



NEWSBRIEFS

New family judge

Chief of the Family Violence Unit of the County Attorney's Office, Jesus Rodriguez, has been named judge of the new Family Associate Court by the El Paso Council of Judges. The creation of the new Associate Family Court was approved by the El Paso County Commissioner's Court on Dec. 18, 2006 to help expedite the resolution of family cases assigned to all three family courts; the 65th District Court, the 383rd District Court, and the 388th District Court. The court was greatly needed because the family court judges were setting double, triple and sometimes quadruple dockets with the expectation that several cases would settle. The new family court will hear divorce, paternity, and family violence cases. Judge Rodríguez was sworn in by Judge Alma Trejo on Feb. 9.

All in a name

Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees will hold a public forum to accept name recommendations for its two new planned elementary schools at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22, at the CISD Administrative Facility, 7965 Arcraft Road. Construction is currently underway on CISD's fifth elementary school, which will be located near the intersection of Borderland Road and Westside Drive. Plans are to open this school in January 2008. Preliminary plans for CISD's sixth elementary school calls for construction to begin in 2008 and be completed the following year. This school's location is anticipated to be east of Interstate-10 and south of Transmountain Road. CISD School Board will accept recommendations during the meeting that reflect the name of the residential community or communities that the school will serve, after a local geographical area or feature, or to honor an outstanding individual. Recommendations submitted during the forum should also include written support documentation. For more information, call 877-7482.

In other news

■ The contract for the longest-serving school superintendent in El Paso County, now in his eleventh year, has been extended for another three years. San Elizario ISD's Dr. Mike Quatrini says his goals are clear for the next few years — to bring the district from "acceptable" up to "recognized" TEA status.



Mike Quatrini

■ New grass on the field is calling the boys of summer as the Fabens Cotton Valley Lion's Club opens registration for baseball season. Every Saturday from Feb. 17 to March 31, from noon to 4 p.m. at

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In your search for riches, don't lose the things that money can't but.

— Quips & Quotes

Speakers share success strategies with mothers and daughters

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — For 120 mothers and daughters, learning how successful women managed to achieve their dreams along with fulfilling their responsibilities to family was a lesson they hope to put to use. The Mother-Daughter Conference held at Americas High School on Jan. 27 featured more than 20 sessions with female professionals in various career fields. Participants heard from El Paso police officers, attorneys, business owners and television anchors on how they balance career and family.

Among the speakers was Officer Armida Cordova with the El Paso Police Department who talked about her experience wearing a uniform, having a son as a Detention Officer with the El Paso County Sheriff's Department and she explained there is more to her job than just writing tickets and making arrests.

"We need to have patience," she said after describing an incident when officers arrested a suspect who ran away after threatening his family and pointing a gun at police. "His wife starts yelling at us because she thinks we're



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD
MORE THAN JUST TICKETS
— Mothers and daughters take in information from Officer Armida Cordova from the El Paso Police Department.

hurting him. Other times we hold their hands, let them grieve and cry. I would rather listen to people and let them explain."

After listening to Officer Cordova, Jennifer Lujan and her daughter, Americas High School freshman Jennifer Cassandra, have a new insight to police officers.

"I didn't know everything they actually do aside from ticketing and arresting people. You don't see the softer side but now I know they go out of their way to help you," says Lujan who joined her daughter at the conference.

Officer Cordova added that being a woman is an advantage when male officers are ignored by women who prefer to talk to someone who knows about being a wife, and mother.

Officer Cordova provided information on protecting homes such as the free home inspections which could help reduce home insurance costs and the importance of reporting graffiti.

Another speaker, Irene Ovalle, an educator with the El Paso City/County Health District,

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East County fire investigated as possible arson

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Sheriff's units, along with emergency vehicles from the Horizon and Socorro Fire Departments responded to a structure fire in the El Paso Hills Subdivision in the East County around 1 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 12. The fire has been classified as a possible arson case as the investigation continues.

The fire was contained to the front bedroom of the residence, according to the El Paso

County Sheriff's Office, after almost half an hour's effort by more than 20 firefighters. Four residents and pets were safely evacuated from the residence.

The American Red Cross also responded to assist the family who suffered some losses as a result of the fire.

Discrepancies identified by fire officials and detectives from the EPSO Criminal Investigation Division has resulted in an open investigation.

Americas senior is finalist for National Merit Scholarship

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Americas High School senior, Gabriel Mendoza, has been named as a finalist in the 2007 competition for the National Merit Scholarship program. Mendoza and Americas High School Principal Mary Ross were notified that he moved up to the finalist category this week. Mendoza had been named a semi-finalist last fall.

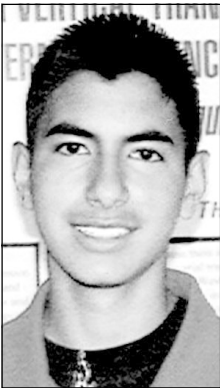
Approximately 15,000 semifinalists advance to the finalist level and approximately half of the finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gen-

der, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

These students must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier qualifying test performance.

In addition, the student and a school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student's essay and information about their participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Mendoza is also among the 300 seniors nationwide to be named as semifinalists of the Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS) 2007, America's oldest and most prestigious science competition. The Americas senior has been participating in science fairs and scientific research since elementary school at Horizon Heights.



Gabriel Mendoza

Gamma ray system spots stowaway under train coming from Mexico

By Roger Maier
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers performing anti-terror inspections at El Paso area ports of entry apprehended dozens of illegal immigrants, seized thousands of pounds of illegal drugs, and confiscated prohibited agricultural items this week.

CBP officers working at the border ports of entry in El Paso, West Texas and New Mexico recorded 123 immigration violations during the last seven days. In one of the more interesting cases of the week, CBP officers working at the international rail crossing at 3:18 a.m. Monday intercepted an illegal immigrant who was hiding on a train. CBP officers spotted the man's image while scanning the northbound freight train with a gamma ray inspection system. He was detained and returned to Mexico.

In another interesting case, CBP officers working at the Paso Del Norte Pedestrian crossing at 6:30 a.m. Saturday stopped an imposter who was using a border crossing card that was issued to another person. The twist was that the person to whom the card was originally issued was actually being sought on an outstanding warrant on a cocaine charge. The imposter had paid \$1,800 for the card, not knowing that when CBP scanned the document, the warrant would be revealed. The imposter was processed and returned to Mexico. The document was seized and whereabouts of the actual owner of the document are unknown.

During the week, CBP officers identified a total of 55 intended immigrant cases (people with legitimate entry documents intending to live/work illegally in the U.S.), 17 false claims for U.S. citizenship by non U.S. citizens, 41 imposters, nine people attempting to enter the U.S. with counterfeit or fraudulent entry documents, and one person attempting to enter without inspection.

CBP officers working at area ports of entry made a total of 26 drug busts this past week. CBP officers seized 2,595 pounds of marijuana in 25 seizures and a small quantity of heroin in one additional seizure.

Area CBP officers made 11 food and agricultural seizures during the week, resulting in \$2,750 in penalties being assessed. Prohibited items seized included bologna, chorizo, pork, chicharones, avocados, pears, oranges, apples, sweet potatoes, and live cactus. The interception of these prohibited items are an important element in preventing the introduction of pests and disease that pose a risk to the U.S. agriculture industry and the nation's natural resources.

CBP officers this week also assessed \$1,750 in penalties for three vehicle export violations, seized smuggled ammunition, and intercepted two smuggled birds, one of which perished before arriving at the port. Anti-terrorism remains the primary mission of CBP. The intensive inspection process associated with the anti-terror mission continues to yield impressive enforcement numbers in all categories.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Label it

We put labels on everything — warning labels, nutrition labels, instruction labels.

We label things so we will know what is in them. We label things so we can figure out how they work. We label things so we don't get injured or, conversely, damage whatever it is that has the label on it.

Well, I've been remiss in my duty to the reading public.

I have failed to label my column as being fraught with what is supposed to be tongue-in-cheek humor. Apparently there are some folks out there who read it and can't tell.

Note to self: Label should include warning to those allergic to tongue-

in-cheek humor.

I found out recently, the hard way, that some people out there take me way, way too seriously. This is a cause for concern because, believe me, I'm the last person anyone should take seriously.

Note to self: Be sure and include on label a warning against taking seriously. This could lead to a bad rash of false advertising.

I've also been remiss in not labeling my column with a warning sign that it will, absolutely and guaranteed, from time to time, contain errors. My warning label will contain a disclaimer that sometimes this is for blatant, intentional effect and sometimes it is due to pure carelessness or oversight. Either way, it apparently causes extreme discomfort to some

consumers.

Note to self: Include warning to reader that article may contain errors, for those who may be hyper-sensitive to this.

At the risk of insulting yet another group of people, I have been known to — either intentionally or by accident — make sport of what can only be described as “sacred cows.” According to the dictionary, this means something “that is often unreasonably immune from criticism or opposition.”

Over the years, I've poked fun at animal rights activists, politicians, construction workers, parents, teachers, doctors, human behavior of all kinds, and my personal all-time favorite — teenagers — without causing the kind of uproar that occurred when I wrote about what is apparently America's newest idol.

It is — let's all genuflect now — the Nintendo Wii.

Why, over the course of a week, I got at least 10 personal emails correcting my spelling, admonishing me for being “afraid of technology,” for “failing to interact with the system,” for failing to research appropriately, for having “blatant disregard of journalistic ethics and standards,” for having a problem interacting with my family, for failure “to present your points in a fair and balanced manner,” and for getting smart with my grandson. This does not include the web blogs — one with 30-plus posts.

Whew!

Note to self: Make sure label is big enough to hold warnings against all this stuff — including the part where I might imply that “Nintendo is the Devil” as one reader apparently thought I was trying to do. Be sure to include the disclaimer that it will most likely contain points that are not fair and balanced that I will, more than likely, present with blatant disregard for journalistic ethics and standards.


I was really glad to know, however, that America's gaming community can still read and is extremely sensitive to misspelled words. The reason

I know this is because I spelled the “me” portion of the Wii game — in which you create a form of yourself — like “me” instead of the “correct” spelling which is “Mii.” Not fewer than half of the letters mentioned my error. How ever could I have missed that?

Note to self: Bone up on research of strangely spelled words. Include warning that column may contain spelling errors of this type of word, either by accident or on purpose.

Well, I guess I'd better get started on my warning label now. It's going to take quite a while and it will require minute attention to delicate wording. I'll need at least several pages to cover it all but that doesn't even remotely (no pun intended) compare to the gigs of disclaimers, warnings and instructions that Nintendo has to include with its Wii game.

Note to self: Be sure to warn reader that before consumption of this column one should take a grain of salt and have a large glass of good humor to wash it down with.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Feb. 12, 1888: James Smathers is born near Valley Springs. In 1912 he patents the electric typewriter.



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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Cutting student loan interest to help kids achieve goals

I was proud to join my colleagues in the House in overwhelming support for legislation that will cut the interest rates on need-based student loans. The House legislation, which passed 356-71, would slice rates on the subsidized loans from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent in stages over five years. About 5.5 million students get the loans each year, and in our community, student loans are often the only mechanism available to students whose families struggle to meet increasing tuition demands.

Over the last five years, the interest rates on student loans have jumped by almost two percentage points — increasing the cost of college and forcing families and students to reach further in their pockets in their quest for the American dream of a college education.

More and more students are struggling under the load of student debt — with the typical student borrower

now graduating from college with over \$17,000 in debt. I recently received a letter from a student at the UTEP inquiring about any help that might be available to her so that she could finish her bachelor's degree. In her letter, she detailed her efforts to meet tuition costs — including holding down two part-time jobs, taking out student loans, and borrowing money from her parents — and yet she still struggled and was looking for additional options. Of course, I am very proud of her for not letting finances stand in the way of achieving her goal, but I believe we have a responsibility to help those that are helping themselves.

According to studies from the Department of Education, financial barriers will prevent 4.4 million high school graduates from attending a four-year public college over the next decade, and prevent another two million high school graduates from attending any institute of higher education at all.

More than ever, the health of El Paso's and the nation's economy rests

on having a highly-skilled and well-educated workforce. As a community whose technological sector is growing with the expansion of Fort Bliss and the local development of Future Combat Systems, our youth must be better prepared and better educated in order to benefit from new opportunities.

On a national scale, college access is the key to our remaining strong in the face of an increasingly competitive global economy. Without significant changes, by the year 2020 the United States is projected to face a shortage of up to 12 million college-educated workers, directly threatening America's economic strength.

Making student loans more affordable is just one important step in helping our children realize their dreams. I will continue to encourage my colleagues work to increase Pell grants, expand tax deductions for parents who send their kids to college, and support important programs at Hispanic Serving Institutions like UTEP and El Paso Community College.

View from here

By Ricky Pendell

College not out of the question for today's youth

EL PASO COUNTY — With today's constantly changing technology, registering and actually attending college is easy to do for youth in the U.S. Students ques-

tioning their ability to attend college should take into consideration a few things before they eliminate their options.

Students and parents may be wor-

ried about paying for college but with countless scholarships and numerous types of federal aid available, paying for college is basically a point and a click away. The internet has become one of the most useful tools in registering for financial aid.

The Free Application for Student Aid or FAFSA makes applying for financial aid easy for prospective college students. Students interested

in filling out this application should visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to answer any specific questions or to begin the application process.

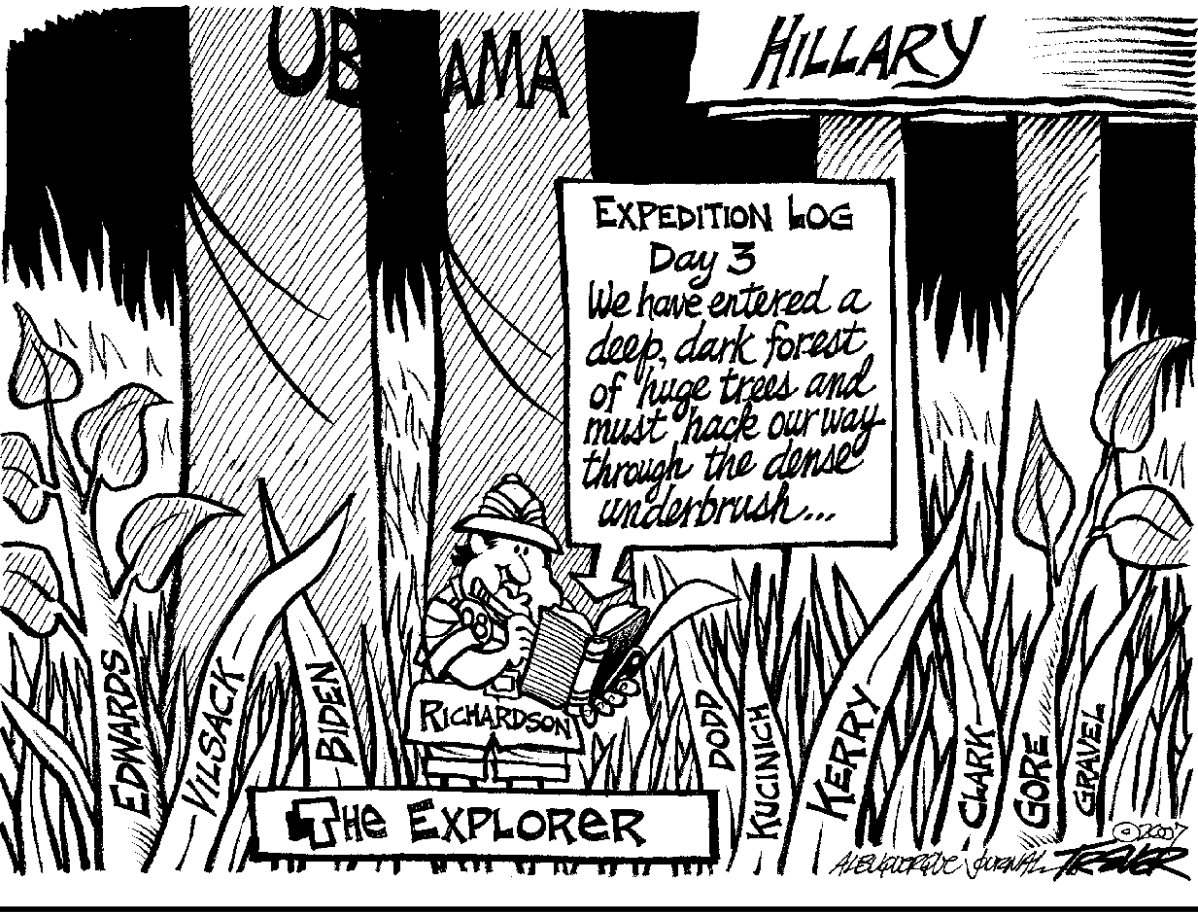
Other questions may arise about the specifics of the college application process. Most institutions today have contact information listed on their office of admissions website which makes it easy to send e-mails with questions directly to a person who can promptly respond with answers.

Students should also consider taking standard tests such as the ACT or SAT which are required for admission to most accredited universities. Both of these tests can be registered for online at the respective websites.

The SAT website is www.collegeboard.com, and the ACT website is www.ACT.org.

Lisa Eveler, a secretary in the office of admissions at Texas Tech University, justifies the ease of admissions process. "Every student in the top ten percent of their class who applies is automatically admitted; the next 25 percent of applicants are reviewed based upon their scores on the SAT or ACT. The remaining students are placed under review and about half of them are finally accepted."

With advancements in technology in this day and age, the only excuse for students not going to college is simply not going.



Socorro community servant, Don Davisson, dies at 86

SOCORRO — Known for his dedication to improving the Socorro community, Donald E. Davisson served in numerous public service positions over the years. The East El Paso community lost an extraordinary citizen when he died on Jan. 29, 2007, at age 86.

A longtime resident of the El Paso area, Davisson graduated from El Paso High School. He retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years service, then retired a second time from the El Paso Natural Gas Co. after working another 19 years.

He lost his wife of many years, Pat, in 1993, and three of their five children. He is survived by daughter Becky Phillips of Minnesota, and son Terry Davisson of Oregon.

A resident of Socorro for 30 years, Davisson was known for his love of the horses he cared for on his farm. He also loved his community and dedicated innumerable hours of service through 19 years membership in the Socorro Lions Club, of which he was twice president.

He put in 10 years on the Lower Valley Water District Loan Review

Committee, and served on the LVWD board of directors.

Though he originally questioned the wisdom of Socorro becoming an incorporated municipality, he served with distinction on the commission that drafted the Socorro City Charter. A stickler for honest government, Davisson was a fixture at most city meetings and never failed to speak out if he felt the council was not acting in the best interest of the people they were elected to serve. He tossed his hat in the ring one last time in April of 2006, running a strenuous and dedicated campaign for Socorro City Council District position No. 1 despite the fact that he was already facing numerous health challenges.

He remained a community servant to the end. When Davisson could no longer fend off the aggressive cancer that would take his life, he donated his body to a medical university for research. Therefore, the graveside service for his burial at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery is still pending.

Smoke is a deadly during a house fire

By Lt. Mario Hernandez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — A house fire on a recent morning in San Miguel, New Mexico, located North of El Paso, killed two of the home's occupants. Both died of smoke inhalation. There were no smoke detectors in the home.

A national study conducted by the International Association of Firefighters and Liberty Mutual reveals that, for most Americans, home fires rank highest on the list of top disaster concerns, along with terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The study further reveals, however, that Americans are "dangerously negligent" when it comes to taking fire precautions and are largely uninformed about what to do if a fire occurs in their homes. Last year, home fires caused 82 percent of the 3,675 fire-related deaths.

Nearly 85 percent of parents polled admitted that they do not frequently discuss fire safety with their children, and seven in 10 parents report that their children are less than fully prepared to escape and survive a fire. Additionally, more than 90 percent of the people surveyed acknowl-

edged that having a smoke alarm, fire extinguisher and fire escape plan are all important, yet many do not practice these bottom-line safety measures.

El Paso Fire Department officials would like to offer these Home Fire Safety Tips that can increase the chances of surviving a home fire:

1. Make a fire escape plan for your family. Find two exits out of every room. Pick a meeting place outside. Practice makes perfect — hold a family fire drill at least twice each year. Children and older people will need help escaping from a fire. Plan for this.
2. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Put them inside or near every bedroom. Test them monthly to make sure they work. Put in new batteries at least once a year. Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.
3. Teach every family member to crawl under smoke and to "Stop, Drop and Roll" if their clothes catch fire.
4. Consider having a home fire sprinkler system installed.
5. Keep a fire extinguisher in your home and learn how and when to use it. Your neighborhood fire station can help.

Speakers

From Page 1

talked about her experiences and mistakes.

“My father had a goal for me to graduate from high school,” says Ovalle, who remembers when her family picked cotton and chiles. “I knew I was going to graduate from high school because of him, but really I did not know what I wanted to do. As for college I didn’t know there was money or grants to help. I went into the Army for four years. I was 18 years old, living in Germany and it was a mistake, but you make the best of them and learn something.” She advised the girls to find people who will push them forward and to set up short and long term goals in order to reach their dreams.

Another speaker who wants mothers and daughters to pursue their

dreams is Dr. Debra Livingston, Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction.

“If someone had told me that I was going to get a doctorate I would have told them they were crazy,” says Dr. Livingston. “I quit school for awhile. I had two boys and went back to school. I kept going and it took me longer. No one told me I had to do this continually. I had to figure it out on my own.”

Dr. Livingston, who was a teacher and principal, is first in her family to go to college and get a degree but told the mothers and daughters that if getting a Doctorate degree is in their future to plan to be in school for a long time.

“It took me three years to do a Doctorate, four years for a Master’s degree and five years for a Bachelor’s degree, but it’s worth it,” she says.

This is the first time the school hosted such an event but coordina-



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

A LONG TIME BUT WORTH IT — Dr. Debra Livingston talks about her educational career and pursuing a Doctorate degree.

tors are looking forward to next year and adding another conference.

“We had a father ask about a conference for fathers and daughters and a single mom suggested something

to help mothers and sons,” says Janice Masters, Title I Parent Liaison. “We are thinking of adding a fall event for boys and keep the spring conference for girls.”



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

LIFE AFTER THE ARMY — Irene Ovalle speaks to participants of her experiences working at the El Paso City/County Health District.

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El Paso County Emergency Services District #1

Notice of Public Hearing

The Board of Commissioners for the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 will conduct a public hearing during its next regular meeting on the 22nd day of February, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., at 14151 Nunda Ave., Horizon City, Texas, 79928, for the purpose of:

- 1) Discussing and voting on making mutually agreeable changes in its boundaries with the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 pursuant to §775.056, Texas Health and Safety Code. The Board of Commissioners will also set a mutually agreeable effective date for the changes in the boundaries.

Maps which detail the proposed changes may be viewed at the office of the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 at 14151 Nunda Ave., Horizon City, Texas 79928, each day, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for accommodation for interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the District’s offices at (915) 852-3204 for further information.

WTCC: 02/15/07

Briefs

From Page 1

the Cotton Valley Baseball Fields Fabens Swig on North Loop, registration will be open for boys and girls of all ages, playing at every level from T-Ball and Coach Pitch to Major and Juniors. Fees range from \$25 for the youngest to \$40 for older kids. Fees are payable at the time of registration. Coaches training workshops are available for adults who want to get in on the fun. For more information call Patty Miller at 764-3205, Sylvia Gonzales at 764-2279 or Priscilla Casillas at 764-4256.

■ The San Elizario ISD cancelled classes on Friday, Jan. 19, due to inclement weather. Since the districts must make up that instructional day, all campuses will hold classes on Monday, April 9, 2007. Parents need to make plans for their child or children to be in school on that day.

■ *How To Really Start Your Business* is the title of a workshop presented by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) on Saturday, Feb. 17, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Center for Workforce Preparedness Building at 1359 Lomaland in the Cactus Room. Cost is \$25 which includes workbook and refreshments. For more information and reservations call 534-0585 or visit www.elpasoscore.org

■ The first Cotton-Pecan Workshop of the year is set for Thursday, Feb. 8, 8 a.m. to noon at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center, 1380 A&M Circle. Increasing cotton production, fertilizing pecan orchards, irrigation techniques and determining soil types will be on the agenda. For information, call Dr. Jaime Iglesias at 851-2515 or e-mail jiglesias@ag.tamu.edu.

■ The International Museum of Art, 1211 Montana Avenue, presents for Atalo J. Mendez and the Rio Bravo Watercolorists beginning March 2, with a reception from 1-5 p.m. The exhibit runs through March 25 and gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays, free to the public. Atalo Mendez was born in southern Mexico in the city of Teziutlan, Puebla. At an early age

his family moved to the capital city of Puebla, where he grew up observing the watercolor works of a renowned local artist. In his teen years he attended the state sponsored Academy of Fine Arts before he immigrated to the United States in 1980 and began working as an illustrator at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso. Atalo began showing his work and won some of his first awards, which served as an incentive for him to continue painting.

■ The 33rd Sun Country Doll Folks Doll Show and Sale will be held Saturday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Paso Holiday Inn-Airport, I-10 Exit 25. Admission for adults is \$3 and \$1 for children. For more information call Janna at 505-874-9182 or 915-637-3438.

■ The Friends of Memorial Park Branch Library Bookstore — “Bookstore at the Park” — is open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The public is invited to come and see the large quantity of rare books available in addition to their stock of very reasonably priced current books. Bookstore at the Park is located at 3200 Copper Ave. For information call 566-1034.

■ The Internal Revenue Service is offering taxpayers tips for requesting the telephone excise tax refund, after early tax returns show some people are making basic mistakes, others are requesting excessive refunds and many are missing out on the refunds altogether. “We encourage taxpayers to take a few minutes and review the details of the telephone-tax refund,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. “A little extra time will reduce the chance for a mistake, avoid a refund delay and possibly add a few dollars onto refund checks.” The government stopped collecting the long-distance excise tax last August after several federal court decisions held that the tax does not apply to long-distance service as it is billed today. Federal officials also authorized a one-time refund of the federal excise tax collected on service billed during the previous 41 months, stretching from the beginning of March 2003 to the end of July 2006. The tax continues to apply to local-only phone service. Early mistakes found on a sample of 2006 returns include filling out the Form 1040EZ-T incorrectly; failing to request the telephone tax

refund on a regular federal income-tax return; filing duplicate requests; requesting a refund that appears to be based on the entire amount of the taxpayer’s phone bills, rather than just the three-percent tax on long-distance and bundled service.

■ The El Paso City Council approved a settlement agreement with the El Paso Electric Company that will have a positive effect on the average customer’s electric bill. In January 2006, El Paso Electric filed for an increase in the fuel portion of customers bills to cover projected fuel costs due to increases in natural gas prices. The increase authorized at that time by the Public Utility Commission was \$2.94 per month on the average residential customer’s bill, which was an increase of approximately 4.8 percent on the total bill. Since the January 2006 filing, several factors have shifted. The newly approved settlement agreement by the City Council, along with the end of a surcharge imposed for under collections during the Fall of 2005, results in a net decrease in current bills by more than seven percent. The average customer who uses 500 KWh per month should realize a reduction of approximately \$5/month.

■ The Texas Historical Commission (THC) announces a new internship opportunity, the Preservation Fellows Program, created to build interest in and awareness of historic preservation among college-aged young adults. The program targets talented undergraduate and graduate students to encourage pursuing fields of study in history, preservation, architecture, archeology, landscape architecture, downtown revitalization and heritage tourism. By working with THC staff for eight weeks during the summer, students will be exposed to vocational opportunities in the field of historic preservation. Two students will be selected to intern during summer 2007 to be announced on March 26, and honored at the THC’s Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Lakeway April 12–14. Application deadline is March 1, 2007. For more information or to download an application form, visit www.thc.state.tx.us or call Toni Turner, THC development officer, at 512/936-2241.

Confused yet: Life insurance explained

By Linda Anderson
Special to the Courier

COLLEGE STATION — Automobile insurance, which is required by state law, helps cover drivers in case of crashes. Health insurance is important because it helps cover the cost of medical care.

But life insurance? Is it necessary? And what is it exactly, since every life will eventually end?

To put it simply, life insurance is a way to help manage financial risks, said Texas Cooperative Extension experts. No, it's not a necessity for everyone, but some individuals and families can benefit from having coverage.

"There are several purposes for life insurance," said Dr. Joyce Cavanagh, Extension family economics specialist. "Probably the No. 1 is to replace income if someone dies."

Although a life insurance policy probably won't replace all of the family's lost income, "adequate life insurance can help supplement the income needs of the household to some extent," added Nancy Granovsky, Extension family economics specialist

Life insurance policies can also help pay off mortgages or estate taxes after the policy owner dies, Cavanagh said.

"And some people buy life insurance because they want to leave a chunk of change in a bequest to a family member, charity, institution or someone else," Granovsky said.

Most of the time life insurance is purchased to provide a financial cushion for a family in case the main breadwinner dies, especially if the family has young children or other dependents, the experts said.

Most life insurance can provide that cushion only if "the policy owner

has continued to make premium payments or has a paid-up policy," Granovsky said.

Keeping that warning in mind, life insurance can be a good way to relieve money worries for anyone who will leave behind financial dependents who have no other way of eliminating debt in case of death of the main breadwinner, she said.

Life insurance comes in two basic forms, Cavanagh said: term and whole life, also known as cash value.

"Term (insurance) provides coverage for a certain number of years," she said, adding that coverage can be renewed.

Whole life insurance, on the other hand, not only provides coverage but also carries a certain amount of cash value that policy holders can borrow against if they wish, Cavanagh said. Because of this, whole life insurance has higher premiums than term.

Cost of the premiums should be a consideration when shopping for a policy, but not the only one. "Premiums have been falling for term insurance for several years now," Cavanagh said.

Because so many people don't really go shopping for life insurance but are sold policies by agents who seek them out, "one of the common things to happen is they end up purchasing a whole life policy," she said. "For young families with lots of need, this often results in an inability to afford the level of coverage they really need because the premiums are so much higher." To reverse this, consumers need to take charge by researching which policy is right for them.

Who needs life insurance? "Is anyone economically dependent on you for their livelihood?" Cavanagh said. "If the answer is yes, you probably need to purchase life insurance."

But even that advice has quali-

cations, she said. "Some people have someone economically dependent on them but have enough other sources of income (that they) won't need substantial life insurance."

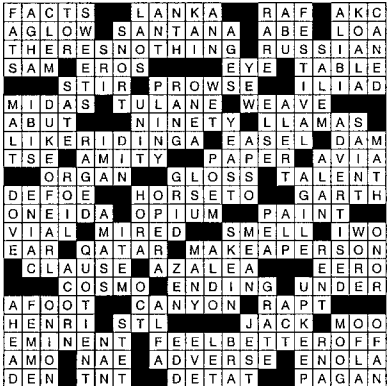
How much life insurance is enough?

A good rule of thumb, Granovsky said, is to have a policy worth \$500,000 to \$1 million. That may sound like a lot of money, but consider everything that will have to be provided for if the family breadwinner should die.

Do your homework, she said. Figure out the dollar amounts of all lost income and projected income, debts including mortgage payments, planned college costs, cost of living increases, retirement benefits, anticipated interest rates, assets and any other foreseeable costs.

That is a lot of work, the experts said, but the Texas Department of Insurance's publication, "Understanding Life Insurance," found on its Web site at <http://tdi.state.tx.us/>, provides basic information for consumers.

Granovsky also recommends "Insure U," a "get smart about insurance" Web site sponsored by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The site, located at <http://www.insureuonline.org/>, features insurance information for various life stages, she said.



Montwood Student Activities Director named Adviser of the Year

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — In a room filled with mementos, tokens of appreciation and awards collected over a 16-year span, there is one new addition in Laura Price's office at Montwood High School. The Eddie G. Bull Texas Advisor of the Year award was given to Price for her dedication and commitment to the student body at Montwood.

As the Montwood High School Student Activities Director, Cheerleading sponsor and overall go-to person, Price spends her days inspiring students and staff.

Aside from guiding them through high school, Price is working on building a generation of community leaders. Whether it's a food and clothing drive to help those less fortunate or volunteering with the Rescue Mission, the students' drive to help their community comes from Price's teaching.

"Student Council is about igniting a passion in students' lives for their school, community and anything else in which they are involved," says Price. "As these young adults move into college and eventually in the working world, they will be armed with valuable



Laura Price

skills that will enable them to accomplish their goals."

Montwood Assistant Principal Jesus Aguirre says that Price has helped endless masses of students struggling to find their voice and has made them leaders. Cesar Leyva remembers well how Price's confidence in him changed his life.

"I had joined Student Council as a naive freshman only to quit two weeks later," he recalls. "I didn't believe in myself but Ms. Price would hear nothing of my lack of confidence."

Four years later, Cesar is the Student Body President, and a Texas Education Energy Development Project officer. He credits Price as a mentor, teacher and second mother. He is among many, including former students, who count on Price for inspiration and guidance. While her fans cite her abilities, Price is humble about her selection.

"I told the kids I hadn't won. I was preparing them so they wouldn't be disappointed," she says. "But they kept telling me that I was going to get the award."

Price will be formally recognized in April at the 2007 State Annual Conference in Arlington, Texas.

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Fifth grader wins English and Spanish Spelling Bee

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Katherine Longoria, a fifth grade student at Bill Childress Elementary School in Canutillo Independent School District, is the winner of her school's recent English and Spanish spelling bees.

Longoria went up against 52 students in January to win the English Spelling Bee, and two weeks later she competed with 62 other students and won the Spanish Spelling Bee. She will now represent Childress Elementary School in the regional English spelling bee sponsored by the El Paso Times in February, and she will also represent her school in the District Spanish spelling bee in April.

The fifth grader is a student in the school's Two-Way Dual Language program, which integrates English speaking students and English Learners in the same classroom, and they all receive instruction in both English and Spanish.

"I am very proud of Katherine. She has worked very hard to improve in both languages," said Lorena Salas, Childress ES fourth grade teacher in the dual language program. "Her outstanding performance in both spelling bees attests to the dual language program's effectiveness," Salas added.

Longoria is also a participant in the school's Mother-Daughter program, a dancer in the district's ballet folklorico group, and is learning to play the guitar. She is the daughter of Rafael and Haydee Longoria.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Katherine Longoria

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Cowboys round up Wade Phillips for head coach

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

In case you haven't heard, the Dallas Cowboys' search for a new head coach ended last week with the hiring of San Diego Chargers' defensive coordinator Wade Phillips.

Now, I must admit I was less than thrilled when I first heard the possibility of Phillips taking over for the departed Bill Parcells. I was just as disappointed when names like Norv Turner, Ron Rivera, Mike Singletary and others surfaced as possible replacements.

After all, this is the Dallas Cowboys we're talking about. Whether you love them or hate them, they are by far the best-known organization in the Nation Football League. With that distinction, like the New York Yankees or the Los Angeles Lakers, you would think the Cowboys would have their pick of the most dynamic coaches available.

But you'd be mistaken.

Don't get me wrong, Phillips is one heck of a defensive guru, but as a head coach he has been as inconsistent as Chan Gailey and Dave Campo. It seems to me that the Cowboys are

very close to being a Super Bowl contender. All they need is a guy who will crack that whip.

But Phillips is not an in-your-face kind of guy. He is very quiet and reminds me of that kind uncle who always gives the right advice, but is content to live in mediocrity.

Going from Parcells to Phillips is like going from Bill to Hillary. One will reason with you while the other will drive you crazy. That's quite a contrast for the players to adjust to. The real question is whether the players — especially number 81 — will respond to Phillips' gentler style.

I hope I'm wrong but I really doubt Phillips is the answer this team desperately needs. I was hoping that some of the coaches who were speculated about in the immediate days following Parcells' announcement — like Bob Stoops of Oklahoma and Charlie Weis of Notre Dame — would have received the nod.

But I guess we Cowboys fans are going to have to sit and wait to see how Phillips pans out. And besides, the Phillips' El Paso connection brings us closer to the Cowboys.

What Phillips-El Paso connection you ask?

Well, first of all Wade Phillips' dad, the great "Bum" Phillips, was head coach of the UTEP

Miners back in 1962. Wade Phillips' son Wesley Phillips was a quarterback for the UTEP Miners a few years ago. So Wade Phillips spent a fair amount of time in the Sun Bowl.

Maybe I shouldn't be too hard on the soft-spoken Phillips just because he's never won a single playoff game as an NFL head coach. In four seasons as the head of the Dallas Cowboys, Bill Parcells, didn't win one either.

The end of an era

The El Paso high school football community witnessed the end of an era a couple weeks ago when Riverside's Tom Work announced his retirement from coaching.

Although the news wasn't shocking, it has still taken a while to sink in. Work told me a year ago that he was seriously thinking about hanging it up. He said he was getting burned out and missed his family.

Those are commendable reasons for stepping away from the game. But his family's gain is our loss.

What Tom Work accomplished at Riverside may never be duplicated. The Rangers had never won a single playoff game in their 20-

year history before Work took over.

In his 15 years as head coach his teams won 134 games, lost 38, and had 2 ties. He coached Riverside to nine district titles, 10 bi-district play-off victories and two area-round playoff wins.

Work's most astonishing feat was probably his 46-game district-winning streak, which lasted from 1999 to 2006.

For the better part of a decade, Work's Rangers averaged nearly 50 points a game while holding their opponents to single digits.

Work was also instrumental in providing other area high schools with quality head coaches. Former Ysleta and Socorro head coach Craig Ritchey and current Montwood head coach Chuck Veliz are both former defensive coordinators under Work.

It is quite ironic that El Paso's two best teams of the last decade, Riverside and Franklin, are each looking for new head coaches, I don't know anyone with feet large enough to fill those big shoes, but someone will certainly try.

I don't envy the coach who will replace Tom Work because he will never reach the heights of his predecessor. Everyone in El Paso owes a debt of gratitude to this football genius — for setting the bar so high.

Montwood Senior nominated to McDonald's All American Basketball Team

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Montwood High School Senior Nathan Hedgecock is among the top nominees for the 2007 McDonald's

All America Basketball team. Hedgecock is one of two local players to be recognized among the top basketball players in the country. He was selected from more than 2500 nominees nationwide for his exceptional skills on the court, in the classroom and in the community.

"It's a great opportunity to represent El Paso," says the senior who will attend West Point in the fall.

Montwood boys basketball head coach Tony Harper describes Hedgecock as a hard working and dedicated player and student.

"He does it in the classroom and

on the basketball court," says Coach Harper. "He makes it fun to stay in coaching."


He was nominated by the McDonald's All American Basketball Team Boys Selection Committee, a group of 32 prominent basketball experts, including nationally-renowned coaches and top high school sports journalists. Hedgecock will fill one of 24 positions on the Boys Team, which will feature an East versus West match up on March 28, 2007 in Louisville, Kentucky. The final team roster will be announced the evening of Feb. 24, 2007.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD


REALLY ON THE BALL — Montwood Basketball Coach Tony Harper and Montwood Principal Juni Matthews celebrate with Nathan Hedgecock for his nomination to the 2007 McDonald's All America Basketball team.


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ACCEPTED UNTIL 11 A.M.

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS CSP NO. 199-0226-7061

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Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are

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GARAGE SALE - Feb. 17-19, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 142 Jeff Jones in Clint,

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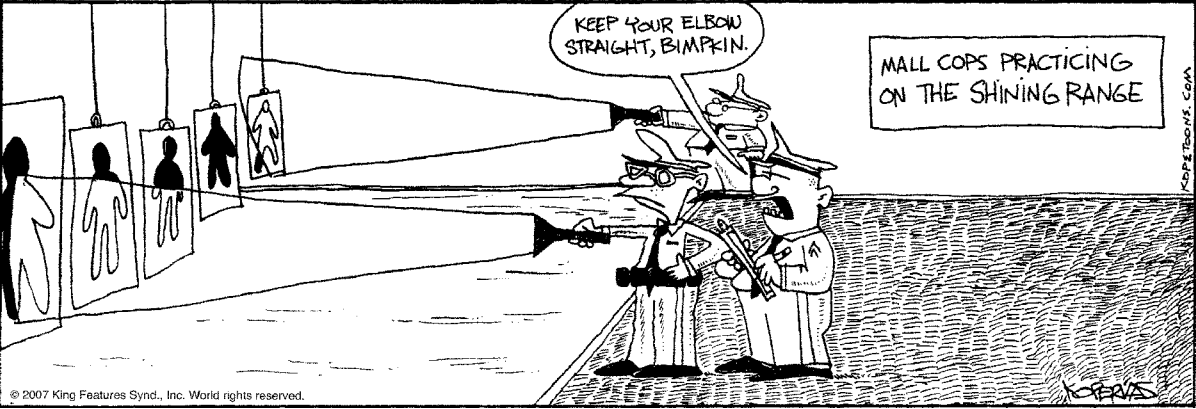
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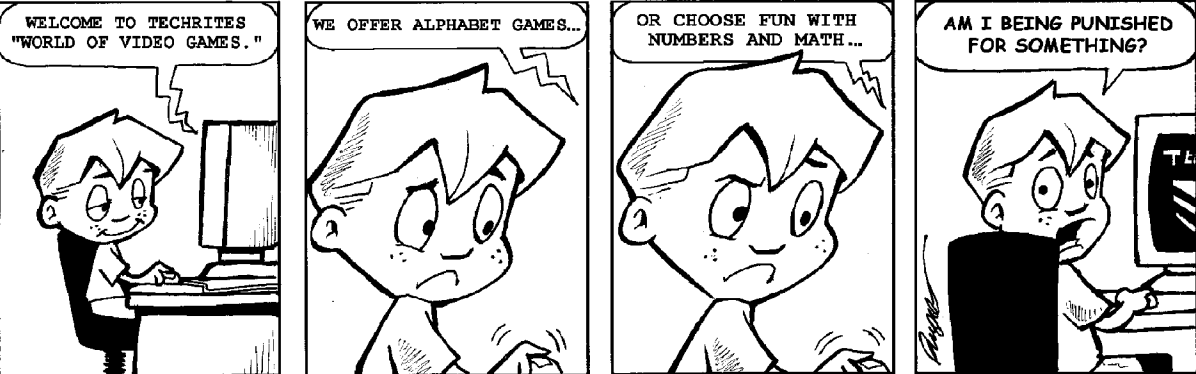
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



‘Stimulus-independent thought’ believer

By Don Flood

Recent headline: “Daydreaming is brain’s default setting, study finds.”

So *that* explains why ... um, where was I?

Oh yes, daydreaming. According to the article, which I read most of until I drifted off, the mind may wander so that it can remain in an “active state” (?) or it may wander “simply because it can.”

Glad we cleared that up. But the scientists did come up with a new killer name for daydreaming: “stimulus-independent thought.”

So the next time you’re accused of daydreaming, inform them that you are busily involved in “stimulus-independent thought” and that you will not brook disturbances of any kind.

From daydreaming we go directly to the nightmare of presidential politics. (*Editor’s note: Great segue, Don!*)

California is talking about moving its primary date from June to February. That’s a good idea, but it doesn’t go far enough.

Our real goal should be to move up the 2008 election to 2007 so we can get it over with and hopefully get on with the next election.

A recent poll, which has an surprisingly high margin of error, shows that 99 percent of American voters — meaning people who at least voted in the “American Idol” and “Dancing With the Stars” elections — agree with the statement: “Two years of presidential election coverage will drive me out of my freakin’ skull!”

(The remaining 1 percent said they would enjoy the coverage as long as Paula Abdul was running.)

The odd thing is that, despite the constant news barrage, Americans don’t really like elections, at least not in the sense of actually getting out to vote.

That’s why the Bush administration has been trying to export democracy around the world. If we can dump enough of it overseas, hopefully we won’t have any left here.

The only parts Americans really enjoy are the attendant scandals, which is why so many are clamoring for a Britney Spears-Paris Hilton ticket. Sadly, since neither is 35, we’ll have to wait, or change the Constitution.

(Which, while we’re at it, we could change to allow Austrian bodybuilders to serve. The far-seeing James Madison supported this very measure at the original Constitutional Convention, but was hooted down by various girlie-men. If you think I’m kidding, check out the wigs those guys wore.)

And now it’s time to announce the formation of an exploratory committee to assess my own non-candidacy for the office of President of the United States.

This was not an easy decision. With so many people joining the race — most recently, the passengers and crew of a Celebrity cruise threw their sunglasses in the ring — it would have been far easier to go along with the crowd.

The early findings are good. Everybody my committee has spoken to enthusiastically supports my non-candidacy.

My committee reports not only a broad and deep lack of interest in my running for president, but for any office.

“I wouldn’t support him if he were running for dog catcher,” was a typical comment. I am both humbled and grateful.

So I won’t be entertaining friends in the Oval Office any time soon, but I can always indulge in “stimulus-independent thought.”

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

DIS MOUNT ACROSS

1 TV's "The _ of Life"

6 See 23 Down

11 Brit. fliers

14 Canine grp.

17 Shining

18 "Black Magic Woman" rockers

20 Vigoda of "Fish"

21 Mauna _

22 Start of a remark

24 Samara citizen

26 Director

Wanamaker

27 Desire deified

28 Cyclone center

30 Word with talk or tennis

31 " _ Crazy" ('80 film)

32 Dancer Juliet

36 Ancient epic

37 He had a gilt complex

40 New Orleans campus

42 Emulate Arachne

45 Be adjacent to

46 Excellent grade

48 Andes animals

51 Part 2 of remark

55 Art supporter?

57 Create a reservoir

59 Poetic monogram

60 "Jaws" setting

61 Origami supply

62 Saucony

competitor

63 Phantom instrument

65 Cosmetic purchase

67 Aptitude

69 Crusoe's creator

71 Part 3 of remark

73 Country star

Brooks

74 New York native

76 Soporific substance

77 Canvas cover?

79 Perfume bottle

80 Stuck in the mud

82 Relish a rose

84 _ Jima

87 Corn portion

88 Doha's country

89 Part 4 of remark

92 It may be subordinate

94 Showy shrub

96 Architect Saarinen

97 Mr. Topper

99 Termination

101 Beneath

102 In progress

105 Ravine

107 Spellbound

109 Rousseau or Matisse

110 Missouri airport abbr.

111 Universal tradesman?

112 Herd word

115 Distinguished

117 End of remark

123 I love, to Livy

124 Dundee denial

125 Unfavorable

126 " _ Gay"

127 Snug spot

128 Cable channel

129 Coup _

130 Heathen

DOWN

1 Some are saturated

2 Turkish title

3 Mr.

Kadiddlehopper

4 Craggy hill

5 Cake and candy

6 Neighbor of Thailand

7 Pantry pest

8 Utmost

9 Musician Winding

10 Richards or Reinking

11 Valuable

12 _ Simbel

13 Celebration

14 Excuse

15 Adorable

Australian

16 Worked on a chair

18 Stallion sound

19 "It's been _!"

23 With 6 Across, Ceylon, today

25 Hawthorne milieu

29 Evergreen tree

31 Fill to the gills

32 Roman writer

33 Tolled

34 Draft status

35 Moisten

37 Beer ingredient

38 Wading bird

39 '62 Gene Chandler smash

41 Component

43 Or _ (threat words)

44 On one's toes

47 It makes rye high

49 Called attention to

50 Susan _ James

52 Hit the ceiling

53 " _ Man" ('67 hit)

54 Hullabaloo

56 Lhasa _

58 Engineering course

61 Limerick or haiku

62 Young of "Mr. Ed"

64 Make murky

65 Crossword puzzle part

66 Baton Rouge coll.

68 Lithe

69 Pigeon kin

70 Early computer

71 Israeli dance

72 "Tommy" or "Tosca"

75 Pile up

77 Snow _

78 Monte Rosa, for one

81 News bit

82 Group of geese

83 Signify

85 Had on

86 _ about (approximately)

88 Division result

89 Lots

90 Ray or Moro

91 Flat rate?

93 _ squash

95 Road to enlightenment

98 Cal. page

100 Prepare the Parmesan

101 Scheduled maintenance

102 Winning

103 _ fatale

104 Soubise ingredient

106 _ Romeo

108 Pretense

110 Manuscript imperative

111 Kid

112 _ synthesizer

113 "Man _ Mancha"

114 In the twinkling _ eye

116 Palindromic name

118 "Kookie" Byrnes

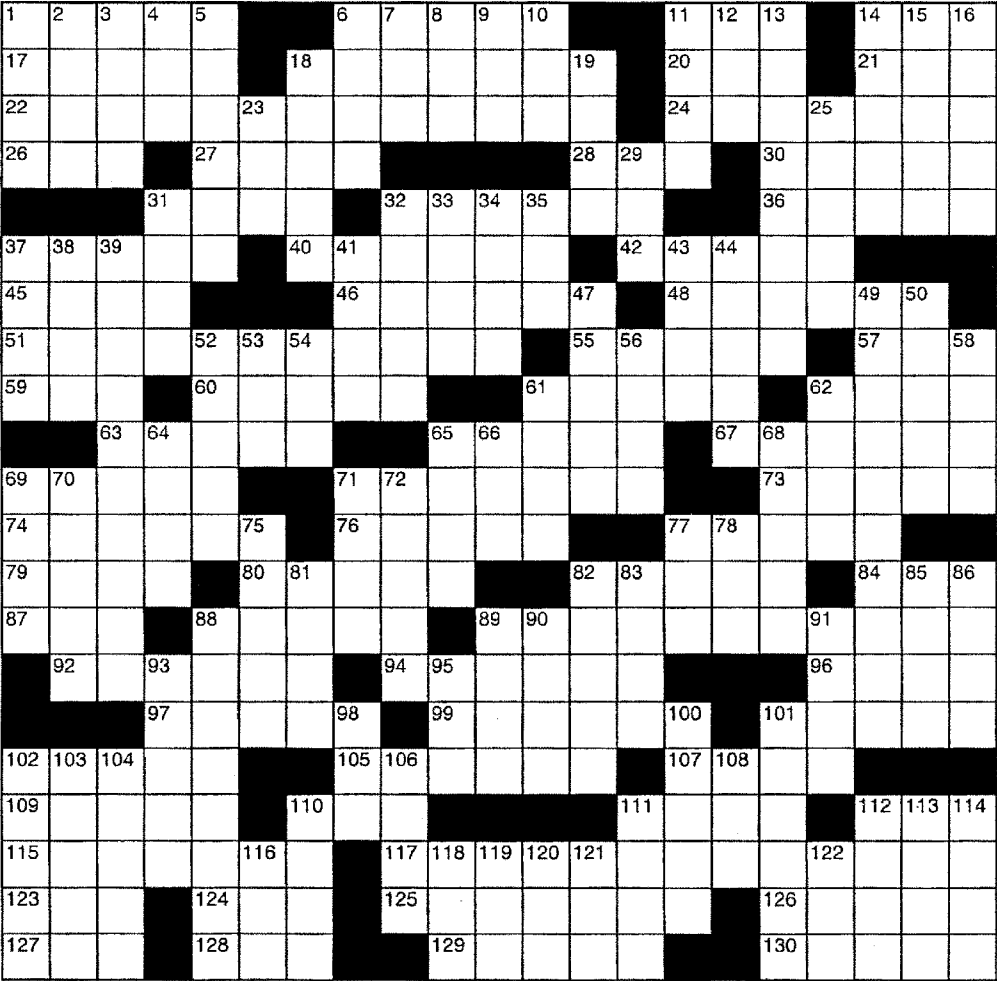
119 First lady?

120 Allow

121 Undergarment

122 Genetic info

Answer Page 5



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I began receiving disability benefits several years ago. Now, my condition is a lot worse than it was then. Can my benefit increase?

A: Your Social Security disability benefit is based on the amount of your lifetime earnings before your disability, and the fact that you are disabled. The amount of your benefit does not depend on how severe your disability may be.

Q: I'm 55 years old and have worked

since I was 18. So I have well over the 40 credits I need to qualify for Social Security. Why do I have to keep paying Social Security taxes if I already qualify for maximum benefits?

A: As long as you are working, the law requires Social Security tax withholding for almost all wage earners. Only some government employees and career railroad workers are exempt from Social Security taxes because they pay

into a separate retirement fund. In addition, you should not confuse the eligibility rules with the benefit calculation rules. Although you need only 10 years, or 40 credits of coverage, to be vested in Social Security, your retirement benefit is based on your highest 35 years of earnings. In other words, if you were allowed to drop out of Social Security after meeting the 10-year vesting rule, you would receive a very small Social Security benefit when you reach retirement age, because we would have to add 25 years of "zero" earnings into your retirement calculation. For more information about Social Security

benefits, visit Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: Can you settle a bet I have with a friend? She told me I need 40 credits from Social Security to collect retirement benefits. But I'm sure I read 10 years of work is the requirement. Who's right?

A: Both of you are right, because 40 credits and 10 years of work are roughly the same thing. In 2007, you get one Social Security credit for each \$1,000 you earn, but you can only earn up to four credits in a year.

Obviously, people with breaks in their work history will take longer than 10 years to earn the 40 credits they need for Social Security. To learn more, visit Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.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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<div>Thursday</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly sunny</div> <div>56°</div> <div>RealFeel 62°</div>	<div>Thu. night</div> <div></div> <div>A starlit sky</div> <div>34°</div> <div>RealFeel 28°</div>	<div>Friday</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly sunny</div> <div>64° 38°</div> <div>RealFeel 66° 34°</div>	<div>Saturday</div> <div></div> <div>Partly sunny</div> <div>63° 40°</div> <div>RealFeel 67° 35°</div>	<div>Sunday</div> <div></div> <div>Showers</div> <div>57° 36°</div> <div>RealFeel 57° 23°</div>	<div>Monday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny intervals</div> <div>62° 39°</div> <div>RealFeel 58° 28°</div>	<div>Tuesday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny to partly cloudy</div> <div>65° 42°</div> <div>RealFeel 72° 44°</div>	<div>Wednesday</div> <div></div> <div>Times of sun and clouds</div> <div>63° 38°</div> <div>RealFeel 59° 38°</div>
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WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY

Temperatures

Precipitation

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	New	First
Thu.	6:48 a.m.	5:52 p.m.	Thu.	5:34 a.m.	3:51 p.m.		
Fri.	6:47 a.m.	5:53 p.m.	Fri.	6:17 a.m.	5:02 p.m.	2/17	2/24
Sat.	6:46 a.m.	5:54 p.m.	Sat.	6:54 a.m.	6:13 p.m.	Full	Last
Sun.	6:45 a.m.	5:54 p.m.	Sun.	7:28 a.m.	7:23 p.m.		
Mon.	6:44 a.m.	5:55 p.m.	Mon.	7:59 a.m.	8:33 p.m.	3/3	3/11
Tues.	6:43 a.m.	5:56 p.m.	Tues.	8:31 a.m.	9:42 p.m.		
Wed.	6:42 a.m.	5:57 p.m.	Wed.	9:04 a.m.	10:52 p.m.		

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REGIONAL CITIES												U.S. CITIES											
Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	
Abilene, TX	37	28	pc	60	38	s	58	34	s	57	38	pc	Atlanta	42	21	s	46	25	s	52	29	c	
Albuquerque, NM	46	28	pc	51	30	s	55	31	s	54	31	pc	Boston	22	14	c	25	16	sf	32	22	c	
Amarillo, TX	36	23	pc	57	30	s	53	28	s	53	30	pc	Chicago	8	4	c	20	19	sn	25	15	sf	
Austin, TX	45	25	c	57	32	s	65	36	s	64	37	pc	Denver	37	22	pc	51	22	pc	47	25	pc	
Brownsville, TX	51	41	r	64	45	s	70	52	s	70	52	pc	Detroit	10	9	sf	16	14	c	30	16	sf	
Dodge City, KS	26	16	pc	53	23	pc	48	24	s	48	28	pc	Houston	45	29	c	56	39	s	66	42	s	
Jackson, MS	43	22	s	49	30	s	57	28	pc	57	35	s	Indianapolis	8	5	pc	20	20	c	34	20	sn	
Laredo, TX	47	37	c	61	46	s	74	49	s	69	49	pc	Kansas City	19	11	s	35	28	c	35	15	c	
Little Rock, AR	39	20	s	50	33	s	55	33	pc	51	29	s	Los Angeles	74	50	s	78	54	s	78	54	pc	
Lubbock, TX	40	24	pc	58	30	s	54	27	s	54	31	pc	Miami	75	55	r	67	48	r	70	50	s	
Memphis, TN	39	21	s	43	32	s	52	30	pc	44	30	s	Minneapolis	10	4	s	19	13	sn	22	6	sf	
Midland, TX	41	29	pc	60	35	s	57	32	s	56	35	c	New Orleans	47	32	c	50	38	s	65	40	s	
Pueblo, CO	37	14	pc	55	22	pc	51	17	pc	51	21	pc	New York City	21	18	pc	25	20	pc	32	23	c	
Roswell, NM	44	27	s	60	31	s	56	31	s	56	31	c	Omaha	18	11	s	31	22	sn	33	13	sf	
St. Louis, MO	19	10	s	33	26	pc	34	20	sn	32	20	pc	Phoenix	68	47	s	76	53	s	78	54	pc	
San Antonio, TX	47	30	c	56	36	s	66	38	s	65	42	pc	San Francisco	61	48	pc	63	50	s	63	50	s	
Texarkana, AR	39	23	s	53	38	s	59	37	s	59	36	s	Seattle	50	44	r	50	42	c	52	40	pc	
Waco, TX	43	27	pc	56	37	s	62	37	s	60	38	s	Washington	29	15	pc	28	19	s	38	26	sn	
Wichita, KS	27	16	pc	48	26	pc	47	26	pc	47	26	s											
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.																							

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