



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

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Minimum 50 issues for \$36. Delivery via 1st class mail.

MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928



Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtcc@wtcc.com
Website: wtcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda



Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.

Member Texas Community
Newspaper Association



— 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

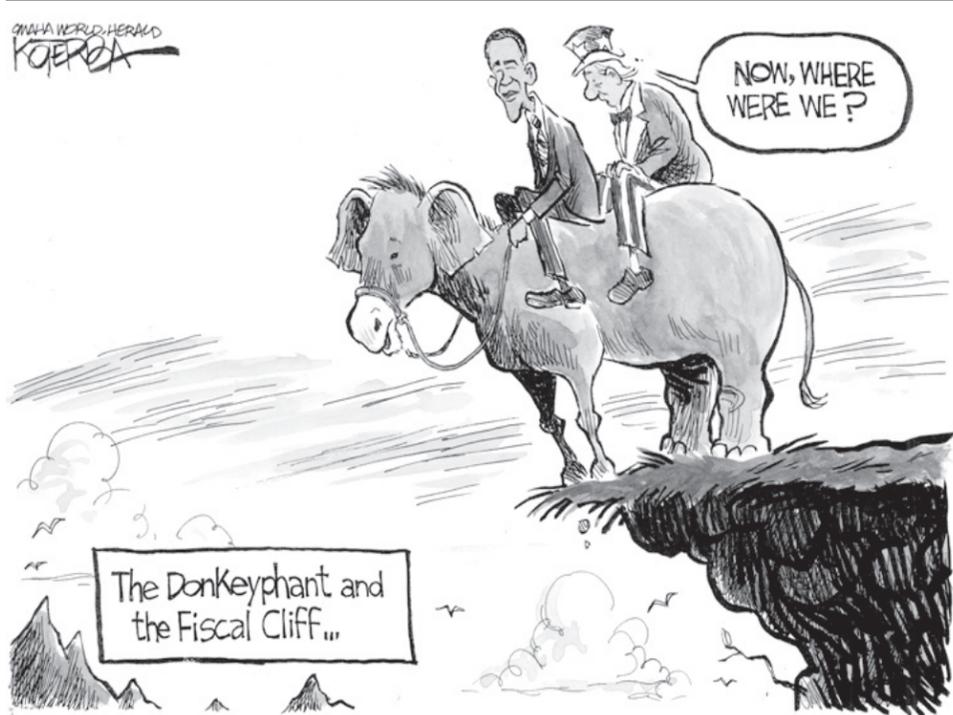
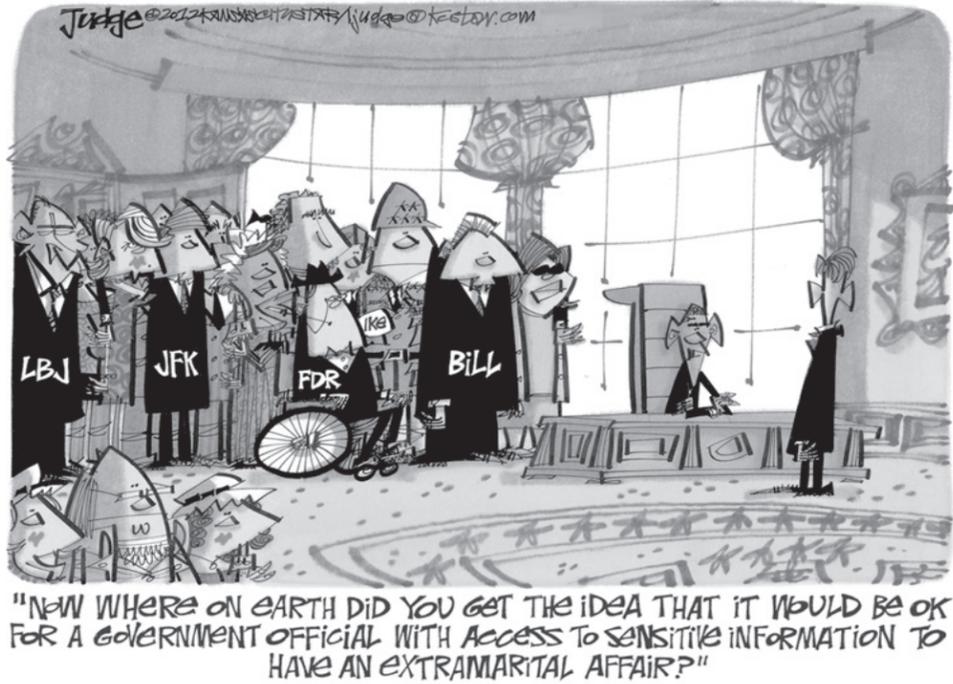
Board and I feel ready to lead this body as we tackle some challenging times in dealing with tougher academic standards and growth in enrollment,” he added.

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 Shoner

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 sun's 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 earth's 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

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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

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 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 (Amendment No. 030), and Ordinance No. 0022 of the Town of Horizon City (Amendment 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

The Town of Clint is currently taking applications for the performance of depository services from one or more banks, credit unions or savings association that are doing business within the Town of Clint. Applications shall be mailed to Dale T. Reinhardt, Mayor, PO Box 350, Clint, TX, 79836. The deadline for submitting is 5:00 p.m. December 21, 2012. The City Council for the Town of Clint will consider the selection of one or more depositories at their regular meeting on January 9, 2013, and reserves the right to reject all applications and re-advertise. The

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

Public Notice

San Elizario Independent

School District

WTCC: 11-22-12

Surplus Sale

San Elizario ISD will conduct a sale of surplus computer and audio visual equipment. The sale will begin on December 1, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. (while quantities last). All transactions will be cash. Any individual may purchase multiple items but not more than one (1) of each type. A ticket is required for entry. Distribution of tickets will begin at 6:30 a.m. outside the Garcia-Enriquez Middle School (12280 Socorro Road). All items are sold "AS IS" and all sales are final – no refunds, returns, or exchanges.

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UTEP basketball is moving in the right direction

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The UTEP basketball team took a pretty good shot in the mouth last week at the hands of the 12th-ranked Arizona Wildcats.

Arizona's quickness and size just overwhelmed Tim Floyd's bunch en route to an easy 72-51 home victory.

But even though the game resembled a Wildcat dunking exhibition at times, things looked bright for a bit.

After cutting the lead to eight points (57-49) with 7:48 to go in the game it appeared as if maybe the young Miners were ready to make a stunning comeback.

Not quite, the Miners were then outscored 15-2 the rest of the way. UTEP looked and looked but just couldn't find anyone who could put the ball in the basket consistently.

But you know what they say about black clouds?

UTEP's silver lining made its appearance last week in the form of one Isaac Hamilton.

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

college in 2013.

Hamilton, who had received a late scholarship offer from UCLA, made his TV appearance wearing the Bruins' powder blue and gold.

When asked where he was going to college, Hamilton looked right into the camera and he was going to the University of Texas at El Paso.

For those of you who may not be aware of how big this signing is, ESPN ranks him as the 25th best player in the nation and the fifth best shooting guard.

CBS College Sports ranks him as the 17th best player in the United States.

He is a pure shooter who can run the court and pass the ball as well as any point guard. Looking at tons of video on him I would say that he kind of reminds me a little of Reggie Miller.

One of UTEP's true deficiencies this season is at the guard position. They are only mediocre at the point guard spot and they only have two real shooting guards.

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).

Unfortunately, at least in the early going, it seems that the only two Miners who can call up their own shots are the Washburn brothers, Julian (a sophomore) and Chris (a freshman).

But help is on the way in the form of another brother team.

Hamilton's younger brother Daniel is a high school junior and is currently ranked as the 23rd best player in the country among the class of 2014 according to ESPN.

The word is Daniel definitely wants to play with his brother.

The Miners also have a verbal commitment from shooting guard Andre Spight (out of Pasadena, CA), who is ranked as the 74th best shooting guard in the country according to ESPN.

There's no doubt that Tim Floyd is very serious about bringing the good old days back to the Don Haskins Center. He wants to bring back the days when Don Haskins himself prowled along the bench at UTEP.

And with these recruits, Floyd is well on his way.

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

first.

He knows that you are never out of a game as long as you play tough defense. He knows players can score. That's all they're used to doing.

But defense is something that has to be learned through discipline and hard work – that's it.

It's obvious that Hamilton's decision raised some eyebrows across the country and don't be surprised if this historic commitment leads to other players suddenly asking themselves, "why not UTEP?"

At this rate, it won't take very long before the team starts playing the way they did back in the decade of the '80s when they played in front of sold out crowds every time out.

And who was the assistant coach to Don Haskins back then? Who was the guy who recruited all the great players? You got it, Tim Floyd.

It's too bad that Mike Price and his UTEP football Miners have suffered through another dismal season.

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

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Why I can't shoot the jump shot

I can't shoot a jump shot because of mint chocolate-chip ice cream.

This is all because my basketball-clinic coach – an otherwise good man – had minty breath. And not the "curiously strong" or Lifesavers "Pep-o-Mint" variety of minty breath... his was minty in the way that broadcast a love for mint chocolate-chip ice cream.

Anecdotally speaking, mint chocolate chip as an ice-cream flavor has fallen out of favor. It was pretty

big in the '70s, though. Presented as a cardboard block in your grocer's freezer, mint chocolate-chip ice cream held the distinction of possessing a particular color of green not found in nature... a pretty neat trick.

(Also, the chips weren't really chocolate... they were something like carob-flavored palm oil or caramel-colored yak fat.)

To the point, when I was supposed to be listening to my coach – a saint

of a guy blessed with patience unlike any other – I couldn't concentrate because when he tried to instruct me, as soon as he got near my grill with the basketball, the minty aroma was just too distracting for my attention deficit.

I was reminded of this particular shortcoming of mine the other night as I shared an early evening snack with Jay McMillen. McMillen was the Maryland Terrapins' power forward in the late '60s, a very good player who left the school as the second all-time scorer with 1,300 points. Years later, his brother Tom would play for the Terps, and their record combined adds up to the

most points by a brotherly tandem in ACC history.

Tom went on to various Sports Illustrated covers, became a Rhodes Scholar and later in life he served as a congressman for a district gerrymandered out of existence in Maryland. Today, Jay is a doctor in Missouri and he is still married to Gail, the pretty Terrapin cheerleader and former homecoming queen.

Now, I promised that most of what we said was off the record, but I can't resist giving up a few details: Jay and Gail are in the market for a new home and may become neighbors of mine. They want to cut down on space... their kids are all grown and they're eager to lose even more baggage. Gail points out the fact that they will have to get rid of some memorabilia.

I scoff at that notion and share a

story about a sled that was discarded by elders in my family years ago. When it snowed during a holiday, the absence of the sled led to great consternation... if only out of nostalgia.

"Don't get rid of the basketball stuff," I tell her. "Pass it down to your grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

She nodded in agreement, but had to laugh a bit.

"You have to see the cover (of the media guide)... those shorts... and that jump shot! They don't shoot like that anymore."

Yeah, well... at least he had one. In today's game a good jump shot is as rare as mint chocolate-chip ice cream. Either way, I've got neither to speak for.

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL

MINER

NOVEMBER 28TH • 7PM

ORANGEVILLE

VS. NEW MEXICO STATE

BBVA Compass **Walgreens**

92.3 The Fox **26 UNIVISION**

TICKETS: 915.747.5234

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CONFERENCE USA

CHAMPIONS

DECEMBER 1ST • 7:05 P.M.

VS. TEXAS STATE

HEROES NIGHT

THANKING OUR LOCAL HEROES

FACULTY/STAFF APPRECIATION

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You don't have your
NEW BONA FIDE ORIGINAL REAL TEXAS HISTORY CALENDAR?

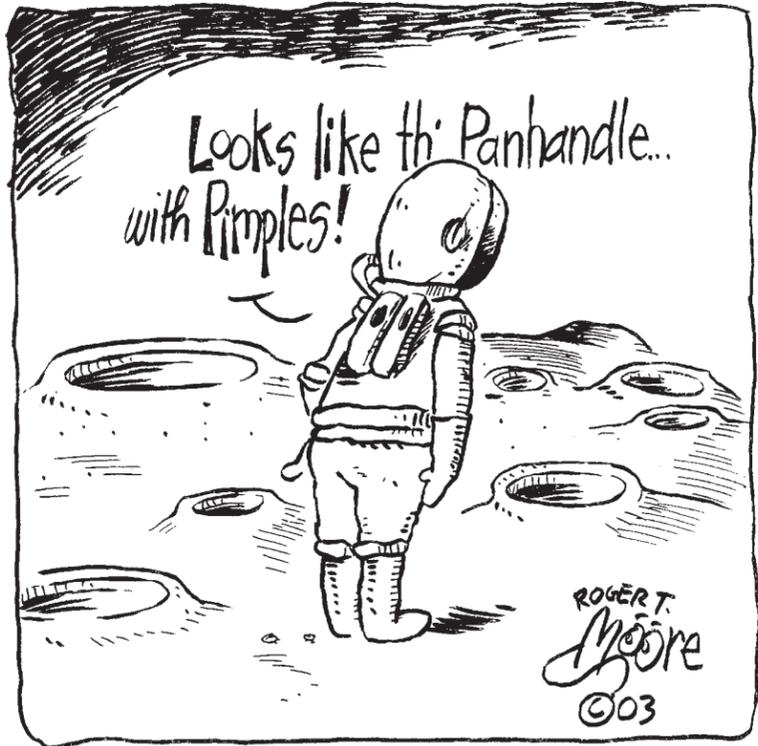
It's full of NEW Texas facts,
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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore, Nov. 19, 1969, Alan Bean of Wheeler becomes the 1st Texan to walk on the moon.



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 domestic chores 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.

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	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 6 7 7 8 9

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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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

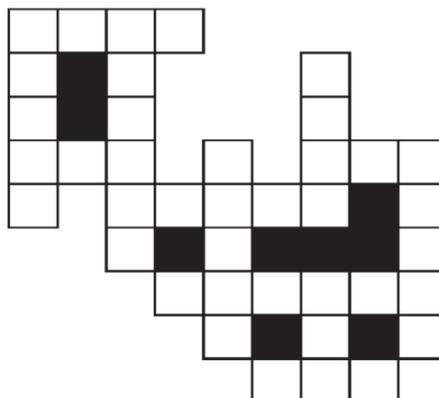
BJGL WKX BQDHG U MRUPP
LKHUHDKL DL HJG RUQCDL, UQG
WKX CGHHDLC U BKQE DL
GECGBDMG?

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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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.