



NEWSBRIEFS

Business help

The arrival of wintry weather brings with it many seasonal threats that can result in business interruption, from a flu outbreak that decimates your staff to flooding caused by frozen pipes that explode to an ice storm that knocks out your power. This is a good time to make a plan that will keep your business operating, regardless of the winter problem. On Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (MST), Agility Recovery and the US Small Business Administration (SBA) will host a practical tips webinar to mitigate your risks. The "Winter Weather Preparedness" presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. Space is limited. People can register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/844932816>. The SBA also provides disaster recovery assistance in the form of low-interest loans to homeowners, renters, private nonprofits and businesses of all sizes. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov/disaster. Visit www.preparemybusiness.org to access previous webinars and for additional preparedness tips.

— Adrian Madrigal

Long distance call

El Paso Community College is participating in a live video-conference with the astronauts presently at the International Space Station (ISS), which will allow EPCC students to ask the astronauts a question. The science students Naiqui Armendariz and Jesus Castor presently have their experiment titled: "The Effect of Microgravity on the Use of Cactus Mucilage for Water Purification" at the space station. The experiment was launched as part of the Students Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) Mission 2 Payload to the International Space Station. This conference will be held 9:45 a.m., November 15, 2012 in the cafeteria of the Transmountain Early College High School, 9570 Gateway Blvd. North.

— Jim Heiney

Crime Stoppers

Unknown persons intentionally set fire to a city park that is only two years old, completely destroying the children's playground and making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." In the early morning hours on Saturday, July 14, 2012, a little after 3:00 a.m., two units of the El Paso Fire Department were dispatched to Sunset View Park at 6072 Palmdale St. in west El Paso about an unknown type fire. Upon arrival they found the park's playground fully engulfed in flames. The fire was immediately put out, but the playground equipment was destroyed. The damage

See BRIEFS, Page 6

Definition of a conference:

"The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present."

— Quips & Quotes

Police substation subsidized by drug dealers

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY – The Anthony Police Department is now able to take a bigger bite out of crime – with the unwilling financial "help" of the criminals themselves.

In ceremonies on Nov. 1, the police force expanded the scope of its crime-fighting operations with the opening of its first substation at 101 Richard White adjacent to the municipal park.

A tongue-in-cheek headline on the town's press release announces: "Police, town and drug dealers partner up"

The press release elaborates. With the addition of the new 600-square-foot facility, "the fight against crime ... just became a bit easier for the Town of Anthony."

Price tag for the substation was \$32,200. However, the cost of was not entirely shouldered by the Anthony taxpayers. Chief of Police Carlos Enriquez points out that about half of the cost was covered the seized assets of drug dealers. The other half came from the town's general fund.

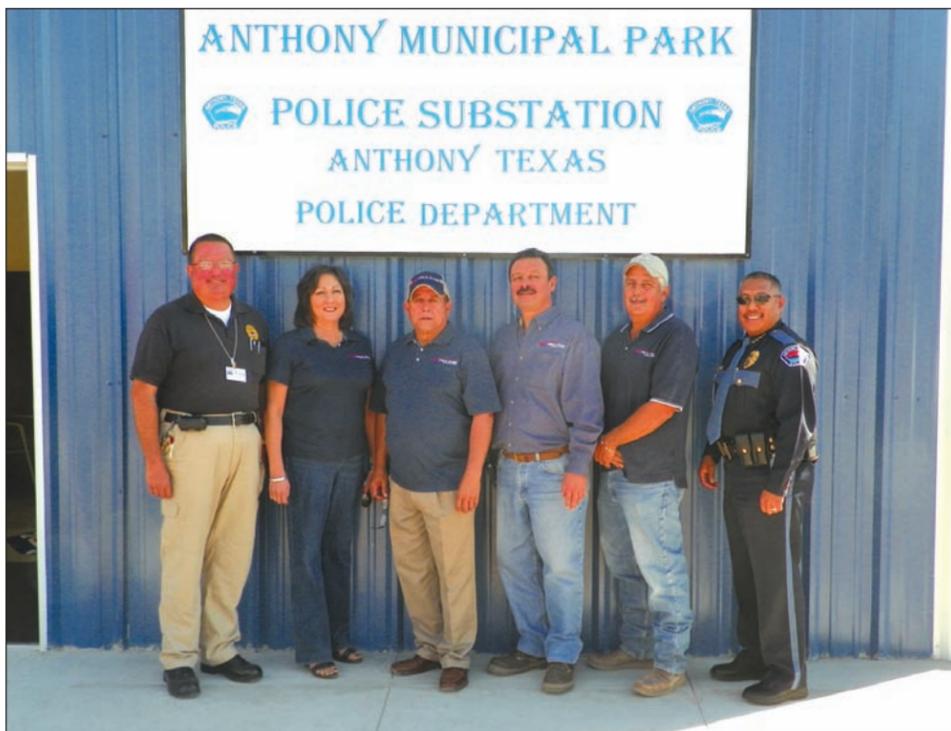
Again, very much tongue-in-cheek, Enriquez "thanks" the drug dealers for their help in making this possible – "so we can continue the good work; so we can continue growing."

Growth was a key part of the chief's remarks.

"With a growing town follows a growing police department."

"The expansion is needed," points out Enriquez who emphasizes his department "working together" with the community. "We are there for our community. We are moving very much forward for our community."

Adds Mayor Art Franco, "We are very proud of another milestone in our town. We



— Photo courtesy Town of Anthony

CRIME PAYS BACK – Members of the Anthony Town Council and Police Department were on hand for official opening of Anthony's first Police Substation. Seized assets of drug dealers helped to build the substation. From left are council members Orlando Garcia, Rosie Holguin, Mayor Art Franco, Chanan Singh, Lee Vela and Police Chief Carlos Enriquez.

are very proud of what is happening here."

He said the substation will provide comparable service to what is available at the main police station. It will also provide free wireless internet service.

"We are not ashamed to work for our people," the mayor adds.

Enriquez says the positive impact and importance of the station, located in a high-crime area, was being felt even before it went into operation.

He says a crime analyst noted that crime has gone down as the police building was going

up. "Burglaries have dropped significantly."

The chief adds, "Hopefully the substation will bring the community together and increase our bond with them."

The bond is also reflected in the press release. "The building will serve as a community relations hub and a meeting point for divorced parents to exercise their visitation rights without fear of one another."

The Anthony Police Department has 18 officers, including the chief. This compares with only six officers as reported in a 2001 story in the *County Courier*.

Native American stories come to life in the night sky

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Fall and winter are storytelling seasons for many Native American tribes and in tribute of November being designated as National Native American Heritage Month, Storyteller Alex Mares will entertain his audience with Navajo, Pueblo, and Apache myths and legends; then, he will lead the group in an exploration of the night sky.

The Native American storytelling program will be from 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday, November 17, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road.

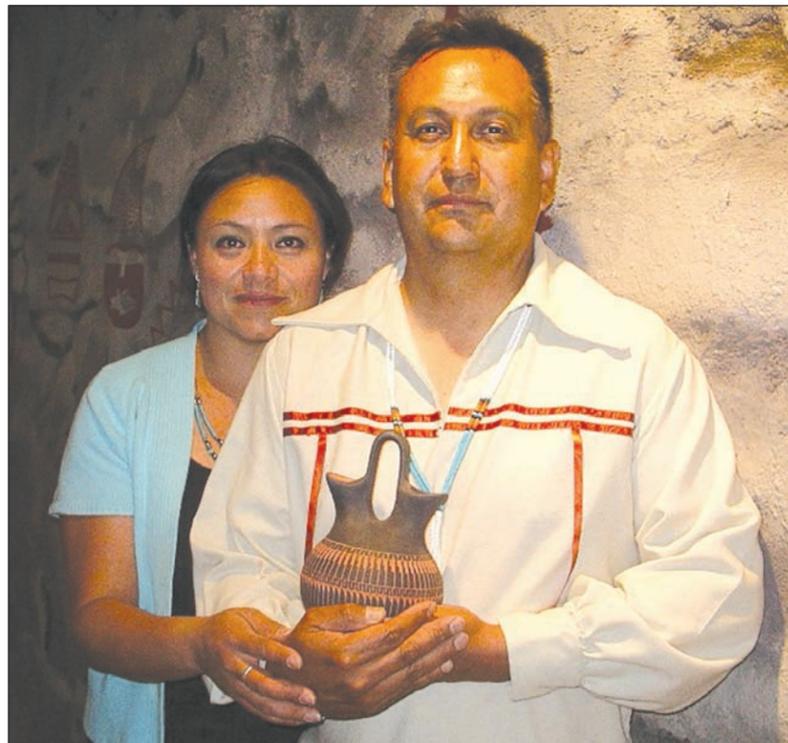
"Families (with children ages 4 and up) will enjoy this special cultural storytelling event," stated Marilyn Guida, education coordinator for the museum. "Stories start before darkness falls; then after dark, Alex will guide participants to observe the night sky and learn tribal stories about the stars and constellations," she added.

Each person should bring a flashlight, chair, water and snacks. Participants are advised to dress in appropriate clothing for a cool desert evening and sturdy shoes (no sandals).

Interested individuals should contact the museum to reserve a place by Friday, November 16. Space is limited; registration is accepted on a first come, first served basis, said Guida.

Admission fees for the program are: Museum members, \$2 for ages 4 through 12 and \$4 for ages 13 and up. Non-members' prices are \$4 for ages 4 through 12 and \$6 for age 13 and up.

For more information, call 755-4332, or send email to guidamr@elpasotexas.gov.



— Photo courtesy of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology

Lillian and Alex Mares, co-owners of Furs-N-Spurs, a back to nature learning center. Alex is the vice president of the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition and a former lead ranger at Hueco Tanks State Park and State Historic Site. He is now a park ranger at Leasburg Dam State Park and heritage educator and park ranger at the Mesilla Valley/ Bosque State Park in New Mexico.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Yellow Ribbon money can boost GI Bill

You finally got all set up with GI Bill benefits and were accepted to an institution of higher learning... and then you discovered that the college won't give you in-state resident tuition rates for one reason or the other. And you can't afford the balance due.

That's happened to a number of veterans.

There's help for some, but not all veterans, in the form of the Yellow Ribbon Program, which is to provide increased tuition reimbursement to those either attending a pricier private school or a public school but as an out-of-state student.

The information can be found at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/school-certifying-officials/yellow-ribbon-agreement/index.html>

Click on the link to the 2012 and 2013 participant list and the Frequently Asked Questions.

The cap for private and/or expensive schools is \$17,500, and the Yellow Ribbon money can be used to pay anything over that. For non-residents who're being charged higher rates, the Yellow Ribbon money can be used to pay 100 percent of the costs, up to that \$17,500.

Another potential glitch to keep

you from accessing that Yellow Ribbon money is whether or not the school signed up for it. Check the participant list at the link above.

And one more potential problem: If your school doesn't offer a degree program, there's no Yellow Ribbon money.

Other facts about the Yellow Ribbon money:

Students in Arizona, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina are exempt from the \$17,500 cap. For those at private school in those states, the benefit is the higher amount of either the tuition or the highest in-state undergrad costs.

If you're going to school part-time, your money will be prorated.

Hint: Get all the information about the school before you apply. Make sure it qualifies for Yellow Ribbon in case you need that benefit.

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.

Tax breaks, benefits available to military families

By Jason Alderman
Special to the Courier

As we honor our armed forces this Veterans Day, let's also acknowledge the financial challenges they and their families often face, both while in service and after discharge. Fortunately, service members needn't go it alone: Many tax benefits, social services and financial assistance programs are available to help.

Special tax benefits for active duty personnel include:

- If you move because of a permanent change of station, you may be able to deduct unreimbursed moving expenses.
- If you serve in a combat zone for any part of a month, any military pay you received during that month is not considered taxable income.
- You can also include nontaxable combat pay as "earned income" when claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit for low- to moderate-income earners.
- Deadlines for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing refund claims and taking other actions with the IRS are automatically extended for qualifying military members.
- Joint tax returns generally must be signed by both spouses. But, when one spouse is unavailable due to military duty, you may use a power of attorney to file a joint return.
- If you're an armed forces reserves member, you can deduct unreimbursed travel expenses for travel more than 100 miles from home to perform reserve duties.
- As you transition to civilian life, you may be able to deduct certain job-hunting costs.
- Most military installations offer free tax-filing and preparation assistance during and/or after tax filing season.
- The IRS's Armed Forces' Tax Guide provides an excellent summary of many important military-related tax topics (www.irs.gov).

A few suggestions and precautions for military families facing financial challenges:

- Each base command offers free financial specialists to discuss personal finances and help with budgeting; many banks and credit unions also offer these services.

• Each military branch has a relief society and many grant emergency loans. Turn to them first before taking out a payday loan.

• Check-cashing outlets, pawn shops and other lenders are prohibited from charging more than 36 percent interest to military families for payday loans.

• If you do go off-base for financial assistance, you're responsible for disclosing your military status in order to receive military rates.

• Before signing loan documents, make sure you fully understand all conditions (annual percentage rate, monthly payment amount, fees, penalties, etc.) Don't hesitate to take the paperwork home to think it over or consult with a financial advisor.

• Avoid pawn shop loans that use your car's title as collateral. Besides paying a very high rate, missing a payment could cost you ownership of your car.

Many governmental and private organizations provide financial information aimed at the special needs of the military, including:

- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Servicemember Affairs (www.consumerfinance.gov/servicemembers) features a variety of financial planning tools.
- Military OneSource (www.militaryonesource.mil) helps service members and families juggle such concerns as money management, spouse employment, education, parenting, childcare, relocation and deployment.
- SaveAndInvest.org, a financial education program created by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority to improve military members' saving and investing knowledge (www.saveandinvest.org/MilitaryCenter).
- The GI Bill provides a broad range of education benefits for veterans (www.gibill.va.gov).
- The government provides an intensive, three-day Transition Assistance Program for separating or retiring service members and spouses to ease reentry into the civilian workplace (www.taonline.com/TAPOffice).

It's vital that our military understand the benefits available to them – as well as the financial pitfalls to which they may be vulnerable.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

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

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Letters must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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\$10 for 25 words, \$15 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

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E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com



Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda

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Est. 1973
News, Inc.

MEN VS. ORAL ROBERTS
NOVEMBER 9 AT 7 P.M.
80'S NIGHT



BASKETBALL IS BACK

WOMEN VS. LOYOLA MARYMOUNT
NOVEMBER 10 AT 1:05 P.M.



SEASON TICKETS:
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UTEP VS. UCF
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MILITARY NIGHT

TICKETS: 915.747.5234


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El Paso's Country


kfoxtv.com



Early College program is cost-effective alternative for high school students

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – College tuition and fees at Texas universities today cost state residents an average of more than \$7,500 per semester as compared to about \$4,000 just a decade ago, according to a recent news report.

Tuition hikes at Texas universities seem to be part of a nationwide trend, but the situation in Texas is compounded because lawmakers cut close to \$1 billion from higher education funding in 2011.

So, the onus for making up higher education institution's lost revenue has shifted to students and parents' shoulders. As a result, the steeper costs could put a college education out of reach for many families.

That is why the innovative Early College High School program is proving to be a cost-effective alternative for high school students who want to get a head start toward earning a college degree.

Take seventeen year-old Robin Leos, for example. She is a student at the Northwest Early College High School (in Canutillo Independent School District) and is currently enrolled in three classes at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She is a high school senior who is already in her third year of college.

Although she will not receive her high school diploma until next June, Leos already earned an Associates of Art degree in Pre-Pharmacy last May from El Paso Community College (EPCC) and is well on her way to becoming a pharmacist.

"When I found out about the early college high school program, I saw it as my big opportunity to reach my dream of becoming a pharmacist," said Leos, who will be a junior in college by the time she turns 18 years old.

"Right now, my UTEP classes are going really well. The curriculum is a lot tougher but it is a good change; I like the challenge, and I feel that I was well prepared," said Leos. She estimates that she has saved at least \$30,000 in college expenses by choosing the early college high school route.

Leos was an eighth grader when she signed up for the innovative school. Eighth grade is the decisive year for students in middle school; that's when they have to choose between traditional high school and early college high school settings.

The early college program is currently offered by all El Paso County school districts in conjunction with EPCC and UTEP. With the help from funding sources including private foundations and state and federal grants, these students' tuition, fee, and transportation costs are defrayed. There is no cost to the early college high school student. They are also issued a laptop computer for their use while enrolled at the school.

Northwest ECHS, which is located on the EPCC Northwest campus in the Upper Valley, serves about 280 students this school year. Eight students are attending classes at UTEP this semester, with eight more students scheduled to start in January.

"Over 60 percent of our students earn their associates degree with another 30 percent of

them earning at least 45 college credit hours by the time they receive their high school diploma," said Ivette Savina, principal of the Northwest Early College High School campus.

According to Savina, early college high school is based on the principle that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges.

"Early college high schools blend high school and college in a rigorous yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and the first two years of college," Savina explained.

"I think that it has been fun attending Northwest early college. I don't feel like I have missed out on anything by not going to a traditional high school," said Valeria Rivas, a 17 year-old senior, who will receive an associate's degree in pre-medicine in December, start classes at UTEP in January and graduate from high school in June. "I feel that I am better prepared for college than most of my friends

in a traditional high school," she added.

Miguel Martinez, who has a freshman daughter enrolled at the Northwest early college where he is a social studies teacher, said that he likes the expeditious teacher-parent communication process available to the early college staff.

"Because we are a small campus, teachers can communicate with parents more easily," Martinez said. "And, these students are more motivated and prepared for their studies compared to many students at a traditional high school."

Rebecca Hernandez, a senior at Northwest ECHS who is scheduled to start classes at UTEP in January, said, "The difference between students in the early college program and those at the traditional high school is in our priorities, our level of maturity. We are high school students too, but we are more involved in our education instead of being concerned about fitting-in and trying to be popular. We are planning for college," she said.

Jaime Mercado, Northwest ECHS counselor, said that the early college schools are designed so that any student- especially low income youth, first-generation college goers, English language learners, students of color, and other young people underrepresented in higher education- can simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree and up to three years of credit toward a bachelor's degree, tuition free.

"Eighth grade students now have an alternative choice to traditional high school, especially if they want to get a head start with their college education," Mercado asserted.

Northwest Early College High School is currently eliciting applications for its 2013-14 school year. Eighth grade students, from all surrounding school districts, are invited to apply. The deadline is December 21. The freshmen class is expected to enroll 100 students.

For more information, call the Northwest Early College High School campus at 877-1700, or visit its website at www.canutilloisd.org/nechs.



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

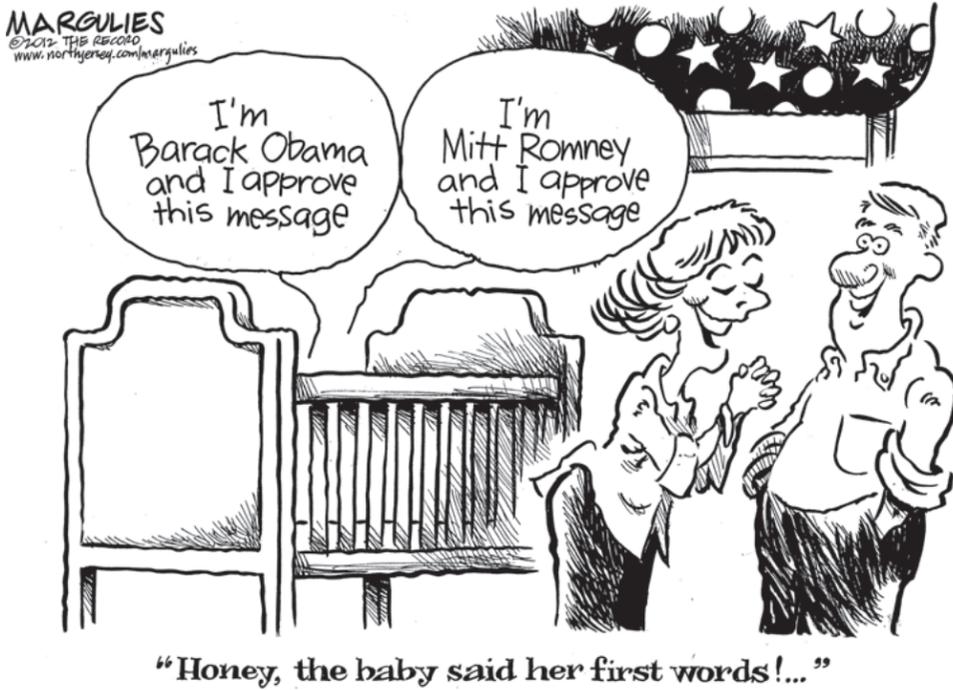
Robin Leos is a senior at the Northwest Early College High School (in Canutillo Independent School District). She has earned an associates' degree in pre-pharmacy from EPCC and is in her third year of studies at UTEP. Leos is scheduled to receive her high school diploma in June.



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MARGULIES



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Tornillo seniors visit Sul Ross University

By Marla Vranish
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO – On Saturday, October 13th, several seniors from Tornillo High School attended the “Sully’s Showcase” event at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. These students were treated to a spectacular tour of the SRSU campus hosted by two very knowledgeable SRSU sophomores, enjoyed a meal at the campus dining facility – relishing in the “all you can eat” cafeteria-style offering at the dining hall, and acquired a close-up and personal idea of

what college life looks like. While there, past THS graduate Jonathan Maldonado met with the group and shared his thoughts about his SRSU freshman experiences.

Sully’s Showcase, held in the Pete P. Gallegos athletic facility, highlighted accomplishments of several SRSU Lobos, including current students, faculty members and support staff. A welcome address was given by Dr. Ricardo Maestas, who became Sul Ross State University’s 11th president in November 2009. Dr. Maestas shared his vision of growth and expansion for the university and offered a glimpse into the assortment of

programs SRSU has to offer.

After the keynote address, students were afforded the opportunity to browse through a series of booths which represented the degree programs offered at the university along with several of the support programs that are available to SRSU students. All offered a variety of information packets and brochures and an opportunity to speak with professors and SRSU students from the individual disciplines. THS participants left the campus with tons of relevant information, free SRSU t-shirts, and a little better idea about what being an SRSU Lobo truly means.



– Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

ON THE ROAD – Jose Luis Silva, Career and Technological Education (Business) teacher, hiding in the back left, tagged along with his seniors as they toured the Sul Ross University campus.



– Photo art courtesy Canutillo ISD

EXCEPTIONAL – Joanna Cruz received this year’s Migrant Exemplary Student Award.

NECHS student receives Migrant Exemplary Award

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Joanna Cruz, a junior at Northwest Early College High School in the Canutillo Independent School District, received the Migrant Exemplary Student Award during the 22nd Annual Migrant Student Leadership Conference held recently at Region 19.

The Migrant Education Program’s event was attended by approximately 200 migrant students from the region. Students from various school districts were honored for their exemplary achievement.

Cruz received her award for her academic excellence, talent and

hard work. Aside from being an accomplished student, she is an active member of several clubs and organizations including National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, the Hunger Games Club, Business Club and the Recycle Club.

Joanna loves music and plays both the guitar and the keyboard. She says that music has always been a big part of her life. She is also a very active member of her church.

“Joanna is very determined and a highly self-motivated person capable of achieving any goal she sets,” said Margarita Harmeson, the Migrant Coordinator in CISD.

Joanna’s motto is “If you put your mind and your heart in whatever you do, you will succeed.”



Need Help Paying Your Propane Bills?



Funding is currently available through Project BRAVO under the state’s Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) to help qualified low-income residents of El Paso County pay their home propane bills up to 250 gallons.

Where To Apply

- Saturday, Nov. 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Kennedy Brothers Housing Complex, 400 S. Zaragoza Road.
- Saturday, Dec. 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the San Elizario ISD Excell Academy, 13680 Socorro Road, San Elizario.
- Saturday, Dec. 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Sparks Housing Development Corporation, 106 Peyton Road.
- Saturday, Dec. 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Sparks Housing Development Corporation, 106 Peyton Road.

Documents Needed to Qualify

- Valid ID for all adults 18 yrs. or older living in the household.
- Social Security cards for everyone living in the household.
- Proof of all household income for the previous 30 days.
- Most recent rental lease or, if homeowner, mortgage statement or property taxes (include all landlord info).
- Most recent TANF or SNAP certification letter.
- Most recent gas and electric bills (originals and 1 copy).
- Must have letter from propane company listing the price and number of gallons needed.

Please bring 1 copy of each document. All utility bills must be in the name of the applicant.

For Information, call 915-562-4100



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Classified Ads

LEGALS

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, during a Regular Council Meeting at 15001 Darrington Rd. (Court/Police Dept. Bldg.) in the Council chambers, Horizon City, TX. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding a proposed Specific Use Permit to allow for a temporary real estate office within a new residential structure.

Legal Description:
Lot 1, Block 3, Ryderwood

Estates, Being a portion of Section 21, Block 79, Township 3, Texas and Pacific Railway Co. Surveys, Town of Horizon City, El Paso County, Texas

Location:
469 Hollywood Avenue, Horizon City, Texas

Current Surrounding Zone:
R-2 (Residential)

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. 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 this hearing.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
Town of Horizon City

WTCC: 11-08-12

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 13, 2012, during a Regular Council Meeting at 15001 Darrington Rd. (Court/Police Dept. Bldg.) in the Council chambers, Horizon City, TX. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding

a proposed Specific Use Permit to allow for a Trucking and Transportation Business in an M-1 zone and for the placement of a temporary portable office.

Legal Description:
Lot 1, Block 1, Texland, Being a portion of Section 43, Block 78, TSP 3, T & P R.R. Surveys, Horizon City, El Paso County, Texas

Location:
14372 Rudi Kuefner, Horizon City, Texas

Current Surrounding Zone:
M-1 (Industrial) and R-9 (Residential)

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk

of Horizon City. 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 this hearing.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
Town of Horizon City

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CryptoQuip Answer

When two people get married, I guess you might say they enter into an altered state.

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

El Dorado art students excel in community events

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO ISD – Students at El Dorado High School took top honors this month at two popular events in the El Paso art community. They participated and won competitions at the Tejido Fronterizo-Border Tapestry art show at the Chamizal National Memorial and the Chalk the Block downtown event Oct. 12-14.

Twenty El Dorado High School art students participated in the Tejido Fronterizo-Border Tapestry, which was presented by the Border Artists and Juntos Art Association. The students displayed their work in the student art show in the Abrazos Gallery at the Chamizal. The opening reception was celebrated on Oct. 13.



– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

BEST OF SHOW – Janeal Snell.

Senior Janeal Snell won Best of Show and seniors Oksana Portillo

and Rebecca Padilla won honorable mention. Snell is a student of Allison Vega and Portillo and Padilla are both students of Candace Printz.

At the 5th annual Chalk the Block public art festival, El Dorado High School and El Dorado 9th Grade Academy took first, second and third place. El Dorado student Ariel Corrales and her assistant Philip Kreissl won first place and \$550, ED9 student Jovan Pablo Triana won second place and \$350 and El Dorado student Saul Ramirez with his assistant Rebecca Padilla won third place and \$200.

“I am very proud to say that these students are from the El Dorado High School art department. They are all so talented and eager to give back to the community,” said Candace Printz, El Dorado High School art teacher. “They deserve to be acknowledged for all their hard work. SISD swept the entire competition and I believe that in itself says great things about our kids.”

The Chalk the Block festival featured 51 artists who created their murals on sidewalks, streets, vacant storefronts and parks throughout Downtown El Paso. The selected artists were among 100 artists who applied to create art in the festival.

El Dorado High School and El Dorado 9th Grade Academy had 14 of the 17 high school art students selected from the city to participate in this year’s Chalk the Block. The festival drew about 35,000 spectators this year.



– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

FIRST PLACE – Ariel Corrales placed first in chalk art.

“I am so proud of my two students who worked so hard during the event,” said Claudia Castaneda, ED9 art teacher. “This is the first year my ninth-grade students apply to be part of Chalk the Block and we couldn’t be happier or prouder of the outcome.”

Accelerate Texas Week promotes success

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) will be celebrating ACCELERATE TEXAS (AT) Week – November 12-16, 2012 – by hosting special events for potential participants and family/friends, local/regional Adult Basic Education (ABE) and college faculty and partners, practitioners, administrators, workforce trainers, and public officials. These events will promote the goals of AT and

bring information on the ABE-Innovation Grant (ABE-IG) programs to the community. On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, a bus tour will visit sites across the city promoting the ABE-IG opportunities available to the community. On Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 11:00 a.m., at the El Paso Community College ASC Building B, 9050 Viscount Blvd., a reception will be held to thank local partners.

This statewide initiative

See SUCCESS, Page 8



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Cowboys look too good on paper to be so bad on field

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I can say with a fair amount of certainty that I have a pretty good sense of what is good and what is bad.

I can tell pretty much if something is a good bet or a very bad idea.

Of course there was that time four years ago that I voted for Barack Obama's hope and change and we all know how that turned out.

I also knew that Ben Affleck was considerably overrated and would amount to nothing. I guess his work on *The Town* and *Argo* has forced me to change my mind.

I have to admit that I took a huge swig of the Kool-Aid when it comes to the Dallas Cowboys.

I fell for it again. You would think that after years of disappointment I would have learned that it takes more than just raw talent to be successful in any walk of life.

With guys like Tony Romo and Jason Witten and Miles Austin and Sean Lee and DeMarcus Ware and Dez Bryant and

DeMarco Murray, the Cowboys certainly pass the eye test.

It's easy to say that this is the year that all that talent will come together and steamroll through the NFL. And I'm afraid that me and my millions of fellow Cowboys lovers will do the same next year.

So why doesn't a team with this much talent, far more than most teams in the league, put more victories together?

Although most so-called experts will start with the much-maligned Tony Romo, I believe it's rather obvious that the problems begin and end with Jason Garrett.

I loved Garrett as Troy Aikman's backup when he played for the Cowboys and he won me over when he first took over for Wade Phillips as the head coach.

But things haven't turned out for the best over the last two years.

There are three things that Garrett is totally inept at.

The first is his play calling. As offensive coordinator, Garrett calls the plays for Romo and as a result, the offense is not just suffering a steady decline – it's in a free fall.

The offense has deteriorated into a vanilla, predictable group that is unimaginative and has a constant knack for running the wrong play at the wrong time.

How many times have they faced a third-and-four situation and they throw a 40-yard low-percentage incomplete pass instead of a quick, safe six-yard pass to get the first down and keep the drive going.

Like in their loss to the New York Giants. They were deep in Giants' territory late in the game and were facing a third-and-one. What do they do? They throw a long incomplete pass in the corner of the end zone instead of running for the first down.

Another indicator that he is not ready to be a head coach in the NFL is his clock management.

There have been numerous examples of this flaw. We saw it about five times last season and again this year in the loss to Baltimore.

The Cowboys have an opportunity to win the game with a field goal late in the game. Romo completes a ball to Dez Bryant with 23 seconds left on the clock and one time out left.

Dallas can easily run another play or two to get closer than the 51-yard field goal they were staring at.

But because the players didn't hustle back to the line of scrimmage and they didn't call a couple of plays in the previous huddle, they not only didn't get any closer – they didn't even get close to running another play.

They missed the 51-yarder and lost the game.

Their third complaint is Garrett's complete lack of emotion.

For goodness sake man, get angry when your players make a dumb play.

To show you the difference in philosophy, at the press conference after the loss to the Giants you would have thought the Giants had lost and the Cowboys had won.

Giants' coach Tom Coughlin was knocking his team for their mistakes while Garrett was praising his team's effort.

Football is an emotional game and a coach has to get after his players once in a while.

Oh, and one more thing that would help Dallas – fire the current general manager.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

We don't need another hero

So last week I went on a prolonged whine about how this generation was robbed of its heroes due to substance abuse, marital abuse or "that player is a jerk" abuse.

In my lockup you will find the following: Mike Tyson, Floyd Mayweather, Tiger Woods, Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Chipper Jones, Alex

Rodriguez, Roger Clemens, Bill Romanowski, Lawrence Taylor, O.J. Simpson, Martina Hingis, Ben Johnson, Marion Jones, Tonya Harding, Chinese gymnasts, East German swimmers and Lance Armstrong.

My point was how this generation of sports fan got the shaft – that they thought they were seeing the greatest

of all times but were really, it turned out, just wasting their time.

Look, drugs and treating people poorly aren't anything new – for every Pete Rose there's a Ty Cobb, for every Black Sox scandal there's a U.S. Postal Service Cycling team. But that doesn't mean we've been completely blanked out when it came to superstars during this generation. Here are but a few to remember:

In baseball you had Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera, Cal Ripken, John Smoltz, Randy Johnson, Greg Maddux and, recently, R.A.

Dickey. Dickey, in particular, the knuckleballer for the Mets, is a standout. He may not be a Hall of Famer, but he certainly has taught kids a thing or two about competition (also, he's a children's book writer). That's a hero.

In basketball, you witnessed Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Shaq, Kobe and Magic Johnson. Nothing else needs to be added to that sentence.

Serena and Venus Williams, Steffi Graff, Roger Federer and Pete Sampras (with a side of Andre Agassi) ruled the courts during this generation, and there is very little doubt that they are the best of all-time.

On the gridiron you've watched the Manning brothers, Emmitt Smith, John Elway, Tom Brady, Jerry Rice and Joe Montana. Hockey gave you Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier, Mario Lemieux, Steve Yzerman, Sidney Crosby, Patrick Roy and Martin Brodeur. Soccer gave us Mia

Hamm and that girl who took her shirt off.

Look at the Olympic games. Forgive a little here and there, and you can point to Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte as the best swimmers of all time. Apolo Ohno is the best speed skater this side of Eric Heiden. Kerri Strug won a gold medal by landing full force on her broken ankle in gymnastics.

So don't let anybody tell you that the weak-kneed cheaters have hijacked sports and drug users are dictating the pace – there are plenty of great examples to go around.

And remember... if you have a kid and a little spare time, pick up a ball or a puck, put on the running shoes, because to the next generation of sports stars, you're the biggest hero of them all. All it takes is a little time.

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



Briefs

From Page 1

has been estimated at \$10,000. It was not determined what type of accelerant was used to start the fire, but a witness reported seeing four teenagers running from the park to a house in the neighborhood. Investigators are asking for information from anyone in the area who might have noticed a suspicious vehicle or persons in the park on that night. If you have any information at all about the identity of the suspects in this case, contact Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (566-8477), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org

or you can send a text message by entering the key word CRIME1 (no space) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

– James Klaes

Wanted

Timothy Duane Hardaway, Jr., 28, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He is wanted for failing to register as a sex offender. He is 5'10" tall and weighs 135 pounds. He has black hair and green eyes. He was scheduled to report to the Sheriff's Office Sex Offender Tracking Unit but instead absconded from a halfway house



Timothy Hardaway

on Horizon Blvd. Hardaway has been convicted in two sex crimes involving young children in Brown County, TX. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Hardaway 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 Hardaway.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar

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CLASSIFIED AD FORM 25 words - \$10 per week; 40 words - \$15 per week

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Deadline: Mondays Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to: West Texas County Courier 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information: Name: Phone:

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My husband has had many medical problems. Earlier this year, he developed atrial fibrillation. A cardioversion was performed and worked for about five minutes. Then his doctor prescribed amiodarone. Since being on amiodarone, he has felt much worse. Could the medicine be the problem? He only sits around, and doesn't even feel like going out for lunch. Another cardioversion is possible in a couple of weeks. Is there any danger to this procedure? - M.C.

Your son is going through puberty. Two-thirds of boys experience breast enlargement during puberty. It's normal. The enlargement for some boys might not be as great as your son's, however. It comes from a temporary imbalance of male and female hormones. It's not a lasting thing, for most. Some see a regression in a matter of months, while others might have to wait for two years. The condition is gynecomastia (GUY-nuh-coe-MASS-tee-uh).

Does his doctor know how he feels? He can prescribe many other options for your husband.

Atrial fibrillation is an erratic and fast heartbeat. Cardioversion, an electric shock delivered to the fibrillating heart, has a fairly high success rate of restoring a normal beat. Success depends on how long the fibrillation has been present and how large the person's heart is. The sooner from the onset of fibrillation, the better are the results for cardioversion. The results for longstanding atrial fibrillation are not as good.

Fibrillation can recur after cardioversion. It can recur after taking medicines, too.

Danger exists for every single medical procedure. The complications from cardioversion are few and rare.

The booklet on heartbeat irregularities explains the common kinds of rhythm disturbances. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue - No. 107W, 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.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My 12-year-old son has large breasts, like a woman's. In other respects he looks like a 16-year-old. He's tall and wears a size 11 shoe. What has caused his breasts to be like they are? - M.C.

If this causes your son great embarrassment and makes life miserable for him, speak to the family doctor. Removing the breast tissue ends the problem. Surgery isn't extensive and doesn't require a long healing period.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My future husband wants me to go on birth-control pills. Do the pills make a woman less able to have a family when they're stopped? We want to have children, but not right away. How long can a woman take the pill? - J.W.

In the past 10 years, the birth-control pill has been modified. It contains less estrogen and progestin. There are fewer side effects than there used to be. The pill, in all its variations, does not affect a woman's fertility when she stops taking it.

A nonsmoking woman can take birth-control pills right up to menopause if she wishes. Generally, a smoker is advised to stop the pill after age 35.

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

Super Crossword

MEN OVER BOARD ACROSS

- 1 Tree with chocolate-yielding seeds
- 6 Shoulder blade
- 13 Attempted
- 20 Stop prematurely
- 21 Emmy winner Janney
- 22 Program that blocks pop-ups
- 23 Person used to increase a candidate's popularity, e.g.
- 25 Found a radio station on the dial
- 26 Inventor who rivaled Tesla
- 27 Caviar source
- 28 "Wild Thing" rapper Tone
- 30 "Zip--Doo-Dah"
- 31 Bumper flaw
- 32 Radiance
- 34 "It" novelist
- 38 "Ah, OK"
- 40 "The Dukes of Hazzard" co-star John
- 42 Zeta follower
- 43 Singer with the Pips
- 47 "You've Got Mail" director Ephron
- 48 Tiny amount
- 49 Acting in place of a ruler
- 50 Punker/folkie DiFranco
- 51 Huge
- 52 Aruba, e.g.

- 53 English rocker Brian
- 54 Writer John Dickson
- 56 Yemeni port
- 58 Inclined
- 60 "Look _!" ("Aren't we a pair!")
- 62 High fortress in Scotland
- 69 Attend as a visitor
- 72 Wood shoe
- 73 1959 Neil Sedaka hit
- 74 "Filling Station" poet
- 77 Agreeable
- 78 Prefix with center or dermal
- 79 Watering aid
- 80 Golda who succeeded Levi Eshkol
- 83 Kind of acct. that accrues interest
- 84 Give guff to
- 87 Stage design
- 88 "There's no _ team"
- 90 Stinging plant
- 92 _ to the test
- 93 U.S. gas brand
- 95 Hit for Abba
- 98 Ending of ordinals
- 99 "Kung Fu" star David
- 101 City laws: Abbr.
- 102 Theme of this puzzle
- 104 Western lily
- 106 Valet for the Green Hornet

- 110 Highway cost
- 111 Marne "Mrs."
- 112 Precursor of reggae
- 113 Li'l tyke
- 115 Tourist guide
- 118 1959 romantic comedy appropriate for this puzzle?
- 122 Campsite shelters, collectively
- 123 Attributed
- 124 French playwright Jean
- 125 "Roots" Emmy winner
- 126 People painting, e.g.
- 127 It merged with Kmart

- 17 Trendy weight-loss plans
- 18 Of the East
- 19 Outlaw type
- 24 Things eaten
- 29 Expressing views
- 33 Albanian currency unit
- 34 "Zip it up!"
- 35 Blast creator
- 36 Ending for auction
- 37 Gun lobby inits.
- 39 'N _ (pop boy band)
- 41 Hi-tech film effects
- 43 Oily stuff
- 44 Soup bean
- 45 Rabbit's tropical lookalike
- 46 Quaint ointment
- 51 Sailor's bed
- 52 "_ uphill climb"
- 55 Surrealist Magritte
- 56 Hoffman of the Yippies
- 57 Bands of two
- 58 Frau's cry
- 59 With 116-Down, classic arcade game
- 61 T-shirt data
- 63 Strike while the iron _
- 64 Catches
- 65 Wish (for)
- 66 Mournful
- 67 Place
- 68 Ten plus one
- 70 Brief sleep
- 71 Sendai sash
- 75 Axiom's kin

- 76 Hotel chain
- 81 Like some painful hairs
- 82 Necessary: Abbr.
- 84 Watch from the stands
- 85 Penned
- 86 Brit. island in the Atlantic
- 87 Penny pincher
- 88 Hospice
- 89 Bladed boot
- 91 Alabama city
- 93 Elec. coolers
- 94 Séance reply
- 95 HST follower
- 96 "_ for Alibi" (Grafton novel)
- 97 Drink with 114-Down
- 100 Kind of acid in vinegar
- 103 Thin boards
- 105 Bistro patron
- 107 "32 Flavors" singer Davis
- 108 Less savage
- 109 "Golden Boy" playwright
- 112 Dirty stuff
- 114 Hen's clutch
- 116 See 59-Down
- 117 Grow mature
- 119 Med. service
- 120 Air quality gp.
- 121 Bouncers check them

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore Oct. 1, 1837:
The General Land office opens in Houston.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: What is the difference between the disability application and the disability report? Do I have to complete both?

A: A disability application is a claim for benefits. To receive Social Security disability or Supplemental Security Income benefits, you must file a disability application. A disability report provides information about your current physical or mental condition. We need this to process your disability application. In all, to establish a claim, you need to submit a disability application, a disability report, and an authorization to release medical records. You can learn more and apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.

Q: My child, who gets Social Security, will be attending his last year of high school in the fall. He turns 19 in a few months. Do I need to fill out a form for his benefits to continue?

A: Yes. You should receive a form, SSA-1372-BK, in the mail about three months before your son's birthday. Your son needs to complete the form and take it to his school's office for certification. Then, you need to return page two and the

certified page three back to Social Security for processing. If you can't find the form we mailed to you, you can find it online at the following address: www.socialsecurity.gov/schoolofficials/ssa1372.pdf.

Q: I am applying for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs. Can state agencies help with my Medicare costs?

A: When you file your application for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs, you also can start your application process for the Medicare Savings Programs – state programs that provide help with other Medicare costs. When you apply for Extra Help, Social Security will send information to your state unless you tell us not to on the application. Your state will contact you to help you apply for a Medicare Savings Program.

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.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
By Samantha Weaver

- It's not known who made the following sage observation: "The sharper your words are, the more they'll hurt if you have to swallow them."

- Those who study such things say that Southerners watch more TV than residents of any other region of the country.

- Any given major ballet company will go through about 3,000 pairs of toe shoes every year. Under normal use, one pair will last for about one hour of performing.

- If you average out the depth of the world's seas and the elevation of the land, you'll find that the ocean is four times as deep as the land is high.

- Pierre-Auguste Renoir, one of the leading artists of the Impressionist movement, died in 1919, at the age of 78. His last words were, "What a pity I have to go now just when I was beginning to show promise!"

- A male sea otter shows affection by biting his mate's nose.

- If you're a young baseball player hoping to make it in the big leagues, you might want to keep this fact in mind: Only 8 percent of those who sign major-league contracts actually play in even a single big-league game. The other 92 percent spend their careers languishing in the minor leagues for a pittance.

Thought for the Day: "What is defeat? Nothing but education, nothing but the first step to something better."
– Wendell Phillips

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	+		×		25
×		×		+	
	÷		+		11
-		+		÷	
	-		×		12
15		10		3	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: Q equals P

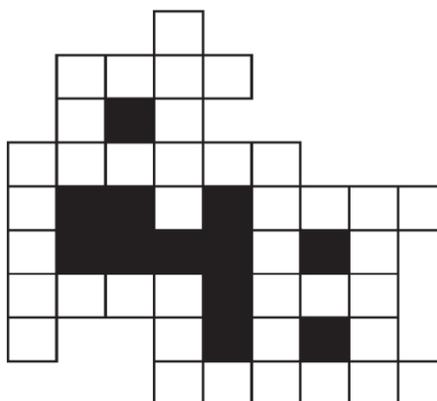
ONUK XOR QURQSU IUX
YHBBDUC, D IJUGG TRJ YDINX
GHT XNUT UKXUB DKXR HK
HSXHBUC GXHXU.

Answer Page 4

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- UDO
- GONBID
- ♥ REEST
- ♥ ARDE
- RHODIC
- ♥ NBI
- HISD
- TOFER
- AGH
- GEROOF
- ♥ NORG
- ♥ NIHT



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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Sucess

From Page 5

promotes the completion of career pathway education and training opportunities for adult learners. Many adults in the region who are seeking employment may not have had an opportunity to engage in and complete postsecondary certificate programs.

By 2020, at least 60% of jobs in Texas will require a career certificate or college degree. Yet, many indicators suggest that Texas is not well positioned to meet this demand: 44% of Texans over age 25 have never attended college; 23% qualify for adult education (basic skills needed to succeed in college); 19% do not have a high school diploma or GED.

For more information contact Sara Martinez, Director of EPCC Workplace Literacy Programs, at 831-7792.