



NEWSBRIEFS

Padilla elected

Pam Padilla, Superintendent of Canutillo Independent School District, has been elected to serve from Region XIX, on the Texas Association of Community Schools (TACS) Executive Committee. Her term began June 1, 2007 and ends May 2009. Padilla, who was elected by her peers (local small district superintendents) will be representing this area for the next two years. TACS membership is comprised of the small, mid-sized and rural school districts in Texas that have no more than one high school. TACS is the voice in legislation for the single high school community in Texas.



Pam Padilla

Anthony parade

The Town of Anthony will celebrate the 4th of July with its annual parade and picnic. The parade route will be the same as before starting at the entrance to the Sonic Drive-in in Anthony, NM and going south along main street and the east on Franklin Street to the Anthony Municipal Park. Line up is 9:30 a.m. and starting time for the parade is 10:30 a.m. This year's parade theme is "Hometown Heros." We are inviting any active, reserve or veteran to participate as our parade marshals. The parade will be led by VFW Post 4384 which has been a tradition for all the previous parades. After the parade there will be hotdogs and refreshments at Henry Miramontes Memorial Park. Anyone that would like to participate in the parade is welcomed and can contact Mayor Art Franco at 915-726-6788 and e-mail afranco@townofanthony.org or the Town of Anthony at 915-886-3944.

Crime Stoppers

Two men held up a bank, armed with handguns, and displayed aggressiveness that indicates their potential to become extremely violent and possibly kill or injure someone in a future robbery attempt. On Saturday, May 19, at about 2:30 p.m. two completely concealed men entered the Chase Bank at 11391 Montwood and committed an aggravated robbery. They displayed black handguns and got away with an undisclosed amount of money. Both suspects are possibly black males in their early to mid-twenties, 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-9 inches in height, thin build, wearing hooded sweatshirts. They made their getaway in a dark gray or black, medium-size vehicle (possibly a Pontiac) with no other description. If you know anything about this case, call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You can remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

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A lot of good arguments are spoiled by some fool who knows what he's talking about.

— Quips & Quotes

Canutillo High School student selected to participate in Texas Governor's School

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Jane Lee, Canutillo High School sophomore, was selected recently as the only student from Region 19 ESC to attend the first Texas Governor's School (TGS) from June 10-30, on the campus of the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton. The TGS was established by the 2003 Texas Legislature to provide a rich and challenging academic experience in Science and Technology for advanced Texas high school students.

Only 148 participants were selected from across the state to attend the three-week, residential summer program in Denton, where students will be housed in dormitories at UNT. The theme of the 2007 Texas Governor's School is "The Future of Science and Technology in our World". While the course offerings are not for credit, participants

will be exposed to various science topics and their impact on society.

Participants in the program will take courses to enhance their writing skills and to develop college preparation plans. They will be able to enjoy a variety of activities, including performances by ensembles from the famed UNT College of Music.

"The program is focused on enriching and developing a student's abilities in science and technology as well as exploring the impacts of these fields on past, present, and future societies including ethics, history and the arts," said Nancy Hoover, CISD Advanced Academics Coordinator.

"This is my first trip away from my family, but I am very excited to be going to the Governor's School this summer," said Lee. "I selected math and Philosophy of Science in Society as two of the courses I would like to attend while I am there," she added.



Jane Lee

Fabens woman inducted into Hall of Fame

FABENS — Elena Slape was recently inducted into the Older El Pasoans Hall of Fame for her service to the elderly in the Fabens community. Slape, 66, has volunteered on a number of levels in the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program).

"I like to help out, and many of our seniors need our help," she said.

Primary among Slape's projects is keeping in touch with seniors who cannot leave their homes. She volunteers at the Fabens Nutrition Center and put in many hours at the former Fabens Library. She has assisted Adult Protective Services distributing blankets in winter and fans in summer.

Caring for the Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Fabens has also been important to Slape. "I was humbled and surprised by this award," she said.



Elena Slape

Socorro ISD schools honored for efforts in science

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

William D. Slider Science Teacher Carlos Peña with Alison Welch, Science department chair for William D. Slider Middle School with the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence Award.

Two Socorro Independent School District schools were recognized by the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence as the 2006-2007 "Schools of Excellence" for their efforts in making standards-based science education and achievement a priority on their campuses. Loma Verde Elementary and William D. Slider Middle School were among eight schools from throughout the region. The schools were recognized at an awards ceremony on May 2 at the Hoover House, the residence of UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio. Each school also received \$1,000 for their science department to buy materials

See SCIENCE, Page 4

IRS warns taxpayers of e-mail scams

By Lea C. Crusberg
Special to the Courier

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Internal Revenue Service is alerting taxpayers to the latest versions of an e-mail scam intended to fool people into believing they are under investigation by the agency's Criminal Investigation division.

The e-mail purporting to be from IRS Criminal Investigation falsely states that the person is under a criminal probe for submitting a false tax return to the California Franchise Board. The e-mail seeks to entice people to click on a link or open an attachment to learn more information about the complaint against them. The IRS warned people that the e-mail link and attachment is a Trojan Horse that can take over the person's computer hard drive and allow someone to have remote access to the computer.

The IRS urged people not to click the link in the e-mail or open the attachment.

Similar e-mail variations suggest a customer has filed a complaint against a company and the IRS can act as an arbitrator. The latest versions appear aimed at business taxpayers as well as individual taxpayers.

The IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mails or ask for detailed personal and financial information. Additionally, the IRS never asks people for the PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

"Everyone should beware of these scam artists," said Kevin M. Brown, Acting IRS Commissioner. "Always exercise caution when you receive unsolicited e-mails or e-mails from senders you don't know."

Recipients of questionable e-mails claiming to come from the IRS should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the e-mails. Instead, they should forward the e-mails to phishing@irs.gov (the instructions may be found on IRS.gov by entering the term "phishing" in the search box).

The IRS also sees other e-mail scams that involve tricking victims into revealing private personal and financial information over the Internet is known as "phishing."

The IRS and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration work with the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) and various Internet service providers and international CERT teams to have the phishing sites taken offline as soon as they are reported.

Since the establishment of the mail box last year, the IRS has received more than 17,700 e-mails from taxpayers reporting more than 240 separate phishing incidents. To date, investigations by TIGTA have identified host sites in at least 27 different countries, as well as in the United States.

Other fraudulent e-mail scams try to entice taxpayers to click their way to a fake IRS Web site and ask for bank account numbers. Another widespread e-mail tells taxpayers the IRS is holding a refund (often \$63.80) for them and seeks financial account information. Still another e-mail claims the IRS's 'anti-fraud commission' is investigating their tax returns.

More information is available on IRS.gov.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Unreal reality

America is all about reality. We fancy ourselves as a society that can take it. Deal with it, dish it out and lap it up.

That's why we love reality shows. Reality shows as we know them, of course, aren't real at all. As long as we can convince ourselves of something, though, that's all that matters.

It started several decades ago when shows like Phil Donahue became popular. Then there was Jerry Springer, Ricky Lake, Oprah Winfrey and on and on, till there isn't much dirty laundry left that Americans haven't aired in front of the whole world. Even if you aren't a celebrity, if your story is sordid or pitiful enough, you, too, can have your 15 minutes of fame. Five, at least, but who's counting?

A good fist-fight during an interview might get you 10 minutes.

The *American Idol* "singing" con-

test really broke ratings ground with its exploitation — albeit quite willingly — of people who have no talent whatsoever.

The formula has proven so patently successful that it spawned any number of *AI*-wannabe programs. Even using the dreadful plight of starving people in Africa to prop up celebrity egos and ratings during the "Idol Gives Back" portion of the season won't be effective for long. So the ground-breakers in the American entertainment industry have been searching frantically for a new edge in "reality."

However, the Dutch got to the new frontier first.

Creators of a Dutch reality came up with something so totally tasteless and morally repugnant that even the *Idol* folks had to sit up and take notice. They aired a program in which a terminally ill woman, known only as "Lisa," was to choose one person from a field of afflicted contestants to be awarded one of her kidneys.



"WHAT DOES 'GOOD RIDDANCE' MEAN ANYWAY?..."

They called it the Big Donorshow. Promoters boasted that it was really a public service because there isn't nearly enough attention being paid to the shortage of organ donors. They said they were using this atrocity to do something about it.

Lisa said it felt like playing God. Laurens Drillich, chairman of the BNN Network, released a statement that even though they realized that the program was "super controversial and some people will think it's tasteless," they believed it is even "more shocking and tasteless" that waiting for an organ is like "playing the lottery."

So this 37-year-old woman with an inoperable brain tumor listened to interviews with the contestants, their family and friends, as the basis for her decision. In other words, they begged for their lives.

There were some European officials and lawmakers who criticized

the program. The Dutch Kidney Institute waffled all over the place with the director of the institute saying he was glad for the attention the program would draw to the organ donation issue but the way it was being done was questionable. "This is not a structural solution," he said.

Whatever that means. Anyway, as I said in the beginning, reality shows aren't real at all, and this one proved to be no exception. In the final moments of the show, it was revealed that the entire thing had been a hoax, and that the "terminally ill" woman was just an actress — although the show's producers claim the "contestants" really are ill people in need of kidney transplants. Apparently they knew it was a hoax.

So the debate began — was it a good or bad thing? Was it a justifiable means to an end? Was this latest exercise in unreal reality going to produce good or bad results? There

are, as always, plenty of opinions on both sides.

Drillich claims that money was never an issue, but whether his audience watched for altruistic motives or for morbid gratification, it is undeniable that millions watched and his ratings increased.

And he broke new ground. I tend to agree with those who said the whole thing showed that so-called reality shows are more than willing to push the envelope, willing to throw caution, discretion and taste out the window for ratings that are thinly cloaked as public service.

We think it can't happen, but history has proven that lions turned loose in a stadium to slaughter helpless people for the sake of entertainment is not an impossible scenario.

We're not quite ready to accept that extreme yet, but we're treading a slippery slope where the unreal can become reality.

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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View from here By Stephen A. Moses

It is time to fix Texans' long-term care

If the nation isn't prepared for the aging baby boomers, it isn't because the boomers sneaked up on us. For some time, we have seen the warnings and been conscious of the coming "age wave." The problem is that few have taken heed and been moved to act thus far.

While national leaders warn about the coming collapse of Medicare and Social Security, state lawmakers grow increasingly concerned about meeting the demand and cost of Medicaid long-term care as the boomers age. To stave off the coming disaster, state lawmakers need to respond quickly to embrace every ounce of the limited federal flexibility available.

Most Medicaid reformers look to how states can encourage people to plan for their long-term care through private long-term care insurance. Too often, these lawmakers think that merely educating people on the differences of Medicaid and Medicare and which pays for long-term care will be enough to reshape people's behavior. But the truth is that it doesn't matter whether long-term care is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, or Santa Claus, the important thing is that somebody pays, and we

know this because people are not going without this care.

The more important thing is for federal and state officials to recognize why they have a problem with long-term care. To wit, the government's been giving it away since 1965, crowding out private financing alternatives like personal spend down, reverse mortgages and long-term care insurance. It's no wonder most Texans don't worry about long-term care, use their home equity to pay for it, or purchase long-term care insurance against the risk, and instead end up dependent upon public assistance for long-term care as the only alternative to consuming their own wealth and their heirs' inheritances.

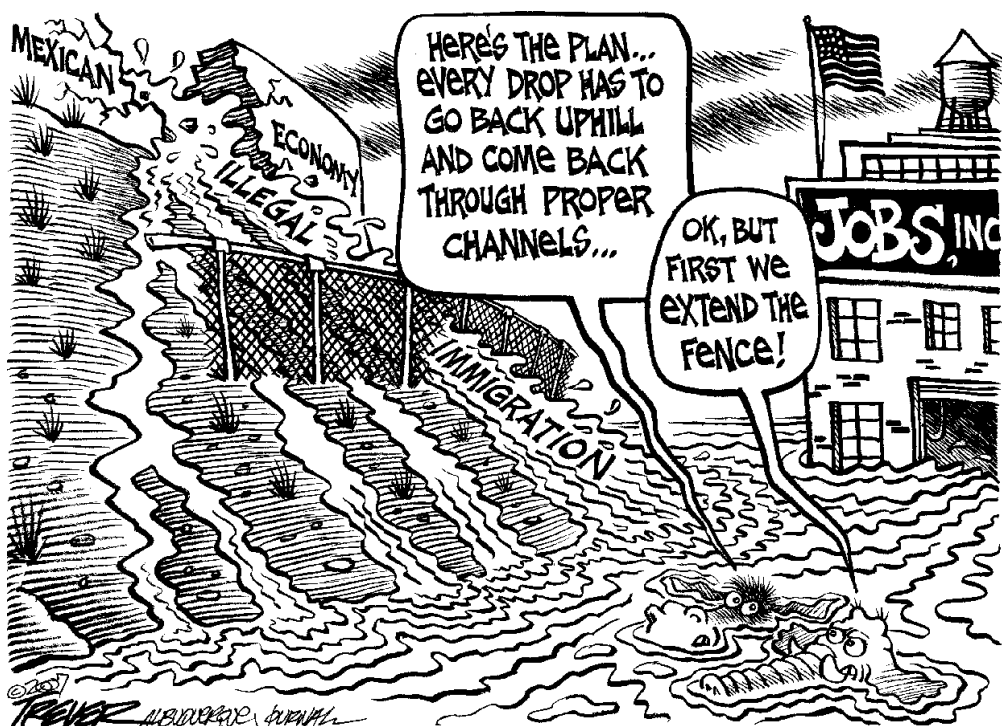
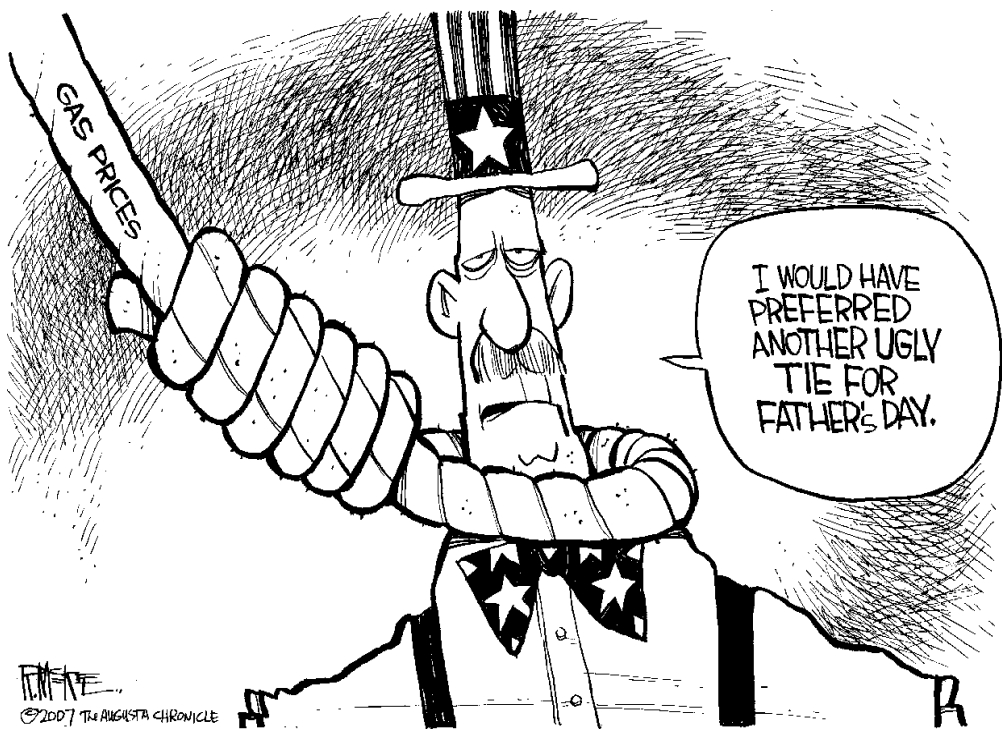
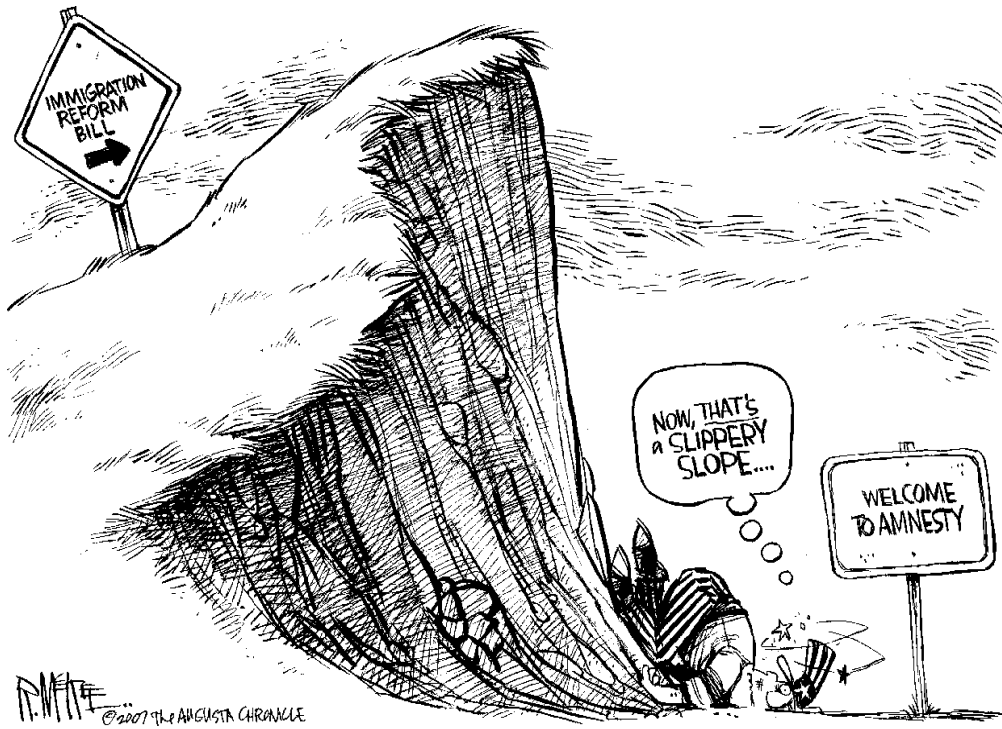
The second thing is that although Medicaid, the primary payer of long-term care services in Texas, is a means-tested public assistance program, it is actually rather easy to qualify for Medicaid long-term care services. Generous eligibility guidelines and well-known and exploited loopholes make it easy for Texans with substantially higher income and assets to qualify by purchasing exempt assets with otherwise countable re-

sources and retaining the counsel of Medicaid estate planning specialists.

Medicaid is too often used as inheritance insurance for those who have resources that should be used to support their own long-term care. Although Medicaid was intended to be a safety net for the few who truly have no other alternatives for their long-term care needs, it now serves the poor and prosperous alike and allows people to plan for Medicaid to pay their bills. As a consequence, the program will soon feel the weight of a growing caseload among those who are already the program's most expensive population to serve, which will threaten the safety net for the truly needy.

What should Texas policy makers do about this? To a large degree, their hands are tied by federal laws and regulations. But to the extent that they can, they must begin to target Medicaid to the truly needy and use the savings to educate the public about long-term care and to incentivize the use of private financing alternatives.

As a result, seniors will get better access to higher quality care across a



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Annual conference looks at more than immigration

This year's 11th Annual U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Congressional Border Issues Conference could not have come at a more opportune time. As the issues of immigration reform and border security have taken center stage on Capitol Hill in the past year, the Border Conference presented a unique — and much needed — forum for dialogue between all sides of the debate and both sides of the border.

While immigration was the main focus, we expanded the discussion by including issues that directly relate to our borders, but are often given less thought by the general public. This included roundtable discussions on sustainable economic and social development along our border regions with participants from the North American Development Bank, Border Health Commission, Border Economic Cooperation Commission, and the Ciudad Juárez Association of Maquiladoras. Former El Pasoan Al Martinez-Fonts, an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Homeland Security, also joined the discussion, as well as Congressman James Sensenbrenner; architect of last year's infamous HR 4437 "Border Security" bill in the U.S. House.

By expanding the debate to form a more complete picture, I believe we were able to educate and inform our audience of the many factors involved in securing our southern border while at the same time ensuring that American businesses, as well as our neighbors in Mexico, are able to continue to enjoy a strong economic relationship between our two nations. My views on this matter were shared by Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan of the Embassy of Mexico, who also joined us during our forum on immigration.

Immigration has become an especially heated topic within the country. Even as we were holding our conference, my colleagues in the Senate were discussing the proposed immigration bill. Although the debate on comprehensive immigration reform recently broke down in the Senate, we must not permit partisan bickering to prevent us from effectively reforming our current system.

As the only member of the U.S. House of Representatives to have served as a Border Patrol Agent and Sector Chief, I bring a unique perspective to the debate. Many of my views on border security were shared by our keynote speaker at the luncheon, Chief of the Border Patrol David Aguilar.

Chief Aguilar spoke of the recent bill mandating the construction of fences along the southern border. Both he and I agree that a fence is not the right solution. We should be directing those monies to the men and women along our border who act as our "boots on the ground" to ensure that they have the absolute best training, equipment, technology, and resources available to more effectively address the problem of illegal trafficking. By taking a more comprehensive approach to the problems of smuggling of people, narcotics, and weapons, as well as other illegal activities, we can better ensure the security of our southern-and northern-borders.

This year's Conference was a great success not only because of its timing, but also because of the caliber of the participants. Hopefully, by continuing to frame the discussion within reasoned debate and experienced input rather than partisan politicking, we can more effectively and comprehensively address ongoing border and immigration dilemmas and take needed steps towards resolving an internationally significant issue.

Care

From Page 2

wider spectrum of care if they pay privately, and Medicaid will be able to do a better job for a smaller number of people who truly need it. The long-term care market will respond in kind, giving people the services they demand at the best prices. Competition will reward providers richly for providing benefits that the people want, and those seeking long-term care services, whether at home or in an institutional setting, will have greater choice with better quality.

Perhaps most importantly, people will have an interest and an opportunity to plan for their own long-term care.

Of all the examples where government programs have crowded out private activity, the

most egregious and fiscally damaging have been the impacts of Medicare and Medicaid on planning for long-term care. Our window of opportunity to set these programs back on sound footing is quickly closing and nothing short of fundamental reform will do. If we continue to deny the problem and simply kick it forward into the future, we will find that the "inheritance" we're trying to leave for our kids may not be enough to cover the tax bill with which we've stuck them.

Stephen Moses (smoses@centerltc.com) is president of the Center for Long-Term Care Reform in Seattle (www.centerltc.com) and a Senior Research Fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Austin, Texas. Moses' new report on Medicaid Long-Term Care in Texas is available through the Foundation at www.texaspolicy.com.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore June 11, 1865: The State Treasury is robbed of \$17,000. Only one robber is ever caught.

Federal program offers student loan relief to teachers at eligible schools

For several years now, the federal government has been promoting a program that forgives some student loan debt to thousands of teachers who work at schools that serve low-income students.

Congress established the Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF) Program in 1998 as a way to boost the number of teachers in key subjects such as math and science, and to retain teachers in schools where more than 30 percent of the students come from low-income households, which are categorized as Title I schools by the U.S. Department of Education. For math, science, or special education teachers, the incentives can be more than three times that of other teachers.

Under the TLF program, a borrower of federal Stafford loans who teaches five consecutive and complete years at a qualifying school may be eligible for a total of \$5,000 in loan forgiveness. Highly-qualified math, science and special education teachers are eligible for as much as \$17,500 in loan forgiveness.

This amount of loan relief is substantial since the average loan debt for stu-

dents upon college graduation is \$19,237, according to the 2003-04 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study.

Since 2001, a total of \$106 million in federal student loans has been forgiven nationally. In Texas, approximately \$7.2 million of student loans guaranteed by TG has been forgiven for about 1,100 teachers, and the number is growing. Last year, more than \$3 million in student loans were forgiven for Texas teachers. Many states are now establishing teacher loan forgiveness programs of their own.

"Having had the opportunity to speak with many teachers about loan forgiveness, it is apparent that the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program has had a significant effect in encouraging teachers to choose or continue teaching in Title I schools," said Sam Wilson, TG's assistant vice president for customer assistance. "Many teachers see this program as making the difference in their decision to remain in the teaching profession, as opposed to leaving to work in a less personally rewarding but more lucrative job. In terms of social benefit, the TLF program has been hugely successful."

Rewarding teachers with loan forgiveness is helping attract and retain talented and dedicated professionals to a traditionally low-paying field. According to the National Education Association, beginning public school teachers earn on average \$31,000 annually — the figure is less for new Texas teachers. The low pay for teachers makes it difficult to keep up with an average college loan indebtedness of \$19,000, and a loan payment that can approach \$400 a month.

The U.S. Department of Education has a list of qualifications for the TLF

Program that can be found at www.ed.gov, or by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243. However, the two key qualifications are:

- A teacher cannot have an outstanding balance on a Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) or Federal Direct Loan Program (FDLP) loan as of October 1, 1998, or on the date a FFELP or FDLP loan was obtained after October 1, 1998.

- A teacher must be employed full time for five consecutive, complete academic years at an eligible school.

An eligible school is considered "low-income" according to certain criteria for funding under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is listed in the Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits.

Interested teachers will find a TLF application online at www.ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/attachments/GEN0502Attach2.pdf. Both the teacher and a school's chief administrative officer — superintendent, principal or assistant principal — must complete the form.

Canutillo HS student to serve as a Page in the U.S. House of Representatives

Miriam Garcia, Canutillo High School junior, was notified recently that she has been selected to serve as a Page in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 2007 second summer session, which begins July 8 and ends August 4.

Pages are young people who are hired to serve as helpers for the U.S. House of Representatives. They are students in their junior year of high school who go to Washington D.C. to live, work, and study as Pages. The Office of the Clerk, under the auspices of the Majority and Minority leadership and the U.S. House of Representatives Page Board, administers this program, which includes the House Page School, work responsibilities, and the Page Residence Hall.

"I am very excited about having this opportunity to work in Washington D.C. and to experience firsthand the awesome task of our national leaders," stated Garcia. "I am look-

ing forward to this wonderful experience, and I especially look forward to representing El Paso and Canutillo High School to the best of my ability."



Miriam Garcia

Garcia will work with a team and not in individual Members' offices. Her duties will consist primarily of delivering correspondence, legislative material, and small packages within the Congressional complex. She may be assigned to answer phones and take messages for Members, call them to the phone if they are in the House Chamber and prepare the House Floor for sessions. The work experience is supervised by full-time adult employees who manage the Page work responsibilities on

a daily basis.

Garcia applied for the program through Congressman Silvestre Reyes Office. Her application was the only one selected from several submitted by the 16th Congressional District Office.

Garcia, who will be a senior next school year, currently is ranked second in her class with a 98.6 grade point average. She is a member of CHS's Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) and has competed at the HOSA state and national levels. She is a member of Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, FFA, and the cross-country team. Garcia has also been a mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program for the past three years.

Garcia is the daughter of Martha and Ruben Garcia of Westway. "It is an honor watching my daughter get this recognition and seeing her grow up to be such a fine young lady," said her mother.

— Contributed by Alfredo Vasquez



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The El Paso Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2007/2008 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the El Paso Central Appraisal District Conference Room, 5801 Trowbridge, El Paso, Texas 79925.

A summary of the Appraisal District Budget follows:

The total amount of the Proposed Budget (Salaries and Operating) is \$11,748,016.00.

The total amount of increase over the current year's Budget is \$918,208.00.

The number of employees compensated under the current Budget is 141.

The number of employees compensated under the proposed Budget will be 143.

The Appraisal District is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the Appraisal District.

If approved by the El Paso Central Appraisal District Board of Directors at the public hearing, this Proposed Budget will take effect automatically on October 1, 2007, unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities, and towns served by the Appraisal District.

A copy of the Proposed Budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of these governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the Appraisal District Office.

El Paso Central Appraisal District
5801 Trowbridge
El Paso, Texas 79925

Canutillo Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

Any interested representative of a non-profit private school or non-profit home school

- operating within the boundaries of the Canutillo Independent School District, or
- operating outside of the boundaries of the district, but serving students who live within the boundaries

is encouraged to call for an appointment to receive information regarding the Consolidated Application for Federal Funding for 2007-2008. The application provides the following programs, through the "No Child Left Behind Act."

- Title I, Part A — Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C — Education of Migratory Children
- Title II, Part A — Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting
- Title II, Part D — Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III, Part A — English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement
- Title IV, Part A — Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- Title V, Part A — Innovative Programs

Interested persons should call Jose Lopez at (915) 877-7445 to schedule an appointment. Representatives will need to provide their school's tax exempt identification number to the district to confirm eligibility. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be made available upon request.

WTCC: 06/14/07

Science

From Page 1

and equipment.

The awards recognize those elementary, middle, and high schools that are making standards-based science education a significant part of their curriculum, resulting in improved science achievement across their campuses. In addition to student achievement data, such as increases in the number of students passing the TAKS 5th grade science test in elementary, TAKS 8th grade science test in middle, and TAKS science exit test in high school, nominators were also asked for evidence that campus administrators provide resources and top-notch professional development to support high-quality science teaching and learning at their schools.

"The 'Schools of Excellence' awards is truly the highlight of our year, one that we look forward to because it gives us the opportunity to recognize a whole school community of teachers, students, parents and administrators and their continuing efforts to achieve excellence," said Dr. Susana Navarro, Executive Director of the El Paso Collaborative.

Presiding over the awards ceremony at Hoover House was Dr. Diana Natalicio, President of the University of Texas at El Paso and Chair of the El Paso Collaborative. This is the sixteenth year that the El Paso Collaborative has honored area schools.

Know your rights — about your credit card, that is

By Samantha Donaldson
Special to the Courier

Think resolving credit problems is as difficult as finishing a five-star Sudoku puzzle? Then check out Credit Card Rights, a new, informative package of publications from AARP, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Federal Citizen Information Center. It's filled with helpful tips and advice on how you can protect your credit history and fix any errors that may occur.

Your credit report includes information on where you live, how you pay your bills, whether you've been sued or arrested, or if you have filed for bankruptcy. And mistakes on it can affect your ability to get insurance, a loan, an apartment, or even a job. That's why it's important for you to check your credit report annually with all three of the nationwide consumer reporting agencies. Find out how to order your free report and what to do if you discover inaccurate information with this useful package.

You should also be on the look out for errors on your credit card statements. Billing errors include incorrect credits for payments, charges that you didn't make, and charges for goods or services that you didn't receive or that weren't as promised. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, you have the right to contest the mistake within 60 days after the bill's statement date. If you think your bill has an error, follow the steps outlined in the Credit Card Rights package to help dispute the amount.

And what if your credit card is lost or stolen? Do you know what to do? Once you discover your card is missing, immediately notify the card company. By doing so, you won't have to pay more than \$50 for unauthorized charges. And remember this protection is guaranteed so there's no need to buy "credit card insurance." It's also a good idea to make a list of your account numbers and the corresponding toll-free phone numbers and keep them in a safe place.

Order the Credit Card Rights package today and be an informed consumer. This package costs \$2.00. There are three easy ways to get your package: Send your name, address, and a check or money order for \$2.00 to Credit Card Rights, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov/money.htm to read or print more credit-related publications and hundreds of other Federal publications for free.

Call toll-free 1 (888) 8 PUEBLO. That's 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time and ask for Credit Card Rights. Have your credit card handy.

Get even more information and take advantage of online government services resources at www.USA.gov and www.GobiernoUSA.gov — your official English and Spanish web portals to the Federal government.

Briefs

From Page 1

In other news

■ If you're thinking about taking classes at UTEP this fall, now is the time to register. Registration for returning students is underway through Friday, Aug. 17. Late registration is Thursday, Aug. 23, through Friday, Aug. 24, and Monday, Aug. 27, through Thursday, Aug. 30. Students can register online using Goldmine at www.utep.edu or by touchtone telephone at 915/545-1145. There is still time to apply for federal, state and university-based financial aid, including UTEP's new financial programs: the UTEP Promise, the UTEP Success Plan and the Guaranteed Tuition Plan. Students can apply for federal and state aid by visiting

www.fafsa.ed.gov. Emergency tuition and book loans and installment plans are also available through the Office of Financial Aid. For more information, call 915/747-5204 or visit www.utep.edu/financialaid. Classes for the fall semester begin on Monday, Aug. 27.

■ The College of Education and Project Action for Equity are hosting the 2nd annual STEM Power: Bridging the Gender Equity Gap Conference from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 20, at UTEP. The free conference will offer teachers six hours of professional development. The registration deadline is Thursday, July 12. Teachers will learn hands-on lessons that highlight gender equity issues; prepare to address gender equity in their classroom; and learn to encourage young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. For more information,

call Elena Acosta at 915/747-6368.

■ The Rio Grande Council of Governments, on behalf of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group, is seeking nominations to fill fourteen (14) positions on the Planning Group representing the following interest groups: Public (2); Counties (1); Municipalities (1); Industries (1); Agricultural (2); Environmental (1); Small Businesses (1); Water Districts (2); Travel/Tourism (1); Legislative (1) and Building/Real Estate (1). Nominees must submit a brief resume summarizing their experience, represent the interest group for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by the Bylaws of the Far West Texas WPG. Written nominations (including a resume) must be filed with the Rio Grande Council of Governments at the address below on or before July 11, 2007. To file nominations or for

further information, contact: Ms. Barbara Kauffman, Deputy Executive Director, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 1100 North Stanton, Suite 610, El Paso, Texas 79902. Phone: 915-533-0998 ext. 121; Fax: 915-532-9385; e-mail: barbarak@riocog.org.

■ Singers and actors interested in being part of the 2007 UTEP Dinner Theatre production of "Miss Saigon" can audition at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at the theater, Union West, Room 207. All auditioners must have a song prepared and sheet music for piano accompaniment. Open roles are for men and women, late teens and up. The role for "Kim" has been pre-cast, all others are open. Rehearsals for the show begin in August. Twenty shows are scheduled to run from September through October. For more information, call 915/747-6060.

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Punishment for commentary puts announcer behind third base

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

From the "I want to be like Paul Strelzen" files, a public address announcer at a minor league baseball game in Reno was ejected by the home plate umpire recently. He was thrown out for playing an audio clip.

Of course, most people in El Paso know that former El Paso Diablos public address announcer Paul Strelzen (who wrote the book on PA quirks) was the first guy to get tossed from a game for aggravating an umpire.

Well he may have been the first, but he sure wasn't the last.

Mike Murray, the announcer for the Reno Silver Fox of the Golden Baseball League, got under the ultra-thin skin of home plate umpire Tyler Ramsey after he played a clip from the movie "Major League".

After a controversial call, Murray played the line in the movie uttered by Bob Uecker "Personally, I think we got hosed on that call."

I, personally, think that was pretty funny. The umpire definitely did not.

Now, the news of the umpire tossing the

game's announcer should be enough for this story, but it's only the beginning. The league's commissioner, Kevin Outcalt, had to think up a punishment for Murray, and he decided to get a little creative.

The Commish decided the best way to get back at Murray was to put him in the ump's shoes for a while — for one inning to be exact.

That's right. During last Friday's game, the guy who normally sits in his cushy public address announcer chair, had to umpire the game at third base. Commissioner Outcalt said the best punishment would be for Murray to see how hard it really is to umpire a game by trying it himself.

So Murray, who prior to the game said he'd never even ump'd a T-ball game before, went out and took his spot at third.

But this is not the first time that Murray has upset someone on the field.

He was warned about his antics last year when the manager of the San Diego Surf Dawgs, Terry Kennedy, got so upset about the little audio clips Murray was playing that he stormed the press box.

Boy, talk about a lack of a sense of humor. The little sound bites he played poked some

good-natured fun at the Surf Dawg players and the manager throws a fit. Kennedy sounds like a few of the 10-year-olds in my neighborhood.

Any way, for those of us who ever said there would never be another Strelzen, we were soooooo wrong!

Wife with knife

Did you hear the bizarre story concerning on-again, off-again golfer John Daly?

Seems the guy who has ruined his career because of his lust for gambling, smoking and alcohol, may actually be the victim this time.

Daly arrived for the second round of last week's St. Jude Golf Tournament with a badly scratched face and a story for the police that his wife attacked him with a steak knife.

In true Jerry Springer-fashion, Daly and his wife got into an argument at a restaurant the night before and evidently continued the feud later in the evening.

Though Daly is probably known more for his dumb decisions off the golf course, some of his wife's decisions are even worse.

She served a jail sentence a year ago after being involved in a gambling scheme.

I don't know what the two argued about, but

he sure made her mad, that's for sure. Maybe Daly better sleep with a 7-iron at his side for the next few days.

Athletes behavin' badly

Nebraska wide receiver Maurice Purify was the team's second-leading pass-catcher a year ago, but when it comes to getting in trouble with the law, he is his team's unquestioned leader.

Purify was arrested recently for speeding and driving under the influence. Pretty bad stuff, but it's nothing compared to what he did just a month ago.

Seems this 21-year-old tough guy really likes the nightlife. On May 5, Purify was charged with two counts of assault, resisting arrest, trespassing and failure to comply with police.

It all started when he threw a man over a table, hit him several times and then proved his real manhood and struck the man's girlfriend.

Coach Bill Callahan said the receiver's future with the team was uncertain. I can almost guarantee you he'll be catching balls for the Cornhuskers in the fall.

After all, what's more important, catching footballs or beating up women?

Get 'street smart' with summer cycling safety tips

By Cindy Price
Special to the Courier

Washington, D.C. — Now that school is out for the summer, kids of all ages are taking to the streets (and paths and sidewalks) of America, and they are using many forms of self-propelled transport, including scooters, skateboards, wheelies, roller blades, segues — and especially bikes. But are they taking proper safety precautions, including adhering to helmet safety standards?

"Every year, approximately 500,000 people end up in the emergency department with injuries resulting from bicycle accidents," said Dr. Brian Keaton, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). "In addition, more youngsters

ages 5 to 14 visit the ER every year for bike-related injuries than any other sport. And some of those children die, typically from head injuries."

That's why ACEP advises parents to make sure their youngsters adhere to the following guidelines when biking (or using any form of wheeled, athletic transport):

- Wear a properly fitting helmet that meets standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC); these helmets come with a CPSC sticker on them;
- Obey traffic signs and signals (including never riding against the flow of traffic);
- Use proper hand signals;
- Avoid road obstacles that can be associated with falls, such as wet leaves, large puddles, rough surfaces, curbs, gravel or rocks and, most important, other bikers or

pedestrians;

- Ride a bicycle that is appropriate to their size — or one that includes 1 to 3 inches of space between the rider and the top bar and allows him or her to have both feet firmly on the ground when straddling the bar;

- Adequately maintain their bicycle with properly inflated tires, smoothly adjusted brakes and a well-oiled chain;

- Dress in bright clothes (if possible) and attach (or wear) reflectors;

- Wear sneakers and avoiding clothing that could get caught in the bike's chain or wheels, including loosely fitted pants, shoelaces or anything with straps or chains dangling;

- Never wear headphones or talk on cell phones; and

- Never carry another person or heavy, awkward items.

In addition, parents may want to encourage their children to carry bottled water (in an attached bike holder), especially on long rides or on hot days; use a pouch adhered to the back of the bicycle seat for extraneous items such as money or keys; wear riding gloves and (in some cases) knee pads; and carry a lock and bicycle repair kit (especially on extended trips).

"Bicycles and other types of wheeled, self-powered transport are a great form of exercise and can be fun for anyone," said Dr. Keaton. "But it's important to take precautions before heading out, obey the rules of the road and simply use common sense."

ACEP is a national medical specialty society representing emergency medicine with more than 25,000 members.

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As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IFDDEI4H4FHA66986, 1985 Ford Passenger Van, Blue/Grey, Chihuahua MEX li-

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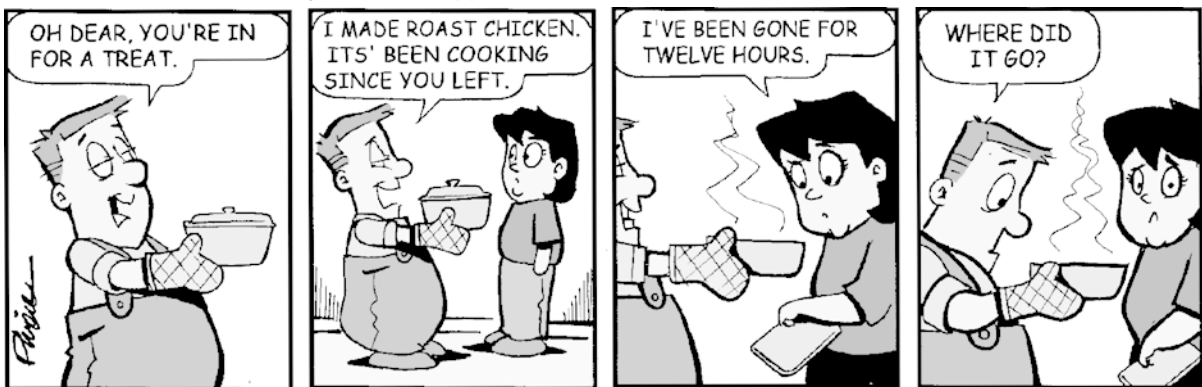


Comix

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Get a grip on e-mail, or the senders

By Don Flood

The headline from CNNMoney.com sounded great: "10 ways to get a grip on your email."

According to the story, if you send and receive 100 e-mails a day that adds up to 24,000 messages a year.

My volume runs a little higher, perhaps 24,000 an hour, so I figured I needed some help.

But the first line I came to — even before the story — said: "Sign up for the Ask Annie e-mail newsletter."

By all rights, the first of "Ask Annie's" 10 tips should have been: "Do not sign up for e-mail newsletters! Especially mine! Stop me before I e-mail again!"

I know about these traps. You start out signing up for important e-mail notices that will help improve your skills and add to your base of worthwhile knowledge: word of the day, news alerts, Uncle Earl's Reality TV Show Updates.

But then you notice, many of these words don't appear to be English. The news alerts sound fairly mundane: "Experts calling for darkness tonight," "Pope alleged to be Catholic."

And don't get me started on Uncle Earl's e-newsletters. His first few offered strong, incisive commentary on "Survivor," but his remarks about "Dancing With the Stars" were so off the mark, I wound up sending him hundreds of e-mails — spending my own valuable time — trying to correct his unbelievably boneheaded opinions.

Even worse: I'm not sure he even read them. His responses, a formulaic "Thank you for writing! I read and consider all submissions," seemed less than sincere, especially after the first 300 or so.

So don't sign up in the first place. Here's another time saver.

There seems to be an absolutely enormous number of overseas businessmen who, for one reason or another, find themselves in such unusual circumstances that they are forced to offer total strangers millions of dollars in exchange for doing practically nothing.

For example, for simply allowing these businessmen the opportunity to park \$20 million or so in your bank account, they may offer you \$4 million, sometimes more. All you have to do is send your bank account number and some basic personal information. It's a pretty sweet deal.

Unfortunately, I have to caution readers that you're about as likely to receive that money as you are a personal response from Uncle Earl.

So don't bother. If I start collecting, I'll let everybody know. There's enough money for all.

Now on to Ask Annie's suggestions.

Suggestion: Use group distribution e-mails sparingly. This is excellent advice that more people should heed. They don't seem to understand that others don't find their idiotic jokes amusing. That's why, for example, I send out only the very best knock-knock jokes, the crème de la crème.

Another suggestion: Send fewer e-mails. "Send five e-mails," she says, "and you'll get on average three responses."

Hard to argue with this, though I do have a suggestion for those with an extremely high e-mail volume: take your computer and throw it in a swamp.

This will lower your e-mails significantly.

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King Super Crossword

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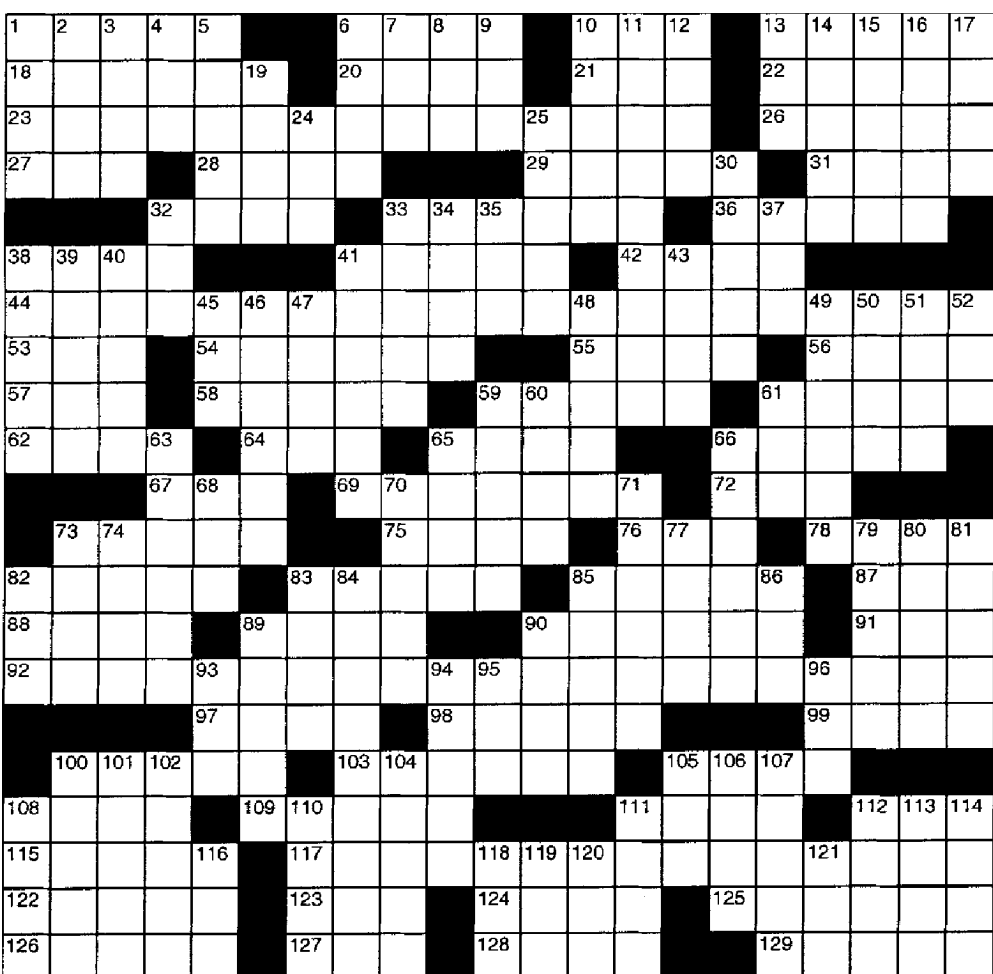
- ACROSS**
- 1 Rationed, with "out"
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 - 10 "Fall back" mo.
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 - 23 "Water view!"
 - 26 Actor Delon
 - 27 Heavy weight
 - 28 Black and white
 - 29 Perplexed
 - 31 Aware of
 - 32 Line of clothing?
 - 33 Polly-syllabic one?
 - 36 Jitterbug dance
 - 38 Bag
 - 41 _ up (became informed)
 - 42 Infamous Idi
 - 44 "Close to transportation!"
 - 53 Zombie base
 - 54 Snaps
 - 55 Otherwise
 - 56 Siegmester or Wiesel
 - 57 Presidential nickname
 - 58 Disprove
 - 59 Grate stuff
 - 61 Blackboard
 - 62 Take a hike

- 64 Meyerbeer's _ Huguenots"
- 65 Actor Novello
- 66 Latin rhythm
- 67 City on the Danube
- 69 "Cozy getaway!"
- 72 Excessively
- 73 Actress Braga
- 75 Hodgepodge
- 76 UK honor
- 78 Amusement park
- cry
- 82 Percussion instruments
- 83 Synthetic fiber
- 85 Composer Gabriel
- 87 Poetic pot
- 88 Classy doc?
- 89 Gin flavoring
- 90 "The Virginian" author
- 91 Wordless greeting
- 92 "Needs a little TLC!"
- 97 Santa _ , CA
- 98 Amusing
- 99 From the top
- 100 Mombasa's land
- 103 Overogled?
- 105 Melville monomaniac
- 108 Poi base
- 109 _ Quarter
- 111 Soon
- 112 Featherweight
- Willie

- DOWN**
- 1 Crazy
 - 2 Christiania, today
 - 3 Pride papa
 - 4 Philips of "UHF"
 - 5 Avoid
 - 6 July birthstone
 - 7 Pig _ poke
 - 8 "M*A*S*H" extras
 - 9 Consumed a knish
 - 10 Keats' _ _ a Nightingale"
 - 11 Bobby
 - 12 Lug
 - 13 Health club
 - 14 Raptor feature
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 - 24 Hoover or Grand
 - Coulee
 - 25 _ Gras
 - 30 '90 Woody Allen film

- 32 Go downhill fast
- 33 Ornamental loop
- 34 Questions
- 35 Legal matter
- 37 Squid's squirt
- 38 " _ Dogs" ('71 film)
- 39 Caribbean island
- 40 "Ship of the desert"
- 41 '60s dance
- 43 Lump
- 45 Educ. network
- 46 Singer Houston
- 47 Dressing gown
- 48 _ jacket
- 49 - jacket
- 50 "Oh, woe!"
- 51 Riotous Rudner
- 52 Kiki or Joey
- 59 Be of use
- 60 Manhattan area
- 61 _ Paulo, Brazil
- 63 You'll get a kick out of it
- 65 Gilligan's home
- 66 Audiophile's equipment
- 68 Fleur-de_
- 70 Photography fluid
- 71 Warm
- 73 Match socks, e.g.
- 74 _ about (approximately)
- 77 Use one's head?
- 79 Culinary province
- 80 Wear away
- 81 Bestow
- 82 AMA members

- 83 Priestly vestments
- 84 Author's income
- 85 Punished a leadfoot
- 86 Bungle
- 89 "To your health!"
- 90 Used to be
- 93 Bawl
- 94 Edit a text
- 95 NT book
- 96 Capture a crook
- 100 Director Elia
- 101 Let out the lava
- 102 Scandinavian
- 104 Duck down
- 105 _Margret
- 106 Night noise
- 107 Statesman Sadat
- 108 Hoffmann creation
- 110 Iowa city
- 111 Curly coif
- 112 Soccer superstar
- 113 Aphrodite's son
- 114 Parisian papa
- 116 Ending for "mountain"
- 118 _di-dah
- 119 Leading lady?
- 120 Above, to Arnold
- 121 Hurry



Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I never got around to applying for Medicare Part D, or for the extra help. What should I do now?

A: You're in luck! There will be no late enrollment penalties in 2007, for people who qualify for the extra help. This means that if you have limited income and qualify for the extra help

but didn't sign up during your initial enrollment period, you can do so now and still not have to pay a penalty. If you do not qualify for the extra help, you must wait for the next enrollment period for the Medicare prescription drug program, and you may have to pay a penalty. For more information about Medicare's prescription drug

program and special enrollment periods, visit www.medicare.gov.

Q: I'm getting Social Security disability benefits for myself, my wife and my son based on my severe disability. I also have a daughter by my ex-wife who used to get child support from me when I worked. Now that I'm disabled, can my daughter get benefits too?

A: Yes, it is very likely that she can

qualify for Social Security benefits. An application should be filed on her behalf and, if eligible, both of your children would receive equal benefits.

Q: Some of my friends and I recently had a discussion about the availability of social security information. Does social security have a source available for answers to our general questions?

A: We do! In fact, our frequently

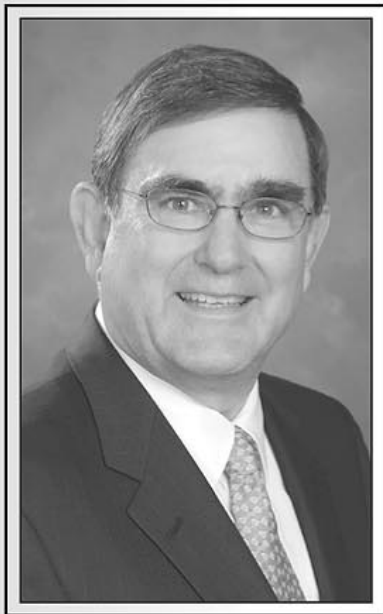
asked questions directory is one of our website's most popular features. There are nearly 600 frequently asked questions on the website right now, and thanks to the subject index and search features, it's easy to find answers to the questions you may have. Get your questions answered at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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

El Paso Electric proudly announces new President, Chief Executive Officer and Director

Ershel C. Redd, Jr. brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role at El Paso Electric. Mr. Redd will oversee all aspects of El Paso Electric's business.

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Ershel C. Redd, Jr.
President, Chief Executive Officer and Director

Professional Background

Mr. Redd has more than 35 years' experience in various sectors of the energy industry, with an extensive background in strategic planning, business development, corporate restructuring and commercial operations. He has served as Executive Vice President of Commercial Operations and President of the Western Region of NRG Energy Inc.; Vice President of Business Development and Corporate Strategy with Xcel Energy Inc.; and has held senior management roles with Energy Development Corporation, the Sid Richardson Carbon and Gasoline Company, Gulf States Oil and Refining Company and Union Texas Petroleum.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Economics, Texas Tech University

Community Involvement

- Mayor, City of Hilshire Village, Texas
- Chairman, Galveston-Houston Diocesan Development Board
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Local educators to explore the secret world of intelligence and espionage

Registration now open for UTEP workshop

By Kimberly Miller
Special to the Courier

Area high school teachers will take an eight-hour plunge into the shadowy world of intelligence and espionage at UTEP this July. They may not learn how to run a covert operation or use James Bond-style gadgets, but they will learn techniques to become better teachers.

The International Spy Museum Workshop will show educators how to use intelligence studies to teach decision-making, conflict-resolution and information-analysis skills. Educators who attend will also receive eight hours of continuing education credit.

The workshop is hosted by UTEP's Institute for Policy and Economic Development and the International Spy Museum of Washington, D.C.

"Our society is increasingly affected by terrorism and global conflict," said Dr. Dennis Soden, Executive Director of IPED. "Teaching students to look critically at intelligence issues will give them a better understanding of global politics and history."

The workshop is a part of the Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence, a UTEP program that trains policy analysts for careers in international settings.

The Community Center is sponsored by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which last year selected UTEP as one of only 10 universities throughout the United States to participate in the program.

The Spy Museum workshop is Friday, July 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at UTEP. Registration is now open and participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost for the workshop, including lunch, is \$95.

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