

NEWSBRIEFS

High wind warning

El Paso Fire Department Officials are asking the public to take precautions during the windy conditions being forecast for the next few days in the El Paso area and offer these safety tips, according to Lt. Mario E. Hernandez:

- Conduct a home hazard hunt and perimeter search, in which you inspect your home for items that can move, fall, break or cause a fire;
- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs;
- Move or secure lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants and anything else that can be picked up by wind and become a projectile
- Slow down when driving and keep a safe distance between your car and the car in front of you in case blowing dust lowers visibility; and
- Do not attempt to remove any electrical wires that may blow down on your home or vehicle; call 911 immediately.

Student border crossing

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has initiated a program designed to facilitate the entry of hundreds of students who use the Paso Del Norte port of entry to enter the U.S. from Mexico every school day. On Monday, April 9, CBP officers started staffing a designated “student only” pedestrian lane at the downtown crossing. The lane operates from 6:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. while school is in session. “The change allows CBP officers to segregate and quickly process a relatively low risk group of border crossers. The students are still subject to inspection and regular canine support to ensure that the lane is not compromised,” said David Longoria, U.S. Customs and Border Protection El Paso Port Director. “The plan allows CBP officers working the non-student lanes an opportunity to focus more attention on potential imposters, smugglers, or other violators who have historically attempted to blend in with the student population.” CBP studies have shown that approximately 800 to 1,000 student pedestrians use the PDN crossing during the early morning rush. CBP has designated the lane with bright yellow floor markings and signage directing students to the appropriate lane, which begins at the base of the bridge and leads into the overflow pedestrian inspection area. CBP officers also direct students to the new lane. Fliers have been distributed to students announcing the plan as well. Individuals who are not students who attempt to use the lane will be returned to the end on the regular pedestrian lanes.

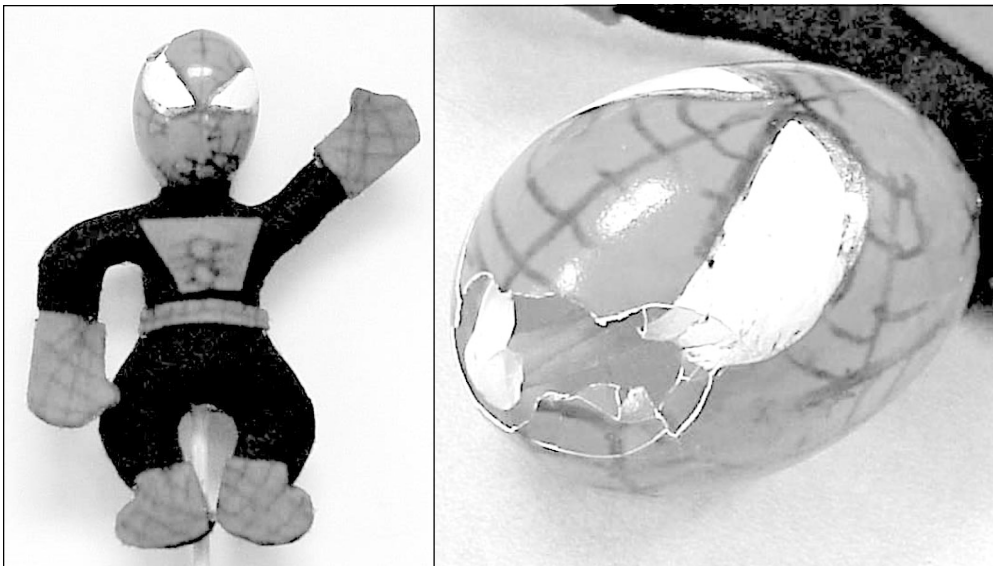
In other news

■ Helen was beaten by her common-law husband until she was unconscious. She

See BRIEFS, Page 8

In the old days a comedian took a dirty joke and cleaned it up for radio. Today he hears a clean joke and dirties it up for television.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy U.S. Customs and Border Protection

EGG HEAD — The tourist who purchased this unique cartoon character-related doll didn't realize that its raw eggshell head could possibly be dangerous. Materials of this type are carriers of the highly contagious Exotic Newcastle's Disease (END) which can be fatal to all types of birds and poultry.

‘Spiderman’ taken into custody

Inspectors confiscate potentially dangerous toy

By Roger Maier
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the Bridge of the Americas port of entry in El Paso made an unusual seizure on the morning of April 4. CBP Agriculture Inspectors searching the luggage of an arriving bus passenger discovered a small Spiderman doll that had a painted eggshell for a head. It was the first time CBP Agriculture Inspectors in El Paso have seized such an item.

The seven-inch tall item appeared to homemade. No penalties were assessed because the item was in a declared piece of luggage.

The importation of raw eggs and eggshells are prohibited because they have the potential for spreading Exotic Newcastle's Disease (END). END is a highly contagious and fatal

viral disease that affects every species of bird, attacking the respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems. END is so virulent that many birds die without showing any clinical signs. A death rate of almost 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated poultry flocks and even in vaccinated poultry. The only way to eradicate END from commercial poultry is by rapidly destroying all infected flocks and imposing strict quarantine and in-depth surveillance programs.

The seizure of this eggshell based toy should also serve as a reminder to the traveling public that the importation of *cascarones* from Mexico is also prohibited. CBP officers typically seize large numbers of confetti-filled *cascarones* around the Easter holiday. The colorful eggshells are prohibited because they may introduce END to the U.S. poultry industry and should not be imported from Mexico. Violators will be subject to penalties.

Canutillo High School teacher to help create national test

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Charissa Saenz, an English teacher at Canutillo High School is one of four teachers selected to help develop and review materials for the ACT, the nationally-recognized college admissions exam.

Saenz was chosen from among more than 70 applicants from 24 states. She will spend six weeks this summer at ACT's national headquarters in Iowa City, Iowa, as part of the annual Visiting Teachers program.

Saenz will work with the Test Development staff to develop test questions for both the English and reading tests.

“As Canutillo High School is currently working on developing a stronger college preparatory curriculum in order to promote and encourage secondary

education in our community, I am personally looking forward to sharing my learning experiences with other teachers and students in order to promote this cause,” Saenz says.

Saenz teaches freshmen and sophomore English and pre-advanced placement English classes at Canutillo. The 2006-07 school year is Saenz's fourth in the classroom.

Saenz earned her bachelor's degree at the University of California at Los Angeles. She received her master of education degree from Harvard University.

ACT is a not-for-profit organization that serves millions of people in schools, colleges, professional associations, businesses, and government agencies with programs and services that have one guiding purpose ó to help people achieve education and work-

place success. For more information about ACT, visit www.act.org.



Charissa Saenz

Use care, common sense for safe spring

By Lt. Mario E. Hernandez
Special to the Courier

With warmer weather and longer days here, the El Paso Fire Department offers the following tips for indoor and outdoor spring project safety:

Cleaning

- Household and pool chemicals, paints and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking or expired.
- When cleaning up hazardous chemicals, wear rubber gloves and follow the safety directions on the packaging. Never mix chemicals in the same container. If you don't know how to dispose of old chemicals, seek outside advice. Never put hazardous waste in the trash or pour down the drain.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked; store them in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Never use gasoline to clean clothes, auto parts or floors.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches or other work items out of the reach of children and/or pets.
- Check your barbecue grill for leaks and cracks and be sure to store any propane tanks away from your house and garage.
- Remove all fire hazards including stacks of rags, newspapers and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around your furnace, hot water heater and under the stairs.

Yard work

- Stretch before you start outdoor activity. Yard chores may seem easy, but they involve muscles you probably haven't used in awhile.
- Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
- More than 60,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for lawnmower injuries.
- Rake before you mow to prevent any stones and loose debris from become airborne. Wear eye protection.
- Never operate a mower in your bare feet, and avoid wearing loose clothing.
- Never start a mower indoors.
- When refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool.
- Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine and don't smoke while pouring gasoline.
- Never leave your mower operational while unattended.
- Don't use electrical mowers on wet grass.
- At least 55,000 people each year sustain injuries from trimmers, lawn edgers, pruners and power saws.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before using the tools.
- Inspect the product for damage, and don't use it if there are any problems.
- Use proper eye protection.
- Make sure blade guards are in place on all cutting equipment.
- Don't let tools get wet unless they are labeled “immersible.”

See SAFETY, Page 6



One perspective

A peaceful election

By Francis Shrum

Everybody knows how painful our election process can be. It seems that many candidates for office believe that during election season, you should automatically be excused for everything from theft — by failing to report contributions or lifting an opponent’s sign — to plain old lying, which is otherwise known as making campaign promises you can’t possibly fulfill.

Every year during elections people will say and do things they would ordinarily never say or do. Sort of like spring fever striking a couch potato who suddenly runs down to the nursery and buys a bunch of seeds and plants that — even with the best of intentions — may not even make it into the ground, let alone be nurtured to fruition.

I find it amazing how much time and effort, passion and speculation we routinely waste on the Big One, otherwise known as the presidential election, that won’t even occur for months and months and... well, you get the picture. If you are from outer space or another country, you might think it was taking place real soon, like maybe tomorrow.

Funny how members of various political parties stage vicious internal squabbles before they can decide who is the biggest, meanest dog in the pack they will send into the pit with fighting dogs from other parties.

It has been said that the Democrats stand in a circle when fielding a firing squad so they are likely to pick off the best candidate before he ever makes it onto the ballot. It has also been said that Republicans will send out the next man whose turn it is, even if he doesn’t have a prayer of getting elected.

I guess it all sort of evens itself out, if you want to describe the process in charitable terms.

Elections inspire the strangest behavior in people, up to and including murder. But it mostly just causes people to act petty and silly — all of which they fully expect to be excused because they had good reasons.

Take the example of the recent mayoral election in Fitch, Wisconsin which, according to the Associated Press, inspired a woman who wanted to be the town’s next first lady to remove a campaign sign posted by her husband’s opponent.

Now, in her defense, this woman says the sign was inappropriately posted in the street’s right-of-way on election day. Unfortunately, she got caught pulling it out of the ground — by the opposing candidate. He proceeded to handle the situation in a most gentlemanly and responsible fashion. When she fled the scene in her car, he tried to chase her down in his pickup truck.

They both called the police to tattle on one another.

Said he: “This is low, really low.”

Said she: “I was doing a public service. Maybe what I did was wrong, but then he endangered both my life and his this morning.”

Just the kind of folks you want running the government.

On the other hand, we can all be thankful for the those quiet, unobtrusive elections in which candidates run unopposed for office and keep doing the job for years. This works really well until somebody notices and decides to run against them just to keep them from getting too comfortable, I guess.

Out in Missouri City, Missouri, however, there was a fellow ap-

pointed to fill a vacancy on the city council and when election time came around and he decided to run unopposed for a full-term. A common enough occurrence, except that on election day, nobody remembered — including him.

Therefore, he received no votes at all, either for or against.

According to the Associated Press, this fellow will still keep the seat even if he and the 34 other registered voters in Ward 3 forgot to exercise their polling privileges.

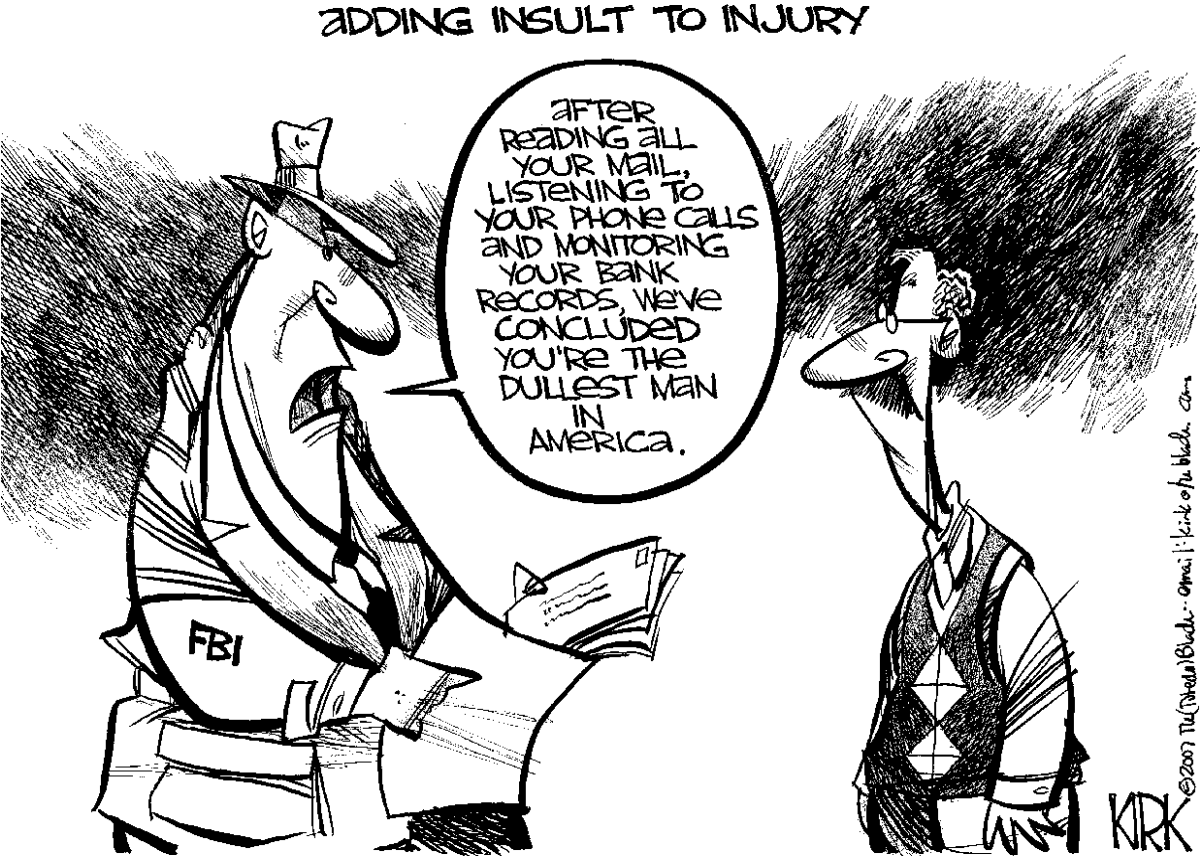
He said he’d noticed some people down at the school on election day but “it never occurred to me that’s what they were there for.”

This little Missouri River town of about 300 people apparently doesn’t suffer the same kind of political squabbles that afflict so many communities during election time.

Or does it?

They said turnout was better in Ward 2, where two people voted. This sounds like a nice peaceful election, too.

Unless, of course, they voted for different candidates.



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Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.

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Councilman concerned over walk-out during Socorro council meeting

By Sergio Cox
Special to the Courier

Well, it finally happened. I could not believe what I was seeing. Our city council meeting fell apart. You think County Judge Cobos and his band of county commissioners are having problems? They don't have anything on our City Council in Socorro.

The bickering and infighting between our mayor and three members of the council needs to be witnessed. I only wish that a reporter had been there to witness it first hand.

This past meeting of April 5 started with a quorum and all council members present. Issues and items came up and it was not long before Mayor Trini Lopez and Council Representative Mary Perez got into an argument over Mayor Lopez' desire to be the only one to speak.

They finally stopped their bickering after Mayor Lopez pounded and pounded the gavel and restored order between the two. Shortly after order was restored Ms. Perez started wanting to control the meeting to the point that I finally spoke up and asked her if she was wanting to take over the meeting. She promptly told me twice to "shut up." Once again calm took over and items on the agenda were discussed and motions made. Some items were moved up and it was shortly after the swearing in of Jesse Gandara for a spot on the Civil Service Commission that "the problem" took place.

I looked over into the audience and in the front row sat Ray Mancera. For those of you that don't know Mancera, he is a lobbyist/businessman who represents several of the developers currently building in areas all around El Paso County. Politicians both past and present from the City of El Paso know him quite well. He has successfully managed to sway three members of this council into voting for items in his clients' favor. As I glanced in his direction, I saw Ms. Perez nodding her head at him and he was holding up a pad with the number 20 scribbled on it.

She acknowledged him and made a motion to move item 20 up for discussion. This item dealt with amending "the current zoning ordinance to permit the construction of R-3 homes in future subdivisions in numbers not to exceed 30 percent of the total subdivision construction."

At this time, Josie Trillo stood up and announced that she was leaving due to her sore throat bothering her. She was, in fact, losing her voice. Mary Perez then tried to get her to sit back down so that they could act on item 20.

Ms. Perez was facing away from Victor Perez and myself — my guess is she knew that we would vote against item 20 — and tried in vain to get Ms. Trillo to sit back down. Ms. Trillo refused and started gathering her belongings. When Al Gutierrez saw that Ms. Trillo was leaving he, too, got up and announced that he had to also leave as he was driving to Austin that night. He got up, gathered his things, and walked out.

It was at the point that our city clerk announced that we still had a quorum with myself, Victor Perez, Ms. Mary Perez and the mayor. Mary Perez, realizing that she would now be on the losing side of this issue, then stood up and gathered her items and left her chair without saying a word.

By doing this, the meeting had to break up since we no longer had a quorum. Mayor Lopez asked her to stay because there was still unfinished business that needed to be conducted on behalf of the City of Socorro, but she only stopped long enough to say hello to Willie Gandara Jr. in the audience before walking out of the room.

Since this is my first go at politics I didn't know what to think about this, especially since this was their issue and they had the numbers to pass item 20. The only thing that I can make sense of was that perhaps Ms. Trillo had second thoughts about the ordinance and did not want to deal with it anymore. I don't really know what was going through her mind, but could it be that she realized that her vote might be considered skewed

See MEETING, Page 4



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore April 8, 1825: Dreams of establishing the city of Victoria are realized by Martin de Leon when the Mexican Government in Texas approves his plan.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Never forget that the polls do carry a powerful message

Hola mi gente. Many times in the past, I have heard people comment that elections just don't matter anymore. Let me tell you that the comment is absolutely untrue. This past election and the current legislative session are prime examples.

In the past regular and special sessions, the leadership of the House had steadfastly refused to compromise on important issues such as education and health care. I and my colleagues had attempted to increase the pay for teachers with several bills and amendments to bills. Each time the leadership shot them down.

With healthcare issues such as the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) and Medicaid, the same thing happened. Even though it was the right thing to do to provide more health care dollars, our attempts to do so were thwarted.

Then, in November, the voters sent a message to the state legislature that they expected things to be different in the 80th Legislative Session. The most significant outcome of the election was that teachers and retired teachers soundly defeated the forces that had in the past successfully worked to undermine teachers and public education. Overall, moderate Republicans and Democrats replaced a good many extremists in the House.

The first indication that things would be different was the race for the Speaker of the House. For the first time, the sitting Speaker was not certain of re-election. I believe that Speaker Craddick understood the message of the voters and has led the House in a different manner.

The most obvious indication of change happened on Thursday, March 29. That day, we started the session at 9 a.m. and worked through the day on the appropriations bill; the bill that provides funding for the government. We finished the marathon day at 3:30 a.m. Friday. Unlike previous sessions, most members left the House satisfied.

For the first time since I became your representative, the members voted in a bi-partisan manner to increase the pay for teachers in the appropriations bill. That was an amazing thing. In addition, the House voted, with less than 10 no votes, to prevent money being spent on school vouchers. Those two votes were the result of the teachers and retired teachers showing up strong in the November election.

Another amazing vote occurred just this past week, again a result of the November election. The House voted to change the way applicants qualify for CHIP. The bill, authored by Republicans and Democrats, allowed 100,000 more children to qualify for CHIP. You cannot imagine the satisfaction I felt after leaving the chamber knowing that teachers were granted a pay raise, vouchers were soundly defeated and more deserving chil-

dren would be covered under CHIP. In the Aug. 24, 2006 edition of the *Courier*, I wrote that there appeared to be a political change of wind in

Austin. You can see now why I believe that elections do send messages and that reasonable elected officials respond to those messages.

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Village of Vinton PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. during the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear, dicuss and testify regarding the following:

- 1) The submission of the 2003 application to the United States Department of Agriculture for the construction of a city-wide water system. The Village encourages citizens to participate and to make their views known at this public hearing.

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Jessica Garza, Village Clerk at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Jessica Garza
Village Clerk

WTCC: 04/12/07

SISD trustees approve high level positions

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Socorro ISD Board of Trustees approved two new principals, a new alternative school administrator and a new Director of Athletics for the

District. During a special meeting on April 3, the trustees approved the selection of Rose Mary Carreon and Leslie Thomas as principals.

Carreon, who has been with Socorro ISD since 1990, was appointed as principal for Loma Verde Elementary. She has been an assistant principal for the District for

seven years and is currently assigned to Hurshel Antwine School. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Masters degree in Education from UTEP.

Thomas, the assistant principal at Vista Del Sol Elementary, was named principal for Elfida P. Chavez Elementary. In 2004, Thomas was chosen as TEPSA Assistant Principal of the Year for Region 19. She started working for the district in 1993 as a teacher at Benito Martinez Elementary. She has a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master's degree in Education from UTEP.

Ramon Aguilar will start on May 1, 2007 as the Options High School Administrator. He comes to the District after five years as the principal of Mountain View High School in nearby Clint ISD. He has been in education for 18 years. Aguilar has a Bachelor's degree from UTEP in Kinesiology/Sport Studies and a Master's degree in Education from Sul Ross State University.

Socorro ISD trustees also approved a new Director of Athletics, Paula Gonzalez. She has been teaching and coaching for 29 years. She comes to the District from Santa Rosa ISD where she was the Assistant Athletic Director and coached Varsity Volleyball, Special Olympics Head of Delegation, Assistant Track Coach while also serving as an Adaptive Physical Education teacher. She is a member of the Rio Grande Valley Coaches Association, Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame Association, Texas High School Coaches Association and Texas Women's Coaches Association. Gonzalez career highlights include 500 Varsity Volleyball Wins, and eight-time Bi-District Champions.

Canutillo student attends World Leadership Forum

CANUTILLO — Clarissa Castillo, Canutillo High School freshman, joined a select group of



Clarissa Castillo

representing their school, community and nation in the People to People World Leadership Forum, which was held recently in the European cities of London, Brussels, and Paris.

The World Leadership Forum brought together outstanding student leaders from across the U.S. and around the world to focus on leadership and international relations. Through workshops, excursions and discussions, participants discovered the political, economic and cultural links among countries.

During the week-long event, participants were engaged in daily exercises and explorations that reflected the forum's focus on international affairs and diplomacy. As they delved into European heritage and ways of life, these students gained a greater understanding of their own culture, history, government, political and economic systems, and social structures.

Castillo was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential. This school year, she was named to the A-B Honor Roll and is a member of the high school choir, golf team, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program. She is the daughter of Cecilia and Victor Castillo of Canutillo.

Meeting

From Page 3

because of a recent contribution made by Mancera to her future reelection campaign?

It doesn't end there. I lingered in the building a while longer and I finally stepped outside to speak with some constituents. When I looked around the building, there stood Al Gutierrez talking to one of his advisors. Remember, the meeting broke up because he had been in a hurry to leave.

It is my understanding that, in the past, walking out was a practice that had been commonly used. I don't like the idea of a walk out — I don't believe that a council member who does this has the best interest of their community at heart. One who runs for office needs to represent the people that he or she promised to represent, especially in a small town such as Socorro. I don't feel that, even though a leader is in the minority on an issue, running away is the best option. There are other ways of getting your point across.

Unlike others I do not and will not represent any special interest groups. I most certainly will not and have not accepted any campaign contributions from any special interest groups. I have gone on the record as being pro-development if and when it is properly controlled.

I will add that I, too, have had my moments where I butted heads with the mayor and lost my temper with him, but I never ran away from fulfilling my job and promise to represent my people to the best of my ability.

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

Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting to Review Federal Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct public information meetings to review the following SISD Programs funded by Federal funds:

- Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C - Migrant Program
- Title I, Part D - Subpart 1 — Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A - Improving Teacher Quality
- Title II, Part D - Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III, Part A - Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Title IV, Part A - Safe and Drug Free Schools;
- Title V - Innovative Programs.

The meetings will be held:
Tuesday, April 24, 2007 — 9:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 26, 2007 — 6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Public Reviews of the Federal Application for Educational Funding for Socorro ISD will be in the Board Room at the Education Center, 12300 Eastlake Drive.

S.I.S.D does not discriminate against any individual with regard to race, color, nation origin, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, the presence of a medical condition, disability, or any other legally protected status. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

Sócorro Independent School District AVISO PUBLICO

La junta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sócorro llevará a cabo dos juntas públicas para revisar los siguientes programas, fondos federales:

- Título I, Parte A - Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C - Programa Migrante
- Título I, Parte D - Jovenes Delincuentes y Abandonados
- Título II, Parte A - Mejorando la Calidad de Maestros
- Título II, Parte D - Mejorando los Servicios Educativos a través de la Tecnología
- Título III, Parte A - Servicios de educación para estudiantes de segundo idioma
- Título IV, Parte A - Escuelas Confiables y Libres de Drogas
- Título V - Programas de Innovación

Las juntas se llevarán a cabo:
martes, 24 de abril, 2007 — 9:00 a.m. — 10:00a.m.
jueves, 26 de abril, 2007 — 6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

La Revisión Pública de la Solicitud Federal para Fondos Educativos para el Distrito de Socorro se llevará a cabo en el, 12300 Eastlake Drive.

S.I.S.D no discrimina a ningún individuo a causa de su raza, de su color, de su nacionalidad, de sus creencias religiosas, de su género, de su estado legal, o de veterano, ninguna condición médica o incapacidad, o ningún otro estado legal. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

WTCC: 04-12-07



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New Mexico

2007 UTEP Invitational Track Meet at Kidd Field

Saturday, April 14th
Field Events 9 am Running Events 3 pm
\$1.00 Hot Dogs
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\$1 Hot Dogs & First 250 fans receive FREE Pepsi Product
Friday, April 20th
Sun Bowl Stadium @ 7 pm
Admission is FREE

Originality and expertise send SISD art students to state competition

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Six students from Montwood and El Dorado high schools will take their artwork on the road after qualifying for state competition in February. Students advancing to the state contest from the Socorro Independent School District are Laython Whitmire, Robert Fournier, Bianca Marquez, and Alejandra Saldana from El Dorado and Rateka Brown and Erika Duran. Their teachers are Candance Printz and Susan Feeny.

They will be heading to Southeast Texas to participate at the Texas Art Education Association Visual Art Scholastic Event on April 14 at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Among the winning pieces where Laython Whitmire’s animation “The Great Escape,” Robert Fournier’s charcoal drawing “Waterside,” Bianca Marquez’s photograph entitled “Lavish,” and Alejandra Saldana’s photograph “Super Tired.” From Montwood High School, Rateka Brown’s piece “Curious” and Erika Duran’s “Symphony No. 3” were recognized and received medals.

They, along with 67 students from

across the El Paso area, took part in the Texas Art Educators Association’s Regional Visual Art Competition held on Feb. 17. Along with submitting their art work, students had to go through an interview process as well.

“This was the first time El Dorado entered this art contest and we faired very well. The highest score a student can get is a rating of 4, five El Dorado students received a 4,” says Printz who will have four students going to the state competition.

El Dorado students who received a 4 rating are Lisa Candelaria, Johnathan Garcia, Nathan Kinsey, Jessica White and Lisbeth Yanez.

The Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) has sponsored the Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) since 1994. VASE gives students the opportunity to bring artworks created in their art classes to a regional event where they are interviewed by a certified juror who evaluates their work based on a standards based rubric and their understanding of the art processes involved in the development of their artwork. The jurors look for originality of concept, technical expertise, understanding of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the interpretation of the student’s stated intent.

Rodriguez invites young artists to enter the 2007 Congressional Art Competition

By Angela Barranco
Special to the Courier

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez is inviting high school students throughout the 23rd Congressional district to participate in the 2007 Congressional High School Arts Competition. One first place winner from District 23 will travel to Washington, D.C. for the Congressional Art Competition reception, and have his or her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

“The arts are a great way to tap into

what is going on in the lives of our children because it gives them an avenue to express themselves and prepare for future endeavors,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “The benefits are clear: students involved in the arts are more likely to have higher SAT scores, improved academic performance, positive social skills, and are less likely to drop out of school.”

Participants must submit original artwork no later than April 23, 2007 to Congressman Rodriguez’s district office at 1950 S.W. Military Drive, San Antonio, TX 78221. The artwork must be an original concept, no larger than 32 inches by 32 inches

framed, and must be a drawing, collage, painting, print, photograph or computer graphic. Entries will be exhibited at the George Ozuna Learning Center on the campus of Palo Alto College from April 25 to May 5. Participants will be invited to attend the contest’s formal exhibition, where all works will be judged and winners will be announced; date and location to be announced. One winner is chosen from each participating congressional district across the U.S.

For more information on the 2007 Congressional Art Competition, contact Congressman Rodriguez’s office at 210-922-1874.

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF CLINT, TEXAS

FAIR HOUSING STATEMENT

The Town of Clint hereby declares its support of fair housing practices. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the locality to bring about, through fair, orderly, and lawful procedures, the opportunity of each person to obtain housing without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental handicap, marital status, parenthood, or age.

It is further declared that such policy is established upon the recognition of the inalienable rights of each individual to obtain housing and further, that denial of such rights is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the locality and constitutes an unjust denial or deprivation of such inalienable rights which is within the power and the proper responsibility of government to prevent.

The locality has a Fair Housing Policy that may be examined and copied by interested groups or individuals during office hours. The month of April has been proclaimed “Fair Housing Month”; copies of the official proclamation are available at the Clint Town Hall between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

POLICY STATEMENT ESTABLISHING NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON HANDICAPPED CONDITIONS

The Town of Clint announces that it has adopted a policy of nondiscrimination based on handicapped conditions concerning access, participation, and benefit of programs and activities operated or conducted by the locality. This policy is in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 24 CFR, Part 8, “Non-discrimination Based on Handicap in Federally-Assisted Programs and Activities of HUD,” dated June 2, 1988. Interested individuals or groups may obtain copies of this policy statement by calling the Town Secretary, who has been assigned to coordinate compliance with this policy and may be contacted at (915) 851-3146.

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The Town of Clint announces that it has adopted a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement personnel within its jurisdiction against an individual engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations. This policy is in compliance with Section 519 of Public Law 101-44, 1990, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act. Copies of this policy statement may be obtained by calling the Town Secretary at (915) 851-3146.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

The Town of Clint is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer.

Dale Reinhardt
Mayor

West Texas County Courier
April 12, 2007



PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICIA PUBLICA

The Lower Valley Water District invites Clint residents to attend a public meeting to discuss the **WASTEWATER PROJECT** for the Town of Clint. The District will present information, answer questions and listen to comments about the impending project.

*El Distrito de Agua del Valle Bajo los invita a la reunión publica para discutir **WASTEWATER PROJECT** por el Town of Clint. El Distrito presentará la información, responderá preguntas y escuchará comentarios sobre el proyecto.*

Date / Fecha: Monday, April 30, 2007
Lunes, 30 de Abril del 2007

Time / Hora: 6:00 p.m.

Place / Lugar:: LVWD Admin. Office
1557 FM Rd. 1110
Clint, TX 79836

The program will be provided in English and Spanish. For additional information, please call (915) 791-4480.

La presentación será dada en Inglés y Español. Para mas información, por favor contacteños al (915) 791-4480.

Mario Aguilar
General Manager

WTCC:04/12/07

To Advertise
Call 852-3235

Ex-UTEP turned Aggie coach uses the ‘no sign trick-play’ to go to Kentucky

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

How ironic. It was back in 1966 that the Texas Western Miners upset those dreaded Kentucky Wildcats for the national basketball championship.

The social significance was so far reaching that we’re still celebrating it 41 years after the fact. It was the time that five African Americans showed the most bigoted among us that they could work, hustle, think and play as well as any great white basketball team.

That team, and their coach Adolph Rupp, were as white as it could be.

Kentucky has remained an enemy of the Miners for all these years. No El Pasoan ever thinks of Kentucky basketball without thinking of that March evening in 1966.

That’s why the news last week — though not really surprising — of Billy Gillispie going over to the dark side and taking over the Kentucky program left the same kind of taste in your mouth as a swig of saltwater does.

How can it be? A one time member of the Miners goes to Kentucky? That’s like Nancy Pelosi going out to dinner with Rush Limbaugh, or Rosie O’Donnell sending a valentine to Donald Trump.

Some things just aren’t done.

I know, I know, we shouldn’t blame Gillispie for dumping UTEP and Texas A&M for \$2.3 million over the next seven years. How many of us would say no thanks to over \$16-million?

I guess it’s just the thought of leaving the Miners high and dry that irks fans who were used to the Don Haskins-type of loyalty.

We all know that kind of loyalty is a thing of the past, but it hurts. Like Leslie Nielsen once said, “The truth hurts. Oh sure, maybe not as much as jumping on your bike with the seat missing, but it hurts.”

Billy Clyde, you could have gone anywhere in the country, but you chose Kentucky. Say it ain’t so.

At least the guy is consistent. Gillispie left UTEP after purposely not signing his contract, giving him the chance to split whenever he wanted. How did Gillispie get out of his new

contract with A&M? He never signed it — and he split.

Just goes to show that it is always, always, always about the money. Kentucky better hope that Gillispie doesn’t win very easily, because if he does — it’s off to the NBA, where he can make some real money.

Quick change

It was a couple years ago that the Houston Astros’ Brad Lidge was considered the best closer in baseball.

Batter after batter would step up to the plate against the flame-throwing righty and one by one, would walk back to the dugout shaking their heads.

Lidge was so good that he helped lead the Astros to the World Series for the first time in their history.

And his career stats told the story, 104 saves and an eye-opening 474 strikeouts in just 335 innings pitched.

But just as quickly as he made a name for himself, Lidge is fading out of the spotlight. The closer had a rough year last season but was

still better than most of the relievers in the big leagues.

But so far this season Lidge has been downright pitiful. He cost Houston a victory in their first game of the season and, in his last outing, he allowed five runs in just two-thirds of an inning.

It may be mental, but he just can’t seem to get anybody out. And when he does retire a batter, it seems to take him 10-12 pitches to do so.

Because of his troubles, Lidge was demoted this week. He will be a middle reliever until further notice. The Astros announced that Dan Wheeler will take his place as the team’s closer.

Ouch, how quickly life can change. One minute you’re on the top of the world and the next you’ve been demoted to middle reliever.

It just goes to show that time in the spotlight can be limited. For some guys, it is more limited than most.

Well, at least Lidge had his 15 minutes of fame. That’s more than most of us ever get.

The question is whether he can get 15 more. I know the Houston Astros sure hope so.

Safety

From Page 1

- Unplug all tools when not in use.
- Make sure the tool is in the “off” position before plugging it in.
- Store gasoline-powered equipment away from anything that uses a pilot light.
- Make sure you use the right saw for the task, and always wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut to avoid kickback.
- When pruning trees, be careful not to let metal ladders or trimmers contact overhead wires.

Before you do any hands on weed removal, make sure you can identify poison oak, sumac, and similar toxic plants. Find out ahead of time how to treat the rashes they cause to reduce the irritation

Outdoor and Pool

Ready for some outdoor exercise and adventure? Here are a few

pointers:

Winter’s inactive muscles can take only so much strain — don’t overdo it! Build up slowly, so you don’t have strains that can put you out of commission for some time.

Springtime is also severe weather time. If the sky appears threatening, check to see if a storm watch or warning has been issued before you initiate outdoor activities. If you’re already outside and thunderstorms are imminent, go immediately into a building or enclosed vehicle.

Each year some 40,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with in-ground swimming pools. The majority of those injuries are a result of falls on slippery surfaces surrounding pools. Installation of non-slip material around the pool could make the area safer. It is also a good idea to place rescue and first aid equipment nearby. Keeping electrical appliances such as radios away from the swimming pool will reduce hazards of electric shock.

Consumers who may be building swimming pools this season should consider constructing a tall fence on all sides of the pool. Young children drown each summer because they wander into swimming pools unnoticed. For this reason, the swimming pool should not be directly accessible from house or patio doors.

Ladders

Ready to do some home repairs? On average, about 145,000 people

visit the emergency room each year due to ladder mishaps. Here are a few safety tips to avoid such tragedies:

- Read the manufacturer’s instructions that come with your ladder. They contain guidelines for weight and height limits as well as for the proper use of the product.
- Inspect the ladder before using it to make sure there are no loose or broken rungs.
- Make sure the ladder is the right height for the job. Many accidents

happen when people overextend their reach because their ladder is too short.

- Never stand on a ladder’s bucket shelf.
- Make sure the ladder is completely open and that all of its feet are planted on a firm, level surface. Extension ladders should not be placed at an angle that is too extreme. The bottom of the ladder should be

See SAFETY, Page 8

Classified Ads

LEGAL

TOWN OF ANTHONY

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TEXAS CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM

The Town of Anthony, Texas, is seeking to contract with:

(1) registered firms or individuals who are qualified to provide engineering services required by the locality for the implementation of a project to be carried out with the grant assistance from the Texas Capital Fund Program of the Texas Department of Agri-

culture, and

(2) firms or individuals qualified to provide management services required by the locality for the implementation of a project to be carried out with grant assistance from the Texas Capital Fund Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture.

The project is to be financed with federal funds from a Texas Capital Fund Program (TxCDBG) grant administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. In order to be considered, proposals must be submitted prior to 4:30 P.M. on April 23, 2007.

Complete Requests for Proposals have been prepared for this purpose; those outline the services required by the locality, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria. Interested parties

may obtain copies of the Requests for Proposals by contacting the Town of Anthony by telephone at (915) 886-3944, or by mail addressed to the Office of the Mayor, Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, TX 79821.

The locality reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms submitting proposals, in accordance with the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards Act. The locality also reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

The Town of Anthony is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Art Franco
Mayor

Date published:
April 12, 2007

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid

Sealed bids for Full-Line Food Items, Beverage & Snack, Bakery Products, Milk and

Dairy Products Bid No. 050907-913.

Sealed bids for Non-Food Items Bid No. 050907-913.

Bids to be addressed to Leticia Perez, Fabens Independent School District, 821 NE “G” St. Fabens, P.O. Box 876 Fabens, Texas 79838.

Food Bids will be received at the above address **until 10:00 a.m., May 9, 2007** at which time they will be publicly opened.

Non-Food Bids will be received at the above address **until 2:00 p.m., May 9, 2007** at which time they will be publicly opened.

Bid specification packets may be obtained by calling 915-764-2025. WTCC: 04/12/07

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

lowing times:

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007

GARBAGE DISPOSAL SERVICE CSP NO. 199-0419-7086 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

AIR CONDITIONER ACCESSORIES CSP NO. 199-0419-7094 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-04/12/07

HELP WANTED

Need part-time office assistant with very flexible hours. Call 851-2391, ask for Mary.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale, 291

Langford St., Clint. 2,700 sq. ft., beautiful condition, 1/4 acre. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, open kitchen, Great Room w/fireplace, bonus room and laundry room, refrigerated air/central heat, storage shed, sprinkler system, many extras. (817) 657-7818, (915) 525-4790 or (915) 241-3869.

SERVICES

“Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring” JIFFY GLASS REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick
Harshberger
915-852-9082

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

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



CLASSIFIED AD FORM

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

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	(STOP HERE FOR \$5 AD.)
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35

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: _____

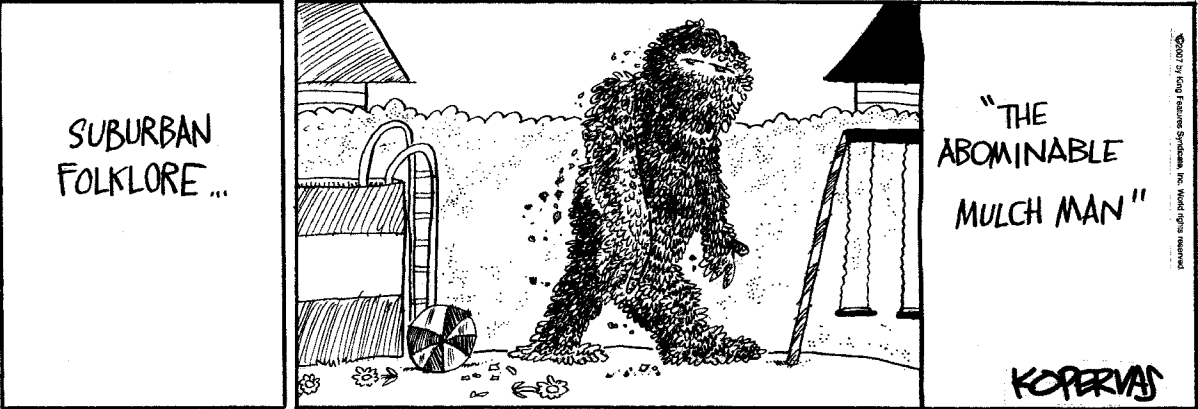
Phone: _____



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



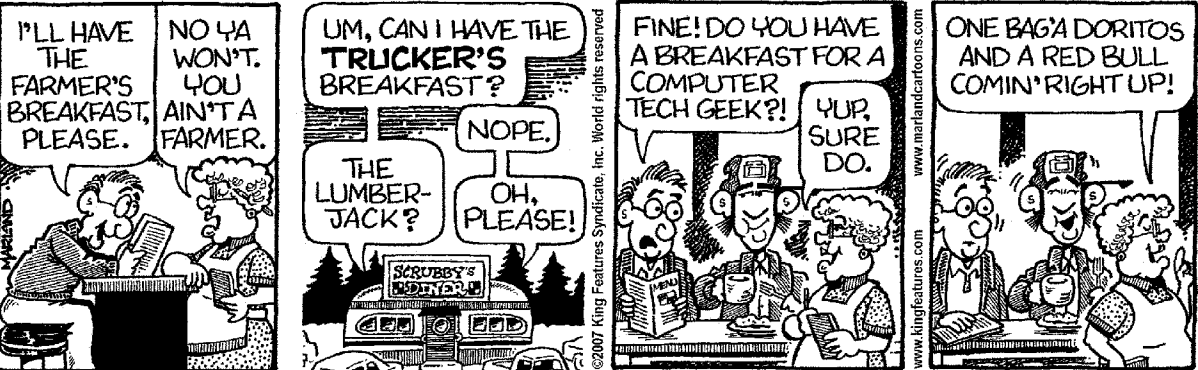
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



How to spell defeat

By Don Flood

Like most disasters, it started out innocently enough: “How about a game of Scrabble?”

It was to be a “family” game with my wife and son.

Despite being in the word business, I’ve never liked Scrabble. But I agreed to play just because, well, I’m a great husband and dad.

The trouble started before we even picked letters. Discussing how to handle the fact that we lacked a dictionary — though I considered my own brain sufficient to be the Final Word for this competition — my son mentioned that “za,” supposedly short for pizza, was an official word accepted by the Scrabble dictionary.

Instantly, I recalled why I didn’t like this game.

“Za?” I protested. “That’s not a word!”

“Have you ever heard anybody say ‘za’? Of course not. No one ever says, ‘Let’s go out for ‘za.’ It’s ridiculous!”

I waxed eloquently on this subject for about, oh, 20 minutes or so. Well, probably not more than 20 seconds, but judging by the look of bored stupefaction on their faces you might have guessed 20 hours.

Nevertheless, I had won this battle. “Za” had been banished to the nether regions of the Scrabble Purgatory where these horrid words dwelled. It would not be allowed in this game.

Despite the early acrimony, I found I enjoyed the game more than I recalled, perhaps because of my 40-point lead.

All I needed to seal my victory was to get rid of a “z” — a 10-point letter that’s great if you’ve got a spot but not so great if you’re stuck with it at the end, forcing a 10-point deduction.

My seemingly insurmountable lead suddenly appeared tenuous. Along with my “z” I had also acquired a 10-point “q,” for which I had neither a “u” nor a spot with a “u.”

Things appeared dark, dim, dingy, dusky — any number of potential “d” words for which I had no letters.

The board, however, did have an open “a,” right next to a triple letter square: ZA!

“Za” was a word after all and pretty darn good one.

The triple-letter square would give me 31 points instead of a 10-point deduction and, more important: VICTORY.

I triumphantly placed my “z” on the triple letter square and waited for the expected applause.

Which, oddly, was not forthcoming.

In fact, quite the opposite. My opponents, no doubt inspired by what I now realized was my hasty and ill-considered attack on the perfectly useful and indeed quite marvelous word “za” — I was, in fact, considering ordering out for “za” to celebrate my victory — refused to accept the word.

Before the game, we had decided to let disputed words be put to a vote and they both enthusiastically (and rather spitefully) voted against it, which I’m sorry to say suggests a disturbing weakness in our democratic form of government.

Without the 31 points and with the 10-point deduction, I lost to my wife, who now spends her spare time memorizing a Scrabble dictionary.

Even a slice of “za” with extra cheese and sweet peppers failed to remove the sour taste of defeat.

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- CAMP JINX ACROSS

1 Obscene

5 Vino center

9 Hydrotherapy site

12 Advanced deg.

15 "The Screwtape Letters" monogram

18 Concept

19 An Everly brother

20 Shape

22 Chou En- _

23 "The King and I" setting

24 Bakery display

25 Supermodel

Warren

26 Pantry pest

27 Camper's comment

31 Munch on a mango

32 Born

33 Tyrant

35 She got an A in literature

39 Slap on

41 Seafood selection

45 81 Across' river

46 _ breve

47 Vientiane's nation

49 German

philosopher

51 Transmit electronically

52 Camper's comment

58 Serling or Steiger
- 59 Troop grp.

60 "There _ atheists in the foxholes"

61 Way up

64 "Man bites dog," e.g.

66 "You can _ horse to ..."

69 Hardware item

70 '70 Jackson 5 hit

73 Camper's comment

78 " _ whiz!"

79 Baby bovine

81 Joan of Arc site

82 Perry's creator

83 Beethoven symphony

86 Delibes opera

89 _ de la Cite

90 Mimic

93 Camper's comment

98 Honest name

100 Lucifer

101 Learning method

102 Weft's opposite

103 Remora's host

105 Musical symbol

107 Word form for "equal"

108 Amontillado, e.g.

110 Table d'_

111 _ Cruces, NM

113 Cry of satisfaction

114 Camper's comment

126 Herd word

127 Esteemed
- 128 Geraint's lady

129 Praise passionately

130 Caravansary

131 Venezuelan river

132 "Heavens to Betsy!"

133 Congregational comeback

134 Order

135 Clerical abbr.

136 _ diem

137 Say it isn't so

138 Ebb

DOWN

1 Actress Vima

2 Touch up the text

3 Disaccustom

4 Knight's wife

5 Enter the picture

6 Haberdashery buy

7 Row

8 "Casablanca" character

9 Tantrum

10 Western bands

11 Against

12 Ms. Falana

13 "To Sir with Love" singer

14 Pull

15 Taxonomist's job

16 "Evil Ways" group

17 Illuminated

21 Word with take or hang

28 Center of gravity?

29 Like some pools
- 30 Colorado native

34 Smith or Stout

35 Salon concern

36 Admiral Zumwalt

37 Coasted

38 Highlander's hat

39 Ginger _

40 "Star Trek" android

42 Dayton denizen

43 Aspin or Baxter

44 _ trip

45 Open an envelope

48 Cave man?

50 Pulver's rank: abbr.

53 Paul of "Scarface"

54 Secondhand

55 "It's _ Never" ('60 smash)

56 Lollapalooza

57 Large tub

62 Regret

63 Sault _ Marie, MI

65 _-Cat

67 Casino cube

68 Lofty spaces

70 Parker of football

71 Saloon

72 Nearby

74 Louisiana university

75 Tolerate

76 " _ Want for Christmas" ('50 tune)

77 Require

80 Fiver

84 Barrel

85 Alias initials
- 87 Certain

Communist

88 Newts

90 Way over yonder

91 Engine sound

92 Discern

94 Catchall abbr.

95 Marchiano or Mineo

96 Rock's _

Speedwagon

97 Be obligated

98 Hibachi residue

99 " _ Junction" ('56 film)

104 Actor Stephen

106 Warm lining

108 Inferior

109 Producer Prince

112 Passion

113 Oriental

115 Adventurer

Heyerdahl

116 Irritated

117 Part of UCLA

118 Negative prefix

119 Parachute invasion

120 Take into account

121 "Bus Stop" playwright

122 Tie

123 Dalai _

124 Kitchen appliance

125 Passed-on item

126 Pinafore part

Answer Page 6

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	
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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

No penalties in 2007 for late enrollment in Medicare prescription drug plan

Did you plan to enroll in the Medicare prescription drug plan and apply for the extra help, but found out you missed the deadline? Would you still like to take advantage of the savings, but don't want to pay the penalty for filing late?

This year, you're in luck! There will be no late enrollment penalties in 2007 for people who qualify for extra help and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. If you think

you may be eligible for the extra help, you should apply as soon as possible. The extra help could be worth an average of \$3,700 per year.

Generally, if your annual income is below \$15,315 for an individual (\$20,535 for a married couple living together), and your resources are limited to \$11,710 for an individual (\$23,410 for a married couple living together), you may qualify for extra help with your monthly premiums,

deductibles and co-payments. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help with your monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. For example, your income may be higher and you could still qualify for extra help if you or your spouse support other family members who live with you, if either of you have earnings from work, or if you live in Alaska or Hawaii.

So if you are not sure whether you qualify for the extra help, it is best to complete an application. It's fast and easy.

If you plan to apply for the extra help, the easiest and most convenient way is to do it online. Just visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp/> and select the "Ap-

ply for help" link. You also can apply over the phone by calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). If you prefer to complete the paper application, you can call the same number to request that we mail one to you, or stop by your local Social Security office to pick one up.

To learn more about the various Medicare prescription drug plans and special enrollment periods, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048) or visit

www.medicare.gov. Medicare also can tell you about agencies in your area that can help you navigate the application process.

For more information on this topic, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

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Art Franco
Mayor

West Texas County Courier
April 12, 2007

Briefs

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spent two days in the hospital. Juan's wife assaulted him and their young son with a knife. He was able to prevent any injuries, but this was not the first time his wife had made attempts against their lives. Carlos and Raul are brothers, yet that did not prevent Raul from assaulting Carlos over a trivial issue. Helen, Juan and Carlos are just three of the more than 31,000 domestic violence calls received by the El Paso Police Department last year, an 11 percent increase from 2005. Although the names of Helen, Juan and Carlos are fictitious, their stories are not. They are not alone. All victims of crime will be recognized during Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-28, with the 6th Annual Crime Victim's Memorial Walk at 8:30 a.m. April 22 at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta, according to Guadalupe Silva, public relations. The walk, sponsored by the Crime Victims' Rights Council of El Paso, will bring together those El Pasoans touched by crime and the individuals and organizations designed to help them. The event is free and will feature a non-competitive walk, food, entertainment, live bands, door prizes, and children's activities. Crime Victim's Rights Week is a nation-wide annual commemoration to promote victims' rights and services. The week is marked by an award ceremony in Washington, D.C., in recognition of the individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in support of victims and victim services.

■ Canutillo Elementary School took first place overall in the Fourth through Fifth Grade Division of UIL competition recently held at Fabens Primary School in the Fabens Independent School District, according to Canutillo ISD public relations representative Kim Guzman. CES also won second place in

the Kindergarten through Third Grade Division. Along with Canutillo, other schools that competed in the meet were Fabens Primary School, O'Donnell Elementary School, Risinger Primary School, Tornillo Elementary School, and Tornillo Intermediate School. Students competed in their respective divisions in creative writing, dictionary skills, listening skills, maps, charts, and graphs, music memory, number sense, oral reading, picture memory, ready writing, spelling, and storytelling contests. CES had eight students win individual first places in their respective events including: Amy Rodriguez, Rachel Reise, Issac Bermudez, Samantha Hernandez, Sabrina Knox, Francisco Jimenez, Thomas Guinto, and Juan Leyva. "These competitions provide our students with an opportunity to showcase what they have learned and be recognized for their hard work," said Kathy Vogt-Ruiz, Canutillo ES teacher and UIL Coordinator.

■ East Montana Middle School (EMMS) won the University Interscholastic League (UIL) middle school academic competition for the tenth year in a row, according to John Marin, school public relations. The competition was recently held at East Montana where schools from around the county participated. The competition involves different topics from Calculator Applications to English Ready Writing. The purpose of the competition is to motivate students to place a high priority on education, attending school and making better grades. Also the classroom is enriched by the flow of student energy into the more intensified arena of competition and back into the classroom. Additionally students can also refine physical and mental skills, nurture self-realization and build self-confidence, feel a sense of pride and dignity. At EMMS, UIL participation has become almost a tradition and students and teachers look forward to it every year.

Safety

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one foot away from the wall for every four feet that the ladder rises.

- Avoid using a metal ladder near electrical sources.
- Face the ladder when climbing down and make sure your weight is centered between the two sides.

These are just a few of the safety precautions to consider during the spring. It's also a great time to replace your smoke detector batteries, make sure fire extinguishers are placed in proper locations around your home, and ensure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio for spring storms. By taking the right precautions now, you and those around you can enjoy a safer and healthier springtime.

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