

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Food Stamp Challenge

The West Texas Food Bank has challenged all elected officials to call attention to "Hunger Awareness Month" by living off the food that an average food stamp recipient receives. The Food Stamp Program has been America's first line of defense against hunger. From May 29 - June 5, participants are challenged to restrict their daily food costs to the same budget that is available to food stamp recipients — the maximum allocation per person in Texas is \$5 per day. The average for El Paso County's 10,000 Food Stamp recipients is \$22.45 per person per week. This breaks down to \$3.20 per day or \$1.06 per meal. Hyta Folsom, WTFB Executive Director, said people with insufficient food dollars often eat food that is filling, such as beans or rice, as opposed to food that is healthy such as fruits and vegetables. This can ultimately contribute to diabetes, heart problems and obesity. "Taking the Food Stamp Challenge allows us to 'walk in their shoes' and better understand the challenges of eating healthy on a daily budget," said Hyta. Committed to participating in the food stamp challenge is Mayor John Cook and City Reps. Susie Byrd, Alexandro Lozano, Eddie Olguin, Beto O'Rourke, and Steve Ortega; and County Commissioners Veronica Escobar, Dan Haggerty, and Miguel Teran. To participate in the Food Stamp Challenge e-mail Siria Rocha at [srocha@secondharvest.org](mailto:srocha@secondharvest.org) or go to the website at [WTxFoodBank.org](http://WTxFoodBank.org) and sign up.

### SISD graduation

Nearly 2,000 graduating seniors from the four Socorro Independent School District high schools are preparing for their walk across the stage next week. For the first time, military parents stationed overseas and other out-of-town parents will be able to watch the graduations live on the internet via video streaming through the Socorro ISD website ([www.sisd.net](http://www.sisd.net)) and the Army Online site. The ceremonies will also be archived for parents to watch later as well. The four high schools will hold commencement ceremonies from May 25 through 28 at the Socorro Student Activities Complex, 1300 Joe Battle Blvd.

May 2007 Graduation Dates

- Montwood High School: Friday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- Socorro High School: Saturday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.
- El Dorado High School: Sunday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m.
- America High School: Monday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Family and friends attending the ceremonies are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. Balloons, noise makers, glass containers and banners are not permitted in the Socorro Student Activities Complex. Due to safety concerns with the turf at the SAC,

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*The enemy you make today may be the only one who can help you twenty-five years from now.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Clint ISD 'biz kids' number one in nation



— Photos courtesy Clint ISD

**THE BIG SCREEN** — Mountain View High School Website Design Team members Sandra Perez and Nataly Garcia, center, are shown on stage flanked by the second and third place design teams. TEAM #1 by the school's name said it all during the awards ceremony at the Business Professionals of America conference in New York City.



Jonathan Roman



Sandra Perez



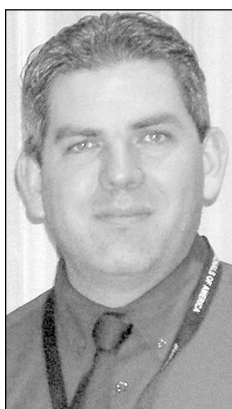
Nataly Garcia



Janis Andrade

## Champions

**EAST EL PASO COUNTY** — The Mountain View High School chapter of the Business



Dustin Blystone



Marisela Higareda

Professionals of America (BPA) Website Design Team of Jonathan Roman, Sandra Perez, and Nataly Garcia was named number one in the nation at the BPA National Leadership Conference in New York City May 9-13, 2007. They had placed first at the state level over 30 other competitors to qualify for national competition, where they prevailed over 35 teams. Their lead advisor was Janis Andrade assisted by Dustin Blystone. Marisela Higareda, who won first place over 33 other competitors at the state level in Computer Network Technology, placed 13 out of 59 at the national level. Blystone was also her advisor. This is the third consecutive year the Mountain View Chapter of BPA has had teams and/or individuals qualify for the national competition. Over 5,000 people attended the conference from the 23 states with BPA chapters.

— Contributed by Laura Cade

## Canutillo ISD selects Teachers of the Year

By Kim Guzman  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Nora Aguilar, Canutillo Elementary School special education teacher, and Hermes Forbes, Jose J. Alderete Middle School bilingual education teacher, will represent Canutillo ISD in the Region 19 Teacher of the Year awards program.

The District selection committee named Aguilar as the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Forbes as CISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2007. Their respective campuses nominated them.

Aguilar began her teaching career at CISD seven years ago and currently teaches life skills in a self-contained classroom for students with

special needs. Forbes has taught for eight years

See CANUTILLO ISD, Page 4



Nora Aguilar



Hermes Forbes

## San Elizario ISD announces Teacher and Employee of the Year honorees

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

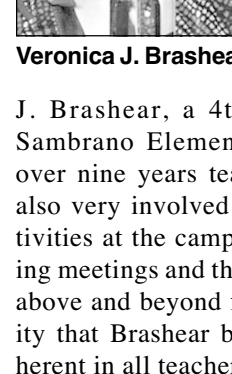
SAN ELIZARIO — San Elizario Independent School District teachers and employees were honored at the 2007 Star Recognition Banquet for their exceptional job performances and contributions to the



Jefferey Duke Seay

district. The district's Teacher of the Year and Employee of the Year winners were also announced during the event.

Jefferey Duke Seay was named the Secondary Teacher of the Year. Seay is an 11th and 12th grade English Language Arts Teacher who has been at San Elizario High School for four years. Seay also currently serves as the chair of the English Language Department and class of 2009 sponsor. "There's challenges but I think it gives me more incentive to try to meet those challenges and to try to be creative and innovative with what I do in the classroom," Seay said about being a teacher.



Veronica J. Brashear

The Elementary Teacher of the Year was Veronica J. Brashear, a 4th grade Teacher at Sambrano Elementary. Brashear, with over nine years teaching experience, is also very involved with after-school activities at the campus including organizing meetings and the science expo. Going above and beyond for students is a quality that Brashear believes should be inherent in all teachers. "I will do anything for my students to be successful — their successes are my successes," Brashear said.

Eloy Anaya, a Security Officer at Excell Academy who has been employed with the district for over 21 years was awarded the employee of the year award. "I've been working with kids for a long time now and it makes me feel good to see them get ahead," Anaya said in reference to the students he interacts with at Excell.

The two district Teacher of the Year winners will now move on to represent San Elizario ISD in the Region 19 Teacher of the Year competition.

The annual banquet was held on May 17 at the Mission Valley Ballroom where more than 100 teachers, district personnel, relatives and other guests were on hand to recognize the noteworthy contributions of the 15 teachers and employees nominated for the district's top honors.



# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## Educational guinea pigs

I'm not a teacher.

Well, not a teacher in the sense that I have a college degree or helped large numbers of kids obtain knowledge that is essential to their future. I just took on the education of two kids. Mine.

When my two youngest were in early elementary school, I was faced with a terrible reality. The school to which I was entrusting the bedrock years of my kids' education was so hopelessly hamstrung by the education system that it was not going to be able to do the job.

It is a cold, frightening feeling when a mother realizes that she can't do a worse job of teaching her kids than the school is doing.

This is not an indictment of teachers. Even before I started homeschooling, I admired my kids' teachers. Five years of doing it myself was enough to put me forever in awe of every man or woman who answers this calling, especially faced with the uphill battle they must wage every day to try to get someone else's kid to learn something, while frequently being sabotaged not only by the system that regulates their classroom but all too often by the parents of the kids they are trying to teach.

I hope that I never made any teacher feel like I was against them. I wasn't. I admired every effort they made. The problem was that they were not allowed to discipline their own classrooms, regulate their own teaching environment, and just do what they do best — teach.

Instead, I saw they were functioning under a constant barrage of instructions to attend this meeting or that, obtain this training or that, utilize this process or that. Meanwhile,

because their teaching was obstructed, my kid wasn't learning.

Now, my story isn't heroic. It doesn't have a child in it that was handicapped, had a learning disability or was emotionally disturbed, so I wasn't facing some of the really big obstacles a lot of parents do. My little students liked school, liked reading and writing, liked each other, and — most of the time — liked me. So we did okay.

I'm not a real smart, crafty mom who can devise her own curriculum out of thin air, bake cookies and do science projects all at the same time. I was scared to death. Thankfully, homeschooling doesn't suffer the same lack of support it once did, so I had plenty of resources readily available. I chose a good, solid homeschool course of the three R's, set a schedule, and off we went.

I realized early on that they were going to eventually outpace me, especially in math, so I set the basic goal of getting them back into the school system by high school — after they had a reasonably solid foundation in how to read, write, do some math, and in how to learn.

An essential tool I used during my brief teaching tenure was yearly achievement tests to measure how much they were actually retaining from their school work. It was a means to an end. It wasn't the end itself.

You're probably way ahead of me by now. You know I'm getting around to the TAKS test and how Texas schools have been forced to "teach to the test" or be penalized by the state. Because the test makes no sense, the schools have to teach a

See TEACH, Page 5



1973  
34  
YEARS  
2007

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**Por la Gente** By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

### Education and teachers benefited from this legislative session

Hola, mi gente. Those of you who follow the legislature know that the current session is almost at an end. We will be adjourning on May 28. This legislative session has seen some significant education bills voted in both houses.

The first education issue that moved was contained in the appropriation bill. Two very important surprises passed the House: a measure that prohibited any monies to be spent on vouchers and the other eliminating incentive pay and instead directing funds toward a teacher pay raise. The passage of the appropriations bill with those two provisions marked a stark departure from previous actions in the House. For the most part, teachers and benefits for teachers had been under attack by the ultra conservative leadership. I was very proud when the vote so overwhelmingly supported our teachers. Also, the House voted for the first

time in years to provide retired teachers with an additional paycheck; as was the tradition for many years prior. In any case, the passage of the pay raises was a major statement in support of teachers by the House of Representatives. I understand that the Senate is not going to show the same support. The amount of increase for teachers will be less and there is some question whether the retirees will be favorably considered by the Senate as well.

Regarding specific issues affecting education, none has received more attention than the TAKS testing. Senator Shapiro filed a bill, Senate Bill 1031, that replaces the TAKS as the single test that determined whether our students graduated.

While assessment of our students is important, the problem is the TAKS test became the focus for school curriculum in lieu of traditional teachings. Our students deserve a diversified education, one that provides them with a solid basis for going to higher education. The test failed to benefit students

when teaching the TAKS and achieving district wide performance standards became the focus in classrooms. I agree with the change.

Currently, conflicting House and Senate versions of the bill do eliminate the TAKS as the sole determinant for graduation. At this time, a conference committee of House and Senate members is negotiating the final bill. One thing is certain, the TAKS will be replaced with several year end tests and students will have the opportunity to attain an average passing score to graduate; a definite plus. TAKS will probably still be utilized as an assessment tool in primary and middle schools, depending on the final outcome of SB 1031.

The change in the TAKS test is a great example of teachers and parents strongly voicing their concerns. Thankfully, the legislature responded correctly.

Gracias, and I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.

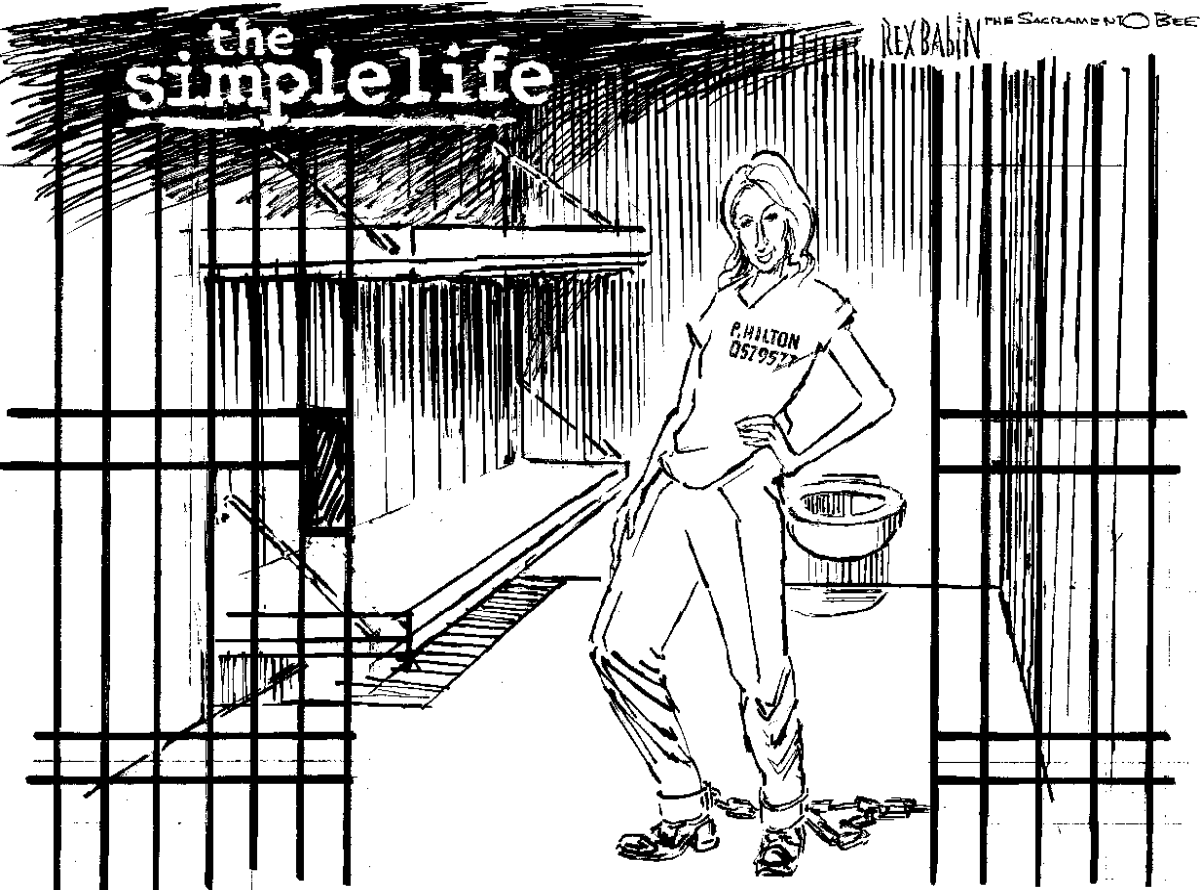


— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

## Canutillo ISD unveils Sgt. Isela Rubalcava Blvd.

UPPER VALLEY — The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees recently honored a fallen Canutillo soldier killed in the Iraq War by naming the street that runs between Canutillo High School and El Paso Community College's Northwest campus, as Sgt. Isela Rubalcava Boulevard. More than 120 guests attended the event that featured guest speaker Colonel Heidi Brown, Assistant Commandant/Deputy Commander of Fort Bliss. CISD presented the Rubalcava family with a specially designed street sign replica. Pictured, from left, are Sgt. Rubalcava's family members, Ramon Rubalcava (father) with CISD Board President, Sergio Coronado; Maria Isela Rubalcava (mother) and Fernando Rubalcava (brother).

— Contributed by Kim Guzman



## Margaret 'Peggy' Schairer dies

HORIZON CITY — A longtime resident of Horizon City, Margaret "Peggy" Schairer died May 16 at the age of 82. She was the widow of another well-remembered Horizon resident, Karl Schairer.

Memorial services will be held today, Thursday, May 24, at 7 p.m. at Martin Funeral Home, 1460 George Dieter, with interment at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.

Peggy was born to James O'Very and Margaret Clark on Feb. 24, 1924, in Rock Springs, Wyoming. She spent her childhood and graduated from high school there. Peggy attended St. Mary's School of Nursing in Salt Lake City, Utah. When she obtained her RN license, she was hired by the Latter Day Saints Hospital in Salt Lake.

In 1951, she enlisted with the

U.S. Army Nursing Corp., serving in hospitals in Ft. Sam Houston, Ft. Bragg and Ft. Bliss, where she met and married Karl Schairer. They were both deployed to Germany, where she was stationed at Stuttgart Army Hospital. Peggy was awarded both the National Defense Service Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal.

She resigned her commission as a captain and the Schairers returned to Ft. Bliss. They bought a home in Horizon City in 1974.

The couple had one child, a daughter named Karla, who died when she was a small child. After Karla's death, Peggy became the chief operating nurse at William Beaumont Military Hospital in El Paso and eventually retired after a lengthy service and receiving many outstanding service awards.



### Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

## Memorial Day is about sorrow, selflessness and courage

*"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."*

This iconic quote by British statesman Benjamin Disraeli invokes the spirit and substance of Memorial Day, which we celebrate this coming Monday, May 28. Here in El Paso, we have mourned the loss of service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and pray for their families and loved ones. Yet, in the midst of this sorrow, we lift up their courage and selflessness, and will forever remember them as true American heroes.

This spirit and bravery is also evident in those who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with life-altering injuries. These men and women will honor their fallen comrades on Memorial Day, and are furthering their legacy by working hard, through emotional

and physical pain, to rebuild their lives. A disturbingly large number of these veterans have lost limbs, and it is the responsibility of my colleagues and me in Congress to do all we can to facilitate their recovery.

This sense of responsibility led me earlier this year to introduce the Veterans Amputee Assistance Act of 2007. In March, Major L. Tammy Duckworth, a decorated Iraq War veteran who lost both legs when her helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, and who is now the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, testified on the challenges of amputees when transitioning from Department of Defense to Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) care.

I have met with Major Duckworth and an El Pasoan who is now an amputee, and all injured servicemen and women who face these challenges will require VA care for the rest of their lives. At

this point, it is apparent that the VA does not have the tools they need to care for them, and we need to ensure we have the technology and personnel to provide for these men and women. Director Duckworth, whom I met in May 2005 when she testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, worked with me on the final language of this bill.

This legislation I have proposed would require the VA to: complete a review of its prosthetic laboratories, clinics and prosthetists; certify its orthotic/prosthetic laboratories and clinics; allow disabled veterans to obtain new devices and seek care for repair and servicing from outside the VA system if not provided within the VA; and develop a plan for informing disabled veterans on recent technological advances in the field of prosthetics.

As I referenced above, "[t]he legacy of heroes is the memory of

[www.wtccourier.com](http://www.wtccourier.com)

Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore 1932, Big Spring: A California tourist is cited by local police for "indecent exposure" for wearing shorts.



a great name and the inheritance of a great example," and it is so important that we remember the stories of those we have lost and live in a manner that honors their sacrifices. Our injured veterans do this

day in and day out as they seek to rebuild their lives, and on Memorial Day and always, our fallen heroes and these courageous men and women serve as inspiration and encouragement to us all.



# Cancer screenings now more available to underinsured, uninsured women

COLLEGE STATION — Cancer prevention screenings just became more affordable for women who have little or no health insurance, said Courtney Schoessow, Texas Cooperative Extension program specialist for health education and development.

“On April 20, President Bush signed the National Breast and Cer-

vical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act (HR 1132) into law,” she said. “According to the National Cancer Institute, this bill authorizes the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program to provide breast and cervical cancer screenings to uninsured and underinsured women.”

According to estimates from the cancer institute, this year 180,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 11,000 with cervical cancer.

“Unfortunately many women with these cancers do not know they have it until it is in its advanced stages,” she said. “Early detection via health screenings is an important step.” And this legislation will make early detection more affordable for many women.

“The program is expected to provide more than 700,000 screenings for low-income and underinsured women,” she said.

For information on who is eligible for these tests, Schoessow advised visiting the Texas Department of State Health Services Web site at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/bcccs/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/bcccs/) and clicking on the link to “Eligibility.” “For example,” she said, “you can

qualify for a free or low-cost screening if you have four people in your home and the annual maximum yearly salary is \$41,300 or less.” Women who are concerned about their risks for developing these diseases should talk to medical providers, Schoessow said. Getting screened “could save your life,” she said.

— Contributed by Maru Barúa

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4 will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fabens Primary School Auditorium, 301 Camp NE, Fabens, Texas to receive input from the citizens on the water and wastewater rate analysis (rate study) and long term financial plan presented by Economists.com. Citizens are urged to attend and state their consents or objections at this meeting.

Citizens unable to attend may submit their views and proposals to the El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4, P.O. Box 3880, Fabens, Texas 79838-3880. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact Geri de la Torre at (915) 764-2212 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids should contact the District Office at least 2 days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

WTCC: 05/24/07

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4

#### United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan/Grant Application

Public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2007 has been canceled and rescheduled as follows:

**Please note that the meeting has been relocated to accomodate all interested persons.**

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4 will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the **Fabens ISD Primary School Auditorium at 301 Camp NE, Fabens, Texas** to receive input from the citizens on a proposed submission of an application to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4 is anticipating submission of an application for \$414,334 for water projects.

Citizens are urged to attend and state their consents or objections at this meeting. A project summary will be outlined at this time.

Citizens unable to attend may submit their views and proposals to the El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4, P.O. Box 3880, Fabens, Texas 79838-3880. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact Geri de la Torre at (915) 764-2212 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids should contact the District Office at least 2 days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

WTCC: 05/24/07

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## Call 852-3235

## Canutillo ISD

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and has been with CISD for four years. He is currently teaching sixth grade in the bilingual education program.

“I will always remember my most gratifying experience as an educator, it was at the end of my first year of teaching and one of my student’s par-

ents came in tears to see me and thanked me for the progress that her child had made in my class,” said Aguilar.

“I became a teacher because I wanted to make a constructive impact and be a positive influence and role model in the academic and social lives of my students,” said Forbes.

Aguilar and Forbes will now compete with teachers from surrounding school districts for regional honors

as part of the Texas Teacher of the Year Program. The winners, which will be announced in late August, will advance to the State Teacher of the Year program.

The Texas Teacher of the Year annual event is the highest honor that the state can bestow upon a teacher. The Texas Education Agency rewards and recognizes excellence in the teaching profession through the Texas Teacher of the Year Program.

## Briefs

From Page 1

no graduate will be permitted to wear spiked high heels. Only graduates will be permitted to be on the field before, during and after commencement exercises.

### Expensive fruit

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the Stanton Street SENTRI/Dedicated Commuter Lane (DCL) seized five undeclared mangos Saturday afternoon from a 39-year-old female El Paso resident. Failure to disclose the fruit cost her a \$500 penalty and the revocation of her DCL crossing privileges. “CBP has a zero tolerance policy regarding violations in the Dedicated Commuter Lane,” said David Longoria, U.S. Customs and Border Protection El Paso Port Director. “DCL users are considered trusted travelers, however, they are still subject to inspection. We trust DCL users but we also verify to insure that the DCL is not compromised.” Unlike avocados, mangos are still prohibited even if the pit/seed has been removed. Last week, area CBP officers made a total of 15 different food and agricultural seizures during the week, resulting in \$4,250 in penalties being assessed. Along with mangos, prohibited items seized that were seized last week included raw pork, bologna, pork skins, chorizo, chicharones, avocados, oranges, passion fruit, potatoes, citrus leaves, and live plants.

### In other news

■ The Junior Woman’s Club of El Paso is hosting a membership drive through June 30. Benefits of membership include opportunities for community involvement, meeting new people and building lasting friendships. Membership is open to women ages 22 to 50. Contact Ceci Fierro at 595-2715 or Lucy Loya at 590-8780.

■ You can fight skyrocketing gas prices by taking control of your vehicle’s unnecessary fuel

consumption. Performing simple and inexpensive vehicle maintenance will not only save gas money but will also improve a vehicle’s safety and dependability. The Car Care Council offers these gas-savings maintenance and driving tips:

- Check your vehicle gas cap. About 17 percent of the vehicles on the roads have gas caps that are either damaged, loose or are missing, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.
- When tires aren’t inflated properly, it’s like driving with the parking brake on, and can cost a mile or two per gallon.
- A vehicle can have either four, six or eight spark plugs, which fire as many as three million times each 1,000 miles, resulting in a lot of heat, electrical and chemical erosion. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring, which wastes fuel. Spark plugs need to be replaced regularly.
- An air filter that is clogged with dirt, dust and bugs chokes off the air and creates a “rich” mixture — too much gas being burned for the amount of air, which wastes gas and causes the engine to lose power. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.
- Keep your car properly tuned. A tune-up can improve your gas mileage by an average of four percent. Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve your mileage by as much as 40 percent.

■ The U.S. Department of Education has awarded almost \$1 million in federal funds to the El Paso community for the Upward Bound program which provides support for disadvantaged high school students in preparation for higher education. The U.S. Department of Education awarded:

- \$399,381 to the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Upward Bound program that serves the Anthony, Canutillo and El Paso Independent School Districts (ISDs).
- \$339,011 to UTEP Upward Bound program that serves the Ysleta ISD.
- \$249,910 to the El Paso Community College Upward Bound program that serves San Elizario and Clint ISDs.

Upward Bound serves high school

students from low-income families, high school students who are among the first in their family to pursue a college education, and low-income, first-generation military veterans who are preparing to enter postsecondary education. Upward Bound is designed to prepare participants for the rigors of a college education, and provide the tools they need to graduate and succeed.

■ El Paso Fire Department Officials would like to remind the Citizens of El Paso and the members of the media that this week, May 20-26, 2007, has been designated as National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. The nation’s 750,000 EMS providers are the first point of contact in the health care system for many people having medical emergencies. Their extraordinary compassion, courage and expertise during those terrible moments when people need lifesaving care deserve special recognition.

The emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others. The members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide medical care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Fire Officials remind you always to call EMS if you or someone near you needs immediate medical treatment. To know when to make the call to 911, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the victim’s condition life-threatening?
- Does it appear the victim requires emergency medical intervention as soon as possible?
- Could the victim’s condition worsen and become life threatening on the way to the hospital?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” or if you are unsure, it is best to call 911. Paramedics and emergency medical technicians can begin medical treatments at the scene and on the way to the hospital. They will also alert the emergency department of your condition en route.

— Contributed by Lt. Mario E. Hernandez

# Mountain View Strutters make impression at competition



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

**EAST MONTANA** — The Mountain View Strutters competed at the Starbound National Talent Competition on May 11-12 in Phoenix, Arizona, returning home with 15 golds, one silver and two Special Judges Awards. Judges were professional dancers, choreographers and ballerinas. The Strutters were the only public school to compete — the event had mostly private dance studios. They were also commended for professionalism and speed in changing costumes. Those attending the competition were Anahi Guerrero, Lupe Saldivar, Natalie Saldivar, Jose Montes, Israel Chavez, Evelyn Aldana, Georgina Barrios, Lucero Chavez, Joanna Cazazes, Pauline Dominguez, Raquel Onsurez, Laura Marquez, Paulette Pena, Jenny Aldape, Karen Morales and Sylvia Flores. Dance Director Mary Allaire-Curtis sponsored six graduates on a tour of London, Paris and Rome last year to enrich their cultural understanding. In June of 2008, a similar group will visit Athens, Sicily and Rome.

## Teach

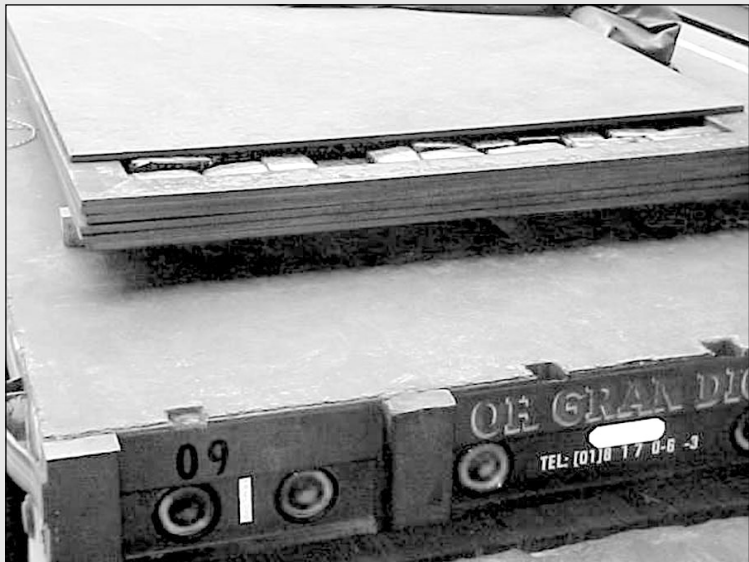
From Page 2

curriculum that doesn't make much sense either just so the kids can pass it. The pressure and hype surrounding the test are inane. The natural result is that we're not giving our kids a well-rounded education. I'm really glad that the Texas legislature may finally do something about it. My only question is: Since everyone knew it wasn't working,

why on earth did they wait so long? It is unfortunate that in our attempts to "fix" the teaching process we are constantly disrupting the fragile thread of learning that takes place in a child's life. Math doesn't change, it just builds on itself. The same with reading and writing. Scientific knowledge keeps expanding but the basic elements don't change. The fact that different kids learn in different ways doesn't change either, but instead of supporting teachers in implementing several forms of teaching into a common environment

we engage in a frenzied, disruptive search for a one-size-fits-all formula. If some hair-brained teaching method doesn't work out, well, we're sorry about that, and move on to something else. Never mind that a kid only gets to go through elementary school once. If he doesn't get it then, no contingency plan in the world is going to give those precious years back to him. Seems to me we'd have better results teaching a curriculum of basic, functional knowledge and stop using our kids as educational guinea pigs.

# Smugglers attempt to 'steel' across border with drug load



— Photos courtesy by Roger Maier/CBP

**EL PASO COUNTY** — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the Bridge of the Americas commercial cargo facility in El Paso seized 2,030 pounds of marijuana on the evening of May 16. The seizure was made after a CBP drug-sniffing dog alerted to the shipment. CBP officers at the El Paso port of entry made six other marijuana busts on Wednesday seizing an additional 552 pounds of the drug. CBP officers made the one-ton drug seizure at approximately 5:30 p.m. when a tractor-trailer entered the facility from Mexico. CBP drug sniffing dog "Freedom" was conducting a sweep of vehicles waiting in the queue before the primary inspection booth when the dog alerted to a trailer hauling a load of thick metal plates. CBP officers searched the shipment and discovered a hollowed-out compartment within the shipment of thick metal plates. CBP officers removed a total of 890 marijuana-filled bundles from the compartment.



archives:  
[www.wtccourier.com](http://www.wtccourier.com)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4

#### United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan/Grant Application

Please note that the meeting has been relocated to accomodate all interested persons.

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4 will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the **Fabens ISD Primary School Auditorium at 301 Camp NE, Fabens, Texas** to receive input from the citizens on a proposed submission of an application to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4 is anticipating submission of an application for \$4,615,422 for a wastewater treatment plant.

Citizens are urged to attend and state their consents or objections at this meeting. A project summary will be outlined at this time.

Citizens unable to attend may submit their views and proposals to the El Paso County Water Control & Improvement District No. 4, P.O. Box 3880, Fabens, Texas 79838-3880. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact Geri de la Torre at (915) 764-2212 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids should contact the District Office at least 2 days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

WTCC: 05/24/07

## 2ND ANNUAL UTEP COACHES CARAVAN

### SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD

## SANTA TERESA COUNTRY CLUB

“Tee it up with Coach Mike Price, Tony Barbee and other UTEP coaches at Santa Teresa C.C.”

“Every team will have the opportunity to play with a member of the UTEP coaching staff”

“PUBLIC IS WELCOME!”

Format: 4 person scramble

\$35 per person includes lunch, golf cart and green fee

1 p.m. shotgun start

To register your team, please call, (505) 874-4708

## SANTA TERESA COUNTRY CLUB

All proceeds to benefit The First Tee junior golf program

# Glory days are long gone for Favre and he should follow them

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

There was a time when I considered Brett Favre to be one of the stand up guys in football, and all of sports, for that matter. But what I've witnessed over the last few weeks has changed my perception of him forever.

First of all, I had already lost a ton of respect for Favre when he began putting his personal numbers ahead of the Green Bay Packers' goals.

I mean, the guy just won't accept reality and say goodbye to the game. His abilities have deteriorated drastically and he's turned into a very average quarterback, when he was once considered among the best.

But even with all that, he was still a man's man. By that I mean a guy who meant what he said, did what he promised and carried himself with a touch of class.

But he has since turned into the NFL quarterback version of the Phoenix Suns, whining and complaining when he failed to get what he wanted.

First there was the tirade he made when the Packers failed to acquire Randy Moss from the Oakland Raiders. When the New England Patriots beat them to the punch, Favre was reportedly very upset and told the team he would not attend last week's mandatory mini-camp because he was going to help plan some parties for his daughter's graduation.

Yeah, Favre and Martha Stewart have so much in common.

Then, Favre's agent hinted to the Packers that his client wanted to be traded to another team.

The Packers' quarterback voiced his dissatisfaction with his team's front office for not giving him the weapons he's needed to guide them to the playoffs but has since denied that any trade talks ever came up.

After Favre made the comment a couple years ago that he wasn't sure he wanted the ball in his hands with the game on the line anymore, he's played like it.

I don't know how well Favre is going to play this season, but I don't think he'll be any better than he's been the last three or four years.

It wasn't long ago that Favre was regarded as favorably as a Derek Jeter, Tim Duncan or

Peyton Manning.

Now he's just another professional athlete who thinks he's bigger than his team, but has no idea that he's actually costing them.

### Holyfield is the Real Deal

Listening to Evander Holyfield speak at the Don Haskins Center last week, it was refreshing to hear a pro boxer talk about what was important to him and not spend the time bad-mouthing his opponent.

Holyfield talked about how he got started in boxing when he was eight years old and spoke of how his mother taught him that he could become whatever he wanted to be.

He had nothing but respectful things to say about his opponent in his June 30 El Paso fight, Lou Savarese. He spoke about his belief in God and his forgiveness of Mike Tyson, even after Mike bit off a chunk of his ear.

It was refreshing to watch one of the toughest guys on the planet act like a human being instead of a raging animal. He showed that even boxers can be civilized.

How can you not root for this guy to regain the title? If for nothing else, he gives the sport

some much needed dignity and grace.

### Athletes behavin' badly

Any sophomore defensive tackle in college football has got plenty to worry about — making sure he learns every play in the playbook, making sure he keeps his grades up and making sure he doesn't sell his cocaine to any undercover officers.

And wouldn't you know it, the one that University of Idaho player Marvin Jones Jr. messed up was the last one.

Jones was arrested last week for selling cocaine to undercover officers, not once, not twice, but on three separate occasions.

That's thrice the stupidity of a normally stupid person.

It appears that Jones will have a hard time getting out of this one. You see, police found over \$1,600 in his room, including marked bills the police used to buy his cocaine.

Even worse news is that police have said that more arrests could come from this.

Jones is 6-2 and 300 pounds. I believe of that 300 pounds, his brain weighs in at about three or four ounces.

## Hunting bird grower and hunting preserve conferences set for June

EL PASO COUNTY — A meeting for landowners wanting to know more about the bird hunting industry will be held in June. It's designed for anyone who wants to improve bird hunting, breed birds for release and protect their birds against disease losses, said Dr. Lee Cartwright, Texas Cooperative Extension poultry science specialist.

The conference is on June 15 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and will be held at the Texas A&M Research Center, located on 1380 A&M Circle, just past I-10 and Americas Avenue. Registration is free. Participants who pre-register will receive a free lunch.

Topics will include:

- The Game Bird Business;
- How to Hunt Your Property;
- How to Manage Property for

Wild Birds;

- Planting Your Property — At What Cost?;
- Promoting Your Birds and Your Preserve; and
- Threat-Proofing Your Business.

Speakers will outline the national poultry improvement plan. A hands-on session with a disease-testing school and necropsy/bird posting health examination will also be presented.

Anyone interested in attending can register by contacting Cartwright by mail: 107 Kleberg Center, TAMU 2472, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2472; phone: (979) 845-4319; e-mail: a-cartwright@tamu.edu; or online from <http://gallus.tamu.edu/> (click on the link for Workshops and Symposia).

## Great season for Tornillo Junior High baseball team



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

**FIRST TRIP TO THE FINALS — The 8th grade Tornillo Junior High Baseball Team, shown left to right, with JV Baseball Coach D. Joe Williams and 8th grade Baseball Coach Alex Macias**

TORNILLO — The Eighth Grade Tornillo Baseball Team ended a great season with a second place finish in the El Paso County Conference Tournament held on May 16-18. This is the first time Tornillo has made it to the championship game.

The Coyotes defeated Fabens 11-4 to make it to the championship game. "We had a great season," said 8th grade student Jesse Guerra. "We won all of our games and tied Clint." This was the first year coaching the Coyote Baseball Team for Baseball Coach Alex Macias. He was assisted by Junior Zach Brooks from the Tornillo Varsity Baseball Team.

The two teams that made it to the championship game were Tornillo and Clint. Clint was last year's defending champions. Justin Trevizo led the Coyotes pitching the entire game racking up eleven strike outs. Ezequiel Madrid led the team in batting with three RBI's. Clint edged out the victory against the Coyotes winning 6-4.

"We had fun this season and had a coach that really believed in us," said 8th grade student Danny Garcia. Many of the kids have plans to play varsity baseball in the future.

## Classified Ads

**LEGAL**

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Invitation to Bid/Respond:**

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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2007**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CSP NO.199-0605-7102 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2 P.M.**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SOFTWARE CSP NO.199-0605-7103 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.**

**SPORTS TRAINING**

**SUPPLIES CSP NO.199-0605-7104 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3 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](http://www.sisd.net). WTCC-05/24/07

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

AVON - BUY OR SELL! Earn up to 50% when you sell. Call 764-2021 or 346-9348. 5/24

**COUNSELING SERVICES**

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Profes-

sional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family. Health insurance and fee scale accepted. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment. 5/24

**DOCUMENT ASSISTANCE**

Divorce documents prepared, includes petition, waiver, final decree. Covers children and property. \$275. (915) 851-1425.

**RENTALS**

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT for rent, \$350/month. \$100 deposit. Call 329-2501. 5/17

**SELF-HELP**

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

562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

**SERVICES**

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

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16	17	18	19
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Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



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My boss wants us to appeal to a younger and hipper crowd. So I'd like to get a tattoo that says 'Accounting Rules!'"

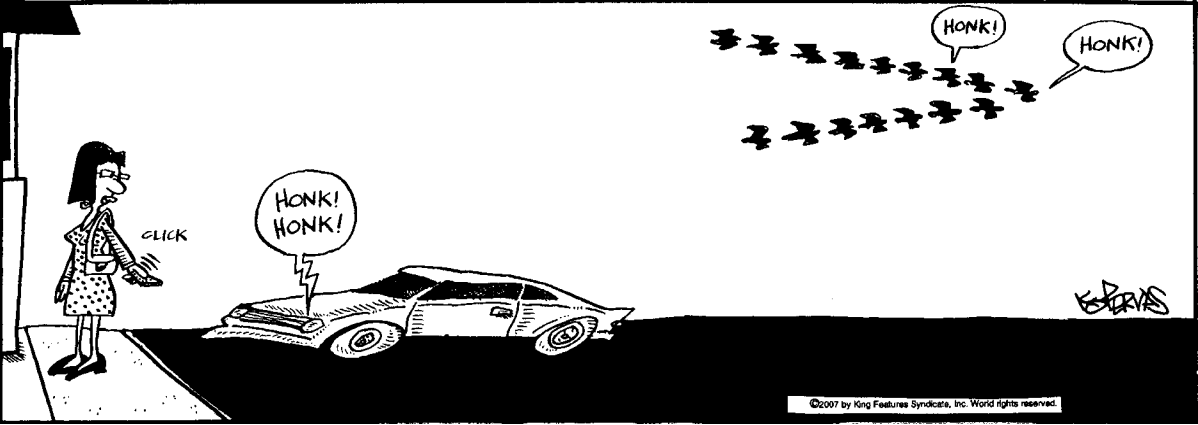
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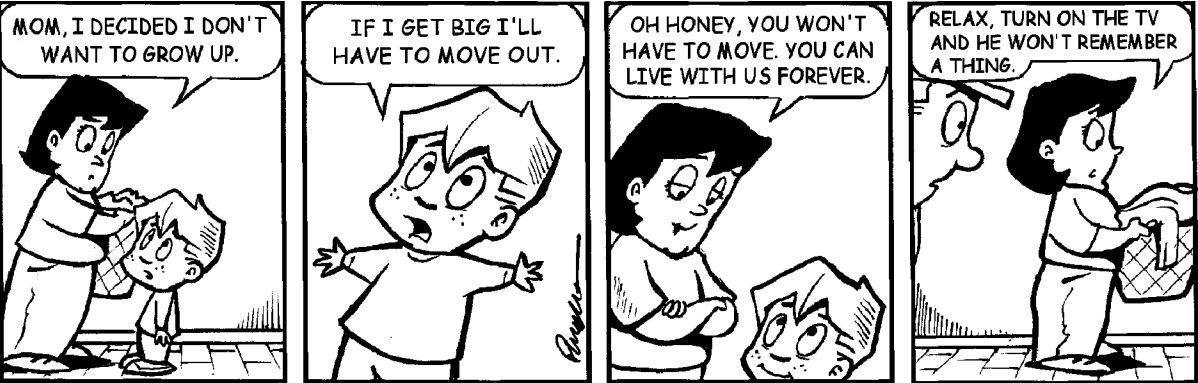
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Planet offers hope of intelligent life

By Don Flood

In space news, we welcome the report of a recently discovered planet said to be strikingly similar to Earth, though apparently lacking HBO.

Unfortunately, some outlets, such as the Daily Mail in London, got carried away, reporting: "It's got the same climate as Earth, plus water and gravity. A newly discovered planet is the most stunning evidence that life — just like us — might be out there."

OK, let's get this straight. There is no planet anywhere with life "just like us," though various episodes of the "Star Trek" documentary series would seem to suggest otherwise.

Not even close. We are Planet Earth, and we can proudly claim the Weirdest Life Forms in the Universe.

We've got Paris Hilton, Alberto Gonzales, Michael Jackson, North Korean leader Kim Jong II, and just about everybody on reality TV shows, which includes three fifths of the U.S. population.

If the inhabitants of Gliese 581 C — which is the rather lame name of the planet — think they match us for weirdness, I say, "Bring it on."

But we should still try to establish good relations with Gliese 581 C, which is why Earthlings should be aware the planet revolves around a red dwarf-type star.

This is nothing to be embarrassed about, but Gliesiens, who already suffer the stigma of living on a planet whose name sounds like a subsection of the federal tax code, may be sensitive about this subject.

That's why I'm proposing we knock off the dwarf jokes now and consider banning dwarf-tossing competitions.

On the plus side, Gliese 581 C, unlike Earth, doesn't appear to have started its 2008 presidential

election, indicating it might actually support intelligent life.

Unfortunately, here on Earth, where the search for intelligent life continues unabated, especially on the campaign trail, Rudy Giuliani has made it clear he's Captain Clueless.

Recently, in a CNN.com story, Giuliani said that voters should focus on his record and not his "rocky" personal life, which includes three marriages.

Good call, Rudy. How about suggesting we dispense with singing the National Anthem before baseball games and hold flag-burnings instead?

Of course we're going to focus on your personal life. This campaign is scheduled to go on another 18 months — assuming we all don't die of boredom. You expect us to sit through policy statements for next year and a half?

What's great about Giuliani is that his current wife is also on her third marriage, so it's a 2-for-1 deal.

The odds of one or the other or both stumbling into an embarrassing personal scandal might surpass even the chances for Bimbo Eruptions during the Clinton years.

And that will be the key for Giuliani, milking the nostalgia vote.

At the time, people were outraged at Clinton's personal failings but in retrospect — after Bush — his administration has begun to acquire a rosy glow.

Americans are tired of foreign- and domestic-policy scandals. They want to get back to "normalcy" — 24/7 cable coverage of presidential sex scandals.

That's what democracy is all about. Hopefully, some day we can export it to the citizens of Gliese 581 C.

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- PAILS IN COMPARISON ACROSS

1 Evaluated

6 "Later, Luis!"

11 Start to paint

14 Reggae relative

17 Vision-related

19 \_ acid

21 Samuel's teacher

22 Existed

23 Queen Anne chair?

24 Start of a remark by Mary Waldrif

27 Party animal?

28 "Othello" villain

30 "\_ Miniver" ('42 film)

31 Racer Luyendyk

32 Presque \_\_, ME

33 Where to spend a krona

37 It's on the bee's knees

39 Disconcert

42 Mosque feature

44 Washer residue

45 \_ Raton, FL

46 Malice

47 Tombstone territory

51 Part 2 of remark

57 \_ Tin Tin

58 From \_ Z

59 Brandy bottle

60 84 Across, for one

61 Without \_

(daringly)

62 "Thanks, Robespierre!"

64 Happen

67 Wipe out

69 Furniture wood

71 Hit rock bottom

75 Ade ingredients

76 Self-confidence

78 Andes animal

79 Ham up "Hamlet"

81 Gray or Moran

82 Diva Ponselle

84 Senegal's capital

86 At once

89 Seixas of tennis

90 Part 3 of remark

95 Polished

97 English county

98 Rain hard?

99 About

100 \_ store

102 First in a series

103 Perceptive

106 "Gunsmoke" star

107 Muscat's nation

109 Fawn's father

110 Calculating person?

111 Emulate Ederle

112 Spring

115 End of remark

122 Summer hummer

124 High peak

125 Geologic division

126 Ariel, for instance

127 Like some watches

128 Affirmative vote

129 Combat

130 Model of simplicity?

131 Dote upon

DOWN

1 Actress Lillian

2 Exercise aftermath

3 Rotate

4 Jeff Lynne's grp.

5 Coffee accompaniment

6 Choir member

7 Dit's cousin

8 Cola cooler

9 Giant legend

10 Round Table title

11 Labor leader Eugene

12 Out of sorts

13 "American \_" ('72 hit)

14 Eddy

15 Couric of "Today"

16 Pallid

18 Genuine

20 Telescope view

25 Keatsian crock

26 Strauss specialty

29 Something of value

32 Author Dinesen

33 Prowl

34 Poverty

35 Desire deified

36 Actress Moore

37 "Treasure Island" extra

38 "I'm working \_"

39 Eban of Israel

40 Canvas contest

41 Henchman

43 Burly Burl

44 Bolger/Haley co-star

48 Decorative

49 Sib's kid

50 Pays to play

52 Violinist Zimbalist

53 RN's specialty

54 "I Am ... I \_" ('71 song)

55 Trigger Trigger

56 Ripped

61 Throw \_ (rage)

63 North Carolina campus

64 \_Locka, FL

65 Machine part

66 Security grp.

68 Plants

69 Novelist Binchy

70 Taxing time?

72 In addition

73 Russian, for one

74 Astronaut Slayton

77 Charlotte, Emily, or Anne

80 \_jongg

83 Kruger of "High Noon"

84 Jim Morrison's group

85 With 111 Down, "Nana" star

87 Rock's \_ Express

88 Ridge

90 Publisher Conde

91 Idyllic area

92 Actor Enriquez

93 Surrealist Tanguy

94 Tibia

96 Measure

100 Up for \_ (available)

101 Dachshundlike

102 "The Magic Flute" heroine

103 Examine

104 Hackneyed

105 Florida resort

106 Gibbon or gorilla

108 Isinglass

110 Glinka's "A Life for the \_"

111 See 85 Down

112 Sign of sainthood

113 Bouquet

114 Kid at court

116 Whip up a waistcoat

117 Author Levin

118 Good times

119 Dernier \_ (latest fashion)

120 Kipling novel

121 WWII area

123 Heel
- Answer Page 6
-

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

*Q: My son has a disability and receives SSI. Last month, a neighbor offered him \$25 to do some yard work. Will this affect his SSI?*

A: Probably not. Generally, the first \$20 of unearned income and the first \$65 of earned income from work do not count. The income does need to be reported, however. As long as your son is not receiving more than those limits in a given month, there will be no change in his benefit amount based on his earnings. If the amount

earned goes over the limit in some months, we will take \$1 in benefits for each \$2 he earns.

*Q: Is there a retirement planning section on Social Security's website?*

A: Yes. Social Security's Online Retirement Planner allows you to compute estimates of your future Social Security retirement benefits online. It also provides information on important factors affecting retirement benefits, such as military service,

*Q: I am only in my twenties. Last month I was injured in an auto accident and unable to work. How old do you have to be to get Social Security disability benefits?*

A: There is no minimum age, but you must have worked long enough and recently enough under Social Security to earn the required number of work credits. You can earn up to four work credits each year. The amount of earnings required for a credit increases each year as general wage

levels go up. The number of work credits you need for disability benefits depends on your age when you become disabled. In some case for a very young worker, you may only need six work credits — as little as 18 months of work. You can find out exactly how many credits you need to qualify for disability benefits on our website, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dqualify3.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dqualify3.htm). If you don't have enough work credits, you may still qualify for Supplemental Security Income benefits if you are disabled, have limited income and resources.

*Q: Are Supplemental Security In-*

*come (SSI) benefits only for people with disabilities?*

A: No. To qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you must either be blind or disabled or you must be 65 years old. You must also have limited income and resources.  
*For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://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.*

## Two from East County selected as Gates Millennium Scholars

EL PASO COUNTY — Montwood High School Senior Arturo M. Escajeda and Clint High School Senior Cynthia Chacon have been selected as a 2007 Gates Millennium Scholars. The annually renewable scholarship will fund the students' education from undergraduate career through the masters and doctoral levels.  
The two are among only 1,000 students from across the nation to receive the scholarship. All nominees are selected based upon academic achievement, community service, and leadership.

This year the Gates Millennium Scholars program attracted over 11,000 applicants. With these awards, 1,000 highly motivated low-income minority students from 48 states and the District of Columbia will be able to attend college without the burden of tuition.

Arturo Escajeda plans on attending Boston University in the fall and heads to East Coast in June for a summer orientation. "We are very proud of Arturo also, not only for his academic achievements but for what he has done in music and athletics as well," said J u n i



Arturo M. Escajeda



Cynthia Chacon

Escajeda is involved with Academic Decathlon, National Honor Society and the school's orchestra.  
Cynthia Chacon is an honor student, Varsity Tennis Team Captain, Go Center Vice President, Student Council Secretary, and National Honor Society Historian. She has volunteered over 300 hours of community service to Clint High School and the community of Clint. After graduation she plans to study at UTEP and major in Electrical Engineering.  
"I believe she is one of those rare individuals that are very dedicated, goal-oriented, hardworking, caring, enthusiastic and family oriented. She displays a maturity and politeness rarely found in her age group," says Felipe Cobos, Clint High School Counselor.  
— Contributed by Laura Cade and Irma Flores



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

## Montwood sophomore crowned El Paso Teen

EL PASO COUNTY — Montwood High School student, Sarah Chenausky, was crowned Miss El Paso Teen on April 29, 2007. Sarah has been preparing for the last several months for the annual competition. She was trained by Richard Guy of Guy/Rex who has been credited for having five girls go on to win Miss USA. Held at the El Paso Woman's Club downtown, the competition included an interview, swim suit competition, evening gown competition and a final question on stage. When the night was over, Sarah was crowned as Miss Photogenic, Best Hair and Miss El Paso Teen. Sarah will go on to compete in the national competition in Las Vegas, Nevada for the title of Miss Teen of the Nation. Additionally, as the new Miss El Paso Teen, she will spend the next year as a spokesperson representing El Paso.



# ORANGE

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9-22	Texas Southern
10-6	Tulsa
10-13	East Carolina
10-27	Houston
11-17	Southern Miss.

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