



NEWSBRIEFS

Temporary closure

The *West Texas County Courier* business offices is temporarily closed. The *Courier* office will re-open on Monday, Oct. 23.

Fall Carnival

The Fabens Cotton Valley Lions Club will host their Fall Carnival on Saturday, Oct. 28, 4-10 p.m. at the Fabens High School parking lot. Food, fun, games, and prizes for the whole family will be offered. Vendors who would like to participate are invited to call 740-5242 for information.

Roundup Sunday

Clint First Baptist Church, 200 Main St., Clint, invites the community to a Roundup Sunday on Oct. 15, 2006. Bible Study will be held at 9:45 a.m., followed by a covered dish luncheon and special music. For more information call 851-2598.

Tee it up

Canutillo Alumni Foundation for Education (CAF) has scheduled its Third Annual Golf Tournament for Friday, October 27 at the Lone Star Golf Course with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Proceeds are for Canutillo High School Scholarships. For information, call 740-8366 or 276-2073.

In other news

■ Ten free trees, autumn classics, will be offered to each person who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during October, 2006, as part of the nonprofit Foundation’s Trees for America campaign. The trees will be shipped between Nov. 1 and Dec. 10 with enclosed planting directions. To join, send a \$10 donation to Autumn Classic Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410 by Oct. 31 or join online at www.arborday.org.

■ If only about 11 percent of identity theft cases happen online, where are you more likely to become a victim? Part of the answer is that half of all thefts are committed by someone the victim knows. Find out more with Preventing Identity Theft: A Guide for Consumers from the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Crime Prevention Council, and ADT Security Services, Inc. The guide is filled with practical tips, including a checklist of ways to prevent this costly crime and descriptions of the tactics thieves like to use. If you’re 18 to 29, be especially careful — you’re the most likely of any age group to be at risk. For a free copy of this helpful booklet, send your name and address to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 651N, Pueblo, CO 81009. Or call toll-free 1 (888) 8 PUEBLO, that’s 1 (888) 878-3256, and ask for Item 651N. And visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov to read or print this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.

How far a young man goes these days depends on how much gas was left in the car.

— Quips & Quotes

Keeping kids safe in cyberspace

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Your parents may have told you not to talk to strangers, but these days parents have to teach kids to be careful talking to their computers, too. With computers in most homes, online predators have ready access to children. In an effort to increase awareness about internet dangers for children, the Socorro Independent School District Police Department is promoting the NetSmartz Workshop. Created in conjunction with the National Center for Exploited and Missing Children, this program increases safety awareness for children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online.

“Families have kids who use the internet, but how many parents know what their kids are watching,” says Chief Michael C z e r w i n s k y, Socorro ISD Police Services.

Parents at Desert Wind Elementary were the first in SISD to see the program on Sept. 21. They appreciate learning how to protect their children in cyberspace.

“Kids are far too advanced in using the computer and the internet, so it’s good to have some information and tips on what to look for so parents can keep up with what their children are doing,” says Araceli Chavez, Desert Wind parent. “I do not know enough and sometimes I do not have enough time to investigate everything, but this information will help me protect my children.”

The program is set up in two sections, one as a resource for parents, teachers and administrators and the second for use in the classroom. The program also demonstrates that in

addition to sexual predators, both parents and children have to be aware of scams to gain personal information and the use of internet chatrooms and instant messaging for issuing threats or bullying.

The NetSmartz Workshop teaches the rules for online safety:

- I will tell an adult I trust if anything makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.
- I will ask my parents or guardian before sharing my personal information.
- I won’t meet in person with anyone I have first “met” online.

The program also recommends using filtering and blocking software to keep children away from unsuitable sites and preventing inappropriate materials getting to them.

“This is beneficial because it teaches parents



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW... — SISD Officer Jerry Cenicerros simply leans in to demonstrates how kids can quickly put a different screen on their monitor to cover up their online activities.

to be aware of how easy and dangerous it can be to track a child online and get personal information,” says Letty Aguirre, Desert Wind Elementary counselor. “Parents will learn how to monitor their child’s internet use and teach their children how to manage those risky situations.”

Net Smartz also suggested that parents keep the computer in a common room and not in a bedroom, limit internet use and check the sites their children visit. For more information on online safety, log onto www.netsmartz.org or www.cybertipline.com.

Math teacher utilizes new tools to improve TAKS

By John R. Carrillo
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY — A bank of nine computers waits for the next math class to help solve a complex math problem. Gone are the days when a math teacher stood before a chalk board and explained a geometry problem. Jorge Pinales, in his fifth year of teaching — all at Anthony High School — is a new breed of teacher that is integrating technology and real world applications in the instruction of mathematics.

AHS recently enhanced its graduation requirements to include four years of mathematics. Teachers were provided with a new software to assist them in delivering better instruction — Agile Mind — an on-line program that provides students and teachers with multiple representations of the same problem utilizing graphs, words, models, and tables.

“Agile Mind allows me to explore patterns and concepts. By utilizing tables, graphs, and calculators I am able to give my students a more comprehensive look at the whole picture,” commented Pinales. He went on to explain that textbooks often do a poor job illustrating various aspects of a given problem.

Agile Mind is aligned with TAKS. Pinales says that this tool provides teachers with benchmarks to set a standard of excellence for math achievement. Moreover, because teachers have immediate access to information, such as test scores, they are able to quickly change lesson plans and provide customized instruction for each student.

State-wide math scores on standardized tests are low. Pinales said that by taking advantage of new tools, the Anthony Independent School District is taking the necessary steps to improve its TAKS scores and provide its graduates with the skills to succeed in the job market.

Fabens teachers enjoying new laptops

By Mathew Gibson
and Steven Cadena
Special to the Courier

FABENS — At the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, the teachers of Fabens High School, Fabens Middle School, and O’Donnell Elementary received new cutting-edge laptops. Although not every teacher in the Fabens District received a new personal computer, all teachers received a laptop.

The funding for the new computers was supplied by the local and federal government. A total of 70 teachers received computers. The head of technology department, Dominguez, explained “The laptops are wireless internet capable and include integrated programs to aid the teachers in their everyday school work. The old computers were in need of an update.”

“They are very nice and a tremendous help when I need to finish work at home,” said Parga, art teacher at FHS.

Dominguez said “I believe that these laptops will last us for the next four years until their technology will be a thing of the past.” For the remainder of the teachers who did not receive new laptops, hang in there, Dominguez said. “Word is next year is your turn.”

Canutillo ISD names new directors

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees

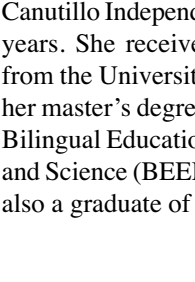


Janine Hammock

recently approved the selection of the following directors for the upcoming 2006-2007 school year: The new Special Education Director, Janine Hammock comes to CISD with 24 years of experience in education. Hammock was the facilitator for district assessment and homebound services for Ysleta Independent School District before coming to CISD. She received her bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock and her master’s from the University of Texas at El Paso. Hammock is also a certified educational diagnostician.

Lilia “Teddy” Martinez, formerly the academic language services (ALS) lead teacher has been named the new ALS director. Martinez has been a bilingual teacher in the Canutillo Independent School District for 25 years. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at El Paso and her master’s degree, also at UTEP under the Bilingual Education with Emphasis in Math and Science (BEEMS) program. Martinez is also a graduate of Canutillo High School.

“Teddy” Martinez





One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Relieving tension

I admit that I could be classified as a Type-A personality — you know, the kind of person who can't sit down and be still for very long. I'm not the laid-back sort.

There's always this sense that time is slipping by, like water dripping out of a leaky bucket, and you have to make the most of every precious drop before it is gone.

The only time I can sit still without feeling like I have to rush out and do something is when I'm visiting with someone I love and value, especially if I don't get to see them often. Then time seems to stand still and the multiple is-

sues that were pressing on my mind seem to melt away.

It's a great tension-reliever.

Relieving a person's stress in today's world is a thing of value. In fact, it's so valuable that mega-million-dollar industries are founded on it. From little rubber balls you squeeze while sitting at your desk to a hot tub handily installed in an out-of-the-way section of your home, you can relieve your stress to whatever degree you are willing to pay for.

In Western societies, when bodies are young and strong, people may tend to use artificial means of relieving stress, like drugs and alcohol. After the body gets a little

older, though, those things don't work quite as well because the after-effects become a source of stress greater than whatever they relieved, so stress relief requires a little more creativity.

The people of the Orient have long been known for their relaxation techniques that are supposed to bring peace of mind. One lady recommended I get a little plastic box and put sand and a few rocks in it, then use a fork to draw pretty patterns in the sand and rearrange the rocks — a sort of low-budget Zin garden. I never pursued it because I figured after about five minutes, the sheer uselessness of this activity would have me so wound up I would have to throw the whole thing out in the yard, anyway.

There are whole philosophies based on meditation and other forms of mind manipulation, which are intended to bring one into harmony with the universe, though I'm not sure what it is you are supposed to do once you get all harmonized.

Besides, I'm not so sure these techniques are all that effective, or at least they don't seem to be working so well on the modern-day populace in eastern countries.

In fact, some entrepreneurial-minded folks in China have taken to using some western-like approaches to relieving a person's pent-up emotions — wild western, I might add.

In Beijing, stressed-out Chinese are being invited to unleash their pent-up anger on the staff who work in a particular kind of bar. The customers are allowed all kinds of rowdiness including smashing glasses and even physically attacking the staff members.

Fortunately, the people who work there are aware of the job-description and the place only hires muscled young men, or "models," who can stand up to being punched and screamed at.

One such "anger-release bar" is located in Nanjing. The management allows customers to specify how they want the staff member to appear, ei-

ther as a man or woman, and are invited to give them a sound beating for as little as the Chinese equivalent of \$6.25 in American cash.

Now, the place does offer alternatives to help their stressed-out customers to cope by hiring counselors from local universities to talk their customers through their angst — if they feel like talking.

Reuters news agency reported, however, that the largest number of patrons taking advantage of these services were those who work in other "stress-relief" establishments in which they are likely to be abused themselves — like karaoke bars and massage parlors — and most of these customers are women.

Unfortunately, this experiment in stress relief is apparently doing nothing more than perpetuating a cycle of violence in which the abused becomes the abuser.

I hate to think about what these "models" do to feel better after a hard day at the office.

I hope they get hazard pay.

Socorro ISD teacher receives mentor award

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Kandis Shugart, Special Ed content mastery and department chair at Capt. Walter E. Clarke, was recognized by colleagues for her work with new teachers and fostering an environment of learning and enrichment on her campus.

During this year's *A Better Beginning* Conference sponsored by the UTEP's College of Education, Shugart received the Mentor Award which includes a \$1,000 cash prize. Kandis was awarded for her outstanding commitment to helping and mentoring — not only new teachers, but all teachers.

With 22 years of teaching experience, Kandis works with new teachers to encourage and support them, especially during their first year. She recommends that teachers keep a sense of humor, be flexible and don't give up.

"I cried my first year and asked why am I doing this," she recalls. "It gets better each year. I still like it and still enjoy coming to work every day."

The Mentor Award recognizes and honors the professional support and mentoring offered by experienced teachers. These mentors not only help enhance the professional development of new and future teachers in their schools, but by mentoring become better teachers themselves.

View from here

By Mary Katherine Stout

Illegal immigration is only a symptom of a much larger issue

In this election year, illegal immigration has become one of the largest domestic public policy issues in the country. Concerns about its impact on public education and health and welfare programs have drawn significant attention. Indeed, this is a familiar storyline.

In 1995, the *Washington Post* told the story of a young woman and her daughter who moved from Texas to Minnesota in search of more generous government benefits. The article profiled the Texan and several others in a similar position, reporting increases in monthly welfare checks as a perk, if not a determining factor, for their move to Minnesota.

Such personal stories served as a backdrop for expert comments on the "welfare magnet," or the migration of some welfare recipients from low benefit states to high benefit states.

At the time, Congress was debating welfare reform proposals designed to give states increased flexibility in designing and running their programs. Many welfare experts and advocates for the poor were concerned states would engage in a race to the bottom, cutting welfare benefits in hopes that they wouldn't inherit their neighboring state's welfare recipients. Policymakers in the welfare magnet states even began talking about their state's responsibility to the poor residents of their state alone — no doubt hoping to move public opinion in favor of reform by highlighting the idea that Minnesota's taxpayers, for example, should not subsidize welfare recipients moving in from other states.

Interestingly, ten years after passage of federal welfare reform the debate about the welfare magnet rages on, but these days news stories are about crossing the national border, not a state line.

For many politicians, immigration has become an easy answer to the grassroots' discontent over out-of-control spending. The argument goes that education and health and welfare programs have ballooned with the influx of foreigners to Texas and other states.

In reality, any strain illegal aliens place on today's health care system is merely symptomatic of the larger problem.

Ultimately, our government-financed health care programs are showing fractures because of its inherent problems; often the result of layers of public policy decisions that have served only to cripple the marketplace. Implementing policies to effectively "lock out" every illegal immigrant from U.S. health and welfare programs might satisfy discontented voters in some quarters, but

we shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that is the solution to the serious issues facing us today and in the future.

Government projections demonstrate that as a result of growing entitlement spending — including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid — balancing the budget in 2040 will require Congress to either cut federal spending by 60 percent, or double the tax burden. This is due the aging "baby-boomer" population, not foreign immigrants.

We have created this problem for ourselves. Through heavy government subsidies on the production side, entire industries, including education and health care, now rely heavily — if not almost exclusively — on government money to sustain them. Meanwhile, the creation and expansion of government programs providing generous benefits has increased reliance on government health and human services programs.

If we are serious about tackling these problems, policymakers must reform the programs that might not only lure people across a national border, but which more importantly — and expensively — encourage home-grown Americans to increasingly depend on the government and their taxpaying neighbors.

The problem has only been exacerbated as the expectations for free government health care programs have expanded at all levels of government. Even in Texas' metropolitan counties, those known to operate programs offering generous "free" medical care to its residents, often end up receiving people from the suburbs and beyond driving in to take advantage of the systems.

Illegal immigration is certainly a public policy priority in its own right, but it cannot be confused as the silver bullet solution to rescue government budgets from insolvency. Any politician pointing to immigration as the reason for out-of-control spending is simply dashing behind a convenient smoke screen.

We cannot rest our hope for saving the country from irresponsible spending, and growing government, on curbing illegal immigration.

Mary Katherine Stout is the director of the Center for Health Care Policy Studies at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. She can be contacted at mkstout@texaspolicy.com.



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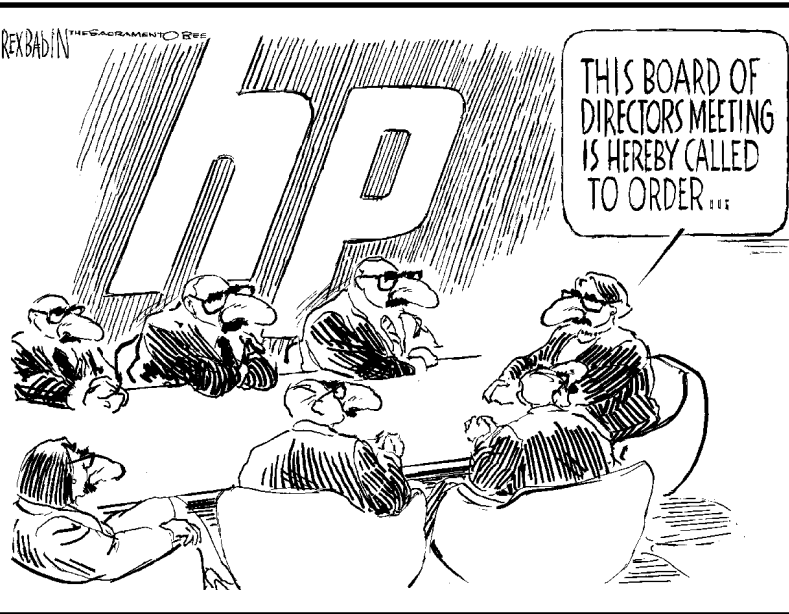
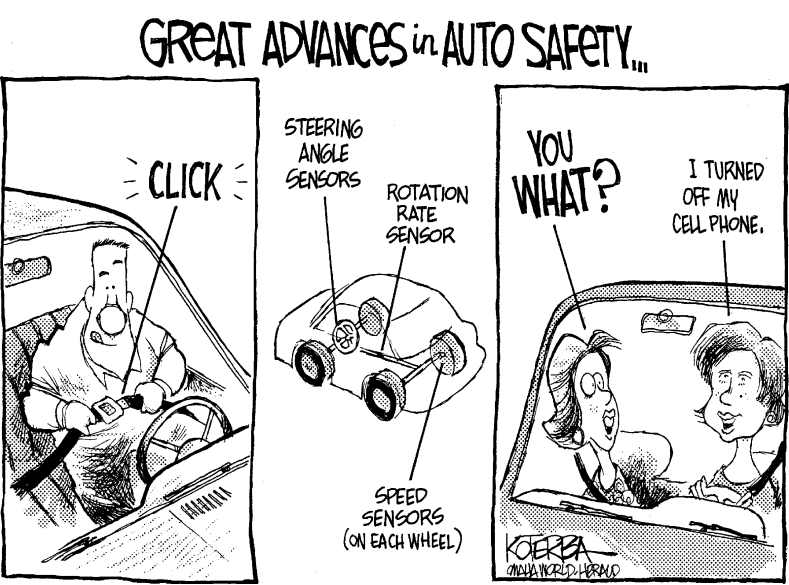
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Clint bus fleet benefits from partnership with tech school

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — In Clint Independent School District, like so many other districts, meeting the demands of hiring highly trained technicians to maintain the school buses has always been a challenge. Today’s school bus technicians not only have to understand the special requirements of operating a bus fleet but must also be able to keep up with constant technological innovations from manufacturers including computerized drive trains and emission controls.

Gilbert Marquez, Shop Foreman of Clint ISD Transportation Services, joined Clint ISD after retiring from the U.S. Army. As foremen, he discovered that the district’s diesel and gasoline technicians had a work load

that far exceeded the national average. He also learned that due to budget constraints he would be unable to hire additional technicians.

This tough situation did not stop Marquez from taking on the challenge or finding a solution to the problem. He approached Western Technical College in El Paso externship programs and a partnership was formed.

Marquez found that the senior staff members could change oil and filters, rotate tires and repair anything else mechanical. However, when it came to the technical side, he found that the department was way behind. The department needed diagnostic equipment and trained staff to implement a successful preventive maintenance program. Western Technical College had a wealth of young technicians with the knowledge he was

looking for but no real world working experience.

“I felt if I brought together the old with the new this would balance my staff and operations,” says Marquez.

The Department of Transportation currently has two students from Western Technical College working 20 hours a week for 30 days. The students are receiving mentorship, “real world” experience, and an understanding of school bus fleet operation. It is a win-win situation for Clint ISD and Western Technical College with the district technicians and the students cross training each other.

“I feel that every school district transportation department that is fortunate enough to have a vocational college nearby should develop a relationship and team up. It has been worth every hour for both the student and my shop,” says Marquez.

MHMR board of trustees has opening for new member

By Guadalupe Silva
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso’s Mental Health Mental Retardation Board of Trustees has a vacancy and is calling for qualified community members to apply for the position.

An applicant must be an El Paso resident and eligible voter, and have some expertise in the

fields of education, administration, fiscal management, healthcare, medicine or the law. A board member may also be a consumer or relative of a consumer of the services funded by the MHMR center. The nine-member Board of Trustees sets policy and manages the public mental health and mental retardation service network in El Paso County.

Representatives from the City of El Paso, the El Paso County Hospi-

tal District and the County appoint trustees equally. The County needs to fill an unexpired term at this time.

Applications are available by calling Ida Hernandez at MHMR, 887-3410, or by requesting it by mail or personally at 1600 Montana, El Paso, Texas, 79902. An application can also be downloaded through the Internet by linking to hernandez@epmhmr.org.

The deadline to submit an application is Oct. 20.

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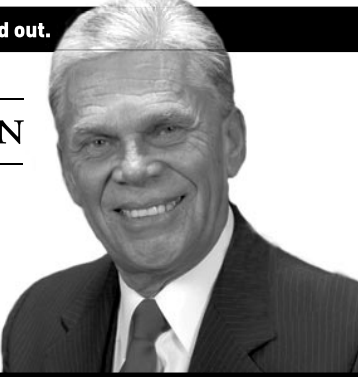
“Coffee and Cookies” parent meeting held by Tornillo Elementary

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By Antonio Rosales
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — Tornillo Elementary School hosted its first “Cookies and Coffee” parent meeting for the 2006-07 school year recently. The activity was coordinated by TES counselor, Antonio Rosales to promote positive rapport among parents and school personnel.

At these meetings key personnel are introduced to the parents in an attempt to increase parent awareness of these individuals’ functions. Some of the school personnel present included the principal, counselor, office staff, migrant coordinator, librarian and cafeteria director. The parents are also provided with information regarding upcoming events and are encouraged to maintain communication with the school in an attempt to better meet the needs



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

OVER A CUP OF COFFEE — TES counselor Antonio Rosales talks to parents about the importance of parental involvement.

of the students.

The importance of parental involvement is strongly emphasized with a strong recommendation for

parents to read to and with their students at home. Information regarding the importance of preparing the students for the TAKS test is given and parent support regarding TAKS preparation is urged. The “Cookies and Coffee” parent meetings are conducted for parents of students in Pre-K through 6th grade.

Helmets

From Page 6

and practical experience would be even better.”

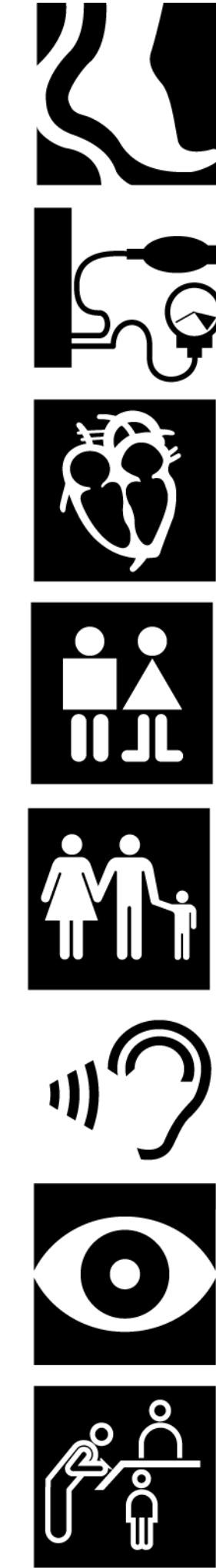
To test another theory, Dr. Walker donned a long wig to see whether there was any difference in passing distance when drivers thought they were overtaking what appeared to be a female cyclist.

While wearing the wig, drivers gave him an average of 14cm more space when passing.

In future research, Dr. Walker hopes to discover whether this was because female riders are seen as less predictable than male riders or because women are not seen riding bicycles as often as men on the UK’s roads.

However, a spokesman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents insisted: “We wouldn’t recommend that people stop wearing helmets because of this research. Helmets have been shown to reduce the likelihood of head and brain injuries in a crash.

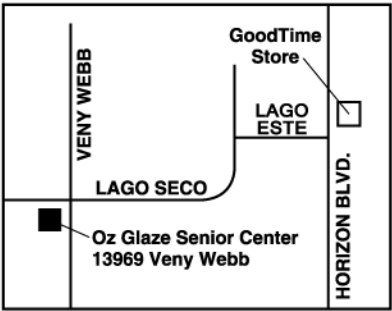
“[The research] highlights a gain in vulnerability of cyclists on our roads and drivers of all types need to take more care when around them.”



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— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

WALK THIS WAY — Vikki Bajaras (middle) walks with her parents, Patsy and Victor, on the first Wellness Wednesday at Escontrias Elementary.

Parents join kids on Wellness Wednesdays

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — It’s one o’clock in the afternoon and parents are lined up outside waiting for their children. But these parents are not waiting to take them home but to exercise with them. For the first Wednesday of the month, family members are encouraged to lace up their sneakers and join their children on the blacktop at Escontrias Elementary. Wellness Wednesdays allows parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, neighbors and friends to walk with children during their PE class. While some take stroll around the playground, and others work up a sweat; they all agree that it’s worth it. “It’s good because it shows parents what the kids are doing and the kids like that we are here with them,” says Oralba Garcia who joined her son, third grader Rodrigo. In addition to working out and getting to play with their parents, students are also racking up points for every person they recruit into their walking club. Last year’s leading student would bring eight to nine people

to her class. Coach Rolaura De Anda has also encouraged her students to sign up teachers. “The students receive a point for every person they get, for teachers they get five,” she explained to the class. The first Wellness Wednesday held on Sept. 6 also served as a fundraiser for a classmate whose family lost their home during the August storms. The walk-a-thon helped raised \$1,290 and will be donated to the family on behalf of Escontrias Elementary and the community. “It’s really good to help others who need it. We’re neighbors, and friends, we need to help one another, because sometimes there is no other help and someday we may need that support,” says Frances Ortiz as she and her 9-year-old son, Felix, took a lap around the field. Another parent, George Dominguez, agrees and adds by participating it shows his daughter the importance of getting involved and supporting your community. Along with walking with his daughter, Brenda, he donated DJ booth to get the kids moving with music. For more information, contact Coach De Anda at 937-4115.

It’s not breakfast in bed, but...

By Yadira Trejo and Tracey Martinez
Special to the Courier

When the students came back from summer vacations they were really surprised. Instead of eating breakfast at the cafeteria, they were given the opportunity to eat breakfast everyday in the classroom. The Administration at Central Office decided that this new program was to be implemented at the beginning of the 2006-07 school year. When we asked Ms. Vasquez, manager of the Fabens High School Cafeteria, what the reason behind the change was, she told us that funding was very low and many students were not eating breakfast. She said that there’s probably more kids eating now then there were before the start of the new program. Ms. Vasquez said that one thing she misses from giving breakfast at the

cafeteria is talking with the students. We asked one of the computer teachers if there was any problem having the students eat in the classroom at their computers. “I’ll have to make sure that the students don’t spill any milk or juice on the computers, but other than that I have no problem with the new breakfast program,” Ms. Bustillos said. Ms. Parga thinks that many of the students are not comfortable eating at the classroom, and she feels bad when she sees all the food thrown away. Ms. Fierro agreed with Ms. Parga because the students only drink the juices. Mr. Cedillo said, “It’s very convenient because the students who run late have the opportunity to eat at the classroom.” When we asked the students how they felt about the breakfast program some said they were embarrassed to eat in front of everyone. Others said that they liked the new breakfast program.

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Anthony Independent School District Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Programs

- 1) The Anthony Independent School District offers career and technology education programs in:
- Business Professions;
 - Human Service Professions including culinary arts and cosmetology;
 - Commercial Arts Professions
 - Health Professions;
 - Industrial Professions including air conditioning and refrigeration, electronics, plumbing and metal trades;
 - Computer Professions including MOUS certification, the Macromedia Suite, introduction to microcomputer technician, and web design internship; and
 - Automotive Professions including diesel mechanics and automotive technology.

Admission to these programs is based on appropriate age, grade, aptitude and ability.

- 2) It is the policy of Anthony Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap 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 Anthony Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap 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) Anthony Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all career and technology programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact Mr. Vernon Butler, Superintendent, and/or, the Director of School Support, Ann Geyer, at 610 Sixth Street, Anthony Texas 79821, or call (915) 886-6500.

Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia

- 1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony ofrece programas de carrera y tecnología:
- Profesiones en negocios;
 - Profesiones en servicios humanos incluyendo artes culinarias and cosmetolgia;
 - Profesiones en arte comercial;
 - Profesiones en la salud;
 - Profesiones industriales incluyendo aire acondicionado y refrigeración, electrónica, plomeria y oficio en el metal;
 - Profesiones en computación como certificación en MOUS, Macromedia Suite, introducción a tecnico en microcomputación, y diseño interino a la red intermetica; y
 - Profesiones automotrices incluyendo mecánica diesel y tecnología automotriz.
- Para admisión a éstos programas se basa en edad apropiada, grado, aptitud y habilidad.

- 2) Es norma del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, ó impedimento, en sus programas, servicios, ó actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.
- 3) Es norma del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony no discriminar por motivos raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento ó edad en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.
- 4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua inglés no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas carrera y tecnología.

- 5) Para más información sobre sus derechos ó procedimientos para quejas, comuniquese con el Sr. Vernon Butler, Superintendente, ó el Director de su Escuelas, Ann Geyer, a 610 Sixth Street, Anthony Texas 79821, ó llame al (915) 886-6500.



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His character is not equal to his height

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Back during his college days at Virginia, it was hard to believe that a man so big could move the way he did. At 7-feet, 4-inches tall, he was the most dominant college player of his day.

Then as a pro in the NBA, it was hard to believe how well the twin-towers experiment worked in Houston. His double-trouble partnership with Hakeem Olajuwon made the Houston Rockets one of the most exciting teams in the league.

Although he won't make any professional Hall of Fame teams, Ralph Sampson had some positive moments in his career, and will certainly always be remembered by his height and agility.

But today's Ralph Sampson isn't finished making headlines. It's hard to believe how incredibly stupid and selfish the man turned out to be.

In fact, if we get out a tape measure, he may end up being about as dumb as he is tall.

First of all, Sampson can be best described as a loving individual. So loving that he's fathered eight children from five different mothers.

Okay, so the guy loves the ladies. His problem is that he doesn't exactly love the kids very much — either that or he just suffers from convenient bouts of amnesia.

See, Sampson has been in trouble, on and off, over the years for not keeping up with his child support payments.

Recently he got in trouble again by forgetting he owed

another \$300,000 in child support for a couple of the kids. Hey, who could keep up?

Oh, and when he told the court that he wasn't earning any income and couldn't pay his debts — he simply forgot that he was receiving \$5,000 a month as a consultant and had received a \$200,000 home as pay for doing commercials and endorsements.

He also denied that he owned a \$43,000 SUV. I guess he just forgot.

Because of his lies and lapses in judgment and memory, Sampson pleaded guilty for mail fraud and will spent just two months in jail as part of the plea deal.

Thanks to the agreement, his perjury charges and his false claim and false statement charges were all dropped.

His mail fraud charges stemmed from his SUV purchase.

It appears that Sampson is one of those power-liars that just doesn't know when to quit. They have to tell another lie to keep up with the last one, and the last one, and the last one.

Sampson's legacy has suddenly changed from that of a pretty good guy, to a child support-dodging weasel that is somewhat less than truthful. And why not, a 7-foot-4 former basketball player should be a teller of tall tales.

Where have the Braves gone?

It's Major League Baseball playoff time and it feels like something is missing.

Let's see, I can't put my finger on it but this season's playoffs just don't seem the same. Oh, I know what's missing — it's those Atlanta Braves.

The Braves coaches and players must be feeling a little lost right now because they don't know exactly what to do.

For the last 14 years, the Braves have not only made it to the playoffs, they've won their division. No other professional team can even come close to saying that.

The Braves were eliminated from this season's post-season with a losing record.

This year's playoffs aren't the same without Chipper Jones, Andruw Jones, John Smoltz, Bobby Cox and the rest of Braves.

Even though they're out of it, you have to salute the Braves for their amazing run.

And look at it this way — the guys won't be bored. I'm sure the wives have a long list of things that will keep them busy now that they're home for a few months.

UNIFORMS OF RALPH SAMPSON



BRAXTON RICHARD TIERE SHOOTCH

UK research suggests that wearing bike helmets is 'more dangerous'

UNITED KINGDOM — Cyclists who wear protective helmets are more likely to be knocked down by passing vehicles, new research from Bath University suggests.

The study found drivers tend to pass closer when overtaking cyclists wearing helmets than those who are bare-headed.

Dr. Ian Walker was struck by a bus and a lorry during the experiment. He was wearing a helmet both times.

But the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said tests have shown helmets protect against injuries.

To carry out the research, Dr. Walker used a bike fitted with a computer and an ultrasonic distance sensor to find drivers were twice as likely to get close to the bicycle, at an average of 8.5cm, when he wore a helmet.

The experiment, which recorded 2,500 overtaking motorists in Salisbury and Bristol, was funded by the Engineering and Physical Sci-

ences Research Council.

Dr. Walker, a traffic psychologist from the University's Department of Psychology, said: "This study shows that when drivers overtake a cyclist, the margin for error they leave is affected by the cyclist's appearance.

"By leaving the cyclist less room, drivers reduce the safety margin that cyclists need to deal with obstacles in the road, such as drain covers and potholes, as well as the margin for error in their own judgments.

"We know helmets are useful in low-speed falls, and so definitely good for children, but whether they offer any real protection to somebody struck by a car is very controversial.

"Either way, this study suggests wearing a helmet might make a collision more likely in the first place," he added.

Dr. Walker said he thinks the reason drivers give less room to cyclists wearing helmets is because they see them as "Lycra-clad street warriors" and believe they are more predictable than those without.

He suggests different types of road users need to understand each other.

"Most adult cyclists know what it is like to drive a car, but relatively few motorists ride bicycles in traffic, and so don't know the issues cyclists face.

"There should definitely be more information on the needs of other road users when people learn to drive

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2006

LOCKSMITH SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-1018-6138RB ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

DOCUMENT IMAGING SERVICES CSP NO. 199-1018-6149 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 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-10/12/06

RENTAL

HOUSE FOR RENT, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1507 Oposum in Horizon City, \$625/month. Call 852-1925 10/11/06

STORAGE

HORIZON SELF STORAGE
• Small, Medium & Large Units
• Yard Space
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SELF-HELP

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

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Harshberger
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BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
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15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

1	2	3	4
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Please print.Send form and payment (no cash) to:

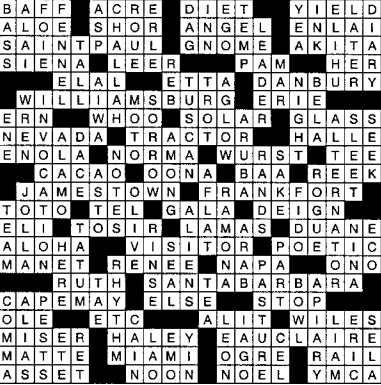
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

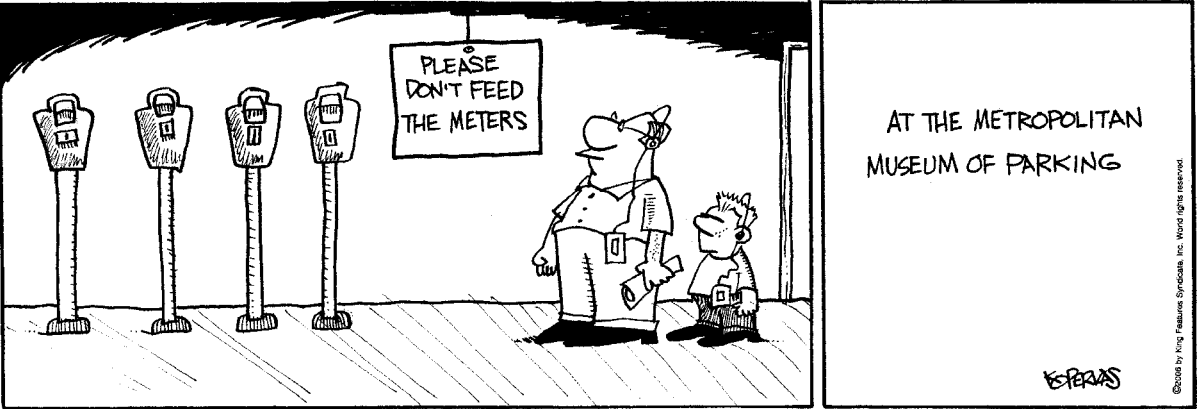


See HELMETS, Page 4

Comix

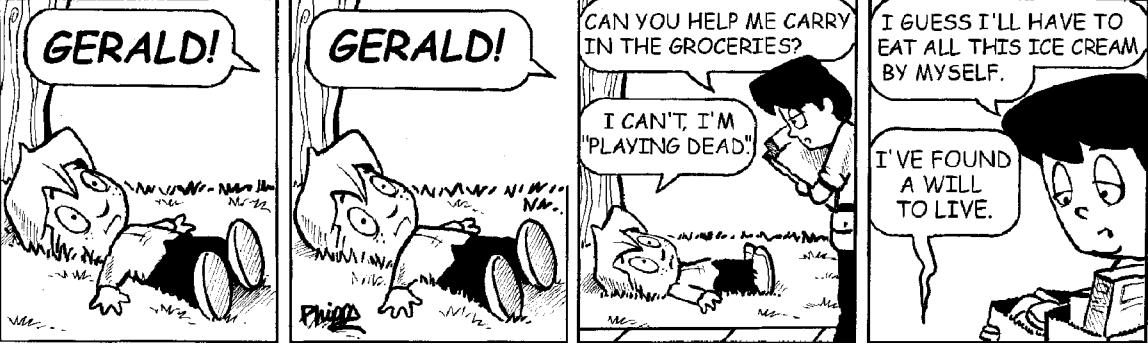
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



What's up, wasabi?

By Don Flood

Hot dogs have gone gourmet. Not long ago, this would have been like saying bubble gum has gone gourmet, which to the best of my knowledge, it hasn't — yet. (Has it?)

This summer a fancy restaurant in East Hampton, N.Y., began selling \$25 hot dogs made from Wagyu beef, which presumably comes from really classy French-speaking Wagyu cows.

And a chain called Franktitude — hey, I don't make these names up — is offering upscale hot dogs with toppings such as wasabi mayo, artichokes and banana chips.

I've been seeing this "wasabi" stuff on menus recently, and I have it on good authority — my own — that it doesn't exist. Restaurants serve "wasabi" mayo instead of regular so they can charge more.

Now entrees are going "wasabi." If the waiter mentions "wasabi," just smile and wink to let him know you're in on the hoax. You'll get special treatment.

As for artichokes and banana chips, I'm sorry, but this is the gastronomical version of putting lipstick on a pig. It's a hot dog, people!

It's sad because the hot dog was among the last of the non-pretentious foods.

Now all that's left is the peanut butter sandwich, which gives me an idea — a chain of upscale peanut butter sandwich restaurants!

Notice I did not say peanut butter and jelly.

While popular, the PB&J is for those with coarser, less refined tastes. I don't plan to allow any in my restaurants.

The keys to success, of course, are the proper recipes. Here's one, of which I am especially proud.

Don's Open Faced Peanut Butter Sandwich

Ingredients:

- One piece of fresh rye bread, chewy, not too soft.
- One humongous gob of peanut butter, smooth and salted. (Some prefer a merely huge gob as opposed to a humongous gob. Some variation is acceptable.)

Directions:

Once you have assembled the ingredients, take a regular kitchen knife, approximately 6 inches long and not too sharp, and begin spreading.

The reason it shouldn't be too sharp is that after you have finished spreading it's time to dip the knife back in the jar, remove another gob, and lick the knife clean.

If done with one of those Ginsu knives you are likely to slice off your tongue, which will result in a loss of blood and an overall negative impact on the peanut butter-eating experience.

Also, you should not dip the knife back in the jar once it has been in your mouth, unless of course no one is looking. Then it's OK.

Serving is two or three slices, depending upon how many gobs of peanut butter you lick off the knife.

If serving with company, especially the hoity-toity types, make sure everybody has his own jar and knife.

The sandwiches go well with anything, from milk to Chardonnay. Pringles make an elegant side dish.

Fortunately for you, a limited number of investment opportunities are available for my new upscale restaurants. For a mere \$10,000 you can get in on the "ground floor" and receive at no extra charge a handsome stock certificate suitable for framing — plus a special jar of "wasabi" peanut butter.

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King Super Crossword

SPLACE NAMES

ACROSS

1 Golf stroke

5 43,560 square feet

9 Live on lettuce

13 Word in a triangle

18 Lotion additive

19 Restaurateur

Toots

20 "Teen _" ('60 smash)

22 Chou _

23 Minnesota city

25 Folklore figure

26 Japanese dog

27 Saint Catherine's home

28 Groucho's gaze

30 Shriver of tennis

32 "_ Alibi" ('89 film)

33 The planes of Israel

35 James or Place

39 Connecticut city

42 Virginia city

46 Buffalo waterfront

47 Directional suffix

48 Owl's cry

49 - plexus

51 Tumbler

55 "Bonanza" setting

58 Farm vehicle

60 Actress Berry

61 "_ Gay"

62 Bellini opera

63 Sausage

66 Golfer's gadget

67 Tropical tree

69 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin

71 Ewe said it!

72 Stink

73 New York city

75 Kentucky city

78 Dorothy's dog

79 _ Aviv

80 Wingding

82 Condescend

83 Yalie

84 " _ with Love" ('67 film)

86 Fernando or Lorenzo

88 Guitarist Eddy

91 "Hi, Ho!"

93 Guest

95 _ license

96 "Olympia" artist

97 Actress Adoree

98 Oenophile's mecca

100 Lennon's lady

101 Biblical book

103 California city

107 New Jersey city

110 Or _ (threat words)

111 Defeat by a knockout

112 Castilian cry

113 Catchall abbr.

115 Landed

118 Cunning

122 Man of rare gifts?

125 "Roots" writer

129 Wisconsin city

131 Photo finish

132 Dolphins' home

133 Fairy tale fiend

134 Marsh bird

135 Selling point

136 High time?

137 Playwright Coward

138 Org. founded in 1844

DOWN

1 Pinza or Chaliapin

2 Jai _

3 - gras

4 Parsley kin

5 Nile slitherer

6 Braided bread

7 Libertine

8 _ Stanley Gardner

9 Mr. Hammarskjold

10 Hotel

11 Self-esteem

12 Work for a while

13 Indeed

14 Calligraphy supply

15 Statesman Root

16 Procrastinator's word

17 Frank book

21 Head

24 Like Magic

29 CSA soldier

31 Damage

34 Sony competitor

36 Western Italian

37 Jogger's gait

38 Shining

40 It falls but never breaks

41 Composer Bartok

42 Small songbird

43 Entreaty

44 Lorre role

45 Grief

47 Vane letters

50 Antilles isle

52 Engine part

53 February forecast

54 Pursue

56 Battle site of 1836

57 Freshwater fish

59 Between three

62 Letters

64 Durban dough

65 Behalf

68 About

70 Black piano key

72 Trickster

73 La _ CA

74 Popeye's favorite shade?

76 Helen Hunt

Jackson novel

77 Hound's handle

78 Side

81 They're out of this world

84 Ryan's daughter

85 Salon solution

87 _ League

89 Singer Simone

90 Word form for "environment"

92 Present

94 Harp _

95 Head line?

97 Beat

99 Where kids eat

102 Menlo Park monogram

104 It's in the bag

105 Pipe part

106 A place with buzz?

107 It may give you pause

108 Nom de crime?

109 Gnats and brats

114 First base man?

116 Spinks or Trotsky

117 Desdemona's enemy

119 Novelist

O'Flaherty

120 Carmen or Clapton

121 Actress Ward

123 When Seurat sweltered

124 Postal abbr.

126 _ -tzu

127 Philips of "UHF"

128 Chinese principle

130 "Fantasia" frame

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Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My husband died last year at age 58. I am 50 and have been receiving survivors benefits for myself and my youngest daughter, age 14. Will these Social Security benefit payments end when she turns 18?

A: As a widow, you can receive Social Security survivors benefits while caring for your child, until she reaches age 16. At that time, your benefit payments would stop. Your daughter, however, will continue to receive survivors benefit

payments until age 18 (or age 19 if still attending elementary or secondary school full time), as long as she is unmarried. You will be eligible to re apply for survivors benefits when you reach 60 years of age.

Q: I have been receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits for just over three years. This summer my grandmother invited me to visit her for three weeks in Mexico. If I go, will

my SSI payments be stopped?

A: Your visit should not affect your SSI payments. SSI benefit payments are usually suspended if a person leaves the country for a full calendar month, or for 30 consecutive days. Since you would only be out of the country for three weeks, your SSI should not be affected. However, you do need to let Social Security know when you leave and return. And if you don't have direct deposit, now is a good time to consider it. With direct deposit, your payments will arrive in your bank account no matter where you are.

Q: I plan to take early retirement at age 62. Can I also have my Medicare coverage begin then?

A: No. Medicare benefits based on retirement do not begin until you are 65. If you retire at an earlier age, you might be able to continue to have medical insurance coverage through your employer. Or you may decide to purchase it from a private insurance company until you reach age 65.

Q: I recently read in a local newspaper article that there are now about 300 million Americans. With so many people, is Social Security running out









of numbers?

A: More than 435 million Social Security Numbers have been issued thus far, and about 5.5 million new numbers are issued each year. The current numbering system will provide enough new numbers for several generations into the future.

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.

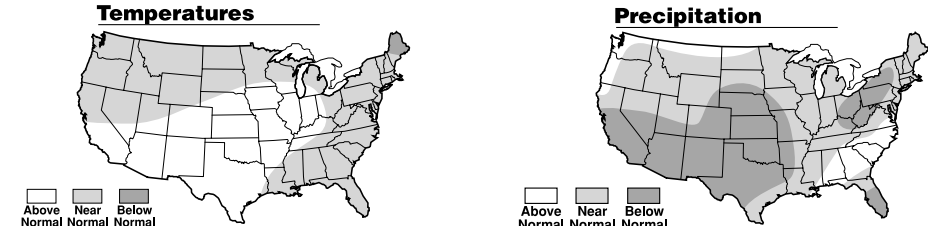
7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

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








Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
Sunshine	Partly cloudy	A thunderstorm possible	Chance of a shower	Pleasant with sunshine	Abundant sunshine	A full day of sunshine	Clouds and sun
80°	55°	73° 53°	74° 58°	77° 54°	79° 56°	79° 54°	78° 50°
RealFeel 84°	RealFeel 55°	RealFeel 75° 52°	RealFeel 76° 57°	RealFeel 78° 52°	RealFeel 84° 58°	RealFeel 81° 56°	RealFeel 79° 57°

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

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	Last	New
Thu.	7:07 a.m.	6:37 p.m.	Thu.	11:08 p.m.	1:21 p.m.		
Fri.	7:07 a.m.	6:36 p.m.	Fri.	none	2:11 p.m.		
Sat.	7:08 a.m.	6:35 p.m.	Sat.	12:10 a.m.	2:54 p.m.		
Sun.	7:09 a.m.	6:34 p.m.	Sun.	1:11 a.m.	3:29 p.m.		
Mon.	7:09 a.m.	6:32 p.m.	Mon.	2:10 a.m.	3:59 p.m.		
Tues.	7:10 a.m.	6:31 p.m.	Tues.	3:07 a.m.	4:26 p.m.		
Wed.	7:11 a.m.	6:30 p.m.	Wed.	4:01 a.m.	4:51 p.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

REGIONAL CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	64	46	pc	68	51	s	65	52	pc	70	58	s
Albuquerque, NM	71	46	s	70	47	pc	69	50	pc	68	49	s
Amarillo, TX	51	35	pc	62	46	s	67	47	pc	69	48	s
Austin, TX	76	47	pc	70	53	s	66	56	pc	78	67	c
Brownsville, TX	93	70	t	73	62	r	81	69	c	85	78	c
Dodge City, KS	53	36	pc	64	40	pc	62	45	pc	70	48	pc
Jackson, MS	75	46	t	70	44	s	77	55	pc	71	60	pc
Laredo, TX	88	62	t	68	57	r	75	63	c	86	71	pc
Little Rock, AR	55	42	c	66	48	s	74	48	pc	70	55	s
Lubbock, TX	55	40	pc	63	46	pc	69	52	pc	75	52	s
Memphis, TN	60	38	c	66	49	s	73	51	pc	69	56	s
Midland, TX	65	45	pc	63	50	c	67	55	pc	73	56	s
Pueblo, CO	54	29	pc	71	32	s	72	35	pc	72	38	pc
Roswell, NM	69	45	pc	64	49	c	75	52	pc	76	53	s
St. Louis, MO	56	38	pc	60	44	s	67	43	pc	65	50	s
San Antonio, TX	82	58	pc	69	55	r	70	57	c	75	66	c
Texarkana, AR	60	44	c	71	46	s	65	52	pc	72	60	s
Waco, TX	70	50	pc	72	50	s	65	54	pc	73	62	c
Wichita, KS	52	34	c	64	44	pc	65	46	pc	69	52	c

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

U.S. CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Atlanta	78	49	t	65	46	s	72	53	s	74	57	sh
Boston	66	50	r	56	41	pc	57	43	s	58	46	pc
Chicago	47	32	pc	51	35	pc	52	36	pc	61	41	pc
Denver	49	29	pc	62	36	s	63	36	pc	62	40	pc
Detroit	46	32	sh	49	35	sh	53	37	pc	54	38	c
Houston	84	52	t	72	57	s	76	60	pc	77	72	c
Indianapolis	46	31	pc	52	37	pc	58	39	s	60	45	c
Kansas City	53	34	pc	60	40	s	61	41	pc	65	45	pc
Los Angeles	74	59	pc	74	59	pc	72	58	pc	72	57	s
Miami	89	73	t	89	74	t	87	74	s	86	76	s
Minneapolis	39	31	c	46	31	pc	49	36	pc	56	42	c
New Orleans	85	62	t	70	57	s	75	66	s	76	72	pc
New York City	70	48	sh	52	43	pc	59	48	s	61	51	pc
Omaha	49	32	pc	58	34	s	60	40	pc	65	45	s
Phoenix	90	69	s	87	69	c	84	66	pc	86	66	s
San Francisco	73	52	s	70	54	s	70	54	s	68	55	s
Seattle	65	47	s	65	48	pc	61	49	sh	59	48	r
Washington	71	52	sh	54	43	pc	61	47	s	65	52	pc



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