



NEWSBRIEFS

San Eli ISD award

The San Elizario Independent School District recently received the Platinum Leadership Circle Award from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. This is the second year in a row that the District is honored with the state award for successfully implementing financial transparency efforts. San Elizario ISD scored 21 out of 23 possible points in the ratings criteria established by the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle program. The Platinum Circle Award level spotlights entities that go above and beyond providing financial transparency. San Elizario ISD has increased public access to financial documentation such as budgets, annual financial reports, and check registers among others by making these easily available on the District website at www.seisd.net.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

Flu season

Summer is not quite over but the Centers for Disease Control are already cautioning seniors and others at risk for the flu to get their shots, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. The flu is a winter illness but outbreaks can occur as early as October. Bearing in mind that it usually takes two weeks for the vaccine to become effective, the sooner you get your shot the better off you'll be.

— John Grimaldi

Certified habitat

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition (CDEC) has launched a new Certified Habitat program that encourages people to landscape their yards with native plants and help create more backyard habitats for local wildlife. Landscaping and planting native plants helps to attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife species. Examples of drought tolerant plants include desert willow, yellow bells, acacia, sotol, ocotillo, and wooly butterfly bush. These mini habitats when connected with other natural areas in the neighborhood can make a real impact in helping birds needing trees for nesting and butterflies needing nectar from flowers. Backyard habitats landscaped with native plants from the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert also help the community conserve drinking

See BRIEFS, Page 8

The man that really wants to do something finds a way; the other man finds an excuse.

— Quips & Quotes

Coalition holds meeting to discuss Castner Range

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition (FMWC) continues to advocate for the preservation as natural open space of Castner Range and the adjacent lands. It wants city council to open up the land for public use instead of residential and commercial development.

The coalition's next step in its effort to get city council to pay attention to their concerns is to hold an open meeting and invite the public to participate in the discussion.

FMWC members and supporters will participate in a meeting that is scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, September 16, at the Memorial Park Garden Center, 3105 Grant Avenue.

The public discourse will highlight the on-going dispute with city and developer

officials about a proposed housing development in Northeast El Paso near Castner Range along the foothills of the Franklin Mountains.

The Wednesday evening meeting will include an update presented by a grassroots organization, call Save Our Sierras (SOS), on its efforts to oppose the proposed development, referred to as the *Sierra del Puente* neighborhood.

The proposed neighborhood consists of about 175 acres that stretch from an existing single family residential neighborhood west of Magnetic Street to the boundary of the Franklin Mountains State Park. The developer has plans to build about 300 single family homes on that land.

During FMWC's upcoming meeting, another update will be given by U.S. Army officials. Their report will provide information on the Department of the

See COALITION, Page 2

Romero, De Santos are new SEISD assistant principals

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Two new administrators will be walking the hallways at campuses in the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) as the 2015-2016 school year gets underway. In August, San Elizario ISD selected Yvonne Romero as assistant principal at San Elizario High School (SEHS) and promoted Leticia De Santos to assistant principal at Alarcon Elementary School.

Leticia De Santos served as the instructional officer at Alarcon Elementary School for one year before the campus administrator position became available. De Santos decided to apply for the job not

only because she aspires to advance her career in school administration but also because she felt comfortable already knowing and working with the staff.

"I worked closely with teachers and Ms. Sanchez (principal) providing support for teachers and developing relationships with them. I felt very comfortable with

them and we got along very well and so far it has been a smooth transition," De Santos said.

The main priority for De Santos as assistant principal at Alarcon will be to implement the student discipline framework known as Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Initiative for the first year at the campus.

"My biggest priority will be to get PBIS off the ground and have a successful year addressing discipline, setting routines and making sure that everyone is following in the framework," De Santos added.

Previous to working at SEISD, De Santos was a teacher and instructional coach at Socorro ISD for 12 years. She

See SAN ELI ISD, Page 6



Juanita "Janie" Martinez

Martinez is the senior employee in Clint ISD

By Ytzel A. Arruñada
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Every spring, Juanita "Janie" Martinez, personnel specialist for the Clint Independent School District, gathers service records of all district employees. At the end of the 2014-2015 school year; nine employees had been employed for 25 years, two had worked for 30 years, but only one had dedicated 40 years of service to Clint ISD. The name on the 40-year roster was her own – Janie Martinez.

Martinez graduated from Clint High School in 1975. Throughout her high school career she was a student aid in the counselor's office.

In October of 1975, Martinez became an official employee as a counselor's clerk. Her job included registering students and maintaining their files. At the time, the district had three schools and less than 200 employees.

In 1982, the district opened its own tax office where Martinez became the clerk. Eight years later, in August of 1990, she was promoted to clerk of the Human Resources Department.

Currently, Martinez is the longest-serving employee in the entire school district. As a HR certification specialist, she ensures that district employees are highly qualified to teach.

"I am very passionate about my job," Martinez said. "It is my responsibility to make sure students have teachers that are certified and will provide them the best education."

Former classmate and current

See MARTINEZ, Page 6



Yvonne Romero



Leticia De Santos

Coalition

From Page 1

Army's process for testing specific locations, like the 7,000-acre Castner Range, for pollutants resulting from past military use.

According to official Army reports, Castner Range is filled with jagged shards from spent artillery shells, unexploded live shells and other dangerous munitions including hand grenades, small-arms ammunition, rockets and artillery shells. The range is currently off limits to the public.

The report stated that the Army acquired the land in 1926. Soldiers maneuvered there and shot all types of weapons, using the Franklins as a backstop. By 1955, there were 27 shooting and ordnance disposal ranges on Castner. During the Vietnam War, a 20-acre village, built on the northern part

of the range, allowed soldiers to practice close-combat tactics.

But as El Paso grew around it, shooting and shelling were no longer considered safe. Those activities were moved to ranges away from the city. Eventually, Fort Bliss decided it had no use for Castner, and in 1971, according to the report, 1,247 acres of the lowest and flattest

land was transferred to the city of El Paso.

Subsequently, FMWC members say that this is another reason why city council should declare the entire area including Castner Range as a site that should be left alone in its existing condition.

FMWC members assert that by preserving the range in its natural state, it will stimulate appreciation for the natural values of the mountains and encourage recreational, scientific, and educational uses of the mountains.

FMWC consists of organizations and individuals united in their concern for the Franklins Mountains in Texas and New Mexico. Group members claim that they are dedicated to the preservation of the mountains' scenic beauty and wilderness character, as well as protection of the plant and animal resources and ecosystem.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS



WILDERNESS COALITION

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Free training for all vets

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched two training programs as part of the Veterans Economic Communities Initiative – and they're both free and don't use up GI Bill benefits. The goal is to offer education to help veterans move ahead in civilian careers, learn skills and earn credentials.

Learning Hubs: Offered in 50 cities, and classes can be both in person and online. Learning includes course material and local experts, as well as networking opportunities. After completion, veterans receive a free verified certificate from Coursera. Get started at blog.coursera.org/veterans. Notice the info on the right of the screen: They partner with top universities and organizations.

Accelerated Learning Programs: Intended, for the most part, to build on what was learned in the military. The first group of courses is IT-related and includes:

- Coding/Programming Boot Camps – training and prep for two certification exams;
- 80+ IT Certifications – in Hardware, Software, Networking, Web Services

- and more;
- Network Support Engineer Job Training and Certification – for those with strong IT experience or a degree;
- Cybersecurity Training and Certification – based on National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework;
- IT Help Desk Job Training – eight-week entry-level program into an IT career; and
- IT Boot Camps for Desktop Support and Windows Expertise.

Who can apply: Veterans from any era and current service members who are within six months of getting out (with approval of commander). Veterans will need to have honorable or other than dishonorable discharge. Most programs have no prerequisites.

Go online to benefits.va.gov and search for either the Accelerated Learning Program or Learning Hubs.

This is a great opportunity to get some free education, and you'll get help with job placement once you complete a program.

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Current FMWC board members are Scott Cutler, president; Kathy Barton, vice-president; Judy Ackerman, secretary; Pat White,

treasurer; and at-Large members Raul Amaya, and Richard Teschner.

For more information about

FMWC, contact Cutler at (915) 494-2193 or visit the organization's website at <http://www.franklinmountains.org/>.

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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.

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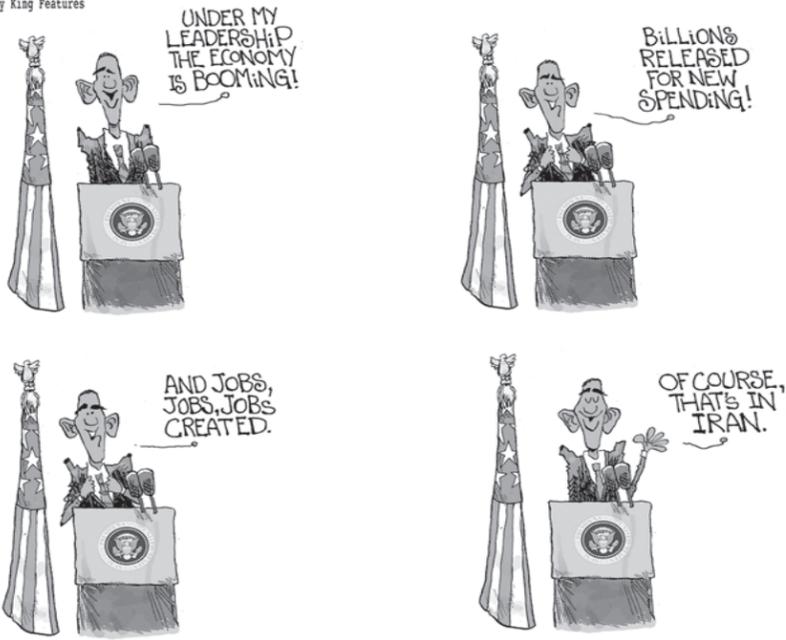
Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com

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

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Taylor dies at 57

Francis Dean Taylor, 57, passed away on August 15, 2015, at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Goodyear, Arizona. She was born on March 30, 1958, in Carlsbad, NM, to Clifton and Millie Dean. She graduated from high school in Dell City, TX as valedictorian of her class.

She spent many years working in the newspaper business. She was a court reporter in Alamogordo, NM, and later worked for the **Francis Taylor** *West Texas County Courier* in Horizon City as its editor and columnist. Her column, *One Perspective*, was nationally syndicated

for several years. She went on to become manager of the quality control department at West Star Bank in El Paso, TX.

Francis was known for her kindness, her strength, and her wonderful sense of humor, which she maintained even through the difficulty of her battle with ovarian cancer. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors are her husband, Bruce Taylor; her children, Quint Cantrell, Quee Williams (Simeon), Dani Shrum, Carye Shrum, and Tammy Taylor; her siblings, Winnamae Gage (Nick), Crockett Dean (Pam), Becky Walker (Dennis), and Quentin Dean (Dana); and 7 grandchildren.



— Carye Shrum



Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The **EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2** will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 5.17 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax rate calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on September 10, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. at the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 Board Room, 100 S. San Elizario Rd., Ste. N, Clint, Texas 79836.

The second public hearing will be held on September 17, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. at the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 Board Room, 100 S. San Elizario Rd, Ste. N, Clint, Texas 79836.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

- FOR:** William Adler, Elvia Schuller and Jerry Knotts
- AGAINST:** NONE
- PRESENT and not voting:** NONE
- ABSENT:** Pamela Padilla and Adrian Santana

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in **EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2** last year was \$77,551. Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.100000 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$77.55.

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in **EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2** this year is \$78,162. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.100577 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$78.61.

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.100000 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$78.16.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The October 1 and October 8, 2015 issues will go to press on Monday, September 21, 2015.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Thursday, September 10, 2015.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Thursday, September 21, 2015. The office will open again on Monday, October 12, 2015.



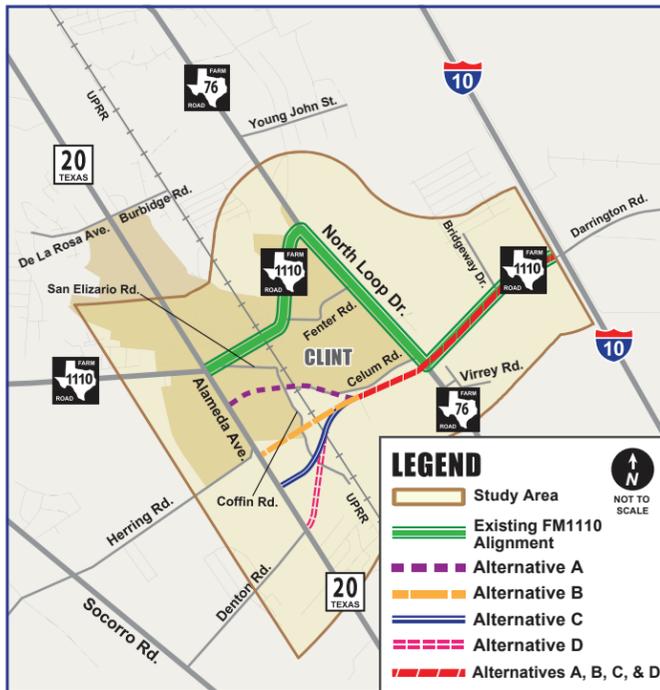
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE FM 1110 (Clint Cutoff Road) Widening and Realignment From Interstate 10 (I-10) to SH 20 (Alameda Avenue) El Paso County, Texas CSJ: 1281-02-007, etc.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) – El Paso District will host a public meeting to present the alternatives under consideration for the proposed widening and realignment of FM 1110 (Clint Cutoff Road) from Interstate 10 (I-10) to SH 20 (Alameda Avenue), a total distance of approximately 2.4 miles in El Paso County, Texas.

Thursday, September 17, 2015
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Clint High School Auxiliary Gym
13890 Alameda Avenue, Clint, Texas, 79836

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve system linkage and mobility by adding capacity and by providing a direct connection between Interstate 10 (I-10) and SH 20 (Alameda Avenue). The proposed transportation improvements to FM 1110 would help facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in the Lower Valley. The purpose of the meeting is to present four reasonable alternatives and a no-build alternative under consideration and to offer the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide input regarding the alternatives. The public will also have an opportunity to learn about and comment on the project need, purpose, and identified environmental constraints. Information will be presented in both English and Spanish.

The proposed project would be constructed in phases. The first phase would consist of the improvements between I-10 and FM 76 (North Loop Drive) and the second would consist of improvements from FM 76 to SH 20. The proposed roadway would consist of four travel lanes, two in each direction, a raised median to allow for turn lanes at intersections, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks. The proposed project would include improvements to the intersections at FM 76 and SH 20 and an overpass at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The proposed roadway right of way (ROW) width would be approximately 124 feet wide (136 feet wide at intersections). Additional ROW width may be needed at select locations to provide storm-water drainage. The proposed project could potentially result in relocations.



Written comments regarding this project may be emailed to ELP_FM1110Project@txdot.gov, or mailed to **TxDOT-El Paso District, Attn: Gus Sanchez, FM 1110, 13301 Gateway Boulevard West; El Paso, Texas 79928**. Comments must be hand-delivered or postmarked on or before **Monday, September 28, 2015**.

The public meeting will be held in open house format and the same material will be presented in English and Spanish. Spanish-speaking team members will be available at the open house to assist with translation needs. If you have any questions, require other communication needs or special accommodations please call Blanca Del Valle, TxDOT Public Information Officer, at 915-790-4200 at least two business days prior to a meeting to request assistance. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It's not known who made the following sage observation: "I can picture a world without war, a world without hate. And I can picture us attacking that world, because they'd never expect it."

- Dom Perignon – he of champagne fame – was a Benedictine monk.

- Now that school is back in session, those who had the summer off might be suffering from dysania – finding it difficult to get out of bed in the morning. Some of us, of course, experience dysania year-round.

- If you're one of those parents who has to be careful walking around the house barefoot, you probably will not be surprised to learn that the LEGO company makes more than 3,500 different pieces in more than 60 colors.

- Weddings in Sweden are not for the jealous type. In that country, tradition states that if the bride leaves the room, all the men line up to kiss her. What's good for the goose is good for the gander, though – if the groom leaves, all the women are supposed to get in line to demonstrate their affection. I imagine very few exes are invited to Swedish weddings.

- British writer Lewis Carroll – best known for his book "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" – invented the idea of the dust jacket for books.

- Those who study such things say that a parakeet would rather look at itself than at another parakeet. In a test, the birds were placed in cages side-by-side, then one was removed and a mirror put in its place. The parakeet that was left spent quadruple the time looking at its reflection as it did looking at its companion.

Thought for the Day: "This is the final test of a gentleman: his respect for those who can be of no possible service to him."

– William Lyon Phelps

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CryptoQuip Answer

If a deck hand is cautioning someone from the back of the boat, would that be a stern warning?

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13		11		10	

Vinton closes police department

By Marina Ramirez
Special to the Courier

VINTON – After careful deliberation and six separate budget workshops, the Village of Vinton City Council decided to eliminate the Police Department effective September 30, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. The Village of Vinton was

presented with a preliminary budget that would have placed the city in a deficit and would not have been able to carry balanced budget. “Vinton currently has a deficit of \$148,506, if we continue to fund the Police Department, the building they’re in currently needs over \$165,000 in repair and in upgrades to become ADA compliant, it will bring

our deficit to \$313,612. Our primary goal is water and sewer for all of the residents, if the agencies we have applied to for funding see we’re intentionally budgeting a deficit, they more than likely will not fund us for the much needed water,” said Santos Lucero, Vinton Alderman, Place 5. Water and sewer is the number one priority for the City Council

and, without a balanced budget, funding agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture and the Texas Water Development Board may not fund either project. All of the departments were looked at for additional cutbacks. Public Works and the Administrative Department reduced their initial budgets and are both currently working with limited staff. The elimination of the Police Department will not affect the safety of the residents.

The El Paso County Sheriff’s Department will continue to patrol the area. The Sheriff’s Department has a patrol unit assigned solely to Vinton.

The Village of Vinton is a small municipality west of El Paso with a population of 1,971. Vinton has struggled to receive funding assistance for the water and wastewater projects in previous years due to a lack of consensus from City Council members and failure to approve balanced budgets and property tax assessments on time.

El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2015 on Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., at the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 Office, 117 E. Main St., Fabens, Texas 79838. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

- FOR** the proposal: **Mario Aguirre, Magda C. Flores, Morgan Laird and Barbara C. Telas**
- AGAINST** the proposal: **NONE**
- PRESENT** and not voting: **NONE**
- ABSENT:** **Jose Ramirez**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.137586/\$100	0.134155/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$0.003431/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 2.49%	
Average appraised value	\$ 52,626	\$ 52,626
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 52,626	\$ 52,626
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 72.41	\$ 70.60
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–) and percentage of increase (+/–)	– \$ 1.81 – 2.50%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION
If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Lower Valley Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2015 on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., at 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas 79836. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

- FOR** the proposal: **Rosalinda Vigil, Henry Trujillo, David Armstrong, Gerald Grijalva and Rodrigo Chavez**
- AGAINST** the proposal: **NONE**
- PRESENT** and not voting: **NONE**
- ABSENT:** **NONE**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.196870/\$100	0.193292/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$0.003578/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 1.82%	
Average appraised value	\$ 73,863	\$ 74,592
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 73,863	\$ 74,592
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 145.41	\$ 144.18
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–) and percentage of increase (+/–)	– \$ 1.23 – 0.85%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION
If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Spectators need to keep their eye on the ball

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Just living life can be one of the most stressful things we humans do on a regular basis.

And no matter how fast we try to run away from it, when we stop running life is always there, waiting to pounce.

Whether it's paying the bills, raising kids, meeting a deadline or dreading that meeting with the in-laws, stressful situations abound.

One of the great stress-relievers, aside from that act that got you those kids in the first place – is attending a sporting event.

In fact, fans get together to go out to the ballgame, any ballgame, to forget about all their worries at least for a couple hours.

And whether their team wins or loses, that time at the game helped them cope with the rigors of life.

But in recent years, a family trip to the ballpark hasn't guaranteed everyone a fulfilling safe night out.

When you think of potentially dangerous situations you immediately think of high-

profile court proceedings, or police or firemen doing their jobs, or any potential war zone.

The last place anyone considers dangerous is any kind of sports facility.

But over the last few years, some fans that attended a game either didn't make it home alive or made it home in much worse shape.

Last week a 60-year-old man inexplicably fell to his death from the top deck of Atlanta's Turner Field.

And he is just one of a few fans who have managed to fall over the railing at stadiums to their deaths. And I've been to many stadiums, it's hard to fall over a railing at a professional stadium.

During the summer there's nothing better, except maybe for a dip in the pool, than a trip to the ballpark for a baseball game.

Baseball, a hot dog and a beer – what could be more American?

But there is a dangerous trend brewing – those baseball players are getting bigger and bigger and digital devices are taking up more and more of our lives.

Put the two together at a baseball game

and you've got potential danger – even death.

Pitchers throw the ball faster than they ever have. Big guys are hitting it back with more force than ever. That means the ball is flying off the bat faster than ever.

And that ball doesn't always stay in the field of play.

With fans spending as much time with their faces buried in their digital device as they do on the game, a screaming foul ball now becomes a weapon seeking a target.

And foul balls have been finding more targets than ever lately, which will one day naturally result in a death.

Of course many fans go to the game wearing their team's jerseys, some wearing face paint and others dreaming up the weirdest configurations honoring their team.

But some fans go to opposing stadiums wearing their team's jerseys. As a fan of the visiting team you should expect some polite poking, after all you do represent the "enemy." But that should be as far as it goes.

But when you mix several helpings of alcohol with moronic brain cells, you

sometimes get fans that are beaten in the parking lot on the way back to their vehicles.

It's happening more often and no one has an answer.

But what do you expect when you see this kind of thing going on at little league games across the country? Young boys and girls see the "role modeling" adults do it, so it must be acceptable.

Now I'm not suggesting that our lives are in danger if we go to a sporting event. But the truth is that there should never be any danger at a sporting event.

The only thing that should be crushed, beaten or killed, at a sports event should be your pride if your team performs badly.

Then you can return to reality the next day and start stressing about life's little curve balls.

When I was very young the term – be a good sport – was drilled into my brain. I don't know if young athletes hear that as much anymore?

I guess keeping fans safe at ballgames is a lot like real life – there are no guarantees.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The Wayback Machine

For the past few weekends, I've had the chance to watch some old sports movies with my nephews – whom I refer to as the minions – or, I should say, I watch them watch movies. One week it was "The Babe" with John Goodman, and the other day "Space Jam."

I didn't like "The Babe." The guy's life already read like fiction – there was really no need

to make up more stuff about him. I'm not going to get into the specifics, but they took some liberties with the timeline and they foisted a few of the urban legends on him that weren't true (like the Yankees wore pinstripes because he was fat). So after the movie, using the wonders of the web, I showed my nephew what the real Babe looked like.

"He's not fat, he's just really

big!" Exactly. Now watch the guy hit. He may not have hit .390 today or 61 homers every year, but trust me, Babe Ruth would very much be an All-Star in today's game as well.

"Space Jam" is another relic of the '90s. I didn't watch the whole thing, but the parts I did catch made me happy that they will get to know Bill Murray more than anything. Bugs Bunny and the rest of the Looney Toons crew definitely had lost their touch by this time, but they still were getting laughs. The one thing I wanted to emphasize to the kids

was that no matter what anybody said about Oscar Robertson or Wilt Chamberlain or Kobe or LeBron James, the person they were watching struggle through each of his lines was the greatest basketball player of all-time.

To say that Michael Jordan dominated his era is indisputable. But what sets him apart from all the other all-time greats is the fact that he played with a style that nobody could really duplicate – or at least has not since. There have been great players to be sure, but not like Mike.

Trying to explain this to my nephew sounded a little like this: "You know how when guys dunk, they jump up in the

air and fly to the basket? Well, when Jordan jumped up in the air, he flew around for a while like those trick planes you saw at the air show, then he would veer left and alternate his trajectory and vectors and stuff, and then he would dunk. No question, he was the best."

"I have a question," said one.

"What's that?"

"What's a trajectory?"

That's a good question. It's always good to take a look back.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

Martinez

From Page 1

colleague, Hipolito Hernandez, district courier, said "Janie has always been a very smart and dedicated person."

Hernandez is not the only one who cites her dedication.

Rene Chavez, director of Human Resources, said she truly

dedicates her life to her job. Her department describes her as knowledgeable, a person with a lot of drive as someone who can do her job with her eyes closed.

"This is my second home," Martinez said. "I went to school all 12 years in the district and haven't left since."

Martinez said she is proud of being a Clint ISD employee. To have witnessed its growth

over the years is a great feeling, Martinez added.

"There was only one school bus," Martinez said. "I rode that bus all twelve years."

The district now has 91 buses that transport students to the Clint, Horizon and the Montana areas.

As far as retirement plans, Martinez said maybe later. For now, she keeps at it.

San Eli ISD

From Page 1

was at Fabens ISD for eight years serving as a K-6th grade teacher. De Santos earned her bachelor's degree in reading from the University of Texas at El Paso as well as a master's as a reading specialist and a master's in educational administration from Sul Ross State University.

August 24 was the first day back to school for SEHS students as well as new assistant principal Yvonne Romero's first official day on the job. In just a short amount of time, Romero has ascended to the position of campus administrator after

serving as an instructional coach and professional communications teacher in Socorro ISD for the past six years.

Romero was moved to apply for the administrator position at the high school campus by the close-knit community at SEISD and through friends who already work in the District. In addition, having been born and raised in El Paso's lower valley, Romero believes she has a similar background to many students and can relate to some of their issues.

"The central focus of my first year will be to increase the ability of our students to feel safe and supported during their first year in high school," Romero said.

Romero's main duties will be to oversee the 9th grade center but she also wants to immediately place her focus on implementing support mechanisms for English Language Learners (ELL) and newcomer students.

"I feel a sense of urgency to help our ELL and newcomer students to get them where they need to be in order for them to be submerged in the language and the content," Romero added.

Romero earned her bachelor's degree from UTEP with a double major in communications studies and psychology and then completed the alternative certification program. She also has a master's in educational administration from UTEP.

1973
42
Years
2015

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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 Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: You recently tested me for *C. diff*, and it came back positive. He put me on an antibiotic and told me I was just a carrier. Can you please explain to me what it means to be a "carrier"? I would hate to think that I might pass it on to my grandchildren by touching them, or changing their diapers, etc. I work in a hospital and feel I have a "dirty" secret, because all I get is, "Just wash your hands." Any information that you may have on the subject would be greatly appreciated. — M.D.

Since almost all medications are associated with fall risk, reducing the overall number of medications should be a goal for all of us who prescribe medication for older people. Some medications are more risky than others, such as the antihistamines I mentioned, but also prescription sleep aids such as Ambien, Lunesta and Sonata, antidepressants such as amitriptyline (Elavil) and others, diazepam (Valium) and related drugs. Major tranquilizers such as Seroquel are high risk.

Insomnia itself increases fall risk, so effective treatment that doesn't use medications that cause problems the next day is the goal. Melatonin works for some people; melatonin 0.3 mg might be effective and appears to have a lower risk of falls. Better still, non-drug treatment such as cognitive behavior therapy, including sleep hygiene, has no risk of medication-associated falls and may reduce overall fall risk by improving sleep.

Basics of sleep hygiene include avoiding long (longer than 20 minutes) naps, avoiding bright light (including TV and computer) before bed, reserving the bed strictly for sleep and maintaining the same bedtime and wake time every day. A CBT therapist can give much more detailed and personalized information.

DEAR DR. ROACH: After a terrible bout of IBS, my doctor

A carrier is someone who harbors a condition but who has no symptoms of the condition. There is a possibility of passing on a condition when you are a carrier.

In your case, the bacteria *Clostridium difficile*, universally called "C. diff," is present in about 3 percent of all healthy adults. However, somewhere between 20 percent and 50 percent of patients in hospitals and long-term-care facilities have asymptomatic C. diff. The spores of C. diff are very, very difficult to eradicate and can be found on many surfaces, and so hospital workers as well as patients may become infected (with symptoms of diarrhea) or can be carriers. This may be how you acquired the bacteria.

Current guidelines do not recommend treatment for carriers. The most important way to prevent your passing on the infection is good hand-washing. The best method is warm water and soap after using the bathroom. (My hospital recommends singing "Happy Birthday" in your head twice to

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

- FELINE FINDER ACROSS**
- 1 To's counterpart
 - 4 Nukes and the like
 - 8 Ball club's leading hitter
 - 14 Writer _ Lee Masters
 - 19 Cariou of "Sweeney Todd"
 - 20 Prefix with sol or space
 - 21 From scratch
 - 22 Society peon
 - 23 OR hookups
 - 24 Start of a riddle
 - 27 Riddle, part 2
 - 29 Model Campbell
 - 30 Caesar's "I came"
 - 31 Architect's drawing
 - 32 To the extent that
 - 35 In chains
 - 37 Reddish-orange dye
 - 39 Gilbert and Sullivan's "When I Was _"
 - 41 LI times two
 - 42 Like 1, 3 or 5
 - 43 Riddle, part 3
 - 53 Ballpoint tip
 - 54 Pants length measures
 - 55 1040EZ pro
 - 56 _ Martin (car make)
 - 57 "Exile" New Age singer
 - 59 State, in Nice
 - 60 It spins to let people in
 - 62 Geller of mentalism
 - 63 Pas' counterparts
 - 65 Slippery like a fish
 - 68 Toyed (with)
 - 71 Riddle, part 4
 - 75 "Diff'rent Strokes" family name
 - 77 Plow pullers
 - 78 Hustled
 - 79 Long groove
 - 80 Model Cheryl
 - 82 Actress
 - 85 Taste tests
 - 89 Result
 - 92 Gobbled
 - 93 Leaves stranded
 - 96 Backwoods "uh-uh"
 - 97 End of the riddle
 - 100 Punk/folk singer
 - 101 Org. with bag inspectors
 - 102 Ditty
 - 103 President
 - 105 Archibute, painting, etc.
 - 110 Coffee shop worker
 - 115 Hugging pair
 - 116 _ about (close to)
 - 117 Rub down
 - 119 Start of the riddle's answer
 - 121 End of the riddle's answer
 - 125 Pacific tuna
 - 126 Part of TWA
 - 127 Gas in crude petroleum
 - 128 Lyricist Ebb
 - 129 Squeal
 - 130 Troop's drill leader
 - 131 Passes out
 - 132 Banks on many covers
 - 133 Holy ones: Abbr.
- DOWN**
- 1 Motorola Razr, e.g.
 - 2 Relished
 - 3 Waiting in the wings
 - 4 Baba _ (Radner role)
 - 5 Conductor Zubin
 - 6 Barrel scrapings
 - 7 " _ Flubber" (film sequel)
 - 8 Wolf's howl
 - 9 Uncertainties
 - 10 Shows a smile to
 - 11 Dracula player
 - 12 Request from
 - 13 Herb of the mint family
 - 14 DDT-banning gp.
 - 15 Movie house alternatives
 - 16 One impaling
 - 17 Coeur d'_, Idaho
 - 18 Overhauled completely
 - 25 NYC bus org.
 - 26 Obstacle
 - 28 "Anderson Cooper 360" aier
 - 33 Chicago mayor _ Emanuel
 - 34 "Oh, woe!"
 - 36 _ knot (finish lacing up)
 - 38 He fought
 - 40 Webster's, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 44 Not recurring
 - 45 Fast jet retired in '03
 - 46 No-calorie drink
 - 47 No-calorie drink
 - 48 Pointy-eared, stocky dog
 - 49 Actress Shire
 - 50 Take _ for the better
 - 51 Additional
 - 52 Oklahoma city
 - 58 Like most car radios
 - 60 New Year's song word
 - 61 Race hopeful
 - 64 Bread-filled dispenser
 - 66 Braggarts' problems
 - 67 Not careful
 - 69 Rondo or Rio
 - 70 Millennia
 - 71 One-up
 - 72 '40s computer
 - 73 " _ Billy Joe"
 - 74 Slow to react
 - 75 Three, in Berlin
 - 76 Ladder piece
 - 81 British fellow
 - 83 Do the lawn
 - 84 Me, in Paree
 - 86 Behind on payments
 - 87 Jipijapa-leaf headwear
 - 88 Bikinis, e.g.
 - 90 Pronouncing
 - 91 Tuscan city
 - 93 "Every _ king"
 - 94 PC brand
 - 95 " _ Na Na"
 - 98 Bust officers
 - 99 Bundt cake vessel
 - 104 Beer offerer
 - 105 Pays, as the bill
 - 106 Start for red or structure
 - 107 Six-time All-Star
 - 108 Robber
 - 109 Annual toy toter
 - 111 "Every dog has _ day"
 - 112 Reposition
 - 113 Crying
 - 114 Al Capp's "Li" guy
 - 118 J precursors
 - 120 Abbr. on a meat stamp
 - 122 Seattle-to-L.A. dir.
 - 123 Suffix with exist or insist
 - 124 Scale steps

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19			20				21						22							
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Moore Texas by Roger Moore The Texas legislature has designated the **CHUCKWAGON** as the official **VEHICLE** of Texas , disappointing some .



Canutillo ISD approves 2015-2016 tax rate

By **Shane B. Griffith**
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – During last night’s Regular Meeting of the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) Board of Trustees, the Board unanimously approved the 2015-2016 Property Tax Rate. The tax rate is set at \$1.53 per \$100 of valuation, which is the same rate used last year. This rate includes \$1.17 for Maintenance and Operations (M&O) and \$0.36 for Interest and Sinking (I&S), otherwise known as Debt Service.

Despite an increase in average appraised values, CISD also expects that the average homeowner within the district will pay fewer taxes due to a pending increase in the Homestead Exemption that Texas voters will determine in November. If the measure passes, the Homestead Exemption will increase from \$15,000 to \$25,000, resulting in an average annual decrease of

\$113 to CISD homeowners.

In related news, CISD is experiencing a slight increase in enrollment compared to last year’s enrollment of 5,977 students, which is triggering the need to hire additional teachers and support personnel including teachers, custodians and substitute teachers. All current job openings and application requirements are available on the CISD website at www.canutilloisd.org within the Human Resources Department page.

“Despite the fact that our district is growing and the opening of a new elementary campus, we are pleased that our diligent planning and cost saving measures will not translate into an increase of taxes for our local tax payers,” said Dr. Pedro Galavíz, Superintendent of CISD. “We are focused on becoming the region’s premier school district, and I invite everyone to consider becoming part of our family either as students, employees or partners in education.”

Briefs

From Page 1

water. The program includes a native plant landscape demonstration in downtown El Paso’s Cleveland Square, which is across from the Southwest University Park, and a viewing of a locally produced YouTube video. The video’s interpretive graphics were designed by local artist Mitsu Overstreet with funding provided by the City of El Paso. For more information about the new certified habitat program and to watch a new YouTube video on the project plants, visit the CDEC website at www.chihuahuandesert.org

-Alfredo Vasquez

Strange crime

Three suspects are in custody in New York City after they allegedly attempted to give new meaning to the term Grand Larceny not just with breaking and entering, but with trying to steal a whole house, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. A homeowner in the borough of Queens said the trio broke into her home while she was out, changed the locks and then demanded she and her husband sign the place over to them. Queens District Attorney Richard Brown told the New York Daily News it was “a truly bizarre case. But, it appears that the three suspects may, in fact, wind up in a new home after all. The News said they face multiple charges that carry long sentences and may wind up in the Big House. The men were apprehended after they offered the lady of the house an opportunity to retrieve a few personal belongings. When she was finally allowed back into her home, she found that it had been ransacked and that’s when New York’s finest took over the negotiations.

- John Grimaldi

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
+		×		-	
	÷		+		9
×		+		×	
	+		+		11
13		11		10	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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: X equals T

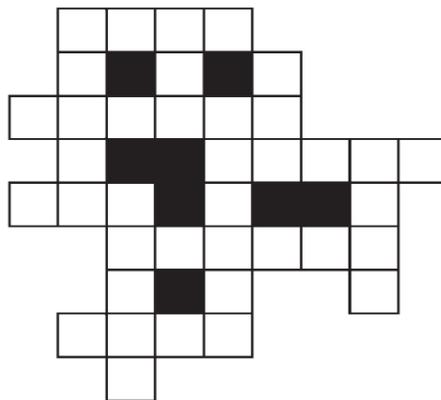
PS W JAYZ NWGJ PR
YWKXPTGPGE RTFATGA SLTF XNA
QWYZ TS XNA QTWX, VTKUJ
XNWX QA W RXALG VWLGPGE?

Answer Page 4

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- YED
- ♥ ERDTIS
- ♥ TOPUS
- ♥ ODP
- TYDRUS
- ♥ REA
- DUCE
- ♥ YEDRA
- ♥ DSA
- ♥ DEOPUS
- ♥ TDIEC
- ♥ TURS



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.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

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Health

From Page 7

be sure you are washing long enough.) Alcohol sanitizers are ineffective for C diff. By being meticulous in hand-washing, you can minimize the risk of passing on the bacteria.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com, or write to Good Health, 628 Virginia Drive Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2015 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.