



NEWSBRIEFS

Drug bust

A 26-year-old Mexican national was arrested last week and charged with possession of 737.5 pounds of marijuana following a car and foot chase by Border Patrol Agents and deputies of the Hudspeth County and El Paso County Sheriff's Departments, according to Rick Glancey, Public Information Officer, El Paso County Sheriff's office. The 1992 black and gray Ford extended cab pickup made an illegal crossing into the U.S. from Mexico, and when approached by Hudspeth County deputies and Border Patrol agents, the driver of the vehicle failed to pull over and eventually crossed into El Paso County. The El Paso County Sheriff's Dept. was notified and further attempted to stop the fleeing vehicle, which eventually wound up driving into the Franklin Canal near Tornillo. He fled on foot but was captured. Ricardo Roman Padilla from Guadalupe, Chihuahua, Mexico is charged with a second-degree felony and was incarcerated in the El Paso County Downtown Detention Facility on bond of \$75,000. The case has been turned over to the El Paso County Metro Narcotics Task Force. Glancey said the marijuana has a local street value of approximately \$400,000 and is worth two to three times that amount in the central and northern United States. "We appreciate the hard work and the great communication between the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office, Border Patrol Agents and our alert Deputies in the field. Working together we were able to stop this major load from hitting the streets of El Paso," Glancey said.

Airport aid

The Fabens Airport will apparently receive about \$250,000 in improvements following a majority vote by the El Paso County Commissioners Court on Monday. Commissioners authorized County Judge Dolores Briones to sign a Texas Department of Transportation Airport Project Participation Agreement for the Fabens Airport Project. Commissioner Miguel Teran, who represents the Fabens area, said the airport was currently little more than a landing strip. The agreement calls for about \$25,000 from local sources in matching funds. Repaving, signage, and a landing indicator system are included in the improvements. Commissioner Dan Haggerty was the single no vote against the improvements. Haggerty said the county isn't in the airport business and the only ones who would benefit from the improvement are residents of the valley, therefore, he said, they should pay for it. "Give the pig away," he said.

In other news

■ The Socorro Fire Dept., ESD #2, is continuing the Fire and Burn Prevention

See BRIEFS, Page 5

H.D. Hilley librarian obtains national board certification

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The country is now an open window of opportunities for Neysa R. Hardin, H.D. Hilley Elementary Library Media Specialist. That's because in November, Hardin successfully obtained her National Board Certification, the first teacher in Socorro ISD to earn this prestigious honor.

National Board Certification will allow Hardin to work as a school librarian in all 50 states. In addition, she received six graduate hours towards her professional development studies. But Hardin jokes that she's not going anywhere.

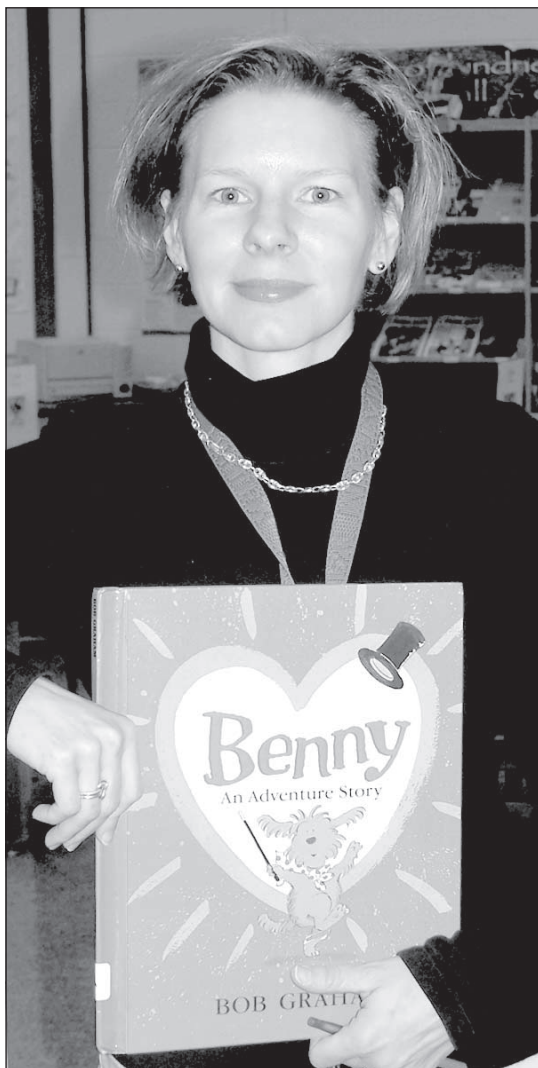
"I am very happy being H.D. Hilley's librarian," she says. "So my letter of transfer to teach in Hawaii is on hold for now, ha."

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is a year-long process in which candidates must demonstrate accomplished teaching practices. The process includes creating a portfolio and taking an online assessment.

"My portfolio included four entries: instructional collaboration, fostering appreciation of literature, integration of instructional technologies and reflective analysis," she says.

As part of her portfolio Hardin incorporated video-taped lessons, artifacts of student work, examples of collaboration

See LIBRARIAN, Page 5



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

HARD WORK REWARDED — Neysa R. Hardin, H.D. Hilley Elementary Library Media Specialist, successfully obtained her National Board Certification, the first teacher in Socorro ISD to earn this prestigious honor.

Names take center stage in Canutillo and San Elizario board meetings

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — "What's in a name?" It was a question asked by Shakespeare in "Romeo and Juliet."

It was also a question addressed by trustees in the Canutillo Independent School District in their monthly board meeting last week.

And it was also a matter of not only names but also of naming that came up at last week's meeting of the board of trustees of the San Elizario ISD.

Canutillo ISD

Names figured prominently in discussions at the Canutillo ISD board meeting Dec. 13.

Joe Villarreal, chairman of the Facilities Naming Committee, reported on suggestions from residents of names for five separate complexes at the new high school. The areas for which names were sought were the football stadium, the gym, the baseball field, the tennis court and the softball field.

The names came out at two community meetings held recently. A third meeting for final community input is planned following the Feb. 4, 2006 school bond election.

Villarreal, who is also former president of the Canutillo board of trustees, said suggested names favored those relating to the Eagle mas-

cot rather than for individuals. No final recommendation will be made to the board until after the third community meeting. Suggested names to date:

- Stadium — Flying Eagles Stadium, Eagle Pride Stadium and Eagle Stadium
- Gym Complex — Eagles Nest, Eagles Gym Complex
- Tennis Court — Eagles Court
- Baseball Field — Eagles Diamond Field
- Softball field — Lady Eagles Softball Field

Board president Sergio Coronado assured residents that their opinions and views on naming the facilities are important. "We are going to listen to the community."

Board member Rafael Reyes asked for confirmation that the new middle school will be named for Jose J. Alderete, Sr. It was generally agreed and understood that when the new Canutillo High opens, the old high school will become Canutillo Middle School. The old (current) middle school would be named for Alderete.

San Elizario

The issue of names came up twice at the Dec. 14 board meeting in San Elizario.

The first instance came up in a proclamation approved by the board. It called for renaming the area now known as the Lower Valley to Mission Valley. It was felt that Mission Valley was a more accurate and

DSHS suggestions for flu prevention

TEXAS — The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) recommends that people traveling over the winter holidays take precautions to avoid getting or spreading the flu.

"With rain, colder temperatures, long trips and family gatherings, people will be spending more time together in enclosed spaces," said Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, Texas Commissioner of State Health Services. "During this time of year, germs such as the flu virus are more likely to be spread from person to person. More frequent travel increases the chances of flu-like illnesses spreading from city to city," he said.

Primary precautions for reducing the risk of getting or spreading influenza are:

- Cover coughs and sneezes to reduce the spread of viruses and other germs.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay home if you have symptoms of a respiratory illness.

People with the flu generally can transmit the virus to others from one day before getting sick to from three to seven days after.

The length of time between exposure to the flu virus and development of symptoms ranges from one to four days and is typically about two days.

Symptoms of the flu — which usually come on suddenly — include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches and extreme fatigue.

Sanchez said it is not too late to get a flu shot. "Vaccination can provide protection from influenza throughout the season," he said.

The flu season in Texas generally runs from October through March, peaking in January and February.

descriptive term.

The proclamation said, in part, "... the missions were founded over 300 years ago, (and) served as places of worship, as a haven for the communities and as a haven for the travelers to spend the night ..."

The proposed renaming is supported by such entities as the cities of El Paso and Socorro as well as Catholic Diocese of El Paso, the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and UT El Paso.

The SEISD board also discussed naming a replacement for board member Terry Alarcon who announced her resignation with "much regret" in a November letter to board president Antonio Araujo. Resignation is effective Dec. 31.

The board was divided on how best to replace her. An interim replacement could be named and would serve until the May 2006 school board elections. The other choice would be for the position to remain vacant until May. After closed session deliberations, it was decided to leave the position open until voters could approve a successor.

Other names mentioned at the San Eli meeting were Flor Reza, November Employee of the Month; Jeff Seay, Teacher of the Month and Eva Dearo, Supervisor of the Month. November Partner in Education was Oasis Lanes.

Executive ability is a talent for deciding something quickly and getting someone else to do it.

— Quips & Quotes



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Loss of identity

Used to be that people knew who they were. They had a last name they inherited from their parents, lived in a certain town and did this or that for a living. Then came the enlightened years when we realized that deep-down we were all involved in an identity crisis, and people started this weird process of searching for themselves and trying to find out “who I really am.” I guess a bunch of us must have found out because now, apparently, folks who don’t know who they are have been stealing the identities of those who do.

Now, I’m not sure how it feels to wake up without your identity but it can’t be pleasant. And I don’t think it’s something you can relocate like your glasses or your keys.

Actually, I think it’s more akin to somebody making a clone of you without your knowledge and then the clone’s misbehavior comes home to roost on your doorstep. You know, sort of like teenagers.

But after all the recent hoopla about how easy it is to have your identity stolen, there are some financial commentators who say the whole thing is being blown out of proportion and that you aren’t near as likely to be a victim of identity theft as we might have previously believed.

Mostly, they say, you’re likely to be victimized if you are careless, and it’s probably going to be those pesky little pieces of plastic we all use instead of money that will be source of the problem.

Scary numbers keep being thrown around such as one in five Americans has been hit by identity theft. But apparently this isn’t the kind where someone uses your personal information to open up multiple credit ac-

counts, purchase real estate, take extended ocean cruises at your expense, or access your bank accounts and walk away with your retirement. These kinds of cases are rare, apparently — though well publicized on television documentaries.

Many of the incidents classified as “identity theft” — a hefty 28 percent of them, in fact — would actually be better classified as credit card fraud.

In essence, if you give a hotel your credit card number to hold a room and someone uses that number one time to buy a pair of shoes from a mail-order company, you have technically been a victim of “identity theft” as defined under the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998.

Now, I sure don’t mean to say that credit card fraud is not serious. It’s sort of like having somebody lift cash right out of your pocket, which personally makes me feel unfriendly.

But neither does this mean that with a little common sense you can’t utilize the internet with a fair amount of confidence. It is a simple fact that the internet has become — and will remain — an integral part of the working global economy.

I don’t buy over the internet if I can lay hands on what I want at a comparable price at an actual stick and brick store. And I don’t order from companies I don’t know or can’t verify as reputable, and I keep all on-line purchases on one credit card so that if something goes wrong, I’ve only got one to clean up after. But other recommendations I’ve read about recently include never, never, never sending personal financial information via e-mail or paying for online auctions directly to the seller — use a

See IDENTITY, Page 6



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2005 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$20 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$35. Delivery via 1st class mail.

ADDRESS:
14200 Ashford
Horizon City, TX 79928

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard • Jan Engels

Homesteader News, Inc.
Est. 1973



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Remember the warriors

Once again, the holiday season approaches as thousands of servicemen and women are serving overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan and across the world. They are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends and relatives to many of us here in El Paso and across the country, and the holidays just aren’t the same without them. Similarly, the holidays definitely aren’t the same for those who are overseas serving in what can be dangerous and stressful conditions. As a combat veteran, my heart goes out to these men and women and their loved ones. I know how hard it is to spend the holidays separated from both home and family.

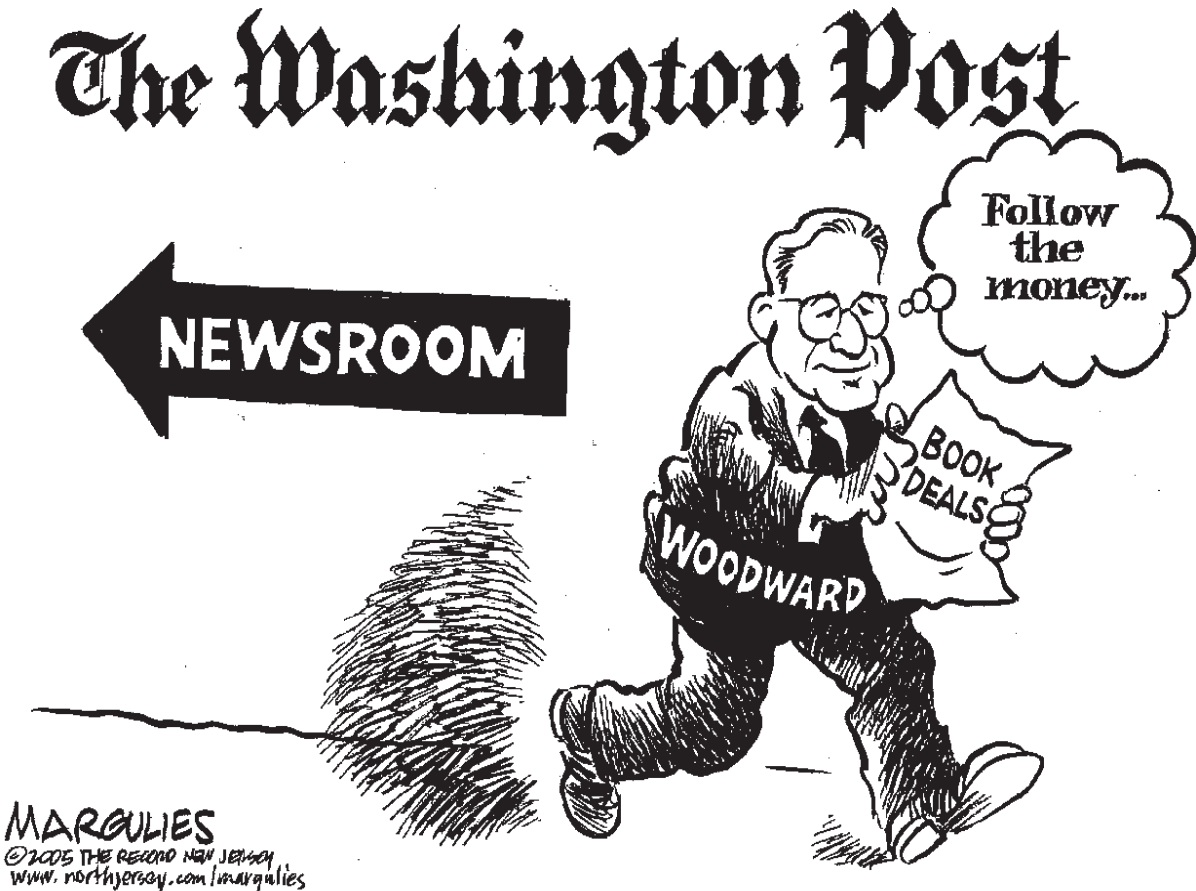
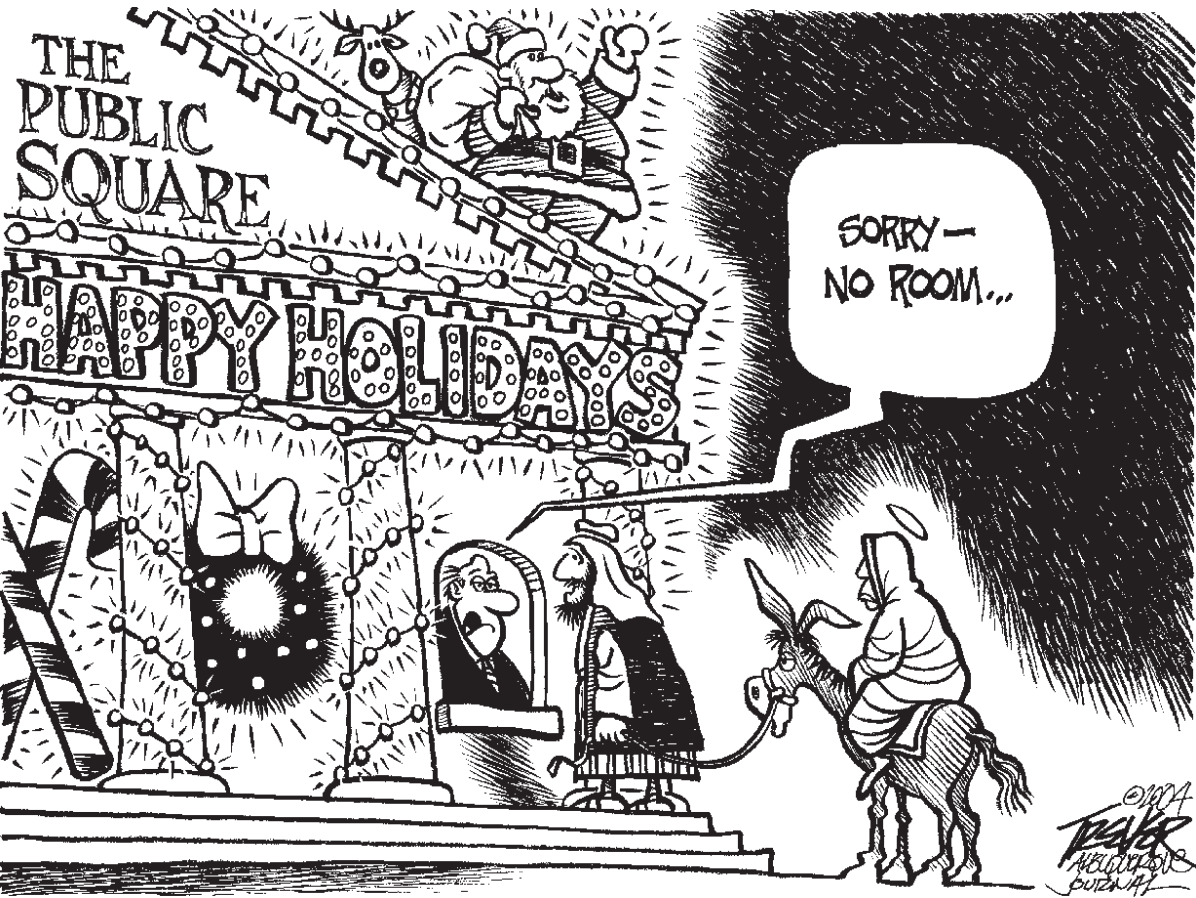
To help ease the burden on our military personnel and their families, the United Services Organization (USO) is continuing their tradition of providing a “touch of home” for military personnel during the holidays. For those stationed at home and abroad. They are also well known for their care packages, which are filled with music, snacks and phone cards, and shipped overseas by the thousands.

I am a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional USO Caucus. I have helped strengthen congressional support for the USO and have coordinated many “Care Package Stuffing Parties” on Capitol Hill, offering members of Congress the opportunity to help fill thousands of packages.

I have also worked to bring the USO to the El Paso community, and recently participated in the dedication of the USO’s “Wounded Warrior Room” at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. This comfortable, inviting room will provide solace and companionship for wounded soldiers from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom to use while they are undergoing treatment at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. As more soldiers return home after sustaining injuries in the war, there is a growing need for such a facility. The Wounded Warrior Room is just the first installment of a larger commitment that the USO is making at Fort Bliss, and I am grateful for their work on behalf of our men and women in uniform both in our community and around the world.

I have traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan several times since the start of combat operations and know how dedicated and committed our soldiers are to their mission. On one of these trips, I had the opportunity to meet with the men and women of Fort Bliss’s 31st Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in Balad, who were hard at work providing medical care to Coalition and Iraqi forces injured in Fallujah. I’ve also met with Marines from El Paso who were serving under the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Fallujah. It was a privilege to see our men and women in action.

To our brave service members, I wish you a safe holiday and a swift return home. We are grateful for your sacrifice and your service. To our military families, please know that you have my utmost respect, appreciation, and support. You are all in my thoughts and prayers this holiday season and always.



MARGULIES
©2005 THE RECORD AND JERSEY
WWW.NORTHJERSEY.COM/MARGULIES

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

It's not too late to help soldiers abroad this holiday season

The holiday season can be mad-dening. There are so many gifts to buy, cards to send, lights to hang, homes to decorate, parties to attend, and people to see. Just thinking about it can be a burden. It seems like since before we even marked Halloween off our calendars, department stores wanted us in this holiday frenzy.

I think I speak for most Americans when I say that over the last few years, people have wanted to tone down the extravagance and do more for others. Watching our brave soldiers every night on the news has helped people pause and recognize the things for which we are truly grateful this holiday season.

In most cases, those "things" can't be bought in a store, wrapped in a bow, or stuffed in a stocking. People who used to splurge — or even compete — when it came to holiday gift-giving, just want to spend time with their loved ones.

I've heard people say they don't want anything for Christmas; they just

want to spend time with those who matter most. Now more than ever this holiday season, people are counting their blessings — faith, family and friends top the list. No doubt about it, also on that list is freedom.

One of the most important things we can do as a country is show strong support for our military men and women. This holiday season, I urge those who just want to "do something," to send gifts to our troops online through Operation Santa's Gift from the Homefront.

Just log onto www.aafes.com and click on the camouflage-clad Santa. You can purchase certificates in \$10, \$20, or \$25 denominations accepted at any military exchange (AAFES, NEX, MCX, Coast Guard Exchange) retail store around the world, including those supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. There will be a shipping charge added depending on the number of certificates sent.

One of the many benefits of this

certificate is that soldiers will be able to use it right away. AAFES ensures that soldiers will have immediate access to merchandise from home — like American candy bars — in Iraq. Also, this allows soldiers to buy things when they need them, and not have to worry about the logistics of heavy packages.

Serving your country is a great honor. However, that doesn't keep our soldiers from missing family, friends, or America. Receiving gifts and messages of support from back home is a real boost and a great way to stay focused on the mission at hand — winning the war for freedom.

Please consider sending a gift to a soldier abroad. Your gift of support may be the most touching present a soldier far from home receives this holiday season.

Thank you.
God bless you and God bless America.



San Eli bus drivers rally around family

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — There aren't eight tiny reindeer guiding this sleigh tonight and there isn't a snowflake in sight. In fact, it's not even a sleigh, rather, a yellow school bus, fueled by diesel and the power of kindness. Its driver, Mauro Silva does have a fondness for boots, but he is no Santa Claus. For one Garcia Enriquez Middle School student and her family, though, he might as well be.

He has a giving nature about him, and it was evident the evening he met the student's mother outside of the Good Time Store after a long day's work.

"It was a routine stop to get gas and to pull out money from the ATM," Silva said. "That's when a woman approached me, asking if there was anything we could do to help her family for Christmas. She started crying."

Silva didn't know how he could help initially, but instinctively reached into his pocket and handed the woman a twenty dollar bill, hoping that it would help the woman a little bit. But Silva still listened to a long list of tough circumstances the woman and her family was faced with. He also knew who this students was, a very vibrant little girl with a

great personality. After a few days of mulling it over, Silva knew what he needed to do — garner the support of his fellow Santas, bus drivers in the San Elizario ISD.

Transportation coordinator Rudy Loya and his crew had been talking about adopting a family for the holidays last year, he said. So when Silva

approached his boss about how the department could help out a family in need, Loya knew he had found his family.

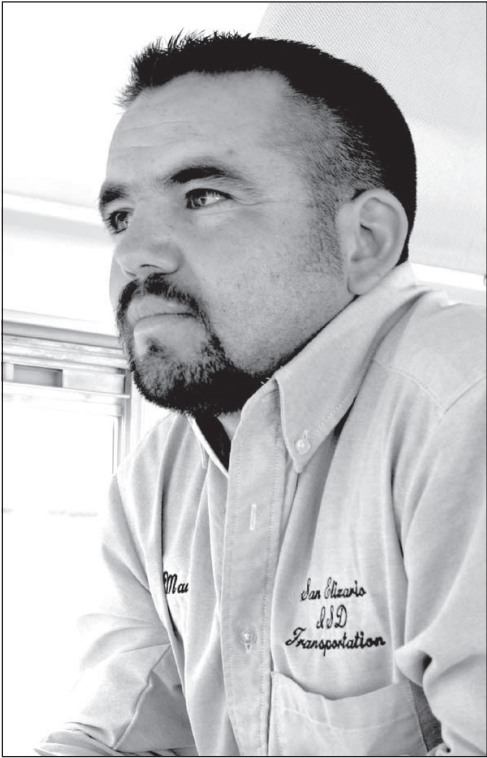
"Mauro came forward with this family and people just jumped on board and came through," Loya said.

Fellow employees Margie Delgadillo, Eloy Mendiola, Saul Fraire,

Gerardo Reyes, Sal Moreno, Loya, and Silva made sure that this vibrant young girl and her three siblings would get a holiday they'd never forget, complete with a Christmas dinner, a mini wardrobe of clothes and toys for the little ones. Because the department was so successful in providing the family with a better Christmas, Loya says that adopting a family for the holidays will now become a tradition.

As for Silva, even though he has no children of his own, playing Santa Claus this year is a role he'll not soon forget.

"It just feels good to be able to help out a family in need this time of year," Silva said.



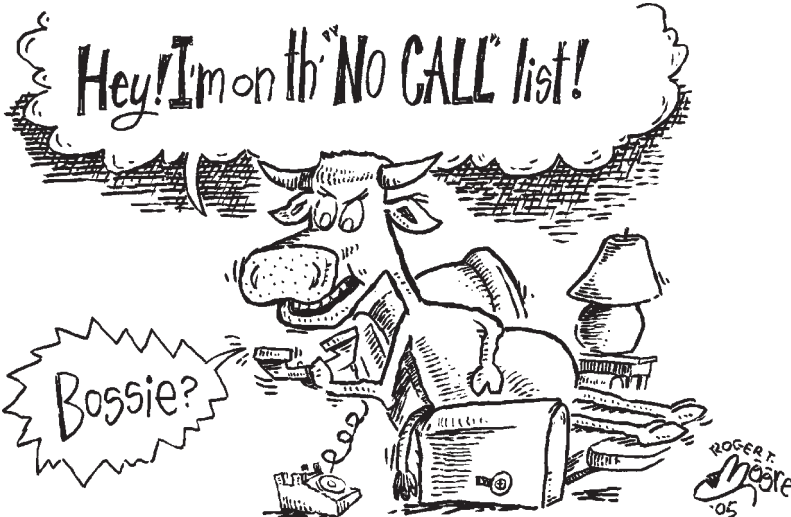
— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD
DRIVEN BY KINDNESS — SEISD bus driver Mauro Silva.

- Master Licensed Plumber #M18624
- Bonded and Insured
- Senior Citizens Discount


- Sewer and Drain Cleaning
- Faucet and Sprinkler Repair
- Appliance Installation
- Evaporative Cooler Service

Horizon Plumbing


852-1079



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Miami, in Roberts County, hosts a National Cow Calling contest.



BELIEVE



Women's Basketball

1/2
UT Pan American
7:05 PM

1/6
Tulsa
7:05 PM

1/8
SMU
2:05 PM

BE THERE

**All home games
played at the
Don Haskins Center
Tickets
747-5234**

Added protections for Texas children with newspaper routes

By Larry Jones
Special to the Courier

AUSTIN — With the beginning of the holiday season, and surges in holiday hiring among workers of all ages, the Texas Workforce Commission is pointing to a law that increases the safety of youths hoping to make extra holiday money by delivering newspapers.

The law prohibits the direct sale of newspapers to the general public by youths under 18 years old. The law also requires children to be at least 11 years old to deliver newspapers under any circumstances, such as a regularly established newspaper delivery route.

Potential employers, youths selling newspapers and their parents should be aware of the law, which was passed by the 79th Legislature and went into effect in the Texas Labor Code on Sept. 1.


Recent Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Child Labor Law investigations of the newspaper delivery industry revealed that selling newspapers, such as on the street or street corners, may pose a safety threat to young children. Last year, an investigation revealed that a child was struck by a car while selling papers from the median of a busy intersection, which raised concerns about

younger children selling newspapers in unfamiliar parts of town or at busy intersections.

“When most people think of a child delivering newspapers, they think of a kid with a basket on the front of a bicycle or throwing papers out the window of their parent’s car,” said Rep. Joe Deshotel, sponsor of the bill. “I was stunned to learn that not only were kids hawking newspapers at busy intersections but that some were being injured or killed doing so. My bill was designed to allow older kids to continue to make money and learn the value of hard work, while ensuring their safety.”

The purpose of Chapter 51 is to ensure that a child is not employed in an occupation that is detrimental to the child’s safety, health or well-being. For safety reasons, the law continues to prohibit “crewing,” the act of transporting children to unfamiliar neighborhoods where they go door-to-door at strangers’ residences and sell newspaper subscriptions or other items without parental knowledge and close supervision.

TWC’s Labor Law Department is responsible for investigating instances or complaints of child labor violations. Allegations of child labor violations may be reported to TWC’s Labor Law Department by calling 1-800-832-9243 or 512-837-9559.



The Night Before Christmas

(This poem was written by
a U.S. Marine, stationed
in Okinawa, Japan)

*This Holiday Season, please
remember and give thanks
for the men and women
serving our country
around the world.*

*This Holiday Reminder
from Congressman
Silvestre Reyes.*

Political Ad paid for by Ron Pate, Treasurer
310 N. Mesa St., Ste. 400, El Paso, Texas 79901

No stocking by mantle,
just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
awards of all kinds,
a sober thought
came through my mind.

For this house was different,
it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
silent, alone,
curled up on the floor
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured
a United States soldier.

Was this the hero
of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
the floor for a bed?

I realized the families
that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers
who were willing to fight.

Soon 'round the world,
the children would play,
and grown-ups would celebrate
a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom
each month of the year,
because of the soldiers
like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve
in a land far from home.

The very thought
brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened
and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
this life is my choice,

"I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
my life is my God,
my country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over
and drifted to sleep.
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
so silent and still,
and we both shivered
from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
on that cold, dark night,
this guardian of honor
so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over
with a voice soft and pure;
whispered, "Carry on Santa,
it's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,
and I knew he was right.
Merry Christmas, my friend,
and to all a good night.

Librarian

From Page 1

with teachers and illustrations of how she worked with parents and community members throughout the year.

The assessment portion consisted of six essay questions based upon the standards for library programs: organization management, ethical and legal issues, technologies, library collection develop-

ment, information literacy and knowledge of literature.

A panel of educators in both academia and various teaching fields scored the portfolio and essay questions using rubrics developed from teaching standards established by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

“We are all very proud of Neysa and her latest accomplishment,” says assistant principal Jim Vasquez. “She does an outstanding job not only in her duties as a librarian, but also by

taking time out of her busy schedule to tutor students, write grants and help develop lessons for our first year teachers.”

Obviously, the certification is a lengthy and arduous process. But Hardin says she made the pursuit as a professional challenge.

“I consider myself a learner and I am constantly seeking current pedagogical information and teaching strategies in order to improve my skills as a school teacher/librarian,” she says. “Receiving National Board Certification provided a unique opportunity for me to examine my own understanding and knowledge about student learning by using high, rigorous standards to evaluate my teaching abilities. This evaluation has helped me to improve upon my teaching as both educator and librarian.”

For Sue Thompson, SISD Library Services Coordinator, the fact that Hardin sought National Board Certification independently as a personal pursuit reflects her dedication to education.

“I feel Neysa has given Socorro ISD reason to be proud,” Thompson says. “She represents the ‘best’ in educators.”

And H.D. Hilley student Lorenzo Escudero couldn’t agree more.

“Ms. Hardin is always ready to help us find books we really like,” he says. “And she knows where to find them fast.”

Briefs

From Page 1

Program which helps make children aware of the dangers, and their responsibility in preventing the tragic losses from fire. The success of the program, however, depends on community support.

The U.S. Fire Administration has provided a Challenge Grant for the community, in which matching funds will be provided for every fund dollar contributed by the community. Sponsorships are being sought for groups of children beginning with 25 children for \$55.50. For more information contact the Socorro Fire Dept. at 851-8855 or 858-7574.

■ The El Paso Public Library has received a \$94,500 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to upgrade its public access computers and information systems. The grant will allow the library to continue to offer free state-of-the-art, high quality access to computers and the Internet for all library patrons. “Access to computers and the Internet has become one of the key services that our public demands the most,” said Library Director, Carol Brey-Casiano. “It is critical that we have the resources necessary to sustain this service so that our libraries can help El Pasoans access the information they need to live engaged, successful lives.” The grant is part of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s U.S. Library Program, which supports the efforts of public libraries in offering free access to computers, the Internet, and digital information in communities throughout the United States.

■ The University of Texas at El Paso has received a \$350,000 gift from The Wolslager Foundation to fund scholarships for students transferring to UTEP from El Paso Community College during the fall 2006 and spring 2007 semesters. “Our foundation invests heavily in scholarships because the founders, J.W. and the late Josephine Wolslager, as well as the board of directors, recognized that supporting higher education is the most efficient and effective way of enabling individuals to realize their full potential,” Stephen Wolslager, vice president of The Wolslager Foundation, said. Wolslager Foundation Scholarships will provide \$2,500 per semester to full-time students who have enrolled at UTEP, maintained a GPA of 2.75 or higher while enrolled at EPCC, and have completed at least 45

transferable credit hours. Applications for the Wolslager Foundation Scholarship are available at UTEP’s Office of Scholarships in the Academic Services Building, as well as online at www.utep.edu/scholarships. The deadline to apply for the 2006-2007 academic year is June 1, 2006.

■ Socorro ISD students will be on winter break for three weeks, returning to classes on Jan. 9. The SISD administrative offices will also be closed after Dec. 16, to reopen on Jan. 2.

■ ASSE International Student Exchange Program is seeking people in the El Paso County community to provide a home for outstanding high school exchange students from other countries who would like to experience life in the United States. Training and reimbursement of expenses provided. Call 1-800-473-0696 or 409-745-2433 for information.

■ Art students at El Dorado High School will spend at least part of their winter break creating a word of art of art to brighten the atmosphere of children in the pediatric wing at Del Sol Medical Center. Linda East, Del Sol’s Administrative Director for Communications and Public Affairs, said a donation will be made to the El Dorado art program in appreciation.

■ Kimberly Estrada, a first grade teacher at Benito Martinez Elementary, has been recognized as a Disney Teacher Award Nominee. She will now be considered for the 2005 Disney Teacher of the Year. Since 1989, these awards have honored teachers who provide constructive learning environments which encourage imagination and exploration.

■ Inflating, rotating, and evaluating the tires on an automobile can add miles to every gallon of gas and extend the life of the tires. Find out how checking your tire pressure monthly, rotating tires every 5,000 miles, and routinely watching for signs of tread wear or damage can save money with a free publication: *Inflate. Rotate. Evaluate. How to Maintain Your Tires* from Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC and the Federal Citizen Information Center. For a free copy, send name and address to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 567N, Pueblo, CO 81009, or call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256 and ask for Item 567N. Or visit <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov> to order online or to read or print out this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.

Free publication to help explain new Medicare prescription drug program

If you or a loved one has Medicare, you may have some questions about Medicare’s new prescription drug coverage that begins on Jan. 1, 2006. To help you better understand this coverage and the decisions you need to make, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, AARP, and the Federal Citizen Information Center have put together an informative, free package of publications, which includes *The New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage: What You Need to Know*.

Everyone with Medicare, regardless of health or level of income, can get coverage for both brand-name and generic prescription drugs, with provision for limited income and resources. However, to begin receiving coverage, enrollment is required in one of the Medicare drug plans. If enrolling after May 15, 2006, recipients may have to pay more.

A variety of different plans are available. When selecting a plan you should keep a few things in mind: What kind of medications do I take now? How expensive is the plan? Do I want to get my prescriptions at a certain pharmacy, or would I like to get my prescriptions through the mail?

Also included in the Medicare package is *Your Pharmacy Benefit: Make It Work for You* from the National Pharmaceutical Council. This informative publication has a worksheet to use as a guide when comparing different benefit plans. And it also features tips on what to do if you’re having problems getting your prescriptions filled or your plan won’t cover your medication.

Get answers about Medicare’s new prescription drug coverage by sending for the free Medicare package. There are three easy ways:

- Send your name and address to Medicare, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.
- Visit <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n32medicare.htm> to place your order online or to read or print out this and hundreds of other federal publications for free.
- Call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time and ask for Medicare.

Get more information and take advantage of federal online resources at <http://www.FirstGov.gov> as a front door to federal and state government websites.

Fabens Grande

S & S Food Store

Serving Fabens and surrounding areas since 1942



Jim Pendell
Owner/Operator

Elvia Fernandez
Cake Specialist

Gilbert Tapia
Grocery Manager

Jose Quintero
Produce Manager

Maria Balderrama
Specialty Products

Beto Lugo
Bakery/Deli Manager

Open Christmas & New Year's Day

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For any last minute needs...

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| Bone-in Ham SHANK PORTION COOK'S OR GUSTO'S BUTT PORTION | 77¢ LB. | Ramirez Masa | \$1.69 5 LBS. |
| Pork Roast BOSTON BUTT 2-PACK CRY-O-VAC Market Trimmed | 97¢ LB. | Black-Eyed Peas SHURFINE 13 OZ. CAN WITH SNAPS | 65¢ 69¢ |
| Half Ham JOHN MORRELL BONE-IN SPIRAL SLICED E-Z Cut Boneless | \$1.99 LB. \$3.79/LB. | Beef Tripe | 89¢ LB. |
| | | Rib Roast BONE-IN U.S.D.A. SELECT BEEF | \$5.59 LB. |

...Many other in store specials.



Specialty Baskets \$1199 - \$1899

Poinsettias \$699

Premium Fruit Gift Boxes:
22 Red Delicious Apples \$15.99
24 Texas Ruby Star Grapefruit \$14.99
30 Sunkist Oranges \$17.99

The Staff of S & S Food Store wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

764-2251 851-3149

Mon. - Sun. 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

1330 Fabens St. Fabens, TX

One fight-tested Indiana bad boy up for trade or sale

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Will the real Ron Artest — please — shut up!

Any clear thinking individual would have thought that Indiana Pacers’ forward Ron Artest would have wised up by now.

After sitting out almost the entire season last year because of his part in the Pacers-Pistons brawl, the odds were that Artest would have learned a thing or two.

You would think that Artest would want to do whatever he could to distance himself from being known as the guy who started the event that has gone down as one of the more disgusting scenes in sports history.

How can anyone go through what Artest went through last season and not take time to reflect on the mistakes that were made?

I mean, even Pavlov’s dog eventually figured it out.

Seems Artest is dead set on becoming the NBA’s answer to Terrell Owens.

First of all Artest — who would probably el-bow his mom if she reached for the last cookie in the house — opened the season by saying he was going to play like a wild man this season and would let the referees deal with it.

This was coming on the heels of Artest putting out a rap album, and declaring that he could do this instead of playing basketball.

Only thing is — *as hard as it is to believe* — nobody bought his CDs.

Now Artest has announced that he wants to be traded.

Usually, when a star player demands he wants to be traded, organizations fall all over themselves to give him whatever he wants.

But in this case, Artest was only about half way through his demand when the Indiana Pacers interrupted with an emphatic “YOU’VE GOT IT, DUDE.”

Unlike the Philadelphia Eagles, the Indiana Pacers seem to have recognized — before it was too late — that it’s better to get rid of a cancer before he infects the whole team.

I mean, this is the guy who — back in 2004 when he was playing record producer — said

he was surprised the Pacers expected him to play every game. Artest said, “Everybody’s different. It’s early in the season, so I feel like I could take some time off early and be ready for the long stretch. I’ve been doing a little bit too much music, I just needed the rest.”

All that stuff while his teammates were trying to do their jobs on the basketball court.

Artest has destroyed things in the locker room and on press row. He’s fought with everyone and once threatened his ex-girlfriend. His friends and enemies alike have described Artest as crazy.

The real question is what team out there is willing to take Artest in a trade. Is it worth all the trouble? Are the added points and rebounds worth all the suspensions and headaches?

Here’s my quick one-word answer — NO!

UTEP fans forgive, forget

Many El Pasoans were curious about how Jason Williams and Doc Sadler would be received by the fans at the UTEP-NMSU basketball game last Saturday.

Remember, Williams was suspended for

punching freshman Stefon Jackson in the face during practice a couple weeks ago and breaking the guy’s jaw, costing him about two months of playing time.

Sadler immediately suspended Williams for his actions. But the suspension lasted all of one game after the Miners were shocked by previously winless Louisiana-Lafayette.

So how did the fans react?

If anyone was upset with Williams or Sadler, they sure didn’t show it.

Both were greeted with loud cheers and I honestly didn’t hear a single boo, hiss or negative comment.

Of course, the Miners were busy routing the Aggies at the time, which always makes El Pasoans giddy.

It appears the incident — which will probably still cost the Miners dearly as Jackson was emerging as one of the best players on the team — is forgotten, or at least forgiven, for now.

But the full extent of Jackson’s loss won’t be determined till around the middle of the C-USA season when he’ll be ready to return.

The Miners just hope it won’t be too late.

Identity

From Page 2

reliable third party instead.

Astonishingly, though, another recent article I read about credit card fraud says that some folks just don’t report it at all — not to law

enforcement, their credit card companies or the big boys who so kindly update our credit reports for us.

According to Brian Bergstein, reporting for the Associated Press, as many as 38 percent of people who have suffered some kind of credit card misuse by some unauthorized person don’t even bother to mention it.

Now, federal laws cap the personal liability

of someone who is the victim of this kind of crime at \$50 if the loss is reported within the specified timelines and guidelines. So it wouldn’t be surprising if losses under \$50 went unreported. But according to consumer surveys, even if the amount is far greater than that, it is still right up there with domestic abuse as an unreported crime.

Even when losses were greater than \$5,000,

about 19 percent still said they didn’t report it. Who knows what the factors are that come into play here — unwillingness to deal with paperwork or authorities, fear that other discrepancies might crop up, or the perpetrator being a friend or family member.

Still if you suffer that kind of loss and don’t do anything about it, you’re probably going to be searching for a lot more than your identity.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lower Valley Housing Corporation is requesting the following variances from the County of El Paso Subdivision Regulations for the proposed Notre Dame Subdivision Unit One Subdivision:

1. Street right-of-way width from 60' (sixty feet) to 52' (fifty-two feet)
2. Building setbacks

Street right-of-way (front)
From 25' (twenty-five feet) to 20' (twenty feet)

Street right-of-way (side)
From 25' (twenty-five feet) to 10' (ten feet)

Abutting side yard
From 10' (ten feet) to 5' (five feet)

The proposed subdivision encompasses 10.870 acres of land and has a legal descrip-

tion of being a portion of Lots 3 and 4, Block 2, Horizon Hills Subdivision, El Paso County, Texas.

The El Paso County commissioners’ Court will consider the request for these variances on Monday, January 9 2006, at 10 a.m. at the County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio Street, Room 303, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Anyone interested in providing comment on the proposed variances, either in support or opposition, may do so during the public comment period of the Commissioners’ Court meeting or by providing written comment to the attention of Subdivision Coordinator, El Paso Road & Bridge Department, 500 E. San Antonio Street, El Paso, TX 79901. In order to be considered by Commissioners’ Court, the County must receive any written comments at least seven (7) calendar days prior

to the Commissioners’ Court meeting.

WTCC-12/22/05

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 04, 2006

**MISCELLANEOUS REPROGRAPHIC SERVICES
CSP NO. 199-0104-6001
UNTIL 1 P.M.**

**EMPLOYEE UNIFORMS
CSP NO. 199-0104-6023
UNTIL 1:30 P.M.**

**SHEET METAL FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION
CSP NO. 199-0104-6042
UNTIL 2:00 P.M.**

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays

through Fridays and on the Socorro ISD website: www.sisd.net.

NOTE: The District Offices will be closed during Dec. 17, 2005 through Jan. 1, 2006. Voicemail, inquiries, faxes, etc. will not be checked as regularly. The District will attempt to be as responsive as possible during this time. WTCC-12/22/05

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

**FRIDAY, JAN. 13, 2006
2:30 P.M.**

**PBX MAINTENANCE - AVAYA
CSP NO. 199-0113-6012 RB**

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays

and on the Socorro ISD website: www.sisd.net.

NOTE: The District Offices will be closed during Dec. 17, 2005 through Jan. 1, 2006. Voicemail, inquiries, faxes, etc. will not be checked as regularly. The District will attempt to be as responsive as possible during this time. WTCC-12/22/05

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - JSIGN7BA222106756, 2002 Suzuki, black and blue WTCC-12/22/05

BARGAINS

DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING - 3/8 carat diamond w/8 small surrounding diamonds in 14K gold setting. Diamond rated S12/I1. Size 7 or 8. Originally \$2,195, asking \$1,500. Call 252-0492.

HELP WANTED

OPERATE FIRE-WORKS STAND, EARN CASH. Sudden opening at retail location is excellent opportunity for responsible individual. Four days: Dec. 29 – Jan. 1. Call 920-9023 ASAP to apply. Good credit preferred.

Ryan Supply, Inc/ Ace Hardware is looking for an Inventory Coordinator/ Office support person to join our team! Good math, computer and phone skills required. Please pick up an application at 117 North Fabens Street Fabens, Texas (915) 764-2239. 12/29/05

REAL ESTATE

- VALLEY FARM LAND
 - FREEWAY LAND
 - COMMERCIAL LOTS/FABENS
 - RESIDENTIAL LOTS
 - Adobe Home With Pecan Trees 11423 Alameda
 - Five-Acre Tornillo Farm w/ City Water
 - Adobe Horse-shoe Theater in Historic San Elizario
- APODACA LAND CO. 915-859-5472**

RENTALS

WANT TO RENT or lease purchase a

four or five bedroom house in Clint. Call 851-3611. 12/22

Rio Vista Horizon Blvd. area, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, single garage, \$850 plus deposit. 859-4078.

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free

source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

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

SERVICES

“Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring” JIFFY GLASS

REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick
Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT’S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
•Electric rooter service for sewers and drains
•Appliance installation
•Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

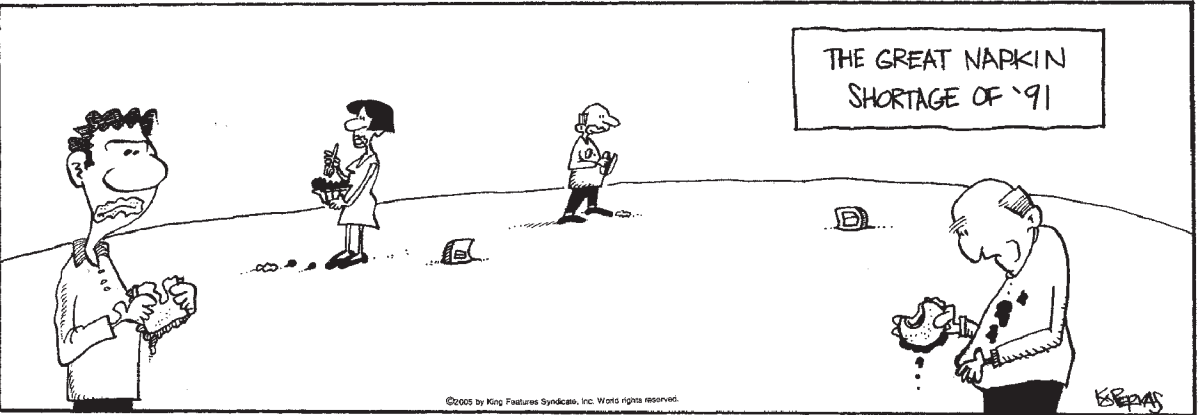
West Texas County Courier 852-3235



Comix

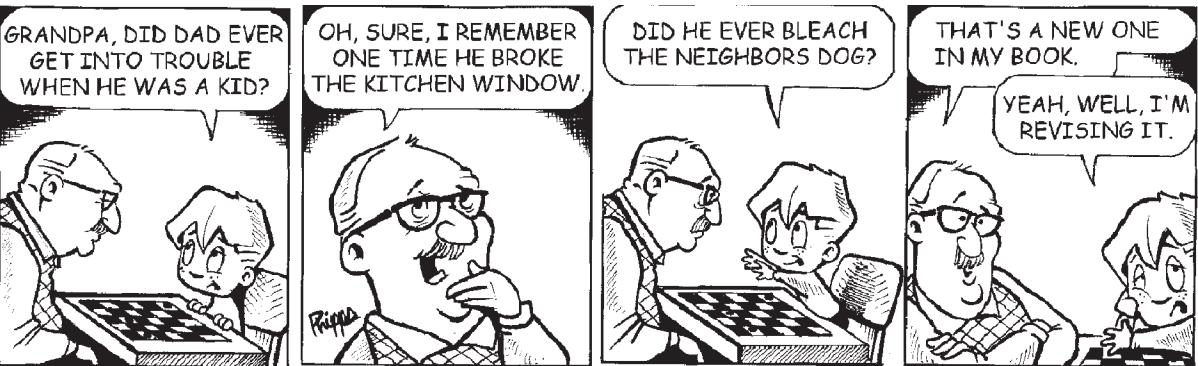
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



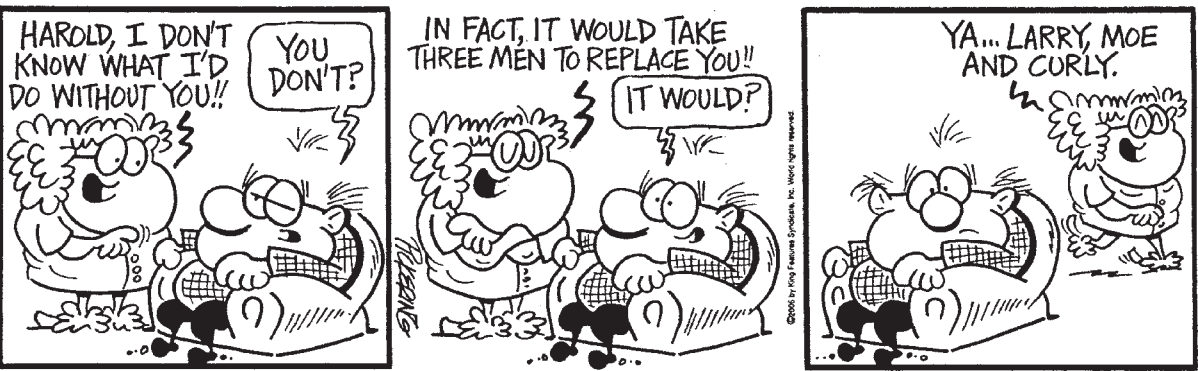
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



You could look it up — but please don't

By Don Flood

An interesting correction appeared the other day.

Arizona Gov. Bill Richardson, a Democrat who has been mentioned as a presidential candidate, admitted that he hadn't been drafted by the Kansas City Athletics in 1966 after all. This had been part of his official biography. (The team has since moved to Oakland.)

OK, this isn't "Stop the Presses!" news. Politicians have been known to embellish their life stories.

But his response, first reported in the Albuquerque Journal, was rather amazing.

According to the story, Richardson said, "After being notified of the situation and after researching the matter... I came to the conclusion that I was not drafted by the A's."

Came to the conclusion?

After "researching" the matter?

Isn't this *his* life we're talking about?

I mean, being drafted by a professional baseball team is the kind of thing a guy remembers.

REPORTER: It says here in your biography that you were drafted by the Kansas City Athletics. Is that true?

RICHARDSON: Hmmm, that's a good question. I don't really remember. I'll have to do some research.

Yeah, sure Bill, take your time. We want to get this right. You might want to call Bill Clinton, see if he can help you with the proper phrasing.

Even harder to imagine is the research. I picture it as a man-to-man talk with himself in the mirror:

RICHARDSON: I'm sorry, but I have to ask you what might be an embarrassing question:

MIRROR: Sure, go ahead.

RICHARDSON: Did you — I mean, me or, um, us — get drafted

by a professional baseball team?

MIRROR: Well, gee, I always thought so. It says so in my professional biography.

RICHARDSON: Oh, good, that's what I thought. But do you — or I — have any proof?

MIRROR: I don't know about any actual proof.

RICHARDSON: But you do remember it, right?

MIRROR: Do you?

RICHARDSON: I thought that was your job.

MIRROR: Why me?

RICHARDSON: Because you're my alter ego. You're supposed to remember stuff like that.

MIRROR: I'm sorry, I don't know what you're talking about.

RICHARDSON: Oh no! I've been misleading myself all these years!

I don't mean to be harsh, but this kind of thing burns me up.

Guys like Richardson make it more difficult for people to believe in the extraordinary exploits of someone like myself, who in the 1976 Olympics, won gold medals in the 100 meter dash, the standing broad jump, the 3 billion meter run/flaming javelin throw, and, most impressively, basketball, where I played all alone except for my shadow, who averaged 12 points and 6 rebounds a game, the most of any shadow in the history of the modern games.

(According to legend, a shadow averaged 14.3 points and 8 rebounds in the first games of the ancient Olympics, but that story has been disputed by Chiron the Centaur and other credible sources.)

That's how I remember it anyway, though before I add these accomplishments to my official biography I might do a little research.

(c) 2005 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

HOP TILL YOU DROP

ACROSS

- 1 Move swiftly
- 5 Oates' partner
- 9 Learns fast?
- 14 Spill the beans
- 18 Art deco designer
- 19 Concept
- 20 Spartan serf
- 21 " _ Train" ('71 hit)
- 22 Marsh duck
- 23 Family
- 24 Cremona craftsman
- 25 Kickoff
- 26 Riddle: Part 1
- 30 Elf
- 31 "A mouse!"
- 32 Slippery _
- 33 Paris, to Helen
- 37 _ -de-lance
- 39 Take the honey and run
- 43 _ ghanouj
- 47 On a whale watch
- 48 Holler
- 50 Pay up
- 52 Actor McKellen
- 53 Wise guy
- 55 Retreats
- 58 _ standstill
- 59 Heavyweight Holmes
- 61 Riddle: Part 2
- 64 With hands on hips
- 65 Activist Hoffman
- 66 Misjudge

- 67 Went jogging
- 69 Sew a toe
- 70 Beaver or boater
- 73 Figs.
- 74 By means of
- 75 Alphabet sequence
- 77 Duncan's denial
- 78 Singer Tori
- 80 "Waking _ Devine" ('98 film)
- 82 Part of SASE
- 83 Coral outcrop
- 85 Cruise
- 87 Riddle: Part 3
- 93 Luncheonette lure
- 94 Every last bit
- 95 Distort
- 96 Bryant or Ekberg
- 97 "Unforgettable" name
- 98 Socked a shuttlecock
- 101 Sharp
- 103 Thicken
- 104 Sitka's st.
- 106 Take the reins
- 107 _ diem
- 108 On the beach
- 110 Torrid
- 112 Beame or Burrows
- 114 Soupy Sales' dessert?
- 115 Answer to riddle
- 124 Serengeti group
- 126 Dunk it!
- 127 Clinton Cabinet member

- 128 Deride
- 130 Seasonal song
- 131 " _ Gay"
- 132 Riyadh resident
- 133 " _ -Ca-Dabra" ('74 song)
- 134 Fret
- 135 Barrett and Jaffe
- 136 Spanish surrealist
- 137 Bog, for short

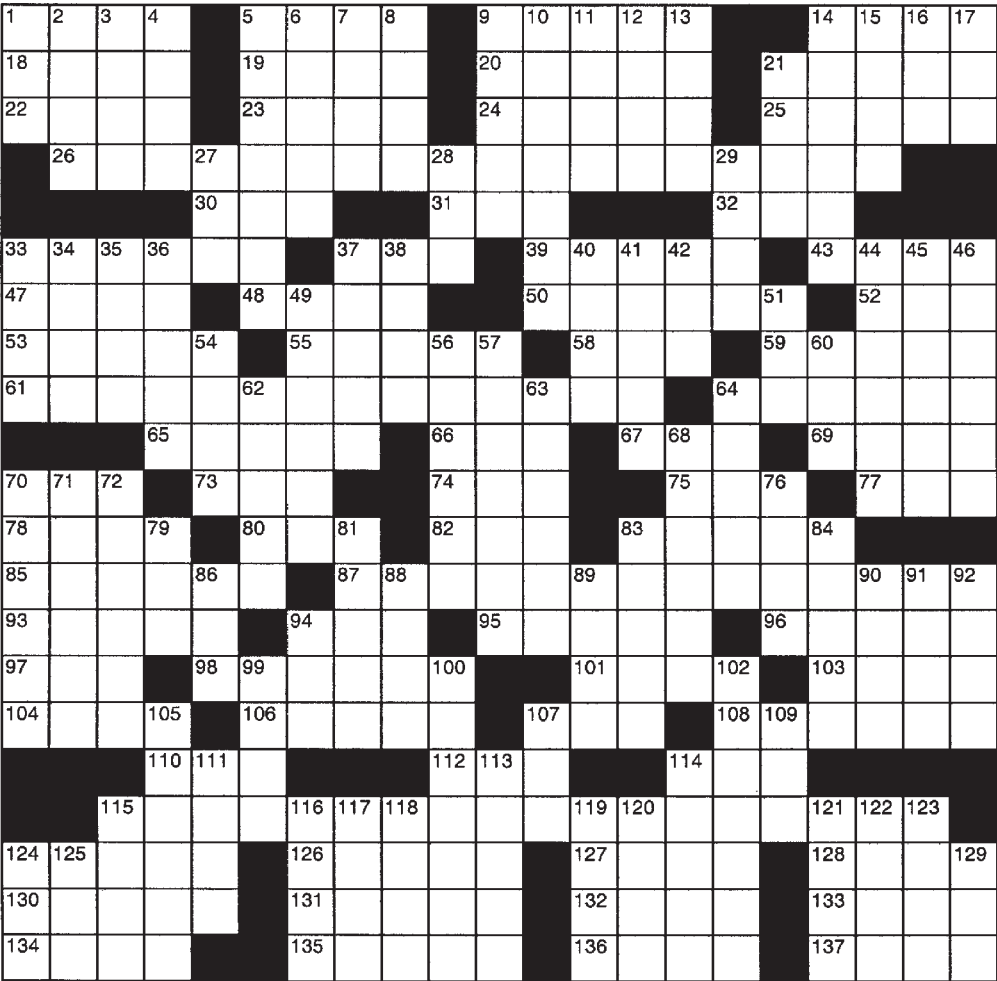
DOWN

- 1 Matching pieces
- 2 Hands
- 3 Bountiful setting
- 4 Oscar _ Renta
- 5 Handle wood
- 6 Improvise
- 7 Slender
- 8 Polaroid inventor
- 9 Rub the wrong way
- 10 Some movies
- 11 Be _ unto oneself
- 12 Lorre role
- 13 Tend the sauce
- 14 Stupefy
- 15 Endure
- 16 Mr. Lucky's card
- 17 Wager
- 21 Shooting match?
- 27 Even if, informally
- 28 Above, to Arnold
- 29 Boat bottom
- 33 Credit alternative
- 34 " _ forgive those..."
- 35 Belfry sound
- 36 Buccaneers'

- headquarters
- 37 Cereal bit
- 38 Nobelist Wiesel
- 40 Remini of "The King of Queens"
- 41 Furry fisherman
- 42 Child welfare org.
- 44 Flier
- 45 Ms. Streisand
- 46 "Tennis, _?"
- 49 Plaza Hotel kid
- 51 Lodge brother
- 54 Library abbr.
- 56 Keanu of "Hardball"
- 57 Short races
- 60 Lend a hand
- 62 Porterhouse alternative
- 63 TV's "Have Gun Will _"
- 64 Composer Bruckner
- 68 Perceptive
- 70 Cigar city
- 71 Lacking principles
- 72 Honda competitor
- 76 Skeleton part
- 79 Snead or Shepard
- 81 Investigate
- 83 Capp character
- 84 "The Elephant Man" director
- 86 Vapor
- 88 Nautical adverb
- 89 Gardener's tool
- 90 Mideastern dough
- 91 "Ripley's Believe _

- Not"
- 92 Conductor Jeffrey
- 94 Collectibles, collectively
- 99 Tivoli's Villa d' _
- 100 Blood count?
- 102 "Out of Africa" setting
- 105 " _ of a Doubt" ('43 film)
- 107 Cello part
- 109 Wine word
- 111 Hurler Hershiser
- 113 Greek consonants
- 114 Correctional
- 115 Employ
- 116 _ -Neisse Line
- 117 Singer Sonny
- 118 Aware of
- 119 Gowned figure
- 120 Blood components
- 121 Gulf country
- 122 "A Tiger Walks" actor
- 123 Philanthropist Cornell
- 124 Off. equipment
- 125 Sneaky sort
- 129 Turn sharply

Answer Page 6



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My ex-wife and I divorced in 1999, after 15 years of marriage. She died last month, and I am now unemployed. I wondered if I could apply for Social Security survivors benefits based on her earnings record?

A: Because you were married for at least 10 years, full Social Security survivors benefits can be paid at full retirement age, or reduced Social Security survivors benefits can be paid as early as age 60. If a widow or widower is disabled, benefits can be paid as early as age 50.

Q: I get Social Security disability benefits due to a severe stroke five years ago that left me partially paralyzed. I just found out Social Security is going to review my case. Why?

A: Everyone who receives disability benefits must have their medical conditions reviewed from time to time. Your disability benefits will continue, unless there is strong evidence that your condition has improved and that you are able to return to work. You can learn more about the disability review process by referring to the

Q: My husband and I have four children and we have life insurance policies. But I have been encouraging him to also get a private disability insurance policy, too. He says that any private disability insurance would just reduce the amount of the Social Security disability benefits he would be entitled to. Is this true?

A: No. A worker's eligibility for Social Security disability benefits is not affected by any private insurance he or she may have. But you and your

husband should know that worker's compensation and certain other public disability payments may affect any Social Security benefit payments. You can learn more about the disability program by referring to the online publication entitled *Disability Benefits* or visit our website.

Q: I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments because of a disability, and money is very tight. A friend recently gave me a whole closet full of clothes that she no longer wears. Do clothes count as income that I would have to report?

A: No. Clothing is not considered

income for SSI purposes. Gifts of food and shelter, however, can count as income in some cases. For more information on the types of things you need to report to Social Security, you can refer to the online publication entitled *What You Need To Know When You Get Supplemental Security Income* (SSI) or visit our website.

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

7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

AccuWeather.com®

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| <div>Thursday</div> <div></div> <div>High clouds</div> <div>68°</div> <div>RealFeel 71°</div> | <div>Thu. night</div> <div></div> <div>Mainly clear</div> <div>41°</div> <div>RealFeel 34°</div> | <div>Friday</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly sunny and mild</div> <div>69° 38°</div> <div>RealFeel 67° 33°</div> | <div>Saturday</div> <div></div> <div>Plenty of sunshine</div> <div>65° 33°</div> <div>RealFeel 63° 27°</div> | <div>Sunday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny</div> <div>69° 35°</div> <div>RealFeel 67° 28°</div> | <div>Monday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny</div> <div>64° 40°</div> <div>RealFeel 70° 41°</div> | <div>Tuesday</div> <div></div> <div>Abundant sunshine</div> <div>66° 42°</div> <div>RealFeel 71° 41°</div> | <div>Wednesday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunshine</div> <div>66° 40°</div> <div>RealFeel 66° 34°</div> |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|

The patented RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY

Temperatures

Precipitation

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| <div>Sun</div> <div>Rise</div> <div>Set</div> | | |
| Thu. | 7:02 a.m. | 5:06 p.m. |
| Fri. | 7:03 a.m. | 5:07 p.m. |
| Sat. | 7:03 a.m. | 5:08 p.m. |
| Sun. | 7:03 a.m. | 5:08 p.m. |
| Mon. | 7:04 a.m. | 5:09 p.m. |
| Tues. | 7:04 a.m. | 5:09 p.m. |
| Wed. | 7:05 a.m. | 5:10 p.m. |

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| <div>Moon</div> <div>Rise</div> <div>Set</div> | | |
| Thu. | 11:37 p.m. | 11:38 a.m. |
| Fri. | none | 12:03 p.m. |
| Sat. | 12:32 a.m. | 12:28 p.m. |
| Sun. | 1:28 a.m. | 12:55 p.m. |
| Mon. | 2:27 a.m. | 1:25 p.m. |
| Tues. | 3:31 a.m. | 2:01 p.m. |
| Wed. | 4:38 a.m. | 2:45 p.m. |

Last

New

12/23

12/30

First

Full

1/6

1/14

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2005

| REGIONAL CITIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | U.S. CITIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----|----|--------|----|----|----------|----|----|--------|----|----|---------------|----------|----|----|--------|----|----|----------|----|----|--------|----|----|--|
| | Thursday | | | Friday | | | Saturday | | | Sunday | | | | Thursday | | | Friday | | | Saturday | | | Sunday | | | |
| CITY | HI | LO | W | HI | LO | W | HI | LO | W | HI | LO | W | CITY | HI | LO | W | HI | LO | W | HI | LO | W | HI | LO | W | |
| Abilene, TX | 67 | 48 | s | 68 | 39 | pc | 70 | 41 | s | 68 | 41 | s | Atlanta | 55 | 37 | s | 58 | 40 | s | 56 | 41 | sh | 54 | 39 | sh | |
| Albuquerque, NM | 59 | 32 | pc | 59 | 32 | s | 56 | 31 | s | 58 | 30 | s | Boston | 32 | 22 | s | 42 | 32 | c | 46 | 34 | c | 43 | 32 | r | |
| Amarillo, TX | 67 | 34 | pc | 63 | 34 | s | 62 | 32 | s | 62 | 31 | s | Chicago | 38 | 28 | pc | 42 | 30 | sh | 38 | 28 | sf | 36 | 28 | sf | |
| Austin, TX | 67 | 48 | s | 69 | 49 | pc | 71 | 41 | pc | 68 | 43 | s | Denver | 60 | 32 | pc | 58 | 30 | pc | 58 | 30 | pc | 58 | 28 | s | |
| Brownsville, TX | 72 | 59 | pc | 72 | 59 | pc | 72 | 58 | sh | 76 | 59 | pc | Detroit | 34 | 26 | pc | 40 | 30 | sh | 38 | 28 | sn | 36 | 28 | pc | |
| Dodge City, KS | 59 | 32 | pc | 62 | 30 | pc | 57 | 28 | s | 58 | 27 | s | Houston | 64 | 46 | s | 68 | 52 | sh | 70 | 48 | sh | 68 | 44 | s | |
| Jackson, MS | 56 | 34 | s | 62 | 44 | s | 62 | 44 | r | 60 | 40 | pc | Indianapolis | 41 | 29 | pc | 45 | 35 | pc | 45 | 31 | r | 41 | 30 | c | |
| Laredo, TX | 70 | 54 | pc | 72 | 54 | pc | 72 | 55 | pc | 78 | 54 | s | Kansas City | 54 | 35 | s | 56 | 31 | pc | 47 | 29 | r | 50 | 31 | pc | |
| Little Rock, AR | 57 | 38 | s | 56 | 39 | sh | 60 | 37 | sh | 56 | 38 | pc | Los Angeles | 70 | 52 | pc | 74 | 54 | s | 76 | 54 | s | 78 | 54 | s | |
| Lubbock, TX | 67 | 36 | pc | 64 | 36 | s | 64 | 34 | s | 66 | 32 | s | Miami | 69 | 59 | sh | 75 | 65 | sh | 78 | 64 | sh | 77 | 62 | pc | |
| Memphis, TN | 54 | 40 | s | 57 | 43 | pc | 55 | 40 | r | 54 | 37 | pc | Minneapolis | 38 | 26 | pc | 36 | 22 | sf | 30 | 20 | sf | 37 | 24 | c | |
| Midland, TX | 66 | 40 | s | 70 | 39 | s | 70 | 35 | s | 70 | 35 | s | New Orleans | 60 | 42 | s | 66 | 50 | s | 67 | 49 | sh | 67 | 49 | pc | |
| Pueblo, CO | 64 | 22 | pc | 62 | 24 | pc | 62 | 22 | pc | 58 | 20 | pc | New York City | 38 | 28 | s | 44 | 34 | pc | 45 | 34 | c | 42 | 36 | r | |
| Roswell, NM | 70 | 32 | pc | 67 | 32 | s | 63 | 27 | s | 66 | 29 | s | Omaha | 48 | 28 | pc | 49 | 26 | c | 44 | 24 | sn | 44 | 25 | c | |
| St. Louis, MO | 52 | 37 | s | 54 | 38 | pc | 49 | 33 | c | 47 | 33 | c | Phoenix | 78 | 48 | pc | 76 | 50 | s | 80 | 52 | s | 80 | 52 | s | |
| San Antonio, TX | 66 | 50 | s | 68 | 49 | pc | 70 | 47 | pc | 70 | 46 | s | San Francisco | 61 | 52 | r | 62 | 50 | pc | 61 | 50 | s | 62 | 49 | pc | |
| Texarkana, AR | 60 | 43 | s | 60 | 45 | sh | 65 | 41 | pc | 61 | 42 | pc | Seattle | 50 | 40 | r | 50 | 42 | r | 52 | 40 | r | 50 | 40 | r | |
| Waco, TX | 65 | 49 | s | 65 | 45 | pc | 69 | 42 | pc | 65 | 44 | s | Washington | 44 | 30 | s | 50 | 34 | pc | 52 | 36 | c | 47 | 35 | r | |
| Wichita, KS | 51 | 35 | pc | 56 | 30 | pc | 55 | 29 | s | 52 | 32 | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

STIHL®

The Perfect Gift for the Holiday Season

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Purchase a STIHL Chain Saw and get this carry case, hat, and spare chain for...

JUST \$34.99

SAVE \$30.00

Retail Value \$65.00 BME-SRP

FREE Case with purchase of MS 170!

Retail Value \$34.99

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE!

Lightweight and powerful homeowner saw.

MS 170 Chain Saw

\$169.99

BME-SRP

STIHL – 8,000 Dealers Nationwide!

El Paso, TX
Dyer Cycle
4501 Dyer
(915) 566-6022

Fabens, TX
Ryan Supply, Inc.
117 North Fabens
(915)764-2239

stihlusa.com

Are you ready for a STIHL®?

Available at participating dealers.

AB14W4TC-21-61855-5