



NEWSBRIEFS

Rising artists

One might not expect a public utility to be a source from which culture springs, however, the Anthony Water and Sanitation District has teamed with the Community Development Committee to present Rising Artists of the Valley which recently featuring selected works by Anthony and Gadsden art students in an exhibition in what is planned to be the first of many such events, according to curator Sharon Aggie Rhine. "The mission of RAV is to add to the cultural dimensions of our community by providing space for artists to share their creative energies with the public, a space where rising artists can easily show their work, a space where the public can experience the pride of community," she said. "Each month a variety of artists will share their creations and from time to time artists will have the opportunity to conduct workshops, and when possible, traveling art exhibits will be scheduled. Children, as well as adults, are encouraged to take advantage of what RAV has to offer." She issued a call to area artists to contact her at 505-882-9419 about showing their work at 1155 N. 4th St. in Anthony.

Water designations

The Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group (WPG) is currently considering the designation of major springs and ecologically unique river and stream segments in the updated regional water plan. Several stream and river segments on federal and state-owned land have already been designated by the WPG at the request of the National Park Service and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The WPG voted to include major springs and river and stream segments on private property only if requested by the landowner. The legal effect of such a designation is currently unclear. Opponents of designations on private property have grave concerns about whether the designation would lead to restrictions on land use, while proponents hope that the designation could provide some protection for the water source, especially from water marketers. If you are a private property owner and would like a major spring or ecologically unique river or stream segment on your property to be so designated by the WPG, please forward your request in writing to Barbara Kauffman, Deputy Executive Director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments at barbarak@riocog.org or at 1100 North Stanton, Suite 610, El Paso, Texas 79902.

In other news

■ The UTEP High School Equivalency Program (HEP) is offering free GED training classes and testing in both English and Spanish for seasonal farm worker families. The upcoming session runs eight weeks, from March 28 to May 20. For

See BRIEFS, Page 5

A jury is a body of twelve men and women selected to decide which of the contestants had the better lawyer.

— Quips & Quotes

Unique store in San Elizario weaving very special dreams

By Alex Navarro
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Take a drive down Main Street in San Elizario and one will notice a little building with a sign that reads, "Dreamcatcher Now Open." The little building fronts as a café/thrift store.

In reality, the store serves more dreams than Danish.

"The idea to name the store was Daizy and Yvette's," co-owner Jill Gomez said. "They wanted to have a name that portrayed what we're about: Making dreams come true."

What was once was a dream for the owners of the store — Gomez, Lupe Rincón, Daizy Rincón, and Yvette Rincón — became reality when its doors opened to the community for the first time Feb. 26. What's makes the store unique is that half the employees are young Hispanic women and the other half are persons with disabilities.

Rincón and Gomez worked with persons with disabilities in San Elizario the last eight years. Rincón was a job coach with the high school the last 13 years. A job coach works with special education students and trains them at numerous job sites. Gomez was a teacher for 33 years. The last eight years, she was the transition coordinator for the district. She retired from full-time duty in 2003 and presently serves as consultant with the district, Region 19 and Texas Educators Agency. Rincón and Gomez envisioned a store where young His-

panic women and persons with disabilities can hone real work skills.

"What we saw with our special education students was that after they graduate, they were just staying home," Lupe said. "Our focus is to help young women and young adults with disabilities."



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

LET THE DREAMS BEGIN — Dreamcatchers, a new nonprofit organization aimed at providing economic development opportunities to young Hispanic women and people with disabilities in San Elizario, opened its doors after months of hard work, research, and the execution of ideas, February 26, 2005. As a business incubator, what will begin as a thrift store and coffee shop will soon blossom into a multitude of small businesses owned and operated by women and people with disabilities through the organization's help. Phillip Cortez, the group's board president, is seen leading fellow board members and the Dreamcatchers staff in a small ribbon cutting ceremony.

The first person a customer will encounter at the store is Fernando Almanzar, Jr. A 2000 graduate of San Elizario High School, Almanzar will serve as greeter and help out in the store. 2005 graduates Cesar Julio Luna and Joel Lopez, and 2003 graduate Nena Portillo also will help out with the customers. It's a small store so workers will rotate days in order to give them ample opportunity to gain

See DREAMS, Page 4

Hecker is president-elect of Texas Association of Appraisal Districts

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

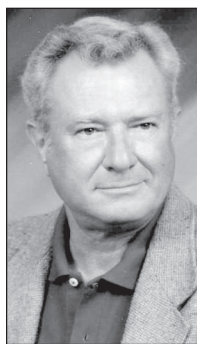
UPPER VALLEY — Charley Hecker, member of El Paso Central Appraisal District (CAD) Board of Directors, was elected to the state office of president-elect during the Texas Association of Appraisal Districts' (TAAD) annual conference, which was held in Austin recently.

Hecker has served on the board of directors for El Paso's CAD for the past six years. He is the current vice president of the local CAD board.

"My main focus is to ensure that TAAD continues to provide education to Texas public

school districts personnel with respect to the importance of local property values on the districts' annual budget and the relative significance of the state property value study as produced by the state comptroller's office," said Hecker.

As president-elect for the state association, Hecker will preside over TAAD meetings in the absence of the president and sit on different



Charley Hecker

See HECKER, Page 4

Students who will attend new school take part in ground-breaking

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Students, parents and administrators broke ground Feb. 24 for the 35th Socorro ISD campus. John Drugan School will serve students in grades pre-kindergarten through eighth from a site just east of Loop 375 North.

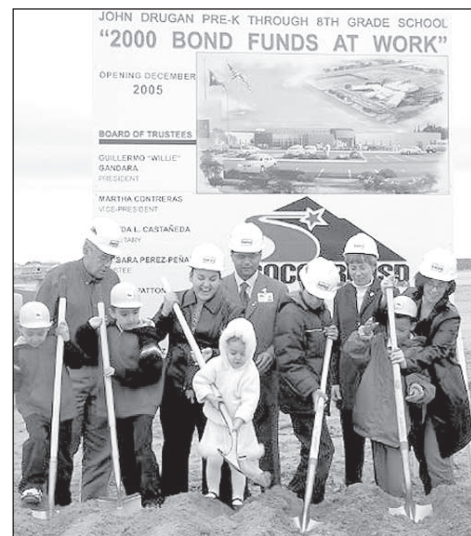
Many members of the Drugan family — all six of Drugan's children attended Socorro High School — attended the ceremony and were welcomed by Socorro ISD Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón, school officials and John Page, a member of the Board of Trustees.

Socorro students who will attend Drugan school participated in the ceremony, including DeShun Jeffries, Kevin Lanahan, and Jennifer, Justin, Eva and Arielle Arzola.

Bob Filarski of the architectural firm Prestige, Smith, Razloznik, Barajas and Bustamante wrote the specifications and will supervise the building of the school. "One of the unusual things about this school is that it's going to be a tilt-wall type building, for expediency and speed. The time line is real short," Filarski says. The campus is to open in January of 2006. "The average life span for a school is 40 to 50 years, and in El Paso, sometimes they go a lot longer than that."

"It's designed to be expandable," says PSRBB designer Rick Ruiz, standing with Filarski at the school site. "You can add a couple of other wings, more classrooms so that as the community grows, so will the school. A lot of the planning for this school included the bright colors, the proximity of certain classrooms; classroom sizes and the location of restrooms and counter tops. Everything is kind of downsized, depending on the age of the children."

Ruiz says many of the school's structures reflect classroom tools, such as columns disguised as crayons. "The completed school is a circle. Then you have these elements that all come together — these wings that radiate away from the gymnasium — that allows us to make it expandable."



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

A LITTLE STUDENT PARTICIPATION — Arielle Arzola (center, in white) lifts a shovel of dirt at the site of the future John Drugan school as her siblings, Justin and Abraham Arzola, and SISD board member John Page, SISD Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón, and Arielle's mother, Jennifer Arzola, watch. Also breaking ground at the site of the new school are Kevin Lanahan, Drugan principal Susan Cook, DeShun Jeffries and his mother Debra Jeffries.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Dangerous living

I heard a good joke the other day. It goes something like this: What are a Southern boy's last words?

Hey, ya'll, watch this!

I can't help but get a kick out of that — it sounds so much like some of my close relatives. Never a dull moment. We all smile and shake our heads at their reckless behavior, feeling all the time like we're just a little superior, so sound and responsible in our own thinking. But are we so sure we aren't just fooling ourselves?

Not long ago that there was a young fellow killed in El Paso when he dove off a hotel balcony, aiming for the swimming pool but lacking somewhat in marksmanship.

In another part of the country, a woman old enough to know better was killed when she fell several stories after she attempted to do a handstand on a balcony ledge, announcing to her friends: Look what I can still do!

I guess that joke about last words could apply to members of the so-called gentler sex, too.

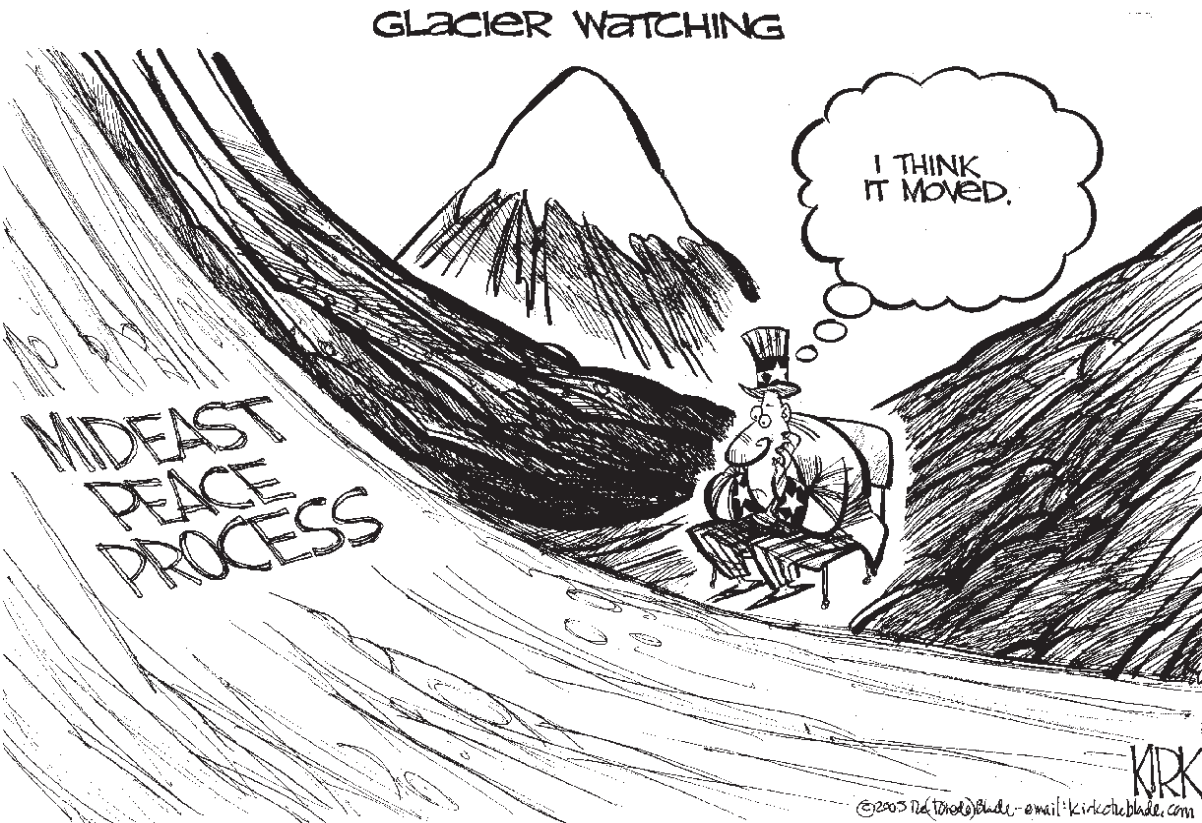
Behavior like that is pretty obvious in its lack of concern for consequences — which, in both cases, were pretty immediate and final.

But what about us, the average mom and pop, Judy and Joe, dull and boring people who go to work regularly, feed our kids a reasonably balanced diet, get the oil changed in our cars every now and again, and pay our taxes?

Are we so solid, sound and sane? I don't think so.

First of all, the greatest majority of us either own or have access to automobiles, and worse yet, we drive them — often on the freeway. Talk about taking your life in your hands!

See DANGEROUS, Page 6



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Influx of soldiers exceptional opportunity for El Paso business

The arrival of up to 10,000 new soldiers and families at Fort Bliss later this year offers new opportunities for local businesses wanting to benefit from millions of dollars that will be spent by federal agencies for housing, transportation, and other commercial services. The troops are being relocated to Fort Bliss as part of the ongoing Army Transformation Initiative.

The economic impact of these additional soldiers is great news for El Paso, with the move infusing an estimated \$524 million into our local economy each year. It is estimated that 3,400 new jobs will be created to support these new troops, and the \$447 million in extra payroll will help drive up our wages.

But the good news also brings with it heavy responsibilities. Are our businesses ready for the growth and opportunities that the new soldiers and accompanying expenditures represent? Will we be able to meet the increased need for everything from housing, rental properties, vehicles, restaurants, and other high demand areas?

I believe the answer is a resounding yes. Last week, I was joined by Mayor Joe Wardy, the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, representatives from Fort Bliss and government agencies, and volunteers at Chapin High School for the kick-off to a series of events targeted specifically at El Paso businesses wanting to better prepare for the soldiers. I was not surprised, but very pleased, when over 350 people representing the business sector showed up! They were presented with specific information about the transition and had the opportunity to meet many key people who will make important contracting and purchasing decisions.

The purpose of the outreach series is four fold. We want to provide our businesses with the necessary support, information, and contacts to position themselves for growth. We want to help add capabilities to businesses that have not contracted with the government in the past. We want to strengthen critically important government/private sector partnerships in El Paso, and we want to improve the quality of life of soldiers already at Fort Bliss, and those who are coming.

We must approach this opportunity as a test of our ability as a community to meet the heavy demands of growth at Fort Bliss. If we perform successfully in the transitioning of the 3,800 new soldiers, the message out there will be clear that we are ready for more.

There will be two more outreach events, one on Tuesday, March 15 at 5:30 p.m., at El Paso Community College Mission del Paso Campus, 10700 Gateway East, and on Tuesday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the El Paso Community College Administration Offices, 9050 Viscount.

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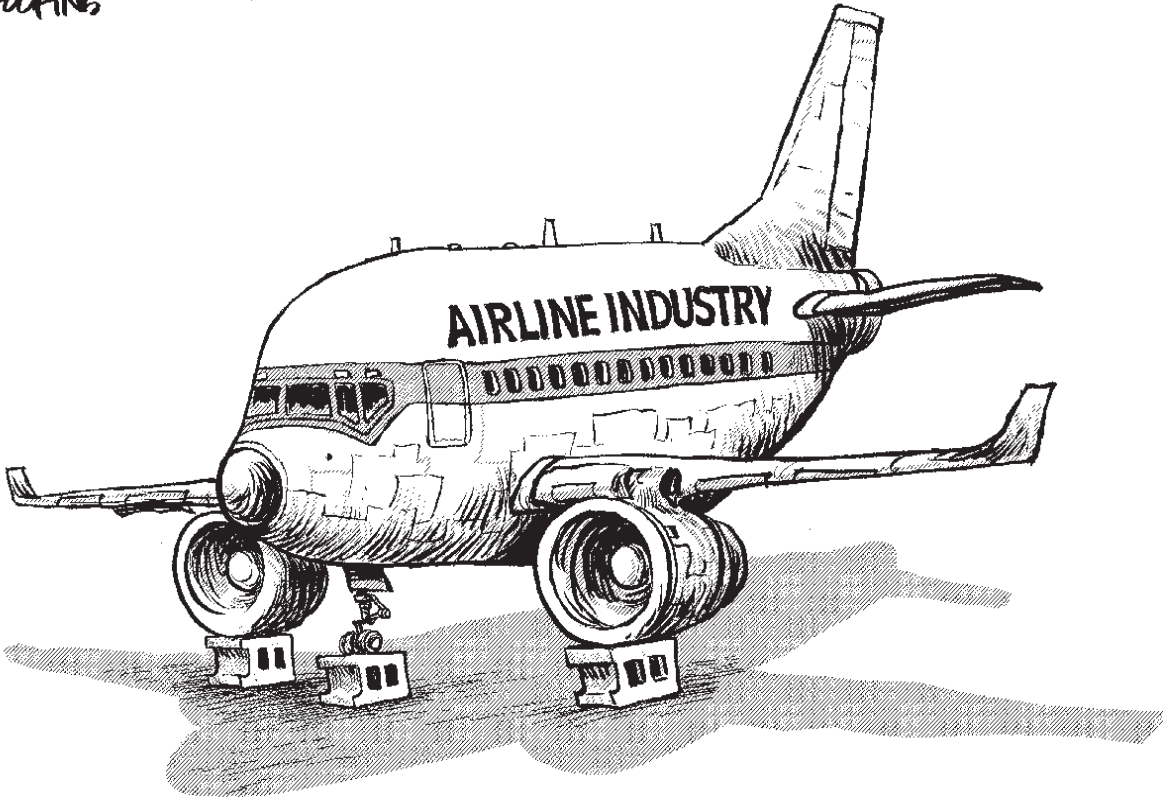
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BRACKINS RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH



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

The road to the Capitol

The halls of our nation’s Capitol are filled this month with students. Young adults from across America are given one week every spring to break away from the books and take a rest from their classroom studies. Hundreds of these students choose Washington, D.C. as their travel destination.

I love this time of year. This week alone, I’ve met with dozens of students. We discuss everything from how a bill becomes a law to my favorite football team (the Cowboys, of course!).

A few days ago, a young man asked me a very pointed question that stuck in my mind, “How did you become a Congressman?” It’s a simple question, but it made me think about my life at age 17.

When I was attending South San Antonio High School, I never thought that I would one day represent you in Washington as a United States Congressman. It was something of a feat for a student to graduate from my high school, let alone go on to college and beyond. Most people assume congressmen have worn suits their entire life, and that a law or business degree is a required ticket of admission. However, Con-

gress is full of self-made men and women who came from every background imaginable. Let me share a few examples with you.

At the young age of 20, Rep Bob Riley of Alabama began selling eggs door to door with his brother. The small operation grew to become one of the largest totally integrated poultry and egg operations in the Southeast.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher of California was the youngest person to win a seat on the coveted New York Stock Exchange at age 25. She worked as a stock trader and investment banker. After moving to California she founded the ChildCare Registry, the first company to provide background information on child-care providers.

Congress has attracted its share of athletes over the years. Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma was a college All-American football player at the University of Oklahoma. He went on to play for the Canadian Football League, and after that became a youth minister. Rep. Steve Largent, also of Oklahoma, was another professional athlete. He played for the Seattle Seahawks for 14 years and was inducted to the NFL Hall of Fame after retiring as the third all-

time leader in pass receptions in 1989. Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky was a Major League pitcher and is also a Hall of Famer.

Congress is also honored by the service of true heroes — its war heroes. Rep. Sam Johnson of Plano, Texas, is a retired Air Force colonel who endured nearly seven years of brutality — over half of that period in solitary confinement — in a North Vietnamese prison camp. He then went on to fly with the Air Thunderbirds Supersonic Flight Team before running for political office.

Congress is full of people from all walks of life, many who never ran for office before coming to Washington. My colleagues have included a great songwriter (the late Sonny Bono), a winemaker, a restaurant manager and a self-described “journeyman” carpenter, just to name a few.

America is still a country where the American Dream can become a reality. It’s a country where a child living in a public housing project can grow up to become whatever he or she dreams of becoming.



Write stuff

Dear Editor:

The Mission Valley Delegation recently attended the Mission Valley Days in Austin on Feb. 22-23, 2005. During these two days we visited many state agencies and offices to brief them on the projects, problems, and issues affecting the Mission Valley. Each of the key administrators we met with were knowledgeable and supportive of the Mission Valley.

As an elected official of the City of Socorro I wish to thank State Rep. Chente Quintanilla for his cooperation and for welcoming the delegation to the Capitol in the House of Representatives at Austin, Texas.

Our trip to Austin was very productive and the people of the Mission Valley should be very proud to have a representative with Chente’s characteristics representing them.

**Trini Lopez
Socorro Councilman
District #3**

Dear Editor:

Try driving around as a gringo in Mexico with no liability insurance... and have an accident.

Enter Mexico illegally. Never mind immigration quotas, visas, international law, or any of that nonsense. Once there, demand that the local government provide free medical care for you and your entire family. Demand bilingual nurses and doctors.

Demand free bilingual local government forms, bulletins, etc.

Procreate abundantly. Deflect any criticism of this allegedly irresponsible reproductive behavior with, “It is a cultural United States thing. You would not understand, pal.”

Keep your American identity strong. Fly Old Glory from your rooftop, or proudly display it in your front window or on your car bumper.

Speak only English at home and in public and insist that your children do likewise. Demand classes on American culture in the Mexican school system.

Demand a local Mexican drivers license. This will afford other legal rights and will go far to legitimize your unauthorized, illegal, presence in Mexico.

Insist that local Mexican law enforcement teach English to all its officers.

Good luck! Because it will never happen. It will not happen in Mexico or any other country in the world — except right here in the United States... Land of the naive!

**Bob Wilson
Clint**

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True Texas Facts by Roger T. Moore
March 17, 1949-Glenn McCarthy celebrates the opening of his Shamrock Hotel in Houston with a party for 50,000



Dreams

From Page 1

real-world experience.

One goal the owners have with the employees is for the business to act as an incubator. Within two years, they want the employees to acquire experience so they can eventually branch out on their own. One of the employees with disabilities already is considering opening an Internet café to provide office-related services to anyone in the community.

“I wanted to help people with disabilities become more independent,” Yvette said. “I also wanted to help young Hispanic women accomplish their dreams.”

Another goal the owners have in mind is to make the store a part of the community.

“Our vision is to see students come in and make it part of the community,” Lupe said. “If they want to do homework or school projects, they can do it here after the school closes.”

Located in a section of the store is jewelry that was hand-crafted by the middle school life-skill students. Right next to the jewelry is a collection of dolphin key chains. The goal in selling the key chains is to raise enough money to send Cesar Julio to

Florida for dolphin-assisted therapy. Cesar Julio is autistic. Autism, by definition, is a psychiatric disorder of childhood characterized by marked deficits in communication and social interaction, preoccupation with fantasy, language impairment, and abnormal behavior, such as repetitive acts and excessive attachment to certain objects. It is usually associated with intellectual impairment. Researchers believe that dolphin-assisted therapy can help autistic patients social and cognitive skills by introducing non-traditional treatment in a relaxed and therapeutic manner.

Once a month, Rincón and Gomez will have a community activity with the employees. Gomez believes it is important to be a part of the community after they graduate from high school.

“Once they leave school, they leave their social structure behind,” Gomez said. “This gives them an opportunity to get back in a social ritual with the community.”

The other two owners, Daizy and Yvette, are perhaps the two youngest business owners in San Elizario and the greater El Paso area. Daizy, 18, is a senior at the high school and Yvette, 17, is in her junior year. Both are not just silent partners in the business. They are very active in the day-to-day operations of the store. In fact,

Daizy’s schedule is so full that she had to make a difficult decision when approached with the opportunity.

Daizy is the Skills USA district one vice president. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She has been a part of the track team the last five years. Unfortunately, she had to subtract something from her schedule. The decision became easier when she saw the opportunity to give to the community.

“When they (Lupe and Jill) gave me the opportunity to be a part of something awesome, I did not hesitate to become a part of it,” Daizy said. “Giving up track was not easy. But I was determined to try something new for my community. I felt that if I didn’t do anything for my community, I would be selfish.”

Once school ends, Daizy heads off to run her business from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Her busy schedule has not compromised her academics. She currently ranks in the top ten percent of her graduating class and has been accepted to UTEP. She is waiting to hear from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio and St. Edward’s University in Austin. Yvette, also a NHS member, currently ranks first in her graduating class. She was a member of the volleyball team and the Library Club.

The store is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The store accepts clothing donations. It is attempting to become a non-profit business so donations can be claimed on tax returns.

“The community and district have been very supportive and helpful,” Rincón said. “They have donated knowing they are not receiving any tax breaks.”

Anyone interested in making donations can stop by the store or contact the owners at 328-9097 or 449-4723.



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

SCIENCE FOR FUN AND PROFIT — Carlos Trevizo discusses his science project with Tornillo science teacher and sponsor D. Joe Williams.

State competition on the horizon for Tornillo students

By D. Joe Williams
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — Eleven Tornillo ISD students placed first, second and third at the Sun Country Regional Science Fair, held last weekend at UTEP’s Memorial Gym. These students now qualify to compete at the State Science and Engineering Fair March 29 in San Antonio, Texas.

A total of 360 students from public and private schools throughout El Paso County competed at the Regional Fair. Projects were judged on the basis of creative ability, thoroughness, skill, clarity and teamwork. A team of professors and graduate students from UTEP and El Paso Community College conducted the judging.

The Sun Country Regional Science Fair is an affiliate of the International Science and Engineering Fair, which is composed of a group of over 48 countries throughout the world.

Winners of the State Science and Engineering Fair go on to compete at the international level in two divisions. Students in grades 5-8 compete in the Discovery International Competition. Students in grades 9-12 compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held in Phoenix, Arizona later this year.

From Tornillo, Christina Cortez and Carlos Trevizo won first place awards. Second place holders were Juan Gallegos and Eduardo Rodriguez. Third place winners were Steven Luna, Yuriko Barrera, Ricardo Esparza, Miguel Lujan, George Garay, Marion Fortelaza and Efrain Alvidrez.

Carlos Trevizo won the D. Joe Williams Creativity Award, a \$50 savings bond, and also qualified for the Discovery International Competition.

The Tornillo High School sponsors are Patricia Dimapilis and Al Racelis. The Tornillo Junior High sponsors are Ernie Monte and D. Joe Williams.

Hecker

From Page 1

committees. Next year, he will assume the duties of state president for TAAD.

Hecker has also served on the Board of Trustees for Canutillo ISD for 12 years.

TAAD is a statewide, voluntary

non-profit organization incorporated and organized to promote the effective and efficient functioning and administration of appraisal districts in Texas.

TAAD provides its members and the general public with access to information about the state’s 253 appraisal districts, legislative and property tax news, and up to date opportunities in education, training and professional development.

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New San Elizario library expected to benefit both school and community

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — The San Elizario Independent School District officially broke ground for its brand new, state-of-the-art high school library, Wednesday, March 2, 2005, in what turned out to be a very festive morning ceremony.

“The new library at SEHS will not only be the focal point of learning at the high school, it will also be a community learning center for all residents of San Elizario, especially our former students who are currently attending colleges and universities,” said Dr. Mike Quatrini, Superintendent.

The \$1.8 million project is expected to be complete in time for the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year and the district is looking at ways to provide community access. The library will be constructed using Instructional Facilities Allotment funds (IFA) granted by the State of Texas. The IFA program was initially authorized in House Bill 4 by the 75th Legislature in 1997 and the provisions for it are incorporated into the Texas Education Code as Chapter 46. It became effective on September 1, 1997, and provides assistance to school districts in making debt service payments on qualifying bonds and lease-purchase agreements.

The new library will be a little more than double the size of the current library with elevated ceilings and a separate classroom for instruction

and meeting space. In addition, it will have two small conference rooms to hold meetings and study groups. The current library is about 5000 square feet — the new library will be 11,165 square feet total indoor. A covered outdoor breezeway will connect the existing building to the new library and a new parking lot will be built in front of the new library.

It will also have access from both the inner building as well as the street. The structure will be fashioned in the same exterior design as the current school building.

Design of the new library is aligned with the educational objectives of the learning community with flexible access and supporting the educational objectives of the

library program in accordance with School Library Programs’ Standards and Guidelines of Texas. This library will be an “exemplary” library, which includes exemplary program development, the maximization of library developed funds to exceed library and campus goals and objectives for student achievement, the maintaining of a balance and current collection of at least 16 books per student.

Wireless technology will be utilized, which complies with exemplary library technology infrastructure standards.

A focus will be on parental and community resources and the acquisition of college level materials to support the college population of the community. The district is looking to adjust library hours for community access.



Mike Quatrini



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

SAFETY FIRST — Luis Calvillo of Salvador Sanchez Middle School shows his award-winning poster.

National poster contest taps East County student

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — There’s a new computer in Luis Calvillo’s future thanks to his artistic talent. Calvillo, a sixth-grade student at Salvador Sanchez Middle School, received a check for \$600 from GEICO regional vice president Gary Brown March 2. Calvillo is the first place winner of GEICO’s 2004 National Safety Belt Poster Contest in the 12-to-15-year age group. His work was selected out of more than 1,800 contest entries, Brown said, and will be reproduced as a poster to hang in GEICO offices nationwide and in all participating schools, and be published in the company magazine and on its web site.

“I’ve always liked art,” Calvillo says. “My mom and my dad draw a lot.”

GEICO also presented a check for \$500 to Sanchez principal Clarice Jones for art supplies.

Briefs

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more information call toll-free, 1-800-715-8837.

■ “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!” The Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration at the El Paso County Library in Fabens is an annual event, celebrating 101 this year. Kids and teens are invited to come hear great stories by Dr. Seuss and enjoy some cake on Thursday, March 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 1331 N. Fabens St. Call 764-3635 for more information.

■ Socorro ISD will offer Adult Education Integrated Computer Classes beginning March 29. Classes will be Monday through Friday, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Participants need to be intermediate English level to enroll. Classes offered include Keyboarding, Word, Excel and Powerpoint. The class is self-directed and students work at their own pace. Registration begins March 29 and is on-going. For more information call Socorro ISD Community Services at 937-1700 or 937-1704.

■ Two Socorro ISD campuses are planning pre-registration for

pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-aged children. The session is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 2. Paso del Norte School, 12300 Tierra Este is the site for the registration for students who will attend Paso del Norte and for the District’s new Hurshel Antwine campus. The new school is now being built north and east of Paso del Norte, and south of Montana Avenue. Antwine is scheduled to open for the 2005-2006 school year. For more information, call the Paso del Norte campus, 937-6200.

■ The Clint Independent School District Transportation Department is moving from Clint to a central location in Horizon. The Clint ISD Transportation Department employs 60 bus drivers who transport 3,700 students during the school year. Currently, the district has a fleet of 65 buses to cover the 379.9 square miles of the district. The grand opening ceremony was Friday, March 4, at the new facility at 12585 Darrington Road.

■ The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved \$16 million in federal funding to improve traffic and mobility around Fort Bliss. This funding is included in H.R. 3, a bill re-authorizing the Transportation Equity Act, which also authorized a

public transportation system between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez for future federal funds. “We in El Paso are not only looking forward to welcoming new troops to our community, we are preparing for them as well,” said Congressman Silvestre Reyes. “With 3,800 additional troops and their families due to arrive next year, traffic around Fort Bliss will increase significantly.” This funding will be used to construct interchanges to ease traffic flow to additional entrances on the east side of Biggs Army Airfield. The public transportation system between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez is meant to alleviate the increased congestion due to trans-border commerce which has led to dangerous increases in air pollution from idling vehicles at the border.

■ Southwest Texas ACA, which provides financing for rural real estate, equipment, livestock and other ag-related business, recently announced the payment of \$5 million to farmers, ranchers and rural land owners with which it does business in the form of a patronage refund paid in cash, based on the amount of interest the Association earned on the borrower’s loan. Eric C. Rothe, CEO, said the Association has returned some \$12 million over the past five years.

Canutillo ISD hosts school board institute

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — A special pre-conference institute for school board members and school administrators will be the inaugural event for the 12th Annual BEEMS (Bilingual Education with Emphasis in Math & Science) Conference, set for March 10-12.

The pre-conference institute, which is sponsored by Canutillo ISD, Ysleta ISD, Region 19 Education Service Center, the College of Education at UTEP and the Mexican Consulate, will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 10, at Canutillo ISD Administrative Facility, 7965 Artcraft.

Texas Sen. Eliot Shapleigh will make a special presentation of a behind the scenes look at the 79th Legislative Session now in progress. Also making presentations will be Dr. James Vasquez, Region 19 ESC executive director; Dr. Josie Tinajero, UTEP College of Education dean and BEEMS co-chairperson; and Charles Hart, CISD superintendent.

“This school board member institute reflects the strong partnership that exists among Region 19 ESC, UTEP, and area school districts. The event will offer participants the opportunity to interact with school leaders and community members and to exchange ideas for promoting world-class educational opportunities in Texas,” said Pauline Dow, CISD Academic Language Services director and BEEMS conference co-chairperson.

About 1,000 teachers, school administrators, school board members, parents, and students from the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez area, Texas and across the nation are expected to participate in the three-day conference.

Other conference events include school visits to 11 featured schools with outstanding dual language programs; a parents institute to help, inform, and enable parents to be more active in their children’s education; and over 70 concurrent sessions presented by educators and researchers from across the nation focusing on the best educational practices and issues concerning bilingual education.

For more information, call Dow at 877-7438.

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Tiger is on the prowl again

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The professional golfing torch was passed from Tiger Woods to Vijay Singh last season. But after last week’s spectacular performance, the torch has been retaken by its rightful owner. Just a few months after he lost the world’s number one ranking, Woods’ victory in last Sunday’s Doral Open put him back on top of the PGA mountain. But it wasn’t just the fact that Tiger won the tournament, it’s how he did it and whom he did it against.

Though Tiger has been showing signs of returning to his old dominating self in recent weeks, no golfer has been as hot on the tour as Phil Mickelson. Mickelson, who came into the tournament having won two straight, went out and grabbed a three-stroke lead over the field and led Woods by five shots, after two rounds. Tiger cut into Lefty’s lead and trailed by two strokes going into the final round, and that spelled bad news for Mickelson, who has never fared well in a one-on-one confrontation with Tiger Woods. Woods caught Mickelson midway through the final round and the two went to the next-to-last hole of the tournament tied for the lead. The big question was who would be the first to blink. I didn’t see Mickelson blink, but I did see his eyes open wide in disbelief when Tiger rolled in a birdie putt from 18-feet out to take

a one-stroke lead with a hole to play. On that putt, Tiger looked like the Tiger of a couple years ago when he would come up with the big shot every time he needed to. Of course, Tiger won the tournament and Mickelson fell to 0-3 in final round battles with Woods. The loss was especially difficult for Mickelson, who took the defeat so hard that the usually jovial lefty refused to talk to reporters after it was over. I don’t think Mickelson’s mood is going to get any better. Woods seems to have his game back and that spells bad news for the rest of the PGA field. We might be back to the days when tour professionals start battling each other for second place.

Like baseball, Selig lacks integrity

I got a big laugh at what Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig said last week. He actually said the days of steroids in baseball are coming to and end. What kind of mind-altering drug is he on? Selig announced that there was no reason to put any asterisks next to any names in the baseball record books. Selig was actually quoted as saying “In fairness to those players (accused of taking steroids), no one has been convicted of anything, and we can’t turn history back.” My question to Mr. Selig is what if a player is convicted, or confesses to using steroids? Is it still unfair to put an asterisk next to his name? Let’s wait to see how the entire process works itself out before we start proclaiming what is

fair or unfair. Selig then stated what I thought was the biggest knee-slapper of all — he said his job was to protect the integrity of the game. The integrity of the game? What planet of pinheads has he been living on? Hey Bud, ever heard of the integrity behind the Black Sox scandal? How about Steve Howe, Daryl Strawberry, Pete Rose, the corked bat, the spit ball or the umpire airline ticket scandal? Oh, and how about the fact that Blacks and Jews weren’t even allowed to play the game for decades. Let’s face it, the game of baseball has been lacking in the integrity department since way back there. If Selig’s job is really to save the integrity of baseball, where was he when players were being given a free ride on the steroids express over the last 10 years? Under his watch, baseball players couldn’t even be tested for steroids. Now Selig claims the days of steroids in baseball are over. If that is true, why are the players being tested by urine samples, the easiest test to cheat? Players are going to dodge this test like they do all the others. The only ones who can do anything about steroids in baseball are the players themselves. Players who are not on steroids will eventually get tired of watching the cheaters gain both physically and economically. Until players with integrity get rid of those without it, the game of baseball will be a shell of what I was always taught it was, the wholesome, honest, family-oriented American pastime.

Dangerous

From Page 2

indicate on our bodies with black permanent marker which part is to be operated on — we can even do this ourselves, if we can reach it. This is because there have been countless cases where doctors have mistakenly operated on — even removed — body parts that were perfectly healthy, especially if there are two of said body parts. Now, I ask you, are we much safer in the care of the medical establishment than the teenager who lies down on the white stripe in the middle of a busy street just to see how long it is before he or she gets flattened? I’m not so sure. Fourth, but certainly not last, we go out to eat. Haven’t you been watching documentaries about the food service industry? I once attended a class to get my food-handler’s license and watched several young people — wearing the uniform of their fast-food employer — doze through the whole thing. Worse yet, there is now even a website onto which food-service workers can post anecdotes of how they took revenge on complaining clientele — that’s scary stuff. Maybe we’re looking at this thing all wrong. Maybe we ought to get a little crazy every now and again on purpose. Living dangerously may actually increase our longevity. For example, we were driving a good friend of ours to her home recently. She’s now in her nineties. As we drove through a series of winding curves on a dangerous stretch of roadway, she sighed longingly. I used to love driving this stretch really fast, she said.

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PUBLIC
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El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 is currently accepting resumes to fill the position of Commissioner for the Horizon City Fire Department Board of Commissioners. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, have lived in El Paso County for at least one year, and reside within the boundaries of the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1.

Send sealed resume to:
El Paso County Emergency Services District #1
14151 Nunda
El Paso, TX 79928
Attn: Ron Larson
WTCC: 03/10/05

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Texas Gas Service Company, a division of ONEOK, Inc. (“Company”), hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for approximately 184,186 residential, 11,746 commercial, 70 industrial, 792 public authority, 21 municipal water pumping and 49 standard transportation customers within the incorporated areas of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, Texas, in accordance with the Company’s Statement of Intent filed with the Cities of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, Texas, on February 18, 2005. The proposed effective date is for meters read on and after May 31, 2005.

It is anticipated that the effect of the change in rates will be to increase the revenues of the Company within the El Paso Service Area by approximately \$1,207,239 or 0.95 percent. The proposed change does not constitute a “major” change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code.

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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	(STOP HERE) (FOR \$5 AD.)
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20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35

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WTCC: 03/10/05

BARGAINS

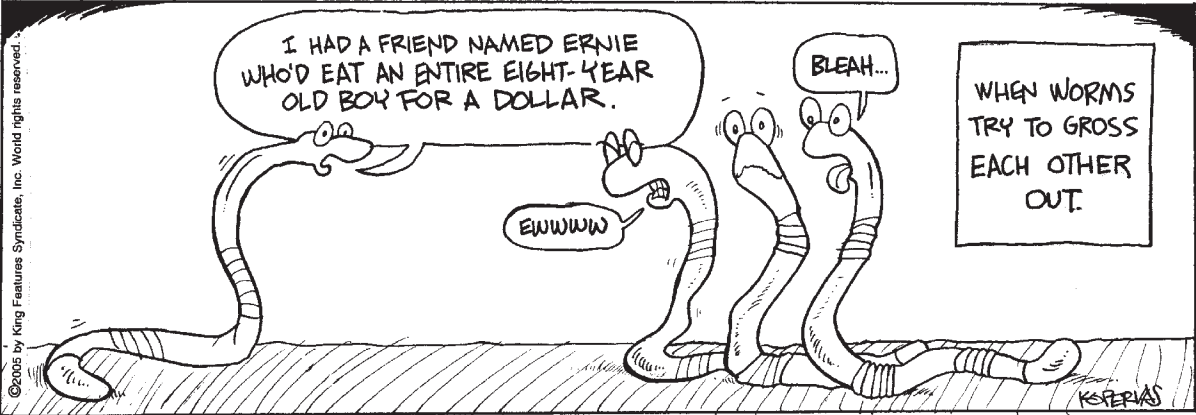
GIRLS BIKE: Excellent condition, 20-inch Murray Back Track Moun-

The El Paso County Fabens Library is seeking a tech trainer (\$8 per hour) for computer classes on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings and a Citizenship teacher for Saturday afternoons. People Skills, an area nonprofit agency and El Paso Area Libraries (EPAL) member and Beto Pallares, are working with the county library to provide tech training classes. Contact Manuela Gandara at the El Paso County Library in Fabens at 764-3635 for more information. 3/10

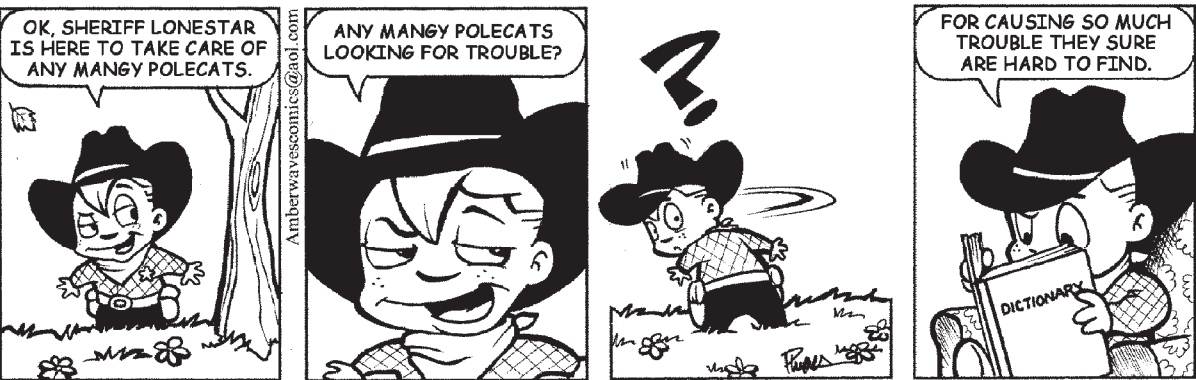
REAL

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



Men need to work on publicity

By Don Flood

Listen up, guys!
I'm not sure which one of us is responsible for this but *we have got to get a new publicist!*
Day after day, we are getting hammered out there in the press. Even when there's a story about how wonderful men are, they — and by "they" I mean the enemy — manage to turn it around.
For example, I recently saw a headline: Men spend more on Valentines.

Sounds good, right?
You would expect the story to make the obvious points that men are bighearted, generous, caring, etc.
Well, it would — if our publicist was doing his job!
But here's how it really went. A survey found that men spend 62 percent more on Valentine's Day gifts than women but, according to the story, "experts say that hardly means males are more romantic."

What's going on? Here we have some good, hard data about how thoughtful men are, and it's used as a springboard for male bashing. And it's downhill from there.
The very next quote comes from a college professor with the rather unlikely name of Galdino Pranzarone of Roanoke, Va.
She says, "I suspect it's an ego thing. Some (men) just don't want to be seen as a cheapskate."
Excuse me? Men spend more than women and suddenly it's a negative, an ego problem?
Let's take another look, shall we?
Mathematically speaking, this isn't hard to figure out.
Men spend 62 percent more on Valentine's Day gifts; *therefore men are 62 percent more romantic, more thoughtful, more wonderful.*

And how come they couldn't find another "expert" to say something like, "This is just another example of women being tightwads. They would much rather spend money on themselves."
That's what our publicist is supposed to be doing. Getting out our spin, our message!
The story doesn't stop there. Even though women spend way less than men, they get points because they "wrapped up their shopping earlier and men often waited until the last minute."
Yeah, so?
Here's what one psychology professor said. "These data suggest that women do spend more time anticipating the holiday, and I suspect they place a greater value on the quality and thoughtfulness of the gift — not just getting something at the last minute."
And here's the really sad part, my friends. The professor who said that, Dennis Murray of Pennsylvania University, is allegedly a man!
How can we win when some of our teammates are playing for the other side!

OK, I'll admit, I've occasionally waited to make my Valentine purchases on, say, Feb. 14.
(I have not waited until Feb. 15, even though you can pick up some *really* good deals. Relationship experts, however, point out one drawback to waiting until Feb. 15: You may be deceased.)
But maybe men aren't just "waiting until the last minute."
Maybe they're just *thinking*, trying to come up with the best possible Valentine's present — like tickets to a hockey game.
Here's a thought, guys. Let's spend less on Valentine's Day gifts and use the money to hire a better publicist.

(c) 2005 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- EVERYBODY'S IRISH**

ACROSS

1 Auctioneer's item

6 Column style

11 Tiff

15 Wallace or Ayres

18 Revenue

19 Ann __, MI

20 Well-ventilated

21 Have bills

22 Irish mobster?

24 Irish singer?

26 Fluffy female

27 __ contact

28 Frighten

30 Corduroy ridge

31 Sean of "Colors"

33 Covered thickly

36 In any way

38 Furnish

41 "The Dating Game" producer

42 Young follower?

43 "Rigoletto" composer

44 Adams' apparatus

45 Home wreckers?

49 "Make __ double!"

50 Last name in fashion

52 Diva Leontyne

53 " __ been had!"

54 Baseball's Bucky

56 Evangelist

Roberts

57 Sag
- 59 Bottled spirits?

61 Box

63 Kind of carpet

64 Fit for a king

65 Easy stride

66 Irish explorer?

70 "East of Eden" character

71 Dancer Gregory

72 They may be wild

73 Porthos' pal

75 Turn inside out

76 Cremona

craftsman

78 Clarinetist Artie

79 School founded in 1440

82 Always, to Auden

83 Less available

85 Bartlett bits

87 Space __

88 Ally Walker series

90 Country

gentleman

92 __ cotta

94 Bruins' sch.

95 Compare

96 Castle feature

97 Greek island

99 Celtic cultists

100 Sociable stalling

101 Bluenose

102 Actress Davis

104 Rainbow shape

105 Scholastic abbr.

108 Irish composer?

110 Irish boxer?

116 Infamous Amin
- 117 Chip off Woody's block

118 Carve a canyon

119 Ill-tempered

120 Rock's __ Zeppelin

121 AMEX rival

122 Impressionist painter

123 Elbow

DOWN

1 Tackle a bone

2 Lot size

3 Cubic meas.

4 Philips of "UHF"

5 Saga

6 Knight's wife

7 Planet, for one

8 McGwire stat

9 Noun suffix

10 Balkan area

11 Bar food?

12 Wharf

13 Like potpourri

14 Cobb and Hardin

15 True-blue

16 Tom of "Adam's Rib"

17 "You __ on My Mind" ('65 hit)

18 Complete the cake

23 Writer Rand

25 Oscar or Tony

29 Meyerbeer's __ Huguenots"

31 Seal school

32 Author Ambler

33 Sahara sight
- 34 Turgenev's birthplace

35 O'Hare info

37 Wire

38 Fired up

39 Jubilee

40 Irish actor?

41 Bite for Bonzo

42 Freightier or ferry

44 Pool shot

45 __ -Magnon

46 Irish musician?

47 European health resort

48 __ Patrick Harris

51 Torrid

52 Kelly's possum

55 Candle

57 Delhi wrap

58 Shoots the breeze

60 A la King?

62 Curb

63 "Git, Garfield"

65 Bile producer

67 Circus sound

68 City in Pakistan

69 Talk really big

71 Dickens villain

74 Veneration

76 __ code

77 Sea, to Seurat

78 Decks have four

80 Grimm creature

81 Tidy

84 Extended metaphor

85 College courtyard

86 Amaze
- 89 Tierra del __

90 Multiplied 2 X 2

91 On the __ vive

93 Significant years

95 Directional suffix

96 Industrialist

97 __ oil

98 Unbending

99 Crusoe's creator

100 "The A-Team" actor

101 Skier Mahre

103 Architectural features

104 Aphrodite's lover

105 Evigan or Gumbel

106 Unwind a rind

107 Some

109 Ashen

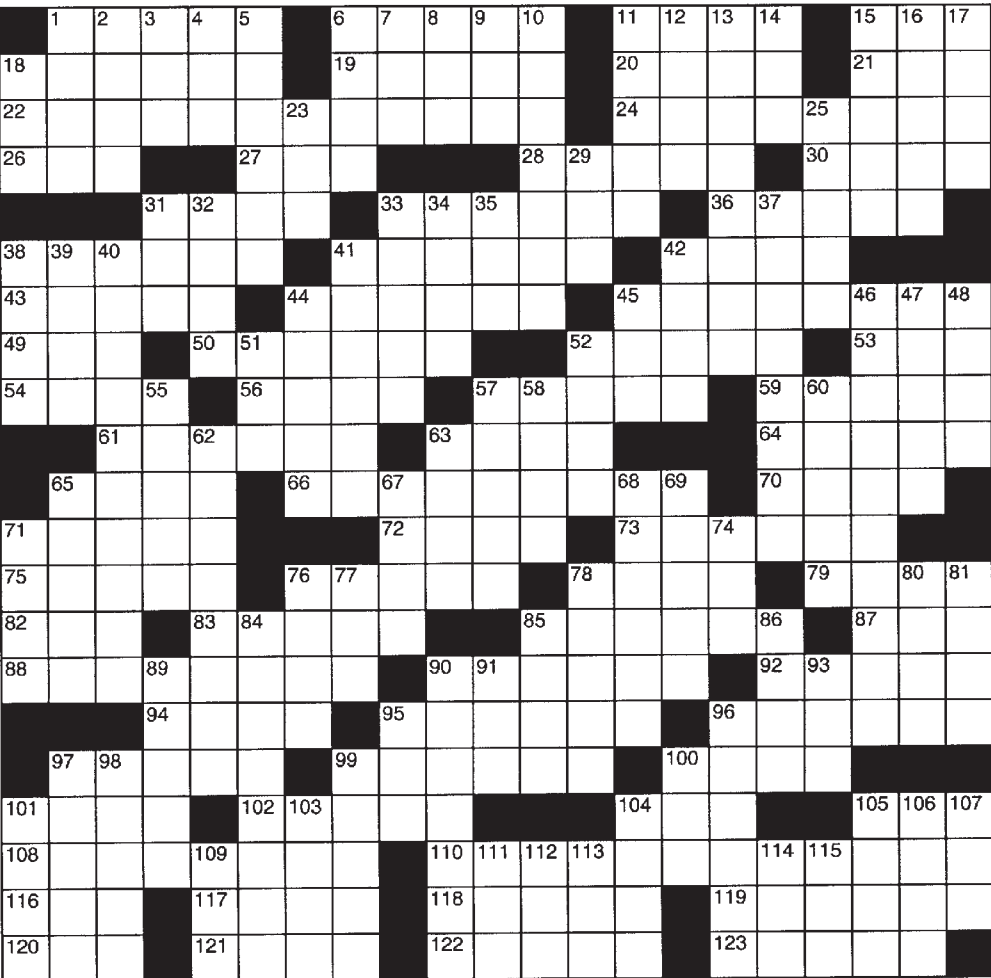
111 Northwestern st.

112 Marsh

113 Author LeShan

114 Joanne of "Red River"

115 Sturm __ Drang



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My husband is in the Navy and we are stationed in Japan. My daughter is disabled and I would like to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Can you get SSI when you are not living in the United States?

A: Normally you must be a U.S. resident to get SSI. However, there are special rules for dependent children of military personnel who are outside of the U.S. Such children may be able to get or apply for SSI while overseas.

Q: My neighbor and I both get Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Her amount went up to \$579 a month this year but mine is a lot less. Why is this?

A: There are a number of factors that can affect your SSI payment amount. If you work or receive any other income, it affects the amount of SSI you can receive. Also, if you receive support from others or live in a household where you are not paying your share of the rent and bills, your amount will be reduced. This is because SSI is a needs-based program.

Q: Can you tell me about the new Medicare benefits? I heard some were effective January 2005.

A: Medicare has added benefits to help people stay healthy. As of January 1, 2005, people who receive Medicare can take advantage of three important new benefits: a one-time “Welcome to Medicare” physical exam, cardiovascular screening and diabetes screening. For more information, you can visit the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov/health/overview.asp.









Q: I’m a military man and I’m going to retire soon. I also have enough credits to receive Social Security benefits. Will my benefits be offset because of my military retirement?

A: Generally, there is no offset of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement. You’ll get your full Social Security benefit based on your earnings. However, your Social Security benefit may be reduced if you also receive a government pension based on a job in which you didn’t pay Social Security taxes.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Plenty of sunshine with a nice afternoon.	A star-studded sky.	Breezy with a good deal of sunshine.	Abundant sunshine and warm.	Quite warm with plenty of sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Sunshine and patchy clouds.	Sunshine and some clouds.
▲ 72°	▼ 42°	▲ 70° ▼ 44°	▲ 75° ▼ 46°	▲ 77° ▼ 46°	▲ 74° ▼ 40°	▲ 70° ▼ 39°	▲ 68° ▼ 44°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

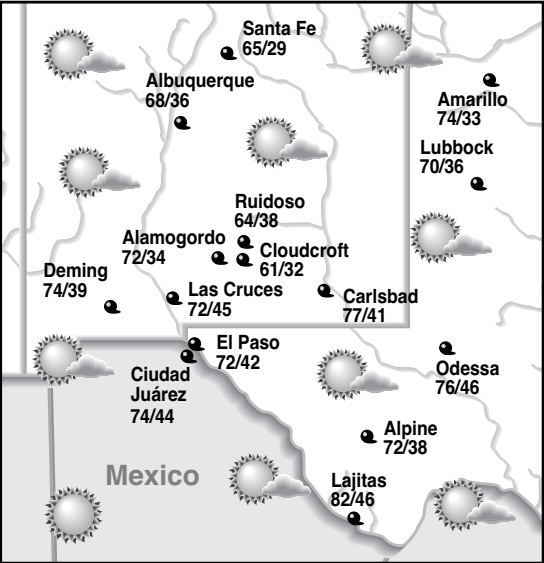
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	7High
Friday	6Moderate
Saturday	8High
Sunday	8High
Monday	7High
Tuesday	6Moderate
Wednesday	5Moderate

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	74	45
Canutillo	74	45
Clint	74	45
E. Montana	73	43
Fabens	74	45
Horizon	75	46
San Elizario	71	43
Socorro	71	42
Tornillo	74	45
Vinton	74	45

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	68/36/s	66/38/s	70/38/s	67/38/s	62/34/pc
Atlanta	51/38/s	53/38/sh	63/48/s	67/47/s	65/48/sh
Atlantic City	36/25/s	43/28/sn	46/25/r	45/27/c	48/27/c
Austin/San Antonio	71/45/s	70/44/s	74/52/s	75/49/c	77/55/s
Baltimore	38/30/pc	42/30/sn	45/30/c	45/30/c	48/30/c
Boston	32/24/pc	38/31/sn	39/26/sn	37/26/c	42/25/s
Chicago	36/24/sn	34/22/sf	36/26/sn	38/28/sn	42/21/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	68/43/s	69/44/s	73/52/s	70/51/c	69/53/c
Denver	56/29/pc	64/34/s	60/32/pc	54/27/r	51/26/c
Flagstaff	62/28/s	62/26/s	60/31/s	56/29/pc	50/22/c
Houston	66/48/s	72/48/s	74/50/s	78/58/pc	78/60/pc
Kansas City	54/28/sh	54/31/pc	61/38/pc	51/33/sh	46/26/pc
Las Vegas	80/55/s	82/53/s	78/53/s	75/51/s	71/48/pc
Miami	73/60/r	76/58/pc	76/60/s	80/65/s	82/65/s
Minneapolis	34/17/sn	32/15/sn	31/18/sn	32/18/c	28/11/pc
New Orleans	63/45/s	65/48/s	73/57/s	75/60/s	75/61/pc
New York City	36/32/s	36/30/sn	42/30/sn	43/31/c	43/30/c
Philadelphia	40/28/s	40/30/sn	43/30/sn	43/30/c	48/30/c
Phoenix	86/58/s	86/58/s	82/58/s	81/56/pc	76/49/pc
Portland	64/44/s	68/44/s	66/40/s	62/36/s	56/36/pc
San Francisco	70/52/s	70/52/s	66/51/s	64/50/s	64/45/s
Seattle	62/46/s	64/46/s	60/40/s	56/38/s	50/31/s
Tucson	82/51/s	84/51/s	82/51/s	80/49/s	75/42/pc
Washington, DC	42/32/pc	44/34/r	46/34/pc	49/34/pc	49/33/c

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

AGRICULTURE

Thursday will feature 8 to 10 hours of sunshine as temperatures rise to several degrees above normal. Westerly winds will lightly blow at 5-10 mph. Plenty of sun will shine through the end of the weekend as afternoon high temperatures continue to rise to the 70s. With southeast winds at 8-16 mph, breezy conditions be felt on Friday.

All forecasts and maps provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2005

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