



NEWSBRIEFS

Stuff for soldiers

East Montana Middle School Student Council and Library Club collected items for U.S. soldiers in Iraq in November — over 27 large boxes worth — by offering prizes to the class who donated the most items. A list of acceptable items was provided by the military and included sunflower seeds, games, playing cards, stationary, toiletries, candy, hot sauce, Frisbees, snacks and more. The boxes were delivered to Biggs Army Airfield in El Paso on Nov. 17 and loaded on a direct flight to the soldiers in Iraq. This is not the first time EMMS students have helped the U.S. soldiers. In September, the Library Club collected \$400 in change donated by teachers, staff and students. The money was donated to the Millions of Minutes for Soldiers campaign sponsored by KVIA Channel 7 to purchase calling cards for the soldiers. The Library Club is sponsored by Carol Siefker and the Student Council is sponsored by Lorenza Marquez.

Horizon parade

The Horizon City Youth Association is inviting the community to attend the 10th Annual Christmas Parade on Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. The parade route will begin at the intersection of Ashford St. and Ryderwood Ave., at Col. John O. Ensor Middle School and Horizon Heights Elementary School, to proceed south down Darrington Rd. to Horizon Blvd. then east on Horizon to Breau St., over to McMahon Ave. and east to conclude at Carroll T. Welch Intermediate School. The parade and the viewing public has grown annually — last year there were about 2500 spectators along the route. Bands, ROTC units, cheerleaders, civic organizations, law enforcement and emergency vehicles and many local businesses participate — no entry is too large or too small and registration for entries is open until Dec. 7 with NO FEE to participate. Vendors with food and goodies are anticipated. For information call 867-8001 or 852-9349.

In other news

■ A Christmas Bazaar will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 11, hosted by the Coronado Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, at 223 S. Resler. Residents, family and staff have joined to provide a variety of food, arts and crafts, jewelry, cosmetics, toys and more. For information contact Sylvia Medina, 373-1858.

■ The talents of El Dorado High School's Fine Arts Department will be on display this holiday season, especially during the school's Dec. 13 Fine Arts Gala. The evening will begin with a fundraising dinner prepared by Johnny Carino's restaurant. Price of the dinner is \$6.50. Student

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You cannot have a better tomorrow if you are thinking about yesterday all day today.

— Quips & Quotes

Canutillo CASA moves into new casa

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — CASA has a new casa in Canutillo.

While CASA (Canutillo Action for Students and Adults) has a new home on Doniphan Drive, it has the same mission of positive service, support and enrichment for the Upper Valley community.

The primary thrust of CASA, which has been in the Canutillo area for five years, is to help youth. Forty “developmental assets” are at the core of that thrust, says Carmen Monrreal who is in her third year as executive director of CASA that is under the umbrella of the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation which funds the program.

These 40 assets are described as “building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible.”

These assets, she adds, are designed to unite the community in providing opportunities for youth to stay healthy and to stay away from “destructive behaviors” such as drugs. It also provides opportunities for youth to become leaders in the community.

A few of these assets involve the family:

- “Family life provides high levels of love and support.”
- “Young person and his or her parent(s) communicate positively and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parent(s).”

The assets also cover a caring neighborhood — “young person experiences caring neighbors” and a caring school climate — “school provides a caring, encouraging environment.”

The scope of CASA also covers the category of personal identity wherein a young person “feels he or she has control over ‘things that happen to me.’” This includes the person developing high self esteem and sense of purpose.

Other areas cover constructive use of time, positive values, and social competencies.

Training has been on-going this fall for the



GROWTH — Carmen Monrreal is in her third year as head of CASA in Canutillo. Just as CASA has grown into new quarters on Doniphan, Monrreal says what inspires her is the personal growth she sees in the people associated with the program.

youth who are learning various skills associated with the 40 developmental assets. They have learned about newsletter writing, grant writing and voting procedures as well as conflict resolution, video production and website design.

“We want to give them the skills to serve the community,” Monrreal says.

Serving the community recently meant cleaning up the community in a “Make a Difference Day” Oct. 24 during which they focused on graffiti wipe-out.

Eighteen young people, 12-19 years of age, serve on a Youth Council and comprise the youth component of the program. They come from Canutillo, Vinton, Westway and Border-

land areas. Another 10 will take part in various projects, Monrreal adds.

The Youth Council is one arm of CASA's board of directors that includes 12 adults.

The other arm is partnership representatives — church leaders, law enforcement officers, community members and business people.

“They (the kids) have so much potential; the talent is there,” the executive director says. She speaks of youth, who once hid their talents, but who now “blossom like a flower” when they use begin to use those talents. “I have seen it in so many of them.”

Monrreal says, “I am very proud of the kids. I feel blessed. They have shown tremendous desire to serve the community.”

Briones noted for family support efforts

EL PASO COUNTY — The El Paso National Family Week Planning Committee selected County Judge Dolores Briones for the National Family Week Advocacy Award last week. The award is given to an individual who has evidenced strong commitment to El Paso's children and families.

Richard Salcido, executive director of Family Services of El Paso and chairman of the National Family Week Planning Committee will present the award to Judge Briones during a press conference at 9:30 a.m. Monday Nov. 29 on the third floor of the El Paso County Courthouse.

Salcido described the award as a recognition of people who have:

- Advocated for policy that enhances the lives of children, families and communities;
- Presented an initiative that furthers the policy goals of the organization;
- Lent support to legislation;

- Convened a public discussion of issues; or
- Headed an organization that has accomplished the above.

Salcido said Judge Briones was selected for the award because of her creation of the County's “Strong Families, Strong Future” initiative — a children and families agenda that strengthens families by focusing on factors that contribute to family self-sufficiency and family success.

“Her work as County Judge is guided by this initiative,” Salcido said. “Under Judge Briones' leadership, the County of El Paso has established goals that focus on investing in the

workforce and implementing an action agenda for children and families. She has established progressive policies that are guided by one fundamental question: ‘Does this strengthen families?’”

— Contributed by Guadalupe Silva



Dolores Briones

New task force will increase federal, state and local coordination to fight human trafficking

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, Chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights subcommittee, was in El Paso on last week to unveil a new task force designed to combat human trafficking and slavery, joined by state and federal officials, including Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas. Cornyn, a former Texas Attorney General, also announced new legislation aimed at eradicating international human trafficking.

“Texas has led the way in enacting laws to criminalize human trafficking and in giving officials the incentives and tools they need to investigate and prosecute these

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One perspective

By Francis Shrum

'Tis the season

The lights go up. The weather cools down. The credit cards heat up. The bank balance goes down. 'Tis the season.

The ups and downs of the American holiday season are predictable and anticipated, with equal amounts of dread and excitement. Excited anticipation for the change of pace, the excitement, the getting. Dread because, for many if not most, the holidays signal a time when we just might have to recognize that things are not what they should be — and we'll be getting the bill for it sometime early next year.

Like the fallacy of a New Year's resolution, the Christmas season in our increasingly secularized society is little more than slapping a gaudy mask over what we have become, and becoming something that is less and less attractive.

Christmas spirit of the bottled variety figures in, of course. We've all heard the grim statistics about deaths from drunk driving going up during the holidays, of surges in incidents of domestic violence and suicides while the billboards and advertisements are proclaiming peace on earth.

But I was struck this week by a newspaper article about holiday shopping. And it wasn't directed at drunk drivers and wife-beaters. They were talking to the average man and woman who drive their kids to school and lock the doors at night.

They were talking to you and me. And the nonchalant, off-hand sort of way in which they were presenting the information really made me sit up and take notice.

Forget Christmas of the *Little House on the Prairie* genre. This is the brave new world of today, where

the fastest, greediest, pushiest, and rudest prevail.

Watch out, America. 'Tis the season, and even our media — as badly behaved as it may be — feels that our general populace has degenerated to the point that it should be warned about behaving badly in the marketplace. We, persons of supposed intelligence, who subscribe to a newspaper to keep up with world events, need to be specifically instructed not run in stores; not fight over merchandise; to avoid hitting other people — especially children — with our shopping carts; and to expect long lines and therefore prepare to exercise patience.

I'm not making this up. These points were set apart, in a boxed section for emphasis, as the main points described in a lengthy article — just in case we couldn't exercise enough self-discipline to read the whole thing.

Even more startling was the fact that the editorial staff felt it was necessary to include sound reasons as to why it is in our *personal* best interest to exercise these basic points of courtesy such as "you or other shoppers could get hurt" or "rain checks will be available at some stores" so you really don't have to wrestle with your fellow shopper over limited and faddish items.

One store manager recommended that "people should remain calm at all times so everyone can enjoy the shopping experience." And he was talking about supposed adults.

I've heard folks say what a shame it is that Thanksgiving somehow got lost in the shuffle between Halloween and Christmas, but like all things American, it involves money. Afterall, the average consumer purchase for Thanksgiving involves

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El Paso funded for courthouse, border security, water

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Funding for several El Paso projects is included in the conference report of the Omnibus Appropriations bill that the House of Representatives recently passed, according to Congressman Silvestre Reyes.

This bill allocates funding for numerous federal departments and important local projects for fiscal year 2005.

The fiscal year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill includes:

- \$63,462,000 for the construction of a new El Paso Courthouse.
- "A new courthouse has long been a top priority of mine. Caseloads in El Paso have skyrocketed and the existing courthouse is far too outdated and overcrowded to serve our community adequately. Working together with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, I helped secure the funding necessary to move this construction forward," Reyes said.
- \$26,191,000 for construction of the border station at the Paso del Norte bridge.
- \$2,491,000 for construction of the border station at the Ysleta bridge.
- \$5,000,000 for continuation of the El Paso Water Utilities/Fort Bliss Desalination Project.
- "This funding, in addition to the \$24 million already secured for the project, underscores the strong federal financial commitment to El Paso's desalination efforts," said Reyes.
- \$1,232,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers for construction of the El Paso Flood Control Project.
- \$441,000 for the Haskell Street Wastewater Treatment Plant water recycle program to provide additional reclaimed water to El Paso.
- \$305,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers for the Northwest El Paso Flood Control Project - a flood damage prevention study.
- \$256,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue the Sparks Arroyo Flood Control Project.
- \$250,000 for the El Paso Water Utilities to extend water infrastructure to the colonias in El Paso County.
- \$25 million to improve water and waste disposal systems in the colonias along the United States/Mexico border.
- \$3,000,000 to the City of El Paso for the replacement of buses.
- \$1,000,000 for the design and construction of a Northeast Parkway in El Paso.
- \$500,000 to the City of El Paso for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program.
- \$1,100,000 for facilities and equipment at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso.

"These federal funds will help move the four-year medical school project forward, so that we can train new doctors and ultimately address the shortage of healthcare providers in here El Paso and across the border region," said Reyes.

• \$340,000 for Project ARRIBA (Advanced Retraining and Redevelopment Initiative in Border Areas), which provides high-skill, high-wage job training for eligible El Paso residents who require the occupational skills necessary to access jobs in hard-to-fill occupations, such as health care and computer technology.

"Project ARRIBA has a proven record of excellence in El Paso," said Reyes. "Its successful workforce

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Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Lending a helping hand to those in need

The holiday season is upon us, and what a wonderful time it is to spend with family and loved ones reliving old memories and making new ones. While we cherish these special moments, we should not forget about those among us who are not as fortunate.

All around our communities are hard working folks who, because of unfortunate circumstances, cannot stretch their paychecks for enough food for themselves or their families. Setting aside a portion of your afternoon or weekend to assist those less fortunate than us could make a huge difference — especially in this holiday season.

This country was built on individualism, which includes an individual's responsibility to his or her neighbors. Part of this responsibility is to lend a hand to a neighbor in their time of need. By giving a little of yourself, you not only empower your neigh-

bor, but you also make your community stronger and more united.

There is perhaps no better example of people uniting and working for the common good of the community than in small towns in South and West Texas. In these small Texas towns people are naturally charitable. Texans haven't forgotten to make it a priority to give something back to our communities. And it's not like you don't have anything else to do. You lead busy lives. You work, take care of families, go to church, coach little league, and yet still make the time to volunteer.

Many people think heroes are the people who beat the odds and achieve the impossible. But the people who do succeed against the odds aren't the only heroes. America is full of them. Heroes are the people who not only recognize that the world is full of need, they do something about it. They get up in the morning and de-

cide they are going to do something to make their community a better place.

There is nothing more satisfying than helping an impoverished child learn to read or delivering a good, hot meal to an elderly grandmother. Not only do you bring smiles to the faces of those you volunteer to help, but you get a warm feeling in your heart that lasts a long time.

The opportunities to help are boundless. If you're not involved, get involved. Make the decision to just do it. Whether it's stopping along the highway and picking up trash, or organizing a fundraiser to donate money to charity. You can make a difference. And to those who are already doing it, a hearty thank you. Giving to those in need around us, helping our neighbors, and assisting those with special needs — that is the true meaning of the holiday season.



Vaccimum

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

Sell your body. Sell your soul. Is that what it's come to, for a dose of vaccine? Leaving politics to those most inept at governance, the politicians, let us turn our "vaccimum" attention to the scientific side of the crisis at hand. Is there, indeed, a flu vaccine shortage? Is it important? Who is most at risk? What are the ramifications of influenza in an unprotected populace? What can we do about it?

Certainly, the fact that 56 million Americans, not to mention our legions of friends north and south of the borders, are prey to influenza each year. That, in itself, would not be alarming, if "Jewish penicillin" (chicken soup), comfortable pajamas, a soft, warm blanket, and a few days' bed rest fueled rapid recovery of our physiologic machines. What grinds the cogs to a halt is the realization that influenza is responsible for 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. And that is in no way comparable to tax credits for the rich and privileged, but rather something far more serious: a potential bombshell in the laps of the poor, the sick, the elderly, and the cancer-ridden, those most likely to reap the catastrophic harvest of a flu epidemic.

Up until now, the U.S. had been guaranteed 100,000,000 doses of flu vaccine each year, more than enough to ensure holiday cheer and smooth pursuance of Christmas shopping. Shutdown, however, of a vaccine production plant in Liverpool, England, operated by a U.S. company called Chiron (based in San Francisco), resulted in a 50 percent shortage of flu vaccine and prospective lumps of coal in fireplace-hung stockings this season, to the chagrin of store merchants and an economy already strapped to its limits.

Without "vaccimum" protection, what can Americans look forward to? Well, a myriad of things come to mind that run the gamut from discomforting but self-limited common colds to life-threatening pneumonias. And that's not all! Nasal channels, sinuses, eustachian tubes, tonsils, and bronchioles are all affected by the flu, and infection produces mucosal red-

ness and swelling, as well as an overproduction of mucus and symptoms that everyone is familiar with. Also, let us not forget that the influenza viruses mutate to protect themselves from our bodies' defenses, and that the pandemic of influenza in 1918 killed 20 million people and was caused by a swine influenza virus. That raises the conundrum of animals as "our best friends."

With current supplies of vaccine limited, certain groups of individuals have been asked to forgo or defer vaccination, and that includes some for whom vaccination was recommended in 2003, such as healthy adults 50 to 64 years of age and household contacts of high-risk persons other than children younger than 6 months of age. On the other hand, the priority groups for vaccination fall into seven categories: all children 6 to 23 months of age, adults 65 years of age or older, persons 2 to 64 years of age with chronic medical conditions, all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season, residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, health care workers involved in direct patient care, and out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children younger than 6 months of age.

As holiday credit card bills mount and children moan for the latest high-priced, technological toys they see on our big-screen, plasma TVs, which we don't have to pay for until 2006, we must ask if there is a "silver lining" to nasal passages ripe for phlegm and obstruction. Of course, there is. We can take "vaccimum" solace in the fact that simple precautions, like washing hands, covering mouths, and staying home from work when sick, can slow transmission of influenza. Furthermore, drugs like Tamiflu can make the flu more bearable, in the face of scalpers peddling doses of vaccine at 10 times the normal price and the cost of this year's flu epidemic hitting \$20 billion in medical payments and lost workdays.

What? You say you want to live forever. Maybe I'll just stay home, bar the windows, and cozy up to my big flat-screen. That won't do much for my finances, but it may prevent "vaccimal" sniffles.

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Dec. 2, 1854: Texas grants David Crockett's widow \$24 for "services at the Alamo".



View from here

By Byron Schlomach, Ph.D.

More money, less education

If it's possible to do something better, with less time and effort, then we should. It only makes sense, right? Who could disagree? You'd be surprised.

In every aspect of our lives, we know that if a task can be accomplished with less time and resources, that leaves more energy — almost by definition — available for other purposes. Efficiency, no matter where you are or what you do, is a good thing; it is the bedrock of improvement. Efficiency has led to our ever-improving standard of living and quality of life.

In every human endeavor, greater efficiency is prized. Every endeavor, that is, except public education. To suggest public education can be made more efficient borders on heresy.

If it is possible to accomplish the ends of public education with less time, effort, resources and money, we should. Doing so would lower taxes, improve lives and promote greater academic achievement for kids.

Can we actually provide "public education" at least as well, and possibly better, than today with fewer resources?

The answer is clearly "yes." Just consider the evidence.

Over the last 30 years we have tripled real, per-student spending in Texas. That is, we've tripled spending on top of enrollment growth and inflation! If we spent today, in today's dollars on a per-student basis, what we spent in 1990, property taxes would be 40 percent less than they are today!

What have we received for all that spending? The report card isn't en-

couraging.

The state has seen some improvement in the elementary grades. But where it really counts, at high school graduation, we've had no improvement. SAT and ACT scores are, at best, flat. For minority students, evidence shows their scores are actually falling. We have a huge dropout problem in the higher grades. Remediation for college preparation is big business.

Surely, we can do better!

We spend more per student than virtually any developed nation in the world; yet Malaysia, which spends less than a third as much per student as Texas, outscores American children on international math and science exams. We spend to reduce class sizes in the face of multiple studies showing efforts to reduce class size have essentially no effect on academic performance.

We've given our children new school buildings, computers, multimedia centers, fine arts centers, football stadiums, basketball arenas, and plenty of room to park their cars. We've given teachers broad contract rights, a duty-free lunch, an open class period every day, across-the-board pay raises, and fewer students in each classroom. Administrators are piled on administrators for the sake of administration. Where there once was one non-teaching person for every three teachers, we now have a one-to-one ratio.

What have we received for all these programs, employees and spending in the state's public education system? We have a lot more administrators, a lot more fancy buildings, and a lot more employees.

What we don't have are better-educated kids. More spending in public education doesn't give us more education; it just lightens our wallets. We spend more money, providing lots of frills, but very little of academic value.

When we spent a third of what we spend today, there were almost twice as many children for every teacher and school buildings were smaller and often un-air-conditioned. Yet our graduates were demonstrably better prepared for the world after high school.

Public education is a dysfunctional system; it is much better at spending money than doing anything else.

Schools in Texas face a staggering debt of \$48 billion — more than Iraq owes Arab countries, including reparations to Kuwait — yet they want to spend even more! Curriculum directors ask curriculum providers how much their product costs, not to get the best deal but to find out how to justify bigger budgets. Building superintendents contract for needless "maintenance" for the same reason.

All of this points to the need for fundamental, systemic change. We've tinkered around the edges long enough. There is not enough paper to write enough laws to prevent all the potential abuses when a whole system is focused on spending money. The focus must change.

For once, let's do something that will improve our schools and protect our taxpayers. Let's focus on efficiency.

Byron Schlomach, Ph.D., is the chief economist of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan research organization based in Austin, Texas .

What the public should know about old unused water wells

EL PASO COUNTY — Each parcel of land has a history as old as the earth and sky. It is common for properties to have had many owners through the years. Among the land use changes that may have occurred is the construction of one or more water wells put there by drilling, auguring, jetting, or even by digging a hole or excavating around a spring or seepage.

Out-of-service wells of any type may pose potential safety hazards and threats to ground water quality if not correctly maintained or abandoned — "decommissioned" — according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). There also may be liability issues to consider if an old well on your property is shown to be a pathway for contamination that reaches neighboring ground water.

Often old wells are forgotten. The components of abandoned wells may deteriorate, and new owners or property developers can build over the old well site or unknowingly create a hazardous land use. For example, wastes associated with stables, chicken houses, dumps, etc. that are located over an old out-of-service well hole may flow straight down to the aquifer.

In an area where wells penetrate more than one water-bearing layer, contaminants may reach the ground water zone of the old well and then travel on to other portions of the aquifer. If the contamination connects with another abandoned well, it could impact other aquifers and threaten operating wells and water supply sources. Abandoned dug wells do not typically lead to contamination risk for deep aquifers, but their wide diameter, usually three to five feet, creates a physical safety hazard for construction equipment in addition to a danger to people and animals that may be injured from falling into the well.

NGWA recommends that landowners locate any old or out-of-service wells. Clues to the location of these wells include:

- Pipes sticking out of the ground.
- Small buildings that may have

- been a well house.
- Depressions in the ground.
- The presence of concrete vaults or pits, perhaps covered by lumber or metal plates.
- Out-of-use windmills — wind pumps are likely to be located near an old well).

Clues and information can be obtained from old maps, plans and property title documents; information from neighbors; additions to an old home — in the past, wells were commonly constructed in basements or under porches to keep the water pumps from freezing and to ease access in the winter; water utility history telling what was the source of water for your home before utility water was available.

Once a well is determined to have no current or potential future use, a water well contractor should be contacted who will have knowledge of well decommissioning code requirements. Wells should be sealed from the bottom up, and in most cases, only well contractors have the proper equipment to do this. Any pumps, pipes, related equipment or blockage should be removed from the well so that it may be filled in and sealed properly.

Approved backfilling and well sealing procedures vary from state to state. They generally require the use of special sealing material, usually cement-bentonite grout or bentonite clay chips. The use of straight Portland cement is usually discouraged because cement shrinks in volume during curing, which creates very small fractures and gaps through which water may continue to penetrate.

In most cases, homeowners are required to notify their local Department of Environmental Protection or Water Quality Division to document the decommissioning of the well. Homeowners are urged to contact these environmental agencies to learn what procedures are required in their region.

To learn more about water wells, visit the NGWA Web site, www.wellowner.org.

Force

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terrible crimes," Cornyn said. "And I hope that this task force and the resolution we passed in the Senate this year will serve as examples to other states and result in similar laws and task forces across the nation."

Cornyn chaired a hearing in July,

"Examining U.S. Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery," which heard from Michael Shelby, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, and Sutton on efforts to prosecute human trafficking cases in Texas. Also in July, the Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution that urges all states to adopt legislation to combat human trafficking and to ensure the full coordination of local, state and federal efforts.

Funds

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development model has increased opportunities for hundreds of El Pasoans, resulting in significant economic development for the region."

- \$121,250 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.
- \$4,837,000 in law enforcement funding for four positions with the El Paso Intelligence Center.
- \$800,000 for El Paso law enforcement technology.
- \$500,000 for the El Paso Regional Lab, which will provide clinical lab space, bio-terrorism lab functions, a crime laboratory and FDA certified laboratory functions for numerous law enforcement agencies across the region, including the City of El Paso, El Paso County, New Mexico, West and Northwest Texas and Mexico.
- \$200,000 for the historic preservation of the Socorro Mission

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Foundation awards new grants for aging population

The Paso del Norte Health Foundation awarded eight new grants totaling more than \$400,000 through the Ageless Health Initiative, intended to develop or expand model programs, change attitudes about aging, and inject systemic change into programs and services for older adults.

Newly funded organizations are as follows:

- UTEP Center for Aging in co-operation with the City and County of El Paso
- UTEP Cooperative Pharmacy Program
- Texas A&M Foundation’s colonias program
- Club de la Tercera Edad Epoca

de Oro Doña Ana County Advocates for Children & Families’ grandparents program

- Cáritas Diocesana de Cd. Juarez
- YMCA of El Paso
- El Paso Human Services

Ageless Health is a \$4.5 million initiative designed to develop or expand volunteer-based projects to support the promotion of independent, healthy living and prevention of isolation for persons 60 years and older in the Paso del Norte region.

For more information on Ageless Health programs for seniors in the Paso del Norte region, call the Initiative’s technical support office at (915) 533-0998 or (800) 333-7082, ext. 160.



PASS THE TURKEY — The Socorro Lions Club helped serve a Thanksgiving dinner to a group of 375 seniors at the Friends and Neighbors Adult Day Care Center. They were joined by other Lions from the Central, Fabens and Upper Valley Lions Clubs. From left are Socorro Lions Bertha Cardenas, Anita Hernandez, Lupe Morales, Irma Sanchez, Gloria Garnica, Sandy Acosta, Raquel Ramirez, Armando Ramirez, and Valerie Ann Sanchez. Not shown are Don Davisson and Ray Sanchez.

Briefs

From Page 1

graphic art work will be displayed during dinner. Performances will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the school’s gymnasium. Performing groups include the school’s choir, orchestra, band, flags, hand bell choir, mariachi, dance and theater students.

■ Community Solutions is offering training sessions for those interested in becoming role models and mentors for some of the 5,000 children in El Paso County who have parents currently incarcerated. Statistics show that without intervention, children of parents convicted of crimes are 70 percent more likely to follow in those footsteps. Volunteers are asked to train, then commit one hour a week to helping a child. The first training sessions are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m on two consecutive Saturdays, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11, at the Horizon City First Baptist Church, 17018 Darrington Rd. A light lunch will be provided. Registration is requested. Information and registration are available from Carolyn at 861-7733.

■ The Crusaders of O’Shea Keleher Elementary School and the El Paso Police Department are teaming up to support an police officer injured in the line of duty. The school has scheduled two basketball games between the O’Shea staff and members of the police department. The first game is scheduled for 9 a.m. Dec. 10 and the second contest will be played at 1 p.m., both in the school gymnasium. Admission is \$1, with the proceeds being divided between Officer Joseph Michael Sanchez’ medical fund and another fund to purchase items for needy O’Shea families. For information, call Jessi Hall at the campus, 937-7200.

■ The Fabens Cotton Valley Lions Club held its first annual canned food drive to benefit the less fortunate in the Fabens community. Each family was also presented with a turkey. The Club issued a word of thanks to the Fabens community for their donations and special thanks to the

businesses who allowed the Lions to collect the can goods at their workplace.

■ Montwood High School’s Booster Association is sponsoring the school’s 2nd Annual Christmas Fair beginning at 9 a.m. Dec. 11 in both the school’s Blue and Green gyms, 12000 Montwood Drive. The Fair, lasting until 6 p.m. that day, will feature music, art and craft projects and various foods. There is no admission charge. Christmas Fair chairperson Rosa Cervantes is also association president. “It’ll be in both gyms this year,” she said, adding that the event has grown from filling one gym in just one year. The Christmas Fair is one of many events sponsored by the organization, which hopes to raise twenty \$500 grants totaling \$10,000 which will be granted to graduating Montwood seniors to continue their education. The group donated an average of \$15,000 to the student body each year.

■ The Socorro NJROTC will undergo their Annual Military Inspection on Thursday, Dec. 2 at the Socorro High School Athletic Field from 8:30 to noon. The inspector is the NJROTC Area 10 Manager, Commander Mike Hale, who is in charge of all NJROTC units in Texas and based in San Antonio. The Inspection will encompass a cadet personnel inspection, marching demonstration of each platoon, a pass-in-review, a personal briefing of each cadet staff officer, inspection of facilities, accounting of government equipment, and inspection of administration files. Various dignitaries are expected to be in attendance in a show of support for the program including the mayor of Socorro, the superintendent of Socorro ISD, representatives from the various area veterans groups, and numerous trustees.

■ Daily operational hours for the Chamizal National Memorial’s Visitor Center will change from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning on Jan. 1, 2005. The change is designed to better serve the needs of the Memorial, explained Superintendent Isabel Montes. The Memorial will continue its current operational schedule for the Administration building. Chamizal National Memorial,

El Paso’s National Park, is located at 800 South San Marcial between Bowie High School and the Bridge of the Americas. For additional information, call 915-532-7273.

■ The El Paso Community College Salutes the Arts Show is among the most competitive in the county. Over 57 schools participated this year with over 700 entries. From Socorro Middle School Eduardo Avila won the third place award in the 6th-8th grade division; and Juan Del Villar won the Presidents’ Award and even sold his work to Dr. Roades, EPCC president.

■ Gov. Rick Perry has announced the appointment of C. S. “Dusty” Rhodes of El Paso to the Veteran’s Land Board. This board was created to help veterans purchase land and to oversee the Land Fund’s purchase of property for resale to veterans. It is also authorized to formulate policies and regulations of land transactions. Rhodes, a retired lieutenant colonel who served 22 years in the U.S. Army, is highly decorated including a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for Valor. He previously worked as a computer specialist with El Paso Energy Corp. Rhodes has served on the board of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, the El Paso Black Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Association of Private Industry Councils. His appointment is subject to senate approval.

■ Bonnie Plant Farm, the nation’s largest grower of vegetable and herb plants, is sponsoring a Third Grade Cabbage Scholarship Program. Throughout 2005, third-grade students from across the country may participate in an opportunity to win a \$1,000 scholarship for college education. Bonnie Plant Farm’s representatives will deliver cabbage plants and educational literature to participating Texas schools. Teachers from each third-grade class will select the student who has grown the heaviest cabbage, and that student’s name will then be included in a statewide drawing to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Registration information and details are available at www.bonnieplants.com.

Small Socorro Lions Club serves community in big way

SOCORRO — Margaret Mead once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” The Socorro Lions Club has long followed this model.

The Socorro Lions are a small service club that has undertaken many big projects over the past 30 years to serve the Socorro community. This year the club celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Luncheon, serving a record 350. The club also reached out to the youth by donating toys to the community for the tree lighting ceremony. Socorro Lions club has touched the lives of many, yet they are so few. For more information regarding membership and activities, call 858-1514.

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Public Notice

Town of Anthony, Texas

Completion of a Sewer Improvements Project

Texas Community Development Program #722019

The Town of Anthony, Texas, is pleased to announce the completion and closeout of a sewer improvements project that has been carried out with assistance from the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) of the Office of Rural Community Affairs. On Tuesday, September 14, 2004, a public hearing was held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting of the Anthony Town Council, for the purpose of informing the public of the completion and closeout of that project, as TCDP guidelines require. There were two errors in the public notice which appeared in this newspaper on September 9, 2004, to announce that hearing.

The public hearing was conducted for the purpose of informing the public of the completion of a sewer system improvements project (TCDP Project #722019), and to solicit public comment. The Town of Anthony will accept comments from residents concerning this project until December 12, 2004. Comments should be addressed to the Office of the Mayor and delivered in person to the Anthony Town Hall, or sent by mail to: Office of the Mayor, Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, TX 79821.

Art Franco, Mayor

Town of Anthony, Texas

Date Published:

December 2, 2004

Video ‘game’ goes way out of bounds

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

In my weekly column I usually take time to write about the latest news in the world of professional, collegiate, and even high school sports.

My thoughts usually surround the latest trends in team sports or individual achievement.

But today I wanted to reach out a bit and discuss the world of video games.

I, like most Americans, love a good video game. I won’t even begin to talk about how much my son and daughter love the stuff. They still can’t even fathom the fact that there weren’t any video games around when I was their age.

Anyway, the games are very specialized now. Most games are family-oriented but you still have your share of the adult variety games that parents should steer kids far away from for a few more years.

And then there are video games like the one I learned about this week. In fact, this is the reason I ventured into this unusual subject today.

The modern athlete, like the sports world itself, is turning off fans left and right with it’s me-first attitude. The lines of right and wrong or decency and indecency are becoming more clouded with each passing day.

But the sports attitude pales in comparison to what I learned is hitting the world of video games.

Seems there’s a company out of Scotland that has put out a new video game that players can play on the internet. Sounds harmless enough — that is until you hear the object of the game.

The object of the game is to see how exactly you can reenact the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

No, I am not kidding. The mind can work in sickeningly warped ways.

The game, “JFK Reloaded,” pits brain-dead aspiring Harvey Lee Oswald’s against each other in an attempt to duplicate the horrific events in Dallas’ Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963.

The object of the game, as unbelievable as it may seem, is to fire at and eventually shoot Kennedy in the head from your perch on the sixth floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository. The person that most accurately accom-

plishing this feat is declared the winner.

And he or she is not just declared the winner, they have a chance to win upwards of \$100,000 for their deadly accuracy.

And I bet you thought you’d seen it all.

According to the game’s creator, whose name I will not even mention, a player can re-play what he’s done from a variety of different angles.

The only catch is that players from around the world will have to dish out \$9.99 to download the game. How many morons, who have never purchased a book in their lives, do you think will gladly plunk down 10 bucks to take part in this sick act?

I’m afraid there are many from the “Jerry Springer-era” that can’t wait to sink their tooth into this game.

Now, don’t get me wrong. I’m as much for free speech as any one else in this country. I’m all for people having the freedom to make a living. But someone told me a long time ago that, along with the freedom you obtain, an equal amount of responsibility should come with it.

And I don’t see one ounce of responsibility — let alone simple respect — coming from the

makers of this ridiculous game.

With the advent of this deplorable game, others must be on the way. What’s next? Games like “Mother Teresa: Let the Hunt Begin,” or “911 Dèjà vu,” or “The Misunderstood Hitler,” or maybe “Kindergarten KKK.”

Hey, if an embarrassment like JFK Reloaded can hit your computer screen, anything is possible.

Favre the invincible

Brett Favre started his 200th straight game as quarterback last Monday night and celebrated the event by throwing three touchdowns passes and leading his Packers to a 45-17 victory over the St. Louis Rams.

I have to admit, though never being a huge Favre fan, that his streak of consecutive starts is pretty amazing. Some are even comparing it to Cal Ripkin Jr.’s consecutive playing streak.

I’m not sure I’d go that far, comparing playing 16 NFL games a season to 162 MLB games, but Favre’s accomplishment is still quite impressive.

I raise my glass to you, Mr. Favre. You have a way of making the common man feel good about you, and himself.

Canutillo Cross Country compete in regional meet

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — “The experience was excellent because now they know what to expect next year,” said Eddie Estrada, head coach of Canutillo High School’s Girls Cross Country Team, after his team competed in the regional 4-A meet in Lubbock recently.

CHS girls’ team was one of three teams that advanced to regional competition from District 1-4A. The other two teams were Chapin and Jefferson high schools. Five of the seven runners who competed in the

regional meet for CHS will return next season.

“We are a young team; we have a big future ahead of us,” said Rebakah Williams, a freshman.

“We will not only make it back to regionals next year, but we will work hard to make it to state finals,” said Johanna Varela, also a freshman.

The CHS runners were led by senior Christina Herrera, who was among the top ten finishers in every district race this season. At the regional meet she placed 40th. “The regional meet was run on a grass course, and Christina had trouble with it; she had never run on a grass course before,” said Coach Estrada.



REGIONAL RUNNING — Canutillo High School Girls Cross Country Team, shown in front row, from left, are Nohemi Padilla, Carmen Hernandez, Valerie Perez, manager Gloria Estrada; middle row from left is Christina Herrera, Christina Tellez, Rebakah Williams, Alyssa Bustamante, Johanna Varela, Jasmine Silvas, Viridiana Valenzuela, and managers Ricardo Martinez and Dora Medina; back row from left is Head Coach Eddie Estrada, manager Eddie Estrada Jr., and Assistant Coach Lucy Pineda.

Research back issues at: www.wtccourier.com

King Super Crossword

ROSE GARDEN ACROSS

1 “_ it the truth?”

5 Restrain

10 Conduit fittings

14 Active volcano

18 “The Green _” (‘56 hit)

19 Victorian ornament

20 Rachel’s sister

21 TV’s “The Wonder _”

23 Guns n’ Roses hit

26 _ nous

27 Soprano Gluck

28 “_ a day’s work”

29 Sleuth Nancy

31 Herriman’s “Krazy _”

32 Mythical monster

34 In flight

37 Adjective suffix

38 One of “The Three Tenors”

43 Rock’s _ & the Gang

44 Pine

46 Kimono

cummerbund

47 Interrogates

49 Cranny’s

companion

51 Toomey or Philbin

54 Rose Nylund’s

portrayed

58 Okefenokee, for one

61 Skin problem

62 Irwin of “The Crocodile Hunter”

63 ‘78 Peace Nobel

65 Pestiferous person

67 Unmatched

68 Went like hotcakes

71 Apprehend

72 Cumin or

coriander

73 Stretch the truth

74 Health concern

77 Billy Rose song

80 Organ of equilibrium

81 Poetic pot

82 Reference volume

83 Patriotic org.

84 Prepare prunes

86 Bar supply

87 Linguist Chomsky

88 Scope

90 Unbroken

94 “Divine Comedy”

figure

96 Caroline, to Ted

98 “The Name of the Rose” author

101 Send the money

103 Salt serving

105 _ Alto, CA

106 Dover’s st.

107 Fight site

110 Temporary wealth?

112 Butcher’s offering

115 “The _ and I” (‘47 film)

117 “Fait _”

119 Ending for

“auction”

120 Sought office

121 Penny or peseta

122 Wrong

126 Architect Saarinen

129 Conductor Seiji

131 Rose McGowan

movie

136 Murcia mister

137 Take _ the chin

138 Spring for

139 Actress Ward

140 Live on lettuce

141 Bean on the bean

142 Hope’s “The Prisoner of _”

143 North Carolina campus

DOWN

1 Pitches

2 Where the tall

corn grows

3 Gallagher of Oasis

4 Aftershock

5 New Deal agcy.

6 “Very funny!”

7 Runner Zatopek

8 Room without a

view?

9 Alaskan bear

10 Shady character?

11 Wahine’s wreath

12 Joe of “Dr. Quinn”

13 ‘62 Four Seasons

hit

14 Glasses

15 Dress size

16 “Ramblin’ Rose”

singer

17 Stage backdrop

22 Clockmaker

Thomas

24 Grocer’s measure

25 Tearjerker?

30 Vane letters

33 Gullet

35 Perch

36 Run through

38 Male swans

39 Help a hood

40 Formal ceremony

41 _ blond

42 Goes downhill fast?

45 Stephen of

“Interview with the Vampire”

48 Loses a lap

50 Phi Beta _

52 79 Down’s

homeland

53 Passover meal

55 Watching

machines?

56 Petty officer

57 Dairy-case

purchase

59 “Upstairs,

Downstairs” extras

60 Ornamental loop

64 Gulf

66 Most revolutionary

69 Divulge

70 _ Lama

72 Cocktail ingredient

74 It makes candy

dandy

75 Austen title start

76 “The Rose Tattoo”

actress

78 Christened

79 “Elephant Boy” star

85 Wine and dine

88 Moral man?

89 Stowe sight

91 Aswan was herswain

92 Summertime treats

93 Lamebrain

95 Russian space

station

97 Tranquil

99 Lilly of pharma-

ceuticals

100 Morning wear

102 4 p.m. vehicle?

104 Muslim dietary term

108 Sgt. or cpl.

109 Like lemons

111 WWII admiral

113 Shorten a sail

114 Threat words

115 Desire deified

116 Looked longingly

118 _ a customer

123 Concerning

124 Lightweight gun

125 Large herring

127 Whirl

128 Christiania, today

130 Affliction

132 Wolfram _

Eschenbach

133 Squid’s squirt

134 “Wings” abbr.

135 Solo of “Star Wars”

Answer Page 7

Comix

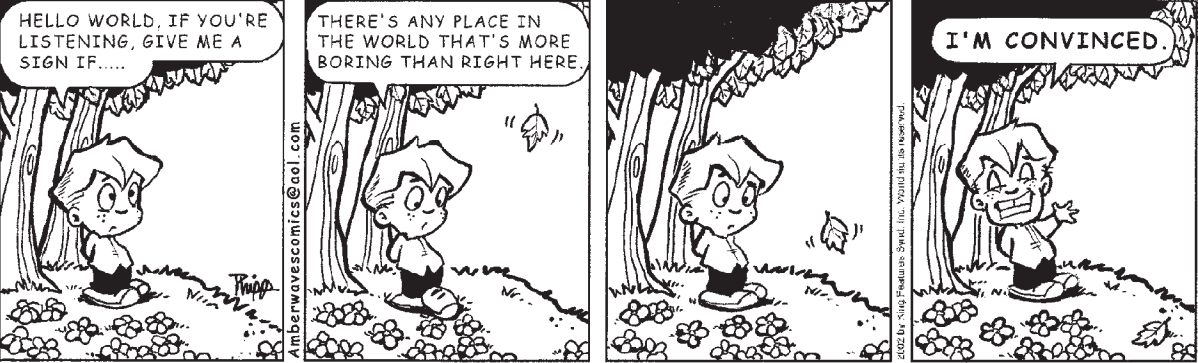
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



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Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

AIN'T CHECK ELLS ETNA DOOR CAMEO LEAH YEARS SWEET CHILD DOMINE ENTRE ALMA ALLIN DREW KAT ORC AIRBORNE IISH CARRERAS KOOL YEARN OBJ ASKS NOOK REGIS BETTY WHITE SWAMP ACNE STEVE SADAT PAIN ODD SOLD NAB SPICE LIE SPA MEAND MYSHADOW EAR URN ATLAS SAR STEW GIN NOAM AMBIT SOLID ADAM NIECE UMBERTO ECO REMIT DASH PALO DEL ARENA LOAN RIBROAST EGG ACCOMPLI EER RAN COIN AMISS EERO OZAWA DEVIL IN THE FLESH SENOR ITON TREAT SELA DIET CONK ZENDA ELON

Season

From Page 2

food, and there's only so much of that you can humanly consume.

It's not like Halloween where the kids are going to talk the parents into springing for the latest costume — trust me, it won't be an old bed sheet — or Christmas, where you can go so badly in the red that the bloodiest costume on Halloween isn't half so terrifying.

The day after Thanksgiving has been dubbed "Black Friday" by economists because it traditionally marks the beginning of holiday shopping — the all-important season which will determine whether many businesses will end their year with a profit or in debt.

I understand the basic need of America's business sector to do well economically, but individual Americans can't have it both ways. There is no compatibility between the two age-old masters of money and peace; of greed and generosity; of shoving and rudeness with the sweet joy of giving someone a gift of love.

We have to choose, and the apparent choice of the majority is to celebrate the season with all the gusto

Writer takes on "Jeopardy!" champ

By Don Flood

Sitting at home watching "Jeopardy!," I know I could beat long-time champ Ken Jennings — well, at least I could if he wasn't so rude about spitting out the answers before anyone has time to think.

And then there's the rather unsportsman-like way he has memorized all almanacs, encyclopedias and the 4 billion pages available to the Google search engine.

But is he really that good?

To find out, I have invited him to my column so that we can compete one-on-one, with Alex Trebek serving as host.

Admittedly, it's hard to have a completely realistic account of a non-event, but I believe that I have been scrupulously fair in rendering a potential match up between Ken and myself.

However, if there is anyone out there who feels that *any* portion of the following is in any way not absolutely and totally fair, then please keep it to yourself. Because I really, really don't care.

Trebek: Let's get to it! The first answer is, "First president of the United States."

Me: Who is George Washington?

Ken: That's not fair. He didn't let me press the buzzer!

Trebek: Oh, I see, we don't enjoy it when the shoe's on the other foot, do we? Time to move on, Ken. Next answer, "17,400 square miles."

Ken: Umm ...

Trebek: Sorry, Ken.

Me: What are the total square miles for the Republic of Estonia?

Trebek: Right again!

Ken: Don't you see what he's doing? He's writing it up so I look dumb!

Trebek: Last time you complained he didn't let you press the buzzer. This time you do get to

press the buzzer and you still complain!

Me: Don't be too hard on him, Alex. He's probably nervous.

Trebek: Well, that's very gracious of you, Don. Next answer: "It's The Daily Double!"

Me: I'll wager \$10 billion.

Ken: He can't do that!

Alex: Shut up, Ken. I've had enough out of you.

Trebek: The answer is, "Your favorite game show."

Me: What is "Jeopardy?"

Trebek: Yes!

Ken: He gets \$10 billion for that?

Trebek: Put a sock in it, Ken. The next answer is, "Md."

Ken: What is the abbreviation for Maryland?

Trebek: Wrong again.

Me: What is the symbol for Mendelevium, the 101st element on the Periodic Table?

Trebek: Excellent! Glad to see some of us still remember our Periodic Table.

Ken: Come on, he wouldn't recognize the Periodic Table if it pulled up a chair. Besides, the category is "States of the Union."

Trebek: The category is whatever I say it is. And now for Final Jeopardy. The answer is, "Grant's Tomb."

(Musical interlude: Da da da da da da dum, da da da ...)

Trebek: First we go to Ken, and he has, "Where is Ulysses S. Grant buried?" Sorry, Ken, but the judges were looking for the correct response.

Let's see if Don has the right question — "Where is Cary Grant buried?" Yes! That's the answer we were looking for, and that brings Don's one-day total to \$4.6 trillion!

Frankly, Ken wasn't as good as I thought he'd be.

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our credit cards can handle. We'll drive on the streets with the same spirit toward our fellow man that we exercise in our "shopping experience."

Maybe we'll get around to that peace on earth thing later, you know, after the season.

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Seasonal work can impact benifits

With the holidays approaching, millions of Americans will take on seasonal jobs to bring in a little extra spending money. More than a few of these holiday workers will be older Americans who already get Social Security.

Of course, when people who get Social Security retirement benefits consider taking on seasonal work, benefit questions arise — so here are some of the more commonly asked questions and answers.

The main question is whether or not new earnings will affect current Social Security payments, and the answer is that depends on your age and the amount of earnings. If you have reached your full retirement age (between 65 and 67, depending on when you were born), you can earn all you want and not have a penny withheld from your benefits. If you are younger than your full retirement age we will not withhold anything from your monthly Social Security payment unless you earn more than \$11,640 for the year. (That figure goes up to \$12,000 in 2005.) If you do earn more than \$11,640 for the year, we will withhold from your benefits \$1 for every \$2 you earn above that amount.

Another question we often get is this: Do I have to pay Social Security taxes on earnings if I am already getting Social Security? Yes, you do. Whether you are 16 or 116, your employer is required by law to with-

hold payroll taxes when you work.

Many people also want to know if any “extra” Social Security taxes they pay while working at a seasonal job will mean a higher Social Security retirement benefit later on. The answer is maybe, but probably not.

Your original Social Security benefit was based on your highest years of earnings. Each year, we review the records for all Social Security recipients who work. If your latest year of earnings turns out to be one of your highest years, we automatically refigure your benefits and pay you any increase due — which usually shows up in benefit adjustments by October of the following year.

However, most seasonal workers do not get such an increase, since holiday earnings alone are not usually enough to raise their monthly average for a whole year.

For more information visit your local social security office, visit our website www.socialsecurity.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
Partly sunny.	Cold with patchy clouds.	Partly sunny.	Times of sun and clouds.	Mostly sunny.	Sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Sunshine and some clouds.
▲ 58°	▼ 28°	▲ 55° ▼ 29°	▲ 59° ▼ 34°	▲ 58° ▼ 36°	▲ 57° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 35°	▲ 52° ▼ 27°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	4	Low
Friday	4	Low
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	4	Low
Tuesday	4	Low
Wednesday	4	Low

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	57	28
Canutillo	58	28
Clint	57	29
E. Montana	58	28
Fabens	57	29
Horizon	59	29
San Elizario	56	26
Socorro	57	27
Tornillo	57	29
Vinton	58	28

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	44/22/s	46/23/pc	49/26/pc	46/24/s	45/24/c
Atlanta	56/38/s	56/34/s	54/36/pc	54/40/pc	63/42/r
Atlantic City	50/32/pc	47/26/pc	46/28/pc	49/34/c	51/36/r
Austin/San Antonio	60/36/pc	59/33/c	65/41/c	62/44/r	63/43/s
Baltimore	52/30/pc	48/30/pc	45/30/pc	50/34/s	49/36/r
Boston	48/34/pc	42/30/pc	40/32/pc	44/36/c	47/39/c
Chicago	38/24/sf	40/26/pc	42/30/sn	44/32/pc	44/29/r
Dallas/Ft. Worth	55/36/pc	58/40/pc	60/43/sh	58/42/r	60/42/s
Denver	32/18/pc	43/19/pc	45/21/pc	42/22/pc	42/17/c
Flagstaff	40/10/s	41/12/pc	45/14/s	37/15/pc	39/13/c
Houston	60/41/pc	60/42/r	66/46/r	62/50/r	69/47/r
Kansas City	43/25/s	45/29/pc	47/36/pc	51/32/pc	47/29/r
Las Vegas	53/34/s	55/36/pc	57/36/s	55/39/sh	55/35/pc
Miami	82/68/pc	82/66/pc	80/66/pc	80/66/sh	80/68/pc
Minneapolis	34/18/pc	32/24/sf	38/30/pc	42/29/c	37/23/c
New Orleans	60/47/s	61/47/pc	64/49/r	66/54/r	68/52/r
New York City	48/34/pc	42/32/pc	46/34/pc	47/41/c	51/44/sh
Philadelphia	50/32/pc	47/32/pc	45/32/pc	50/35/c	49/40/sh
Phoenix	63/42/s	67/42/pc	67/45/s	60/42/pc	62/39/pc
Portland	48/38/pc	52/44/sh	48/38/r	46/34/sh	48/38/r
San Francisco	56/44/s	57/45/s	55/46/pc	58/47/pc	58/41/r
Seattle	48/38/sh	52/44/r	46/38/r	44/36/sh	47/39/r
Tucson	64/35/s	64/35/s	66/38/s	64/42/pc	62/35/s
Washington, DC	53/35/pc	50/35/pc	48/32/pc	51/38/c	51/40/r

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

AGRICULTURE

Sunshine will mix with some clouds Thursday with north-northeast winds at 5-10 mph. Temperatures will return to near normal by Thursday after a chilly beginning to the workweek. No precipitation is expected at least through the end of this week as high pressure in the Four Corners area and eastern Texas controls the weather.

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