



NEWSBRIEFS

New officer

Alex Sanchez is the new Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Clint to help curb illegal dumping and environmental damage. He has 16 months of experience with the Clint Police Dept. as a volunteer officer and is now in a paid full-time position. His position is funded by a \$50,000 grant through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) administered by the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG). Sanchez will perform his duties from a new four wheel drive F-150 pickup also purchased with the grant. Sanchez will patrol Clint and its extra territorial jurisdiction looking for violators. Mayor Dale Reinhardt said people need to stop dumping trash illegally in and around the Town of Clint and is optimistic about the new program.

Linebacker support

Gov. Rick Perry has released the \$3.8 million pledged in February to the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition to provide continuing support for Operation Linebacker, the coalition's effort to increase manpower and equipment to reduce border crime and violence. Since December 2005, nearly \$10 million has been provided to support the operation. "The sheriffs are the front lines of the fight against border crime, and I am pleased the state can support their continued fight against criminals and terrorists who wish to exploit our border," Perry said. "It has long been demonstrated that our strategy to increase manpower and patrols decreases the ability of criminal groups to operate in the region. Operation Linebacker is working and making our communities safer." In June, Perry announced that Texas will dedicate an additional \$20 million in available state funds to sustain Operation Rio Grande so that funding can continue to flow to local law enforcement agencies up to 100 miles from the border. Perry has also pledged to ask the legislature to authorize \$100 million in the next session to sustain border security operations until the federal government fulfills its responsibility of securing the border.

In other news

■ The City of El Paso has approved the contract with a selected vender for the redlight cameras at major intersections. The El Paso Police Department and the City of El Paso have partnered with Redflex Traffic Systems for the implementation of the City's Red Light Camera Program. The agreement was signed and went into effect on July 24, 2006. This is a one-year agreement with an option to extend the contract for five years. The Red Light Camera Systems should be installed and operational within 90 days and will consist of 10 intersections located

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Genius may have its limits, but not so with stupidity.

— Quips & Quotes

SISD's newest campus, Sgt. Roberto Ituarte Elementary, opens its doors

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — On a busy block, full of construction crews and new homes, families welcomed a new addition to the neighborhood, Sgt Roberto Ituarte Elementary School. On Thursday, July 20, the staff at Ituarte Elementary School opened its doors to nearly 800 students.

The Socorro Independent School District's newest school, located at 12860 Tierra Sonora, offers classes from Pre-K to 5th grade.

As staff made final preparations for the first day of school, parents made their way through the new school with their children and cameras in hand. After snapping a

few photos and speaking with teachers, they gave their children last minute advice and tried to console themselves as they left.

"I cried as I followed the bus here," Zenaida

See ITUARTE, Page 5



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

NEW SCHOOL DAY — Hortencia Lopez speaks with her daughter's 5th grade teacher, Cynthia Chargualaf, on the first day of school at Sgt. Roberto Ituarte Elementary School.

Tornillo junior high students begin health career journey

By Rudy Barreda
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — Seven students from Tornillo Junior High School recently participated in the El Paso Community College Health Careers

and Occupations Program (HCOP).

The federally funded program helps students learn about various health care professions and, hopefully, continue their education in order to work as a health care professional.

The HCOP Summer Camp, which took place at the EPCC Rio Grande campus, ran from June 5 to July 21. In order to be accepted into the program, students needed to submit an essay, their school transcript, and a letter of recommendation from their teacher or principal.

During the seven-week program, students were involved in academics, career counseling and presentations by local health care professionals. Also, the students were paid a financial stipend of \$600. The seven TJH students who applied and were accepted into the program were: Christina

See TORNILLO, Page 2



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

A HEALTHY OCCUPATION — These students learned about health careers from EPCC. Back row from left are Joanna Mata, Andrew Garcia, Maryann Valenzuela, and Justin Trevizo. Front row, left to right, are Christina Cortez, Lillian Guerra, and Denise Montoya.

Sheriff Samaniego says he'll do his job

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Sheriff Leo Samaniego says he'll continue to do his job according to law just like he always has. His comments were made in response to a second unsuccessful attempt by some members of the El Paso County Commissioners Court on July 31 to pass a resolution that would limit the enforcement of immigration laws by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

"The action in county court was round two

of what I've seen and heard before," Sheriff Samaniego said in a prepared statement. "I stated emphatically on June 23, 2006 that we don't enforce federal immigration law. I also stated on that date that our mission is to fairly and impartially enforce all laws including the Trafficking of Persons.

"This agency is an internationally accredited

See SHERIFF, Page 2

It takes an act of Congress for Clint to use property

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Clint Independent School District will soon be able to utilize additional land which was once the Ag Farm for Clint High School, thanks to legislation (HR 860) passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 18, 2006.

Congressman Silvestre Reyes introduced the bill, which removes the U.S. State Department's legal interest in a parcel of land currently owned by Clint ISD, allowing the school district to use this property to help meet their growing educational needs. The State Department approved H.R. 860, and the House International Relations Committee reported it out of committee favorably.

In 1933, the U.S. government granted 20 acres of land to the District. As the U.S. received the land through a diplomatic treaty and due to its location on the U.S.-Mexico border, the U.S. State Department retained reversionary interest in — or power to reclaim — the land.

The State Department's reversionary interest prohibits the district from selling the land which is outside Clint's boundaries in San Elizario, and due to local regulations, Clint ISD cannot develop land outside its geographic boundaries. Ridding the land of this reversionary interest requires an act of Congress, and Clint ISD approached Congressman Reyes to pass a bill on behalf of the district.

"Clint is one of the fastest growing school

See CISD, Page 2

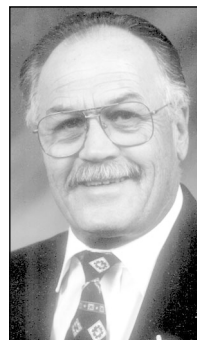
SISD names Hart as interim superintendent

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Socorro ISD Board Trustees has named Charles F. Hart, Jr. as interim superintendent while the district begins the process of replacing Dr. Robert J. Durón, who resigned after he was named superintendent of the San Antonio Independent School District.

Hart retired as superintendent for the Canutillo Independent School District earlier in January of this year. He will begin his duties as Interim superintendent for SISD this week.

The board also approved a compensation package for all employees during a special board meeting on July 25. The package adopts the state mandated scale for teachers, nurses, librarians, speech therapists, counselors and diagnosticians, which adds \$2,500 to every step of the 2005-06 teacher salary scale. This raises the starting teacher salary in the Socorro District to \$39,100.

The board also approved a six percent increase off the midpoint for information systems personnel and administrators and a seven percent increase off the midpoint for auxiliary and paraprofessional workers.



Charles Hart



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Going hungry

When writing about India's holy man Mahatma Ghandi, Albert Einstein's admiration of his subject was evident. "Generations to come... will scarce believe that such a one as this, ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth," Einstein wrote.

So when Ghandi quit eating, people paid attention.

Now according to Ghandi historians, this man engaged in numerous fastings, varying in length from one to more than 21 days.

Most Americans know what they know about Ghandi from the movie, of course, and the focus was heavily on his place in India's political history and his civilly disobedient philosophy.

But one thing I noticed about Ghandi going hungry is, even though he did go on hunger strike in protest in relation to political events from time to time, for the most part he fasted in an attempt to atone for some wrong thing done or for perceived character flaws in himself and others. Among his longest recorded fasts were one in 1924 when he went hungry for 20 days for the sake of "communal unity," and in 1932, he did about 21 days "for self purification and of his colleagues."

Now, there is this woman activist from Seadrift, Texas who runs a shrimp boat in her free time when she's not out protesting various causes.

Trust me, she's no Ghandi.

For 25 days or so prior to July 29, this 58-year-old woman has been coming daily to Lafayette Park outside the White House, protesting the war in Iraq. This woman says she hasn't eaten any food and has only had water to drink for these 25 days and has lost some 20 of her original 170 pounds.

She said as a result she couldn't walk around the block without fear of collapsing, but she still managed to get herself arrested on Saturday, along with some other companions, for blocking the entrance to the White House when England's Prime Minister Tony Blair came calling.

This woman has founded a group she calls "Code Pink," for whatever reason. They contend that the soldiers in Iraq are in mortal danger — duh! — and they should be brought home immediately. Never mind that they are voluntarily soldiers by trade and mortal danger is included in the job description.

Now, I don't necessarily agree with the war in Iraq. War, in my opinion, is among the stupidest of human behaviors. It never proves who is right, just who is dead. And I loathe the waste of one single human life.

But this woman is convinced that by going without eating she is somehow exerting pressure to get the national government to come around to her point of view.

This leaves me wondering — if the broken bodies of hundreds of slain soldiers don't change national policy, why on earth does she think her little hunger pangs and loss of a few pounds are going to do the trick?

I wonder why it is that we humans somehow figure we're so personally all-fired important that going without our supper is going to get us our way? Haven't the futile efforts of kids trying to get attention from their parents for thousands of years taught us anything?

It's kind of like that old childhood ruse of holding your breath. A hunger strike works about as well — it just takes you longer to pass out.

But this woman is a real believer. She says people in the U.S. get "freaked out" when people go on

hunger strike because they think you're going to "keel over and die" after a day or two. Therefore, she said, it is an effective means of getting attention.

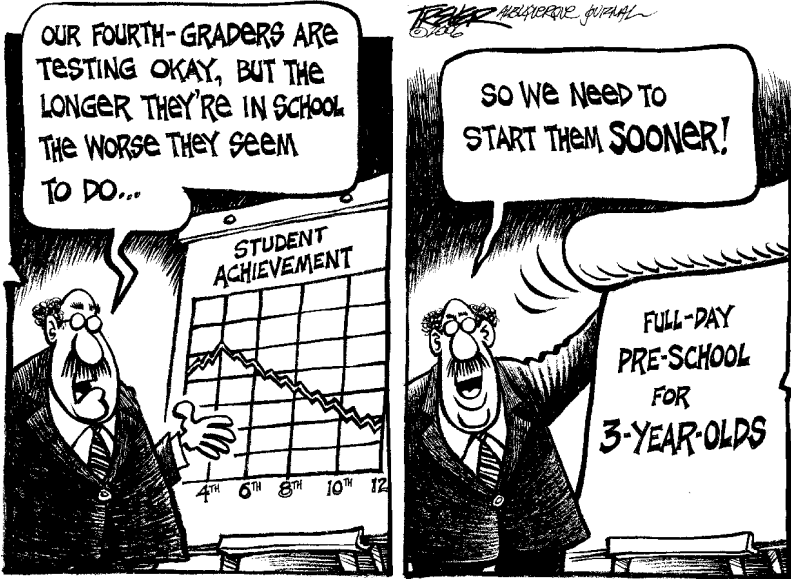
There's been another interesting illustration recently in the news of misplaced human pride manifesting itself in a hunger strike and this one is so ridiculous I can't help laughing about it.

Saddam Hussein is no Ghandi, either. Somehow he figured that he was still so influential that people were going to worry if he started going hungry. Apparently he hasn't realized that without battalions of thugs to back him up, nobody really cares. Or maybe they do — I reckon there are more than a few people who wish the man had to go on a permanent hunger strike involuntarily.

As for the lady holding her breath — oops, I mean on hunger strike — in Lafayette Park in Washington, all I can say is, Ma'am, far be it from me to interfere with the exercise of your inalienable right to starve yourself. We've been given freedom in this country to choose if, when and mostly even *what* we're going to eat.

I just feel bad about all the folks in the world who don't have that choice because they simply don't have anything to eat.

And going hungry isn't changing too many government policies for them either.



Canutillo ISD names new principal for Bill Childress Elementary School

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Christine Althoff was recently named the new principal of Bill Childress Elementary School, in Canutillo Independent School District. Althoff brings to Canutillo ISD 27 years of experience in the education field.

"Being principal of Bill Childress Elementary School is a nice opportunity to be part of a growing, progressive school district. I have been fascinated with watching this community grow," Althoff said.

Before joining CISD, Althoff was principal of Lamar Elementary School, in the El Paso ISD, for the past two years. She worked with EPISD since 1985 in various roles



Christine Althoff

including teacher, math-science mentor, reading program assistant, professional development facilitator, and assistant principal.

"I have had the privilege of working with many fine individuals throughout my educational career, and I am looking forward to learning more here," Althoff said. She added that her emphasis for the coming year would be team building among her staff and making reading the cornerstone for all students' education.

At Bill Childress Elementary School, Althoff will head a campus that serves about 700 students and has a staff of 85 employees.

"We are indeed fortunate to have an experienced and successful educator of Ms. Althoff's caliber join our team," said Dr. Pam Padilla, CISD superintendent.

Sheriff

From Page 1


Sheriff's Office. We accomplished this task by going above and beyond what is required in terms of training and policies.

"My resolution remains the same; we will not engage in selective enforcement and will work daily to protect everyone's rights. We will continue to enforce all laws impartially and vow to protect the constitution of the United States," Sheriff Samaniego said.

"There are some misguided and well-meaning individuals who believe that law enforcement is the problem rather than organized crime groups and gangs that prey on El Pasoans and undocumented immigrants alike. These crime groups threaten our security. I will continue my strategy of positive patrol presence to dismantle and disrupt these criminal enterprises' that prey on the less fortunate."

The resolution was brought to Court by Commissioner Miguel Teran and supported by Commissioner Larry Medina. It said that the "safety and security of all residents in El Paso County... has been jeopardized by a lack of clear policy guidance regarding the enforcement of federal civil immigration law by local law enforcement agencies."

It further stated that it was important to gain the trust of immigrant residents so that "all communities" feel safe in working with local enforcement agencies, and further, that for local law enforcement agents to act as immigration agents would place an undue burden on taxpayers. It attempted to mandate that county agents "shall not single out individuals for legal scrutiny based solely on their country of origin, religion, etc., and that the immigration status of any person assisted by the county — be they crime victim, witness or other — not be questioned by law enforcement.



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

Exploring our Texas National Parks

This July we have been celebrating National Parks and Recreation Month. Summer is the perfect time to gather the family together and visit Texas’ numerous national parks and historic sites. My congressional district boasts several incredible National Park Service sites. Big Bend National Park, Amistad National Recreation Area, Fort Davis National Historic Site, and Guadalupe Mountains National Park are all exciting locations to explore with your family.

Big Bend National Park

Covering more than 1,250 square miles, Big Bend National Park is the largest protected area of Chihuahuan Desert in the United States. Big Bend is a favorite area of many archeologists who have discovered artifacts they believe to be 9,000 years old. There are historic buildings and scenic landscapes that give visitors a glimpse into pioneer days along the Rio Grande. Due to its remote location, Big Bend is one of the least-visited national parks in the contiguous United States. However, it is a favorite park for hiking and backpacking on numerous trails including the Chimneys Trail, the Marufo Vega trail, and the Outer Mountain Loop that takes visitors on a breathtaking tour through the Chisos Mountains. Camping in Big Bend National Park is a vacation your family will not soon forget.

Amistad National Recreation Area

Situated on the United States-Mexico Border near Del Rio, where the Pecos and Devils Rivers empty into the Rio Grande River, the

Amistad National Recreation Area is the place to go in Texas to cool off during these hot summers. You can participate in numerous water sports and recreational activities year-round including swimming, boating, water-skiing and even scuba diving. Your family can also enjoy picnicking and camping as well as hunting and fishing. The Amistad Dam was completed in 1969 by the International Boundary and Water Commission. “Amistad” is Spanish for “friendship,” which was a major factor in the successful completion of this joint project involving a nearly a decade of work, six presidents and two nations. Whether your passion is political history or the great outdoors, Amistad National Recreation Area is a wonderful place to visit.

Fort Davis National Historic Site

At the Fort Davis National Historic Site nestled in the rugged Davis Mountains in West Texas you will find one of our nation’s most remarkable examples of an Indian Wars frontier military post still in existence. Today your family can explore the twenty-four remaining roofed buildings including of five refurbished buildings that take you back to the 1880s. During the mid to late 19th Century Fort Davis was a strategic stronghold for the United States due to its location near the junction of several pivotal routes including the Trans-Pecos portion of the San Antonio-El Paso Road and the Chihuahua Trail. Fort Davis also holds great historical significance in the role African Americans played in the settlement of the Wild West and their service in the frontier military. Several

all-black regiments including the 24th and 25th U.S. Infantry as well as the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry were stationed at the post following the Civil War. Fort Davis was abandoned in June of 1891 having “outlived its usefulness” according to the United States Army.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Located in far West Texas in Hudspeth County is Guadalupe Mountains National Park. This exciting destination features the “Top of Texas,” otherwise known as the Guadalupe Peak. Towering 8,749 feet in elevation, this remarkable tourist attraction has the distinction of being the highest peak in Texas. For the foliage lovers, visiting McKittrick Canyon in the fall you will see the landscape ablaze in color showcasing the stark contrast of scenic canyon, dense forest land, the dry desert. With over 80 miles of trails, your family can enjoy days on the trail backpacking, camping, or riding horseback exploring the wonders of nature. Be sure to check out the ruins of an old stagecoach station near the Pine Springs Visitor Center and discover the rich history of this West Texas treasure at the Frijole Ranch History Museum.

Whether you are looking to climb the highest peak or escape the hot Texas sun by dipping into the cool waters of the Rio Grande River, the 23rd Congressional District has several great National Parks and Historical Sites to explore.



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Tornillo Independent School District Public Notice of Nondiscrimination

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

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

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Superintendent Paul Vranish, P.O. Box 170, Tornillo, TX 79853. Phone: (915) 764-2366. Fax: (915) 764-2120.

Notificacion Publica

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

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

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con Superintendente Paul Vranish, P.O. Box 170, Tornillo, TX 79853. Phone: (915) 764-2366. Fax: (915) 764-2120.

WTCC: 08/03/06

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Families more important than politics

Late last week — around 2 a.m. Saturday morning, in fact — the

House of Representatives finished its legislative work before breaking for the summer district work period. The House considered bills affecting working families in El Paso and across the nation, but unfortunately, the House Republican leadership did not always have the best interests of those families in mind when crafting this last-minute legislation.

The House considered a pension bill that missed an important opportunity to address the U.S. retirement security crisis, as well as a minimum wage bill so weighed down with tax provisions that the Senate has signaled they will not even consider it.

Pension bill

This bill was a disappointment, especially at a time when El Pasoans are deeply worried about how they are going to pay for their retirement. It failed to slow the severe underfunding

of private pension plans, it failed to shore up the federal pension insurance agency — known as the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and it failed to encourage companies to keep offering traditional pensions to their employees. The bill will also lead to pension benefit cuts — often very deep cuts — for specific groups of people, like older workers and commercial airline pilots.

Minimum Wage

The minimum wage has not increased since 1997 and is now at its lowest level in 50 years, when adjusted for inflation. Nearly 75 percent of minimum wage workers are adults over the age of 20, many of whom are responsible for over half of their family’s income. There are also 760,000 single mothers who would benefit from a raise.

In June, Democrats successfully attached an amendment to the fiscal year 2007 Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) funding bill to increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25. However, House Republicans blocked the LHHS bill and instead

brought HR 5970, the Estate Tax, Minimum Wage, and Extenders bill, to the floor Saturday night for a vote.

Democrats have forced votes on the floor of the House of Representatives eight times during the year, and have pressured Republican leaders to hold a fair up-or-down vote on a minimum wage bill; however, Saturday night’s eleventh hour package was effectively a strategy for the majority to block minimum wage legislation while providing political cover for vulnerable Republican Members. By attaching provisions to reduce the estate tax permanently and extend expiring tax breaks, the majority created a bill destined to fail in the Senate. Senate tax-writers have already rejected, on a bipartisan basis, proposals combining the estate tax with a tax extenders package.

The needs of our working families are too important for politics and partisan squabbling. We need to work together to address these pressing needs, and ensure that, throughout one’s professional career and during their retirement, they are able to earn a livable wage and live with dignity.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Aug. 1, 1969: Legendary Texas folklorist Tumbleweed Smith begins his writing and broadcasting career.



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Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Education Programs at Tornillo Independent School District for 2006-2007 School Year

1.) Tornillo Independent School District offers career and technology programs in Business Education, Agricultural Science and Technology Education, Health Science Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science Technology Education (Home Economics), Trade and Industrial Education, and Marketing Education. Admission to these programs is based on current enrollment in the Tornillo ISD and completion of any necessary prerequisites.

2.) It is the policy of Tornillo ISD not to discriminate on the basis or race, color, national origin, gender, or disability in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

3.) It is the policy of Tornillo ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

4.)Tornillo ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

5.) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Paul Vranish, Superintendent, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Rudy Barreda, at P.O. Box 170, 19200 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas, 79853 or call (915)-764- 2366.

Notificacion de no Discriminar en los Programas Educativos de Carrera y Tecnologia Tornillo ISD por el año escolar del 2006-2007

1.) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo esta ofreciendo programas de carreras y tecnologia en Educacion de Negocios, Ciencia de Agricultura y Educacion en Tecnologia, Ciencia de Salud Tecnologia Educativa, Ciencia de Consumidor y Familia Tecnologia Educativa (Economia del Hogar), Comercio y Educacion Industrial, y Educacion de Mercado. La admision a estos programas es basada en la matriculacion actual en el distrito escolar de Tornillo, y tambien que se aiga cumplido cualquier requisito de antemano.

2.) Es poliza del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo no discriminar segun la raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, genero, o incapacidad en estos programas de carreras y tecnologia, servicios, o actividades requerido por el Acta de Derechos Civiles Titulo IV de 1964, que fue enmendada; Titulo IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; y al seccion 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitacion, de 1973 como enmendada.

3.) Es poliza del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo no discriminar segun la raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, genero, incapacidad, o edad en sus practicas de empleo como esta requerido por el Acta de Derechos Civiles Titulo IV de 1964, que fue enmendada, Titulo IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; y el Acta de discriminacion a la edad de 1975 como enmendada; y al seccion 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitacion, de 1973 como enmendada.

4.) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo tomara pasos para asegurar que la falta de ingles no sea un obstaculo para la admision y partipacion en todos los programas vocacionales, y educativos.

5.) Para mas informacion de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el coordinador de Titulo IX, Paul Vranish, Superintendent, y/o la coordinadora de la Seccion 504, Rudy Barreda, P.O. Box 170, 19200 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas, 79853 or call (915) 764- 2366.

WTCC: 08/03/06

Ituarte

From Page 1

Bautista she dropped off her daughter, Nadia Raquel, at Cynthia Herrera’s kindergarten class.

The first day of the school arrived just in time for many parents and too soon for some students.

“I’m pretty excited to bring her to a new school. She was getting butterflies on the way here, but we’re both very relieved,” Hortencia Lopez said after speaking with daughter’s fifth grade teacher Cynthia Chargualaf. “It’s good that they are going back to school.”

“He wanted to go to school because his brother was going to school. He was excited, but when we got to the room he started crying and refused to go in,” Vanessa Martinez explained as her son, Irvin, remained in the hallway outside his Pre-K class.

For his teacher, Oscar Maldonado, this is part of the learning experience.

“I had one or two students who didn’t want to participate in the beginning but everything worked out. They did keep asking me if they could leave every 30 minutes but they

did great,” said the first year teacher. “People asked me if this is what I wanted to do and it is.”

For a new teacher at a new school, he’s prepared for more challenges.

“I still need to figure out where some things are. I keep finding new areas of the school I hadn’t seen before.” Maldonado says. “But I’m impressed with the school.”

The district’s 36th school is equipped with the latest technology such as the interactive white boards and wireless laptops.

“Parents in this district are used to new schools and have a high expectation of administrators,” said Carlos H. Amato, Ituarte Principal. Amato said the first day at this school was a bit overwhelming.

The two-story campus will share facilities with Spec. Raphael Hernando III Middle School which is expected to open in 2007. With a staff of 52, Ituarte is the first school in El Paso to be named after a Vietnam veteran. Sgt. Roberto Ituarte was an El Paso native who became a Marine and died December 1965. It was through efforts of his family, friends and veterans organizations that SISD’s School Board named the school for him.

Clint Independent School District Public Notice

Provision II Feeding Program 2006-2007

The Clint Independent School District today announced an amendment to the policy for serving meals for students under the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, for the 2006-2007 school year, which would allow for all students at all campuses to be served meals at no charge. The ability of the Clint ISD to offer this special alternative rests upon the success of the school district in receiving a completed application for free and reduced-price meals for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program from each household in the district.

Applications will be furnished by the school district and can be obtained at the campus your child will be in attendance, or questions answered by contacting Andie Uy or Elizabeth Juarez at (915) 852-8578. Below is a list of a contact person from the Child Nutrition Program at each of the campuses where completed applications can also be submitted.

- Maria Zaragoza at William D. Surratt Elementary — 926-8218
- Juan Gutierrez at Clint High or Clint Junior High — 926-8018; 926-8118
- Maria Grijalva at Desert Hills Elementary — 926-4518
- Ana Ramirez at Frank Macias Elementary — 926-4618
- Yolanda Vasquez at Carroll T. Welch — 926-4418
- Ida Watters at Horizon Middle School — 926-4718
- Martha Ramirez at Horizon High — 926-4218
- Olga Gonzales at East Montana Middle — 926-5218
- George Bullard at Red Sands Elementary — 926-5418
- Rosa Gonzales at Montana Vista Elementary — 926-5318
- Cecilia Torres at Mountain View High — 926-5018

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

WTCC: 08/03/06

Briefs

From Page 1

throughout the City. Prior to the system going live Redflex, the El Paso Police Department and the City of El Paso will conduct an extensive educational campaign.

■ Citizens in the Town of Clint are looking to revamp Hobo Park — to include a new name — for children 10 and under. The new park name will be Puddle Duck Park and will be furnished with new equipment aimed at young kids as funding can be raised. The area would also be fenced off. The project is being spearheaded by Sandra Reinhardt, wife of the Town’s mayor Dale Reinhardt. Reinhardt estimates the project will cost at least \$10,000, with the fencing alone running \$3,000 to \$3,500. Donations can be sent care of Sandra Reinhardt at P.O. Box 458, Clint, TX 79836. Checks or money orders should be made to Town of Clint with a notation in the memo line indicating the money is for the park project.

■ There is an age-old tale that when a woman is mad or angry while making a chile sauce — salsa de chile — the chili sauce will be very peppery hot and spicy. The El Paso Mission Trail Association will be hosting the Rio Grande Chili War Festival on

Aug. 26, 2006. There will be several chile eating contests. In particular, it will also have the “*Maddest Housewife*” salsa de chile contest. Any one interested in participating in this contest can 859-4653 ask for Martha Trujillo.

■ Clint High School will hold a mandatory Band Camp from Aug. 7-11 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Clint High School. For more information, call 926-8000.

■ Information about smoking ordinances in Texas communities is available in an online database developed by the University of Houston and funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The release of a recent U.S. Surgeon General’s report concluding that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke has spurred a continuing increase in questions about smoking ordinances across Texas. The report concludes that secondhand smoke causes lung cancer, heart disease, sudden infant death syndrome, low birth weight, asthma, bronchitis and other serious illnesses and is responsible for tens of thousands of deaths each year in the United States. The Texas database, available at <http://txshsord.coe.uh.edu/>, contains the text of ordinances and can be used to compare policies, provide summaries and compile customized reports.

■ Canutillo High School will

hold volleyball tryouts Aug. 7 through Aug. 9, at the CHS main gym. Girls in grades 9-12 interested in playing volleyball need to come prepared for tryouts at

all practice times. Tryouts are from 4-7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 7-8; and 2-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 9. All participants must have an updated

physical on file with the Athletic Trainer prior to participation. For more information, contact Coach Amanda Forsythe, at 877-7800.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

El Paso Empowerment Zone Corporation
201 E. Main Street, Suite 603
El Paso, Texas 79901

West Texas County Courier
August 3, 2006

TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

On or about seventeen (17) days after this publication, the County of El Paso (RE) will authorize the El Paso Paso Empowerment Zone of El Paso, Texas, to submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for Project No. RH-05-TX-I0032, for the construction of 10 homes in Tornillo, Fabens, San Elizario, Texas and surrounding colonias in El Paso County.

Environmental Assessment Activities

The work entails the re-placement of mobile homes and construction of dwellings that meet or exceed the (HUD approved) County of El Paso Colonia Housing Standards. The maximum grant amount per household is \$20,000. The project will be limited to families owning or purchasing a lot with an outstanding balance of \$15,000 or less. The El Paso Empowerment Zone plans to use federal funding to provide affordable housing to families that live in dilapidated mobile homes in the colonias of Tornillo, Fabens, San Elizario, Texas and surrounding colonias in El Paso County. Federal funding will be used to pay off the outstanding balance of the property up to \$15,000, \$3,000 to move and/or demolish the existing mobile home and \$2,000 for mortgage closing costs. All of the work is on private property and environmental issues caused by the construction will be addressd. Among the expected concerns are: temporary dust and noise due to construction; handling of potentially hazardous materials; and the disposal of debris in a proper manner.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The County of El Paso (RE) has determined that the project will have no significiant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Stataement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record on file at the office of El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, El Paso, Texas, 79901 and may be examined or copied weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons, disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the El Paso Empowerment Zone, 201 E. Main Street #603, El Paso, Texas 79901. Such written comments must be received at the address specified within sixteen (16) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and the El Paso Empowerment Zone will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the proceeding sentence.

Release of Funds

The County of El Paso (RE) certifies to HUD/Texas that Judge Dolores Briones in her capacity as County Judge consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilites in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s/Texas’ approval of the certification satisfies its responsibiities under NEPA and related laws and authorizes, and allows the El Paso Empowerment Zone to use Program funds for the purpose stated.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. Objections received later than thirty-three (33) days after this publication will not be considered by HUD.

Phyllis Rawley
Executive Director
El Paso Empowerment Zone

Public Notice Tornillo Independent School District 2006-2007 School Meal Policy

The Tornillo Independent School District serves breakfast and lunch every school day. All children in the district will receive a reimbursable meal at no charge through the academic year of 2006- 2007. All children will receive a free breakfast and free lunch regardless of income. In the operation of the child feeding program, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, gender, disability, age or national origin. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Paul Vranish, Superintendent, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Rudy Barreda, at P.O. Box 170, 19200 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas, 79853, or call (915) 764-2366.

Noticia Publica Poliza de Comida del Año 2006-2007 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo servira desayuno y almuerzo cada dia escolar. Todo los ninos del distrito recibiran comida sin cobro durante el ano escolar 2006-2007. Todo los ninos recibiran un desayuno gratis y un almuerzo gratis a pesar de sus ingresos. En la operacion del programa de comidas para ninos, ningun nino sera discriminado por su raza, color, religion, genero, incapacidad, edad o origen nacional Para mas informacion de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el coordinador de Titulo IX, Paul Vranish, Superintendent, y/o la coordinadora de la Seccion 504, Rudy Barreda, P.O. Box 170, 19200 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas, 79853 or call (915) 764-2366.

Landis may have taken a wrong turn during the Tour de France

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I must admit that I was like many other Americans who lost interest in this year’s Tour de France once Lance Armstrong retired.

It’s like when Tiger Woods isn’t playing in a golf tournament. My interest level, like that of millions of other so-so golf fans, drops about 70 percent.

But I also must admit that my interest in the bicycle race has been enhanced a bit since word got out about the champion failing a drug test.

American Floyd Landis surprised everyone on the planet by winning this year’s tour.

Let’s put it this way: Had any of you ever heard of Floyd Landis before the Tour de France? Me either.

And wouldn’t you know. Now that all of us finally had the chance to share in this guy’s national victory — it appears he’s gone out and done a Barry Bonds.

According to those guys in the white lab coats, Landis failed a drug test which revealed that he had an unusually high amount of testosterone in his system.

And though that might score high with the ladies, it’s a no-no in bicycle

racing.

Landis has said from the beginning that he was innocent. He’s declared it over and over... and over again.

In fact, he’s almost done a Rafael Palmeiro declaring his innocence. And we all know how that turned out.

There will be some further test results that will either substantiate the positive test, or exonerate him.

But I’ve got a question or three. If he tested for an unusually high level of testosterone after the 17th stage of the race, why didn’t he test for an unusually high level during any other stage of the race?

I hate to say it, and I hope I’m wrong, but it all sounds very suspicious to me.

If it turns out that Landis did knowingly take an illegal substance to help his cycling, it will be a very sad and embarrassing day for America.

Once again the rest of the world will have a chance to poke fun at the “win at any cost Americans.”

And I’m afraid they would be right. America is, by leaps and bounds, the greatest country in the world, but there is this growing mentality brewing around here that it’s alright to cheat if it guarantees you success and the chances of getting caught are minimal.

What happened to this country’s work ethic? What happened to do-

ing the right thing at any cost? What happened to integrity, discipline and responsibility?

And there’s another thing I’d like to ask Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Ken Caminiti, Ben Johnson, Tonya Harding, Lyle Alzado, Jason Giambi and even Ken Lay, Martha Stewart, and the hundreds of others around the country who have tried to succeed in life by cheating...

What happened to honor?

Ready for some football

It may be hard to believe but the start of the 2006 football season is upon us.

The Miners opened practice this week, the NFL opened training camp last week and the high schoolers get going in a few days.

And all that means a lot of things to men all around this great country.

It means tailgate parties and sports talk shows and John Madden and cheerleaders and marching bands and the wave and bratwurst and beer and Hank Williams Jr. and frozen tundra and Terry Bradshaw and foam fingers and terrible towels and the Lambeau leap and coin flips and flea flickers and the west coast offense and two-minute warnings and double

overtimes and the BCS and the top 25 and winning and losing.

Oh, and for some out there who are so inclined, even a wager or two can be placed.

Whatever your preference, the start of football is here and it is without a doubt the best time of the year.

Yeah, I know what you’re saying, “It’s still the middle of summer, you dummy!”

I know, I know, but just the sight of these guys in their jerseys reminds

me that we’re only a month away from the start of regular season games.

And, of course, around here that means UTEP football, the Dallas Cowboys (except for you misguided Houston Texans fans) and the high school team in your neighborhood.

Let’s face it, basketball is just a memory and baseball won’t get interesting again until the playoffs in October.

So for now, it’s all yours, football.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2006

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS LOCAL CSP NO. 199-0810-6125 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND APPAREL CSP NO. 199-0810-6144 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 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. WTCC-08/03/06

COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family. Health insurance and fee scale accepted. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment. 8/3

STORAGE

HORIZON SELF STORAGE

- Small, Medium & Large Units
- Yard Space

418 S. Kenazo 852-9371 TFN

SERVICES

AV CONSTRUCTION

Additions & Remodeling Custom-made Kitchens Bathroom Remodeling Porches, Patios & Carports Fascia & Cornice Repairs Decks & Ramps Garage Conversions & Enclosures Free Estimates Ask for Alfonso: **433-4102**

“Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring” JIFFY GLASS REPAIR Windshield Repair Specialists

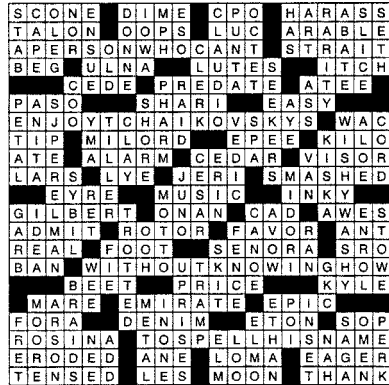
By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger **915-852-9082**

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

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

- Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
- Appliance installation
- Many other plumbing services

Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



Public Notice Special Needs Programs at Tornillo Independent School District for 2006-2007 School Year

Tornillo Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified children with disabilities who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one. Instructional Program: Including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resource (grades K-12), Diagnostic Services, Transportation Services, Speech Therapy, Assistive Technology Equipment, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, School Health Services, Homebound Services, and Career & Technology.

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

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 94-142, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policy FL provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Paul Vranish, Superintendent, Tornillo ISD, at 915-764-2366.

Aviso de Programas de Necesidades Especiales del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo para el año 2006-2007

El distrito escolar independiente de Tornillo provee los siguientes programas/servicios educativos a niños que son identificados como incapacitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años. Programa de instruccion: infacia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), y cuarto de recurso (K-12), incluyendo servicios diagnosticos, servicios de transportacion, terapia de habla, equipo auxiliar de tecnologia, terapia fisica, servicios de salud escolar, servicios de clases en el hogar y servicios de carrera y tecnologia.

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

Conforme al Acto de Confidencia y de Derechos Educativos de la Familia de 1974 y Ley Publica 94-142, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Polizas FL y FL-E explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas informacion o sabe de un niño/niña incapacitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Tornillo que no esta recibiendo servicios educativos. Favor de comunicarse con: Paul Vranish, Superintendente, Tornillo ISD, 915-764-2366.

WTCC: 08/03/06



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CASUTELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FAHNS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

1	2	3	4
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13	14	15	(STOP HERE) (FOR \$5 AD.)
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Please print.Send form and payment (no cash) to:

West Texas County Courier
14200 Ashford, Ste. C
Horizon City, TX 79928

Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:

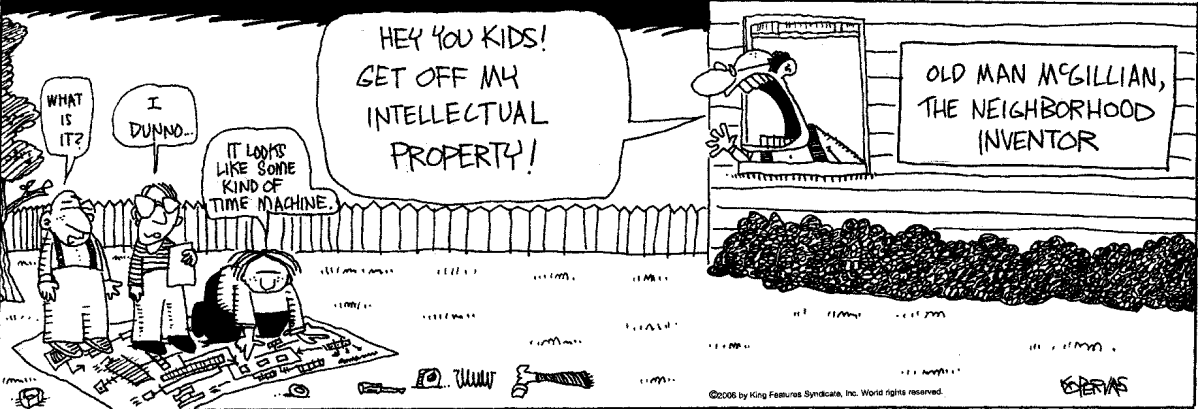
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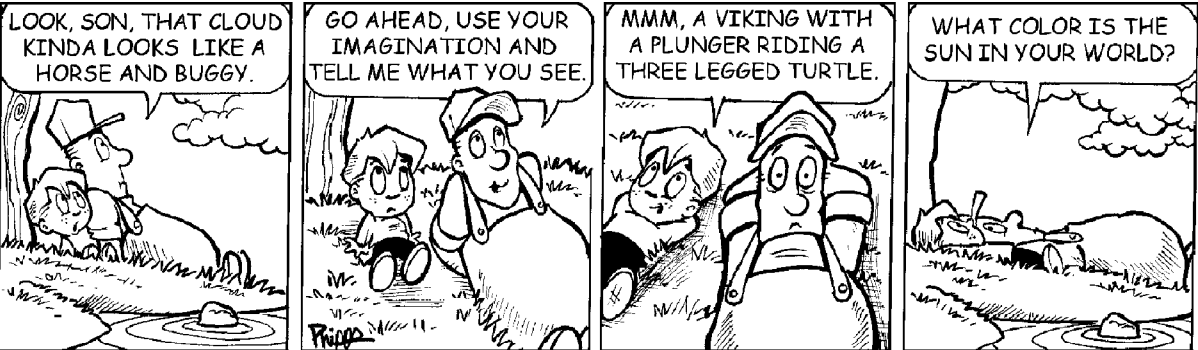
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Got a second? Listen to an ad

By Don Flood

A broadcasting company is considering the possibility of one-second radio spots.

Oh, I'm sorry, that was way too much information at one time.

One!

Second!

Radio!

Spots!

For one-second spots your copy needs to be pretty punchy.

Not that it's all bad. In fact, it gives me an idea for how I might be persuaded to allow my column to be used as a marketing platform.

(Editor's note: Translation — He's yours for anything over five bucks.)

But before we discuss "one-second" column spots, let's look at product placement.

Because I am a professional columnist — who is right now enjoying a hot, steaming cup of Folger's coffee, sweetened the natural way with Splenda, the low-calorie sweetener made from real sugar — I have the ability to skillfully weave a product placement into my column without the reader noticing.

In fact, I just did. That's right! Read that last paragraph again carefully and you'll notice ads for both Folger's and Splenda.

I wouldn't be surprised — such is the power of my suggestion — if you made a mental note to buy huge batches of both products the next time you went shopping. Those ads are worth at least \$50,000 a piece.

(Editor's note: I'll say one thing for Folger's, it must give you a pretty good buzz.)

And it doesn't have to be coffee. I can be using anything. In that paragraph above I could just as easily have been drinking Budweiser, applying hemorrhoid cream or changing the oil in my car.

A clever writer can seamlessly slip in any product announcement, especially if he's feeling refreshed after a bracing shower with Irish Spring soap.

But let's say you're just starting out and you don't have the money for big time product placement.

In that case, I can offer the short spots, similar to the one-second ad buys. Because they don't take as much time or skill to work into a (Big Mac!) column, I don't (Diet Coke!) charge as much.

But I still think (french fries!) they can be pretty effective.

If you're beginning to feel the beginning of a Big Mac Attack coming on, you'll have to agree.

And this is just the beginning. A Japanese company has been experimenting with something called "Smellovision."

During a movie, the seats are rigged to emit smells that match the action onscreen. A love scene, according to the news report, would be accompanied by floral scents. (Or booze and cigarettes, whatever.)

During a fight scene, I imagine, the seats would produce the overpowering smell of body odor (unless of course the actors have been shown using Irish Spring and Right Guard for Men).

And just imagine the hilarity that will ensue when this new smell technology is used to enhance those countless scenes relying on flatulence-based humor — pretty much any comedy after 1978 — where skillful placement could highlight the need for products such as Beano.

Unfortunately, current technology doesn't allow me to present smell-based advertising.

But maybe I can figure it out myself, right after a brain-stimulating cup of Folger's coffee.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

MUSIC STAND

ACROSS

1 Teatime treat

6 Thin coin

10 Nav. rank

13 Bother

19 Hook on a hawk

20 Klutz's cry

21 Jean- _ Godard

22 Fit for farming

23 Start of a definition of a perfectionist

26 Channel

27 Plead

28 Skeleton part

29 Elizabethan instruments

31 Yen

32 Relinquish

33 Occur earlier

35 To _ (perfectly)

36 El _ , TX

39 Puppeteer Lewis

40 TV's " _ Street"

42 Part 2 of definition

48 WWII abbr.

51 Palm oil?

52 Aristocratic address

53 Duel tool

54 Metric measure

55 Relished a roast

56 Dismay

57 Chest material

59 Sun screen

60 Ulrich of Metallica

62 Caustic stuff

63 Ryan of "Boston

Public"

64 Broke to smithereens

66 Thornfield

governess

68 Part 3 of definition

69 Black

70 Sullivan's partner

73 _ even keel

74 Heel

76 Impresses immensely

79 Confess

80 Helicopter part

82 Party present

84 Picnic pest

85 Authentic

86 Anapest, for one

87 Spanish title

88 Broadway letters

89 Prohibit

90 Part 4 of definition

94 Borscht ingredient

95 Diva Leontyne

96 Petty or Chandler

97 Stallion's sweetie

99 Mideastern kingdom

102 "The Ramayana," e.g.

105 _ song (cheaply)

106 Casual cloth

107 School founded in 1440

108 Absorb, with "up"

111 "The Barber of Seville" heroine

114 End of definition

118 Carved a canyon

119 Sue _ Langdon

120 _ Linda, CA

121 Avid

122 Became rigid

123 Guitarist Paul

124 " _ River" ('61 hit)

125 Be grateful

DOWN

1 Use a dirk

2 Drac's wrap

3 Couturier Cassini

4 Negative correlative

5 Follow

6 Metaphysical poet

7 Nebraska

neighbor

8 Speedometer abbr.

9 " _ Beso" ('62 hit)

10 Pianist Arrau

11 _ del Este

12 Mid-size band

13 Contains

14 _ deco

15 One in a million

16 Diminish

17 Pizza serving

18 Son of Adam

24 Time-honored

25 Office worker

30 "Georgy Girl" group

32 Pigeon English?

33 Med. professional

34 Unwelcome visit?

35 Donkey

36 Pansy part

37 "West Side Story" role

38 "The New Yorker" humorist

39 Where to find a plover

41 Positive vote

43 Singer Sumac

44 Steering device

45 Potter's need

46 Ancient Sanskrit

47 Mineral spring

48 Indecisive

49 Burn remedy

50 Firewood measure

54 One of the Aleutians

57 Chavez or Romero

58 " _ go bragh!"

59 Rocker Morrison

61 Astrologer Leek

63 Mrs. Jupiter

65 Skater Ito

67 Postal abbr.

68 Club creed

70 Apparel

71 Concept

72 Pulled a sully

74 Hiawatha's transport

75 Declare

77 Join up

78 Abolitionist author

81 Aah's partner

82 Use 53 Across

83 Hurried

86 "Pshaw!"

87 Vaudeville bit

90 Elfin

91 Revolts

92 Freddie the Freeloader, e.g.

93 Father Brown monogram

94 Pigtails

97 Boxer Archie

98 Fiery felony

100 Copper or cobalt

101 _ fell swoop

102 Patriot Allen

103 Luau dish

104 Map feature

105 Worry

107 Admiral Zumwalt

108 Adventure story

109 Portent

110 Company car, e.g.

112 Born

113 Slap on

115 Shady character?

116 Leeds lavatory

117 Uh-uh

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Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I am a U.S. citizen, but recently married a woman I met while traveling in Canada. Now we are making plans to live in Canada when I retire. Can I collect Social Security benefits while living there?

Answer: Yes. If you are a U.S. citizen and eligible for Social Security benefits, you may receive your Social Security payments outside the U.S. However, regardless of your citizenship, there are certain countries where we are not allowed to send payments.

Q: My mother died late last month. I received a letter from Social Security saying I will have to return her benefit payment for the month of June even though she was alive throughout most of the month. Is this true?

A: Yes. To be entitled to a Social Security benefit payment for a given month, the person must be alive the entire month. No benefit is payable for the month of death.

Q: I retired last year and now realize that I could owe federal income taxes on some of my Social Security benefits. How can I arrange to have taxes withheld from my Social Security check?

A: Although you are not required to have federal taxes withheld from your Social Security benefits, many people do find it easier than paying quarterly estimated tax payments. To have federal taxes withheld, or to change your original withholding request, you will need to 1) complete IRS Form W-4V, 2) select the percentage (7, 10, 15, or 25) of your monthly benefit amount you want withheld and 3) sign and return the form to your local Social Security office by mail or in person. You may obtain IRS Form W-4V from Social Security's website or you can call the IRS at 1-800-829-3676.

Q: In a few years I will turn 62 and would like to retire. I know that legislation is gradually raising Social Security's full retirement age from 65 to 67. But does this mean the "early" retirement age will also be going up by two years, from age 62 to 64?

A: While it is true that Social Security is gradually raising the full retirement age from 65 to 67, the "early" retirement will remain at 62. So you can go ahead with your plans to retire early. Keep in mind, however, that by taking early retirement, your benefits will be reduced permanently.

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®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Chance for a thunderstorm	T-storms possible early	A p.m. t-storm possible	Some sun with a t-storm	Times of clouds and sun	Mostly cloudy	Some sun	Periods of sun
88°	67°	89° 69°	90° 70°	94° 70°	93° 70°	90° 69°	90° 68°
RealFeel 89°	RealFeel 65°	RealFeel 87° 67°	RealFeel 89° 68°	RealFeel 92° 68°	RealFeel 98° 69°	RealFeel 94° 69°	RealFeel 97° 70°

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
Thu.	6:22 a.m.	8:01 p.m.
Fri.	6:23 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
Sat.	6:24 a.m.	7:59 p.m.
Sun.	6:24 a.m.	7:58 p.m.
Mon.	6:25 a.m.	7:57 p.m.
Tues.	6:26 a.m.	7:56 p.m.
Wed.	6:26 a.m.	7:55 p.m.

Moon

	Rise	Set
Thu.	3:03 p.m.	12:29 a.m.
Fri.	4:07 p.m.	1:09 a.m.
Sat.	5:11 p.m.	1:57 a.m.
Sun.	6:10 p.m.	2:55 a.m.
Mon.	7:04 p.m.	4:02 a.m.
Tues.	7:50 p.m.	5:15 a.m.
Wed.	8:29 p.m.	6:29 a.m.

First

Full

Last

New

8/2

8/9

8/15

8/23

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REGIONAL CITIES

U.S. CITIES

City	HI	LO	W	City	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	96	72	s	Atlanta	93	75	t
Albuquerque, NM	84	65	t	Boston	88	70	t
Amarillo, TX	87	66	t	Chicago	82	64	t
Austin, TX	96	73	s	Denver	84	58	pc
Brownsville, TX	92	78	pc	Detroit	84	65	t
Dodge City, KS	86	64	pc	Houston	94	75	pc
Jackson, MS	94	72	pc	Indianapolis	86	71	t
Laredo, TX	104	79	s	Kansas City	83	65	t
Little Rock, AR	98	73	pc	Los Angeles	81	65	pc
Lubbock, TX	91	68	t	Miami	90	77	pc
Memphis, TN	96	75	pc	Minneapolis	85	64	s
Midland, TX	95	70	pc	New Orleans	93	77	pc
Pueblo, CO	88	59	pc	New York City	97	72	t
Roswell, NM	90	66	t	Omaha	86	65	pc
St. Louis, MO	86	74	t	Phoenix	98	82	t
San Antonio, TX	99	76	pc	San Francisco	70	56	pc
Texarkana, AR	100	74	pc	Seattle	74	54	s
Waco, TX	97	76	s	Washington	99	78	s
Wichita, KS	87	67	t		91	74	t

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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