



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Graduation

San Elizario High School will hold graduation ceremonies on Friday, June 6 at 7 p.m. at Eagle Stadium, San Elizario High School, 13981 Socorro Rd., San Elizario, TX.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

### Vinton movies

Village of Vinton and Keep Vinton Beautiful invites the community to Friday Family Movie Night at Dr. Applegate Park, 436 E. Vinton Rd, Vinton, Texas (behind City Hall) from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The movies are:

- June 13, 2014 – Frozen
- June 27, 2014 – The Avengers
- July 11, 2014 – Toy Story
- July 25, 2014 – The Croods

Friday Family Movie Night is a night for families to come together and enjoy our wonderful summer evenings at the park. Entrance is free and Keep Vinton Beautiful will have concessions to be sold during the movie. The movies begin at sundown.

— Marina Ramirez

### EPCC tryouts

The El Paso Community College (EPCC) Athletics Department is announcing open tryouts for their men's baseball and women's softball teams for the upcoming academic year. EPCC Tejanos baseball team will have a tryout camp on June 7, 2014 at the EPCC Baseball Field, Valle Verde campus, 919 Hunter. All players desiring an opportunity to be evaluated for the 2014-2015 EPCC Baseball Roster will need to attend this tryout. The open tryout is for players that are 2014 or 2015 high school graduates. Any player that is currently on a roster of another National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) member school will need to provide a transfer waiver or an executed Second Year Signing Agreement to be able to participate. Pitchers and catchers should report at 8:30 a.m. All other positions should report at 10:00 a.m. The tryout fee is \$20.00. All players must bring a copy of a physical exam within the past 12 months and their own equipment. For additional information, please contact the baseball office at (915) 831-3131 or (915) 831-2104. EPCC Tejanos softball team will hold two different tryout camps, June 24-25 and July 8-9, at the EPCC Softball Field, Valle Verde campus, 919 Hunter. Pitchers and catchers register at 8:30 a.m. and tryout at 9:00 a.m. on June 24 or July 8. All other positions register at 8:30 a.m. and tryout at 9:00 a.m. on June 25 or July 9. The tryout fee is \$10.00. All players must bring a copy of a physical exam within the past 12 months and their own equipment. For more information, please contact the softball office at (915) 831-2367 or kgutier9@epcc.edu.

— Jim Heiney

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Whenever we fan the flames of a rumor,  
we're likely to get burned ourselves.

— Quips & Quotes

## Local school districts' preliminary STAAR passing rates highlight challenges

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Passing rates for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) mathematics and reading tests in grades three through eight statewide remained relatively stable for the third consecutive year, according to preliminary results released recently by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The results reflect passing rates for the spring 2014 administration of STAAR.

The tests assess students in third through the eighth grade in reading, math, writing, science and social studies. Not all tests are taken at each grade level. These preliminary scores do not include STAAR retake tests that were administered in mid-May.

Statewide, virtually all grades (3 through 8) recorded some improvement in mathematics over results from the previous school year. Fifth and eighth graders recorded the highest passing rate at 79 percent on the first administration of the test. The largest increase from the previous school year came in grade 6 – a jump of five percentage points. Grade 7 was the only grade level where math passing rates declined from 2012-13.

Eighty-two percent of eighth-grade students passed the STAAR reading test on their first attempt. Sixth graders recorded the largest increase (six percentage points) over results from the previous school year. However, with the exception of grade 4, all other grades showed some slight decrease from last year.

STAAR writing tests were administered in grades 4 and 7. Initial passing rates in each of those grades have remained stable over the past three school years. Students in fourth grade posted the highest passing rate of 73 percent – an increase of two percentage points

over results from the previous school year.

In addition, fifth graders posted the highest preliminary passing rate in STAAR science (73 percent). The eighth grade passing rate in science was 70 percent. Eighth graders also posted a 61 percent passing rate in Social Studies.

Local-area school districts improved overall on the STAAR. Of the nine area districts, Socorro Independent School District surpassed the state's average in all subjects and grades.

Canutillo Independent School District surpassed the state's average in almost all subject areas, missing the state average of 70 percent by three percentage points in seventh-grade writing, and two points below the state average of 73 percent in fifth-grade science. The district was also one to three points below the state average in seventh- and eighth-grade math; and nine points below the state average in eighth-grade reading.

The preliminary results for the El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) indicated that the district's performance in most grade levels exceeded or met the state average. EPISD's results show that 68 percent of seventh graders passed the writing test, which was two points shy of the state average. In social studies, 52 percent of students passed the test, falling nine percentage points behind the state average.

At the Ysleta Independent School District, students scored above the state average in third through sixth grade reading, math and writing and science. But the district lags a few points from the statewide average in seventh grade math, with only 59 percent passing rate, eight points less than the state average.

San Elizario scores show the largest gap in eighth-grade science where students scored 26 points below the state average of 70 percent,

See STAAR, Page 2



**MAKING THE GRADE** – With the recent release of the 2014 spring STAAR results, Texas Education Agency Commissioner of Education Michael Williams stated, "Assessments help determine whether a student has grasped certain concepts over the course of the school year. There are those who now step forward to argue that assessments do not measure everything occurring on a campus, in a district or with the whole child. To that point, I wholeheartedly agree. As I visit schools across our state, I am reminded of that point often. However, assessments are essential in identifying whether students require early support for basic subjects in our public education system."

## Students develop video game, win award

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – A video game proposal



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

**GAME ON** – The Northwest Early College team of students who participated in the Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande's STEM Fiesta Gaming Competition celebrate their victory. Team members include, from left, Alec Lopez, Jeandell Dayritt, Abraham Andujo, Alejandra Reyes and Erin Solis.

by five Northwest Early College students

depicting life on earth after a devastating meteor collision won first place at the Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande STEM Fiesta's Gaming Competition this

month.

The proposed video game is called Orange Skies, and it is a single-person adventure/strategy game that takes place on earth in the year 2053. The story line takes the video game's main character, Osvaldo Ymir, on an underground trek from ancient El Paso to ancient Albuquerque to find the government-created "seeds" that will help save vegetation and, therefore, humanity.

Northwest students Abraham Andujo, Alex Lopez, Erin Solis, Alejandra Reyes and Jeandell Dayritt designed the game. The students were under the direction of teacher Oscar Carrera.

Northwest was one of more than 12 schools to compete in the video game competition on May 28.

"We got together as a group to create something we all would want to play," said Dayritt, one of the students who make up the Northwest team. "In the end, we came up with something we love and are very proud to present."

Besides the recognition, each student

See GAME, Page 4

## Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

### New VA health program draws praise from vets

The spotlight on delayed medical care at a number of Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers has overshadowed some recent good news about the VA's PACT program, its method of providing personalized primary care.

PACT (Patient Aligned Care Teams) was started in 2010 as a team approach to the wellness of individual veterans by using health plans with care provided at clinics and online via eHealth. Teams are made up of nurse care managers, clinical associates, providers and administrative associates, in tandem with nutritionists, social workers and pharmacists. Appointments with specialists are easily arranged.

Sounds pretty good, doesn't it... individualized medical attention. The veterans who receive these services like it, too, according to a VA news release. Here are some of the stats:

- Using secure electronics such as telehealth video conferencing, email messaging, home-based monitoring, phone calls and group meetings, the number of interactions with veterans increased 50 percent.

- Of veterans asking for a same-day appointment with their

personal provider, 65 percent got it. Of those who asked for a specific appointment date, 78 percent were accommodated. In the past year, care during non-business hours increased 75 percent.

- More than 70 percent of veterans who are discharged from the hospital are contacted within two days to make sure they understand their instructions and to see how they're doing.

- Mental-health care services, also a component of PACT, increased 18 percent.

- As a result of PACT, there's been a 33 percent decrease in the number of veterans needing urgent care, and hospital admissions decreased 12 percent for acute conditions.

The bottom line? In a PACT satisfaction survey, over 90 percent of veterans had positive assessments of both inpatient and outpatient care.

*Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to [columnreply2@gmail.com](mailto:columnreply2@gmail.com). (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.*

## STAAR

From Page 1

and 38 points below the state average of 61 percent in eighth-grade social studies.

In Anthony, the district's fourth graders need help in math, reading and writing. Sixth graders in Anthony also will need help in math and reading after only 54 percent and 56 percent of students passed

the test respectively.

Fabens, Clint, and Tornillo school districts also are having similar challenges in reading and writing.

Students who did not pass the STAAR had the opportunity to retake it in May and will have another chance on June 24 and June 25.

According to TEA, a student isn't required to pass the standardized test to be promoted to the 4th, 6th or 7th grades. The law only indicates that a student must show academic

## Finances By Jason Alderman

### Financial advice for new fathers

Each year when Father's Day rolls around, I'm reminded that I wouldn't trade the experience of raising my two kids for the world. But when I think back to how naive my wife and I once were about the costs of raising children, I can't help wishing we'd been better prepared.

If you're a new dad, or about to become one, you'd better sit down. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a typical middle-income family can expect to spend over \$241,000 to raise a newborn child until age 18 – and that doesn't even include prenatal care or college costs.

Right now, you're probably more worried about getting enough sleep than funding your retirement. But at some point, you'll need to plot out a financial roadmap to ensure your family's future financial security. As one dad to another, here are a few strategies I've learned that can help:

Start saving ASAP. It's hard to save for the future when your present expenses are so daunting, but it's important to start making regular contributions to several savings vehicles, even if only a few dollars at a time:

- Establish an emergency fund with enough cash to cover at least six months of living expenses. Start small by having \$25 or \$50 a month deducted from your paycheck and automatically deposited into a separate savings account.

- Even if retirement is decades away, the sooner you start saving and compounding your interest, the faster your savings will grow. If your employer offers 401(k) matching contributions, contribute at least enough to take full advantage of the match.

- Once those two accounts are well established, open a 529 Qualified State Tuition Plan to start saving for your children's education.

If funding these accounts seems impossible, look for a few luxuries you could cut from your budget for six

months – lattes, eating out, premium cable, etc. After six months, evaluate whether they were actual "needs" or simply "wants" you can live without.

Get insured. If your family depends on your income, you must be prepared for life's unexpected events, whether an accident, illness, unemployment or death. Get adequate coverage for:

- Health insurance. Everyone needs medical insurance, no matter how young or healthy.

- Homeowner/renter's insurance. Don't let theft, fire or another catastrophe leave your family without a home or possessions. To reduce premiums, consider choosing a higher deductible.

- Life insurance. You'll probably want coverage worth at least five to 10 times your annual pay – more, if you want to cover college costs. And don't forget to insure your spouse's life so you'll be protected as well.

- Disability insurance. Millions of Americans suffer disabilities serious enough to miss work for months or years, yet many forego disability insurance, potentially leaving them without an income after a serious accident or illness. Ask about your employer's sick leave and short-term disability benefits and if long-term disability is offered, consider buying it.

- Car insurance. Almost every state requires insurance if you own or drive a car, and for good reason: It protects you financially should you cause an accident or be hit by an uninsured driver. Make sure you have sufficient liability coverage to protect your net worth and income – it only takes one serious accident to wipe out your savings.

And finally, spend responsibly. If you buy things you don't really need or can't afford, you'll just end up having to work longer hours to pay for them – time you could have spent watching your kids growing up.

*Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.*



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

**COPYRIGHT:**  
Entire contents © 2014 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

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

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

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

**DISPLAY RATES:**  
Open rate – \$25 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

**MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**  
Minimum 50 issues for \$45. Delivery via 1st class mail.

**MAIL:**  
15344 Werling Ct.  
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235  
Fax: 852-0123  
E-mail: [wtcc@wtcc.com](mailto:wtcc@wtcc.com)  
Website: [wtcc.com](http://wtcc.com)

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum  
**Contributors**  
Alfredo Vasquez  
Don Woodyard  
Steve Escajeda

**Homesteader**  
Est. 1973  
**News, Inc.**

**Member Texas Community**  
**Newspaper Association**

proficiency to be promoted.

Under state law, Texas students in grades 5 and 8 must pass the STAAR reading and math tests to be promoted to the next grade. State law requires students who do not pass these tests to be retained in their current grade – unless a parent appeals the retention and a local,

campus-based grade placement committee unanimously agrees to promote them.

Commissioner of Education Michael Williams stated recently that the latest STAAR results hold some promise for greater success in future years. He added, "However, I continue to emphasize that STAAR

is a very different assessment with much higher rigor. Those districts that cling to test preparation, fact memorization and practice tests will not see success. An emphasis on critical thinking skills while also allowing our teachers to focus on the curriculum is the quickest path to future success statewide."

## Fabens students raise money for vets

**By Carla Ochoa**  
*Special to the Courier*

FABENS – Fabens High School Student Council honored Memorial Day and the men and women who have died defending our country by raising funds for military veterans and their families.

On May 22, teachers took part in the 2014 "Jeans For Troops" fundraising drive benefiting the GI Go Fund, an nonprofit organization that helps veterans returning home find employment, go to college, access their health care and financial benefits, and link to housing.

During the drive, which has schools and companies from all across the country participating in, Fabens High School gave their employees the opportunity to wear jeans to work in exchange for a \$5 donation to the GI Go Fund.

"For generations, America's teachers have been responsible for educating America's children," said GI Go Fund Executive Director Jack Fanous. "They have always been individuals that mothers and fathers could rely on to set a positive example for their children. This Memorial Day, teachers around the country have set the example to our nation's children that this holiday is more than just the first weekend of summer, and more than the year's first barbecue. It is a day to remember the men and women who have fought and died to preserve our liberties, our freedoms, and the American way of life."

The GI Go Fund is an organization on the cutting edge of offering support to veterans, providing veterans with innovative ways of finding employment, securing their educational and health benefits, as

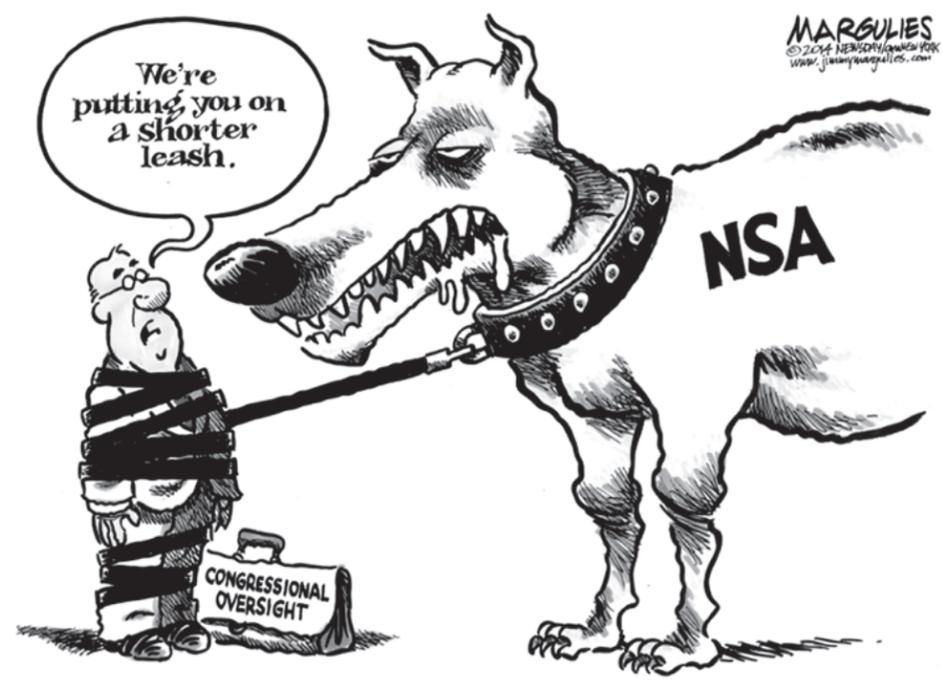
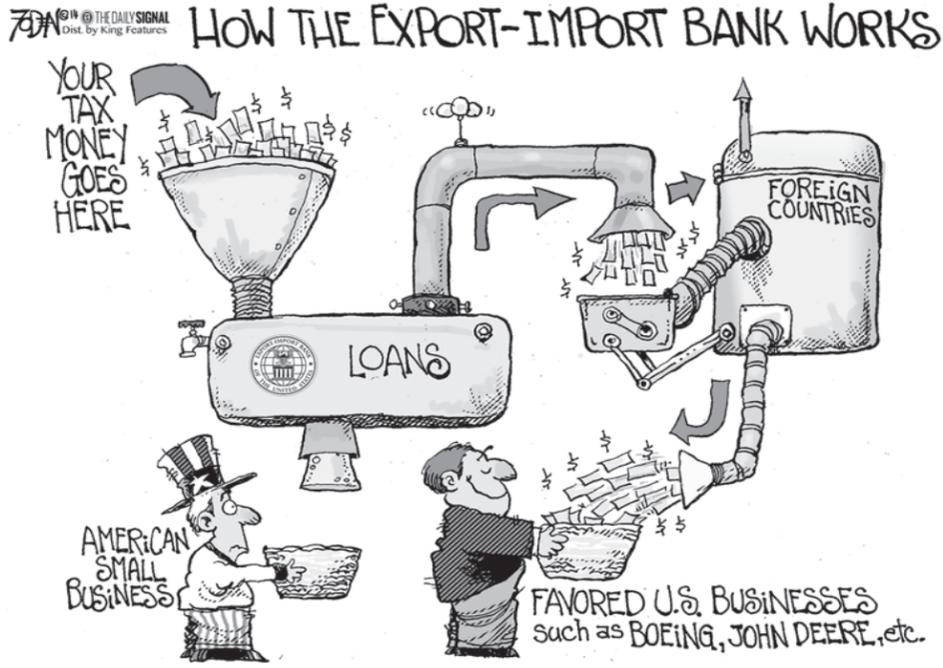
well as providing aid and assistance to low income and homeless veterans. Since their founding, the organization has helped tens of thousands of veterans improve their lives and give them the capacity to provide and care for their loved ones.

In addition, the organization did tremendous work for veterans who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. They provided great rapid response to victims of the storm by delivering thousands of blankets and needed clothing and other supplies to shelters, as well as bringing Emergency Financial Assistance and Toys for the Holidays for the thousands of Veterans devastated by the storm in the months that followed.

Proceeds from this program will go to help the organization further its mission for veterans. This year, the GI Go Fund is working to expand access to healthcare for veterans that go beyond the limited options currently available to them.

For more information about the GI Go Fund, or to see all the schools and business that are participating in the "Jeans For Troops" drive, visit [www.gigofund.org](http://www.gigofund.org).





## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 17, 2014 in the District Service Center, Board Room., 12440 Rojas Dr., El Paso, TX 79928.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

<b>Maintenance and Operations</b>	1.69%	Increase
<b>Debt Service</b>	0.17%	Increase
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	1.86%	Increase

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, 2014 in the SEISD Administrative Office, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

<b>Maintenance and Operations</b>	11.53%	Increase
<b>Debt Service</b>	5.58%	Decrease
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	10.32%	Increase



### Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs at Clint Independent School District for 2014-2015 School Year

- 1) Clint Independent School District offers career and technology programs in Architecture and Construction, Business Management and Administration, Human Services, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, Science Technology, Engineering and Math, and Transportation. Admission to these programs is based on current enrollment in the Clint ISD and completion of any necessary prerequisites.
- 2) It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) Clint ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Rene Chavez at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4061 and/or Section 504 Coordinator Nadia Flores at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

### Notificacion de no Discriminar en los Programas Educativos de Carrera y Tecnica Clint ISD por el año escolar del 2014-2015

- 1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint esta ofrece programas de Educación Técnica y Carreras en Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Alimenticios, Arquitectura y Construcción, Arte, Tecnología Audiovisual y Comunicación, Manejo de Negocios y Administración, Servicios Humanos, Tecnología Informativa, Leyes, Seguridad Pública, Seguridad y Correcciones, Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas, Transportación, Distribución y Logística. Ingreso a estos programas son basados en el numero de matriculas en el distrito escolar de Clint, y cumplimiento de requisitos que sean necesarios antes de entrar al programa.
- 2) Es poliza del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint no discriminar segun la raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, genero, o incapacidad en estos programas de carreras y tecnologia, servicios, o actividades requerido por el Acta de Derechos Civiles Titulo IV de 1964, que fue enmendada; Titulo IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; y al seccion 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitacion, de 1973 como enmendada.
- 3) Es poliza del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint no discriminar segun la raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, genero, incapacidad, o edad en sus practicas de empleo como esta requerido por el Acta de Derechos Civiles Titulo IV de 1964, que fue enmendada, Titulo IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; y el Acta de discriminacion a la edad de 1975 como enmendada; y al seccion 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitacion, de 1973 como enmendada.
- 4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tomara pasos para asegurar que la falta de ingles no sea un obstaculo para la admision y partipacion en todos los programas vocacionales, y educativos.
- 5) Para mas informacion de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el coordinador de Titulo IX, Rene Chavez, en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4061 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Nadia Flores en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

WTCC: 06-05-14

### Clint Independent School District Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the district's Title IX Coordinator Rene Chavez at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4000 and/or Section 504 Coordinator James Littlejohn, Chief Academic Officer, at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

### Notificación Pública de Prácticas No-Discriminatorias

Es norma del distrito independiente de Clint no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus prácticas de empleo tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Deprechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Emmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, Rene Chavez, en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4000 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, James Littlejohn en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

WTCC: 06-05-14

### Public Notice Clint Independent School District 504 Child Find

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504, please contact the Clint District's Section 504 Coordinator, James Littlejohn, Chief Academic Officer, at 926-4031, or mail at 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

### Aviso de Identificación de Estudiantes Incapacitados bajo la Sección 504

Bajo la Sección del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, el Distrito Escolar esta obligado a identificar, referir, evaluar, y propocionar servicios educativos apropiados y gratuitos a los estudiantes incapacitados que califican bajo esta ley. Si usted desea mas información sobre los derechos de padres de niños incapacitados, o si tiene preguntas sobre la identificación, evaluación, y colocación de niños en el programa de Sección 504, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Coordinadora de 504 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint, James Littlejohn, al numero 926-4031, o por correo a la siguiente dirección: 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

WTCC: 06-05-14

## Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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

### CryptoQuip Answer

Great new movie about a bunch of cute and lovable night crawlers: "Worms of Endearment."

A	F	A	R						
L		L		F					
P	O	L	K	A					
A			A	G	E	N	C	Y	
C			L					R	
A	N	G	E	L				A	
			I	A				N	
			F	I	X	A	T	E	
			T						

# El Paso is catching up to the rest of Texas

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

I don't even recognize this city anymore. It was announced last week that the Sun Bowl and the Don Haskins Center were receiving a facelift of sorts, with new video boards and sound systems being installed. What the heck is going on? First El Paso acts quickly and decisively on building a widely successful baseball park in the middle of downtown. Then it's decided that a brand new long-overdue multi-purpose arena will be constructed in the downtown area in the next year or so. There are improvements and construction projects going on all over the city. You can't drive around for very long without seeing one of those large construction cranes picking up something and placing it somewhere else. Hospitals, schools and colleges, are going up, blighted buildings are coming down. Yes, even the long unused Lincoln Center has served its purpose and needs to make way for progress.

Roads are being fixed and new overpasses on the west side, east side, northeast, Ft. Bliss and UTEP are being construction at an impressive rate.

Now UTEP has even gotten into the act. It's no secret that the Sun Bowl's video board, which was something to see in 2001, was woefully outdated and honestly, rather embarrassing. Especially for a stadium that hosts the only bowl game that CBS carries.

Not only are the proportions of the current board out of whack; basically a square; but many of the lights and panels on the board never worked.

The new video board is much larger than the old one. And those long narrow digital boards that you see on TV at many of the better stadiums around the country will also be installed here.

There will also be a new speaker system installed at the Sun Bowl so announcements will sound more like the English language and less like Charlie Brown's teacher.

The new additions come at a great time. The NCAA has passed a rule beginning this fall that stadium video boards can show replays

of controversial calls, even the ones that are under review.

How cool will that be? Of course UTEP head coach Sean Kugler said the new rule is great, unless the call is against the Miners.

The "Don" will also be getting new larger state-of-the-art video boards that will rival any other college basketball arena in the nation.

New rectangular video boards will also be installed that will reflect statistics, announcements and advertising.

There will also be a new marquee installed in front of the Haskins Center to replace the one there now. Of course the new one will be sharper and have more information options.

It's great to see that UTEP is keeping in line with all of the improvements going on around the city.

Naturally, there are those few people that are holding on to the past and protesting the demolition of old, unused, dangerous buildings that would make way for the future.

But as more and more El Pasoans make their way to Chihuahuas games at Southwest University Park, they are beginning to realize that they have no reason to be afraid of

change.

The numbers of nay-sayers will continue to dwindle and more often than not, El Paso will continue to aggressively pursue the better things in life rather than be satisfied with the scraps left us by the rest of the state.

And just like the city, which will be seen with an entirely new attitude by out-of-town investors for its positive outlook, out-of-town recruits will begin to consider UTEP as a serious destination because of its progressive attitudes and actions.

Let's face it, that's why bigger cities and athletic programs get the top business and athletes.

What a fun sports town El Paso is becoming. Along with the spectacular experience of going out to a Chihuahuas games, UTEP football and basketball games are going to be that much more fun to attend as well.

Are we getting to the point that... dare I say it... the days of people saying, "there's nothing to do in El Paso," are coming to an end?

We may not be there quite yet, but with each courageous decision to invest in ourselves – it's getting closer and closer.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Motor home memories

Bouncing around in the back of a motor home on an interstate reminds people of a few things, chief among them being: "Why didn't I take Dramamine when it was offered"; "Does this thing have a sensor that automatically guides it to every single pothole from Richmond to Baltimore"; and "Did we remember to put a cap on the soy sauce?"

From the Conch Republic of Key West to that tiny little spot that juts out of the top of Minnesota, the

sporting attitudes of those who enjoy both the outdoors and an active, vigorous life continue to turn their heads toward recreational vehicles. As international tourism declines and the number of stay-cations and weekend getaways continue to climb, so have the sales of RVs, fifth wheels and their assorted brethren.

Admit it ... you've thought of owning one at least once in your life, haven't you? Come on, it's a car with a bathroom, refrigerator and

stove, for crying out loud. Imagine this scenario: Meeting at 5:30 a.m. You roll out of bed, put your shoes on, drive to the office parking lot in your jammies and walk into the meeting just out of the shower five minutes ago, fresh and clean as a whistle.

Of course, there are drawbacks ... a lot of them. There's a thing called a "black water tank" just underneath the floorboards of your bed. You wouldn't want to take the RV to the appropriately named dump station before that meeting. And there's that 100 point checklist you have to go through every time you move it, because one mistake can cost you

\$100,000 in losses and repairs – and that's only if you're lucky.

On the upside, if you're not mechanically inclined or a do-it-yourselfer, the good news is you're about to become quite the handy person after you get your first on-site mechanic's bill. Also, you'll learn how to plan things in advance. Think you're gonna get that spot near the water at Boyd's Campground in the Keys or that spot overlooking the Grand Canyon the day you feel a little spontaneity? You needed to be spontaneous a year in advance.

Also, you might want to learn how to speak French. It comes in handy when you're in a 30-foot C-class surrounded on all sides by towering,

million-dollar Peterbilt motor castles filled with jabbering Quebecois in the middle of Kissimmee, Fla., in February.

But it all comes together at the palace of RVing – the Indianapolis 500. After a leisurely day of racing and winning by 0.06 seconds, even Ryan Hunter-Reay, still stinking of milk and sweat, was happy to climb aboard his own on-site motor home to soak in the moment with his family in air-conditioned, propane fueled splendor.

Memories are made of this.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Carrillo signs with St. Joseph

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – From the U.S.-Mexico border to the U.S.-Canada border, Dante Carrillo will soon be on his way to the northeastern part of the country to pursue a college degree on a basketball scholarship. On May 30 the San Elizario High School senior signed his letter of intent to play collegiate basketball with the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, Vermont.

Dante will receive an athletic scholarship of approximately \$30,000 per year for four years. The 6-foot-1 Eagle intends to major in business administration while playing for the Fighting Saints as a freshman. At the signing ceremony hosted by San Elizario High School Dante thanked all his classmates, coaches and many of his relatives in attendance.

"I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for all of you," Dante said to the audience.

During the 2013-2014 basketball season Dante helped the San Elizario High School boys varsity basketball team reach the Class 4-A bi district playoffs. The Eagles team coached by Mauricio Perez finished fourth in a competitive District 2-4A with an overall record of 17-13. Both coach Perez and assistant coach Richard



Dante Carrillo

Castillo describe Dante as a leader and role model on and off the court.

"He is a wonderful young man, very respectful. Everybody that knows him knows that he is a good person at heart and I am so proud of him," Perez said.

Dante is the son of Brigitte Ballou and Carlos Carrillo. He and classmate Abby Flores, who last week signed a letter of intent to play for Howard Junior College, are the only two student athletes from San Elizario High School to receive an athletic scholarship this year.

**MAKE HISTORY**  
2014 UTEP FOOTBALL  
**SEASON TICKETS**  
915.747.6150



**Briefs**

From Page 1

**Wanted**

Several hundred dollars in baby formula have been stolen and these thieves could be involved in other thefts. Investigators from the Pebble Hills Regional Command Center through surveillance footage obtained images of the suspects involved and are asking for help in identifying them through the Crime Stoppers "Crime Spot." The first theft took place on April 24, 2014 at 3:20 p.m., at the Target store located at 1901 George Dieter. The suspect's in the case entered the store and placed several containers of Baby Formula and exited the store. Just days later on April 27, 2014, the suspects once again went to the Target store at 1901 George Dieter and again took several

hundred dollars in baby formula. The suspects are also believed to be driving two different vehicles, the first is described as a white Ford Excursion and the other is a dark blue Hyundai Santa Fe. The woman involved is described as heavy set Hispanic female, with brown and hair and medium to light complexion. One male suspect is described as a Hispanic male, with short hair and a thin mustache and beard. The other male suspect is also described as Hispanic, with a small mustache. Anyone with any information on the identity of these suspects is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477(TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word "CRIME1" (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637).

- Javier Sambrano

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

**Fathers, men's health and Social Security**

This year, we observe National Men's Health Week from June 9 to 15. Each year we observe Men's Health Week the week prior to Father's Day, focusing on awareness, prevention, education and family.

And, June 8 is Best Friends Day, so if your dad happens to be your best friend too, all the more reason to celebrate.

Social Security encourages you to support fathers and friends everywhere in their efforts to stay healthy. The right balance of diet, exercise, regular visits to doctors and health care providers, and overall healthy living can go a long way to help everyone remain a part of your daily life for years to come.

Avoiding stress helps folks stay healthy. That's why we'd like to suggest that you advise the men in your life (and everyone for that matter) to avoid scams and phishers. Fathers and best friends may like to go fishing, but make sure they aren't the catch of the day when a criminal offers alluring bait.

For example, Social Security will not call or email you for your personal information such as your Social Security number or banking information. If someone claiming to

be from Social Security contacts you and asks for this information, do not give out your personal information without calling us to verify the validity of the request. The caller may be an identity thief phishing for your personal information. Just call the local Social Security office or Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

If you receive a suspicious call, please report it to our Fraud Hotline. You also can report such calls online at <http://oig.ssa.gov/report> or by telephone at 1-800-269-0271 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. If possible, please include the following details:

- The alleged suspect(s) and victim(s) names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers, if known;
  - Description of the fraud and the location where the fraud took place;
  - When and how the fraud was committed;
  - Why the person committed the fraud (if known); and
  - Who else has knowledge of the potential violation.
- Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in America. If you

or anyone you know has been the victim of an identity thief, the place to contact is the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [www.idtheft.gov](http://www.idtheft.gov). Or, call 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338); TTY 1-866-653-4261.

Whether you go fishing, play some ball, or take a hike, we encourage you to enjoy some healthy time with your father and with your best friend. But make sure no one falls victim to the wrong kind of phishing. Learn more by reading our publication, *Identity Theft And Your Social Security Number* available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**STRANGE BUT TRUE**  
By Samantha Weaver

• It was famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright who made the following sage observation: "Many wealthy people are little more than janitors of their possessions."

• According to statisticians, about 200 people a year die while watching – not playing – football.

• Collective nouns are fascinating, especially when one kind of animal has multiple ones that can be used. Take ducks, for instance: A group of them can be called a flock, a badling, a brace, a plump, a sord or a waddling. If you see them on water you can call them a bunch, a paddling or a raft; and a group of ducks flying together is known variously as a skein, a string or a team.

• Noted industrialist John D. Rockefeller was the son of a notorious con man, William Avery Rockefeller.

• It takes about one minute for blood to make a complete circuit of your body.

• The 1950s TV show "The Adventures of Superman" starred George Reeves, and for the rest of his short life he was best known for that title role. After his untimely death at the age of 45, he was buried in the same suit he wore as Clark Kent on the show.

• Those who study such things say that more babies are born after the new moon and the full moon than at any other time of the month. Interestingly, more girls are born after the new moon, and more boys after the full moon.

• For one week in April of 1964, the top five songs on the Billboard chart were all by The Beatles. That also was the year that the band had a whopping 31 songs on the charts.

Thought for the Day: "Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor."  
- Truman Capote

(c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

**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.

	÷		+		10
+		×		-	
	×		-		6
×		+		×	
	×		+		9
14		12		9	

**DIFFICULTY: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 9

Answer Page 4

© 2014 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 5

★★★ HOO BOY!

© 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

**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: P equals W

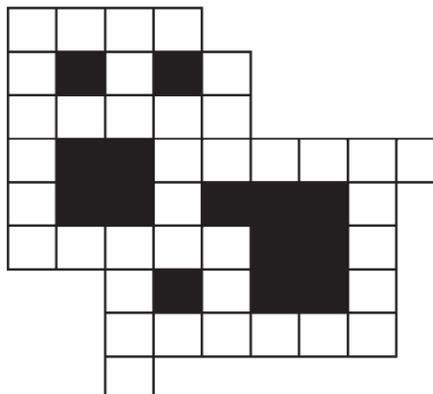
SCLOK ILP VUBDL OFUEK O  
FEIXG UM XEKL OIJ AUBOFAL  
IDSGK XCOPALCY:  
"PUCVY UM LIJLOCVLIK."

Answer Page 5

© 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.



- LAL
- CAAPAL
- ♥ARNEC
- FTIG
- CAYNEG
- XLA
- RAAF
- ♥LANEG
- AGF
- TIXEFA
- KOPAL
- ♥AKEL



Answer Page 5

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.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at [rbmamall.com](http://rbmamall.com)

© 2014 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.