



NEWSBRIEFS

Posada

The El Paso Museum of History (510 N. Santa Fe St.), the Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso and the Main Library (501 N. Oregon St.) will host a traditional Mexican posada. The December 17 special event is free to the public. The program is as follows:

- 5:30-6:20 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Tonatihu will perform a festive show "Angeles en Movimiento/Pastorela Mexicana" at the auditorium in the Main Library;
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Villancicos (holiday songs), piñata breaking, candy, tamales, and hot chocolate (while supplies last) at the Museum of History's patio; and
- 7:30-8:00 p.m. Performance by Gayle Force Quartet and the Fort Bliss Handbell Choir in the Museum of History

— Alfredo Vasquez

A Vinton Christmas

"Christmas in the Village" returns for its 10th consecutive year to spread holiday cheer to Vinton and the surrounding communities Saturday, December 12, 2015, at Dr. Applegate Park. Festivities will be from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. with Christmas entertainment by area schools. "Christmas in the Village" activities are free of charge and open to the public. The first 200 children to register the day of the event will receive hot chocolate and cookies and a small gift from Santa Clause when he arrives at 3 p.m. "Christmas in the Village" will also host the Fall Farmers Market and the Food Truck Circus. In partnership with El Pasoans Fighting Hunger, 200 families will receive a bag filled with groceries. To register to receive the groceries please register at Vinton City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd. For a schedule of performances and activities please visit the Village of Vinton website and Facebook page.

— Marina Ramirez

Liquor scam

Investigators with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission have joined forces with U.S. Postal Inspectors

See BRIEFS, Page 2

Why don't we jump at opportunities as quickly as we jump to conclusions?

— Quips & Quotes

Blanco pushes for border security funding accountability

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The lack of accountability in Texas's border security funding has been one of State Rep. Cesar Blanco's main concerns since he took office in 2014. And, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus finally agreed with the

representative from El Paso.

The El Paso representative and his supporters' insistence on financial accountability in border funding finally swayed the speaker to recently order the appropriations committee to come up with a way to measure border security and evaluate how effective the state has been in keeping its boundary with Mexico secure, especially after an \$800 million appropriation by the Legislature last session, which ended in June.

Straus tasked the committee to work on the assignment between now and the beginning of the 85th Legislature, which convenes in January 2017. Work on such interim projects often help frame bills that are later signed into law.

Blanco has been a long-time critic of the state's lack of objective metrics to measure border security. The issue, however, took center stage when then-Gov. Rick Perry dispatched the Texas National Guard to the South Texas border in 2014, then his concern escalated when the Legislature appropriated \$800 million for border security in its two-year budget in 2015.

Blanco represents District 76 in the Texas House of Representatives, which covers the heart of El Paso, a part of Fort Bliss Army base, El Paso County's east and central neighborhoods and a significant portion of the Mission Valley. He serves on various committees including Defense and Veteran Affairs, Public Health, and Rules and Resolutions.

Proponents for the funding, mostly Republicans, have said that Texas has to secure the border because the federal government isn't doing it. But their counterparts, the Democrats, have responded that there are no valid data to support those claims, and that Republicans are using taxpayer money to pander to their political base.

Nonetheless, Straus' directive to the committee states that it... "evaluate the effectiveness of the Department of Public Safety's use of funds appropriated during the 84th legislative session for border security operations. Examine existing data and reporting on border security metrics, and recommend improvements to ensure the availability of accurate information in considering sustaining or increasing border security funds."

Since Perry ordered the National Guard to the border, the Texas Department



BORDER SECURITY – "I believe in the speaker. I believe in his leadership. The overall goal here is to protect taxpayer money," said State Representative Cesar Blanco (D), left, after Texas House of Representatives Speaker Joe Straus recently ordered the appropriations committee to find ways to measure border security and its effectiveness. Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Joe Straus (R) is on the right.

See BORDER, Page 5

City of Socorro approves ticketing bus stop-arm violators caught on SISD bus cameras

By Christina Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – In line with the Socorro Independent School District's initiative to make streets safer for students with the use of cameras on school buses, the City of Socorro has approved ticketing and fines to be issued to drivers who ignore bus stop-arms.

Every SISD school bus has been equipped with a camera system to catch bus stop-arm violators. Effective January 5, 2016, drivers in the City of Socorro who pass the bus stop-arms will be ticketed for the offense. They will be issued a \$300 citation. Currently, SISD is working on agreements for ticketing and fines with the City of El Paso and Horizon City.

"Our top priority is to keep all students and staff safe in Team SISD," said Dr. José Espinoza, SISD Superintendent. "We greatly appreciate the collaboration of local law enforcement and governments in our safety efforts at our schools and surrounding neighborhoods."

Team SISD tested the bus camera system on 10 of the district's school buses in the 2014 spring semester. The SISD Board of Trustees approved the contract for the districtwide state-of-the-art camera system at the December 2014 board meeting and then approved a resolution in support of the districtwide camera system at the January 2015 board meeting.

SISD transports about 12,000 students daily to and from schools districtwide.

"This state-of-the art bus surveillance system will ensure we keep our streets safe for children and adults. We are doing everything possible to create a safe and secure learning environment throughout the entire day and before and after school," Espinoza said.

A national news story released earlier this year reported the Department

See TICKETS, Page 5

Vinton, TDHCA provides new home to family

By Marina Ramirez
Special to the Courier

VINTON – The Monrreal family will start the 2015 holiday season in a new home thanks to the Village of Vinton.

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Wednesday and the Village presented the Monrreal's with the keys to their new home. The new home was funded through a grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA).

"We are beyond blessed to be able to move into our new house. We had lived in our mobile home for 20 years and it needed major repairs that we couldn't afford," said new home owner Abigail Monrreal. The Monrreal family made Vinton their home 20 years ago after Pablo Monrreal served in the United States Navy for 10 years. Vinton is home to them and to their four children.

The Monrreal's began working with the Village of Vinton's housing program three years ago. The TDHCA program provides a new home construction up

to \$85,000 for low-income families who live in substandard housing. The new homes are Energy Star certified and meet all local and state construction codes. "Acquiring funding for such a big project wasn't easy because it's part of a competitive program but we were able to do it and are very happy to be able to hand over the keys to a new home to a very deserving family," said Mayor Madeleine Praino.

For information on how to participate in the program please contact the Village of Vinton offices at 886-5104.

Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

Five things to do with an unexpected inheritance

Unexpected money from a friend or relative can be a great surprise or a potentially difficult money lesson. How you plan for unexpected money issues overall can be a key to how well you'll

handle a sudden windfall.

Many people don't do so well. A recent study (<http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/inheritance.htm>) from Ohio State University suggests that adults who inherit money are saving only about half of what they receive. Researcher Jay Zagorsky reported that about only 11 percent of the participants had received an inheritance with the median amount only around \$11,340. Zagorsky suggests awareness of such high spending numbers suggest it is time for a campaign on saving inherited wealth.

Want to get there early? Here's a plan for dealing with an unexpected inheritance or any other surprise money issues in the future:

1. Start by getting control of your current finances. Why wait for an inheritance? In 2013, the Gallup organization reported that only 1 in 3 Americans actually prepared a written or computerized household budget. If you've never prepared a budget before, know that it is the traditional starting point for all personal finance decisions.

2. Start saving now. The long-term purpose of budgeting (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting/>) is to find excess dollars so you can save and plan for the future. Even if it's a few

dollars a week as other resources go toward everyday expenses, get in the habit of regular savings and investment now. Consider activating direct deposit to build those amounts automatically. If an inheritance happens, you will already have savings habits in place and account relationships set up to receive the money.

3. Line up qualified advice. Skilled financial or tax experts can help you review what you've done so far with your money and suggest ways to make your personal savings or investments go farther. Having this relationship in place before an expected – or unexpected – windfall is valuable. They'll know your situation and the best ways to handle new money. If an inheritance happens, consider a certified financial planner, certified public accountant and an attorney involved in trust or estate matters for your financial team.

4. Evaluate your relationships. Money can change people for better or worse. This is why you see so many troubling news stories about people who have an unexpected windfall. The best approach to sudden money is to go quietly and immediately into the planning phase – don't make announcements and involve only key loved ones who need to be part of the process.

5. Don't go on a spending spree. If you're lucky enough to receive an inheritance of significant size, planning doesn't mean quitting your job, buying a car or moving out of your current place, at least not immediately. Involve members of your financial team in your planning. After any tax or estate issues are settled and money is free for use, extinguish long-standing expenses, build an emergency fund and then establish savings and investments that are appropriate for you and your loved ones. Once details are complete, do have some fun, but try to keep the cost below 10 percent of the total inheritance amount.

Bottom line: Inherited money can help build a financial future. Get some advice, plan thoughtfully for taxes and investments and save a little bit for fun or luxury. Without proper planning, windfalls don't always last as long as you think.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered legal, tax or financial advice. It's always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Owning a small business

Is there a veteran-owned small business in your New Year? If you've thought about owning a business, where you open it might have something to do with your ease of working with the local authorities.

Thumbtack, a survey organization, recently completed its annual Small Business Friendliness survey, in which it asked 18,000 small-business owners to rate their cities and states in more than a dozen categories, including ease of hiring, licensing and tax regulations. Among those responding were 1,794 veterans who own small businesses.

Here, in order, are the top 10 cities friendliest cities for small businesses: Dallas, Austin and Fort Worth, Texas; Virginia Beach, Virginia; Atlanta; San Antonio; Houston; Washington, D.C.; Phoenix; and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Veterans own 9 percent of businesses, according to the Small Business Administration, and we're 45 percent more likely to become entrepreneurs than civilians. Here are the things veterans wanted most in trying to set up a small business... things that help identify a city as business-

friendly:

- Training and networking opportunities in translating military skills into civilian ones;

- Government websites full of local information and resources; and

- Friendly licensing rules.

In the survey, the top careers for veterans were event DJ, personal trainer, handyman and computer-repair specialist. In the overall (including civilian) population, 42 percent of private investigators were veterans.

If a small business might be in your future, start gathering information now. Go online to the Small Business Administration website [www.sba.gov] and review the files on writing a business plan, estimating startup costs, hiring employees, finding a business mentor and much more. Especially see the links to Veterans Business Outreach Centers and Office of Veterans Business Development.

If you want to read the whole survey, go online to www.thumbtack.com/blog/veterans.

(c)2015 King Features Synd., Inc.



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

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2015 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: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda



Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.

Member Texas Community
Newspaper Association

Briefs

From Page 1

to identify the culprits behind a suspected extortion scam involving several TABC-licensed businesses. TABC investigators first learned about the possible scam in October, after retailers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area reported receiving letters claiming that a third-party observer had witnessed violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Code at that retailer's business. The letters went on to state that those alleged violations would be reported to TABC unless the business owner/operator agreed to pay \$500 using an anonymous cash-card payment. These letters are in no way connected to TABC, and the agency only investigates complaints received from verifiable sources. Retailers who receive letters they suspect to be connected to the scam are urged to contact their local TABC enforcement office or the U.S. Postal Inspectors immediately. "TABC values the partnerships we've built over the years with our retailers, and when there is an attempt to extort the holder of a permit or license, we take the matter very seriously," said Chief Robert Saenz, TABC Chief of Field Operations. "Our Special Investigations Unit will be working closely with the U.S. Postal Inspectors to get to the bottom of this. Mailed threats such as this fall under the federal government's jurisdiction, which means these culprits could face federal charges when caught." Retailers who believe they've been targeted in the scam are asked to call TABC at 1-888-THE-TABC or the U.S. Postal

Inspectors at 1-877-876-2455.

— Chris Porter

Retirement research

The Association of Mature American Citizens says a study among thousands of Americans planning for retirement conducted by Fidelity Investments and the Stanford Center on Longevity shows that nearly half of them don't care how much money they'll need in order to stop working. Forty-nine percent of 12,000 people who were polled said they would retire at a specific time of their choosing. The study also found that "despite the misconception that today's retirees are unhappy and forced to live a frugal lifestyle, 82 percent of recent retirees felt they retired at the right time, and 85 percent feel retirement is the most rewarding time of their lives. In addition, 79 percent indicate that it is easier than they thought to live comfortably in retirement - they were able to manage their savings and adapt their lifestyle based on their finances, if necessary. However, 36 percent admit they wished they had saved more, and 33 percent wished they had started saving earlier."

— John Grimaldi

Don't call them 'criminals'

Social networkers in San Francisco recently chatted about neighborhood crime and one participant stirred things up by asking neighbors to stop using the word "criminal" in describing those engaged in unlawful activity, says the Association of Mature American

See BRIEFS, Page 8

KIRK ©2015 The Toledo Blade
email: kirk@theblade.com



- Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

IN THE CAPITAL – Fabens High School students took a moment for a picture in front of the iconic University of Texas - Austin Clock Tower. The students were touring Texas universities to expand their horizons on potential schools.

Fabens HS students visit universities

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Students from Fabens High School visited four Texas universities on November 12-14. The three-day long trip took nine seniors and one junior to tour the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas State University and St. Mary's University. Recruiters presented students with information from admission requirements to campus traditions.

"We try to give the students every opportunity to make a well-rounded, educated decision about which university will become their home," counselor Veronica Rodriguez said. "These students' class rankings and involvement at FHS made them prime candidates for this college tour. Since they have always gone

the extra mile, we wanted to go the extra mile for them."

Prior to the trip, some seniors had not considered leaving town for college. "I was set on attending UTEP, but I really liked the laid-back atmosphere and scenic views at Texas State," senior Samantha Estrada said. "I'm going to apply and see what my scholarship opportunities are."

Other students, like senior Vanessa Rodriguez, had always kept an open mind to attending an out-of-town university. As a result of the trip and in conjunction with her academic standing, a recruiter from St. Mary's offered Vanessa a \$14,000 a year scholarship. "I felt so honored. I didn't even think I could get accepted to such a prestigious institution," Vanessa said. "Now I feel

See COLLEGE, Page 5



Click It or Ticket.

Even in the back seat.

Buckle up every rider for every trip.

State law now requires both adults and children to be buckled up in the front or back seat. A child less than 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat. Most children between 4 and 8 years old will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Fines range from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs. TexasClickItorTicket.com



**Socorro Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Child Nutrition Program	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:						
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 84,525,639	\$ 3,677,246	\$ 25,572,073	\$ 50,404	\$ 59,474	\$ 113,884,836
5800 State Program Revenues	238,628,799	120,552	21,435,426	-	1,372,385	261,557,162
5900 Federal Program Revenues	3,250,658	21,041,138	-	-	22,984,040	47,275,836
5020 Total Revenues	326,405,096	24,838,936	47,007,499	50,404	24,415,899	422,717,834
EXPENDITURES:						
Current:						
0011 Instruction	188,789,303	-	-	1,599,563	14,741,941	205,130,807
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	4,845,521	-	-	146,543	261,981	5,254,045
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	1,778,248	-	-	-	4,293,530	6,071,778
0021 Instructional Leadership	3,461,945	-	-	-	302,656	3,764,601
0023 School Leadership	21,991,763	-	-	143,856	-	22,135,619
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	8,683,500	-	-	26,600	2,813,146	11,523,246
0032 Social Work Services	1,795,686	-	-	-	385,000	2,180,686
0033 Health Services	3,778,468	-	-	23,987	179,002	3,981,457
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	13,520,001	-	-	-	-	13,520,001
0035 Food Services	-	25,922,584	-	-	-	25,922,584
0036 Extracurricular Activities	9,565,499	-	-	141,242	73,714	9,780,455
0041 General Administration	7,551,387	-	-	-	149,833	7,701,220
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	38,137,703	-	-	12,878	4,695	38,155,276
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	6,737,195	-	-	32,626	9,296	6,779,117
0053 Data Processing Services	3,972,399	-	-	643,915	-	4,616,314
0061 Community Services	765,654	-	-	-	1,215,119	1,980,773
Debt Service:						
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	712,647	-	14,111,406	-	-	14,824,053
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	1,171	-	33,771,434	-	-	33,772,605
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	-	2,063,466	-	-	2,063,466
Capital Outlay:						
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	338,690	-	-	51,272,019	-	51,610,709
Intergovernmental:						
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,444,682	-	-	-	-	1,444,682
6030 Total Expenditures	317,871,462	25,922,584	49,946,306	54,043,229	24,429,913	472,213,494
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	8,533,634	(1,083,648)	(2,938,807)	(53,992,825)	(14,014)	(49,495,660)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):						
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	-	-	78,049,999	-	-	78,049,999
7913 Capital Leases	2,859,000	-	-	-	-	2,859,000
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	-	11,983,834	-	-	11,983,834
8949 Other (Uses)	-	-	(89,059,877)	-	-	(89,059,877)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	2,859,000	-	973,956	-	-	3,832,956
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	11,392,634	(1,083,648)	(1,964,851)	(53,992,825)	(14,014)	(45,662,704)
0100 Fund Balance - July 1 (Beginning)	101,952,004	9,089,637	47,318,149	99,480,026	1,031,129	258,870,945
3000 Fund Balance - June 30 (Ending)	\$ 113,344,638	\$ 8,005,989	\$ 45,353,298	\$ 45,487,201	\$ 1,017,115	\$ 213,208,241

To Advertise Call 852-3235 • Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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

F R I E N D
O R E D I F Y
U A G E
R A T A I
E A T I N G
H E N N
O F
Y O

A S T R I D E S A Y E S T A B R U P T
 D A R E N O T T R A D E R N O O D L E
 Z H E N G Z H O U C H I N A Y O N D E R
 E L S A E O N S T S I W O D E A R
 M O R S E L Z O L T A N K O R D A
 R I C E S G A L E N A L E I
 A D O L E G V E E B Y E L E T I T
 Z E N O O F E L E A Z O E S A L D A N A
 R A C Y G O E R D O R S A L G I N S
 E L I R E N O I R A D E L I E
 M O I Z A G R E B C R O A T I A L E D
 I N V I E W A T O N C E S R I
 T I E R O P T I M A G A P E A G O G
 Z O O A T L A N T A Z U B I N M E H T A
 I N F E R C T S S E A I D E E T I M
 A S K M A T E R S S I S S Y
 Z E T A P H I B E T A D O G M A S
 E R R S U N O H M O O U I O R A L
 B R I T O N Z O O M L E N S C A M E R A
 R O B E R T S O N M E D S T A L E N T S
 A L E R T S S T E R E O O S P R E Y S

**CryptoQuip
Answer**

When I discovered how much that stunning new watch cost, I was overcome with ticker shock.

8	x	9	÷	4	18
-		+		+	
3	x	7	-	1	20
x		x		x	
5	-	2	x	5	15
25		32		25	

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

It was beloved American singer, songwriter and musician Ray Charles who made the following sage observation: "Marriage is like college; as great as it is, it ain't for everybody."

Those who study such things say that when a llama is humming, that means it's content.

If you think life in the Big Apple is tough these days, consider this: In the 1930s, landlords evicted about 17,000 tenants every month.

It's the little details that can make or break a plan. A pair of aspiring bank robbers in Daytona Beach, Florida, walked into a bank, pulled out guns, demanded that a teller hand over the loot, and even made it out of the building. The problem came when they got in their getaway car; the engine sputtered and died almost immediately. It seems someone had forgotten to fill up the gas tank.

The gray squirrel isn't always gray; these arboreal rodents also come in both black and white varieties.

Sharks have been known to attack boats before, but they rarely, if ever, try for a second bite – regardless of what Hollywood would have you believe. When a shark goes for a boat, it's a case of mistaken identity: electrical impulses from the metal of a ship's hull make the shark think that the boat is another animal (that is to say: dinner).

If you're fond of fancy cocktails, you probably won't be surprised to learn that the words "mai tai" are actually Tahitian for "the very best."

Thought for the Day: "I would rather try to persuade a man to go along, because once I have persuaded him he will stick. If I scare him, he will stay just as long as he is scared, and then he is gone."

– Dwight D. Eisenhower

(c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

Tickets

From Page 1

of Transportation says 23 million children ride a school bus every day and according to the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Information Services, vehicles pass stopped school buses more than 70,000 times a day, even though passing one with its lights flashing is illegal in all 50 states.

Tejeda and Gonzalez-Garcia place first in STEM nationals

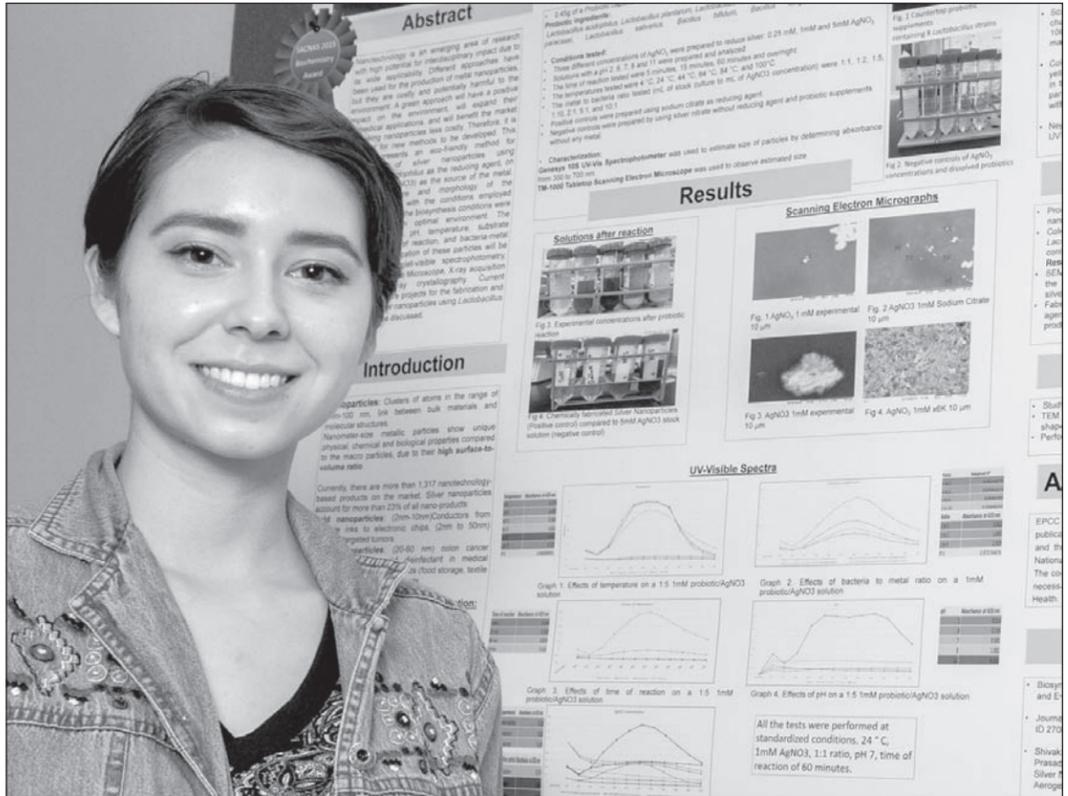
By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Itzel Tejeda and Diana Gonzalez-Garcia – both are El Paso Community College (EPCC) students – placed first in different competitions at national Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) events. Both students are part of the EPCC Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program.

Student presenter at the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) meeting, Tejeda was awarded first place for The Biosynthesis of Silver Nanoparticles using Lactobacillus, in Biophysics/Biochemistry. Nanoparticles are minute clusters of atoms from 1-100 nm in size, which have a variety of applications including cancer treatment, water disinfection, cosmetics, etc. The relevance of her project is to develop an environmentally friendly, inexpensive method to synthesize nanoparticles using harmless bacteria such as Lactobacillus.

Student presenter at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) meeting, Gonzalez-Garcia was awarded first Place for Characterization of Two New in Vivo Models of Positive Her-2 Breast Cancer in Cancer Biology. Her study is characterizing two new variant cell lines of Her-2, which can be more aggressive than the parental cell lines because they have become more resistant. Her project characterized the genetic changes associated with resistance, which has potential applications for the development of cancer treatment in the future.

EPCC's RISE is a Challenge Program that is funded by a grant from the MBRS-RISE Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), it consists of Student, Faculty and Community Development Activities. All activities are aimed at providing underrepresented students with the tools to succeed in college and pursue a biomedical research career and a Ph.D.



– Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

Itzel Tejeda placed first her presentation "The Biosynthesis of Silver Nanoparticles using Lactobacillus" in Biophysics/Biochemistry.



– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

Diana Gonzalez-Garcia placed first for her "Characterization of Two New in Vivo Models of Positive Her-2 Breast Cancer" in Cancer Biology.

Border

From Page 1

of Public Safety (DPS) has struggled to produce statistics supporting the claim that the region is not secure. And early this year, the Texas Legislative Budget Board said the state has no official definition of "border security." As a result, the board could not figure out how to measure it.

During the Legislative session that ended in June, Blanco repeatedly called on the DPS to

show that its activities on the border were helping to secure the boundary. DPS instead issued reports lumping its activities together with those of federal agencies – even though the federal officials said that they did not participate in Texas' "Operation Strong Safety", which was the code name for the state's law enforcement surge of DPS troopers and Texas National Guard soldiers to the Rio Grande Valley, as ordered by the former governor.

Blanco stated that he was happy that Straus acted on his

request to make border security metrics and accounting for border expenditures part of the appropriation committee's interim work. "I'm thankful for

the speaker and his willingness to listen," Blanco stated. "I believe in his leadership. The overall goal here is to protect taxpayer money."

College

From Page 3

validated and that all my hard work has paid off."

"The best part of the trip was seeing the students' eyes light up at the actual moment they were

connecting with their perspective university," counselor Veronica Rodriguez said. "My hope is that giving them the opportunity to actually visit the campuses will help them make a solid college decision without ever having to wonder 'what if' later on in life."

Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Clint Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

Clint Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, Thursday, December 17, 2015, in the Central Office Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, Texas 79928.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Clint Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 12/03/15 & 12/10/15

Miner's 'no big man' season may be short on wins

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

After a less-than-stellar, but typical, football season, UTEP fans are ready to do what they always do.

They put the bad pigskin memories behind them and begin to focus on basketball. The one major sport the school is successful in year-in and year-out.

This year's hoops squad is no exception. They won their first six games of the season.

Granted, this year's schedule, with the exception of the double-overtime victory over Colorado State, isn't exactly loaded with big names.

But wins are still wins, especially for a team that's loaded with freshmen, sophomores and new comers from the junior college ranks.

This team needs time to get to know each other.

What makes this year's UTEP squad so fun to watch is the talent level of the guards.

In recent years, the Miners have had a

ton of talented big men but no one to get them the ball. They've had no real point guard for several years.

This team is loaded with guards that can dribble, shoot, pass and take the ball all the way to the hoop.

Their new point guard, Dominic Artis, a transfer from Oregon, will definitely be one of the best in Conference USA.

Shooting guards Earvin Morris and Lee Moore can nail a 3-pointer from almost anywhere on the court and can penetrate the lane and get to the foul line.

Omega Harris, who may be the fastest guy in the league, will be returning soon after getting his grades in order. He can race down the court on a fast break as quick as anyone in the country.

As far as guards go, UTEP has one of the best groups in the United States.

That's the good news. And now for the bad news.

After winning their first six games, they've lost two straight.

Why, because having one of the best group of guards in the United States may be all they've got.

Because of Vince Hunter's decision to

leave the program early and the injury to 7-footer Matt Willms, the Miners have proven the old adage to be true – size does matter.

And the lack of size is going to be the thorn in the side of this Miner team when league play comes around.

Case in point, in their win over CSU the Miners were out-rebounded 73-47 and gave up 28 offensive rebounds.

In their loss to NMSU, the Miners were out-rebounded 50-27 and gave up 18 offensive rebounds.

That kind of rebound disparity is usually only seen in high school games.

Teams getting two and three and four chances to score after getting rebound after rebound after rebound is going to be a familiar sight for Miner fans as the season wears on.

The guard play is going to be outstanding on one end but the inability to stop their opponent's big men on the other end will eventually prove costly.

So at this point what can Tim Floyd and the Miners do about it?

Not much. The only way to battle talented big men is with other talented

big men. And the Miners are fresh out of those.

Hooper Vint, at 6-11, is doing an admirable job but he's all alone out there. He's a serviceable big man, but his talent is limited.

NMSU's 6-9 forward Pascal Siakam is the kind of talented player Vint will have to guard the basket against in Conference USA games. Siakam came into the UTEP game averaging 11.8 rebounds a game.

He pulled down 23 against the Miners – to go along with his 24 points.

There's no doubt that Floyd and his coaching staff will come up with some defensive gimmicks to help ease the pain but in the end, as many experts have said over the years, you can't coach size.

Either you have it or you don't.

How ironic it is that over the last few seasons all the Miners needed to make them an exceptional team was a point guard.

Now that they have a pocket full of guards, all they need is a big man.

The Miners will still win more than they lose and they'll still be exciting to watch, but... as the saying goes... size does matter.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

John Wooden on success

Recently we shared Vince Lombardi's famous "What it takes to be No. 1" speech in this space. Knowing bulletin boards and locker-room walls like I do, I'm betting you have enough space up there for another guy's take on the subject of winning: John Wooden.

What does it take to have to back-to-back seasons without a loss and win 10 championships in 12 years? Well, for one thing, it took a guy like John Wooden. As a child his father gave him seven rules to live by that he would later distill down into three main rules that his players

must follow in order to play for him:

- Don't be late;
- Don't curse; and
- Don't criticize your teammates.

At the heart of Wooden's philosophy is one word: respect. His three rules were about respecting the program, the coach (him) and each other. Whereas Lombardi makes the case that winning is always better and it is something that

each individual must strive for at all times – fairly, but brutally if need be – Wooden's famous "10 rules for success" state that if you do the right things all the time, you will end up winning most of the time.

But the "Wizard of Westwood" would go on to write an even more expansive set of "suggestions" that incorporated both his father's and his own set of rules. Following these rules, he promised, might lead to success if put to use. He was wrong: They led to unprecedented success.

Wooden's do list:

- Be a gentleman at all times.
- Be a team player always.
- Be on time whenever time is involved.
- Be a good student in all subjects – not just basketball.
- Be enthusiastic, industrious,

dependable, loyal and cooperative.

• Be in the best possible condition – physically, mentally and morally.

• Earn the right to be proud and confident.

• Keep emotions under control without losing fight or aggressiveness.

• Work constantly to improve without becoming satisfied.

• Acquire peace of mind by becoming the best that you are capable of becoming.

Wooden's don't list:

• Never criticize, nag or razz a teammate.

• Never miss or be late for any class or appointment.

• Never be selfish, jealous, envious or egotistical.

• Never expect favors.

See SPORTS, Page 8

utepathletics.com • gloryroad.utep.edu

HOOPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

WBB VS UTPB
DECEMBER 14 / 7:05 PM / \$3 ADMISSION

NewsChannel 9 HD **MBB VS NM STATE**
DECEMBER 19 / 7 PM

MBB VS NORFOLK ST
DECEMBER 21 / 7 PM

MBB VS SAM HOUSTON STATE/UC IRVINE
DECEMBER 22 / TBA

WBB VS EASTERN NEW MEXICO
DECEMBER 28 / 7:05 PM - FREE GAME

MBB VS UT RIO GRANDE VALLEY
DECEMBER 29 / 7:05 PM

TICKETS: 747-5234

PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4 will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 Office, 117 E. Main St., Fabens, Texas, 79838 to receive input from the citizens on the water and wastewater rate study presented by Willdan Financial Services. All interested ratepayers are encouraged to attend.

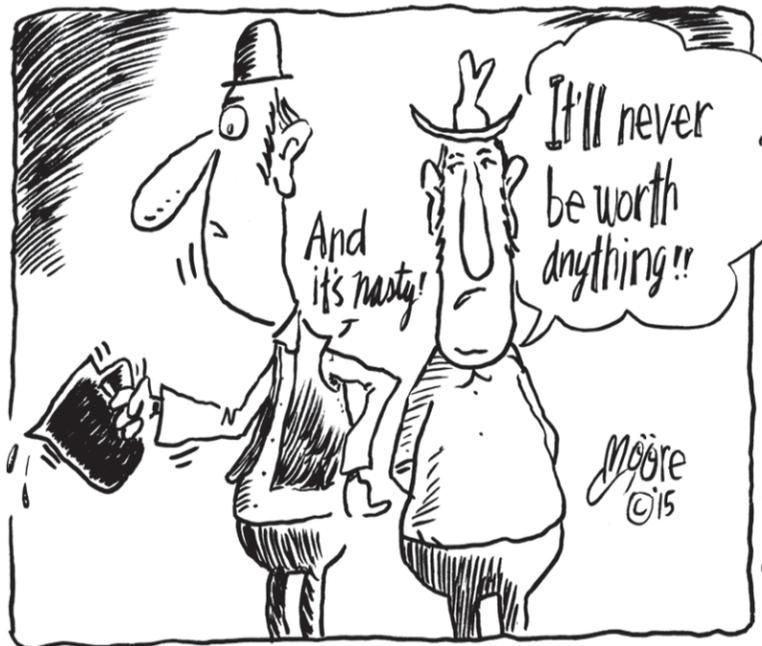
Citizens unable to attend may submit their views and proposals to the El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4, P.O. Box 3880, Fabens, Texas 79838-3880. Individuals with disabilities or that require auxiliary aids and wish to attend this meeting should contact the District Office at least 2 days before the meeting at (915) 764-2212 to arrange for assistance.

WTCC: 12-10-15

MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

A barrel of oil was only 3 cents in 1902... may get there again, huh?



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	x		÷		18
-		+		+	
	x		-		20
x		x		x	
	-		x		15
25		32		25	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 5 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

© 2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

© 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

Briefs

From Page 2

Citizens. Malkia Cyril, executive director of the Center for Media Justice in Oakland, allegedly suggested that "people who commit property crimes are human and deserved to be referred to in terms that acknowledge that," according to SFGate, a Hearst-owned Internet site.

- John Grimaldi

Wanted

A man is killed at the hands of a hit and run driver in El Paso's Mission Valley. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department are asking for your help in finding the driver involved through Crime Stoppers. In the early morning hours of Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015 53-year-old Albert Guzman was driving a gold colored, 1993 Ford Escort station wagon in the 7800 block of Gateway East. It is believed that Guzman was stopped for a red traffic light when a pickup truck that was traveling at a high rate of speed struck Guzman's

vehicle from behind and pushed it through the intersection and rammed it into a traffic light pole. Guzman died at the scene as a result of the impact. The truck was seen by witnesses traveling eastbound on Gateway East towards Yarbrough. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department's, Special Traffic Investigations Unit - based on evidence at the scene - believe the vehicle involved is a dark colored Dodge Ram pickup truck. The truck will have extensive damage to the front end. Anyone with information on the identity of the driver involved in this death or the location of the vehicle 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). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

- Javier Sambrano

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

• On Dec. 24, 1851, a devastating fire at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroys two-thirds of its 55,000 volumes. Today the collection contains more than 17 million books.

• On Dec. 23, 1888, in Arles, France, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, suffering from severe depression, cuts off the lower part of his left ear with a razor. He documented the event in a painting titled "Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear."

• On Dec. 25, 1962, "To Kill a Mockingbird," a film based on the 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name by Harper Lee, opens in theaters. The American Film Institute has rated Atticus Finch (played by Gregory Peck) as the greatest movie hero of the 20th century.

• On Dec. 26, 1946, in Las Vegas, mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel opens The Pink Flamingo Hotel & Casino. The grand opening was a flop. Gamblers had no rooms at the yet unfinished hotel, so they took their winnings and gambled elsewhere.

(c) 2015 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: T equals W

TEAV B SBJGPAOAS EGT ZFIE
QEHQ JQFVVBVR VAT THQIE IGJQ,
B THJ GPAOIGZA TBQE QBIWAO

JEGIW.

Answer Page 4

© 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

Sports

From Page 6

- Never waste time.
- Never alibi or make excuse.
- Never require repeated criticism for the same mistake.
- Never lose faith or patience.
- Never grandstand, loaf, sulk or boast.
- Never have reason to be sorry afterward.

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

Health

From Page 7

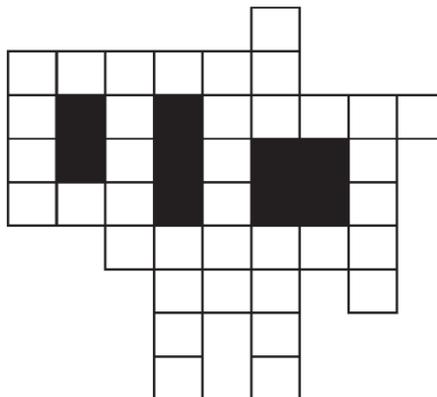
medicine to ONE doctor, who can pare down the medications to a safer and more manageable level.

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.

Archives:
www.wtcc.com



- ENH
- GEITNA
- ♥ FIDEY
- FOIN
- ♥ DRINFE
- ♥ RTA
- YAOH
- GNIFE
- DOD
- GANTEE
- ETRIA
- UFRO



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

© 2015 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.