



NEWSBRIEFS

Anthony fire

A fire Monday destroyed the Anthony home of the De La Cruz family. An unidentified family friend was slightly injured in the fire that occurred around noon. Anthony ISD superintendent Vern Butler said the district is setting up a fund to help the family of five. Those wishing to contribute should make the checks payable to the Anthony Independent School District, noting that it is for the De La Cruz family. For information call 886-6500.

Early publication

The *West Texas County Courier* will go to press early on two upcoming issues on the dates of Sept. 30 and Oct. 7. Advertising copy, news releases and other material to be published in those two issues should be submitted to the *Courier* no later than Friday, Sept. 24. The *Courier* business office will be closed Sept. 27 through Oct. 11. For more information call 852-3235.

High appointment

Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday appointed Wallace Jefferson as the new Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Jefferson is a lifelong resident of San Antonio — a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State and UT-School of Law — and was appointed to the Texas Supreme Court in 2001 by Perry. He won election to the court in 2002. He is the first African American to serve as Texas' Chief Justice and was also the first African American on the state's highest court when Perry appointed him.

In other news

■ Trustees in the Socorro ISD voted unanimously Sept. 8 to approve a tax rate of \$1.63 per \$100 property valuation, about three cents higher than last year — the increase will fund debt service for bonds issued. The board also approved \$24,720,000 in bond sales. The district opened three new schools in 2003 and is expected to open two more next year. A bond election approved by voters in January of 2004 will fund nine additional schools over the next five years.

■ The San Elizario High School Student Council is accepting nominations for Outstanding Ex Student to be recognized during Homecoming Week. The Outstanding Ex must have graduated from SEHS prior to 1995 and made a significant contribution either in our community or elsewhere, through his/her work or service endeavors. Nominations should be sent to the SEHS Student Council, attention Cookie Laffler, P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849, no later than Sept. 17 and should include graduation year, activities while in high school and since high school, why you believe this person deserves to be the honored, and contact information for both the nominee and the person submitting the nomination.

See BRIEFS, Page 7

Nothing worthwhile is achieved without patience, labor and disappointment.
— Quips & Quotes

Anthony ISD officials say the district has financial problems

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — Financial problems beset the Anthony Independent School District.

This is a great concern of Rick Villarreal, president of the board of trustees of the Upper Valley school district.

A small business owner himself, he candidly says the Anthony ISD would be "close to bankruptcy" if it were a private company. Underscoring his concern about the future of the district is the fact the district had to tap heavily into the reserve fund just to balance the budget for the coming year.

He said \$600,000, or 75 percent of the general fund balance of \$800,000, was withdrawn to help meet the financial needs of the district for the coming year. Looking at the money remaining, he adds, "We can't afford a situation that would put us in crisis."

On a positive note, Villarreal speaks of the recent passage of the bond issue that restructured and shifted the indebtedness of the district on the construction of the fine arts facil-

ity. This, he said, freed up approximately \$350,000 over a 10-year period. Without this money, jobs within the district would have been at risk.

"We are not being alarmists," assures Vern Butler, superintendent of AISD.

You won't see Butler in a corner wringing his hands in hopeless despair. "We are not throwing in the (financial) towel; there is no woe-is-me attitude."

Butler cites a balanced budget for the coming year but emphasizes the focus and concern on academic areas. "We are being pro-active," he says in efforts to improve attendance, test scores, dropout rates and graduation rates. He sees financial and academic concerns as a part of an overall accountability in the operation of a school district.

"We are taking one step at a time."

From a cultural standpoint, Villarreal is particularly concerned about what he terms the "pobresito" syndrome, a condition he feels is not helpful to children in the long run. This, he explains, is the tendency of some parents to feel sorry for their children and allow them to fall back on self-pity — feeling sorry for them-



Vern Butler

TISD students are minding the weather in state of the art style

By Rudy Barreda
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — What's hot in Tornillo? The weather? Of course, but in this case we're referring not to the temperature, but students' interest in the weather, thanks to the newly installed WeatherBug Station at Tornillo Junior High School.

The WeatherBug is an actual weather station located at the school, approximately 35 miles southeast of El Paso. WeatherBug sensors sit on the roof of the Junior High School building, tracking 27 real-time parameters. The sensors include an anemometer, rain gauge, and other sensing devices. The sensors then send the raw data to an MCU, which serves as the brain of the station. The MCU then sends the data to a computer for final analysis. The computer then displays current weather conditions,

including temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, and barometric pressure.

The installation of the weather station allows Tornillo Junior High to become part of a network of over 7,000 schools nationwide. Like the other weather stations, Tornillo is connected to a dedicated computer that shares the collected weather data across the Internet. The Internet then enables local TV partner, KTSM TV Channel 9, to gain access to Tornillo's weather conditions and broadcast it during their local newscasts.

Ernesto Monte, 8th grade science teacher at Tornillo Junior High, manages the WeatherBug along with a group of students. One of the responsibilities the students have is to disseminate information about weather and related topics. They are doing this via daily weather announcements, a monthly school newspaper publication, and community involvement projects.



DON'T BUG THESE GUYS — WeatherBug students (from left) Tracy Valdez, Lizbeth Martinez, Vanessa Sanchez, Federico Peña, Carlos Moreno, Luis Sanchez, and Angelo Uniforme review weather stats.

San Eli students tell board they want to graduate on home turf

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — The people spoke. The school board listened. As a result, the high school graduation location changed.

That's what it came down to at the September meeting of the board of trustees of the San Elizario ISD.

A vocal group of students and parents attended the board meeting and petitioned the trustees to bring the location of the Class of 2005 graduation home from the Don Haskins Center to the high school football stadium.

Citing better overall accommodations and acoustics as well as protection from adverse weather conditions, the administration had recommended to the board that the graduation be held at the center in a controlled and compatible environment.

However, by a 4-2 vote, the board agreed with the students who made it clear that they wanted to be San Elizario High School graduates and not Don Haskins Center graduates.

In other action, the board approved:

- Essentially unchanged district goals for school year, except for one that emphasized time lines for bilingual education program.
- Student code of conduct with no major changes.
- Hiring a webmaster to carry out district's Internet-based activities.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Just a minute

I've got this friend who is convinced that a minute isn't as long now as it used to be. She is certain that time has somehow speeded up and that the minute is gradually shrinking.

She isn't the only one. I've heard this said by quite a number of people.

I don't know about the speeded up part, but I do know that the minutes I actually get to spend in my own comfy bed rejuvenating my energy levels are definitely shorter than they were when I was younger. The way I can tell this is because they don't do their job nearly as well as they used to.

Experts who keep track of things like this are convinced that we have much more "free" time to spend on "leisure" than our ancestors did.

If this is so, I'd like to know where the time bank is located so I can go pick up some of this free time. As it is, I seem to be running in a time-deficit situation — you know, comparable to writing a hot check for which I'm going to get charged a \$25 service charge on both ends. In this case, I won't be able to make restitution because time is the one thing you can't beg, borrow or steal. You can't even earn it.

There was a popular song awhile back by the country music group Alabama. The singer laments that "I'm in a hurry to get things done. I rush and rush until life's no fun. All I really gotta do is live and die, but I'm in a hurry and don't know why."

Well, I'm ahead of him by a mile. I know why. Because if I don't, I'll be overtaken and overcome by that cancer called laundry, the plague called cooking-eating-and-cleaning-up, the affliction called unmade beds, the creeping crud called a dirty floor, the abnormality called yard work with symptoms of long, wavy grass on the lawn, weeds, and grass in the flower beds. We haven't even mentioned unpaid bills, unopened mail, unbalanced check books, and unappreciated literature.

Whether or not the minute is shorter than it used to be, the one thing sure about it is that we all have the same amount of it everyday until our total allotment runs out — a completely free gift we sure didn't earn, didn't even ask for, but are responsible to administer.

At whatever point we begin our day, each of us has our own individual portion of precious breathing time to spend in this incredible place we call planet earth. And for the most part, if we live in a free society, we have the complete freedom of choice how we will spend that time.

I can't imagine what people are talking about when they say they are just looking for a way to pass the time. If they've got that much extra, please pass a little of it on to me. There's so much to do, to see, to experience that, given a little extra time, my biggest challenge is deciding which of those things I want to do first — which might be to do nothing at all for awhile just to see how that feels.

They say overloading is a choice and like packing a suitcase, we must decide which things to carry along and which things to leave out — to make a choice between what is essential on this journey and what is extraneous. At various times in our lives those priorities change — the demands made on us are lesser or greater depending on our age, health and circumstance.

A very wise man once wrote that we must learn to thrive in whatever that circumstance may be — to be equally content in either plenty or poverty. So the challenge remains to spend our precious allotment of time in the best way possible to cover our

expected expenses.

I've joked many times that I live by the list — in other words, with all the distractions going on, if I don't write it down, it is likely not to get done. So I suppose my list could be considered a budget, a prioritizing of the worthwhile, productive pursuits I can purchase by expending the valuable, priceless commodity of my time.

Although I know there will be enough to cover the necessities, the only change I will collect will be the changes that time inevitably brings about.

And the quality of those changes will depend entirely on how I spent my time.



Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Important information for women

Hormone replacement therapy is an issue for every adult woman. There are so many news stories giving piece-meal information. In an effort to offer clear and straight forward advice about hormone replacement therapy, I was proud to join with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as we launched a national education campaign on the subject.


This campaign emphasizes the increased risks to women. As many women in my district know, those risks include higher rates of breast cancer, blood clots and heart disease. I believe women of America need the facts. There are too many stories out there giving inaccurate information. It's hard to tell what is fact and fiction. This initiative will take away the guess work and help better educate women on Hormone Replacement Therapy.


Working in collaboration with Department of Health and Human Services agencies, the FDA has developed science-based informational materials on its latest menopausal hormone therapies (estrogens and estrogens with progestins). The Agency is working closely with women's health organizations, community-based organizations and other experts to get this information out to women and healthcare providers.

The main tools of the campaign are a menopause and hormone-therapy fact sheet, and a purse guide that provides questions for discussion with a health professional. These materials will be available in both English and Spanish from the National Women's Health Information Center (NWHIC).

As a long-time advocate of women's health education, I am happy to know that more women in this country will be armed with knowledge. This helpful information is available on the government web site, www.4woman.gov, and will be distributed in fliers in government offices and by women's health groups. A questionnaire for women to use when discussing hormone therapies with their doctors was created as well.

Choosing hormone replacement therapy is a tremendous decision — I hope this campaign helps make it an educated decision, too.





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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Report shows need for security

Here in El Paso, we know the difficulty of striking the delicate balance between national security and economic prosperity necessary for border communities to thrive. It is something our community has worked hard to achieve in the years since September 11, 2001. We also know that the security of our land borders affects not only border communities, but the country as a whole.


The recently released report *Transforming the Southern Border: Providing Security & Prosperity in the Post-9/11 World*, reflects the experiences of El Paso — and the entire border — over the past three years and clearly states the improvements we need to make to safeguard the region, the country and our economy. Of special significance to El Paso is the creation of a national Center of Excellence on Border Security at UTEP, which utilizes UTEP's vast research capabilities and resources to fight terrorism, a idea promoted at our recent *Border Security: The New Realities* conference at UTEP.

I commend my colleague, Congressman Jim Turner, the highest-ranking Democratic Member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, for his leadership in creating this report. Congressman Turner led the exhaustive, six-month investigation that resulted in this report, which included visits to the El Paso area. I appreciated the opportunity to contribute to this report and the border security legislation we will introduce in the House of Representatives. I look forward to working with Congressman Turner as we fight to pass this important bill.

The Transforming the Southern Border report recommendations include:

- The establishment of a \$1 billion Border Infrastructure Improvement Fund to truly modernize the infrastructure at our ports-of-entry
- An immediate increase in the staffing levels on the border, including double the amount of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel and an increase of 3,000 Border Patrol agents
- A detailed technology deployment plan to ensure that every mile of the border is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Improved intelligence by linking databases to allow for information sharing between CBP inspectors, Border Patrol agents and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents
- An immediate outreach program to border communities to discuss US-VISIT implementation and fully prepare ports-of-entry for US-VISIT.

Through collaboration with policy makers in Washington, law enforcement agencies along the border and border communities such as El Paso, we will make this report's recommendations a reality. With the terrorist threats facing our nation, we should not accept anything less.





Four million in federal funds on the table for water, Canutillo ag center

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Funding for El Paso water projects and a new agricultural education center at Canutillo Independent School District is included in the yearly funding bill for the Veterans Administration (VA) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Congressman Silvestre Reyes said he has secured the following in the bill:

- \$3,500,000 for continuation of the El Paso Water Utilities/Fort Bliss Desalination Project;
- \$250,000 for the El Paso Water Utilities to extend water infrastructure to the colonias in El Paso County; and
- \$125,000 to the Canutillo Independent School District for construction of the Canutillo Agricultural Science and Research Center, which will include agricultural science in the CISD curriculum, incorporate new technologies into traditional agriculture and serve as an agricultural worker training site and community center.

“This bill includes funding for extremely important projects in El Paso,” said Reyes. “One of the most challenging issues facing El Paso is water scarcity. Not only does this bill help the Desalination Project move forward, but it will help extend clean, potable water to the colonias, areas in El Paso that desperately need this service.”

“This bill also recognizes the importance of an innovative new educational tool planned for Canutillo. Through the Canutillo Science and Research Center, area student and agricultural workers will gain access to opportunities that will improve education and professional opportunities, but the quality of life for the El Paso region as a whole,” said Reyes.

The House of Representatives is scheduled to consider this bill next week.

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Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss Tornillo Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

Tornillo ISD will hold a public hearing at 6:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 29, 2004, in the Board Meeting Room (Red Brick Building), at 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas 79853.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Tornillo ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 09/16/04 & 09/23/04

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Clint

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, at the Community Center, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Clint, Texas. The Town of Clint intends to submit an application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for grant assistance from the Texas Community Development Program.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow residents an opportunity to discuss the application, the community needs statements, the amount of TCDP funds available, eligible activities and the past use of TCDP funds. The Town of Clint encourages its residents to participate in the development of the application and to make their views known at this public hearing.

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views to the Town Clerk at PO Box 350, Clint, Texas 79836. Persons in need of assistance to attend are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 851-3146 to make arrangements.

Jessica Garza
Town Clerk

WTCC: 09/16/04

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Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss Canutillo Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, September 28, 2004 in the boardroom of the Canutillo ISD Administration Facility, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas.

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

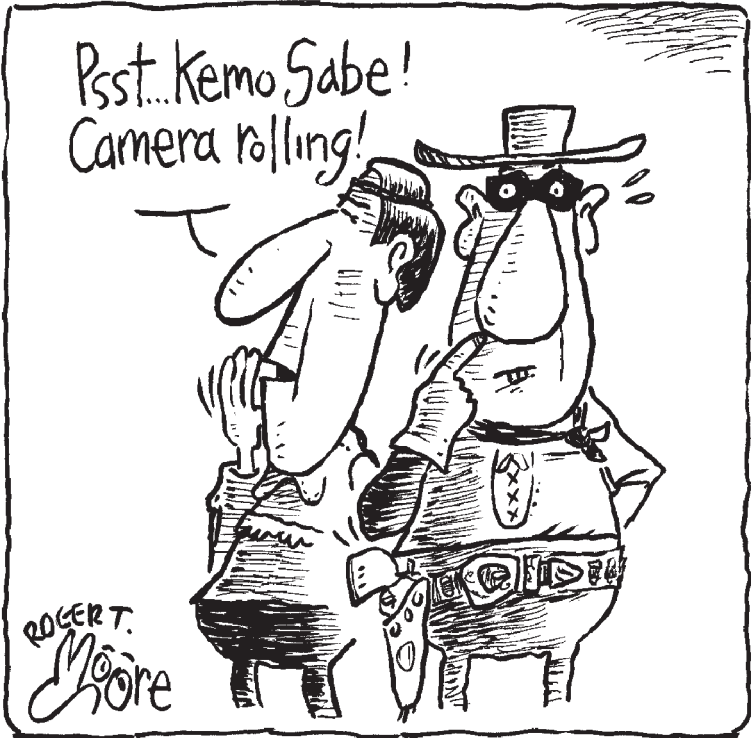
Aviso de Junta Pública Para Dialogar Sobre el Estado Financiero del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo

El Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo tendrá junta el día martes 28 de septiembre del 2004 a las 6 p.m. en la sala de juntas del Edificio Administrativo del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo, localizado en 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas.

El propósito de la junta es para hablar sobre el sistema del estado financiero del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo y la clasificación del mismo bajo el Sistema Estatal de Responsabilidad Financiera.

WTCC: 09/16/04

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Sept. 15, 1949: After being on radio for years, the Lone Ranger debuts on ABC-TV.



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Public Notice

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The September 30 and October 7, 2004 issues will go to press on Monday, September 27, 2004.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Friday, September 24, 2004.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Monday, September 27, 2004. The office will open again on Tuesday, October 12, 2004.

San Elizario Independent School District

Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The San Elizario Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; or Section 504 Coordinator: Emigdio Gonzalez, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3960. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Notificación Publica

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de San Elizario prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de San Elizario esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, del Acta de la Discriminación por Edad de 1975, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con la Coordinadora de Título IX: Superintendente Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; o Coordinadora de Sección 504: Emigdio Gonzalez, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3960. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC: 09/16/04

Early detection of prostate cancer can save a life

The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be about 230,900 new cases of prostate cancer in the U.S. this year and about 29,900 men will die from the disease. Prostate cancer is still the most common type of cancer found in American men other than skin cancer.

Throughout September, which is prostate cancer awareness month, Timothy Wilson, MD, Director of Urology and Urologic Oncology at City of Hope Cancer Center in Los Angeles, emphasizes that prevention and early detection can reduce the risk of prostate cancer and improve treatment outcomes for those who are diagnosed with the disease.

“The exact cause of prostate cancer is unknown but risk of its development is associated with age, family history, race, environmental exposure, and certain nutritional deficiencies,” says Dr. Wilson.”

When symptoms are present, they may include some of the following:

- A weak flow of urine;
- frequent or painful urination;
- blood in the urine or semen; and
- pain in the lower back, pelvis, or upper thighs.

Dr. Wilson recommends that all men over the age of 50 visit their physician for a yearly exam. This exam should include:

- A discussion about risk factors and possible symptoms;
- a digital rectal examination (DRE) to detect irregularities of the prostate; and
- a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test.

Men who are at high risk for prostate cancer-especially African Americans or men who have close family members with prostate cancer-should consider beginning these tests at an earlier age.

Men should take proactive measures to live free of the disease. Dr. Wilson suggests the following:

- Eat a balanced diet, high in fruits and vegetables and low in fat;
- watch your weight, exercise daily;
- limit alcohol consumption;
- know the risk factors and be aware of changes in your body; and
- see a physician for a yearly exam.

For information about prostate cancer research and treatment at City of Hope Cancer Center, call 1-800-826-HOPE or visit www.cityofhope.org.

El Pasoans deserve fair taxes

Washington, D.C. — In an effort to decrease taxes for El Pasoans, Rep. Silvestre Reyes joined Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and other colleagues from Texas, Wyoming, Washington and Florida to voice bi-partisan support for the inclusion of a meaningful state sales tax deduction in the American Jobs Creation Act conference report.

In July, the U.S. House of Representatives passed corporate tax legislation known as the “American Jobs Creation Act.” The bill includes a provision that would allow people in states without a state income tax, such as Texas, to deduct sales tax on their federal income taxes for two years.

“I strongly support allowing Texas residents to deduct state sales tax on their federal returns,” said Reyes. “This is an issue of simple tax fairness. In fact, I am an original co-sponsor of the Sales Tax Equity Act, which would allow Texans to make this deduction permanent, rather than just a temporary, two-year measure.”

San Elizario Independent School District

Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Programs

- 1) The San Elizario Independent School District offers career and technolgy programs in Consumer and Family Science, Business, Cosmetology, Health Science Technologies, TEL-NET Networking, Advertising and Graphic Design, Building Trades and Auto Technology. Admission to these programs is based on course pre-requisite and grade level classifications. For program information call Julian Encina at 872-3939, ext. 3844.
- 2) It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) The San Elizario Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all education and vocational programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact Superintendent Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia

- 1) El distrito escolar de San Elizario está ofreciendo programas de carrera y tecnología en Ciencia al Consumidor y Familia, Negocios, Cosmetología, Técnica de Salud, Red de Computación TEL-NET, Publicidad/Promoción y Diseños Graficos, Técnica de Carpentería, y Técnica Mecánica. Para poderse admitir en estos programas tienen que estar registrados en el distrito de San Elizario y completar los requisitos necesarios. Para más información contacto Julian Encina a 872-3939, ext. 3844
- 2) Es la póliza del distrito de San Elizario de no discriminar por causa de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, o deshabilidad en estos programas vocacionales, servicios, o actividades requeridos por el Título IV del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, que fue enmendada, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rahabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.
- 3) Es la póliza del distrito de San Elizario de no discriminar por causa de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, deshabilidad, o la edad en sus metodos de empleo exigido por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, enmendada por las Enmienda Educativas de 1972, del Acta de la Discriminación por Edad de 1975, como enmendada, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.
- 4) El distrito escolar de San Elizario tomará pasos para asegurar que la falta de ingles no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas vocacionales y educativos.
- 5) Para más información de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el Superintendente Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC: 09/16/04

SHS grad is now expert at creating Vegas theater magic

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — When Merrill Whittenberger was a theater student at Socorro High School back in 1990, he had hopes of making a career in theater behind the stage, not necessarily on the stage. Today, Whittenberger is holds one of the plum jobs in his profession.

He’s a prop master for the Cirque du Soleil organization in Las Vegas, Nevada and Aug. 31, he returned to Troy Herbort’s theater classes at SHS, talking to students and helping them understand backstage work and competition on Las Vegas Boulevard — and how he got there.

Whittenberger is working on a new, untitled show to be produced by the Cirque organization at the MGM Grand Hotel. Details are secret, he says, so he can’t really talk about the new production. During a vacation week, he returned to El Paso and called Herbort, his former teacher, and was in turn invited to speak to the class.

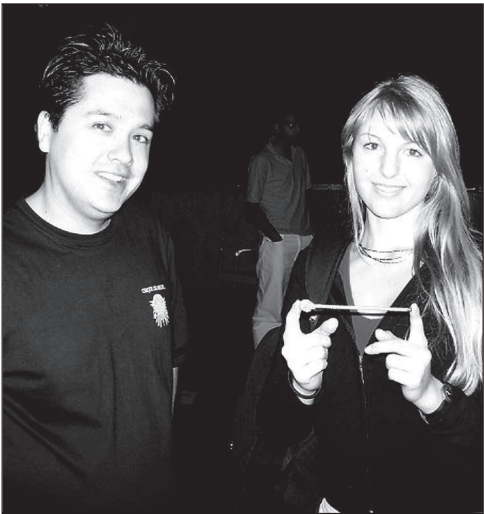
He’s been in Las Vegas five months. “In this business now, everything is high tech, and everything is documented,” he told a crowd of students gathered in the SHS Performing Arts Theater. “It has to be documented because, if you have a show that runs for 10 years and something breaks down, how was it built? How do we fix it? We have a server dedicated to holding all that information, including problems and how

the problems were fixed.” SHS German exchange student Johanna Steiner was so intrigued by Whittenberger’s presentation, complete with videotaped segments of Cirque du Soleil’s acrobatic O and Mystere Las Vegas shows, that she stayed for both sessions. The shows feature acrobats, clowns, contortionists, magicians, dancers and high wire acts performing against dramatic lighting and illusionary sets.

“It was interesting to see how many different jobs are part of your duties — the lights, the special effects,” Steiner told Whittenberger, smiling, “but I didn’t like the contortionist so much.”

A prop master makes and maintains the performers’ tools and equipment, among other duties. Whittenberger told the students that computer skills and engineering classes should be on their academic agendas.

“You need to know both the Mac and IBM platforms very well,” he told the students. “You need to start learning engineering programs. Most of the stuff we use is AutoCAD (an engineering design program) in 3-D. In this business, you need to specialize. It’s not just about what’s physically in the theater. You need to know the math and science behind it. You need to know about carpentry and metalwork welding, hydraulics and mechanics. That’s where theater is leading to — automation.”



A WORD TO THE WISE — MGM Grand Hotel propmaster and Socorro High School graduate Merrill Whittenberger listened to Socorro High School student Johanna Steiner during a visit Aug. 31.

San Elizario Independent School District Special Education Services

San Elizario Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified disabled children who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

- 1) Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; 10) Homebound Services; and 11) Dyslexia Services

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC § 1400, ET SEQ), parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policies FL and FL-E provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Emigdio Gonzalez, Special Education Director, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office , San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3926. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Servicios de Educacion Especial

El distrito escolar de San Elizario provee los siguientes programas/servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

- 1) programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terepia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia fisica; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; 10) servicios de clases en el hogar; y 10) servicios de dyslexia*

Se provee servicios a niños identificados como desabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Individuos con Educacionales Desabilitados Acto (20 USC § 1400, ET SEQ), padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Polizas FL y FL-E explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Clint que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Emigdio Gonzalez, Directora de Educación Especial, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3926. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Town of Clint PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20, 2004 during the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at the Clint Town Hall, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Clint, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the following:

- 1) A hearing has been requested by Francisco Montes, to consider the REZONING OF 19 SAN ELIZARIO GRANT, TRACT 5B FROM AGRICULTURAL TO RESIDENTIAL.
- 2) A hearing has been requested by Francisco Montes, to consider the PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR THE MONTES SUBDIVISION, in 19 SAN ELIZARIO GRANT, of TRACT 5B.
- 3) A hearing has been requested by Oscar Dominguez, to consider the PRELIMINARY PLAT for the SUBDIVISION of LOT 9, BLOCK 5 BURBRIDGE ACRES.

The public is invited to attend the hearing to make any comments regarding this request. Those that are unable to attend may submit their reviews in writing to the Town of Clint, PO Box 350, Clint, Texas. Persons in need of assistance to attend are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 851-3146.

*Jessica Garza
Town Clerk*

Town of Clint PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held during a **Special Town Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at 6: P.M.**, at the Clint Community Center, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Clint, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding:

- 1) An ordinance adopting a budget for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2004 and ending on September 30, 2005 for the Town of Clint, Texas.
- 2) An ordinance levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government of the Town of Clint, Texas for the 2004-2005 fiscal year; providing for apportioning each levy for specific purposes; and, providing when taxes shall become due and when same shall become delinquent if not paid.
- 3) Ordinance # 45G, Amending Ordinance 45 through 45F, establishing liquor zones within the town limits of the Town of Clint, Texas.
- 4) Ordinance # 9A, Amending Ordinance 9, adopting by reference and in latest edition, the following as official model codes for the Town of Clint, Texas.
- 5) Ordinance #125, Designating Williams Street as one-way during designated school hours within the town limits of the Town of Clint, Texas.

Copies are available for review at Town Hall. The public is invited to attend the hearing to make any comments regarding the above ordinances. Citizens unable to attend may submit their views to the Town Clerk at PO Box 350, Clint, Texas 79836. Persons who wish to attend and are in need of assistance are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 851-3146.

*Jessica Garza
Town Clerk*

Bonds’ milestone comes with apathy, attitude and possibly an asterisk

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

With the start of the National Football League regular season last weekend, professional baseball has slipped out of the limelight a bit.

There are some great races going down the stretch and the focus should return to the national pastime at the end of the month with the start of the playoffs.

But the biggest story in baseball nobody seems to care about is the story of Barry Bonds and his assault on the Major League home run record. As of Monday, when I wrote this, Bonds was just one home run shy of the magical number 700 and for the most part, the general public could care less.

Why is that?

I mean you don’t hit your 700th home run everyday you know.

Why did everyone in the country get behind Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa and Ken

Griffey Jr. when they were chasing legendary home run records?

Easy, it was all so new and the public genuinely liked them.

Yeah, since then McGwire was linked to performance enhancing drugs, Griffey Jr. got a big head after reading too many of his press clippings and Sosa stuffed a little bit of cork in his bat. Do the new milestones these players achieve come with an asterisk in the record books?

But at the time, these guys were loved and cheered on by a nation.

Mays and Willie McCovey?

Bonds is a great player. Is Barry Bonds the greatest player of all time? I don’t know. There’s no doubt he belongs in the top five, but the sad thing is that more people want him to fail than want him to succeed.

And his attitude is the reason why. Bonds was disliked way before there was even any talk concerning his alleged steroids use.

So, sadly, Bonds will eventually pass Babe Ruth and break Hank Aaron’s all-time home run record and it will be difficult to cheer for him.

When monumental records fall you want to soak up the moment. But this will be one moment you’re forced to endure.

It’s sad for him as a great player and even sadder for us as fans.

Big test for Miners

Mike Price got his first win as head coach of the UTEP Miners last weekend over little Weber State.

Now before you cynics out there start with the “it was just Weber State,” talk, remember that UTEP took on little Cal-Poly last year with basically the same team. And the Miners got whacked 34-14.

Price had about 10 minutes to celebrate this win before the realization came over him that the Miners have to play Boise State at the Sun Bowl this Saturday.

Bonds, on the other hand, has remained consistent — he has been a jerk from day one.

He’s been unfriendly to the press and the fans and he’s always been a guy even his own teammates couldn’t stand.

And lately Bonds has been making a lot of controversial comments about how some cities are more racist than others and about the struggle of the black man.

Naturally some cities are more racist than others but how the heck would he know? Talk about a guy of privilege. This is a guy who makes millions upon millions of dollars. He has a personal rule about teammates not being allowed near his personal space in the clubhouse.

Are you kidding me? Barry Bonds hung out with big leaguers as a kid when his father, Bobby Bonds, was a member of the San Francisco Giants. How many of us have an all-star as a dad and grew up hanging with the likes of Willie

Again, I give the Miners as much of a chance to win this game as I gave them to beat ASU, none. But again, the Miners are improving and are two years away from a potential WAC championship under Price.

If UTEP can keep this game within a couple touchdowns I’ll be thoroughly impressed and surprised.



But don’t count on it.


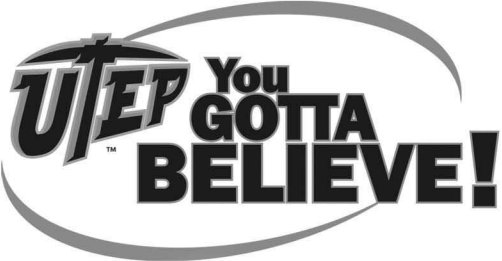
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TITLED TITLES ACROSS									
1 Actor	63 Steeple part	120 Catherine _ - Jones	30 Ram's remark	84 Work on a crossword?					
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19 Sore	74 C.S. Forester book	136 Tombstone lawman	40 Yan's pans	94 Pours gently					
20 Hose problem	78 Certain orchestra	137 Harvest	41 Dislodge	96 Figure of interest?					
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23 Eugene O'Neill drama	86 Castilian cry	141 Rochester's missis	49 High-toned guy?	99 Word of woe					
26 Hangs tinsel	87 Actress Burke		52 Sophoclean tragedy	105 Mischief-maker					
27 British astronomer	89 Item in a lock	DOWN	53 Pleasant	106 Trickled					
28 Cipher	91 Exodus figure	1 Walkway	54 Mingo's portrayer	108 Mist					
29 Baby shark	93 Stevie Wonder song	2 Resound	56 Southern staple	110 "Back in the _ " ('68 song)					
31 Manumit	95 Hal Foster comic strip	3 He and she	57 Colorful fish	111 "Watch out!"					
32 Ike's domain	100 Ponchielli's	4 A hole near the sole	58 Harold of	112 Cartoonist					
34 Nom de crime?	"Dance of the _"	5 Bit part in	"Ghostbusters"	Bushmiller					
38 More delicate	102 Belfry sound	6 Singer Foxx	59 Capt.'s subordinate	113 Campbell or Judd					
40 "Rawhide" and "Gunsmoke"	103 Hog's honey	7 Venture	60 Gluck's _ ed Euridice"	115 Alarm button					
45 _ Flynn Boyle	104 "How sweet _!"	8 Where Athenians assembled	64 Bogus Bach	117 Understands					
46 Hoffmann creation	107 React to an allergen	9 Scott's "The _ Quartet"	67 Jacobi of "I, Claudius"	119 "Lemon _ " ('65 hit)					
47 "Ab _ " (from the start)	109 "Madame Bovary" author	10 Past	68 Black	121 Obsolete title					
48 Sock spot	112 Pepsin or lipase	11 Clamor	70 Cola cooler	122 Lot size					
50 Bar supply	114 Operetta composer	12 Evelyn's brother	71 Raptor feature	124 Carry out orders					
51 George Hamilton's ex	116 Vane dir.	13 Upshot	73 Chou _	125 Circus sound					
55 Roger Miller tune	117 Schwarzenegger's birthplace	14 Select, with "for"	75 In good shape	126 Waterproofing material					
59 Joseph Conrad novel	118 Dino, to the Flintstones	15 20th President	76 Civil Rights org.	128 Shrug part					
61 Steep slope		16 Chateau valley	77 Israeli airline	130 Private pension					
62 With 25 Down, successful		17 Glue guy	78 Ritzy	131 Palindromic diarist					
		18 Health measure?	79 Hodgepodge	132 Artichoke heart?					
		24 Dole (out)	80 Lima's land	133 Intelligent					
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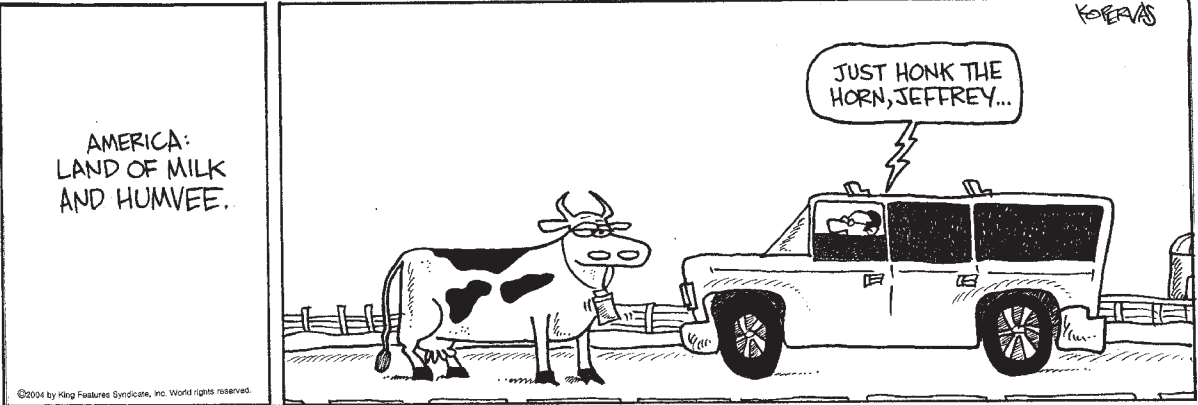
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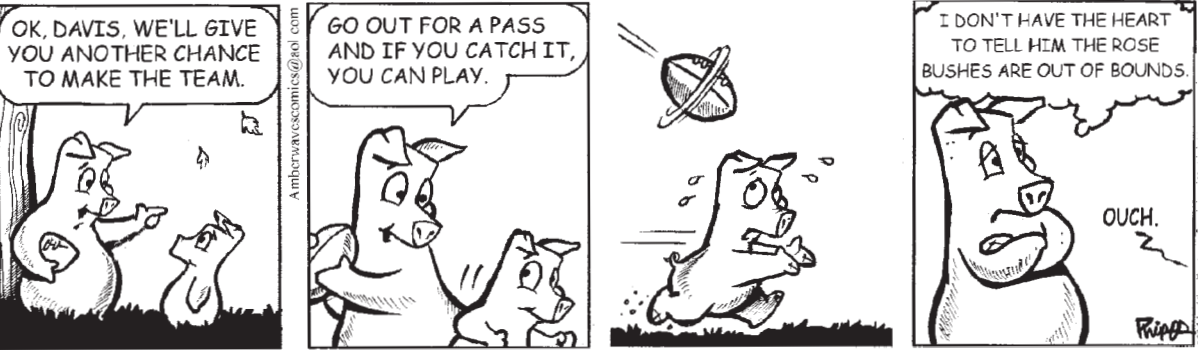
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



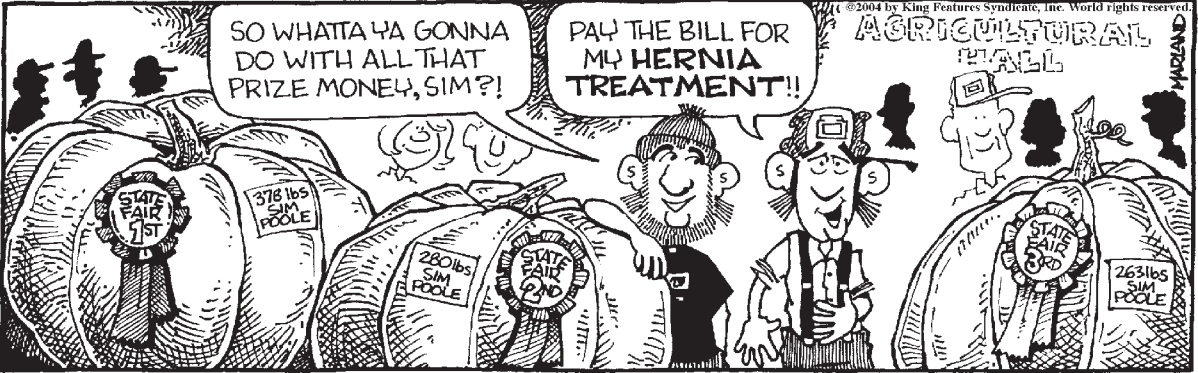
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Classified Ads

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, Sept. 18. Starts 7 a.m. Lots of stuff. 15348 Werling Ct., Horizon City.

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Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

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www.wtccourier.com

Spider Man

By Don Flood

It happened long ago, in a condo far, far away.

We were on vacation at the beach.

My wife was making hotcakes when I heard a sound that could mean only one of two things:

1) A nuclear power plant in a neighboring state was sending out a supersonic hyperblast to warn people of a disaster; or

2) My wife had found a spider in the kitchen.

Unfortunately, it was No. 2, which meant that I, as the only person in our household with a CSS (Certified Spider Slayer) designation, had to get up off the couch to handle the emergency.

I sized up the spider's escape routes and quickly formed a plan of action.

Like all spiders, this one thought it was smarter than me. (How do I know that? I've been doing this a long time.)

Taking up my weapon of choice, I lunged for the cocky little creature with the business end of a rather roughly textured paper towel.

And it disappeared — I mean just disappeared off the face of the Earth, as if it had been beamed up into the Spider Enterprise.

It was smarter than me.

But the worst part was: THERE WAS NOW A SPIDER LOOSE IN OUR KITCHEN, AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE IT WAS.

This, of course, could mean instant panic, bedlam, evacuation and the loss of the money we had spent on the condo. (Why hadn't I bought spider insurance!)

In desperation, I picked up the spice rack, though at the time I had no reason to believe this spider liked spices.

There it was — hiding in between the allspice and this weird “poultry spice” that could also be used on seafood.

“Ha!” I thought, “I’ve got you now!”

Our condo was on the third floor, so I walked to the balcony overlooking the front entrance and began shaking the spice rack.

I think I got the spider; however, the details became blurred in what transpired next.

As I was busy de-spiderizing the spice rack, a few of the spice containers dropped from the third floor, landing harmlessly in the dirt.

Just then a couple walked up.

Though concentrating on the matter at hand, it occurred to me that shaking a spice rack and dropping spice containers from the third floor might seem odd behavior.

“I’m getting rid of a spider,” I said, thinking at the time that this was, of course, a perfectly logical explanation.

“By dropping spice jars on it?”

“Oh, no,” I said with a jovial laugh to show that I wasn’t a nut case. “The spider was in my kitchen.”

“Oh, I see.”

The quick look between husband and wife, however, betrayed their true reaction: They were dealing with a potentially dangerous lunatic, who, thankfully, appeared to be armed only with plastic spice containers.

“We’re leaving today anyway,” she whispered, as they hurried on their way.

Even though I was on vacation, I realized, it was just another day in the life of a Certified Spider Slayer.

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Briefs

From Page 1

■ Canutillo Independent School District will hold parent/teacher conferences at all campuses from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., according to spokesman Kim Guzman. Canutillo High School's conferences will be Tuesday, Sept. 21; Canutillo Middle School's on Wednesday, Sept. 22; and the four elementary schools will be Thursday, Sept. 23. Teachers will be available in their classrooms. High school and middle school students will be released at 11:30 a.m. on the day of conferences. Elementary school students will be released at 12:30 p.m. on conference day. Also, all campuses will have early release day Friday, Sept. 24 for both teachers and students.

■ The Chamizal National Memorial and the Consulate General of Mexico will present Sonidos del Ayer, an exhibit of Pre-Columbian musical instruments from Mexico. The exhibit is now open in the Los Paisanos Gallery and will run through Sept. 30. Sonidos del Ayer consists of over 100 archeological pieces dating from about 1500 years ago. This

traveling exhibit, on loan from the Museo Regional de Guadalajara, features flutes, whistles, trumpets, and drums among other instruments. For additional information, call 532-7273.

■ Canutillo High School Class of 1974 will hold its 30th anniversary reunion on Nov. 13 at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino. Members of the classes of '73 and '75 are also invited. Call 494-2494 for information/reservations.

■ Jane A. Hambric School's H2O Club (the Healthy Hawks Organization) is planning to lead a walk around the campus at 9 a.m., Sept. 16. The pre-K-8 campus is located at 3535 Nolan Richardson Drive, south of Montana Street. Judy Priego, school nurse, says parents, some faculty members and students will walk together to kick off a campaign to encourage healthy habits. “We want the students to exercise more and drink more water. The Walk El Paso organization will be here with T-shirts for the first 50 parents, and through the year we'll have prizes for the students who exercise regularly. They'll get points for exercising and keeping accurate records of their activities.” For more information, call the school, 937-4600.

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I get a disability check from Social Security. But I am supporting my 24-year-old daughter. She is an unemployed single mom with no other income. Can she also receive Social Security based on my disability?

A: No. Social Security only pays dependent's benefits to children under age 18, or to children over age 18 if they are disabled.

Q: I am a 62-year-old woman who was married for almost 30 years before my divorce several years ago. I know that I can expect to get a relatively small Social Security retirement check, since I mostly worked part-time jobs. However, I am thinking of remarrying my ex-husband. He is 66 and already getting about \$1,800 per month from Social Security. Would I be entitled to wife's benefits if I remarry him?

A: Yes, you would. But you also should know that you would be due the same benefits even if you do not remarry. Under Social Security, a divorced wife who was married for more than 10 years and is currently unmarried is entitled to the same benefits as a wife.

Q: I often hear people talk about working until they qualify for early retirement at age 62, or working until they reach their full retirement age. But I was planning to work until I am 63. Can I apply for Social Security retirement benefits then?

A: You can apply for Social Security benefits at anytime after age 62. If you wait until your full retirement

age, you will get full benefits. Before that time, benefits would be reduced by about one-half of one percent for each month.

Q: I am an administrative assistant for a county sheriff's office and will be eligible for a county pension at age 60. But I also have Social Security coverage, having paid into the system for the past 36 years. Will my Social Security retirement benefit be reduced because of my county pension?









A: No. But the earliest that you can start collecting Social Security retirement benefits is age 62. If you start your Social Security at 62, your benefit will be reduced for early retirement, but it will not be reduced because you get a county pension. However, you should check with your county pension office to find out if it will reduce your county pension once your Social Security benefits start.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Mostly sunny.	Partly cloudy.	Sunshine and a few clouds.	Sunshine mixing with some clouds.	Partly sunny; a t-storm possible in the afternoon.	Some sun with a shower or t-storm possible.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 94°	▼ 67°	▲ 93° ▼ 68°	▲ 93° ▼ 67°	▲ 91° ▼ 66°	▲ 91° ▼ 62°	▲ 87° ▼ 58°	▲ 81° ▼ 54°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

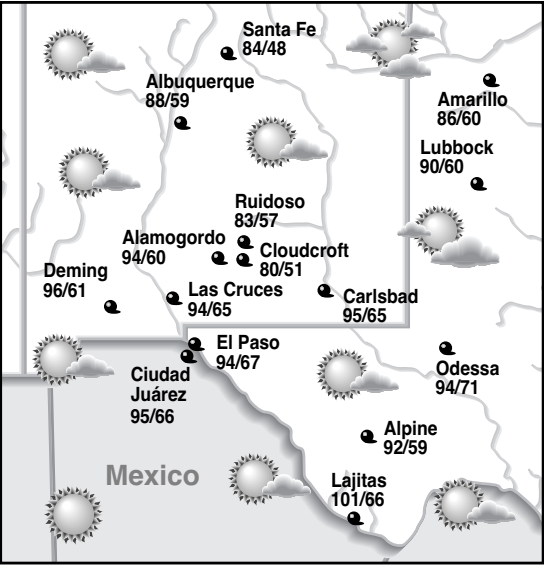
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	9	Very High
Friday	9	Very High
Saturday	9	Very High
Sunday	9	Very High
Monday	8	High
Tuesday	9	Very High
Wednesday	9	Very High

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	96	67
Canutillo	96	67
Clint	95	68
E. Montana	94	67
Fabens	95	68
Horizon	96	68
San Elizario	93	65
Socorro	93	66
Tornillo	95	68
Vinton	96	67

Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	88/59/s	84/59/s	85/58/s	82/57/s	83/50/s
Atlanta	78/71/r	83/64/r	86/64/pc	86/64/pc	86/64/s
Atlantic City	82/66/sh	75/63/t	74/60/r	78/63/pc	77/61/r
Austin/San Antonio	96/68/s	95/68/s	97/68/s	95/69/s	92/69/s
Baltimore	80/68/t	76/66/r	76/64/r	78/62/pc	78/62/r
Boston	77/64/sh	76/58/c	64/58/r	73/61/r	74/61/r
Chicago	72/54/pc	76/56/pc	76/58/pc	78/58/s	76/56/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	93/73/s	91/70/s	93/72/s	94/70/s	93/69/s
Denver	77/51/s	81/51/s	82/52/s	76/48/s	75/37/c
Flagstaff	80/44/s	76/44/s	74/42/s	74/42/s	72/36/s
Houston	95/71/pc	95/71/s	95/70/s	93/71/s	94/71/pc
Kansas City	78/57/s	84/59/s	85/62/s	85/60/s	81/53/c
Las Vegas	98/72/s	96/71/s	94/69/s	91/66/s	86/62/s
Miami	91/78/t	91/78/t	91/78/t	90/78/t	90/77/t
Minneapolis	70/54/s	74/56/pc	75/54/pc	76/54/pc	73/46/r
New Orleans	88/77/r	88/75/pc	91/72/s	89/71/s	89/75/s
New York City	81/66/sh	76/66/r	74/64/r	76/67/c	77/67/r
Philadelphia	80/68/sh	76/66/t	76/66/r	76/64/sh	77/65/r
Phoenix	103/79/s	102/78/s	102/76/s	98/76/t	97/69/s
Portland	71/54/pc	68/54/sh	66/52/sh	70/54/c	68/54/c
San Francisco	74/56/pc	72/56/s	72/56/pc	72/55/s	75/57/s
Seattle	62/52/pc	62/52/r	60/48/sh	64/50/c	65/51/c
Tucson	98/68/s	96/68/s	94/68/s	95/67/s	92/64/s
Washington, DC	83/68/sh	78/68/r	76/66/r	80/65/pc	78/66/r

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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