



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Library hours

Public Libraries will be changing their hours of operation during the Christmas and New Years holidays. All branches will be closed from Sunday, Dec. 23 through Tuesday, Dec. 25. They will all be open from Wednesday, Dec. 26 to Saturday, Dec. 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will once again be closed Sunday, Dec. 30 through Tuesday, Jan. 1 for New Years. They will then open Wednesday, Jan. 2 through Saturday, Jan. 5, also from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will return to their regular schedules once again on Sunday, Jan. 6. For more information call 543-5433.

— Jack Galindo

### Clint ISD is golden

For the second consecutive year, Clint Independent School District has been named to The Comptroller of Public Accounts Gold Level Leadership Circle transparency program. This program recognizes local governments across Texas which strives to meet a high standard for financial transparency online. Clint ISD was selected for the program based on criteria including opening its books to the public; providing clear, consistent pictures of spending; and sharing information in a user friendly format that lets taxpayers easily drill down for more information. The Gold level is awarded to those who post current budget, annual financial report, and check register, have a Web page dedicated to financial transparency and other criteria. The District also earned a Superior Achievement rating on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas receiving a perfect score of 80 points. "The District is committed to handling our finances responsibly and efficiently for the students and the taxpayers and these awards are a clear indication of that commitment," said Dr. Edward Gabaldon, Superintendent of Clint ISD.

— Laura Cade

### El Paso jobs

Gov. Rick Perry has announced ADP is expanding its operations in El Paso, creating 585 jobs and \$22 million in capital investment. Texas is providing \$2.4 million from the Texas Enterprise Fund to finalize this expansion and job creation. "Texas is a beacon of economic freedom and opportunity, which is why employers looking to expand or relocate continue to choose the Lone Star State," Perry said. ADP provides human resource, payroll, tax and benefits administration solutions to approximately 600,000 clients worldwide. "The City of El Paso and the State of Texas are excellent locations to do business," ADP El Paso Solutions Center Vice President

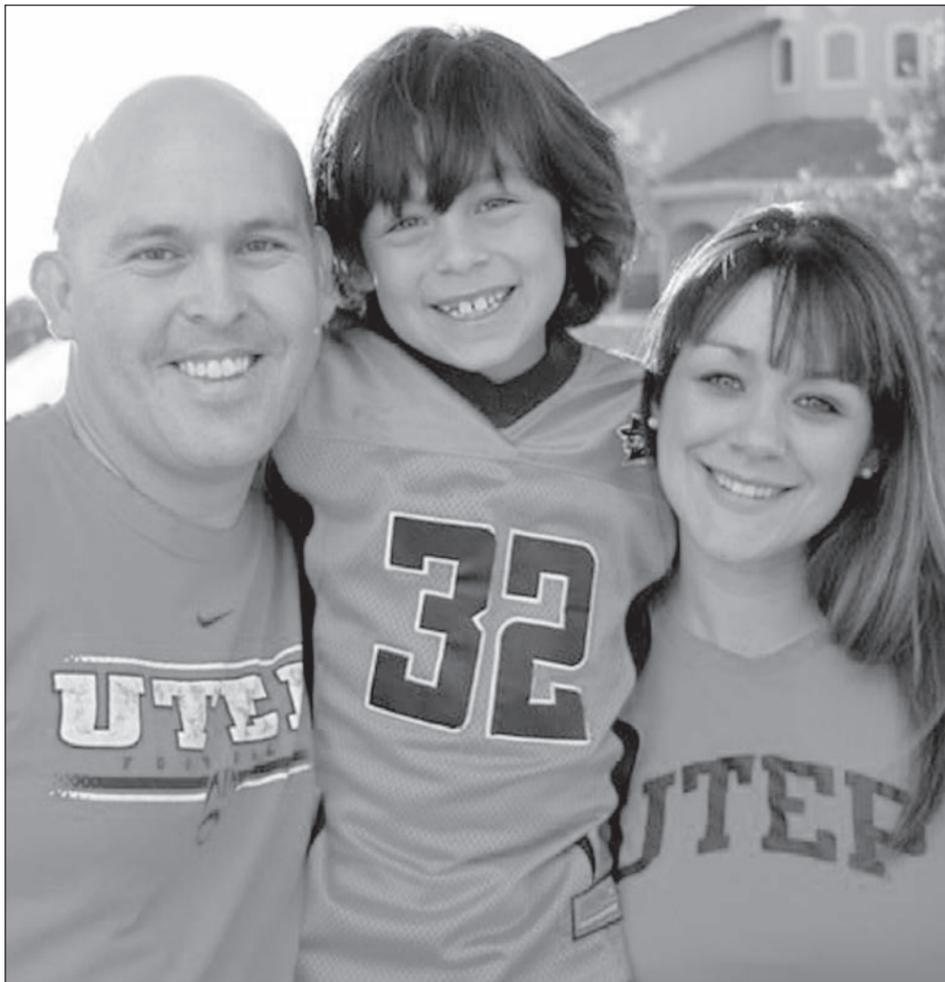
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*He who gives only when he is asked has waited too long.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Friends help family deal with cancer

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier



— Photo courtesy of the Mora Family

**PERSPECTIVE** — "Your outlook in life changes on what is important and all the material things don't matter at all," Jose Mora, who is fighting cancer, said in a recent interview. "Especially when you see how many friends and family we have and all the love and support we've received from everyone. There comes a point where materialistic things are meaningless." Above, from left, are Jose, Kai, and Melanie Mora.

To visit the fundraising website for the Mora family, go to [www.gofundme.com/teammora19](http://www.gofundme.com/teammora19)

A group of friends of Jose and Melanie Mora (of El Paso) is helping them fight cancer by using social media.

Jose Mora is a 35-year-old Import Specialist with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He is married to Melanie, a registered nurse, and they have a nine-year-old son, Kai.

Eight years ago, Jose was diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma that has metastasized to his lungs. Since 2004, he has endured five surgeries that have resulted in the partial removal of his left lung lobe and multiple chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

In August 2012, he went to MD Anderson Hospital, in Houston TX, for his routine follow-up visit, and a nodule four centimeters (cm) in size was found in his right lung. Since then, the nodule has grown to 11cm. At this time, the only intervention left is a clinical trial treatment to attempt to decrease the size of the nodule before any kind of surgery can be performed.

Each clinical trial will cost approximately \$10,000 and will require Mora to travel to Houston every two weeks for diagnostic testing and treatments.

Mora's insurance was covering most of the mounting medical expenses until recently, when the cancer became more aggressive, and he had no choice but to decide to undergo the four experimental treatments. Mora's insurance company denied coverage of the trial treatments, but he said that he is in the process of appealing the decision. Meanwhile, the Mora's are preparing to sell their home and vehicles to pay for the treatments. And,

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## Canutillo ISD school board initiates process to fire superintendent

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — To help quell the confusion pervading Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) concerning the firing of its top administrator, cursory letters from the school board president and the associate superintendent/



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

**Dr. Damon Murphy has been superintendent of Canutillo ISD since January 2010.**

chief of staff were disseminated throughout the district the day after Superintendent Dr. Damon Murphy was given his termination notice by the board.

According to an open letter to the community, Board President Armando Rodriguez stated that the board assigned its internal auditor in June to review processes and procedures related to transfer credits and student cohorts. Because of the auditor's findings, which were presented at the board's recent meeting, "the board directed its legal counsel to prepare and send to Dr. Murphy notice of the following actions: Notice of the intent of the board, for good cause, to suspend the

superintendent without pay pending discharge and with intent of the board to terminate his contract for good cause."

CISD school board directed its attorney to give Murphy notice of its intent to put the superintendent on unpaid leave and start the process of firing him before his contract expires in June 2014. Murphy will remain in his job until the school board schedules a meeting to discuss placing him on unpaid leave.

The motion to fire Murohy came after trustees received a report from the district's internal auditor that found several attempts to lower the numbers of limited English-speaking students and special education students so those subgroups would not count in the district's federal accountability results.

A school must have 50 or more students in a subgroup enrolled on the test date for student subgroups to be considered for federal Adequate Yearly Progress measures.

Now, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) wants to review the internal auditor's findings that show possible efforts to cheat federal and state accountability indicators. Officials with the agency's Special Investigation Division requested a copy of the audit report.

The CISD audit report alleges that Murphy directed former Canutillo High School principal to find ways of moving limited English-speaking students and special education students from 10th grade to 11th grade. Federal accountability measures rate high schools based on 10th-grade performance on state-mandated tests.

Murphy has also been embroiled in similar accusations at the center of a cheating scandal in neighboring El Paso Independent School District, where he was an associate superintendent before he was hired to lead Canutillo in January 2010.

"In the meantime, the board... outlined short-term plans for the

See CANUTILLO, Page 3

## Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

# The Hope Box

Some will chastise me, I imagine, for dealing with this topic during the holidays. But it's the holidays that make this problem even more poignant: suicide among veterans.

The suicide rate for veterans has been coming down. So say the compilers of the statistics. However, the number isn't coming down fast enough. The last semi-reliable number is 18 veterans per day.

The list of treatments and drugs thrown at the problem of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, surely a big cause of suicide, is long. Some veterans have done well with drugs or therapies, and some with combinations of those.

Now there is a new ray of hope – specifically, the Hope Box. This new tool is being tested at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Portland, Ore.

Staff at the medical center are using a smartphone app to collect items meaningful to the veteran as a way to manage suicidal thoughts: photos, videos of loved ones, music, games, phone numbers of

help lines and more. The Hope Box has areas on the touch screen labeled Remind me, Distract Me, Relax Me, Inspire Me and Coping Cards.

At this point, only a few dozen veterans have been enrolled in the program, but anyone with a smartphone who needs help can create a similar hope box. Go online and search for the app's creator, Nigel Bush, and enter its title: Development and Evaluation of a Virtual Hope Box for Reducing Suicidal Ideation. You'll find a .PDF file full of graphics that show what's in the Hope Box.

Even though your VA medical center might not have the Hope Box program yet, staffers have heard of it and will be able to help set up your smartphone.

If you've struggled with PTSD and suicidal thoughts, please try creating a hope box. Write me and tell me what you've put in it.

Send email to [Freddy Groves at columnreply@gmail.com](mailto:Freddy.Groves@columnreply@gmail.com). (c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Finances By Jason Alderman

# Cut your holiday expenses

The closer the holidays loom, the less time harried families have to buy gifts, plan seasonal events and make travel arrangements. Unfortunately, when time is at a premium and you're forced to make last-minute decisions, it's usually your budget that suffers.

As an occasional procrastinator myself, let me share a few tips I've picked up over the years that can help take the expense – and stress – out of holiday planning:

Before you start shopping, calculate how much you can afford to spend on the holidays as a portion of your overall budget. If your finances are in good shape, spend no more than 1.5 percent of your annual income. But if you're deeply in debt, can't meet your regular monthly expenses or don't have an emergency fund, this isn't the time to rack up additional debt.

Once you determine an overall amount, tally up expected holiday-related expenses including gifts, decorations, new clothes and accessories, giftwrap, cards, postage, special meals and year-end gratuities. Don't forget travel-related expenses if you plan to leave town, and try to recall unanticipated expenses from last year.

If you're looking for ways to cut back, consider:

- Arrange gift lotteries with family members and friends so everyone concentrates their time, effort and money on buying fewer, nicer gifts.
- Speak candidly with friends, coworkers and extended family about placing a moratorium on exchanging gifts. They're probably feeling the pinch too.

If the gift-giving gesture is important to you, suggest pooling resources with others to make a sizeable contribution to a charity you all believe in.

Once you've determined your overall holiday spending budget – and before you start shopping – make a detailed list that includes:

- Everyone on your shopping list.
- Spending limits and several gift alternatives for each person.
- How much you actually spend

on each gift. If you overspend on one present you'll need to make up for it elsewhere.

- What you gave each person – to avoid giving them the same thing next year.

- What each person gave you to avoid "re-gifting" disasters later on.

- Other expenses (decorations, etc.)

Some people relish hunting for bargains; others loathe it. Either way, here are a few money-saving tips:

- Clip newspaper and online coupons. Stores often match competitors' prices even if their own items aren't on sale. Plus, many consolidation websites post downloadable coupons and sale codes for online retailers.

- Mobile shopping apps let in-store smartphone and tablet users scan product barcodes and make on-the-spot price comparisons, read reviews, download coupons, buy products and more.

- If you're traveling for the holidays, note that many airlines charge \$25 or more for each checked bag. Many stores and websites ship gifts for free, saving you hassle at the airport.

- Carefully read purchase-return policies for deadlines, exclusions (e.g., for sale or clearance items) and restocking charges.

- Keep receipts. Many retailers will refund the price difference if an item goes on sale within a few weeks after purchase.

- Check whether your credit card agreement provides free product warranty extensions and/or price protection.

And finally, consider the gift of time. Older relatives don't need more chocolates, but they probably could use help with chores, running errands or rides to doctor's appointments. Plus, they would probably appreciate your company. Offer to babysit for harried parents so they can run a few errands or simply recharge their batteries.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

## Museum events include ancestors' exhibit, end of world presentation

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology will offer a special tour of the remarkable exhibit, titled *Walking with the Ancestors: From Mesoamerica to the Southwest*, and will host a unique presentation about the Maya Calendar prediction, as part of its December events that are free and open to the public.

The guided tour of the exhibit will be held, at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, December 15, at the archeology museum (4300 Transmountain Road).

Marilyn Guida, the museum's curator of education, said that the tour will highlight the exhibit's extraordinary portrayal of the ancient and modern connections among the people of this region – such as the hearth, macaws, Tlaloc the rain deity, peyote, the rabbit in the moon, and corn.

Included in the exhibit is a colorful Día de los Muertos altar that illustrates the nine levels of the journey to Mictlan, the place where most people go after death according to Aztec beliefs.

The *Walking with the Ancestors* exhibit, that has been extended through March 24, 2013, was curated by Dr. Yolanda Chávez Leyva, Chair of Department of History, at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Leyva stated that she helped organized the exhibit to show the connections among peoples across time and space from ancient Mesoamerica to the American Southwest.

The archeology museum's presentation, *Will December 21, 2012 be the "End of the World"?*, is scheduled for – that's right – for 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 21.

Dr. Weldon Lamb, a Maya epigrapher who reads the Maya stone glyphs, will present his findings about the notion that the Maya predicted that the end of the world would be on December 21, 2012.

Lamb said that he will help explain the meaning of the carved stone Maya text that identifies the date, December 21, 2012. After his presentation, the audience is encouraged to ask questions. A sign language interpreter will be signing the discussion for the deaf.

These programs are made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, call 915-755-4332 or send email to [guidamr@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:guidamr@elpasotexas.gov).

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# Congratulations to all Fall 2012 EPCC graduates!

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"SO DISNEY TOOK OVER THE 'STAR WARS' FRANCHISE...WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?"

# Canutillo taxpayers catch a break

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Residents of the Canutillo Independent School District will not see the full impact of the bond sales in their tax bills thanks to a successful refinancing of existing debt that saved the district \$1 million.

CISD officials finalized the refinancing of \$6.2 million in bond debt from the 2006 construction program at an interest rate that is lower than originally expected.

Martha Aguirre, CISD's executive director of finance, said the original interest rate that had been projected to the district was 2.4 percent. In the end, because of the District's solid financial standing and the positive economic outlook, Canutillo secured a 1.95 percent interest rate.

The difference in savings to the district improved from \$770,000 under the 2.4 percent interest rate to \$1.03 million under the 1.95

percent interest rate.

"This is good news for our taxpayers. It means the part of our tax rate that helps us pay off our bonds will not increase as much as we originally thought it would," said Board President Armando Rodriguez. "The fact that we have secured lower interest rates and larger savings, is proof that we have a sound and prosperous economic standing in the District."

This is the second year in a row that Canutillo is able to secure savings through positive bond sales or refinancing.

In August 2011, the district's positive economic outlook helped secure a lower-than-expected interest rate in the sale of \$22 million in bonds from the 2011 construction program. The lower interest rate saved taxpayers \$3.6 million.

Aguirre said it is not yet clear exactly what the impact will be on the tax rate, but that it is certain that it will mean savings for residential and commercial taxpayers inside the CISD boundary lines.

# Nunnery heads bond committee

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Mark Nunnery, a businessman and parent in the District, has been named the new chair of the Canutillo Bond Accountability Committee, or CBAC.

Nunnery replaces Adrian Medina, who resigned from the CBAC after he was elected to the Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees in November.

As CBAC chair, Nunnery will be in charge of running quarterly meetings, providing school-board members and the community with oversight reports and working with

CISD staff in securing documents and access to construction projects for the committee.

"We are in the midst of one of the largest bond programs in the history of Canutillo, and I realize that this committee plays an important role in being the eyes and ears of the community," Nunnery said. "All of us in the CBAC have a commitment to guarantee that every project the District takes on is completed in a manner that brings quality of life to our students and accountability on behalf of the taxpayers."

Nunnery has been one of the District's most active community members. He is a former member of the Budget Stakeholders Committee and the Facilities Stakeholders Committee

# Canutillo

From Page 1

Office of the Superintendent and stated that they soon would discuss long-term plans for the District," stated the letter sent to district employees from Annette Brigham, associate superintendent and chief of staff who will focus on helping principals and supervisors manage the day-to-day operation of the district.

"The superintendent's cabinet and all nine principals met to discuss the current situation and receive instructions on how to best handle

our operations as we begin to move forward," Brigham's letter stated.

Rodriguez said in a recent news interview that he hopes the state education commissioner supports the actions taken by the district in initiating the process for firing Murphy. Rodriguez said TEA officials told him they might have a response in time for the school board's next regular meeting on December 18.

"It's a tough situation, but at the end of the day, we've made the best decision in the best interest of our kids in our community, and we're doing that to move forward," Rodriguez's letter stated.

## Armando Rodriguez', president of the Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees, complete statement after last Thursday's meeting is as follows:

"The Canutillo Independent School District makes every effort to act in the best interests of its students and the community. When information began to develop in the El Paso Independent School District scandal, we stayed abreast of the issue.

That being said, CISD and EPISD are very different.

In 2006, the CISD Board made certain that the internal audit function was properly structured, and since then we have regularly communicated directly with our internal auditor.

In May of this year, we asked for and received a presentation from the administration regarding transfer credits and student cohort policies.

When we hired our current internal auditor in June of this year, the Board immediately assigned him to review processes and procedures related to transfer credits and student cohorts. The presentation from May was reviewed. Tonight we received a portion of larger audit and the information we received required that we act. We directed our legal counsel to prepare and send to Dr. Murphy notice of the following actions:

- Notice of the intent of the board, for good cause, to suspend the superintendent without pay pending discharge; and
- Notice of the intent of the board to terminate his contract for good cause.

Dr. Murphy has appeal rights under state law and we respect those. The Board will act appropriately after Dr. Murphy has the opportunity to review the issues with his own legal counsel. I cannot comment on the specific reasons for the actions taken by the board because they involve personnel matters.

At this time we want to move the District forward and focus on delivering quality education services to all our children in Canutillo."

Briefs

From Page 1

and General Manager Terry McGreehan said.

- Catherine Frazier

Snowbirds

Amigo Airsho Board President, Roxie Samaniego announced that the Canadian Forces Snowbirds Jet Demonstration Team will headline the 2013 Amigo Airsho on October 12 and 13 at Biggs Army Airfield.

Required application forms must be submitted to the American or Canadian governments in August, almost two years prior to an airshow's scheduled dates.

formations and maneuvers and we're excited to welcome them back in 2013!"

- Elizabeth Margo

Wanted

Jose Antonio Estrada, 22, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He is 5'7" tall, weighs 130 pounds and has brown hair and eyes.

He knows authorities are looking for him and remains on the run.



Jose A. Estrada

He is known to have relatives in Juarez, Chaparral, Anthony and El Paso County. Hiding or assisting Estrada is a felony offense.

- Deputy Jesse Tovar

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

It was beloved American film star Katharine Hepburn who made the following sage observation: "Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything."

You might be surprised to learn that one out of every 18 people has a third nipple.

The epic 1939 film "Gone With the Wind" was awarded 10 Academy Awards and is a beloved classic to this day.

The world's smallest spider is about the size of the period at the end of this sentence.

You may not realize it, but not all "light" beers have fewer calories than brews without that label.

The African ostrich lays an egg that weighs a whopping 30 pounds. It's so sturdy that a grown man can stand on it without causing it any harm.

When the Titanic sank in 1912, many passengers perished in the frigid waters because no ship came to their aid until the Carpathia arrived more than two hours after the disaster.

Although a normal human infant is born with 350 bones, the normal human adult has only 206 bones.

Thought for the Day: "I'm an excellent housekeeper. Every time I get a divorce, I keep the house."

- Zsa Zsa Gabor

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS

REQUEST FOR BIDS

FOR NEW DUMP TRUCK AND NEW BACKHOE

ATTN: Sandra Hernandez, City Clerk

CLOSING: DECEMBER 17, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. 124 S. HORIZON BLVD. SOCORRO, TEXAS 79927

The City of Socorro is soliciting bids for a new 2012-2013 Dump Truck and a new 2012-2013 Backhoe.

A complete copy of the specifications and requirements is available from the City of Socorro at 124 S. Horizon Blvd, Socorro, Texas 79927.

The bids will be opened publicly and read aloud on

December 17, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. at the City Administration Building in Socorro, Texas, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas, 79927.

All submittals must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the lower left hand side with your company name and return address on the envelope with the following: HEAVY EQUIPMENT BID -ATTN: CITY CLERK.

All prices quoted will remain firm for ninety (90) days from the date and time of the bid opening and will become the contract prices at the time of the award of bid, unless otherwise specified by the City of Socorro.

The City of Socorro reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject all bids.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact Sandra Hernandez /City Clerk at (915) 858-2915.

Sandra Hernandez City Clerk

WTCC: 12-13-12

City of Socorro PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC

HEARING will be held on January 15, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. during the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at City of Socorro Chambers, 860 N. Rio Vista Rd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comments on the following:

1) On the proposed rezoning of Lot 3, Block 1, Algodon Subdivision, from R-1 Single Family Residential, to R-2 Medium Density Residential.

2) On the proposed rezoning of Tract 1Y, Leigh Clark Survey No. 293, from Unclassified to M-1 Light Industrial, and SU-1 Special Use Zone.

3) On the proposed rezoning of Lot 24, Block 2, Aljo Estates Subdivision, from R-1, Single Family Residential to R-2, Medium Density Residential.

4) On the proposed rezoning of Tract 17-B, Block 16, Socorro Grant, from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-1, Light Commercial.

5) On the proposed rezoning of Tract 4-C-4, Block 3, Socorro Grant, from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-2, General

Commercial.

Those unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Clerk (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting.

Sandra Hernandez City Clerk WTCC:12-13-12

City of Socorro Adoption of Ordinances

On December 6, 2012 the City of Socorro, Texas adopted the following ordinance(s):

1) On the 6th day of December, 2012 the City Council of the City of Socorro, Texas adopted Ordinance No. 309. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS; ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING

FOR RABIES CONTROL; PROVIDING FOR HUMANS BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY ANIMALS SUSCEPTIBLE TO RABIES; PROVIDING FOR QUARANTINE PROCEDURE FOR BITING/SCRATCHING ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR DOG, CAT AND FERRET REGISTRATION; PROVIDING FOR FEES; PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION OF ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL NUISANCES; PROVIDING FOR PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN ANIMALS; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR DANGEROUS ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND NOTICE WHERE DANGEROUS ANIMALS RESIDE, PROVIDING FOR IMPOUNDMENT FEES; PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL OWNERSHIP LIMITATION; PROVIDING FOR REQUIREMENTS OF CERTAIN FOWL; PROVIDING FOR TREATMENT OF ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR SANITARY CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR TRAPS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT;

PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTION OF CITY OFFICIALS FROM LIABILITY; EXEMPTING CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LANDS FROM COVERAGE; REPEALING INCONSISTENT REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SAVINGS, REPEALING AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE CAPTION HEREOF.

In addition to other provisions of the Ordinance providing remedies for violation(s) the penalty for violation of this Ordinance is:

Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, any violation, disobedience, omission, neglect, failure, or refusal to comply with the enforcement of any of the provisions of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 for each violation. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00), and each day an offense continues shall constitute as a separate offense.

In addition to criminal prosecution, a person who commits an offense under this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000. An attorney having civil jurisdiction for a municipality where the offense occurred may file suit in a court of competent jurisdiction to collect the penalty. Penalties collected under this subsection shall be retained by the municipality.

The effective date of this Ordinance is immediately upon adoption and publication.

2) ORDINANCE 310, AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING TRANSPORTATION REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER ONE FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO, 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, CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS"; ESTABLISHING A TAX INCREMENT FUND FOR THE ZONE; AND CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED THERETO.

Published by order of the City Council of the City of Socorro, Texas

Copies of the ordinance are available for review at the City Administration Building, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas 79927; Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sandra Hernandez City Clerk

WTCC: 12-13-12

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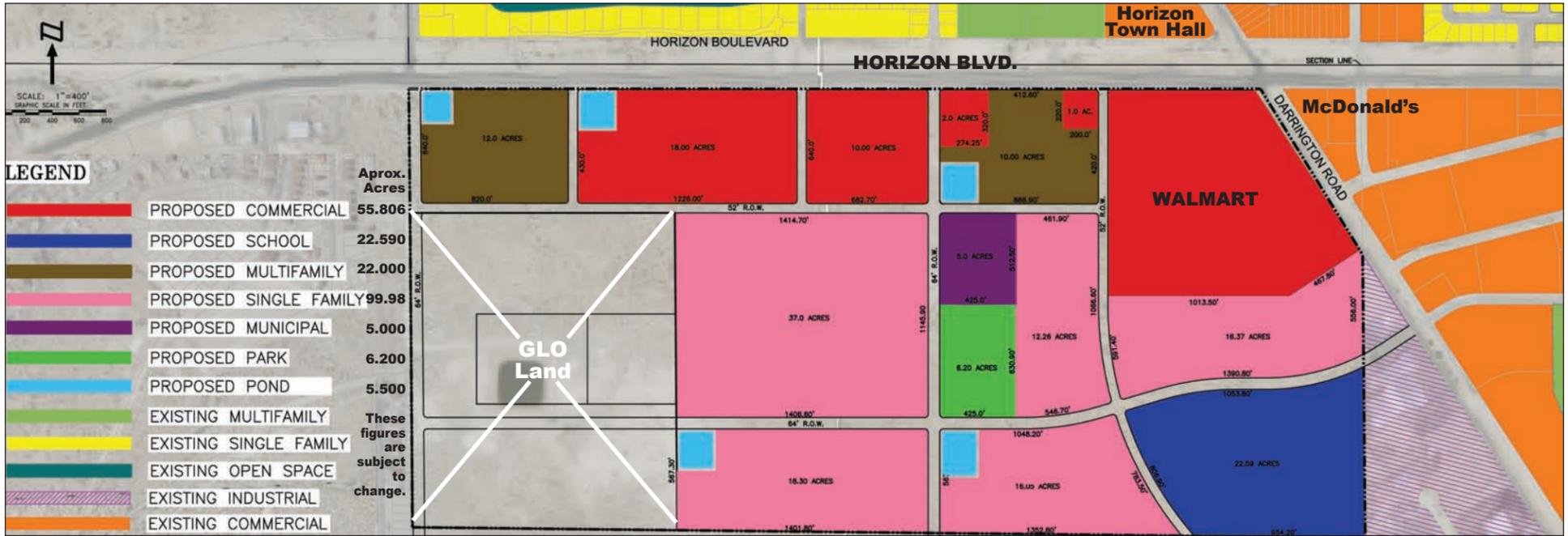
Grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle.

BRWSE, BRACE, RESCUE, ROWED, Y

SEPARATE, PAELLAS, EFTS, ORALEXAM, ISRAELI, ALOT, FIDDLERON, THEROOF, RONA, ASSAYS, ICT, ANAT, TREF, AVIONICS, ROI, ESL, FATTEDCALF, MESSRS, MGS, ALOHAS, ION, CHATROOM, RENE, FILE, ABRIEF, OTTO, RURAL, JIRA, RABBITT, ELF, FEDERAL, RELIEF, FIE, CORRODE, ORI, OFLAW, ASIA, FOLDIN, HALF, IHAD, RESPROUT, GEE, CANAPE, DAB, EXTRAS, FRENCH, CHEF, EPA, POW, ESCHEATS, FEELLIKE, ONESELF, RAGA, SELL, NET, TAHITI, I GOT, FALL, AT THE, HANDS OF, DELE, ONE, CAT, POINTERS, ARFS, RUSSETS, IDLOVETO

CryptoQuip Answer: If a certain dental product were way underpriced, it would probably be a floss leader.

Grid of numbers for a second crossword puzzle.

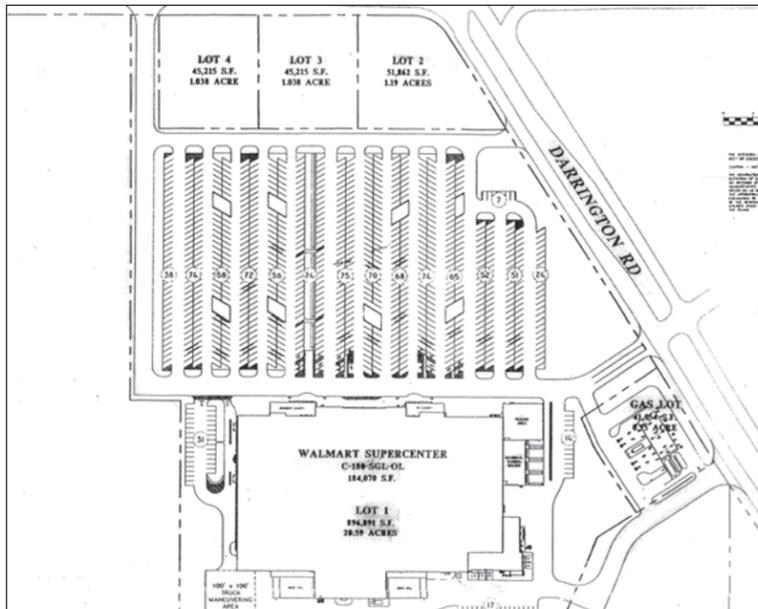


# Walmart officially breaks ground in Horizon City

For years Horizon City residents have heard that Walmart was coming to town. Now the big box store has broken ground. Monday, from left, Guillermo Reyes, Horizon Public Works Director; Kimberly Johnstun, Walmart Market Director; Horizon Mayor Walter Miller, along with Horizon Council members Jerry Garcia, Johnny Doc Duran and Kathy Masters put shovels to earth to officially mark the building phase of the project. The company is aiming for September of 2014 to open the store and says it will create 400-500 jobs. The scope of the development, though, is much larger than just Walmart. The entire development (shown above in an early 2012 map) is approximately 217 acres of land that fronts Horizon Blvd. with Walmart occupying the corner at Horizon Blvd. and Darrington Rd. The rest of the development is being handled by Ranchos Real Land Holdings, LLC. The GLO is also retaining some property that may be used for the Department of Public Safety or other state projects. The plat below shows how Walmart is slated to be laid out. There will also be several stand-alone businesses fronting Horizon Blvd. in conjunction with the Walmart. The names of those businesses have not been released.



– Photo courtesy Town of Horizon City



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# Some ideas make a person wonder who got the head shot

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

There are actually people sitting at tables right now in dimly lit rooms pondering.

And they are actually getting paid to sit there and ponder.

Over the years, these individuals have come up with controversial answers to some of the difficult questions that have faced mankind for centuries.

For instance, one year a group emerged from its think tank to declare that they had undoubtedly proven that men and women were in deed, emotionally and physiologically different from one another.

Everybody say it with me... duh.

Back in 2010, the Pentagon was swamped with so many studies that it did the only thing it could do – it commissioned a study to determine how much it cost to produce all those studies.

There was even a government study on the breeding preferences of the woodchuck. Amazingly, it turned out that they mostly

prefer to breed with other woodchucks.

It goes without saying that too many people are in positions of authority without very much to do. So they have to create studies to justify a paycheck.

Unfortunately for sports fans, the NFL is not immune to this lack of common sense.

Lately, the league has been obsessed with concussions of any kind.

And while no rational person will stand up and declare they are favor of more concussions, the league seems to be going a little overboard.

There are now about 78 different ways a defensive player cannot hit an offensive player. It's getting to the point that a team may start receiving 5-yard penalties if their fans even shout the word "defense."

Okay I'm exaggerating a bit, but it is a fact that commissioner Roger Goodell said he is actually thinking about getting rid of kickoffs in the future – or at least modifying them.

Does the game really need to be tweaked like this?

What's next, putting dark raincoats over the cheerleaders so that there is no chance of

distraction? It can happen, a player hesitates for a second by taking one look over in that direction and then... crack... there goes a knee.

The league is considering getting rid of the kickoff and replacing it with the scoring team then getting the ball on its own 30-yard line facing a fourth-and-15.

The team can either go for it or punt the ball to the other team instead of kicking off.

This radical idea comes from Tampa Bay Bucs coach Greg Schiano, who once had one of his players suffer an injury on a kickoff, which resulted in the player being paralyzed.

No one wants to see anyone suffer a terrible injury but this is football after all. It isn't for everyone.

Some guys go into basketball and some guys go into boxing. Some guys are golfers and some guys are bullfighters.

Some guys play it safe and some guys love the danger.

Taking all the equipment precautions one can is the way to go. Trying to change the rules of a game that isn't broken – that's just

plain stupid.

I've got a few tweaks we can do to the kickoff so that players don't get hurt.

How about after a team scores a touchdown, instead of kicking off, they hold a jump ball at the 50-yard line.

Let's have the kickers on each team, usually the shortest guys on the roster, try to tip the ball to one of their teammates. The guy that gets the tipped ball can either run with it or throw it into the stands.

The fan who catches the ball in the stands must then come onto the field and try a field goal for the opposing team.

Or how about this: The team that scores kicks the ball off, but every player on the field is blindfolded.

Oh sure, some guys will eventually run into each other but they will be so careful that they will be walking slowly with their hands reached out to try and touch something.

How can anybody get hurt doing that? The play may last 10-15 minutes, but I guarantee you that concussions will be reduced.

I guess my ideas sound pretty stupid – so do the NFL's.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

# What year is it?

The front page featured headlines about America's two theaters of war and the suffering of the Eastern European nations. Korea was a looming threat. A Democrat was re-elected president. The sports pages heralded the upcoming championship game in college football – No. 1-ranked Notre Dame vs. No. 2 Alabama.

"Honey..." I began to ask my

wife, lowering the paper enough to peer across the table at my pretty wife, who was sitting there in a nice dress leafing through a catalog.

(I start most of my requests with "honey." It's my cue to her to pay attention because I am clearly in need of something... like the time we were running late for a function and I stood at the top of our stairs in my T-shirt and boxers, clearly in

need. "Honey! What should I wear to this thing tonight?" Her reply: "Put on a pair of khakis and a polo shirt." I nodded, went back to my closet and realized that all of the clothes I own are khakis and polo shirts. But I digress.)

"Honey," I asked again, "what year is this?"

Forget the wars, Korea and the election thing for a moment. Those things didn't seem out of place to me. But really? Notre Dame vs. Alabama? For the championship? And my wife is Donna Reed? What is this? 1950?

I think I may have shared the fact

before that I'm a lucid dreamer. That is, I have the ability to know when I'm in a dream. Typically, a surreally preposterous event occurs in my dream... like the person I'm talking to suddenly morphs into my dad or something. Alarmed, I will seek out a newspaper in my dream. I can't read in my dreams, and since I write for a living, I know that can't be true. (I have poor grammar usage both in my dreams and real life, however.)

But there it was, in black and white and not some weird kanji script. Notre Dame and Alabama.

There is not column space enough to share the rich histories of these two fabled football programs. I suppose that in the days to come, plenty will be written about Grantland Rice, Rudy, Knute Rockne, the "Four Horsemen" and winning one for

"the Gipper." Bear Bryant, Gene Stallings and colorful hat selections, stock footage of Heisman winners from over the years and lots of other bronze ornamental artifacts will be displayed.

I'll just focus on the surreally preposterous for now (the 12-point line for Alabama being one of them... bet on the Irish). Alabama has an elephant for a mascot. Notre Dame has a fighting Irish leprechaun and plays under the watchful eye of a [diety] signaling for a touchdown.

I put down the newspaper and spread a little marmalade on my English muffin. I don't care what year it is, I think to myself... Rudy was still offside.

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

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# 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:** Our 37-year-old daughter lives in Denver. She took her younger sister skiing where the altitude was 11,800 feet. Our younger daughter lives in Toronto, where the altitude is 250 feet. She felt discomfort or worse at the higher level. Is it safe for an unacclimatized person to travel to such an altitude abruptly? How best should one treat altitude sickness? Are there potentially any serious or lasting effects of altitude sickness? – P and H.M.

manage definitive treatment. People who fully recover from either usually don't have permanent damage. They are vulnerable to a second episode, however. Your daughter can protect herself on her next visit by slowly ascending and by taking Diamox. It's a mild diuretic that affords good protection against altitude sickness.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** I have developed an unquenchable thirst, which makes me drink water all the time. As a result, I have to spend a lot of time in the bathroom urinating. Can a person drink too much water? – A.C.

At high altitudes the pressure of oxygen in the atmosphere drops, so less gets into the blood. Most healthy people can tolerate altitudes of 5,000 feet (1,500 meters) to 8,000 feet (2,400 meters) without difficulty. Older people and people with heart and lung disease might become short of breath at such heights.

An unacclimatized person, trying to function at 8,000 feet (2,400 meters) or more, can run into trouble if the person doesn't make the ascent slowly. Above 8,000 feet, people should not ascend more than 1,000 feet a day without returning to a lower altitude to sleep. They can continue to go higher if they descend 1,000 feet each night to sleep. They will know they are pushing too fast if a moderate amount of activity leaves them breathless and bushed.

Acute mountain sickness, a formidable illness, occurs to unacclimatized people in the first six to 24 hours at a given height. People become short of breath, dizzy, have a dry cough and are nauseated. They often have a headache.

High-altitude pulmonary edema, an even more serious illness and an emergency, fills the lungs with fluid. People cough, and the cough's mucus is pink or bloody. These people have to be taken quickly to a lower altitude, and personnel experienced in the treatment of this condition have to

A person can drink too much water, but that's a very rare situation. A more likely explanation of what's happening to you is diabetes.

Excessive thirst, drinking water nonstop to satisfy the thirst and the resulting need to urinate frequently are signs of diabetes. You must see a doctor soon.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** Can you get ringworm from eating too much candy? Is there any relationship between not keeping the body clean and ringworm? I have been told that both can cause it. – Z.C.

Neither causes it. Ringworm is a fungal infection. The infection can spring up on the head, the body, the hands or the feet (athlete's foot). The fungus is picked up from someone else or from inanimate objects like the floor of a shower room.

*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

- |                                      |                                     |  |  |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>GETTING EFF-ENDED ACROSS</b>      | 63 Back-country                     | 132 Canine lines                                   | 34 Way, way off                        | them                               |
| 1 Disjoined                          | 66 George's lyric-writing brother   | 133 Some apples and potatoes                       | 35 _ of tears                          | 92 Nonfictional                    |
| 9 Spanish rice dishes                | 67 Country-pop singer Eddie         | 134 "Definitely, count me in!"                     | 36 Take _ faith                        | 94 Ovid's 300                      |
| 16 Little newts                      | 69 Polar laborer                    |  | 37 Alternate                           | 95 Spa sigh                        |
| 20 Spoken test                       | 72 Government bailouts, e.g.        | <b>DOWN</b>  | 38 Classy org.?                        | 98 Hunks                           |
| 21 Shekel earner                     | 76 "Phooey!"                        | 1 Big couch  | 39 Airport requests                    | 99 Trinity part                    |
| 22 Boatloads                         | 77 Rust away                        | 2 Discord deity                                    | 43 _ Abner                             | 101 Slim fish                      |
| 23 "If I Were a Rich Man" musical    | 79 "... goes, _ go!"                | 3 Hippies' digs                                    | 44 Adversary                           | 102 Rubber check abbr.             |
| 25 Dirt-dishing Barrett              | 80 Under penalty _                  | 4 Alan of films                                    | 46 _-fi movie                          | 104 China items                    |
| 26 Appraises                         | 82 Korea's continent                | 5 Have faith in, with "on"                         | 47 County lawman                       | 106 Assailed                       |
| 27 Here, to Jean-Luc                 | 83 Crease to create two equal sides | 6 Tree fellers                                     | 48 Nadal of tennis                     | 108 Artist Kahlo                   |
| 28 Medical school subj.              | 87 "If only _ known"                | 7 La Brea gunk                                     | 50 Mobster John                        | 109 Raring to go                   |
| 29 Unkosher                          | 91 Germinate again                  | 8 Funny Philips                                    | 51 Struck, biblically                  | 110 "Hell _ Heroes" (1962 film)    |
| 30 San Francisco tourist area        | 93 "Boy!"                           | 9 Toss   | 54 Getting exactly right               | 111 Reeves of "The Matrix"         |
| 34 Field of flight technology        | 94 Topped cracker                   | 10 More pale                                       | 56 Burple                              | 112 French feminine plural pronoun |
| 40 King, in Nice                     | 96 Tiny bit                         | 11 Sonnet  | 58 Die down                            | 113 Small paving stones            |
| 41 U.S. immigrants' subj.            | 97 Surpluses                        | 12 Wyoming city                                    | 59 _ de la Cité                        | 114 Ending for ordinals            |
| 42 Treat for the prodigal son        | 100 Coq au vin maker, often         | 13 Singer Lewis                                    | 60 "It's chilly!"                      | 118 Part of a dog                  |
| 45 Gentlemen: Abbr.                  | 103 Ecol. monitor                   | 14 Take out _ (borrow cash)                        | 61 Actress Charlotte                   | 119 A.D. part                      |
| 49 Booker T. & the _                 | 105 "Bang!"                         | 15 Puts through a strainer                         | 64 ET craft                            | 120 Sharp Aquos, e.g.              |
| 52 Luau hellos                       | 107 Property confiscations          | 16 Rare _ (some elements)                          | 65 Coyote's kin                        | 121 "Ah, yes"                      |
| 53 Tiny charged thing                | 108 Not be ailing                   | 17 Wallpaper design, often                         | 68 Art teacher's deg.                  | 122 Legal wrong                    |
| 55 Online gabbing site               | 115 Sitar music                     | 18 Printer ink                                     | 69 Digital greeting                    | 123 "Assuming that's true..."      |
| 57 France's Coty                     | 116 Purvey                          | 19 Walking stick                                   | 70 "_ turn" (dreaded game instruction) | 126 Hole in one                    |
| 58 Do some written legal summarizing | 117 It's not gross                  | 24 _ for Noose" (Grafton novel)                    | 71 Game using a flying disc            | 127 Prefix with dermis or glottis  |
| 62 "Laura" director Preminger        | 118 South Pacific island            | 30 TV regulator                                    | 73 Lightning _                         | 128 Brick holder                   |
|                                      | 124 "Have _ a deal for you!"        | 31 "... joy forever"                               | 74 Jackie's #2                         |                                    |
|                                      | 125 Be beaten by                    | 32 CD-_ (PC insert)                                | 75 Cyber-guffaw                        |                                    |
|                                      | 129 Nixing mark                     | 33 With 131-Across, U.S. Military Academy students | 78 Blame                               |                                    |
|                                      | 130 Quaint batting game             |  | 81 Cringe                              |                                    |
|                                      | 131 See 33-Down                     |  | 84 P.O. item                           |                                    |
|                                      |                                     |  | 85 Playboy nickname                    |                                    |
|                                      |                                     |  | 86 _Lingus                             |                                    |
|                                      |                                     |  | 88 "Ver-r-ry funny"                    |                                    |
|                                      |                                     |  | 89 Adopt-_ (animal shelter program)    |                                    |
|                                      |                                     |  | 90 Dicts. are full of                  |                                    |

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**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore In 1832 Sam Houston was tried for assault for "caning" another congressman. His attorney was Francis Scott Key composer of our national anthem.



**Social Security Q&A** By Ray Vigil

**Fast Track disability process includes 200 conditions**

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, has announced 35 additional Compassionate Allowances conditions are in effect, bringing the total number of conditions in the expedited disability process to 200. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits. The program fast-tracks disability decisions to ensure that Americans with the most serious disabilities receive their benefit decisions within days instead of months or years. These conditions primarily include certain cancers, adult brain disorders, and a number of rare disorders that affect children. "We have achieved another milestone for the Compassionate Allowances program, reaching 200 conditions," Astrue said. "Nearly 200,000 people with severe disabilities nationwide have been quickly approved, usually in less than two weeks, through the program since it began in October 2008."

By definition, these conditions are so severe that Social Security does not need to fully develop the applicant's work history to make a decision. As a result, Social Security eliminated this part of the

application process for people who have a condition on the list.

Social Security has held seven public hearings and worked with experts to develop the list of Compassionate Allowances conditions. The hearings also have helped the agency identify ways to improve the disability process for applicants with Compassionate Allowances conditions.

For more information on the Compassionate Allowances initiative, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances).

New Compassionate Allowances conditions:

1. Adult Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
2. Adult Onset Huntington Disease
3. Allan-Herndon-Dudley Syndrome
4. Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma
5. Aplastic Anemia
6. Beta Thalassemia Major
7. Bilateral Optic Atrophy - Infantile
8. Caudal Regression Syndrome - Types III and IV
9. Child T-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma
10. Congenital Lymphedema
11. DeSanctis Cacchione Syndrome
12. Dravet Syndrome
13. Endometrial Stromal Sarcoma
14. Erdheim Chester Disease

15. Fatal Familial Insomnia
16. Fryns Syndrome
17. Fulminant Giant Cell Myocarditis
18. Hepatopulmonary Syndrome
19. Hepatorenal Syndrome
20. Jervell and Lange-Nielsen Syndrome
21. Leiomyosarcoma
22. Malignant Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor
23. Malignant Germ Cell Tumor
24. MECP2 Duplication Syndrome
25. Menkes Disease - Classic or Infantile Onset Form
26. NFU-1 Mitochondrial Disease
27. Non-Ketotic Hyperglycinemia
28. Peritoneal Mucinous Carcinomatosis
29. Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
30. Retinopathy of Prematurity - Stage V
31. Roberts Syndrome
32. Severe Combined Immunodeficiency - Childhood
33. Sinonasal Cancer
34. Transplant Coronary Artery Vasculopathy
35. Usher Syndrome - Type I

**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	
	+		÷		3
÷		+		-	
	+		+		21
2		13		10	

**DIFFICULTY: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 6 7 8 8 9

Answer Page 4

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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**CryptoQuip**

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

Clue: E equals F

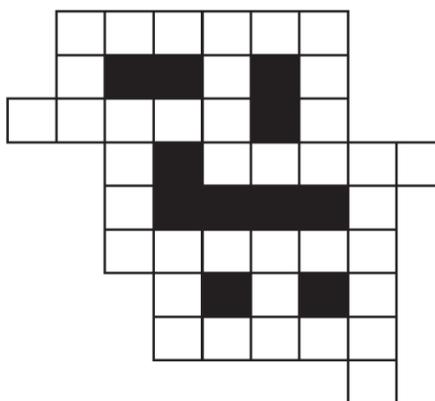
YE R MJHZRYV OJVZRK  
 GHWOXMZ AJHJ ARB  
 XVOJHGHYMJO, YZ AWXKO  
 GHWSRSKB SJ R EKWTT KJROJH.

Answer Page 4

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- CWA
- ♥ROBSEW
- WHACS
- GRAA
- ♥YILDEW
- ♥RBA
- ♥CHEA
- ♥WERDO
- RER
- ♥CREEUS
- ♥CAREB
- ♥SWEQ



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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**Cancer**

From Page 1

Jose continues to go to work. Subsequently, friends of the young couple have rallied together to help the Mora's with these expenses and are appealing to the world for assistance through the social media.

The group recently set up a donation fund through the website, GoFundMe.com, with an initial goal of \$10,000, but the response has been so positive that they now feel that they can raise \$50,000 – enough to pay for all of his treatments and travel expenses.

"As friends of the Mora's, we want to help them in their time of need," said one of the group's members. "So, we asked ourselves, 'How can we raise a large amount of money for them in a short period of time?'" The answer was social media.

Mora's friends agreed to use the Internet to appeal for donations. They originally planned to raise enough money to pay for one treatment, but when they saw how successful their endeavor is, they decided to reach further.

The website operates by way of crowd sourcing, or word of mouth through the use of social media websites such as Facebook. Since initiating the fundraising website about two weeks ago, the group has raised more than \$33,000.

Although the couple has high hopes that the website will help them with treatment costs, there are still previous expenses that they have incurred. So, the Mora's are contemplating selling their home and maybe even their vehicles.

Melanie, who works as an oncology nurse at Texas Oncology, said that some days it's difficult to watch her patients struggle and die from different forms of cancer when her husband is going through the same thing.

"We are living by faith and hope," Melanie said. "Our faith is strong, and it would be very helpful if people donated, but if they can't afford it, we ask for their prayers."