



NEWSBRIEFS

Health fair

The 30th Annual Lower Valley will take place on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda. All children's immunizations, ages 0- to eighteen-years-old, will be available for \$10 for one shot or \$20 for two or more shots. Immunization cards should be brought to the event. Services will not be denied if you are unable to pay. Vaccinations will also be available for adults. Other activities include:

- A family fun walk at 9:30 a.m. and at 11:30 a.m.;
- A Kids Korner with booths focusing on development, speech and language, hearing and vision, dental and screening, Amber Alert cards, games, etc; and
- Adults can see experts for cholesterol, blood sugar, pap smears, hearing and vision, blood pressure, screening for anemia, and more.

— Rebecca Cummings

Track team

The Falcons' summer track team for kids 7- to eighteen-years-old starts Monday April 2, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Col. John O. Ensor Middle School track. Call (915) 203-7005 for information.

— Dick Harshberger

Transparent

Texas has received the top ranking for government spending transparency in an annual report on all states issued by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S.PIRG). The state's Texas Transparency website is developed and maintained by the office of Texas Comptroller Susan Combs. "I'm proud to be at the forefront of setting standards for government transparency and we will keep striving to improve our initiatives," Combs said. "From the time I took office we have worked to expand our transparency efforts to provide taxpayers online access to multiple levels of state spending and financial information. Taxpayers have the right to know how their money is spent and transparency ensures government is held accountable to the people it serves." The Texas Transparency website is at www.texas Transparency.org. U.S. PIRG noted the comprehensive financial information the website provides along with historical check-register level detail that is downloadable. The Comptroller's office also provides information on local government transparency on its website and encourages local governments around the state to launch financial transparency initiatives. U.S.PIRG did an extensive state-by-state analysis as it pushes for higher standards of government transparency. The group's Following the Money 2012 report can be found at

See BRIEFS, Page 4

The wheel was man's greatest invention until he got behind it.

— Quips & Quotes

Business students going to national competition

By Andrew Reynoso
Special to the Courier

EAST MONTANA – Top students from Mountain View High School will be attending the Business Professionals of America (BPA) 2012 National Leadership Conference, "Reach New Heights," in Chicago, IL, April 25-29, 2012. MVHS chapter members, will join over 5,000 other conference delegates from across the nation to participate in national level business skills competitions, workshops, general sessions, and the national officer candidate campaigns and elections.

"The conference will be the culmination of a school year's worth of business education and training which members of the local chapter of Business Professionals of America at Mountain View have received," said chapter advisor, Dustin Blystone.

Six Mountain View students qualified for the National Conference by placing 1st or 2nd as a team or 1st-5th place individual at the State Leadership Conference & Competition, in Dallas, TX from February 29 to March 3. They include:

- Computer Animation Team – 1st place to Jessica Perez and Stephanie Ruiz;
- Network Design Team – 4th place to Lorenzo Quintana, Jacob Chacon and Dylan Blystone;
- Systems Administration using Cisco – 2nd place to Lorenzo Quintana;
- Computer Network Technology – 2nd place to Jacob Chacon;
- PC Servicing and Troubleshooting – 5th place to Abel Cenicerros;
- Database Applications – 5th place to Hector Ramos;
- Network Administration using Microsoft – 8th place to Dylan Blystone; and
- IT Concepts Open Event – 6th place to Jacob Chacon.



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

THEY'RE NUMBER ONE – Stephanie Ruiz, left, and Jessica Perez of Mountain View High School's Computer Animation Team placed first at the Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference & Competition, in Dallas, TX.

School earns 2012 Texas environment award

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO – Chester E. Jordan Elementary School, the city's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) school, recently earned yet another prestigious recognition for their green efforts.

The school's Green Science Team won a 2012 Texas Environment Excellence Award (TEEA) in the youth category for their work at the school, in the community and in their partnership with Fort Bliss.

The Green Team is made up of about 20 students in third through fifth grade. The students have given presentations on preserving and protecting the environment, participate in clean-up days and take part in



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

Principal Michelle Aube-Barton, left, with members of the Green Science Team and former senator Eliot Shapleigh show off the school's cistern, which collects rainwater used to irrigate the plants and trees on the campus.

See AWARD, Page 8

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Prosthetic limb study

The House Committee on Veterans Affairs asked the VA Office of Inspector General to review and evaluate how services are being provided to veterans who have had amputations. The study was limited to 838 veterans discharged from active service after Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn.

Here's what it found:

- The majority were between the ages of 22 and 25, enlisted male veterans.
- The rates of some disorders increased after discharge. Anxiety disorders rose from 42 percent to 61 percent. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder rates increased from 31 percent to 58 percent. Alcohol disorders rose from 7 percent to 11 percent. Drug disorders, however, and adjustment disorders decreased.
- Veterans with upper limb amputations didn't fare as well as those with lower limb amputations in terms of psychosocial adjustment, physical ability and prosthetic satisfaction.
- Veterans with amputations and prostheses are "significant users"

of Department of Veterans Affairs health services, and not just for the prostheses: 99 percent use VA health care for all medical needs.

The comments at the end of the report are telling. One veteran commented on the lengthy process to get a prosthesis made by an outside vendor and have the VA approve and pay for it. Another makes his own repairs to his prosthesis to cut through the VA red tape. Another veteran goes out of his way to avoid using VA care, saying most of the staff doesn't understand upper limb amputations. Some veterans are waiting six months for an appointment and then have to travel long distances. Another has had a clothing issue for years and hadn't been able to get help until the OIG stepped in.

To read the 88-page report, go to va.gov and search for Prosthetic Limb Care in VA Facilities.

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.

SISD holds district wide Pre-K, kindergarten early registration

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) will hold early registration for Pre-K and kindergarten students that are new to the District. Parents can register their children at SISD elementary schools and Pre-K to 8 schools throughout the District from April 2-5, 2012. Registration times are 8 to 11 a.m. for pre-kindergarten students and 1 to 3 p.m. for new kindergarten students.

Four SISD schools are designated as pre-kindergarten hubs that will serve as the home campus for Pre-K students from other campuses. Parents should register their children at hub campus for their school. The

Pre-K hub schools are:

- O'Shea Keleher for O'Shea, Ituarte, Lujan-Chavez and Paso del Norte;
 - Myrtle Cooper for Myrtle Cooper, Hurshel Antwine and Chester E. Jordan;
 - Escontrias Early Childhood Center for Escontrias and Hilley; and
 - Dr. Sue Shook for Dr. Sue Shook, John Drugan and Horizon Heights.
- SISD schools Benito, Bill Sybert, Campestre, Desert Wind, Elfida Chavez, Ernesto Serna, Jane Hambric, Hueco, Helen Ball, Loma Verde, Rojas, Sierra Vista and Vista del Sol are all

Pre-K campuses will serve Pre-K students on site.

Parents should be sure to bring your child and a utility bill (gas, electric, water), Social Security Card, birth certificate and immunization record to the registration site.

Immunization clinics will be available at each of the four Pre-K hub sites from 8 to 11 a.m. during registration.

To check what school your child will attend, use the SISD street search at www.sisd.net/streetsearch.

To see a map of the elementary schools in SISD, check www.sisd.net/elementaryschoolsmaps.

– SISD Public Relations

Implementation of schools' new math standards tied to textbook funding

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

The Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) gave preliminary approval recently to new math standards for schools statewide, but it moved to block implementation unless the Legislature provides funding for books to help students cope with the tougher curricula.

Educators based the new standards on the draft Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), as well as math standards from Massachusetts, Minnesota and international standards from places such as Singapore, which are all believed to have some of the world's best math curriculum standards.

"My goal is for Texas to have the

best math standards," Commissioner of Education Robert Scott told the board during the SBOE meeting that was held in late January.

A formal public comment period opened in February on the new math standards, with final approval of the new TEKS expected April 20.

The new standards, however, will not take effect until new textbooks and other instructional materials are made available to Texas students.

Based on a new instructional materials adoption schedule also approved by the board recently, the new math TEKS, if given final approval by the board in April, would be used in kindergarten through eighth grade Texas classrooms beginning in the 2014-2015 school year when new materials are available.

The updated adoption cycle makes new materials for math, grades kindergarten through eighth grade; science, grades kindergarten through 12th grade; and technology applications available for use beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

The following year, state-adopted materials for math, grades nine through 12; social studies, grades kindergarten through grade 12; and fine arts would be available to school districts.

The board passed the measure 13-0 with two members absent. The rules still must be approved during its April meeting. And, there are indications that the board will put pressure on state lawmakers to

See MATH, Page 5

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– Photo by Tracy Farris

ON PACE – Elliott Farris finished sixth in a field of 30 experienced college runners at the Willie Williams Invitational Track Meet in Tucson, AZ.

Farris continues his running quest

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Elliott Farris, 19, is a young man on the run, and he is very good at it.

And it is within the realms of possibility that his running could carry him to the Olympics this summer in London, says his coach, Franks Munene.

As chronicled in previous *Courier* stories, he is on a quest for success in track meets. Not unlike mythology's Jason and his quest for the Golden Fleece, it is now Farris' quest for gold, an Olympic gold medal.

Under the tutelage of Munene his quest has already earned him gold medals at AAU-sponsored events. However, because of his age, he is no longer eligible to compete at that level.

Consequently his sights are now set higher – to qualify at the Olympic trials coming up in June in Eugene, Oregon. He would be competing in what he considers his best event – the 5,000-meter run in which he would employ tactical skills to gain advantage and hopefully emerge victorious.

Based on results from his most recent competition in Tucson, his sights seem to be accurate, and he is hitting the mark, says his coach.

"I wouldn't close the door on (his competing in) London," Munene says. "He is developing well; he is ahead of schedule and is improving by leaps and bounds." One of the keys to his success is his "ability to focus," he adds "He is going to be extremely good."

Farris sits in a Westside restaurant on a rainy and blustery afternoon. (Undaunted by the inclement weather, the six-foot, 145-pound Farris will later head for a nearby park to work out.) While sipping a glass of water, the young athlete exudes a quiet confidence in his abilities as he describes the recent Willie Williams Invitational Track Meet in the Arizona city. He says he competed against college athletes in the 1,500-meter event. He came in sixth in a field of 30.

He is not at all dismayed or disappointed at finishing only sixth. His assessment reflects just the opposite point of view. His time was 3:58, meeting his goal of running under four minutes.

"I knew I was in much, much better shape than I had ever been before," he says. "I was running against experienced college athletes who had just finished their indoor track meet season. I ran with them, and I gave them my very best."

Putting it into a more positive perspective, it was pointed out that, while not winning, he ran a faster race than 24 other more seasoned athletes. Only five had better times.

Home-schooled by his mother, Tracy, Farris is the oldest of seven children – three boys and four girls. His father is Dr. James Farris and is part of the medical staff of the University Medical Center Neighborhood Health Center in Fabens.

"They are all pretty excited about it," young Farris says, referring to his successes in competition. For the Tucson race, he says his mother and his sisters showed their support for him by wearing yellow and blue nail polish to match the colors of his track attire.

The parents draw praise from Munene who took him under his wing in 2009.

"Their support makes my job easier." The veteran coach sees his job as helping him run smarter, not harder.

"He got me running longer and harder and more often," Farris explained in an earlier *Courier* article. "An important part of that training program was learning to rest more and eat more."

Farris has this assessment of Coach Franks' abilities.

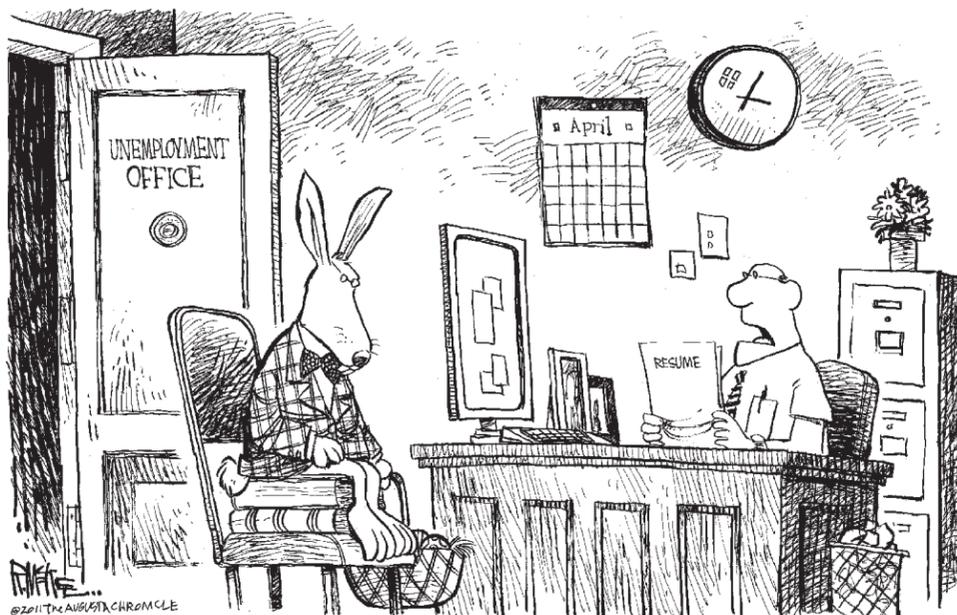
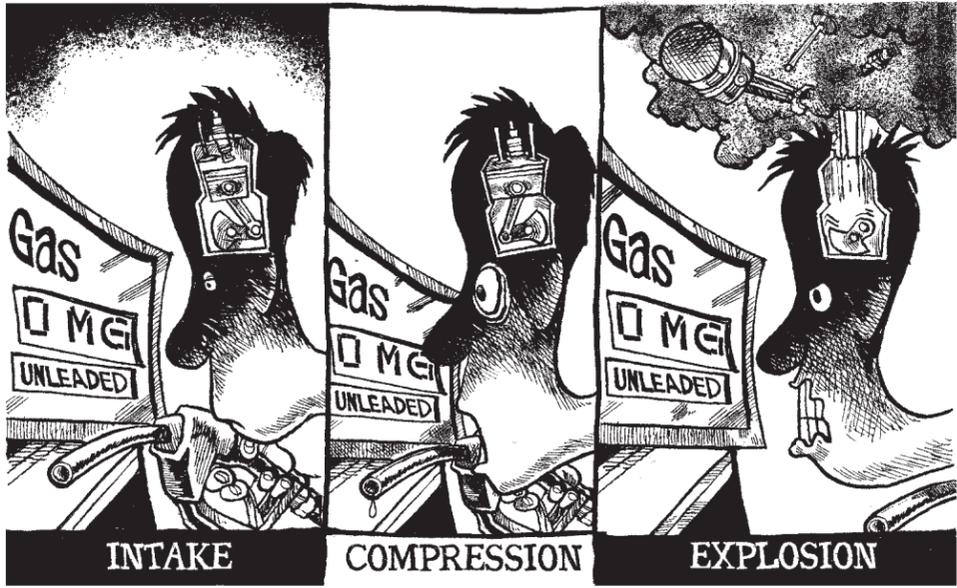
"He is a complete package. He is not lacking in any area. He is a really good all-around coach. I don't doubt any of his methods. I can't point out any of his strengths when he doesn't have any weaknesses."

Rest is the second of the three "Rs" that comprise much of his life and consume much of his time. He goes to bed early, around 9:30 p.m.

The first, of course, is Running. The third is Reading. Continuing his education, his mother has put him on what he terms an "intense" reading regimen of good books.

In the longer term, Farris is looking to attend the University of Arizona, which he says has a very good coach with a very good distance running program. He would like to run professionally and is considering a career

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Briefs

From Page 1

www.uspirg.org/reports/usp/ following-money-2012.

- R.J. DeSilva

Wanted

Ruben Longoria, 42, has been on the run since December 1, 2011 when the subject and his 19-year-old niece began a verbal altercation. The Socorro Search has been intensified because the defendant then proceeded to physically assault the young girl. And when his own mother stepped in to try and stop the assault, he turned on her and

also assaulted his own 78-year-old mother. It's not the first time Longoria has been in trouble. His mug shot is from prior arrests for various crimes. Right now when he's caught he'll need \$5,000 dollars to bond out on these charges, and it could go up if he doesn't turn himself in.



Ruben Longoria

If you know where he is or who may be hiding him call the police. The City of Socorro number is 858-6986. Anyone helping him avoid arrest could get into trouble

as well.

- David Garcia

Wanted II

Gabriela Blanco-Rodriguez, 31, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. She also uses Gabriela Macias. She is 5'4" tall, weighs 160 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. On March 13, 2012, Deputies were dispatched to a business in San Elizario in reference to a family assault in progress. They arrived and met with the victim who told authorities his ex-spouse, Blanco-Rodriguez, came to his place of employment highly intoxicated and began insulting him. A short time later she attacked him striking him

multiple times to the head and face area with her cell phone and fled the scene. The entire incident occurred in the presence of witnesses that included the couples' three-month-old child. Blanco-Rodriguez attempted to take the child but the victim managed to retrieve the child from the car before she sped off. A Protective Order has also been issued against Blanco-Rodriguez on behalf of the victim and the three-month-old child. Blanco-Rodriguez has already been arrested three times in 2012. She shows a lengthy arrest history for offenses such as DWI (twice), Injury to a Child, and several previous Assault arrests with one incident involving the same ex-

spouse. It is believed Blanco-Rodriguez remains in the Borderland area hiding with friends or relatives.



Blanco-Rodriguez

If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Blanco-Rodriguez they can contact Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of Blanco-Rodriguez.

- Deputy Jesse Tovar

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION ELECTION, DIRECTOR ELECTION, BOND ELECTION, REFUNDING BOND ELECTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TAX ELECTION, AND SPECIAL CONTRACT ELECTION

TO THE DULY QUALIFIED RESIDENT ELECTORS OF PASEO DEL ESTE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 8 AND TO ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 8 (the "District") will hold an election within the District on Saturday, the 12th day of May, 2012, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., at 13253 East Lake Blvd., El Paso, Texas, for the purposes of confirmation of creation of the district; electing five (5) members of the Board of Directors of the District; authorizing the issuance of bonds of the District; authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds for the District; authorizing the levy of a tax on taxable property within the District for operation and maintenance purposes; and authorizing the levy of a tax on taxable property within the District for the purpose of making payments related to a special contract between the District and Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 1.

The election is being held by order of the Board of Directors of the District. Voting in said election shall be by the use of paper ballots which shall conform to the requirements of the Texas Election Code. The boundaries of the District are hereby designated as and shall constitute one election precinct and the following persons are hereby appointed officers of said election:

- Presiding Judge: Jose Lares
- Alternate Presiding Judge: [To be named, if possible]
- Clerk: [To be named, if possible]

Early voting in the election by personal appearance shall occur on each day from April 30, 2012, through May 8, 2012, which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or an official State holiday. The early voting clerk shall be Jose Lares, and the place at which early voting shall be conducted is 13253 East Lake Blvd., El Paso, Texas, Jose Lares is appointed judge of the early voting board and he/she may appoint two clerks to assist.

The early voting clerk's mailing address to which ballot applications and ballots to be voted by mail may be sent is to Freeman & Corbett, 8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite B-104, Austin, Texas, 78759. The early voting clerk shall keep the early voting place open from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., on each day for early voting which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or an official state holiday.

The election shall be held and conducted and returns made to the Board of Directors of the District in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as modified by Chapters 49 and 54, Texas Water Code.

All qualified resident electors of the District shall be entitled to vote in the election.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WTCC: 03-29-12

AVISO DE ELECCIÓN DE CONFIRMACIÓN, ELECCIÓN DE DIRECTORES, ELECCIÓN DE BONOS, ELECCIÓN DE BONOS DE REEMBOLSO, ELECCIÓN DE IMPUESTO DE OPERACIÓN Y MANTENIMIENTO Y ELECCIÓN DE CONTRATO ESPECIAL

A LOS VOTANTES CALIFICADOS, RESIDENTES DEL DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES Nro. 8 DE PASEO DEL ESTE Y A TODAS LAS DEMÁS PARTES INTERESADAS:

Se notifica por el presente que el Distrito de Servicios Públicos Municipales Nro. 8 de Paseo del Este (el "Distrito") celebrará una elección dentro del Distrito el sábado 12 de mayo de 2012, en el horario de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. en 13253 East Lake Blvd., El Paso, Texas, con el fin de confirmar la creación del Distrito; elegir cinco (5) miembros de la Junta Directiva del Distrito; autorizar la emisión de bonos del Distrito; autorizar la emisión de bonos de reembolso del Distrito; autorizar la imposición de un impuesto sobre propiedad gravable dentro del Distrito con fines de operación y mantenimiento; y autorizar la imposición de un impuesto sobre propiedad gravable dentro del Distrito para efectuar pagos relacionados con el contrato especial entre el Distrito y el Distrito de Servicios Públicos Municipales Nro. 1 de Paseo del Este.

La elección se lleva a cabo por orden de la Junta Directiva del Distrito. La votación en dicha elección será mediante el uso de boletas de votación de papel las cuales cumplirán con los requisitos del Código Electoral de Texas. Por medio del presente los límites del Distrito son designados como un y constituirán un precinto electoral y las siguientes personas son designadas oficiales de dicha elección

- Juez Presidiendo Jose Lares
- Juez Sustituto Presidiendo [A ser nombrado, si es posible]
- Secretario [A ser nombrado, si es posible]

La votación anticipada en persona en las elecciones será todos los días desde el 30 de abril de 2012 hasta el 8 de mayo de 2012, excepto sábados, domingos y días feriado oficiales del estado. El oficial de votación anticipada será Jose Lares, y el lugar en el cual se llevará a cabo la votación anticipada es 13253 East Lake Blvd., El Paso, Texas. Jose Lares es designado como juez del consejo de boletas de votación anticipada quien podrá designar dos funcionarios para que los asistan.

La dirección postal del oficial de votación anticipada a la cual se pueden enviar las solicitudes y las boletas para votar por correo es Freeman & Corbett, 8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite B-104, Austin, Texas, 78759. El oficial de votación anticipada deberá mantener abierto el lugar de votación anticipada de 2:00 p.m. a 5:00 p.m., cada día de votación anticipada que no sea sábado, domingo ni día feriado oficial del estado.

La elección se llevará a cabo y los resultados serán entregados a la Junta Directiva del Distrito de acuerdo con el Código Electoral de Texas, según modificado por los Capítulos 49 y 54 del Código de Agua de Texas.

Todos los votantes calificados residentes del Distrito tendrán derecho a votar en las elecciones.

POR ORDEN DE LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA.

WTCC: 03-29-12

Montwood High School soccer players sign letters of intent

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO – Six Montwood High School girls soccer players signed letters of intent for scholarships on March 20 in front of family, friends and fans.

Sabrina Gonzalez signed with Division 1 school UT San Antonio. She made 1st Team All District 2010 and 2011 and All-City Selection 2011. She also earned Team MVP 2011 and 2012.

Eileen Edwards signed with West Texas College. She made 1st Team All District 2010 and 2011, 1st Team All City 2011, was Offensive Player of the Year 2011 and Team MVP 2011.

Ale Marquez signed with Cochise College. She made 1st Team All District 2010 and 2011 and All City Selection 2011. She also made All Academic All State 2012.

Paulina Escobar signed with UT Dallas. She made 1st Team All District 2010, 2nd Team All District 2011 and All Academic All State 2012.



– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

ALL SMILES – Montwood soccer coach Jerry Paugh, from left to right, Paulina Escobar, Alexis Rodriguez, Ale Marquez, Eileen Edwards, Sabrina Gonzalez and Jenny Calanche celebrate their signing letters of intent to attend various colleges and universities on soccer scholarships.

Alexis Rodriguez signed with Team All District 2010 and 2011. Concordia University. She made 2nd Jenny Calanche signed with Team All District 2011. Cochise College. She made 2nd Team All District 2011.

Math

From Page 2

approve funding for new books and other key classroom materials before Texas can demand its students learn more.

Board member Thomas Ratliff submitted an amendment to the proposed standards that would require funding for books as part of larger rules on new math curricula for elementary, middle and high school students.

“This now says we’re not going to pass any new standards without

guarantees books will be funded,” said Ratliff.

Based on the textbook provisions included in the vote, new math curriculum standards from kindergarten through eighth grade would take effect for the 2014-2015 school year when new books are available; and in 2015-2016 for grades nine through 12 when those books are ready, according to Debbie Ratcliffe, a spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency.

Ratcliffe said that it’s difficult to estimate how much state funding would be needed to purchase new

books for the future curriculum standards, but that a very rough estimate for K-12 math material would be around \$350 million.

Education authorities use the Permanent School Fund, an endowment established in the 1850s and consisting of state land and mineral rights, royalty earnings and stocks and bonds, to raise money for the purchase of new books. They must have the Legislature appropriate that money so the purchases can go forward.

But the Legislature cut \$4 billion in education spending during last year’s session – the first time since World War II that lawmakers did not approve education-spending increases to meet rising school enrollments statewide.

Ratcliffe said that during the last budget cycle or two, there was a problem with purchasing textbooks and that the cuts meant authorities had to postpone a plan to buy science books last year.

Farris

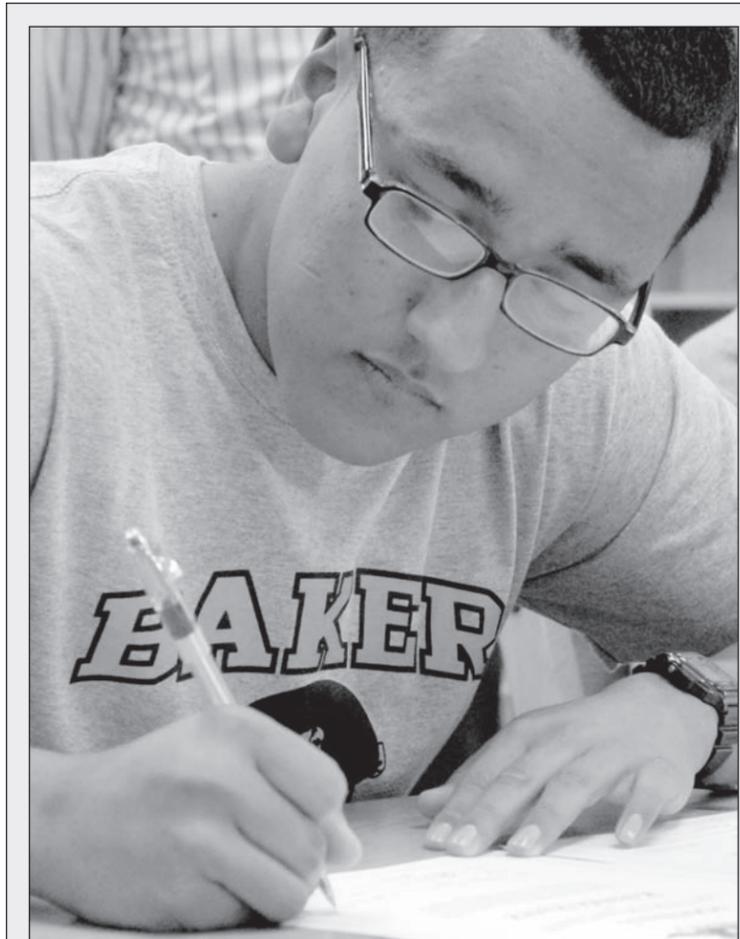
From Page 3

in sports medicine or as a veterinarian.

In the nearer term, he will compete in the New Mexico Tailwind Invitational in April in Albuquerque. Farris confidently expects a win. “I’ll be ready for that one.”

Beyond Tailwind, he hopes to take part in 54th annual Mt Sac Relays in April in Walnut, California. There again he would go with his strength, the 5,000-meter event. The Mt. Sac Relays website says that this event is “where the world’s best athletes compete.”

Beyond Tailwind, beyond Mount Sac, beyond the Olympic trials, the confident Farris sees himself competing in the summer Olympics in 2020 and 2024 in what he considers his prime running years.



– Photo courtesy Clint ISD

Perez signs with Baker

Rolando Perez signed a letter of intent to attend Baker University on a football scholarship. Perez was the kicker for the Lions and was 3-3A First Team All District. Baker University is a private school located in Baldwin City, Kansas, where the Wildcats compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Region V.

– Andrew Reynoso

archives: www.wtxcc.com

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CryptoQuip Answer

If a feline had a story for each of its lives, could you have a cat o’ nine tails?

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- It was American humorist Evan Esar who defined a zoo as “an excellent place to study the habits of human beings.”
- The New York Times Best Seller list was first published on April 9, 1942. Since that time, only eight authors have managed to have books place No. 1 on both the fiction and nonfiction lists. Those who have accomplished that feat include Ernest Hemingway, Jimmy Buffett, William Styron, Dr. Seuss and John Steinbeck.
- If you’re planning a trip to New Orleans, you might want to keep in mind the following law: It’s illegal in that city to curse a firefighter while he or she is engaged in official duties.
- America’s first vending machines were found in New York City train stations; they dispensed gum.
- The European sturgeon (also known as the beluga sturgeon) is the source of the highly coveted beluga caviar, which is the world’s most expensive, bringing up to \$5,000 per pound. This sturgeon can live more than 100 years and is the largest freshwater fish in the world; the record holder, caught in 1827, was 24 feet long and weighed 3,460 pounds.
- In a 1982 issue of the magazine American Film, a writer named Chuck Ross claimed that he retyped the screenplay to the 1942 film “Casablanca,” changing only the title and one of the character’s names, and submitted it to 217 agencies. Of the 85 who responded, only eight recognized it as “Casablanca,” though it seemed familiar to another 25. Three of the agencies thought it might be commercially viable, while one thought it should be turned into a novel. The Oscar-winning screenplay was rejected outright by 38 of the agencies.

Thought for the Day: “The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal.”
– Erich Fromm

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NFL grabs news spotlight from other sports

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We're right smack dab in the middle of the NBA season and Major League Baseball will be starting up this week.

The NCAA Tournament is reaching its conclusion and even hockey fans are watching their teams jockeying for playoff positions.

But through all this, one sport – that ended over a month ago – has dominated the airwaves over the past couple of weeks, for some good reasons and some very bad ones.

The NFL has captured the attention of most sports fans in a way that has never been done before.

To say that next season is going to be one of the most anticipated in decades is not an understatement by any means.

Think about it – all of us are going to be instant Denver Broncos followers. Well, we all followed the Broncos last season, but for a very different reason.

Every true football fan would agree that Peyton Manning is easily one of the best quarterbacks to ever play the game.

And about 99 percent of us thought we'd never see him in any other helmet than the one with the horseshoe on it.

But now that Manning is with the Broncos, everyone will watch to see if his neck has fully healed. And if it has, does that mean 10-12 wins for Denver?

So if Manning is with Denver, that means that last year's media darling, Tim Tebow, must be elsewhere.

And he is. The New York Jets, who already register a 10 on the drama-meter, grabbed Tebow as quickly as they could.

That means that Tebow will be breathing down the neck of one of the most emotionally fragile players in the league, Mark Sanchez.

Though Sanchez looks much prettier in the pocket, at times his passes rival Tebow's in the "who was he throwing to" department.

And then there are two teams who were dreadful last season, but will be watched with great interest this season.

The Indianapolis Colts (2-14) and the Washington Redskins (5-11) were about as exciting as an Al Gore speech a year ago. But each team will undergo an injection of youth and talent at the quarterback

position that could be their start of years of prosperity.

Andrew Luck will take over for Manning in Indy while Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III will be the Redskins new signal caller.

Because of their surrounding cast of characters, it may take each two or three years to start winning consistently.

But football fans are excited about the possibilities.

And that brings us to one of the best teams in the league in 2011, the New Orleans Saints.

What came down with the Saints may be the most embarrassing episode a pro franchise has had to go through in my lifetime.

Everybody knows that football is a violent sport and it doesn't come at a more dangerous pace than in the NFL.

But when players and coaches pitch in to pay their teammates a bonus to intentionally have an opponent taken off the field on a stretcher is unimaginable to me.

As many of you know, the team, led by assistant coach Gregg Williams, put bounties on different opponents at various times.

They provided players with incentives do

to a little extra to knock a player out of the game.

Just like gambling, a "bounty" could lead a player to approach the game a little differently than he normally would.

Especially if there is a little extra "green" in it for them at the end of the day.

But what really got everyone's attention were the penalties commissioner Roger Goodell imposed on the team and coaches.

Williams is out (without pay) indefinitely and head coach Sean Payton is out for the entire season, costing him nearly \$6-million.

But the way I look at it, Goodell had no choice. The only way you can put a stop to anything is to penalize someone heavily for it.

And by heavily I mean in the pocketbook. Players and coaches have proven over and over that their allegiances are never with the franchise or the fans – it's with the dollar.

So as popular as the NFL already is, there are tons of new reasons to get excited about the game.

Sorry to all the other sports – good luck fighting for second place.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Who doesn't like a good deal

I hate Duke.

I hate Duke like most of you hate the New York Yankees (Yankee fans need not apply, but they get the picture). But, yeah, I'm biased because I'm a Maryland Terrapin.

For me, it's not enough to watch Duke lose regularly in football (even to the Terps), because they

rarely make a national broadcast in that regard. No, there's something else there... some sort of dynamic that just seems to irritate me. Oh, that's right... I forgot. Duke irritates me because their student body – at least at basketball games – irritates me.

At least they used to. Word has

reached me that their infamous "dirt sheets" are a thing of the past. And actually (Who am I kidding?), secretly, deep down inside, I kind of liked those organized chants (but never liked the striped shirts, sorry).

For the uninitiated, Duke students used to research the opposition and would organize chants before the game and then publish and distribute them to students. I'm not going to research this myself, but generally speaking, they would chant something relating to the criminal or unseemly past of a player on the opposing team. And while I'm not proud of Maryland's recent history of burning stuff on Route 1 after a

big win (a problem that is clearly exacerbated by overzealous policing and exaggerated news accounts), I have always thought their "we don't riot" and "not our rival" chants were pretty much brilliant in their simplicity.

I've often wondered what legendary Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski thought about those chants. While I do, on occasion, ask the offbeat question at press conferences because I tend to think coaches and/or players take themselves a bit too seriously, I never really had the seeds to ask him about the phenomenon. Many years back I seem to recall that he shouted down students who were chanting

about firing former St. John's head coach Mike Jarvis, apparently a friend of his. Jarvis was fired later that same season, so you have to give the Cameron bunch their due there, too.

However, there was one place the school didn't get its due this year – the NCAA tournament. No, players like Josh Hairston, Mason Plumlee and Miles Plumlee will not enter into the pantheon of Duke greats – at least not yet – after losing in the first round against Lehigh. They couldn't shoot from the outside, the program's usual core competency. The chants were non-existent and, given the circumstances, would have been pretty lame even by their standards.

Oh well. I mellow as I age. I'm like the Powers Boothe character in "Red Dawn." I caution against harboring such hatred. Accordingly, I have become increasingly aware of the value of a dollar. So, hey Duke, as I do every year I picked you to win the tournament, and now I'm out \$20 bucks. Feel free to Paypal me for the transgression. In return, I'll kickstart your dirt sheets again.

Who doesn't like a good deal?

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

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Town Of Horizon City

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held during a Regular Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers (Municipal Courts/Police Department building, next to City Hall), 15001 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX, 79928. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding a proposed rezoning of the following property:

Rezoning Application #12-002RZ, a 3.659 acre parcel described as:

Proposed is the following change of zoning:

Current Zoning: A-2, Apartment

Proposed Zoning: C-2, Heavy Commercial

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk at 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX 79928 or call 915-852-1046. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Karen Ellefson
Town Clerk
Horizon City

WTCC: 03-29-12

Town Of Horizon City

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held during a Regular Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers (Municipal Courts/Police Department building, next to City Hall), 15001 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX, 79928. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding a proposed rezoning of the following property:

Address: 13781 N. Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, TX 79928

Karen Ellefson
Town Clerk
Horizon City

WTCC: 03-29-12

Meeting on

Monday, April 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers (Municipal Courts/Police Department building, next to City Hall), 15001 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX, 79928. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding a proposed rezoning of the following property:

Rezoning Application #12-003RZ, containing two parcels:

Parcel 1, described as:

Legal: A portion of CD Stewart Survey No 321

Location: SW Corner of Darrington and Horizon Boulevard

Proposed is the following change of zoning:

Current Zoning: R-2 Residential (Assigned at time of annexation)

Proposed Zoning: C-2, Heavy Commercial

Parcel 2,

described as:

Legal: A portion of CD Stewart Survey No 321

Location: SW Corner of Darrington and Horizon Boulevard

Proposed is the following change of zoning:

Current Zoning: R-2 Residential (Assigned at time of annexation)

Proposed Zoning: R-9, Residential

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk at 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX 79928 or call 915-852-1046. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Karen Ellefson
Town Clerk
Horizon City

WTCC: 03-29-12

Public Notice Village of Vinton, Texas Texas Community Development Program

The Village of Vinton will conduct a **public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday April 12, 2012 at City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton Texas**, to review the performance of and obtain comments on its Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) Planning and Capacity Building Fund Contract No. 710134. Consultants from Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper, Inc. will give a presentation on the plan at the hearing. The City encourages citizens to participate in the review of its Comprehensive Plan 2012-2032 and make their views known at the public hearing. The plan will be available for review at City Hall during normal business hours as of March 29, 2012.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views or inquiries in writing to the Jessica Garza, City Clerk at the City Hall at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821. Persons with disabilities wishing to attend this meeting and need a special accommodation should contact the City Secretary at (915) 886-5104 at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Jessica Garza
City Clerk

WTCC: 03-29-12

People know Pueblo for its...



Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.



Comix

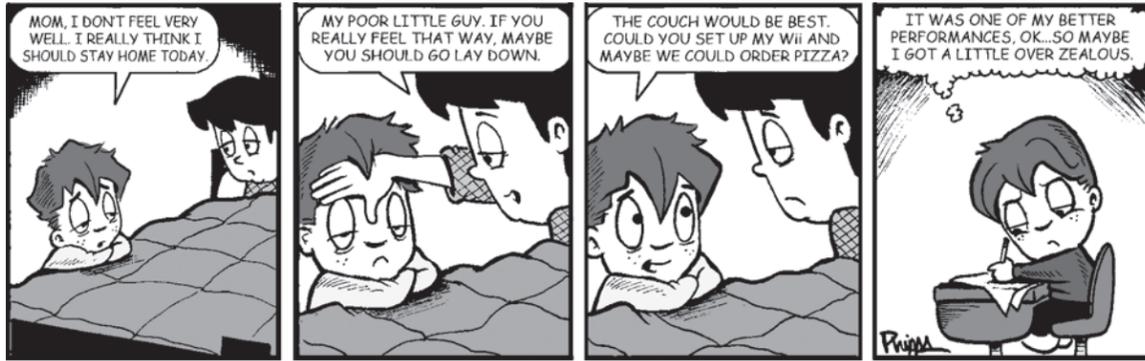
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



DARYL CURSES THE DAY HE BOUGHT HIS OUTDATED CALENDAR

KOPERVAS

AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: The receptionist at my doctor's office called to give me the report on a mammogram I had taken. She said that it showed calcifications and that the doctor wanted it repeated in six months. Why? Are calcifications indications of cancer? If they are, I'd like to get this taken care of immediately. I am becoming a nervous wreck thinking about this. - H.M.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My thighs are loaded with cellulite. What is it, and how can I get rid of it? - M.T.

Cellulite is beneath-the-skin fat that forms small puckers due to crisscrossing fibers similar to but not the same as scar-tissue fibers. The fiber-puckered fat gives the involved skin a lumpy-bumpy appearance.

When tests don't provide a definite answer, everyone suffers - the patient, the doctor of the patient and the doctor who interpreted the test.

Calcifications are the perfect example. They're calcium specks. When the doctor interpreting the mammogram sees them, he or she bases their importance on their number, their shape, their size and the pattern they make. With those criteria, the doctor usually can say whether they indicate cancer.

Noncancerous calcifications might result from a bump to the breast to which you paid little attention. Or a minor breast infection could have caused them.

If the doctor feels that evidence points more in the direction of cancer, then he or she will ask for an immediate biopsy. If the doctor feels more certain that they are not cancer signs but is not completely certain about that call, a repeat examination at a later date is a reasonable position to take. Neither the interpreting doctor nor your personal doctor would ask for a delay if there was any chance that the inaction would harm your health.

The pamphlet on breast cancer gives the approach to diagnosing and treating it. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donahue - No. 1101W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

Laser treatments, radiofrequency wave treatments and ultrasound have been used for removing cellulite. These are cosmetic procedures and likely are not covered by insurance. Innumerable creams are advertised for cellulite reduction, but I can't tell you if they work. I would be cautious about trying any that are costly. Weight loss makes cellulite less obvious. You are best served by consulting a dermatologist.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: For the past several days, my left eyelid has been twitching. There's no pain. It does not affect my vision. Does it mean anything? - T.P.

Not usually. Eyelid twitches result from spasms of muscles controlling eyelid movement. It's intermittent and lasts for a few days, at most. Fatigue, stress and caffeine have been implicated as causes. I have had such twitching, at times when I was neither tired nor stressed nor drinking caffeine.

If the twitching is bothersome, soak a washcloth in warm water and apply it to the closed eyelid. If twitching lasts longer than a week or two, see the family doctor.

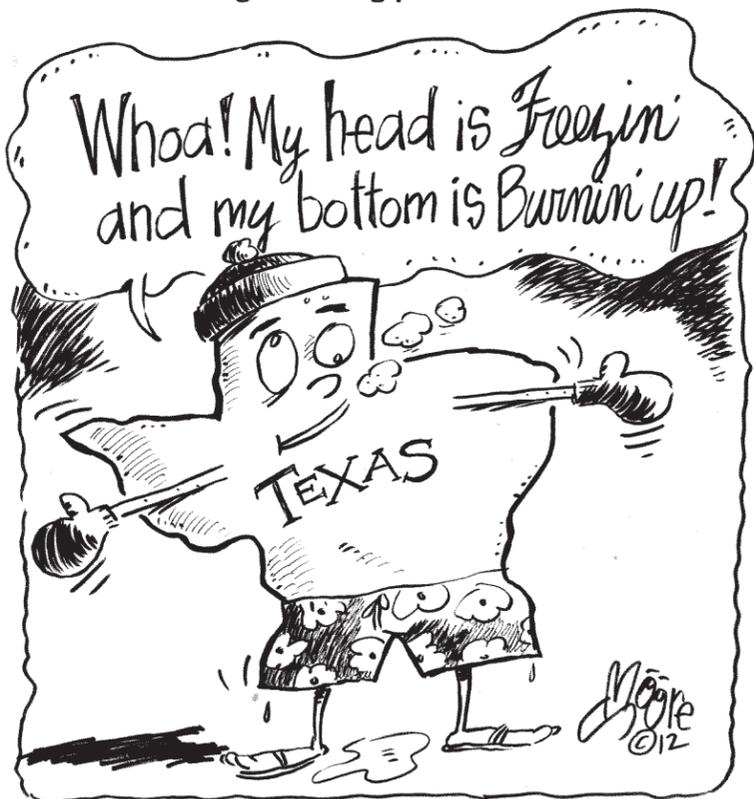
Dr. Donahue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2012 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- ART WORK**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Mushroom part
- 4 Demonic
- 8 Vatican-related
- 13 Heiss on the ice
- 18 Hasten
- 19 Pianist Lupu
- 20 Venus' sister
- 21 Speak one's mind
- 22 Art Carney role
- 24 Art Tatum recording of '49
- 26 Paper quantity
- 27 _ the Hyena (Capp character)
- 29 Two - kind
- 30 Organ of equilibrium
- 31 South American capital
- 34 Laotian native
- 38 Wholly
- 41 Art Rooney's team
- 46 Palindromic dictator
- 47 Wing-ding
- 48 Croquet arena?
- 49 Model Carre
- 52 Pub orders
- 54 Flask
- 57 Zimbabwe, formerly
- 61 Celebratory suffix
- 62 Alliance
- 63 Tiriac of tennis
- 64 61, to Cicero
- 65 Hosp. areas
- 67 Stable youngster
- 70 Casino worker
- 73 Italian statesman
- Aldo
- 75 Art Garfunkel's partner
- 78 Travelers' aids
- 79 Food fish
- 81 Lhasa _
- 82 Drink like 81
- Across
- 83 Business abbr.
- 84 Conger or moray
- 85 "Jeepers!"
- 88 "Back in the _" (68 song)
- 92 Composer Verdi
- 95 Ms. Van Tassel
- 97 Yearn
- 98 "Hook" heavy
- 99 Chutzpah
- 101 Watch pts.
- 103 "Bali _"
- 104 Art Malik series
- 110 Annoying
- 113 Depart
- 114 Tabriz currency
- 115 Society column word
- 116 Claire or Balin
- 118 Bouquet
- 121 Kite part
- 124 Art Sansom cartoon
- 130 Art Fleming hosted it
- 133 Arrested
- 134 Hire
- 135 Mine feature
- 136 Sportscaster
- Berman
- 137 Stout
- 138 Boca _, FL
- 139 Kansas city
- 140 TV chef Martin
- DOWN**
- 1 "Dark Lady" singer
- 2 Helper
- 3 Gridiron calls
- 4 Drop a brick
- 5 Tub
- 6 Superstar
- 7 Debussy's "Clair de _"
- 8 Schoolboy's shot
- 9 Joan Van _
- 10 Mile High Center architect
- 11 Part of A.D.
- 12 Permissible
- 13 Dovecote sound
- 14 Mil. address
- 15 More mature
- 16 Actor Patrick
- 17 Suspicious (of)
- 20 Reduce to smithereens
- 23 Skip
- 25 Abominate
- 28 Say please too often?
- 32 Flavor enhancer
- 33 Problem solver?
- 35 Tropical spot
- 36 _ impasse
- 37 Fresh
- 39 Walked
- 40 Ferrara first family
- 41 Chanteuse Edith
- 42 Eric of "Nuns on the Run"
- 43 _ Bator
- 44 Rampur royalty
- 45 Fermi or Caruso
- 50 Long Island resort
- 51 At _ and sevens
- 53 Baby bird?
- 55 Soybean product
- 56 " _ Gay" ('98 film)
- 58 It holds plenty!
- 59 Lennon's widow
- 60 Tune
- 66 Caviar
- 68 Nile slitherer
- 69 Composer Franz
- 71 Actress Thurman
- 72 _ New Guinea
- 73 Frenzied
- 74 Take place
- 75 Nest noise
- 76 Accuse tentatively
- 77 "Wuthering Heights" setting
- 79 Russian jet
- 80 Agt.
- 82 Head
- 86 Fade, as a flower
- 87 Move like molasses
- 89 Academic
- 90 "The Young Lions" author
- 91 Harness part
- 93 Tipplers
- 94 Canyon sound
- 95 Swiss artist
- 96 _ breve
- 100 Shoemaker's tool
- 102 Biol. or chem.
- 105 Mideastern title
- 106 Decathlete Bruce
- 107 Tower material? ('98 film)
- 109 Pro _ (proportionately)
- 110 Foreword, for short
- 111 Change for the better
- 112 New Hampshire city
- 117 Soprano Gluck
- 119 California resort
- 120 Try again
- 122 Concept
- 123 Actress Fontanne
- 125 Encore exclamation
- 126 " _ Bad Apple" ('71 song)
- 127 Select, with "for"
- 128 _ -mo
- 129 Tons of time
- 131 Garage supply
- 132 Child welfare org.

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore Mar.27,1984:
Amarillo was 35 degrees with snow and Brownsville was a sweltering 106...big place huh ?



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I know you need to have limited resources to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). But what is considered a resource?

A: Resources are things you own that you can use for support. They include cash, real estate, personal belongings, bank accounts, stocks, and bonds. To be eligible for SSI a person must have no more than \$2,000 in countable resources. A married couple must have no more than \$3,000 in countable resources. If you own resources over the SSI limit, you may be able to get SSI benefits while trying to sell the resources. Not all of your resources count toward the SSI resource limit. For example:

- The home you live in and the land it's on do not count.
 - Your personal effects and household goods do not count.
 - Life insurance policies may not count, depending on their value.
 - Your car usually does not count.
 - Burial plots for you and members of your immediate family do not count.
 - Up to \$1,500 in burial funds for you and up to \$1,500 in burial funds for your spouse may not count.
 - If you are blind or have a disability, some items may not count if you plan to use them to work or earn extra income.
- You may also wish to read our

material on "resources" in the booklet, Understanding SSI at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/text-understanding-ssi.htm.

Q: If I call 1-800-772-1213, can a Social Security representative take my application for Medicare prescription drug help over the phone?

A: If an interviewer is available when you call the 800 number, he or she can take your application over the phone. If an interviewer is not immediately available, we can schedule a telephone appointment for you. For the fastest and most convenient way to apply for Medicare prescription drug help, go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp.

Q: How are my retirement benefits calculated?

A: Your Social Security benefits are based on earnings averaged over

your lifetime. Your actual earnings are first adjusted or "indexed" to account for changes in average wages since the year the earnings were received. Then we calculate your average monthly indexed earnings during the 35 years in which you earned the most. We apply a formula to these earnings and arrive at your basic benefit. This is the amount you would receive at your full retirement age. You may be able to estimate your benefit by using our Retirement Estimator which offers estimates based on your Social Security earnings. You can find the Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

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

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.

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DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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Answer Page 5

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Award

From Page 1

family nights with math and science activities.

Former senator Eliot Shapleigh visited the Green Team on March 12 to offer congratulations and get a tour of their latest work at the school.

"Chester Jordan is a statewide model," Shapleigh said. "When kids lead green teams... that will change the future. It's awesome."

Principal Michelle Aube-Barton is extremely proud of her students and staff and the excellent work they are producing.

"Being a fairly new school, we've got a lot to be grateful for - the leadership on campus, the success of our students," Aube Barton said. "Our core values are trust, teamwork and thinking and these are our anchors that help us maintain success."

The green team members will attend the Texas Environment Excellence Awards ceremony on May 2 in Austin, said Mary Salas, district instructional math and science coach at Chester E. Jordan Elementary School.

"It'll be interesting for them to be part of the whole environment of ecological awareness," she said. "These students are becoming leaders now. They are looking forward and becoming goal oriented and they are very good presenters."

Pam Aguirre, a small business compliance assistance specialist for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), said the TEEA award is selected by the governor's office and Chester E. Jordan is the only youth winner in the state.

"This is about El Paso taking a lead and not being behind the times," Aguirre said. "It speaks volumes about what this school can show the entire state."

The TCEQ initiated the Texas Environment Excellence Awards in 1993, according to the TEEA website. Presented every spring, the awards are given in up to 9 diverse categories across the public and private sectors.

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 5

★★★ 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: W equals F

SW Y WHUSVH GYQ Y BRCPZ

WCP HYL G CW SRB USDHB,

LCXUQ ZCX GYDH Y LYR C'

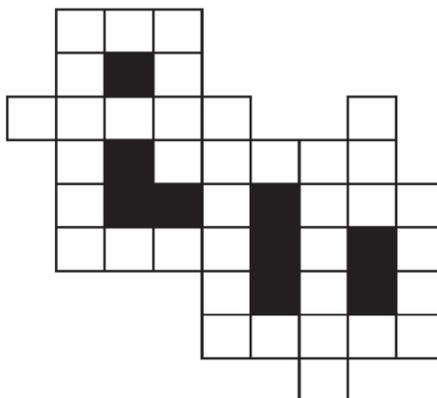
VSVH RYUHB?

Answer Page 5

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- OMO
- RODHUS
- DROWL
- SHWI
- ♥ WRODES
- WSO
- ♥ SEHO
- GROHU
- ♥ OHW
- HOMSOT
- ♥ SOTOR
- LEWT



Answer Page 5

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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