



NEWSBRIEFS

Can we talk?

One of the lessons learned from major events such as that which occurred on 9-11, is the limited ability for different agencies to communicate with other responders. In the event of a major incident it is imperative that all responders be able to communicate with each other. In the El Paso area, the El Paso Fire Department is attempting to correct this deficiency by providing portable radios to the area fire departments such as West Valley, Horizon, Clint, Socorro, Montana Vista, Fort Bliss and WBAMC EMS. The first recipients of the radios are the West Valley and Horizon Fire Departments. The EPFD will now be able to communicate directly with these agencies for events of any magnitude.

Bands wanted

The El Paso Convention & Performing Arts Centers has launched a new project to be held in the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre, called "Live in the Canyon" in which local music talent will be showcased to the El Paso public. This event will host four or five local bands, in which the artists will have the rare opportunity to record and create there very own "live" CD. Those interested must submit an application by July 14 to the El Paso Convention & Performing Arts Centers at: El Paso Convention & Performing Arts, 1 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, Texas 79901, 915-231-1113. Once submitted, a panel will choose the bands that will be showcased at the concert. These selected artists will have a once in a lifetime chance to receive a professionally recorded compilation on compact disc for their personal use for future press kits, submissions, or even sales, a total savings of nearly a thousand dollars per cd.

In other news

■ The body of 57-year-old Celia Rico of El Paso was recovered from heavy brush near a river levy about two miles south of the Texas/New Mexico state line on June 30, in Anthony, according to the El Paso Police Department, which had reported her missing around June 12, 2006. Final autopsy report is pending and cause of death is not being released at this time, however the El Paso County Sheriff's office has arrested 48-yea-old Francisco Gonzalez of El Paso and charged him with murder. His bond is set at \$150,000. He was identified as an "acquaintance" of Rico. The investigation is continuing.

■ Four area seniors will be using scholarships from a local fireworks company, Star Fireworks, Inc., to help pay for college expenses this fall. Ryan Brem from Clint High, Marcos Flores of San Elizario, and Maria Garcia and Maria Flores, both of Fabens, were the winners of the annual

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A self-made man is usually a horrible example of unskilled labor.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy El Paso Zoo

July 8 is a special day with half-off admission and safety classes at El Paso Zoo

KEEP YOUR SUNNY SIDE UP — The El Paso Zoo will honor the men and women who save, serve and protect our country — soldiers, police officers, fire fighters, customs

agents or any member of the military or law enforcement — by offering all zoo guests a half price day on Saturday, July 8, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Red Cross will teach a free rescue technique seminar at 11:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m., right after the sea lion show, that could save a child's life. A massage chair provided by Alpha & Omega Wellness Center will be available, along with face painting, a jumping balloon by Goodman Financial, and karaoke for the kids and music by Pat Ramos. The Afro-Latin group Radio La Chusma will perform live from 2 - 4 p.m. All this at the El Paso Zoo, 4001 E. Paisano. Information: 521-1850.

Groups need to come early to receive help from county for tourism projects

By Guadalupe Silva
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Commissioners Court has set July 31 as a deadline for submitting projects funded through Hotel Tax money for fiscal year 2006/2007.

El Paso County Commissioner Miguel Teran described setting a deadline for these projects as a "good idea. Otherwise people and organizations are going to be coming all year before the court requesting funds for their projects," he said.

"This year, we had more requests than in previous years, so we were able to help more organizations, including funding some fiestas," he said. "But it got the point where our funds were exhausted before the end of the year. We need to be more discriminating and look at all the requests we get and see which ones are to our advantage to fund."

Rosemary Neill, family and community services director and manager for the Hotel Tax fund, explained that some activities have funding priorities because of County decisions or state law. These include the Coliseum's Sports

Commission, El Paso County's Historical Commission, Concordia Cemetery and Los Portales Museum.

Among the events funded this year through Hotel Tax Revenues were: one of a series of five festivals by the El Paso Festival Association; LULAC's Fiesta de las Flores; Southwest International Livestock Show and Rodeo; "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Sun City Fiesta IV; International Latino Arts Festival and others.

"Next fiscal year, we may not be as lucky and get as much money as we did this year," Neill said. "So we may not be able to fund all the programs we did this year. I would recommend to groups and organizations to submit their requests with enough time for us to review all of them carefully."

Commissioners Court approved the implementation of six guidelines last year for the allocation of hotel occupancy tax revenues directed to promote tourism in El Paso County. The guidelines assisted the Court in funding decisions. These guidelines may be reviewed and evaluated again this year to further the Court's efforts to target these funds more effectively toward tourism promotion.

Blossoming comedy star to headline Laffs 4 Literacy event July 8

By Guadalupe Silva
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Carlos Alazraqui, featured as Officer James Garcia on Comedy Central's *Reno 911*, will headline this year's Laffs 4 Literacy comedy show in El Paso County.

Alazraqui — pronounced "Alice Rocky" — also of "Yo quiero Taco Bell" fame, will be joined on the Plaza Theatre stage by rocket-scientist turned comedienne Shayla Rivera, Latino Laugh Festival's Rick Gutierrez and El Paso's Patrick Candelaria at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 8.

Melodya Salaices, President of Laffs 4 Literacy, said Alazraqui learned about the fundraising comedy show last year from Marsha Labodda, his stepmother and former volunteer at the El Paso County Library in Fabens. She told him at the time about the library's closure because of a revenue shortage. Laffs 4 Literacy was organized as a local effort to raise funds for the Fabens library.

"The event was so well received by the public that it became clear that this was an opportunity to create an organization that would have long-term benefits for El Paso," said Salaices. She explained that last year's comedy show raised \$18,000, which was used to create a partnership with the Fabens Independent School District to help preserve the library services in the community.

Although Alazraqui, who comes from a family of educators and librarians, wanted to headline last year's event, he could not because of scheduling conflicts. This year's Laffs 4 Literacy show will be his first performance in El Paso.

"We are thrilled that he is coming to El Paso," said Labodda, "this is an opportunity for him to advocate for something he believes in and to see his family." His father and stepmother are retired librarians who worked for the El Paso Public Library system. His mother is a schoolteacher in Burbank, California. Family members remember him as an avid reader who is very conscious of how literacy and education have enhanced his life as well as his career opportunities.

Aside from his character on *Reno 911*, Alazraqui was the voice talent on one of the most recognizable campaigns in commercial history — the "Yo Quiero Taco Bell" Chihuahua. Other projects include a horror film with Lou Diamond Phillips currently titled *Dark Portal*, and *Happy Feet* with Robin Williams, which will be released in November of 2006. The *Reno 911* movie is scheduled to hit theatres January 2007.

Profits from the Laffs 4 Literacy comedy show will be used to promote literacy and education in the El Paso area, and to help with other public library needs, Salaices said.

"Laffs is unique because it contributes to El Paso's entertainment while raising funds for literacy, education, and public library needs," she said.

Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets. For more information also visit <http://www.laffs4literacy.com>.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Somebody to talk to

Mentor. Mentoring. Mentorship. It can be a noun, an adjective or a verb. It's a concept that the business/education world has jumped all over like a duck on a June bug. It basically means finding for yourself, or having found for you, a person in a given field of endeavor to whom you can turn to as a trusted advisor or counselor.

The name comes from one of Homer's old long, rambling Greek myths about Odysseus, a great hero/adventurer who needed to find somebody to educate his boy while he went off and did other stuff. So he turned the job over to his friend, Mentor. The poor guy has been teaching other people's kids ever since.

Seriously, though, it's a wonderful concept — to find a teacher whose classification falls short of guardianship but somewhere above a tutor or a coach because mentoring implies a deeper concern for a disciple that transcends simple academic or athletic improvement — a true concern for the overall success and well-being of one's charge.

Lucky us if we find one.

Apparently, there are an astonishing number who haven't.

In a recent survey by Accountemps, a specialized staffing service in the world of finance, more than 1,400 chief financial officers in U.S. companies with more than 20 employees were asked if they had

ever had a mentor, formal or otherwise, at any time during their entire professional careers. An amazing 58 percent said they had not.

Somehow that's kind of scary. That means that more than half of the folks who are handing out sensitive financial advice are coming to these conclusions based on their own intelligence and observations, without a foundation of counsel from tried and true experience.

Now, the 48 percent who had one or more mentors thought it was a pretty good deal, and not just to ask for advice on their particular field. In fact, the greatest benefit they found in the relationship was that of having a confidant and counselor, someone they truly trusted with sensitive ideas, problems and situations they didn't want to become water cooler chat.

A far fewer number looked to their mentors for career insight, networking contacts, or educational support. In short, they had not only found someone to look up to professionally. They'd also found someone they admired and respected who became a true friend.

Not long after reading this survey I came across another story detailing a study of 1,500 Americans from across the country who have been followed since 1972 by a Duke University professor, Lynn Smith-Lovin.

According to this study, Americans have become more socially isolated over the last 20 years or so. Factors in this new isolation included work demands, commuting time and the single life. Nearly a quarter of them said they had "zero" close friends with whom to discuss personal matters, and more than 50 percent named only two or fewer confidants, most of whom were mostly immediate family members, which was a significant drop from 1985 when most of them had three or more close personal friends they had known for a long time and who shared personal interests.

What this tells me is that Americans in general are becoming more isolated even though the big push in business is to "network," become integrated, a team, sharing knowledge, ideas and tasks.

What this also tells me is that Americans probably have been raked

over by people they figured at one time they could trust and depend on. What's the old saying — once burned, twice shy?

The trust factor in relationships is hard won and once compromised, even harder to regain. It also makes it harder to trust other people in the future, even those who were completely disassociated with whatever it was that made us wary souls in the first place.

Sometimes mentoring and networking can be at odds with one another. Mentoring implies confidences shared that are not intended for common knowledge. Networking is almost the exact opposite — share everything and we'll skim only the best off the top to be used for the common good. Unfortunately, being the fallible creatures that we are, it is not uncommon for us the retain those things shared by others as fuel for jokes, to force future compromise or to repeat to other people in a non-teamwork setting just to show how much we know about other people.

Another word for this is gossip.

It sure makes it hard to find somebody to talk to.

Development and honoring contributions in Socorro

By Sergio Cox

In my last article I stated that I wanted to open the doors of communication and let the public in on issues before for the City of Socorro. One issue that seems to have people up in arms — or at least constantly talked about — is the issue of development.

When I was campaigning and speaking with the voters about the future of Socorro, I was asked about my stand on development. I said I am pro-development and I always will be. Having lived in the community of Socorro since I was about 13 or 14, I saw Socorro grow. I witnessed my graduating class of 1972 go from about 75 seniors to the class of 2006 with 650. Quite a bit of growth in the past 34 years, wouldn't you say? The older generations of Socorro, from

owners of small lots to large farms, have been selling their property for top dollar. Who has the top dollar? The developers, of course. When they develop, they bring nice communities that include streets, sidewalks, right of ways, street lighting and, if the development is of large proportion, parks.

These are the very things that our constituents from underdeveloped areas such as Campestre, Moon City, Old Socorro, North Loop and Horizon, to name a few, are always at Council meetings asking for. I recall the time when my oldest son married they decided to purchase a home in Horizon City. I asked my son, why not Socorro? His answer was because Horizon had sidewalks and pavement. That bothered me and stayed in the back of my mind. I now am in

a position to change that and maybe with a little "where-with-all" I might make it easier for another family to retain their grown children with a nice home of their own within the city limits of Socorro.

I have already been accused of having sold out to the developers by people that don't want change, but believe me nothing could be further from the truth. The new Socorro is coming and in some places is already here. It is inevitable.

On another issue, I asked for and obtained support from council members to conduct an awards presentation for two people that I felt needed to be recognized for their outstanding contribution to our young people of Socorro. They have, in their own way, molded and developed the lives

of many of our young adults into success stories. Their diligence and hard core efforts in teaching have made our young people learn that only through hard work and determination could they make something of themselves. These two people, with 50 years combined experience, have touched so many lives and have set the standard.

I am speaking of Chris Forbes, Socorro High School baseball coach for the past 25 years and of Sandra Reinhardt, educator at Socorro High for 22 years and in the teaching profession for 25.


Once the word got out about what I was doing, ideas and suggestions were sent my way. The original thought of having a small presentation and recognition soon changed.

On Aug. 25, there will be a reception at El Campanario located at 649 Apodaca Road. It will be catered, with music. Both Coach Forbes and Mrs. Reinhardt will be in attendance and proceeds from this award presentation will be placed into a scholarship or two in the name of both honorees.

More information will be forthcoming. The date has been set and if anyone wishes to attend, please call me at Socorro City Hall 858-2915. Please understand that there will be a limit as to how many can attend. So contact me, the sooner the better.

In my next article I hope to have information on grants and how we plan to obtain them. Thanks for your indulgence.

Sergio Cox is the At-Large City Rep. for the citizens of Socorro.



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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Border conflict: health, wellness

The U.S.-Mexico border region faces health challenges commonly found in emerging nations. A recent conference in Washington, D.C. brought together national and regional medical leaders to facilitate discussion and debate over actions we must take in the public and private sectors to provide border residents with the health care they need and deserve.

The Texas Medical Association and the Border Health Caucus in conjunction with my office hosted the Border Health Conference in June on Capitol Hill. Approximately 50 doctors and health professionals from the border region traveled to Washington, D.C. to join me at this conference, voice their concerns and lend their expertise. We explored topics such as fair reimbursement rates for physicians, health services for border residents, national health threats such as the avian flu, and international health efforts between the U.S. and Mexico.

Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Dr. Mark McClellan, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services were just two of the notable speakers who helped panelists and attendees gain greater understanding of federal efforts to improve health care along the border.

El Paso's Dr. Manny Alvarez, who is also the President of the Border Health Caucus, moderated the conference, and Dr. Manny de la Rosa, Regional Dean of Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and Teresa Hines, Program Director of the Health Education Training Centers Alliance of Texas also traveled from El Paso to contribute their views and perspectives to this important discussion.

As border communities, we lack many of the everyday essentials that promote healthy living — we have shortages of nurses, doctors, and other health practitioners, and we suffer from increased levels of diseases such as diabetes, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. Environmental health hazards such as inadequate levels of drinking water and a lack of wastewater infrastructure also face the region as a whole.

Consider these two conflicting reports: the Department of Health and Human Services recently released a report stating that the overall quality of care for Americans has improved 2.8 percent; however, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality recently released its National Healthcare Disparities Report, which found that discrimination in quality and access to care has decreased for all ethnic groups except Hispanics.

Clearly, border residents need and deserve improved health care, and border physicians and other health care professionals require an environment that empowers them. There must be a real sense of synergy and partnership between all levels of government and all types of health care providers. This conference helped facilitate the important partnerships that need to be in place to address the challenges we face, and I look forward to working with all participants in the future. By working together, we will improve our health and quality of life, and at our second annual Border Health Conference next year, I look forward to building on this year's progress.

View from here

By Michael Gerber

Texas must support home ownership while emphasizing responsibility

With the notable exceptions of Motherhood, Hot Dogs, and Apple Pie, few cultural icons are as celebrated in our country as is homeownership. Homeownership remains the American Dream and for good reason. Owning the home in which you live brings a sense of achievement and security. Homeownership also has a profound positive impact on personal wealth. The median net worth of a renter in 2001, according to the National Association of Realtors, was \$4,800 as compared with \$171,700 for homeowners. Besides being the primary means of acquiring wealth, owning a home benefits families in ways we are just now beginning to recognize. One study by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies found that — all other factors being equal — children who live in homes owned by their families have higher quality home environments, higher cognitive test scores, and fewer behavioral problems. This adds up to math scores that are up to 9 percent higher and reading scores up to 7

percent higher for children in self-owned homes as compared to their renter counterparts. It is for these and many other reasons that Gov. Rick Perry and TDHCA have joined together to celebrate June as Homeownership Month in Texas. Gov. Perry and TDHCA are committed to expanding homeownership to as many individuals and families as possible, and we use this month to recognize its importance. Homeownership Month also serves as an opportunity for TDHCA to announce the largest release of homebuyer funds ever structured by the State of Texas, an unprecedented \$255 million in funding. Offering a mix of below-market interest rate mortgage loans and mortgage credit certificates, the Department expects to help make homeownership a reality for more than 2,300 low-to-moderate income Texas families this year. TDHCA is dedicating a large portion of these funds to help with economic development and recovery in a 22-county region of southeast Texas

impacted by Hurricane Rita. Of the \$240 million available in low-interest home loans, nearly half is reserved for home purchases in this hard hit region. However, any state-sponsored homebuyer initiative must promote homeownership in a responsible manner. It isn't enough to help low income households buy a home and simply walk away. Experience often does not prepare renters for the responsibilities and expenses that come with owning a home. TDHCA recognizes that homebuyer education must go hand-in-hand with any homebuyer initiatives. Working through non-profit organizations at the local level, we provide comprehensive pre- and post-purchase homebuyer counseling to individuals and families in all 254 Texas counties. Knowing what to expect before buying a home dramatically improves the stability of first time homebuyers and lowers the odds they will be foreclosed upon. Texas was the first state to implement such a homebuyer education program, and it continues to be a model for other states to emulate. More important, we are helping low-to-moderate income households achieve the American Dream while giving them the tools they need to keep their home. If you are thinking about buying a home, I encourage you to contact TDHCA at (800) 792-1119 to learn we can help you purchase a home of your own. We fulfill the American Dream thousands of times each year. Give us a chance to fulfill yours.

Michael Gerber is the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

Demonstrating that there is perhaps no proposal too outrageous for those trying to break down our borders and our traditional social order, I noticed H.R. 3006, which would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to sponsor their "permanent partners" for residence in the United States. The act would change current immigration law language by inserting the phrase "or permanent partner" after "spouse" each place where that term appears. H.R. 3006 has flown quietly under the radar, gathering 94 cosponsors in the House and 10 in the Senate.

I suggest everyone contact their representative and senators now to oppose this stealth pathway to legal residency for non-married "partners." It is too much to let some of our congressmen give citizenship to alien homosexual partners.

Matthew R. Davis
Henderson, NV

Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

A proud and patriotic celebration

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

These words were penned by Thomas Jefferson in a document titled "The Declaration of Independence" 230 years ago this month. The final version was ratified by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The 56 signers of the Declaration had to meet in secret for fear of repercussions. Two days later the first copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed and on July 8 that year the first public reading of the document was held in Philadelphia's Independence Square.

The Declaration of Independence is our nation's most cherished symbol of freedom and democracy. The document set forth a list of grievances against England's King George III and justified the 13 colonies decision to sever ties with the mother country. The United States Congress officially recognized Independence Day as a holiday in 1870. Today,

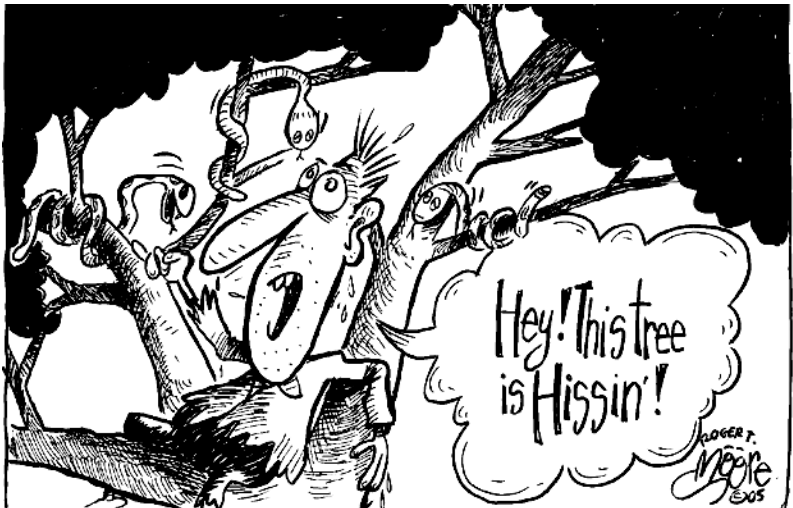
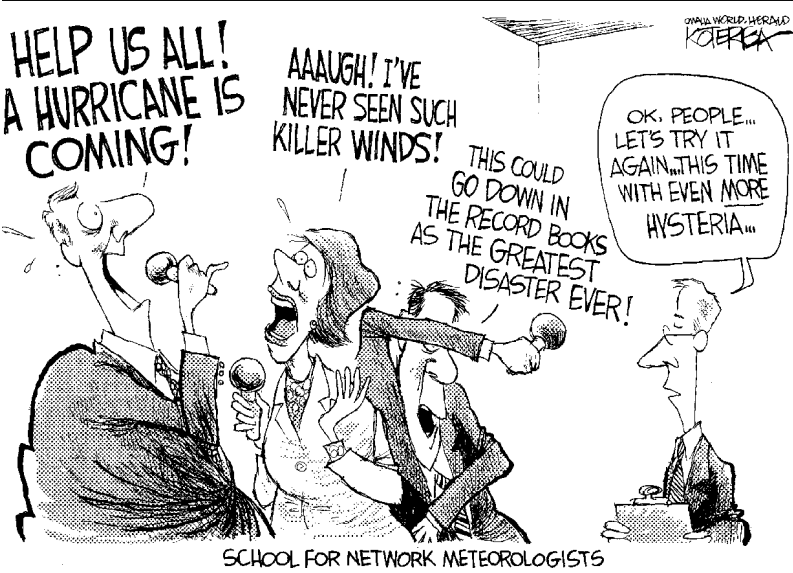
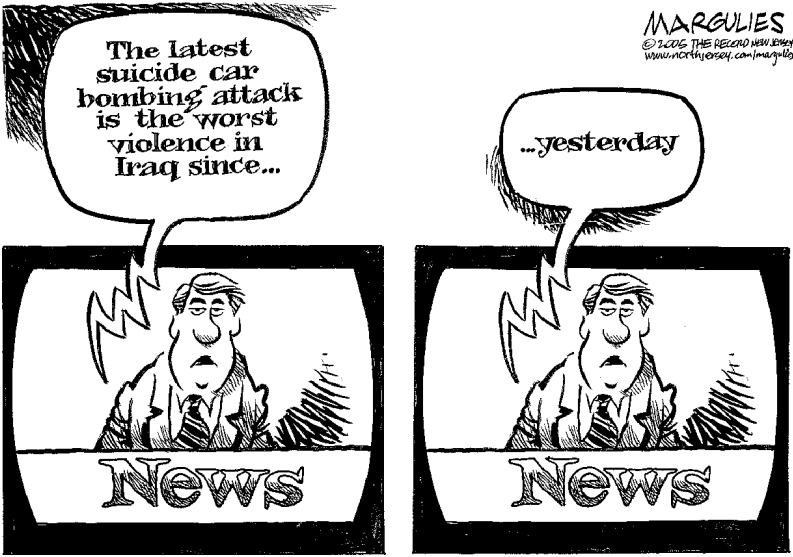
communities across the nation celebrate this historic event with fireworks, barbecues, and parades while listening to John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

The United States of America has come a long way from the days of the 13 Colonies. We now boast 50 states and 15 territories. In July 1776, 2.5 million people were living in the colonies. Today we have a national population of nearly 300 million. Today America remains the most powerful nation in the world with the largest and most technologically advanced economy marked by steady growth and low unemployment.

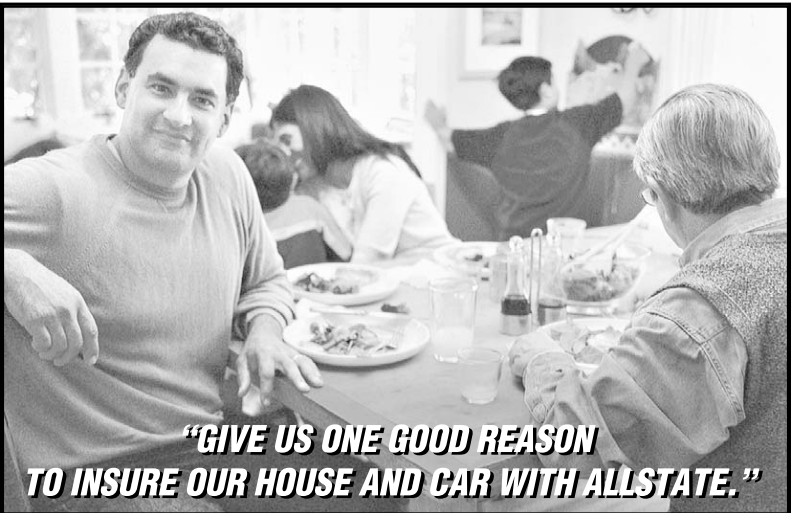
The United States of America is a very proud and patriotic nation. According to the U.S. Census, there are 30 places nationwide with "liberty" in its name. Thirty-two places have the word "eagle" including Eagle Pass, Texas, which is the most populous eagle-named city with 24,847 residents. Eleven places have "independence" in their name, five places adopted the name "freedom," and one place named "patriot" which is Patriot, Indiana with a population of 195. There are even five such places

with the word "America" in their name. Americans love to celebrate Fourth of July with cookouts, barbecues, and picnics from sea to shining sea. Last year more than 68 million Americans said they have taken part in a barbecue. In 2005, Americans consumed more than seven billion pounds of beef with Texas accounting for more than one-sixth of the nation's total production. Chances are good that no matter where you were celebrating America's independence, if you grilled a steak, burger, or beef hot dog on your backyard grill, it probably came from the Lone Star State.

All across the country, American families will come together to remember the sacrifices and honor the bravery of our nation's founding fathers. I hope that you and your loved ones will gather together to remember the principles of the Declaration of Independence and to celebrate our unalienable right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." God Bless America.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore, The most frequent malady affecting Hurricane Carla victims was injuries received seeking refuge from floodwaters in trees infested with likeminded snakes.



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Clint ISD Principal receives Outstanding Leadership Award

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Pam Howard, Principal at Frank Macias Elementary in Clint ISD, was this year's recipient of the Outstanding Administrative Leadership in Reading Award by the El Paso Reading Council. Howard has been the Principal at Frank Macias Elementary since 2001. The Pre-K through 3rd grade campus is TEA recognized receiving Gold Acknowledgments in reading, math and attendance. The El Paso Reading Council annually recognizes an administrator in the El Paso and surrounding areas who has made an outstanding contribution in the area of reading by promoting excellence in the improvement of reading instruction.

Howard was selected for this prestigious award based on how she promotes the improvement of reading

instruction at Frank Macias Elementary, how she inspires teachers to strive for excellence in the teaching of reading in the classroom and based on her leadership in school and community activities related to reading.

"It is real work to accomplish what Mrs. Howard expects from the teachers and the students. She asks for our best because we all know that our best is what the students deserve. Mrs. Howard is not an absent administrator. She is right there working with us and for us. If students succeed in reading, then we have all succeeded," says Patricia Walshe, Reading Recovery Teacher at Frank Macias Elementary.

"Pamela Howard has a vision for her campus in which students and employees would enjoy working together towards academic excellence for all — this vision began when reading was placed at the forefront of everything else under her leadership," says Terri Mena, Assistant

Principal of Frank Macias Elementary.

Since her arrival at Frank Macias Elementary, Howard has transformed the campus into "a reading wonderland." There are reading nooks in every hallway, classroom libraries in every classroom, a school library that depicts a reading forest complete with a professional and parent section, well-stocked leveled libraries in English and Spanish, and Book of the Month tiles on the ceiling down the main hallway. Everywhere you look you see the emphasis and importance placed on reading according to Mena.

"If someone needs something, Pam sees to it that they receive it. As a result of that, each employee and student on the campus can reach their potential. She sets the bar very high and the results are quite obvious. Her motto is 'FME is the Only Place to Be!' That is certainly true," says Ann Sawyer, Frank Macias Elementary Librarian.

Briefs

From Page 1

essay contest who are subsequently interviewed in person by representatives of Star Fireworks. The scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors attending four-year universities. Star Fireworks was established in 1995 by Navin and Wes Navidomskis, and Ray Sanchez — all Clint High School graduates. For more information, contact Navin Navidomskis at 920-1095 or Ray Sanchez at 920-9023.

■ American Cancer Society staff and volunteers in Texas marked the release of Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona's new report on the harmful effects of second-hand tobacco smoke by calling on local communities across the state to protect the health of workforce employees by enacting a comprehensive smoke-free ordinances. Currently, Texas has 43 communities with smoke-free ordinances. The report, titled *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke* was released June 27 — the first major report on secondhand smoke in 20 years. The last report, released in 1986, marked the first comprehensive scientific analysis of the health data involving secondhand smoke. The new report reinforces previous conclusions with years of scientifically irrefutable evidence on the health hazards of secondhand smoke including that ventilation systems are ineffective at reducing the harm caused by the emission of cigarette smoke in restaurants and bars. For more information call toll free 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit <http://www.cancer.org>.

■ A bowling benefit on July 29 at Fiesta Lanes, 5850 Onix in West El Paso, will help raise

funds to fight pet overpopulation in El Paso County. Teams in the El Paso Paralegal Association's Second Annual Bowl-a-Thon, with games starting at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., will compete for donated prizes while raising funds for Pets Alive El Paso's spay/neuter programs. To register or donate funds, call (915) 546-8315. Tax receipts issued upon request for donations of \$20 or more. About 80 anticipated teams of five bowlers each hope to raise \$50,000 to stem the tide of destroying tens of thousands of unwanted pets because there are too many animals and too few loving homes. Bowlers raise a minimum of \$125 in pledges to cover the cost of lanes and shoes. Bowlers who raise \$300 or more automatically receive eligibility to participate in door prize drawings.

■ Mable Buford has a secret she keeps to herself, not because she's embarrassed, she just doesn't want people to feel sorry for her. "Some days I walk pretty well, some days I don't," Buford said. She has lupus and the disease attacks the immune system leading to dangerous inflammation and damage. So she says she is a big supporter of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the VOTEXAS project which requires every polling precinct in the nation have at least one electronic voting machine that is accessible for those who are living with a disability. The VOTEXAS project, a program sponsored by Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams, is educating citizens about their voting rights and responsibilities. "For the first time we are making sure every Texas voter can cast a private ballot," said Secretary Williams. "Those who are living with disabilities can now be assured they have the same access to the voting system as everyone else." Buford said the new electronic voting machines allow disabled voters an easier way of

exercising their right to vote. "That is a good thing," said Buford.

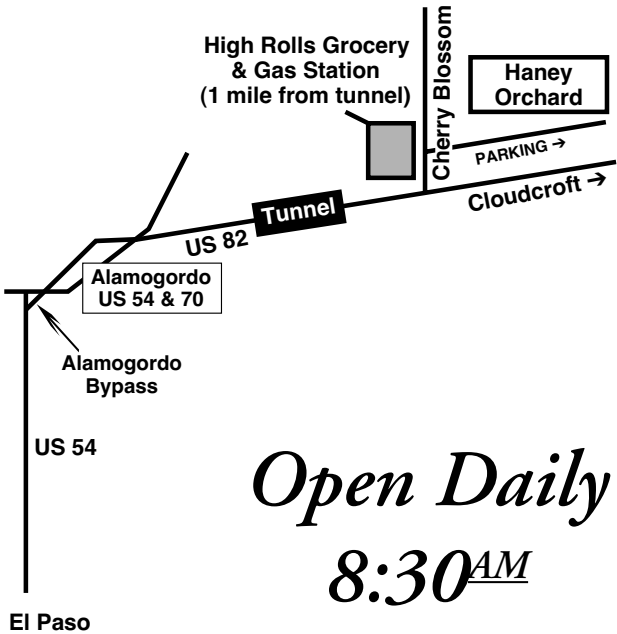
■ According to the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), 84 percent of gas grill owners say it is important to follow basic safe grilling tips when using a gas grill, yet only one in three (35 percent) say they know a great deal about them. They include:

- When the cylinder is refilled, have the supplier check for dents or damage.
- Take the cylinder home immediately and keep the vehicle ventilated and the cylinder valve closed and capped.
- Always use or store cylinders outdoors in an upright position. Do not use, store, or transport cylinders near high temperatures including storage near the grill.
- Never leave the grill unattended. Always follow grill manufacturer's instructions on lighting the grill and make sure the grill top is open when attempting to light the grill.
- Before connecting the cylinder to a propane gas grill burner for the first time, use a leak-detection solution (a 50/50 mixture of water and liquid soap) to check connections for tightness. Do not use matches or lighters to check for leaks.
- If you suspect a gas leak, and are able to safely turn off the gas supply valve, do so immediately and call the fire department.
- Do not allow children to tamper or play with the cylinder or grill.
- Do not smoke while handling a propane cylinder.
- Never pour an accelerant such as lighter fluid or gasoline on the grill.
- When not in use, grill burner controls should be turned off and cylinder valve closed. For additional information visit www.usepropane.com.

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By Jamie Story

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Epic tantrum takes the boring right out of baseball

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

For as long as I live I will never let anyone tell me that baseball is boring again.

They can pick on golf, they can make fun of soccer — they can even complain about the NBA if they want — but no one can ever look me in the eye and tell me that baseball is boring.

Even with the wait between innings, even with the pauses between pitches, even with the many player meetings that are held in the infield, which slow the game down considerably.

Even with all that, no one can ever again say baseball is boring.

Baseball is one of the most entertaining, provocative and mesmerizing programs available on television — at least it was last week.

It was like a cross between COPS and Jerry Springer. It could have been called “When Baseball Managers Attack.”

Did you catch the wacky antics of Asheville Tourists manager Joe Makulik? The single-A team’s

skipper was upset after Roger Clemen’s son Koby was called safe in a play at second base.

Well, to say that Mikulik got a little upset is like saying the Titanic sprung a leak.

Mikulik put on the kind of tirade that people will be talking about for decades. Baseball fans around the country were calling their friends to check it out on TV.

I thought the manager-umpire arguing Hall of Fame was doing just fine with the likes of Leo Durocher, Lou Piniella, Earl Weaver and Billy Martin.

But we’re going to have to add another name to the list — Joe Mikulik.

After arguing briefly with the umpire, he was thrown out of the game. Once Makulik was tossed from the game it was like the “mature adult” connection in his brain snapped.

He started jumping, he started shouting, I couldn’t hear what he was saying, but I’m sure there were many well-placed expletives aimed at certain members of the umpire’s family tossed in.

Makulik then ran toward second base and

dove at the bag. Then he tried with all his strength to remove the base from where it was anchored to the ground.

After a short tussle, he removed the base and like the great discus throwers who competed in the first Olympiad in Greece, he let it fly majestically across the field.

But the disgruntled manager wasn’t finished. He went into his dugout and threw every bat he could find onto the field. He then proceeded to kick dirt onto the umpire and home base.

To make sure he did the job right, Makulik kneeled at home and scooped up dirt with both hands and covered the plate until it was no longer visible.

Alright, by now you would think this guy would have come to his senses. Wrong!

He then brought a bottle of water with him and doused it on home plate as if to say “you see Mr. Umpire, there it is, you haven’t found home plate all night.” He then slammed the bottle on top of the plate and marched off.

Finally over? No!

On the way off the field he kept yelling at the

umps, who calmly listened to his tirade. Once in the clubhouse, Mikulik pushed a couple of water coolers, a chair and a batting practice screen in front of the umpires’ locker room.

Now I know what they mean about mental breakdown. This guy lost all ability to control his actions, his emotions, his rationality and his composure. I’m surprised he was able to control his bodily fluids.

And this is just a baseball game. Be thankful this guy doesn’t work at the post office.

After the game, Mikulik was quoted as saying, “I could get two mannequins at Sears and umpire better than what I saw this whole series.”

That may be true, but still... The overheated manager received a seven-game suspension for his epic tantrum. Not bad considering he could have been sentenced to just about any insane asylum.

No one remembers who won the game or who won any game that night for that matter, but they will always remember Joe Makulik and his tantrum for the ages.

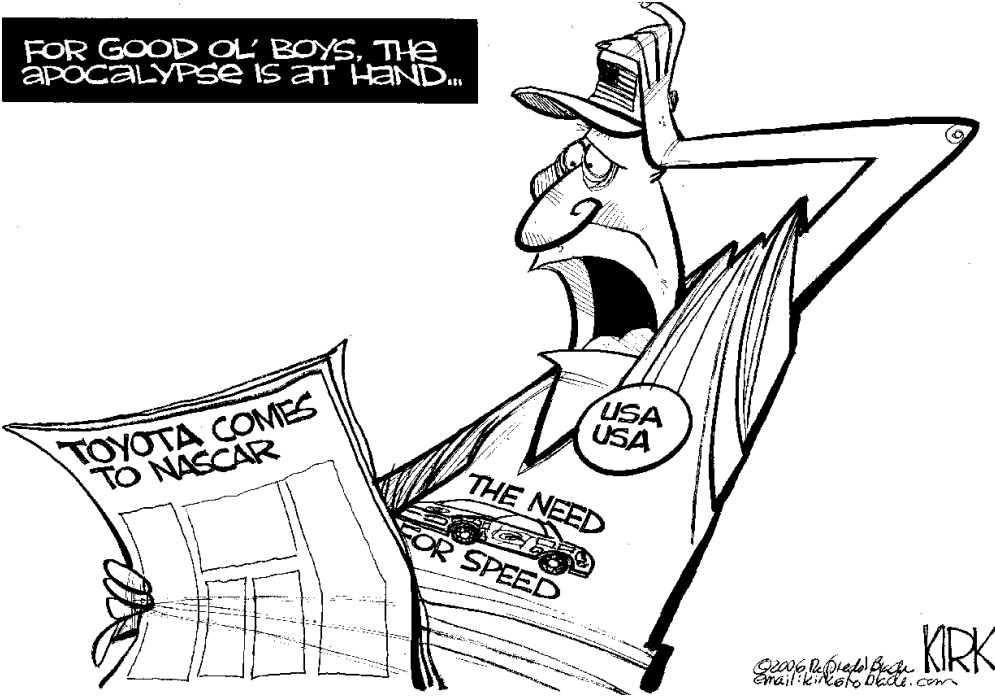
Baseball boring? I think not!

Canutillo grad earns builder’s respect



CANUTILLO — Jack Winton, president and owner of Jack Winton Homes presents Canutillo High School 2006 graduate, Martin Limon, a \$1,000 scholarship check. The award is based on academic achievement, involvement in the community, need for financial assistance, essay submission, and a personal interview. Limon is a three-year graduate and achieved a 94.1 grade point average, which ranked him 24th in a class of 248 seniors. Limon plans to attend UTEP in the fall to pursue a degree in engineering.

— Kim Guzman



Classified Ads

LEGAL

NOTICE TO CUSTOMER

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 191,564 residential, 12,311 commercial, 67 industrial, 825 public authority, 26 municipal water pumping and 51 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 June 9, 2006. The proposed effective date is for meters read on and after August 30, 2006.

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 \$ 825,952 or 0.59 percent. The proposed change does not constitute a “major” change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code.

The proposed tariffs include increases in gas sales and transportation rates for all residential, commercial, industrial,

public authority, and municipal water pumping customers in the incorporated areas of the El Paso Service Area. The effect of the change in rates, when allowed, will be to increase the revenues of the Company by approximately 0.59 percent. Based on the proposed rate design, the average monthly residential bill of 45 Ccf will increase by approximately \$0.27, or 0.6 percent, the average monthly commercial bill of 279 Ccf will increase approximately \$0.96, or 0.4 percent, the average monthly public authority bill of 975 Ccf will increase approximately \$2.99 or 0.4 percent, and the average standard transportation bill of 31,397 Ccf will increase approximately \$52.87

or 2.2 percent.

A complete copy of the Statement of Intent is available for inspection in the municipalities’ offices and in the Company’s business office located at 4600 Pollard St., El Paso, Texas 79930.

TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY

WTCC: 06/15, 06/22, 06/29, and 07/06/06

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond

Sealed bid for Cafeteria Non-Food Items, Bid No. 070306-035, addressed to Leticia Perez, Fabens Independent School District, 821 NE “G” Avenue or P O Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838 will be received at the above address until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 25, 2006, at which time they will be publicly opened. Bid forms and

specifications may be obtained by calling (915) 764-2025. WTCC: 07/13/06

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 Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - MELJ62W3FH62206, 1994 Mercury Cougar, maroon, two-door, no license WTCC-07/06/06

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13	14	15	(STOP HERE) (FOR \$5 AD.)
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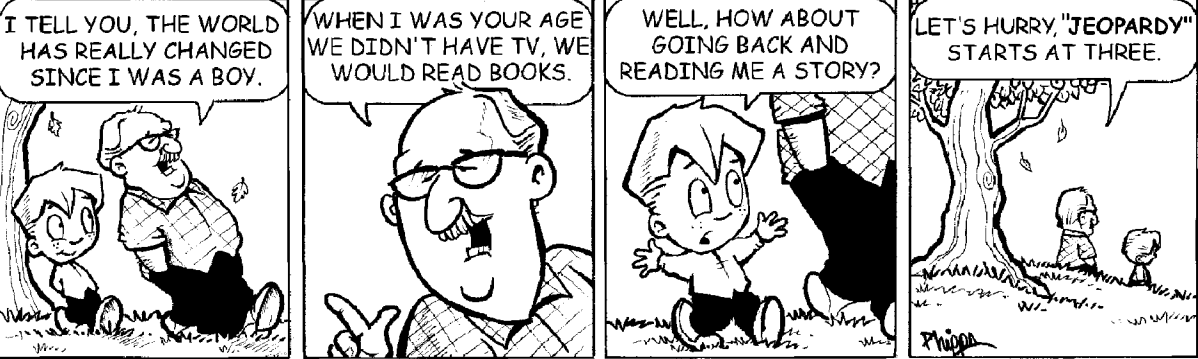
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



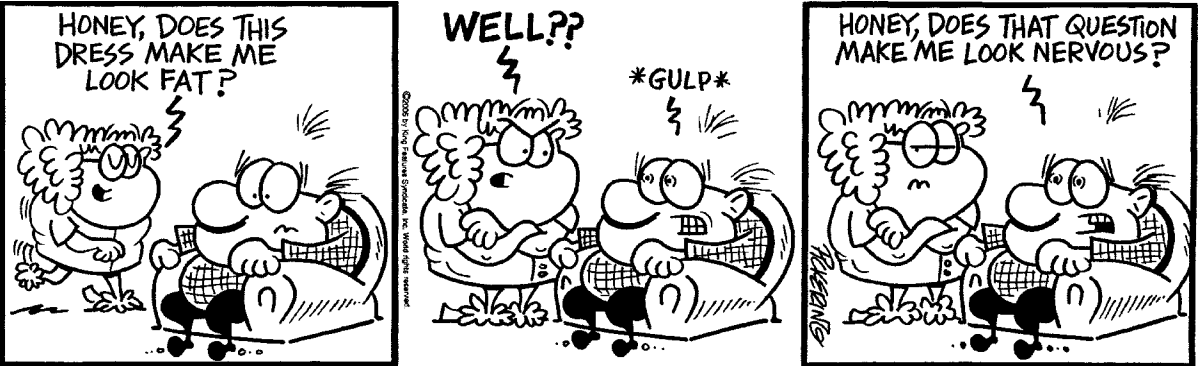
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



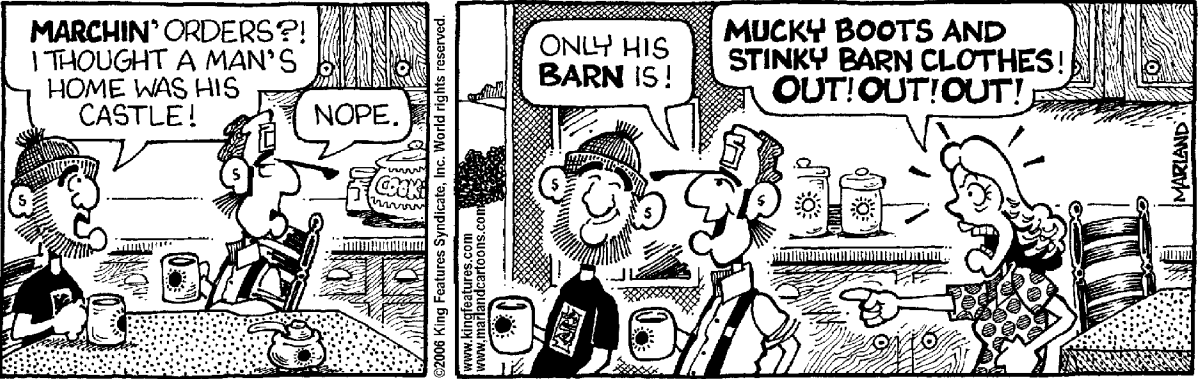
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Say it ain't so, pigeon racers

By Don Flood

In a world where reading the sports pages is often like reading the police blotter, we have had one group of athletes we could still look up to.

I'm talking, of course, about racing pigeons, which fly above us and so we look "up" to them. Get it? Hah!

Unfortunately, that feeble attempt at humor is the last bit of levity you'll see here, as doping, sadly, has clouded the formerly gentlemanly world of pigeon racing.

(In fact, I have no idea whether pigeon racing has ever been gentlemanly — the sport could be chock full of cads and bounders for all I know — but doesn't it sound like it should be?)

Here's the story: The Bronx Home Pigeon Club recently banned an owner from racing his pigeons because of the suspected use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Drugs have fouled (fowed! Get it?) the pristine world of pigeon racing!

Pigeon-racing officials were alerted that something might be amiss when two of the pigeons recently bested San Francisco Giants star Barry Bonds in a homerun derby.

"That really tipped us off. Normally, it is quite rare for a pigeon to hit a baseball, much less home runs," said one official.

In another incident, a third pigeon challenged and forced down a pair of F-16 fighter jets.

Dr. Cuthbert Snootfull, the world-renowned ornithologist, confirmed that both incidents were quite unusual for pigeons.

(Editor's note: We realize "world-renowned" might be a little strong, but since no one has ever heard of him we had to let people know he's famous.)

"Pigeons rarely participate in the

realm of human sport, and baseball in particular because of the problems our avian friends have holding a baseball bat. This is sure to be a topic at the next World Bird Behavior Convention, provided we're not too late to add it to the agenda."

But pigeons challenging jets is another matter entirely, Dr. Snootfull said. Pigeons and other birds often have close encounters with airplanes.

"But what is unusual here," Snootfull continued, "is to have the pigeon actually win a 'dogfight' against an F-16."

(Editor's note: As previously mentioned, it was two F-16s.)

"While this is not my primary field of study, I would venture to say this an unusual feat for a pigeon and might indicate the presence of performance-enhancing drugs," Dr. Snootfull concluded, in time for his afternoon "bracer."

The pigeons themselves were vigorous in their denials.

"I have never used a performance-enhancing drug in my life!" said Rocky Ripsnort, the pigeon credited with downing the F-16s.

"I don't need it! I'm the greatest racing pigeon ever. Why is everybody always accusing me? Yes, Barry Bonds' trainer is a friend of mine. What of it? Don't you losers have anything better to do than bother me? You're just jealous you can't fly!"

Later, however, Ripsnort admitted he may have taken some "unknown substances" from the trainer, after which he added 48 pounds of muscle — unusual growth for a pigeon nearing the end of his racing career — and began reaching speeds of Mach 3, or three times the speed of sound.

Perhaps the world of checkers remains relatively pure.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- BRAKE SHOES**

ACROSS

1 Fleet

7 Implore

10 Comics' "Andy _"

14 In the lead

19 Laughed loudly

20 Ivy Leaguer

21 Jai _

22 Sibelius' " _ Triste"

23 Start of a remark

by Joan St. Onge

24 Paving material

25 Picnic spoiler

26 Shocked

27 Susan of "L.A. Law"

28 Forsake

31 _ -di-dah

33 Chihuahua relative

34 _ Valley, CA

36 Aparicio or Alvarez

38 Least relaxed

41 Part 2 of remark

47 Nigerian city

48 Even if, informally

49 Judd Hirsch sitcom

50 Arafat's grp.

51 Profess

52 Joyce's land

54 Transfer temporarily

56 Exploded

60 "En _"

62 Mafia or Downey

63 Gown part

66 See 113 Across

67 _ roll

69 Made wine divine

72 Actress Remini

73 Envelope abbr.

74 Part 3 of remark

81 TV's "People _ Funny"

82 Humorist

83 Young or Diamond

84 Dallas coll.

85 Beak

86 Ready partner

88 New Jersey team

91 Happen next

95 Sale stipulation

97 Smelter refuse

99 Profit

100 Baseball's Bucky

101 Owns

104 Joyce of "Roc"

106 _ -Magnon

107 Droll

108 Part 4 of remark

113 With 66 Across,

114 Mediocre

115 Related

116 Sweater letter

117 Cutup

119 "The Consul" composer

122 Cow or sow

125 Range rope

128 Leslie Caron role

130 Health resort

131 End of remark

134 More distant

135 Evangelist

Roberts

136 Bother

137 Actor Helmut

138 Mouthful

139 Inquisitive

140 Caustic substance

141 Annette of "Cat People"

DOWN

1 Like the Thar

2 Learning method

3 Creche figure

4 Onassis' nickname

5 Actress Sandra

6 Spice Girl Victoria

7 _ carotene

8 Dash

9 Pot holder?

10 Big name in cruises

11 Chicken _ king

12 Bucket

13 Fiesta target

14 Gregory's "On the Beach" co-star

15 Crone

16 Makes merry

17 St. Francis' home

18 Terminal

29 Acrid

30 Force out

32 Rope fiber

34 Famed photographer

35 " _ Too Late" ('71 hit)

37 At _ and sevens

39 Zilch

40 Social climber

41 Pennant

42 Molten rock

43 Perpetual lab assistant

44 Rock's _ Express

45 Sane

46 The sound of little bells

53 Minnesota town

55 Spare fare

57 It becomes ewe?

58 Stocking shade

59 Artist Benjamin

61 Computer key

64 "Willard" extras

65 Subject

68 Curly coif

70 Chemical ending

71 "A Kiss Before _" ('91 film)

74 Comic Carvey

75 Spring flower

76 Skater Thomas

77 Flightless birds

78 High-flying birds

79 Become a blond

80 Shabby

87 Stops

89 It may be spare

90 Winter vehicle

92 Big rig

93 Textbook heading

94 Emulate Whistler

96 "Scat!"

98 In a morose manner

102 Diving bird

103 A whole bunch

105 Cathedral area

107 Dernier _

108 Odysseus' home

109 Emergency

110 Puff, for one

111 It's down in the mouth

112 With hands on hips

113 Cheerleader's maneuver

118 Copter kin

120 Grand Ole _

121 Confiscate

122 _ lily

123 Cad

124 Raison d'_

126 Salon request

127 Northwestern st.

129 Nitrous oxide, e.g.

132 Still

133 To and _

Answer Page 6

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Child dies after incident with paint-ball gun

EL PASO COUNTY — A nine-year-old child died last week after being shot with a paint ball gun during a late night gathering.

Detectives from the El Paso Police Department’s Crimes Against Children Unit (C.A.C.) and Officers from the Criminalistics Unit responded to 3429 Tularosa in El Paso to assist Central Patrol Officers with an “injury to a child” case.

Investigators learned that 9-year-old Matthew Holguin was with relatives playing. During that time 23-year-old Christian Sifuentes, a cousin of Holguin, and 21-year old Filiberto Soto, no relation to the victim, began to play with a paint-ball gun. While playing with the gun Soto inserted a screwdriver into the paintball gun.

A short time later 23-year-old Christian Sifuentes picked up the paint-ball gun and pointed it at Holguin and discharged it. As a result Holguin was struck in the eye and was taken to Thomason Hospital for emergency treatment. As a result of the investigation Sifuentes and Soto were both charged with second-degree felony Injury to a Child and booked into the El Paso County Jail.

Holguin was listed in serious condition and died the afternoon of June 26, at which time Crimes Against Persons Detectives (C.A.P.) were called in to assist in the case. At this time C.A.P. detectives will be finalizing the investigation.

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7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

AccuWeather.com®

<div>Monday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny to partly cloudy</div> <div>94°</div> <div>RealFeel 99°</div>	<div>Mon. night</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly cloudy</div> <div>70°</div> <div>RealFeel 67°</div>	<div>Tuesday</div> <div></div> <div>Several hours of sunshine</div> <div>95° 71°</div> <div>RealFeel 92° 69°</div>	<div>Wednesday</div> <div></div> <div>Clouds and sun</div> <div>93° 71°</div> <div>RealFeel 89° 67°</div>	<div>Thursday</div> <div></div> <div>Plenty of clouds</div> <div>93° 70°</div> <div>RealFeel 89° 66°</div>	<div>Friday</div> <div></div> <div>Thunderstorms possible</div> <div>95° 66°</div> <div>RealFeel 92° 67°</div>	<div>Saturday</div> <div></div> <div>Partly sunny</div> <div>95° 68°</div> <div>RealFeel 98° 69°</div>	<div>Sunday</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly sunny</div> <div>96° 68°</div> <div>RealFeel 101° 70°</div>
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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

Sun

	Rise	Set
Mon.	6:04 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Tues.	6:05 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Wed.	6:05 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Thu.	6:06 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Fri.	6:06 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Sat.	6:07 a.m.	8:14 p.m.
Sun.	6:07 a.m.	8:14 p.m.

Moon

	Rise	Set
Mon.	1:20 p.m.	12:36 a.m.
Tues.	2:16 p.m.	1:01 a.m.
Wed.	3:14 p.m.	1:28 a.m.
Thu.	4:16 p.m.	1:59 a.m.
Fri.	5:21 p.m.	2:35 a.m.
Sat.	6:26 p.m.	3:20 a.m.
Sun.	7:29 p.m.	4:14 a.m.

First

Full

7/3

7/10

Last

New

7/17

7/24

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REGIONAL CITIES												U.S. CITIES											
Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			Saturday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	
Abilene, TX	85	67	t	90	70	pc	91	71	pc	91	71	pc	Atlanta	90	70	pc	88	70	t	88	67	pc	
Albuquerque, NM	84	65	t	88	67	t	90	67	pc	88	66	t	Boston	82	65	c	79	63	pc	79	65	pc	
Amarillo, TX	82	64	pc	86	65	pc	88	66	pc	90	65	pc	Chicago	80	61	pc	82	60	s	84	63	s	
Austin, TX	90	72	t	89	72	t	92	73	pc	95	72	pc	Denver	81	56	pc	87	59	s	87	61	pc	
Brownsville, TX	94	78	pc	95	78	pc	94	77	pc	95	78	pc	Detroit	78	58	pc	78	60	s	82	64	s	
Dodge City, KS	87	63	t	87	65	pc	91	67	s	94	67	s	Houston	89	74	t	90	74	t	94	76	pc	
Jackson, MS	91	71	pc	90	71	t	91	69	pc	94	70	pc	Indianapolis	80	60	pc	80	59	s	83	61	s	
Laredo, TX	100	78	pc	99	79	t	98	79	pc	99	79	pc	Kansas City	83	65	pc	86	65	s	89	66	c	
Little Rock, AR	90	71	t	89	69	pc	91	69	s	92	72	s	Los Angeles	84	64	pc	82	64	pc	84	64	pc	
Lubbock, TX	88	66	t	86	67	pc	88	67	pc	90	68	pc	Miami	89	79	t	90	79	t	91	79	pc	
Memphis, TN	86	73	t	88	70	pc	89	71	s	92	72	s	Minneapolis	82	66	s	86	64	s	87	68	s	
Midland, TX	87	70	t	88	69	pc	91	70	pc	91	70	pc	New Orleans	92	77	pc	92	78	t	91	76	t	
Pueblo, CO	84	60	t	89	59	pc	91	60	pc	93	61	pc	New York City	84	66	t	80	66	pc	82	68	s	
Roswell, NM	86	67	pc	87	67	pc	88	66	pc	90	67	pc	Omaha	85	61	s	90	63	s	88	66	s	
St. Louis, MO	84	65	t	85	65	s	86	68	s	89	69	s	Phoenix	105	85	t	106	85	s	108	83	t	
San Antonio, TX	92	74	t	90	75	t	90	75	pc	91	75	pc	San Francisco	66	54	pc	66	54	pc	70	56	pc	
Texarkana, AR	88	72	t	90	71	t	93	72	pc	95	71	s	Seattle	76	56	pc	72	54	pc	70	54	pc	
Waco, TX	91	72	t	89	74	t	93	75	pc	94	75	pc	Washington	87	68	t	81	65	pc	83	66	s	
Wichita, KS	86	67	t	86	68	s	90	70	s	91	71	s											

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

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