy, he'll save his career. If not, he'll be looking for another job soon.

As for Jeremy Lin, he's made the regular season meaningful again.

And he gives all the underdogs of the world another reason to believe.



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



Mountain View girls win District basketball championship

By Andrew Reynoso
Special to the Courier

Mountain View girls' basketball made a remarkable turnaround this season to win their first district championship since 1998. The Lady Lobos finished the regular season with a record of 17-13, 9-1 in District 3-3A.

Head Coach Richard Chacon is pleased his team improved from just 6 wins last year to 17 this season (and counting) with pretty much the same team from last year.

"We've been fortunate that we've stayed healthy and our kids have remained focused throughout the season," Chacon said. "Our seniors have played like seniors and have been great leaders for us. Our team has been mentally tough and have had a genuine belief that we could do this."

Mountain View held a spirit rally Feb. 8 to cheer on their boys and girls teams. The Lady Lobos head to the playoffs in hopes of improving and advancing with more wins.

"They have been hard workers, unselfish and pretty much everything a coach could ask for," Chacon said. "It's been a special season with a special group of young ladies."



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

SHINY HARDWARE — The Lady Lobos hoist their District 3-3A trophy.

In other district action, won their first ever District Lady Lions earned a playoff the Horizon High girls also 2-4A title while the Clint spot to battle Seminole.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

For want of a nail

Imagine being invited to the White House for dinner, but it's with Joe Biden instead of the president. Or hiring a high-powered attorney for the big case, but when you meet him he has a cheap watch, unpolished shoes and a dead-fish handshake.

In sports, as in life, an entire career's worth of work can change in a single moment. Most famously, there's a baseball player who had 2,715 hits, 1,218 runs batted in and a batting title, but his 22-year career has been condensed into a single phrase: "Through the legs of Buckner!" If I say "Leon Lett," you think of how he lost a touchdown in the Super Bowl, not that he has three rings. If I say "Jim Marshall," you say "wrong way."

At the 2012 Super Bowl, 90,000 people were in attendance. They were guarded by more than 136,000 police officers and other security personnel. They were there to sweat the small stuff. It would only take one mishap for it to forever stain the reputation of Indianapolis, and both the city and the NFL weren't taking any chances. They went so far as to hire security guards from public schools as far away as Michigan. Just about everyone but the Hells Angels was enlisted.

Kelly Clarkson sings the anthem, Madonna does the half-time show and the MVP wins a Corvette. If Clarkson had missed a word, she would be thrown on the scrap heap of

people who mangled "The Star Spangled Banner." Madonna is spilled into the stadium by 100 Roman slaves with people doing back flips all over the place, but everyone remembers that one girl gave the finger.

The game itself trumps all the other games of the season in one 60-minute contest, and that contest came down to three minutes at the end of the game. Mario Manningham gets his feet 1 inch inside the line to pull down a beautiful catch. New England coach Bill Belichick, with one flick of the wrist, loses the Super Bowl by throwing a challenge flag, costing the Patriots a timeout. If the Giants didn't have 12 men on the field during their final drive, which oddly worked to their advantage by chewing precious seconds off the clock, Brady gets two shots at the end-zone.

And now, history may well remember Brady as the guy who couldn't beat Eli Manning. Barring some sort of redemption like John Elway had by winning the Super Bowl, the ball he didn't catch will define Wes Welker's career. Likewise, Belichick will always be remembered for letting the other team score in a Super Bowl.

Just as the elephant is afraid of the mouse, true or not, the small mistake ruins the picture in its entirety.

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

Super Crossword

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

NOTICE OF EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY'S PETITION TO CHANGE RATES AND TO RECONCILE FUEL COSTS, AND RESPONSE TO CITY OF EL PASO'S SHOW CAUSE ORDER

El Paso Electric Company (EPE or Company) publishes this notice that on February 1, 2012, it filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) its Petition and Statement of Intent and Application for Authority to Change Rates and to Reconcile Fuel Costs. This filing has been assigned Commission Docket No. 40094. This filing was also made with those municipal authorities in EPE's Texas service territory that have original jurisdiction over EPE's electric rates and have requested a copy of the filing. The filing made with the City of El Paso (El Paso) also serves as EPE's rate filing package ordered by El Paso to be filed by February 1, 2012 in compliance with El Paso's October 4, 2011 resolution.

EPE is proposing to change its rates for electric service provided to its approximately 290,000 Texas retail customers. All such customers, all classes of customers and all areas in Texas in which EPE serves will be affected by this change in rates, as well as the request to reconcile fuel costs.

STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES

EPE's request to increase its base rates is based on the financial results for a 12-month test year ending on September 30, 2011. EPE's proposed rate change would increase its base revenues for firm service by \$13.766 million, which is an increase of 3.2%, increase interruptible service rates by \$3.173 million, a surcharge for an anticipated \$8.658 million of rate case expenses, and an increase of \$0.658 million in service charges and other miscellaneous revenues. The overall combined effect of EPE's proposed rate changes would be to increase

its adjusted test year revenues by \$26.255 million, an overall increase of 5.6% in its Texas base rates. This increase is premised in part on EPE's request (1) to recover EPE's investment in its newest generation facility, Phase II of Newman Unit 5; and (2) to recover EPE's other capital additions made since June 30, 2009, which is the end of the test year in EPE's last rate case.

The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice. The typical Residential Service customer using 600 kilowatt-hours of energy per month will see an average bill increase of \$4.00 per month, or 5.5% under the proposed rates in this proceeding. The typical Residential customers located within the El Paso city limits will also see a Rate Case Expense Surcharge on their monthly bills of \$1.32 for twelve months.

El Paso has already ordered that EPE's existing base rates inside that city are temporary, such that inside the city, upon a final decision, any increase in rates would be, and any decrease in rates may be, retroactive back to November 15, 2011. For the rate change that it is proposing, EPE has proposed that the effective date of its rate change be March 7, 2012 for the areas where the Commission has original jurisdiction and for those areas where municipal authorities retain regulatory jurisdiction. EPE has proposed that the effective date of this rate change be suspended, so that with the suspension and the compliance tariff approval process, its rates would be applicable beginning on March 7, 2012. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission and other regulatory authorities.

REQUEST FOR SURCHARGE

El Paso has designated EPE's current base rates within the city as temporary rates, effective November 15, 2011. Because EPE's requested

base rates exceed those temporary rates, EPE is requesting a surcharge that would relate back to usage from November 15, 2011 to recover the temporary base rate deficiency, together with interest, solely from customers within El Paso. The amount of the surcharge will not be known until rates are finally established.

TARIFF REVISIONS

EPE is proposing changes in rate design to move customer classes closer to their class cost of service. Additionally, EPE is proposing revisions to some tariffs. These changes include, but are not limited to, the consolidation of certain related classes with the elimination of the unnecessary duplicative classes. The complete set of proposed tariff schedules is presented in Schedule Q-8.8 of EPE's filing.

EPE's request to reconcile fuel and purchased power costs is separate from its request to change base rates and is briefly described below.

RECONCILIATION OF FUEL COSTS

EPE requests authority to reconcile its fuel and purchased power costs for the period from July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2011 ("Reconciliation Period"). This request, if granted, will affect all Texas retail customers who pay fixed fuel factors. During the Reconciliation Period, EPE incurred a total of \$356.493 million in eligible fuel, fuel-related, and purchased power expenses (offset by off-system sales) to generate and purchase electric energy for its Texas retail customers. At the conclusion of the Reconciliation Period, after adjustments, EPE had a cumulative under-recovery of such expenses of \$12.762 million. EPE seeks to carry over this cumulative Reconciliation Period fuel under-recovery balance into the subsequent Reconciliation Period beginning October 2011.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Persons with questions or who want further information on the application may contact EPE at

100 N. Stanton, El Paso, Texas 79901, or call toll-free at (800) 592-1634 (when instructed, press 7, then four-digit extension 5970 plus #) during normal business hours. A complete copy of the filing is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 40094. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission. The 45th day after EPE filed its application is Saturday, March 17, 2012, which would mean under Commission rules that the deadline for intervention would be the next working day, Monday, March 19, 2012.

EPE propone cambiar sus tarifas de servicio eléctrico que provee a sus aproximadamente 290,000 clientes de menudeo en Texas. La totalidad de estos clientes, todas las clases de clientes y todas las áreas de Texas en donde EPE provee servicio se verán afectadas por este cambio de tarifas, así como por la solicitud para reconciliar costos de combustible.

DECLARACIÓN DE LA INTENCIÓN DE CAMBIAR TARIFAS

La solicitud de EPE para incrementar sus tarifas básicas está basada en los resultados financieros de un año de prueba que terminó el 30 de Septiembre de 2011. Los cambios a las tarifas propuestas por EPE incrementarán sus ingresos base por servicio en firme por la cantidad de \$13.766 millones, equivalentes a un incremento del 3.2%, incrementarán las tarifas de servicio interrumpible por la cantidad de \$3.173 millones, un recargo de \$8.658 millones por gastos anticipados por el caso tarifario y un incremento por la cantidad de \$0.658 millones en cargos por servicio y otros ingresos misceláneos.

El efecto total combinado de los cambios tarifarios propuestos por EPE será el incrementar sus ingresos ajustados del año de prueba en \$26.255 millones, equivalentes a un incremento total de 5.6% a sus tarifas básicas en Texas. Este incremento, se basa en parte en la solicitud de EPE para (1) recuperar

la inversión de EPE en su más reciente instalación de generación que es la Fase II de la Unidad 5 Newman; y (2) para recuperar otras adiciones a capital de EPE realizadas desde Junio 30 de 2009, que es el final del año de prueba en el último caso de tarifas de EPE.

El impacto del cambio en las tarifas de varias clases de clientes variará del impacto total descrito en este aviso. En base a las tarifas propuestas en este procedimiento, el cliente típico de Servicio Residencial que consume 600 kilovatios-hora de energía al mes verá un incremento mensual de \$4.00 en su recibo, equivalente a un 5.5%. El cliente Residencial típico localizado dentro de los límites de la Ciudad de El Paso, verá también en su recibo mensual un Recargo de \$1.32 durante doce meses por Gastos del Caso Tarifario.

MODIFICACIÓN DE TARIFAS

EPE propone cambios a su diseño de tarifas para que sus clases de clientes estén más cerca del costo de servicio. Adicionalmente, EPE está proponiendo modificaciones de algunas tarifas. Estos cambios incluyen, pero no se limitan a, la consolidación de ciertas clases relacionadas y la eliminación de clases duplicadas innecesarias. El juego completo de listas de tarifas propuesto se encuentra en la lista Q-8.8 de la solicitud de EPE.

La solicitud de EPE para reconciliar costos de combustible y de energía adquirida se describe brevemente abajo y se maneja por separado de esta solicitud para modificar tarifas.

La solicitud de EPE para reconciliar costos de combustible y de energía adquirida se describe brevemente abajo y se maneja por separado de esta solicitud para modificar tarifas.

RECONCILIACIÓN DE COSTOS DE COMBUSTIBLE

EPE solicita autorización para reconciliar sus costos de combustible y de energía adquirida del período comprendido entre el 1º de Julio de 2009 y el 30 de Septiembre de 2011 ("Período de Reconciliación"). Esta solicitud, de ser autorizada, afectará a todos los clientes de menudeo de Texas que pagan factores fijos de combustible. Durante el Período de Reconciliación EPE erogó un total de \$356.493 millones en combustible y en gastos de energía adquirida (compensados por ventas fuera del sistema) para generar y para

SOLICITUD DE RECARGO

El Paso ha designado las tarifas básicas actuales de EPE

dentro de los límites de la ciudad como tarifas temporales con fecha efectiva el 15 de Noviembre de 2011. Debido a que las tarifas básicas solicitadas por EPE rebasan tales tarifas temporales, EPE solicita un recargo que se relacione con el consumo a partir del 15 de Noviembre de 2011 para recuperar la deficiencia temporal en las tríficas básicas, junto con los intereses, solamente para los clientes dentro de los límites de El Paso. El importe del recargo no se conocerá hasta que las tarifas sean finalmente establecidas.

PARA OBTENER MAYOR INFORMACIÓN

Las personas que tengan dudas o que deseen mayor información acerca de la solicitud, pueden acudir a EPE en 100 N. Stanton, El Paso, Texas 79901 ó pueden llamar gratis al (800) 592-1634 (cuando se le solicite, oprima el 7 seguido por la extensión 5970, mas el signo #) en horas de oficina. En la dirección arriba mencionada, podrá usted encontrar una copia completa de la solicitud presentada para su consulta.

Las personas que deseen intervenir en ó hacer comentarios acerca de estos procedimientos deberán notificar a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos tan pronto les sea posible, ya que se pondrá una fecha límite para intervenciones. Para intervenir o para obtener mayor información, se deberá enviar una solicitud a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas al P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. También se puede obtener mayor información llamando a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos al (512) 936-7120 ó al (888) 782-8477. Las personas con impedimento del habla o del oído que cuenten con teléfonos de texto (TTY) pueden llamar a la Comisión al (512) 936-7136 ó pueden utilizar Relay Texas (sin costo) en el 1-800-735-2989. Las solicitudes de intervención o para mayor información deberán hacer referencia al No. 40094. La fecha límite para intervenir en el procedimiento es 45 días a partir de la fecha en que se presentó

la solicitud ante la Comisión. El día 45 después de que EPE presentó la solicitud es el Sábado 17 de Marzo de 2012, que por ser día inhábil y en base a las reglas de la Comisión, la fecha límite para intervenir sería el siguiente día hábil que es el Lunes 19 de Marzo de 2012.

Al concluir el Período de Reconciliación y después de ajustes, EPE tenía una recuperación de menos acumulada en tales costos de \$12.762 millones. EPE busca trasladar el saldo acumulado de la recuperación de menos por combustible durante el Período de Reconciliación al Período de Reconciliación siguiente el cual da inicio en Octubre de 2011.

PARA OBTENER MAYOR INFORMACIÓN

Las personas que tengan dudas o que deseen mayor información acerca de la solicitud, pueden acudir a EPE en 100 N. Stanton, El Paso, Texas 79901 ó pueden llamar gratis al (800) 592-1634 (cuando se le solicite, oprima el 7 seguido por la extensión 5970, mas el signo #) en horas de oficina. En la dirección arriba mencionada, podrá usted encontrar una copia completa de la solicitud presentada para su consulta.

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WTCC: 02-16-12

Town of Horizon City

Horizon City Police Dept. is accepting applications for Police Officer to establish a hiring list.

For more information, please go to http://www.horizoncitypd.com/careers_at_hcpd.php. You may also contact Sgt. Flores at 915-852-1047. The closing date for applications is February 23, 2012 at noon.

EOE

Michael McConnell
Chief of Police
Town of
Horizon City

WTCC: 02-16-12

El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District

Position Open

Labor

El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District accepting applications. Qualifications: Valid Texas Class C driver's license, perform maintenance, lift heavy containers, parts or equipment, read meters, operate backhoe or transportation vehicle. Salary:

\$8.00 per hour. Applications accepted until position is filled. Apply at 19225 Highland St., Tornillo, TX, mailing address P. O. Box 136, Tornillo, TX 79853. (915) 764-2966.

Equal Opportunity Employer

WTCC: 02-16-12

Lower Valley Housing Corporation

Public Notice

Lower Valley Housing Corporation (LVHC) is a non-profit community development Texas corporation that is applying to USDA/Rural Development for a section 523C Technical Assistance Grant for self-help housing to build 24 new mutual self-help single family houses in El Paso County, Texas. This grant will provide Technical Assistance funds for the administrative costs of the program over a two-year period as well as providing another 24 eligible and USDA/Rural Development approved applicants with permanent loans on their home. Anyone wishing to comment or make an application may do so by contacting:

Lower Valley Housing Corporation
215 West Main
(P.O. Box #638)
Fabens, TX 79838
(915) 764-3413

WTCC: 02-16-12
02-23-12

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