



NEWSBRIEFS

Trees

America's forestland is a prized natural resource, and anyone can help plant much-needed trees in these vital areas by joining the Arbor Day Foundation. Through the *Replanting Our National Forests* campaign, the Arbor Day Foundation will honor each new member who joins the Foundation in July by planting 10 trees in forests that have been devastated by wildfires, insects and disease. The cost for joining the Arbor Day Foundation is a \$10 donation. America's national forests face enormous challenges, including unprecedented wildfires that have left a backlog of nearly one million acres in need of replanting. The Arbor Day Foundation has worked with the United States Forest Service for more than 20 years to plant trees in forests in need. Our national forests need protection because they provide habitat for wildlife, keep the air clean and help ensure safe drinking water for more than 180 million Americans. To join the Arbor Day Foundation and help plant trees in our national forests, send a \$10 membership contribution to *Replanting Our National Forests*, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, or visit arborday.org/july.

— Sean Barry

Bible school

Clint First Baptist Church, 200 Main, will have its annual Vacation Bible School from 8:30 a.m. to noon, July 9-13. Local area students in kindergarten through the end of sixth grade are welcome. Call 851-3939 or 851-3145 for details.

— Erma Nelson

Crime Stoppers

A man walks into a central store with a bandana over his face and a shotgun in his hands, demanding money, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On Saturday afternoon March 10, 2012, about 2:20 p.m., the suspect entered Cricket Wireless at 1601 Montana carrying a double-barreled, sawed-off shotgun and demanded money from the cash register. The shotgun was black with a wood-type grip, and it had black tape wrapped around the handle. The suspect spoke Spanish and was wearing a black and white flannel shirt, white baseball cap, and white gloves, with a bandana covering the lower portion of his face. After obtaining an undisclosed amount of money, the suspect fled in a white, possibly late 90s Ford Taurus with dark spots that could have been primer on the driver's side door. The vehicle was in bad condition and had car parts dangling from the bottom, and possibly had Texas license plates. The suspect was last seen

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Freedom is not the right to do as you please, but the liberty to do as you ought.

— Quips & Quotes

El Paso Museum of History presents:

'Who did it? Good guys, Bad guys...'

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Renowned author Dr. Phillip Mellinger invites the public to take a journey with him back to the first quarter of the 20th century and explore the industry miners' race relations that developed between Mexicanos and Anglos in the Southwest during that period and are still felt today.

In conjunction with the exhibit, TRACES: A Visual Record of the Deconstruction of the ASARCO Smelter, Dr. Mellinger will present his provocative illustrated discourse, titled "Who did it? Good guys, Bad guys...", beginning at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 7, at the El Paso Museum of History, 510 N. Santa Fe Street. The presentation is free and open to the public.

"Traces: A Visual Record of the Deconstruction of the Asarco Smelter", is a chronicle in black-and-white photographs by Carol Eastman, who has been following the slow process of tearing down the Asarco smelter brick by brick. The exhibit, which is currently on display at the downtown museum, also includes videos and artifacts, with contributions by local historian Bernie Sargent, chairman of the El Paso County Historical Commission, and documentary filmmaker Jackson Polk.

As for Dr. Mellinger's presentation, he stated that the history of America and racism, especially in heavy industry, has been a violent one and is not often taught in either Social History or Business Management Classes.

"Racism has diminished over the last century and a half in part due to organized mining industry workers who helped make it happen. In the major western mining states of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Texas and Nevada workers' mutualistas, unions, and other ethnic societies changed race relations," Dr. Mellinger explained.



— Photo courtesy of Mitra Encyclopedia

BISBEE REVISITED – Copper Queen mine workers took time out for a picture in Bisbee, AZ. The town was founded as a copper, gold, and silver mining town in the 1880s. Dr. Phillip Mellinger's presentation at the El Paso Museum of History will outline the regional history of miners, muckers, millhands, and smelter workers, who labored in the thousands of mountain and desert mining camps across the Southwest early in the twentieth century. These men, largely uneducated, frequently moving from camp to camp, subjected to harsh and dangerous conditions, often poorly paid, nevertheless, came together for a common purpose.

Saturday's discourse will show how these changes came about. "What I'm telling here is an alternate story – a completely different explanation of the sometimes-improving, sometimes not-improving racial and ethnic relations. If you want to understand Mexican-Anglo, immigrant-Anglo-American, and even black-white relations a little bit deeper, then that's what this talk is about," stated Dr. Mellinger.

Dr. Mellinger is an adjunct instructor of

History and Psychology at El Paso Community College. He received his Ph.D in History from the University of Chicago. He has written numerous scholarly and literary articles and has given talks about Western history, mining industry workers and employers and racial and ethnic relations in the Western states of a century ago.

Dr. Mellinger is also the author of "Race

See WHO, Page 2

Operation Street Sweeper nets three in Socorro

By David Garcia
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO – Just before 9 a.m. on June 29, 2012 a City of Socorro Police unit arrived on the scene at the 1200 block Nancy on an illegal dumping call. The responding officer, a trained Code Enforcer, was able to track down two pick-up trucks that still contained and had been dumping gravel, dirt, and slabs of cement as well as other waste.

Both drivers were cited for illegal dumping and grading without a permit. The trucks were marked JL Landscaping and registered at 1029 Green Lilac Circle in El Paso.

55-year-old Genaro Gurrola, who lives on La Batalla Ct. in the Horizon Hills subdivision, was driving a black Ford F-150, with Texas plates.

46-year-old Benjamin Jurado, who lives on Friona in the City of Socorro, was driving a red Ford F-150 with Texas tags. 49-year-old El Pasoan, Genaro Hernandez, who lives on Gwendolyn, was with Jurado helping unload the trucks.

All were cited in violation of City of Socorro

Ordinance 76. The officer made sure the men cleaned up the area where they were illegally dumping. The ongoing effort to keep Socorro clean is called Operation Street Sweeper.



— Photo by David Garcia

BUSTED – Socorro police cited three men for dumping illegally close to the McDonald's at I-10 and Horizon Blvd. The men were also detained until they picked up the debris they had dumped.

Electricians offer training program to high school students

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

High school juniors and seniors are encouraged to look into a new pre-apprenticeship program that can give them real work experience as they study to become a licensed electrician.

Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande has teamed up with the El Paso Electricians Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) to offer a pilot program that is designed to provide youths with an opportunity to learn an important trade and, at the same time, help fill the growing demand in the region for trained electricians.

Students will be able to attend apprenticeship class part of the week and work for one of the participating contractors the other part, according to Michael Waldo from the El Paso Electricians JATC. To stay in the program, however, students must keep a 2.5 GPA in their regular

studies and must graduate from high school.

The ten-week program's aim is to get students ready for paid work positions with local contractors, stated Waldo. "You earn while you're learning; it is always nice to make some money instead of having some huge student loan when you get done," he added.

After completing the program, these students will be able to continue as part time employees and could have full-time employment after graduation.

"The purpose for programs like this one is to help participants develop work readiness skills and work experience and to provide them with a way to pay for college. It will only help them in their future lives," stated Teo Ugalde, Workforce Solutions representative.

For more information about the pre-apprenticeship program, interested individuals should visit the Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande Office, at 1359 Lomaland.

View from here

By Robert Strong

Informed consent

Many media outlets are attempting to persuade us that our opinions of same-sex marriage (SSM) – and the same sex sex that follows – are evolving and inevitable. The media does this with polls. Fox example a Gallup poll shows that support and opposition for SSM is about equal when it uses the term "same rights".

The Alliance Defense Fund researched how the results of polls depend on how the questions are worded to get a certain result. When the question is worded as defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman, 62% of the respondents agree. In the recent referendum in North Carolina the election results were 61% for traditional marriage. When the poll question has the word "rights" then the results are about equal.

The SSM advocates respond, "What's the problem, traditional marriage and SSM are harmless alternatives." This response reminded me of many years ago when chewing sugary gum and smoking cigarettes were harmless alternatives.

Science now tells us that sugary gum contributes to cavities, smoking shortens the lifespan by 14 years and same sex sex shortens the life spans of gay males by 20 years. Where is the media on INFORMED CONSENT?

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Agent Orange claims

The Veterans Benefits Administration devoted 37 percent of its rating staff to working on Agent Orange claims last year. By last month, they'd processed 230,000 claims, including 150,000 "Nehmer" claims.

Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was a lawsuit to force the VA to pay retroactively for the three newest medical conditions added to the Agent Orange presumptive list: hairy cell and other chronic B-cell leukemias, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease. Nehmer covered claims denied between 1985 and 2010, when a service connection was established between those additional illnesses and Agent Orange. The courts ordered the VA to be finished adjudicating those claims by Oct. 1, 2011. No, it didn't make the deadline, but in VA time, a nine-month delay isn't bad.

Nehmer also included some helpful instructions to the VA: Payments are to be made within 21 days of verification of entitlement. Benefits will go to the estate of a deceased veteran. A new claim doesn't have to be made.

If you have an illness, including the newest three added to list, you can still file. Per a VA.gov news release, veterans potentially are eligible if exposed to Agent Orange:

- Based on duty or visitation in Vietnam or on its inland waterways between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975;
- Along the demilitarized zone in Korea between April 1, 1968, and Aug. 31, 1971;
- Due to herbicide tests and storage at military bases within and outside of the United States.

The VA has set up an Agent Orange Fast Track Claims Processing System website [www.fastrack.va.gov] to walk veterans through the filing process. If you don't have a computer, you can talk to Benefits Support at 1-800-827-1000, or go to your Regional Benefits Office. Tell them you want the Fast Track claims forms.

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.

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TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.

Who

From Page 1

story of immigrant copper workers and their attempts to organize at the turn of the century in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and El Paso, Texas.

According to Dr. Mellinger's book, these Mexican and European laborers of widely varying backgrounds and languages had little social, economic, or political power. Yet they achieved some surprising successes in their struggles – all in the face of a racist society and the unbridled power of the mine owners.

Copies of Dr. Mellinger's book are available in the museum gift shop. There will also be a book signing following his presentation.

For more information and to reserve a seat, contact Sue Taylor at 915-351-3588 or email at taylorl@elspanotexas.gov.

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MAIL: 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928

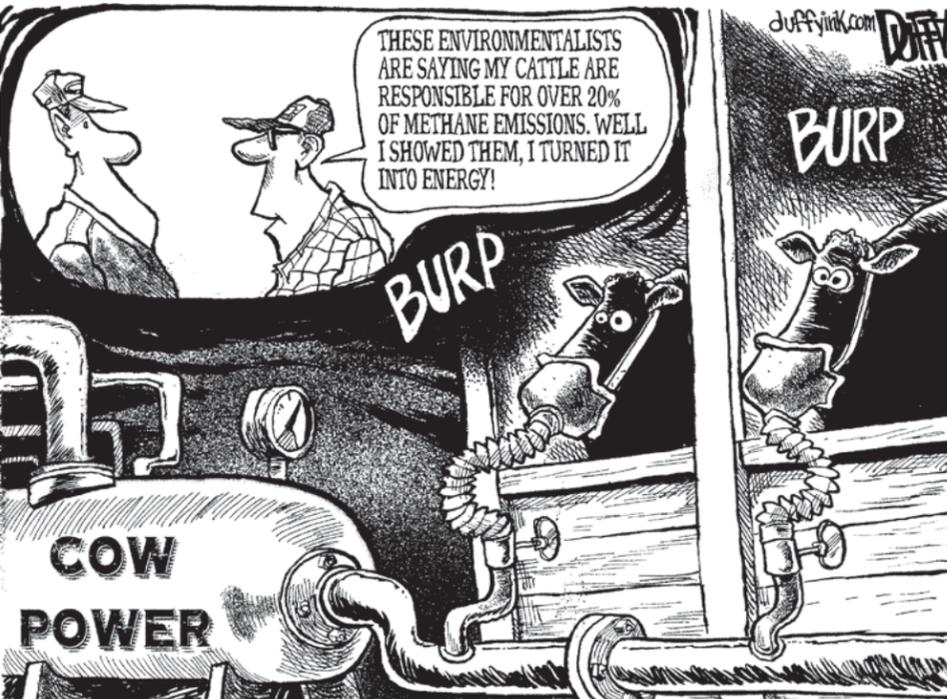
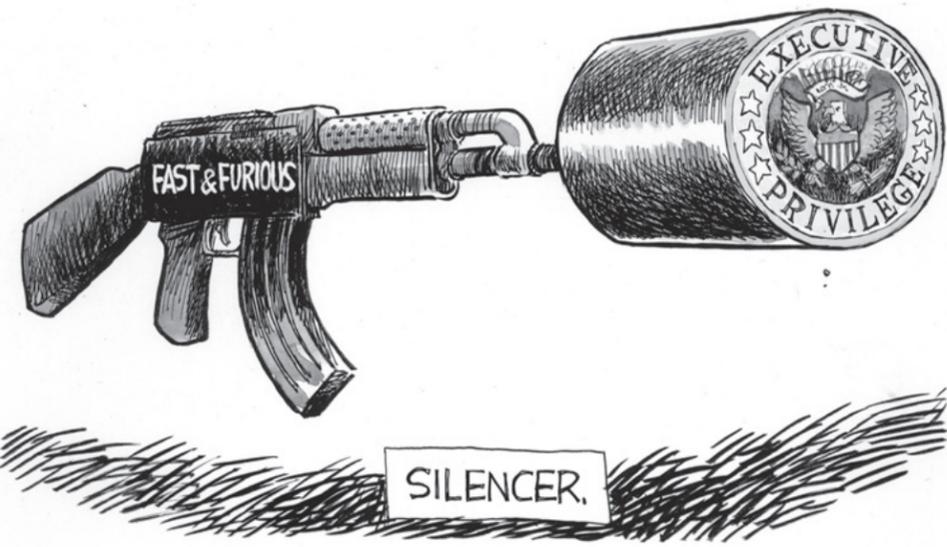
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BY THE WORLD HERALD
KOERBA



It's the law By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Hadassah given award for open records work

Open and transparent government is both fundamental to our democracy and essential to inspiring the confidence and accountability that taxpayers deserve from their government. Fortunately, the State of Texas has some of the nation's most robust public information laws. As the state agency charged with administering and enforcing the Texas Public Information Act, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is committed to ensuring that public records and other information are accessible to all Texans.

Given our demonstrated commitment to transparency and accountability in government, we were particularly thrilled when the Baylor Lariat recently honored our Open Records Division by selecting Hadassah Schloss for this year's First Amendment Freedom Fighter Award. A long-serving and dedicated member of our Open Records Division's staff, Hadassah was formally presented this distinguished award when she attended the School of Journalism, Public Relations & News Media's student awards banquet at Baylor University.

As the OAG's Cost Rules Administrator, Hadassah regularly fields calls from Texans who need help gaining access to public records and other information from a variety of state, local and municipal government entities. When one of these governmental bodies seeks to avoid responding to an individual's public information request, Hadassah and her colleagues in the Open Records Division are often the requestor's first line of defense.

In an average day, Hadassah cheerfully answers Texans' questions about the rules governing the costs of producing requested records, reviews cost estimates from governmental bodies that demanded excessive deposits from citizen requestors, and fields inquiries from government officials seeking an exemption from the standard cost rules. Although responding to requests for help keeps Hadassah awfully busy, she also works to improve government transparency by teaching classes about the cost rules, which helps ensure that officials do not overcharge Texans for public information.

Never one to miss an opportunity to espouse the virtues of open government, when Hadassah spoke to journalism students at the awards banquet, she reminded her audience that democracy can only function in the sunshine. Journalists who encounter obstacles during their quest for information should not let interference from government officials dissuade them from pursuing their stories, she told the students.

Indeed, by developing a working understanding about the Public Information Act, any Texan can use that knowledge as a key that opens a vault of information. The overwhelming majority of the complaints Hadassah receives each year stem from a

misunderstanding of the law and the cost rules – a misunderstanding that can be avoided by learning about the Public Information Act.

For example, Hadassah recently fielded complaints from two separate journalists after misinformed municipal officials demanded \$10 for a one-page police report. Once Hadassah placed a phone call to inquire about the inflated charges, the city secretary explained that she was not aware the OAG sets the rules that govern the amount agencies are authorized to charge. Thanks to Hadassah's quick action, the reporters received full refunds from the city.

In another notable case, county officials would not allow a requestor to inspect public records unless a \$730 payment was submitted in advance. After Hadassah received a phone call from the requestor, she contacted the county to educate the misinformed officials about the cost rules and the applicable limits when citizens want to inspect public records. The \$730 mishap occurred because documents sought by the requestor were public – but contained certain information that had to be redacted before the records could be reviewed. The county was allowed to charge 10 cents for each page containing information that had to be redacted. County officials had made a mistake when they attempted to charge the requestor for all the documents – not just the documents that had to be redacted. After Hadassah explained the rules, the county lowered its estimate, and the requestor was able to inspect all the information upon payment of \$21.50 for 215 redacted pages.

When Hadassah received the First Amendment Freedom Fighter Award in May, it marked the third time she was recognized for her dedication to open government. In 1996, Hadassah received the James Madison Award from the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. Hadassah also received the 2006 Open Doors Award from the Fort Worth Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Thanks to Hadassah and the other public servants who share her commitment to open and transparent government, Texas is at the forefront of sunshine states. And that's a good thing – because as stewards of the taxpayers' money, government agencies are obligated to operate in a manner that's transparent, accountable and inspires public confidence.

The Attorney General's Open Government Hotline at (877) OPEN-TEX fields more than 6,000 calls per year from citizens wishing to file complaints or seeking general information about how the open government laws work. To obtain more information about the Attorney General's efforts to enhance open government statewide, access the agency's website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.



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Understanding Medicare and Medicaid

By Jean Schiffer
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Navigating the health care system can be challenging for anyone, but for the more than 9 million people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, it can be especially difficult.

Medicare and Medicaid have similar names but are actually very different programs. People who are eligible for both, known as “dual eligibles,” must understand the differences in eligibility requirements and coverage details in order to access the health care services that are available to them. This is especially important for the 60 percent of dual eligibles who suffer from multiple chronic conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease. Getting the health care coverage they need to appropriately manage their conditions is critical to

their well-being.

The 626,375 dual eligibles in Texas and their caregivers should take the following steps to help simplify their health care experience and get the best care available.

Understand the differences in coverage and eligibility between Medicare and Medicaid.

Medicare is a program managed by the federal government that provides health care benefits to people age 65 and older and disabled individuals. Medicare covers medical care services such as physician visits, hospital stays and prescription drug costs.

Medicaid is a health care benefits program managed by the Texas state government. Unlike Medicare, each state sets its own guidelines regarding Medicaid eligibility and services. For those enrolled, Medicaid pays for most long-term care as well as Medicare deductibles, co-payments and other health care costs that

beneficiaries would otherwise pay for out of pocket.

Explore health care options in Texas that provide adequate support for dual eligibles.

For dual eligibles, the coordination of benefits between Medicare and Medicaid can be confusing, as beneficiaries typically have separate membership cards and different points of contact for their benefits questions. One option to address this challenge that has risen to the forefront of Texas efforts in recent years is what’s known as a Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan.

Offered by private companies, these plans can be chosen in place of traditional Medicare. Special Needs Plans support dual-eligible individuals by serving as a single entity that coordinates all aspects of care. These plans focus on the unique needs of dual eligibles, offering customized care and support to manage their complex

health care needs. Specialized services available with Special Needs Plans may include in-home visits, social support services and help when transitioning home from the hospital.

Learn more by taking advantage of the free resources in your community.

As state and federal officials work to improve the system that supports dual eligibles, residents should be aware of new options available to suit their unique needs as well as resources they can use to learn more. For more information on Medicare and the Texas Medicaid program, residents may contact 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day, seven days a week) or 1-800-252-8263. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program, sometimes called SHIP, can also be a good place to turn for free counseling and support. To contact the SHIP office in Texas, call 1-800-252-9240.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was beloved cowboy humorist Will Rogers who made the following sage observation: “Nobody wants to be called common people, especially common people.”

- Do you think you could eat 80 pounds of chicken? If you’re like the average American, that’s how much you will consume this year.

- You’ve probably heard or even used the term “fly off the handle” to describe someone losing their temper. You probably don’t realize, though, that the handle referred to was originally an axe handle. Sometimes the blade of such a tool would be improperly fastened to the handle, and would therefore be sent flying when the axe was being used.

- The composer who wrote the famous song “Que Sera, Sera” also wrote the theme song to the 1960s TV show “Mr. Ed.”

- Those who study such things say that England’s Elizabeth I owned 3,000 dresses.

- If you make a trip to Venice to see the famous canals, keep an eye out for any gondola not painted black. If you see one, you can be sure that it belongs to a high official in the government; they are the only ones permitted by law to have gondolas in any other color.

- The world’s single largest consumer of fossil fuels is the United States military.

- You might be surprised to learn that, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, half of all American children suffer at least one dog bite before the age of 12. The ASPCA also says that most of those bites aren’t from strange animals; rather, it’s the family pet or a friend or neighbor’s dog that does the biting.

Thought for the Day: “Where we have strong emotions, we’re liable to fool ourselves.”

– Carl Sagan

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Classified Ads

Town of Horizon City

Invitation to Bid:

Bid Number:
2012-005

Date Issued:
June 28, 2012

Bid Close Date:
July 23, 2012

Bid Opening Date:
July 27, 2012

The Town of Horizon City is soliciting bids for the following street projects within the City Limits. The project consists of five separate work items indicated below.

WORK ITEM ONE

• Prepare the outside shoulder of Eastlake Drive approximately 500 feet west of Horizon Heights Drive to include grading, fill, and compacting with owner supplied road millings approximately 10-feet in width and slope easterly toward Kenazo Drive.

• Prepare the Eastlake Drive center median eastbound from Darrington to Kenazo Drive to include grading, fill, and compacting with owner supplied road millings

approximately 10-feet in width and slope to ensure water runoff into the median area.

• Prepare from Kenazo Drive westbound on the northerly shoulder of the road to include the center median and include grading, fill, and compacting with owner supplied road millings approximately 10-feet in width and slope to ensure water runoff into the median area. Grading, fill, and compacting with owner supplied road millings approximately 10-feet in width and

slope to ensure water runoff into the median area. Caution should be taken to protect owner-installed vegetation in the commercial area.

• Prepare Horizon Boulevard northbound on Kenazo Drive to Eastlake Drive on the east shoulder of the roadway and including the center median grading, fill, and compacting with owner supplied road millings approximately 10-feet in width and slope to ensure water runoff into the median area. Caution should be

taken to protect owner-installed vegetation in the commercial area.

Work Item Two
• Prepare Pauling from the parking area at Lube & Go., including the grading, fill, and compacting with owner supplied road millings in the right of way slope to ensure water runoff into the curb area.

Work Item Three
• Prepare Weaver Road from the end of pavement including the center median grading, fill, and compacting with owner supplied

road millings approximately 36-feet in width and slope to ensure water runoff into the side barrow area.

Work Item Four
• Prepare Alberton from Antwerp westerly to Darrington, to include grading, fill, and compacting with owner supplied road millings approximately 36-feet in width and slope to ensure water runoff into the barrow area.

Work Item Five
• Transport additional road milling materials from TxDOT

facility on Pellicano and Loop 375 to project locations herein discussed. Please quote on a cost per load (including lifting, transportation, and stockpiling).

Proposals will be received at Horizon City Town Hall, City Clerk’s office, 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX 79928 until 5 p.m., Monday, July 23, 2012. Envelopes should be marked in the lower left hand corner with the bid number. Bids will be opened on July 27, 2012 at 2 p.m. Only the names of the proposers will be read out loud

at the Horizon City Town Hall. A contract is anticipated to be completed between the city and successful bidders and City Council approval on August 14, 2012.

Detail specifications and proposal packages are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by calling Administration office (915) 852-1046.

Karen Elleson
Town Clerk
Horizon City

WTCC: 07-05-12

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CryptoQuip Answer

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Socorro ISD receives bond rating upgrade

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO ISD – Socorro Independent School District (SISD) received a bond rating upgrade recently and now stands to reap significant savings in the sale of its 2012 school building and refunding bonds series, which includes \$147 million in school building bonds and \$17.79 million in refunding bonds.

Fitch Rating agency, one of the three major credit rating agencies, assigned an 'AA-' underlying rating to SISD because of the district's strong financial profile, according to Tony Reza, SISD Chief Financial Officer. "The agency saw that the district's financial position remains sound as indicated by the

maintenance of strong reserve levels and a comfortable margin on the operating and maintenance (O&M) tax rate," he said.

'AA-' is the fourth highest rating of 21 possible bond ratings assigned by credit rating agencies which assesses the credit worthiness of an organization's debt issues. It is analogous to credit ratings for individuals.

Reza, who has overseen SISD's Payroll, Purchasing, Information Services, Budget, and Business Services departments since 2009, said, "The higher the bond rating a school district receives, the lower the interest rate charged to the



Tony Reza

district. This translates into a savings for local taxpayers."

Reza said that proceeds from this and future issuance will be used to construct three new campuses (including one combination elementary/middle school), complete or expand two existing campuses, and provide district-wide technology, classroom, and HVAC upgrades.

The current offering represents the second installment of \$297 million in debt authorization approved by 55 percent of voters in May 2011. Last year, the district issued \$50 million in bonds. The district plans to issue the remaining \$100 million in authorization in 2013.

Reza explained that SISD earned a favorable rating because the rating agents determined that ample and affordable land and location within the broader El Paso metropolitan area has fueled steady population and enrollment growth within the district and that these gains are expected to continue at current levels due to the steady stream of additional troops to Ft. Bliss.

The rating agency also realized that the district receives considerable state aid for operations and debt service due to its low wealth levels, Reza said. "For example, they were quite impressed that the Board of Trustees added recently a three cent tax to the maintenance & operations tax rate and thereby generating about \$8.2 million of which 75 percent came from state funding," he related.

SISD is located east of the city of El Paso. It includes a portion of the Ft. Bliss military installation and the Briggs Army Airfield. The district also includes the city of Socorro, Horizon City, a portion of the city of El Paso, and unincorporated areas of El Paso County.

Current enrollment is about 43,700 students, which reflects a three percent annual growth rate since 2006. Growth has been spurred in part by the arrival of additional troops to Ft. Bliss and officials expect to grow to more than 49,000 students by 2016- a 12 percent increase from current levels.

According to rating agency's report, SISD's primarily residential tax base has grown by an annual average rate of over 10 percent since 2007, and ongoing residential development has been aided by the ample amount of affordable land within the district's boundaries.

Move over, slow down for tow trucks or face fine

TEXAS – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will place special enforcement emphasis on the addition of tow trucks to the Move Over/Slow Down law, which requires motorists to move over or slow down when certain vehicles are stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated. To remind the public of this important safety measure, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) activated electronic signs that read: If Tow Truck Stopped Ahead, Move Over or Slow Down, It's The Law.

"This law is about providing extra protection for those individuals on the side of the road doing their jobs, as well as the people on the roadside with them," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Thanks to this new provision, tow truck drivers, who are usually helping motorists in distress, now have additional protection under the law so they can do their jobs in a safer environment."

During the 2011 Legislative session, tow trucks were added to the existing law, which already applied to police, fire, and EMS vehicles stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated. Motorists are required to vacate the lane closest to the stopped vehicle (if there is more than one available lane in the same direction of travel) or slow to 20 miles below the speed limit.

"Last year, the Texas Legislature amended the Move Over/Slow Down law to now require motorists to slow down or move over when passing a tow truck displaying emergency lights," said Carol Rawson, TxDOT Traffic Operations director. "At TxDOT, we believe this is an important step toward improving safety for all emergency personnel, including tow truck operators, who routinely work in dangerous conditions along Texas highways."

DPS issued more than 17,000 warning and citations last year for violation of the Move Over/Slow Down law and another 6,000 through the first five months of this year. Violation of this law could result in fines up to \$200. The punishment is more severe if there is property damage, and jail time is possible if someone is injured.

– TxDOT News

New application provides real-time travel information

TEXAS – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has launched a new online map application, Drive Texas™, that provides travelers with real-time traffic conditions, traffic and weather feeds, as well as links to other useful travel information.

Drive Texas™ displays statewide conditions affecting travel – construction, closures, accidents – as well as a live weather feed that allows drivers to check conditions along their route. Travelers can plot a course by entering their start and end cities to view highway conditions along their route, and they can also locate TxDOT Safety Rest Areas or Texas Travel Information Centers. In select cities, travelers can also view images from traffic cameras, messages posted on dynamic message signs, and other detailed information.

This new site features a user-friendly interface, making it easy for the traveling public to access real-time conditions affecting travel across Texas. The application can be found at www.DriveTexas.org, or by clicking on the "Highway Conditions" link on the TxDOT homepage. And for those on the go, a mobile-friendly version is available. To use Drive Texas™ while en route, motorists should pull off the highway to a safe location or have a passenger access the service.

Although highway condition information has been available to the public for years on TxDOT.gov, Drive Texas™ is a more robust, user-friendly interface that puts information right at the user's fingertips in an easy-to-find format.

"People are mobile and want traffic and road conditions before and during their trip," said Margo Richards, TxDOT's Travel Information Division Director. "Drive Texas™ will make it easier to plan trips, avoid problem areas, and reach destinations quickly and safely. The goal is to make travel as safe as possible."

TxDOT is committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas. This new feature provides the traveling public with the information they need to plan their trips and arrive safely at destinations.

– TxDOT News

Unemployment benefits change

By Lisa Givens
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has announced that due to the state's improving unemployment rate, Texas is no longer eligible for Tier III of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC). The week ending July 7, 2012 will be the last week in which EUC claimants can exhaust Tier II EUC, and establish Tier III EUC eligibility. TWC will begin paying EUC at a new maximum rate of 34 weeks beginning July 8, 2012.

"Our state's unemployment rate has remained below the national unemployment rate for 65 months, and May marked the 22nd consecutive month that Texas has added jobs," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "TWC and our 28 local workforce boards remain committed to providing quality services to job seekers and employers."

Texas was notified by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) that the state's three-month average unemployment rate fell below 7 percent, the mandated rate for Tier III EUC eligibility. TWC previously provided 47 weeks of EUC.

Approximately 30,522 claimants already receiving EUC Tier III will not be affected by the July 7, 2012 deadline. Additionally, those who exhaust EUC Tier II before July 8, 2012 may be eligible to receive EUC Tier III benefits.

Individuals who exhaust EUC Tier II benefits after July 7 will be affected by the EUC Tier III deadline. TWC estimates approximately 22,453 EUC Tier II filers will not be eligible for additional weeks of EUC Tier III benefits. The total maximum weeks of UI benefits now available to an individual in Texas is 60 weeks, down from 73 weeks.

TWC will send letters to all affected claimants who are exhausting their Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

For more information, to update contact information and to check the status of benefits, claimants may visit TWC online at ui.texasworkforce.org or contact a UI Tele-Center toll free at 800-939-6631. Reemployment services are available through local Workforce Solutions Offices statewide, or job seekers may visit www.WorkInTexas.com to register and search for job postings.



Click It or Ticket.

Even in the back seat.

Buckle up every rider for every trip.

State law now requires both adults and children to be buckled up in the front or back seat. A child less than 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat. Most children between 4 and 8 years old will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Fines range from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs. TexasClickItorTicket.com



Los Angeles has everything it needs without the NFL

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I don't know about other people but I am a fan of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Some may believe his Sheriff Joe Arpaio-like toughness on players who break the law or challenge the integrity of the game, is too harsh.

They feel that his authority as commissioner is too powerful and can lead to dictatorial-like decisions and deeds.

I feel that it's time someone got tough with these players who have never had anyone get in their face and say "no."

Too many times, professional athletes embarrass themselves and their franchises by acting like wild animals. Sorry if I've offended any wild animals out there.

Whether it's drugs or guns or female beating or bar fighting or money laundering or burglary or driving recklessly or assault or dog fighting or issuing bounties on opposing players, the NFL is home to too many bad men.

Goodell has changed the way things work in the personal-conduct department of the

NFL and, understandably, players hate him.

I say the NFL players should just act like a men. And by men I don't just mean walk around with testosterone in their system, hair on their chest and grunting a lot.

I mean act like a real man and stay out of trouble. Be responsible and don't put yourself in dangerous situations at 3 o'clock in the morning.

All young NFL players should take a close look at men like Tim Duncan, Chipper Jones, Ray Allen, Steve Nash, Derek Jeter, Peyton Manning, Troy Polamalu, Mariano Rivera, Roger Federer, Grant Hill and Tim Tebow.

Those guys, and so many more, are what real men should be - responsible, reliable, selfless, respectable and leaders.

As long as athletes live their lives like these guys, they'll never be taken to principal Goodell's office.

And what a sacrifice these young men have to make, all they have to do is make their millions of dollars, fly first-class from city to city, stay in the best hotels and play a game they love.

Believe it or not, it's not that difficult to stay out of trouble. It's very easy.

It takes work to get into trouble. You have to go out looking for it.

So I think what Goodell is doing is a definite step in the right direction.

But there is one thing I believe Goodell has got wrong.

Everybody knows that Los Angeles is one of the best vacation destination spots in the country.

It's where that little mouse in suspenders and his friends live, where there are multitudes of movie studios to visit and where more miles of beaches and bikinis than most men can even dream of exist.

Los Angeles is the place that people love to visit because of all the things to do there. Even the people who live there, though it's so expensive, have something to do all of the time.

But the one thing that Los Angelinos don't have is an NFL team.

And to be honest, the one thing they don't seem to care about is an NFL team.

That's why I find it stunning that Roger Goodell is of the opinion that the NFL needs one, and possibly two, franchises in L.A.

First of all, I hate the fact that there are two NBA teams in Los Angeles that share the

same arena.

C'mon, everyone knows that the Staples Center really belongs to the Lakers. The Clippers have to feel like guests in their own arena.

Move the Clippers to Anaheim. This way they can be known as the Los Angeles Clippers of Anaheim.

Anyway, Los Angeles has proven in the past that it is a basketball, baseball and volleyball town. Football is just too brutal for that laid-back beach community.

Goodell should just focus on the 32 teams he currently has and ending all this New Orleans Saints madness and prepare for the massive concussion lawsuit coming his way.

I think he's got enough on his plate to start worrying about a problem that isn't there, like putting a football team in a city that didn't support the Rams or the Raiders.

Fans in Los Angeles get their football fill at USC and UCLA games.

So Roger, I love you for going after the bad guys and trying to clean up your league.

But worrying about football in Los Angeles is like worrying about the lack of sun tan lotion in Antarctica.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The \$11 champion

Floyd Mayweather, a boxer, is the world's highest paid athlete, pulling in close to \$90 million per year. He's in jail. Manny Pacquiao, also a boxer, is the second highest paid athlete in the world. He makes about \$70 million per year (and is not in jail).

(Tiger Woods rounds out the top three, earning about \$60 million per year. He's not in jail, but he's still in the doghouse, and irrelevant as far as this column is concerned.)

Timothy Ray Bradley Jr. has a net worth of \$3 million. He, too, is a boxer. Compared to Mayweather

and Pacquiao, he can't rate in the bank account department. But he is the WBO Welterweight champion of the world after shocking the world and beating Pacquiao for the belt last month.

Bradley's story should be ready-made for the fairy-tale writers, the sports writers, the underwriters... anyone who writes anything at all, really. He's married to his middle-school sweetheart, he's a faithful father and husband. Seems to be a pretty nice guy in interviews. Bradley was a waiter and dishwasher with a \$11 to his name when he was

chosen to fight for the WBC Light Welterweight championship in England. Bradley won the belt and \$65,000.

Since that fight, Bradley has played it smart outside of the ring. After a few more wins, HBO Boxing took notice and he easily outclassed Luis Abregu in his debut. After the fight, he challenged Pacquiao to "come break down this wall."

Bradley sidestepped Amir Khan's challenge - the \$1.3 million purse didn't flip Bradley's skirt apparently. Mayweather, who has routinely ducked Pacquiao in between finding the time to beat his wife, wasn't available. So Bradley got the call.

And he really did get the call.

Despite what everyone in the world saw that night, Bradley beat

Pacquiao in a split decision. Even Bradley looked stunned when the cards were read.

Those close to the fight game took to the press and Twitter to voice their displeasure.

"Bradley should have given the belt and announced victory to Paquiao right after the decision," Oscar De La Hoya said after the bout. He wasn't alone in sharing his consternation. The Donald, a self-described Twitter "critic" weighed in, too.

"Manny Pacquiao was robbed in his title fight on Saturday night," Trump wrote. "No wonder boxing is dying. Bring back the 15-round fights."

The WBO investigated. It put together an international panel of respected judges, and Pacquiao

won on all five cards. Too bad that means nothing insofar as the belt is concerned. They drug-tested Bradley. He's clean. He even had to endure the indignity of listening to smack talk from WBA Welterweight Pauli Malignaggi (Pauli said he'd win if they fought, in case you were wondering).

Personally, I'm not losing any sleep over Pacquiao's loss. Bradley is the \$11 champion, and the wife-beating felon, Phillipino crooner, Golden Boy and The Don have done nothing more than increase his value. Take it to them next time, Bradley. (And win by a knockout... it'll make things easier.)

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



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Moore Texas by Roger Moore July 6, 1923: Dr. Pepper is officially incorporated. It was concocted in 1885 in Waco. Of course, in Texas, all soft drinks are called "cokes".



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Like baseball, Social Security numbers tell stories

Just as Social Security is an American cornerstone, baseball is America's pastime.

Baseball is an annual rite of summer and a game that is known for its numbers. Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak, Cal Ripken's record 2,632 consecutive games played, and Hank Aaron's 755 career home runs all tell stories greater than the numbers themselves. Mention any one of these numbers to a baseball fan and you're sure to call to mind memories and stories.

Social Security's numbers tell stories too. The first lump sum Social Security payment of 17 cents was made to Ernest Ackerman in 1937. The first monthly Social Security check of \$22.54 went to Ida May Fuller in January of 1940. This

year, about 55 million Americans will receive \$760 billion in Social Security benefits. The average monthly benefit for a retired worker in 2012 is \$1,229.

An estimated 159 million workers are covered under Social Security – that's 94 percent of the workforce. Fifty percent of workers have no private pension coverage and 31 percent have no savings set aside specifically for retirement. These and other numbers make it easy to appreciate the value of Social Security.

Ninety percent of Americans age 65 and older receive Social Security benefits. And among the unmarried, 41 percent rely on Social Security benefits for 90 percent of their income.

Social Security is more than just retirement benefits. Disabled workers and their dependents account for 19 percent of the total benefits paid, while survivor's benefits account for 12 percent. Almost one in four of today's 20-year olds will become disabled before reaching age 67, and the majority of these workers have no long-term disability insurance besides their Social Security coverage. About one in eight of today's 20-year olds will die before reaching age 67.

Baseball and Social Security: America's pastime and America's retirement program. Both have long and storied histories and associations with statistics.

Learn more about Social Security by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: I'm getting married later this month and plan to change my name. What documents do I need to apply for a new Social Security card with my new name?

A: To change your name for any reason in Social Security's records, and on your Social Security card, you'll need to provide proof of your U.S. citizenship (if you have not previously established it with us) or immigration status. You'll need to show us evidence of your legal name change by showing us documentation of your old

and new names. Such documents could include a court order for a name change, marriage certificate, divorce decree, or Certificate of Naturalization. Finally, you'll need to show us proof of identity. All documents submitted must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. Visit our website about your Social Security card and number at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber where you can get more information and fill out your application. Or call us at 1-800-772-

1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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

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.

	÷		+		13
+		+		÷	
	÷		+		7
÷		+		+	
	+		-		10
2		10		5	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: S equals T

ZMJK QVIJ UJBC UFREFWRJ HSJI

AJSQ QMFSSJBJO, H SFPJ HS

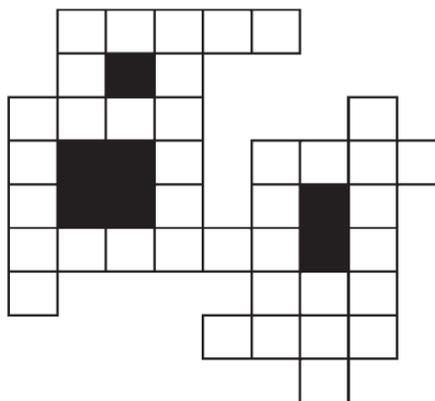
CVE'O MFUJ WBJFPHKA KJZQ.

Answer Page 4

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- TOF
- NUFTLE
- ODITI
- ♥LOSI
- ♥PLOSTI
- NIF
- ♥TELF
- ♥LEDIO
- NIO
- DUSETO
- ♥DEUSF
- TONI



Answer Page 4

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Briefs

From Page 1

heading east on Montana. If you have any information at all about this case, please call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You can remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— James Klaes

Wanted

Frank Estrada, 29, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted

Fugitive. He also uses Frank Armando Salazar and has a lengthy criminal history. He is 5'8" tall

and weighs 210 pounds. He is bald and has brown eyes. He has multiple tattoos on his arms and upper body. Estrada has been arrested 17 times in El Paso over the last ten years. The charges include drug possession, theft, DWI and multiple probation violations. Estrada is now wanted for failing to appear in court. He knows he is wanted and is believed to remain in the area hiding with friends or relatives. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Estrada 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 the Estrada.

— Deputy Jesse Tovar



Frank Estrada