



NEWSBRIEFS

EPCC building

El Paso Community College (EPCC) is putting the finishing touches on a new building that will house the admissions, registration, financial aid, cashiers and other student-serving offices at Valle Verde, its biggest campus. These are the offices that provide most of the services to college students. The new \$4.03 million, 27,765 square feet, Enrollment Services Building will be ready for occupation in March 2013. Rick Lobato, EPCC physical plant director, said the building of the new facility was necessary because the current student services building at Valle Verde is now too small to accommodate the expanding offices that service the college's growing student population. EPCC has about 30,000 students – over 18,000 attend the Valle Verde campus.

– Javier Sanchez

Parade

The Eastlake Lions Club Horizon City Christmas Parade is set for Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10:00 a.m. This year's theme is "Building Bridges – Each One, Reach One." During this year's parade the Lions will conduct a food drive to brighten the holiday season for a number of families in the community. Parade participants will all be donating food and the public is also invited to contribute non-perishable, canned food items during the parade. A truck will be part of the parade to accept donations. Volunteers are still needed for the event and can contact Thea at 494-4907 to sign up. Contact Doris Deramus at 562-6000 or Judi Verslype at 581-2994 for more information.

– Bill Armas

Christmas fair

The Oz Glaze Senior Center will hold a Farmer-Less Market and Christmas Craft Fair on Dec. 8, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Horizon City Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Rd. in Horizon City. Vendors can rent space for \$10 a spot. Vendor can set up at 8:00 a.m. on the 8th. For more information, contact Fred at 799-8194 or 852-0062.

– Judi Verslype

San Eli is golden

San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD), for the second straight year, has earned the Gold designation in the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Leadership Circle, recognizing excellence in financial transparency. The Comptroller's web page says SEISD "has become a leader in financial transparency among school districts its size." The page praises SEISD for "an easy-to-find transparency page" and "a one-stop direct link to key data, such as four years of budget and audit

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Let us give thanks – if only for all the bad things that are never going to happen.

– Quips & Quotes

Horizon City landscaping project underway

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY – Change is coming to Horizon City.

The change is a facelift, a sprucing up which will transform the north side of Horizon Boulevard into a winding and curving walk and bike trail which will be dotted with shade trees and other native plants and ground cover.

Horizon Mayor Walter Miller estimates the cost of the two beautification/enhancement projects at \$1.5 million and will span two years. The funding, which was approved two years ago, comes through two grants from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT).

Michelle Padilla, city planner for Horizon, says these works are part of TXDOT's Green Ribbon Project to beautify roadside areas throughout the state.

Blanca Del Valle, public information officer for the El Paso office of TXDOT, breaks down the distribution of funds:

- The more immediate enhancement project calls for \$300,000 for the landscaping of 1.06 miles along Horizon Boulevard from Crocker to Darrington. Allowing for intersecting roads and other breaks, the landscaping will not be a continuous strip, but rather placed at different intervals, Del Valle says. The city is providing the work crews.

Phase 1 got under way earlier this month, and motorists along can already see the irrigation pipe for the irrigation system along the main roadway. Once in place, Padilla says flowering plants, shrubs and trees will be put in. Barring unforeseen weather conditions, she estimates completion of the entire project by around the first of the year.

- The balance of the grants funding, about \$1.4 million, will build a three-mile walk and bike trail. The winding trail will be 11 feet wide and will run from Ashford to Rifton, according to Del Valle. There will be additional landscaping to complement and enhance the

See HORIZON, Page 5



– Photo by Rick Shrum

BIG HOLES – Trees are being procured this week for planting along Horizon Blvd. They are projected to be in the ground by December 8.

Hispanics account for 95 percent of under 18 population growth in last decade

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Hispanics became the majority of Texas public school students for the first time in 2011; and by 2050, the number of Texas public school students is expected to swell to nine million from roughly five million now, with nearly two-thirds being Hispanic, according to Steve Murdock, a demographer and director of Rice University's Hobby Center for the Study of Texas. Of 979,000 children added to Texas' under-18 population from 2000 to 2010, 931,000 were Hispanic.

The overall percentage of white students will drop by half to about 15 percent. Without a change in Hispanics' current socioeconomic status, that also means Texas students will continue to grow poorer – and their education more expensive – in the next four decades, Murdock predicted in a recent news report.

State population figures over the last decade show the shift is well under way in the public school system. Economically disadvantaged children in Texas classrooms make up 60 percent of all children in public schools, up from less than half in 2000. Students with limited English skills now make up 16 percent of them.

According to state data, Hispanic students are statistically less likely to leave high school with a diploma than their white peers. Of the Hispanic students who do graduate, few are prepared for

See POPULATION, Page 4



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

HITTING THE BOOKS – Rebecca Hernandez, a senior at Northwest Early College High School, studies for a test. Hernandez is scheduled to start classes at UTEP in January, and she will graduate from high school and receive an associate of arts degree in computer science next May thanks to partnerships between local school districts, El Paso Community College (EPCC), and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Vet-friendly schools

G.I. Jobs magazine has released its annual survey and has rated 1,739 schools as being veteran-friendly. The Military Friendly Schools list ranks the top 15 percent of more than 11,000 schools in the country, including universities, colleges and trade schools.

It looked at value, flexibility, academic accreditation, percentage of students who are veterans, graduation rates, military-spouse policies, tuition discounts and support services for veterans.

To view the list, go online to the database at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com.

The matchmaker program is very well done. Pick a degree program, and a list of possibilities opens on the right. Break it down by location and you have a choice between virtual only (online) or campus schools. For a campus location, you can select either a region of the country or an individual state.

Click on Flexibility, and use the slide bars to indicate how important it is to have weekend classes, evening classes or online classes. Use the slide bar to

indicate sources of funding.

When it comes to Areas of Study, here is where the astonishing breadth of the offerings comes into play. Click on your chosen field, and the program immediately sorts all your school options.

Once all your choices are made, look for the red thumbs-up icon, which indicates schools in the top 15 percent category. Click on each school name for particulars and the ratings in the criteria. Be sure to look at Academics, Review and Profile.

If you want to alter your choices, flip back through the categories and make changes to the information. The program responds instantly, showing you the options. If you want to save your information, register on the site.

I'm not usually a fan of online databases, but this one is outstanding. If school is in your future, use this program to sort through your options.

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.

Young adults: Avoid these privacy red flags

By Jason Alderman
Special to the Courier

Young adults applying for college or preparing to enter the workforce are sometimes shocked to find out that certain behaviors that were either tolerated or ignored when they were younger now fall under closer scrutiny and could actually hurt their advancement possibilities. Among the biggest culprits are oversharing sensitive personal information in public forums and getting extreme tattoos or body art that may not yet be fully acceptable in certain work environments.

Red flags. It should be common knowledge that many employers perform online profile searches of job or internship candidates. They'll scour public postings on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube looking for inappropriate content like racy photos or videos, racist remarks or evidence of illegal activities that would rule inappropriate candidates.

But many people don't realize that colleges, insurance companies, law enforcement and government agencies sometimes do the same. Thus, an underage student hoping to boost his cool factor by posting photos that show him engaging in drinking games could be disqualified for college admission or even have his scholarship revoked.

Privacy settings. According to projections by Consumer Reports, roughly 13 million Facebook users have never set, or didn't know about, the site's privacy tools, and 28 percent share all, or almost all, of their wall posts with more than just their friends. It pays to thoroughly read the privacy policies of all sites where you've registered, including social networks, your bank, retailers, blogs and news sites where you've made comments, etc.

Email is forever. Deleting an email from your computer doesn't mean it no longer exists. Chances are your email provider – or employer, if sent from work – will retain a record for years to come. Plus, recipients won't necessarily delete the email and may in fact forward it to others.


Haunting photos. Just like emails, photos posted online can live forever. That includes pictures of you that someone else posted and tagged with your name. My rule of thumb: If you wouldn't want your grandmother to see it, don't do it, say it or film it. Also, don't post photos of your kids that might embarrass them or hurt their professional reputation down the road.

Resume lies. It can be tempting to embellish the truth on your resume or during a job interview, but as recent headlines about disgraced executives being fired have shown, these lies can come back to haunt you. Employers can easily determine if the degree or past job titles you're claiming are legitimate. Another no-brainer: If your resume is posted online on Monster.com or LinkedIn, make sure there aren't major inconsistencies with the one you submit to prospective employers.

Tattoos. One-fifth of adults have at least one tattoo – the percentages are higher among younger adults. A few years ago, job candidates wouldn't get past the first interview sporting tattoos; today, depending on the industry and type of customer contact involved, many employers will look the other way.

However, some employers do enforce strict no-tattoo policies which, if based on sound business reasons, are legal. Fortunately, my own kids aren't old enough for body art to be a consideration, but when they are, I'll give them the same advice I'd give any young adult: Think about the long-term consequences of your actions.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.



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– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON – The San Elizario High School band lead by director Christina Barajas plays patriotic music during the San Elizario Veterans Day Ceremony held on November 10 at the San Elizario Veterans Memorial Plaza.

San Elizario students thank veterans

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Students, faculty, and staff from throughout the San Elizario Independent School District participated in a number of Veterans Day events in honor and gratitude to all those who have served in the armed forces.

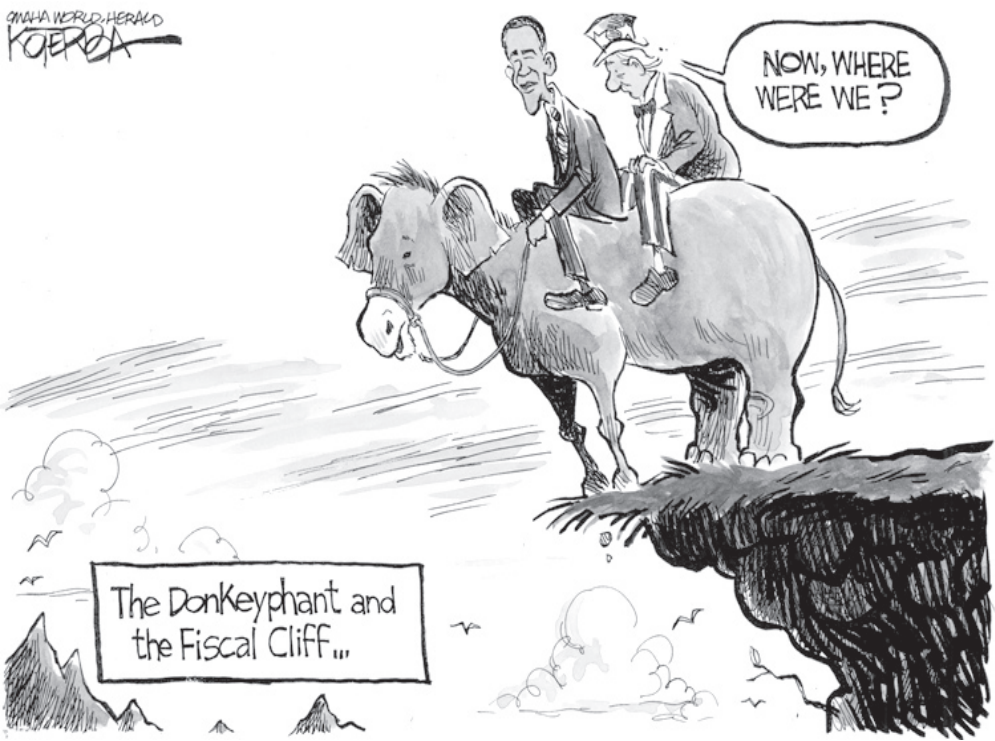
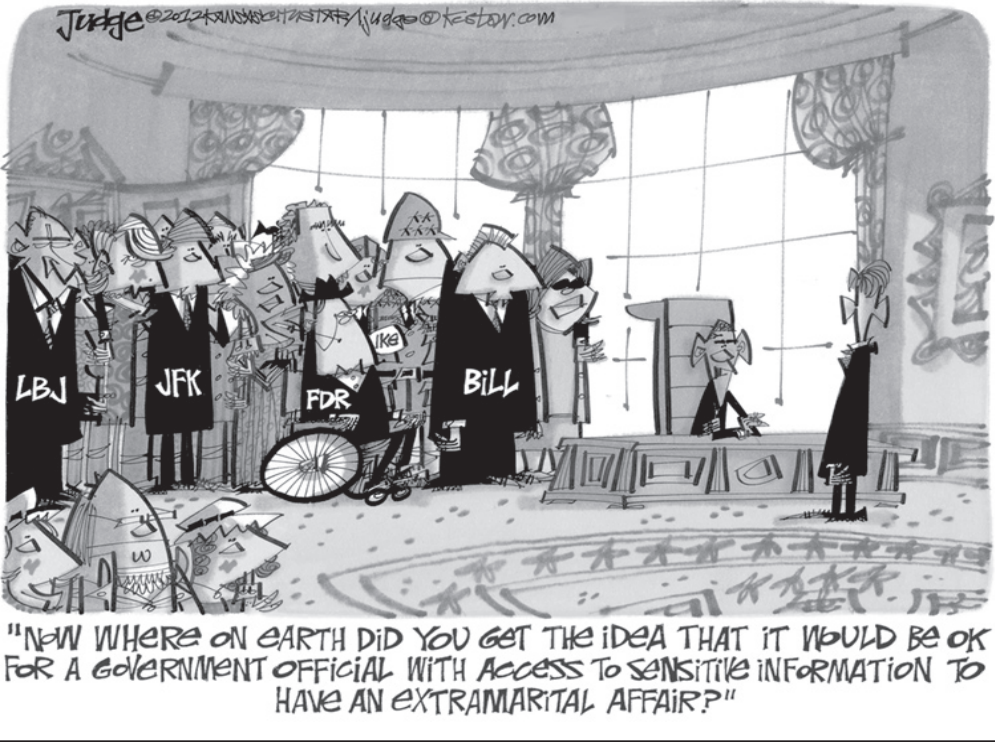
On November 9, J.L. Sambrano Elementary School invited all San Elizario community veterans to its first Veterans Day Celebration. The assembly included patriotic performances and poem recitals by students. San Elizario ISD Board Trustee and Vietnam veteran Ramon Holguin delivered the keynote address. Other current and former service men and women who attended the event shared their experiences and positive messages with the students.

According to Melanie Mendez, sixth-grade teacher and U.S. Army veteran, the celebration was meant to recognize the efforts of over 25 million living veterans, the millions of active service personnel across the globe, and the soldiers that have given the ultimate sacrifice.

“It is these veterans that have exemplified the true character of our great nation and the true American spirit,” Mendez stated.

The program concluded with a slideshow featuring photos, branch of service, and rank of veterans who are district staff members or relatives of employees.

On November 10, various San Elizario ISD student groups and staff also participated in the San Elizario Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony including the following: San Elizario High School Eagles Marching Band, cheerleaders, NJROTC cadets, and Student Council; Alarcon Elementary School garden club and sports teams; Girl Scouts from Loya Primary School and Sambrano Elementary School; and Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year Irene Salom.



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

THE NEW BOARD – Standing, from left, are Adrian Medina, President Armando Rodriguez, Sergio Coronado and Superintendent Damon Murphy. Seated are Secretary Patsy Mendoza, Vice President Letty Gonzalez, Laure Searls and Rachel Quintana.

Rodriguez heads Canutillo ISD board

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Armando Rodriguez, a seven-year veteran of the Canutillo Independent School District, was named President of the Board in a unanimous vote last Thursday night.

The Board also picked Leticia “Letty” Gonzalez as Vice President and Patsy Mendoza as Secretary. The new positions became effective on Thursday during the Board’s regular monthly meeting.

“It’s such an honor to receive the vote of confidence from my fellow trustees. I am going to work hard to live up to their expectations as well as the expectations of the children and taxpayers of the Canutillo school district,” Rodriguez said.

“I have learned a lot during my time on the

Board and I feel ready to lead this body as we tackle some challenging times in dealing with tougher academic standards and growth in enrollment,” he added.

Rodriguez replaces Laure Searls as President of the Board. Searls said she was proud to hand over the seat to someone with a strong sense of history in the District.

“I’ve known Mando since he was a child and a student in our schools,” she said. “I’m so happy to have had the opportunity to serve this Board as President and to now pass along the gavel to someone who is homegrown and ready to be a leader.”

The winners of the Nov. 6 school-board election were sworn in on Thursday. Rodriguez, Gonzalez and Rachel Quintana were re-elected, while Adrian Medina won his first term on the Board.

Medina replaces outgoing Trustee Monica Cazares, who did not seek re-election.

Families get health check at San Elizario fair

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – In preparation for the oncoming cold weather and accompanying flu season, hundreds of families from San Elizario and neighboring towns had the opportunity to receive basic exams and important guidance for staying healthy at the 5th Annual San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) Fall Health Fair on November 3. SEISD partnered with the University Medical Center and the UTEP College of Health Sciences to once again offer the yearly event in the local community where healthcare options and other services are limited.

Close to 700 participants attended the event to receive free health screenings for vision, glucose, hearing, blood pressure, and cholesterol. Over 50 agencies and organizations provided attendees fitness and nutrition tips, information on social services, and suggestions on other available health and wellness resources. Childhood immunizations in addition to flu shots were offered as well. There were also many fun activities for children such as games, face painting, music and entertaining performances by different student groups.

According to Amanda Sanchez-Muñoz, SEISD Special Education Director, while school nurses from the various campuses coordinated most of the planning, the health fair would simply not have been possible

without the active role played by many students. For example, members of the Health Occupations Students of America chapter lead by instructor Andrea Ceron were responsible for the autumn theme and decoration of the campus as well as other duties throughout the duration of the fair. Meanwhile, the elementary schools held a pumpkin decorating contest among all of their classes in order to get students and their families excited about attending the fair. Skills USA students under the direction of Annette Rincon and Sylvia Ruvalcaba applied what they have learned in their advertising and graphic design classes in creating and printing all of the promotional materials for the event. San Elizario High School teacher Debra Harris had a group of culinary arts students preparing food early that Saturday morning for all the exhibitors participating in the health fair and taking the opportunity to also practice their customer service skills while they served the meals. Basic occupational skills students guided by special education teacher Lorraine Herrera produced the health fair t-shirts worn by all the volunteers. Also lending a hand at the event were students with NJROTC and National Honor Society.

While attendance was slightly lower than at last year’s health fair there was a larger variety of participating agencies enabling families to obtain much more valuable information on how they can improve their quality of life, health and wellbeing.

View from here By Corda Shonerd

The coming end of the Mayan Calendar

Why we may all survive to celebrate the 2013 New Year

In some ways a doomsday theory and a conspiracy theory are diametric opposites. By proclaiming that most of the world’s problems are due to the secret planning of a hidden cabal of public or private entities, a conspiracy theory tends to encourage the prospective follower to be wary of authority, and, in general, to trust no one. Conversely, the follower of a doomsday theory trusts at least the forces of nature that proclaim to bring about the end of the world. It matters not to the believer in the rapture or resurrection that a conspiracy may somehow be affecting their lives in ways not perceptible. Doomsday will resolve all matters for better or worse. “All we are is dust in the wind.” In short, the doomsday theorist tends to shrink his awareness while the conspiracy theorist tends to expand his awareness – albeit to occasionally absurd and paranoid ends.

With respect to the doomsday theory surrounding the end of the Mayan calendar, an awareness of some simple factors may

suffice to explain the phenomenon. What could the end of the Mayan calendar possibly mean? We know that the end of life certainly means the end of time. However, does the end of time necessarily mean the end of life? If the factors determining how we reckon time are somehow changed, then the end of time as we know it would occur. The two major factors we use to reckon time are the earth’s rotational speed on its’ axis, and the earth’s orbital speed around the sun.

If the earth’s rotational speed were to slow to the extent that one second were added to a 24-hour period, time, as we know it, would be altered, or the manner by which we reckon time would end. This small change would add over six minutes to the length of a year and over one hour to the length of a decade. More clearly, the addition of half an hour to a one week period would add slightly more than 24 hours to the period of one year and would certainly force the redesign of our calendar, and fully explain the end of the

Mayan calendar – not to mention a rewriting of the calendar poem, “30 days passed September, April, June and November... .” One day would have to be added to one of these months.

Assuming that the earth’s rotational speed is a function of its torque or turning force as applied to its radius, at some point an increase in the weight of the mass being turned will overcome the force driving it. Could this increase in the planet’s weight, at some threshold level, cause the planet’s rotational speed to slow?

The United Nations Population Division predicts that by October of 2012 the population of the world will reach 7 billion persons. A ‘mere’ 6 billion persons inhabited the planet in October of 1999. The average weight of one person worldwide – male and female – ranges from 138 pounds in Korea to 178 pounds in the United States. Using the average of both factors of 158 pounds, the weight of the world’s population will have increased from 948 billion pounds, measured in October of 1999 to 1 trillion, 106 billion pounds by October

of 2012. Additionally, scientists estimate that 100,000 pounds of debris fall to earth annually in the form of meteoric material, dust, residue from burning fuel, and salt from ocean spray. This is not to mention any increase in weight of wild, feral, or domesticated animals. The earth is clearly gaining weight.

Adding to the threshold factor, is the position of the earth within its’ orbit around the sun on the date 12/21/2012. This marks the closest position or ‘perihelion’ the earth has with the sun. At this point, the suns’ gravitational pull on the earth is at its’ greatest, possibly representing a ‘straw that breaks the camels’ back’ moment.

Whatever the consequences, if any, the end of the Mayan calendar visits upon us, it is likely the simplest explanation that suffices. While a mundane result, being merely a slight extension in the time interval of the earths’ orbit, would do little to satisfy the most ardent doomsday theorist, the silver lining is that we may all gain more time to fulfill our new years’ resolution – like going on a diet.

Briefs

From Page 1

documents and five years of check registers.” It states, “San Elizario has taken other steps to provide information and

Horizon

From Page 1

plantings and shade trees made in Phase I. For the convenience of the user, Del Valle says the trail will offer trash bins, lighting and bike racks.

The TXDOT representative says the walk and bike trail is currently in the design phase. The contract for its construction will be let in June of 2013.

Mayor Walter Miller sees these projects as a move toward helping to establish a new identity for the Horizon – where it is not just “a conglomerate of residential areas.”

He adds, “We are doing it for the citizens of Horizon City.”

Looking beyond the current efforts, Miller says there are several other enhancement projects to include the south side of Darrington.

engage with the public. It offers meeting minutes, agendas, and information packets for school board meetings, dating back to 2007. It also has its district policies posted online, broken-out by section, and by alphabetical order. And, of course, members of the public also can contact the administration or other key personnel and faculty directly from the website, by email, with questions about these issues or other issues related to their children, or at their phone numbers listed online.”

– Rena Seifts

Closing

Justice of the Peace Pct. 6-1, located at 190 N. San Elizario in Clint, will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from Dec. 24, 2012 to Jan. 4, 2013. Normal business hours will resume on Jan. 7, 2013. Any citations due during that time will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2013. The court wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season on behalf

of Judge Ruben Lujan.

– Margarita Kalnas

Debate team

EPCC Intercollegiate Speech and Debate team returned victorious from the fall 2012 tournaments held by Palomar College and Grossmont College in San Diego, CA. The tournaments were held the weekend of November 10th. They finished first at each college and won the First Place Overall Team Sweepstakes Award. Team members Sebastian Orozco and Bobby Munoz also won the Parliamentary Debate Gold Medal. The 10 student EPCC team is coached by Keith Townsend, assisted by Keri Moe, Al Arvizo and Joel Anguiano. First place winners at Palomar College were: Sebastian Orozco for Poetry Interpretation, Marilyn Wallace for Dramatic Interpretation, and Christian Murphy for Prose Interpretation. The second day of competition was held at Grossmont College. First place winners were: Megan McGill for Novice Prose, Alexis Martinez

for Prose Interpretation, Marilyn Wallace for Novice Poetry, Alexis Martinez for Poetry Interpretation, Jamie Salazar for Informative Speaking, Marilyn Wallace and Megan McGill for Novice Duo, Sebastian Orozco and Juan Apodaca for Duo Interpretation, and Marilyn Wallace for Novice Dramatic Interpretation. A total of 26 colleges and universities from the southwest region attended the competitions.

– Jim Heiney


Crime Stoppers

A woman walking to her car is grabbed from behind by a suspect who threw her to the ground and then stole her purse, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Tuesday evening, November 6, 2012, about 9:00 p.m., a woman shopping at Ross Department Store, 1313 George Dieter, was walking towards her car in the parking lot when she was grabbed from behind by an unknown male who placed his hand over her mouth and threw

her to the ground. The suspect then pulled at her purse while she attempted to hang on. Fearing for her life, the victim let go of the purse and the suspect fled on foot south on Yarbrough. The victim suffered multiple injuries and was able to identify the suspect from surveillance video at a neighboring store where her purse was found with the wallet missing. The suspect is described as an Hispanic male in his 30s, 5’7” tall, medium build, wearing a black leather jacket and black pants. If you have any information at all about the identity of the suspect 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

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LEGALS

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, during a Special Council Meeting at 15001 Darrington Rd. (Court/Police Dept. Bldg.) in the Council chambers, Horizon City, TX. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following:

1) 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 0196, an Ordinance to revise the process for scheduling meetings of the Board of Adjustment of the Town of Horizon City by amending Ordinance No. 0102 of the Town of Horizon City (A m e n d m e n t No. 030), and Ordinance No. 0022 of the Town of Horizon City (A m e n d m e n t No. 001); and providing for the following: findings of fact; repealer; severability; effective date; proper notice and hearing; the penalty as provided in Chapter 810 of Ordinance No. 0102 of the Town of Horizon City, Texas.

2) 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 0199, an Ordinance designating

Transportation Reinvestment Zone Number One for the Town of Horizon City, Texas; describing the boundaries of the Zone; providing for an effective date and a termination date for the zone; naming the zone “Transportation Reinvestment Zone Number One, Town of Horizon City, Texas”; establishing a tax increment fund for the zone; and containing other provisions related thereto.

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. Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address, Monday through Friday from 8: a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
Town of Horizon City

WTCC: 11-22-12

TOWN OF CLINT

PUBLIC NOTICE

meeting will be held at the Town Senior Center, 200 N. San Elizario Road, Clint, TX, at 6:00 p.m. For questions or further information please call the Town Hall at 915-851-3146.

The Town of Clint is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer, Small, Minority and Female owned firms are encouraged to submit applications.

Susana Rodriguez
Town Clerk

WTCC: 11-22-12

School District

Surplus Sale

School District

WTCC: 11-22-12

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By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The 5-star recruit appeared live on ESPNU last week to announce where he would attend

The only problem is that Konner Tucker is out with an injury and Jalen Ragland has been inconsistent from the field hitting only 35 percent of his shots (6-of-17).

This year's version of the Miners will get things together offensively as the year goes on but Floyd wants his players to play defense

At least the basketball program is heading in the right direction. The only question is how far up the ladder they can climb.

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

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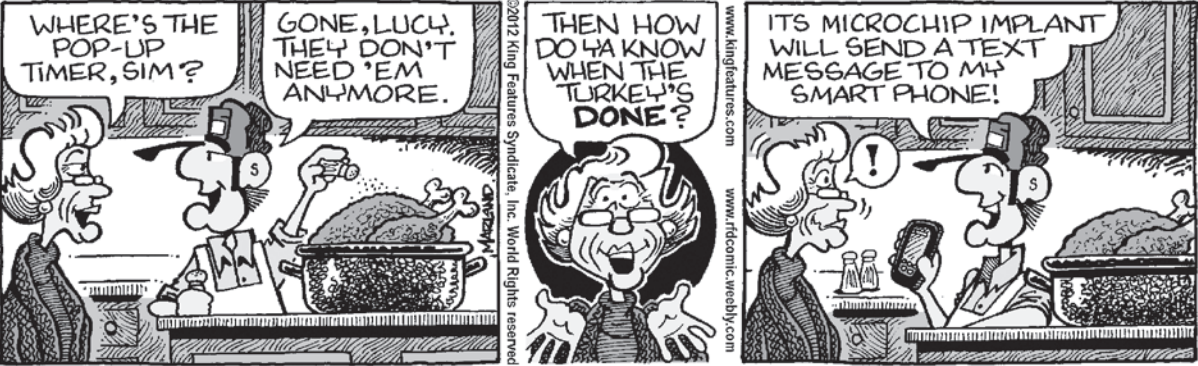
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By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My very healthy, active, 6-year-old grandson was just diagnosed as having kidney stones. His pediatrician said it is mostly genetic, but no one else in the family has had kidney stones. A friend told us she heard that stones could be caused by drinking Gatorade. My grandson has drunk a lot of Gatorade. He does not eat processed meat, nor does he have much salt in his diet. From the Internet, I came up with the enclosed article, which linked Gatorade to kidney stones. I feel that someone needs to inform parents that too much Gatorade in children can adversely affect health. – G.S.

An increase in children having kidney stones has been noticed. Some authorities have speculated that the increase in stones might be linked to children’s greater intake of salty foods like potato chips, french fries and other heavily salted snacks. The sodium in salt leads to a rise in the amount of calcium lost in the urine, and, therefore, an increase in kidney-stone production. Eight ounces of Gatorade has 110 mg of sodium. New guidelines for daily sodium intake is 1,500 mg. To reach that limit by drinking Gatorade, one would have to drink 13 8-ounce cans or 9 12-ounce cans. Blaming the surge in the number of children on Gatorade seems iffy to me.

Your grandson would be better off substituting some of his consumption of Gatorade with water. He needs to cut back on his consumption of salt from other foods too. Gatorade keeps him hydrated, but he can stay hydrated with water. Dehydration is a proven cause of kidney stones. I welcome other readers’ opinions on this issue. The booklet on sodium, potassium and chloride – electrolytes – explains the role of these minerals on health. Readers

can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 202W, 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: Does it hurt you to exercise if you have a cold? I do it all the time, and I can’t see that it makes anything worse. I’ve been told not to do so. – B.R.

If you’re coughing, sneezing or have a dripping nose, others are not going to appreciate exercising along with you. A general rule says if your symptoms are above the neck, it’s OK to exercise. Such symptoms would be a stuffy or runny nose, a scratchy throat and an occasional sneeze. If you have an elevated temperature, achy muscles or a persistent cough, don’t exercise.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Since I was a young child, I was told not to use public restrooms because I could catch something. What are the chances of catching a disease from them? – F.N.

Yours is a fear shared by many. If public restrooms were a source of infections, they would be closed. They’re not. As far as sexually transmitted diseases go, I have never seen any information that implicates them in passing such infections to others.

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

- OHIO-STYLE ACROSS

1 Lyrical verses

5 Tree with long, beanlike seedpods

12 Fraternity letters

15 Tolkien villains

19 German wife

20 Actor Laurence

21 Pick, with "for"

22 Blood vessel

23 Initial protective action, Ohio-style?

26 Sicily's erupter

27 Divides up

28 Swerve off course

29 Really smell

30 Trig topic

31 TV show with eligible bachelors, Ohio-style?

36 Shoe tip

37 Calf meat

41 Suffix with project

42 Western U.S. range

43 Casey Stengel quote, Ohio-style?

48 Hip-hop "Dr."

49 To _ (precisely)

50 "En _!" (fencer's cry)

51 Larva of a parasite

53 Track star Jesse

57 "The View" co-host Shepherd

59 Invented, as a phrase

62 Cut (off)

63 Dull photo finish

66 ESP, Ohio-style?

70 On the ship, e.g.

72 Egg cells

73 _-faire

74 Beatles hit, Ohio-style?

81 Made a beeline for

82 Pose the question

83 Pick up and haul in

84 Most foul

86 Dolphin kin

89 Pantry invader

90 S i c k n e s s symptom

91 A d a p t a b l e , electrically

95 Beer, in Bath

97 Gene Kelly classic, Ohio-style?

101 Snobbish

105 Poetic night

106 God, in Dijon

114 Bygone

115 Jordan native, e.g.

116 Good flavor

121 Twin brother of Jacob

122 Many an Arctic area, Ohio-style?

126 Rip to pieces

127 Bymes or Roush

128 One taken in by another

129 " _ Love Her"

130 Birch or larch

131 See 4-Down

132 Frees for a price

133 Use a scythe

DOWN

1 Sign- _ (farewells)

2 Recovers after a downpour

3 Hearing aid part

4 With 131-Across, "L.A. Law" actress

5 Pepsi, e.g.

6 Settled down

7 It may fly by

8 Call at sea

9 Eye coverer

10 " _ - w e e ' s Playhouse"

11 Pooch's bark

12 Cash

13 Unsettles

14 Olympian's no-no

15 Got too thick with weeds

16 Rip anew

17 Film theater

18 Serpents

24 Eternal City

25 Perón played by Madonna

32 Scout outing

33 _ Lilly (Prozac producer)

34 Crime solver: Abbr.

35 Fiery fiddler?

36 Healthful quaff

38 Cutting part

39 Firehouse sound

40 Mr. Moto player

44 Anne Rice title vampire

45 Valhalla god

46 Army division

47 Yearn deeply

52 Rolodex no.

54 John of rock

55 Like a well-pitched game

56 _ Gyra (jazz group)

58 Hoagie

59 Long for with envy

60 Using speech

61 _ Plains

63 Big parrot

64 Make ashamed

65 Big name in toy trucks

67 Hanks and Cruise

68 Average golf scores

69 2009 Best Picture nominee

71 Genetic helix

75 Lingerie item

76 C a t e r e r s ' dispensers

77 Legendary snow humanoid

78 Baker's need

79 Striking

80 Kate Nelligan title role

85 Mystery novelist _ Stanley Gardner

87 Leeway

88 "Essays of _"

90 Twain's Huck

92 Stimulant in 36-Down

93 Fresca, e.g.

94 "Your \$\$\$\$" channel

96 Broke loose

98 Pince- _

99 "Goodness!"

100 P r o t r u d i n g bellybutton

101 Authority

102 Tenant, e.g.

103 Ludicrous

104 Major rant

109 Unpunctual

110 1981 PC introducer

111 Discontinues

113 Poker champ Stu

117 Re

118 Cherry discard

119 Very, in Nice

120 Use scissors

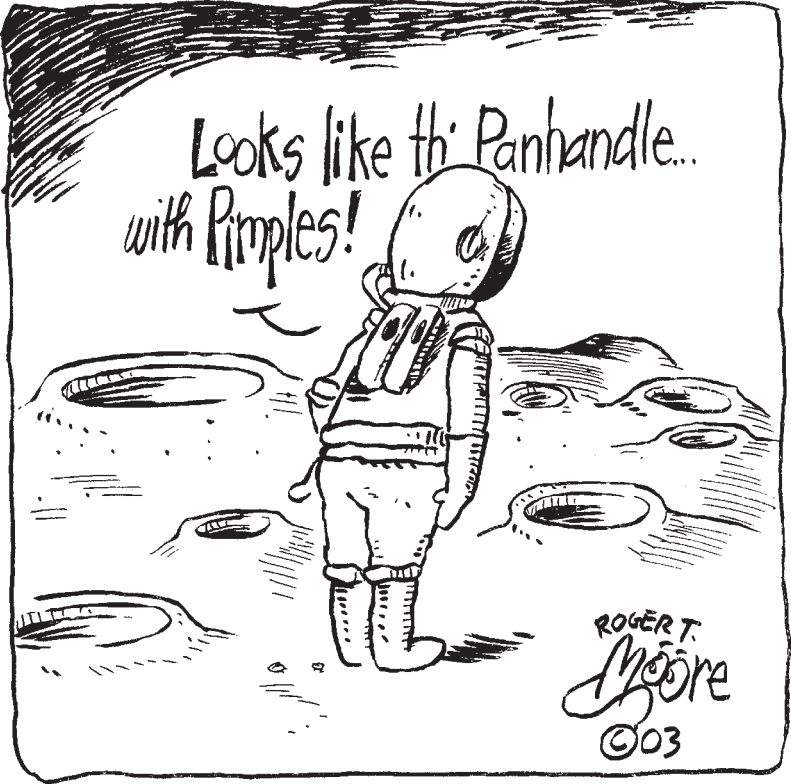
123 River of Bern

124 Pill-approving org.

125 "Silkwood" actor Silver
- Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19					20								21				22			
23				24								25					26			
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108								109	110				111			112	113			
114						115						116	117	118	119					120
121						122			123	124	125									
126						127			128								129			
130						131			132								133			

TRUE TEXAS FACTS *by Roger Moore*, Nov. 19, 1969,
Alan Bean of Wheeler becomes the 1st Texan
to walk on the moon.



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	-		x		14
x		+		÷	
	+		÷		2
-		x		+	
	-		x		18
14		18		10	

1 2 3 4 6 7 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Social Security going all electronic for benefits

Chances are, if you receive Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or any federal payment, you receive it electronically. More than 90 percent of people getting monthly Social Security benefits already receive electronic payments. If you don't yet, that's about to change.

There is a U.S. Department of Treasury rule that does away with paper checks for most federal benefit and non-tax payments by March 1, 2013. With a few exceptions, this mandate includes Social Security, SSI, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management benefits,

and other non-tax payments.

People required to switch have the option of direct deposit to a bank or credit union account or they can have their monthly payment directed into a Direct Express® debit card account (Treasury's debit card program). Please visit www.godirect.org to learn more.

So, why the push for electronic payments instead of paper checks received in the mail? There's a list of reasons an electronic payment is better than an old-fashioned paper check.

- It's safer: no risk of checks being lost or stolen;
- It's easy and reliable: no need to

wait for the mail or go to the bank to cash a check;

- It saves taxpayers money: no cost for postage and paper and printing; Treasury estimates this will save taxpayers • \$1 billion over 10 years; and
- It's good for the environment: it saves paper and eliminates the need for physical transportation.

If you still get your check in the mail, don't wait for the new rule to go into effect next year – sign up for electronic payments now. Please visit www.godirect.org today and begin getting your Social Security and SSI payments the safe, easy, reliable way – electronically.

Q: What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

A: SSI provides monthly income to people 65 or older, blind or disabled, who also have limited income and financial resources. To be eligible, an individual also must be a U.S. citizen and resident of the United States or a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence. There are, however, some noncitizens granted a special immigration status who are eligible. To get SSI, an individual's financial resources (savings and

assets) cannot be more than \$2,000 (\$3,000, if married). For more information, read our publications, *Supplemental Security Income* or *Understanding Supplemental Security Income*. Both are available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Q: I have worked as a household worker for several years and I recently received my Social Security Statement of my Earnings. I noticed that my employer is not reporting my wages; can I pay Social Security taxes on my own by filing as a self-employed person?

A: A person performing domesticchores such as cleaning, cooking, gardening or babysitting is not considered to be self-employed; therefore you cannot report your own wages to Social Security. If your employer pays you \$1,800 or more in cash wages during 2012, your employer must deduct Social Security and Medicare taxes, matches that contribution and report the wages once a year to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Find more information and publications about the Household Workers and If You Are Self-Employed at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: Does Social Security provide special services or information for people who are blind or visually impaired?

A: Yes. Social Security offers a number of services and products specifically designed for people who are blind or visually impaired. For example, we make all our publications available in multiple formats including Braille, audio cassette tapes, compact disks or enlarged print. Also, most of our publications are available online in audio format.

To get any of these products in alternative formats, contact us by:

- Going online to www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/alt-pubs.html;
- Calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY, 1-800-325-0778) between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday;
- Contacting your local Social Security office;
- Contacting your U.S. Embassy or Consulate, if you live outside the United States; or
- Mailing, calling, or faxing your request to:

Social Security Administration,
Braille Services Branch
6401 Security Boulevard, L1141
West Low Rise
Baltimore, MD 21235
Phone: 410-965-6414 or 410-965-6407 (TTY, 1-800-325-0778)
Fax: 410-965-6413

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.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: W equals Y

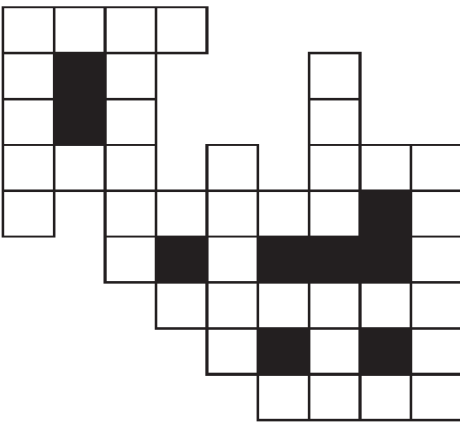
BJGL WKX BQDHG U MRUPP
LKHUHDKL DL HJG RUQCDL, UQG
WKX CGHHDLC U BKQE DL
GECGBDMG?

Answer Page 4

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OBO
CUTROY
♥TOSBA
♥OLOC
MACBTO
♥ATM
MOBO
CAHNR
ISC
ALMTOR
♥ORLEN
HOTA



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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