



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Funds needed

The East Montana Middle School Honor Band has been invited to participate in the annual Heritage Music Festival of Gold in Chicago, IL in April. This festival is by invitation only. Last year the band played in Anaheim, CA and was invited to the Festival of Gold because of their outstanding performance. The band is currently fundraising. Each student needs to raise \$1,200 for this trip. They are working hard with Band Boosters who, according to Band Director David Jasso, are doing a fantastic job of fundraising and helping the students. There will be a crafts fair to help raise money during the annual Christmas Concert on Dec. 19 at East Montana MS. The Varsity Band, Choir, Ballet Folklorico, and the Honor Band will be performing. The band will accept \$1 donations at the door. The fair will start at 4:00 p.m. with the concerts beginning at 6:30 p.m., ending by 8:00 p.m. According to Jasso, this is the biggest event the school has done. He says this is an incredible undertaking and the opportunity of a lifetime for the students.

### Man sought

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office as they search for an offender who brutally murdered an El Paso woman in Chaparral, New Mexico, making this the "Crime of the Week." A year ago, on Nov. 6, 2006, the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office was called to an incident in which a body was found in the desert area located off Highway 213 in Chaparral. As the investigation continued, the body was identified as that of Emely Corina Howard of El Paso. She was severely beaten to death. The suspect in this case is Eduardo Estrada-Garcia. He is believed to have fled into Mexico, and is probably now living in Cd. Juarez. If you have any information at all about this case, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at [www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org). You will be anonymous and you may earn a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

### In other news

■ Two Socoro ISD educators will be honored in Austin in January as Region 19 Nominees for the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE) Educator Awards. Helen Ball Principal Lucy Borrego received regional honors as the TCASE Regular Educator of the Year, while Tom Laign, SISD Special Education Coordinator for Transitional Services received the award for Special Educator of the Year for the region. The Regular Educator of the Year award is given to regular educators (administrators, counselors, teachers, or other professionals) who devote extra time and

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*Late night TV is educational. It usually teaches you that you should have gone to bed earlier.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**MAPPING THINGS OUT — Over 50 individuals viewed presentation given by Charles Berry, TXDOT District Engineer, on the proposed Loop 375 spur.**

## Roads needed now

## Town hall meeting addresses Loop 375 spur

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

Canutillo ISD school officials and community residents listened intently during a recent town hall meeting held at Canutillo High School to Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) District Engineer Charles Berry as he described plans for the proposed Loop 375 spur that will run behind EPCC Northwest campus and Canutillo High School to connect with Doniphan Drive.

According to Berry the new road will take about five years and \$23 million to build once the rights-of-way are secured by the City of El Paso.

Patricia Adatao, El Paso City Deputy Manager, said that the City would move on obtaining those rights of way as soon as it received the environmental study document from TXDOT. She added that once Loop 375 Spur is constructed then the City would also be able to extend Rubalcava Boulevard, the road that runs between CHS and EPCC campuses, to connect to the loop.

Facilitating the discussion was State Senator Eliot Shapleigh, who echoed the sentiments of most members in the audience when he concluded that the timelines for this project must be accelerated because of the rapid growth in the area.

"The town hall meeting was an attempt to engage stakeholders in a collaborative spirit to get questions, concerns, and possible solutions out on the table so that we can plan a coordinated strategy," stated Pauline Dow, CISD associate superintendent. "Overall, I think that the town hall meeting accomplished this," she added.

## Travelers will need to carry new, extra documents

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of State (DOS) are reminding the traveling public that as of Jan. 31, 2008, all adult travelers will be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and proof of identity, such as a driver's license, when entering the United States through land and sea

ports of entry. DHS will be issuing a notice in the Federal Register formally announcing the change.

This change is a necessary step to prepare travelers and ease the transition to the future requirements of the Western Hemisphere

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## Mexican candy tainted with lead recalled

By Emily Palmer  
Special to the Courier

A San Antonio company is voluntarily recalling jars of candy imported from Mexico after testing by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) found elevated lead levels that could cause health problems.

Villa-Mex Imports, Inc., is recalling Barrilito, a dark brown thick syrup sold in 3.3 ounce (100 gram) glass barrel-shaped jars with white plastic lids. The yellow label shows the name "Barrilito" in red outline letters. The label also reads: Productos Avila, S.A. de C.V. Puerto Malague 1379 Col. Sta. Maria Guadalajara, Jal. Mexico.

DSHS officials said the problem is with the product, not with the distributor, Villa-Mex Imports.

Recent laboratory tests show lead levels above the 0.1 parts per million lead level considered to be a potential public health hazard

by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Candy samples ranged from 0.101 to 0.132 parts per million of lead. The tests were part of DSHS product surveillance conducted over the last several months.

Eating products containing lead can be especially harmful to infants, young children and pregnant women. Too much lead intake can result in delayed mental and physical development and learning deficiencies. Children who have high blood lead levels may be tired or cranky, not have much appetite, not be able to pay attention, have headaches, vomit, be constipated, be clumsy or weak or not be able to sleep. Some children who have lead poisoning may not look or act sick.

DSHS officials say consumers who have the recalled product should not eat it and should return it or throw it away. The only way to know if a child has a high blood lead level is to have a blood lead test. People concerned about blood lead levels should call their doctor or health clinic about testing.

## Scam artists stay busy

The Texas Attorney General's office has released a list of popular scams and countermeasures available to the public. The holidays are a very active time of year for thieves of all kinds and people should be on guard for scammers.

### Gift card scams

Scam artists often take advantage of gift cards by writing down or memorizing the serial numbers on the face of the card while the cards are still displayed in the store. When an unsuspecting consumer purchases and activates the card, the scammer simply calls the card's customer service number, verifies it is active, and uses the memorized serial number to make online purchases. Sadly, it is often days or weeks before the legitimate buyer learns that the card balance was drained by a thief.

To avoid scammers who drain gift card balances, consumers should ask a store clerk to provide them with a gift card from behind a counter or one that has not otherwise been accessible to the general public. Some gift cards have additional security measures, such as scratch off codes, so consumers should always verify that no one has tampered with a card or its packaging.

### Online shopping scams

Consumers should never respond to bulk e-mails that offer merchandise, travel deals or solicit charitable contributions. Crooks often set up Web sites that look like they sell products or collect money for charities when, in fact, all they do is collect credit card numbers, take the money and run. Consumers should always verify a Web site's security status before placing an order. Online shoppers also should consider using a credit card for online purchases. Paying by credit card often makes it easier for consumers to dispute unauthorized charges or undelivered products.

### Bogus charities


Charitable giving is commendable, but consumers should ask questions before donating to a telephone or door-to-door solicitor: Does the solicitor have identification? How will contributions be used? Texans also should independently check what they are told about the organization and make sure their gifts will count. To verify an organization's legitimacy, donors can contact [www.give.org](http://www.give.org). This Web site is maintained by the Council of Better Business Bureaus to promote wise charitable giving. Consumers also should confirm the tax-exempt status of any organization before they reach for their wallets.

### Unsolicited offers

The best way to guard against scams and swindles is simple: Never respond to unsolicited offers. Consumers should never respond to spam e-mails sent by strangers or unfamiliar companies.

Consumers should also be skeptical of unsolicited telephone offers. Even if the caller claims to represent a trusted company or pitches an interesting offer, Texans should hang up and call the well-known company directly using a number that appears in the local telephone directory. This simple

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# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## Imus and teddy bears

He said things that were at least that bad before.

Don Imus, radio's "shock-jock," has been saying things for years that are nothing short of personally reprehensible to anybody with a moral

bone in their body. He just happened to finally say in public something we all know he said plenty of times in private, something that was not only morally but politically repulsive and he paid a price for it.

It was almost like, well, like being



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sentenced to serving 15 days in a Sudanese prison, listening to the mobs cry out for your blood, because you allowed your students to name a teddy bear in honor of their deity.

This week, the English teacher who suffered that fate and Don Imus were both given back their freedom, of sorts. What a contrast in human behavior. The school teacher was let out of prison. Don Imus went back on the air.

Humans are funny that way. We swallow all kinds of moral and cultural junk. Then suddenly somebody says or does something that pushes us over the edge. We fire old men off of jobs we've applauded them for doing and sentence school teachers to prison for engaging in a school project.

Don Imus by his own admission has lived anything but an exemplary lifestyle. He's suffered a wide range of physical and behavior addictions — the most unfortunate being his appetite for spouting insults and filthy language on the public airwaves. Equally unfortunate is that the American public has fed the latter addiction to the point he forgot it needed controlling.

After a long and colorful run of insulting dialog on the airwaves — which earned him the dubious title of "equal opportunity offender" — in his dotage he happened to comment that a major women's basket-

ball team looked like "nappy-headed hos."

Now, everyone will agree that was an ugly thing to say. And, apparently, it was the political straw that broke the camel's back. They fired the old guy.

Imus is, however, not a stranger to falling down and getting back up. In fact, while in very public exile, he threatened to sue CBS over the five-year, \$40 million contract he signed just before his racial faux pas. He settled for an undisclosed amount in August.

It is my personal feeling that if Imus never spoke another word in public, we wouldn't be any the worse off. However, like Martha Stewart, Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon, to name just a few of those who got good and dirty and then punished a little, America seems poised to love Don Imus all the more.

Martha Stewart is richer and more popular than ever, Bill Clinton could conceivably move back into the White House, and Richard Nixon died a sage and sought-after personage after blatantly disregarding every law he had pledged to uphold.

Like his fellow offenders, Imus is a savvy guy when it comes to making nice with the public. You emit a racial slur? You make up for it by opening your new show with two black comedians at your side. Imus doesn't like or dislike people of color

one bit more than he did before. He just knows what works.

Meanwhile, the unfortunate teacher in Khartoum Sudan who let her students name their class teddy bear after Mohammed won't be welcomed back with open arms to the Islamic community where she was teaching. In fact, she was lucky to escape with her life — protesters staged demonstrations demanding the death penalty for her "offense."


On her way home earlier this week, Gillian Gibbons apologized profusely for having caused any "distress" by her actions. "I have great respect for the Islamic religion and would not knowingly offend anyone... I am very sorry that I will be unable to return to Sudan."

Imus, on the other hand, given free access to the media community that had sentenced him to a few days off, wasn't nearly so contrite nor conciliatory.

He addressed a boisterous \$100-a-head audience on his re-debut. They applauded loudly when he proclaimed: "The program is not going to change."

Upholders of political correctness everywhere sighed when he added, "Dick Cheney is still a war criminal, Hilary Clinton is still Satan, and I'm back on the radio."

I wonder what Imus would have named the teddy bear.



# Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

## Tax relief for El Paso families

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed immediate, responsible tax relief for middle-class families — legislation that would prevent 17,000 El Paso families from having to pay higher taxes this year.

For too long, our tax code has benefited the wealthy few over regular families, and this bill, the Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007, is an important step toward creating a system that benefits hard-working and middle-class families. The tax credits and deductions will help parents, teachers, and students in El Paso — those who should benefit the most.

The Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007 would prevent over 17,000 El Paso families from incurring a tax increase under the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) and also provides tax relief to homeowners, school teachers and parents with children in college. The bill keeps businesses competitive by ensuring that American entrepreneurs are able to engage in cutting-edge research and development. It is budget-neutral by closing unfair loopholes that allow a privileged few to avoid paying their fair share of taxes and passing more debt on to future generations.

### AMT

The bill would extend for one year AMT relief for nonrefundable personal credits and increases the AMT exemption amount to \$66,250 for joint filers and \$44,350 for individuals.

Before the AMT, it was possible for many of the nation's wealthiest citizens to avoid paying much of the taxes they owed by taking advantage of deductions and incentives. Congress enacted the AMT in 1969 to establish a required minimum amount of tax that the wealthiest Americans must pay, no matter how many deductions would otherwise apply. However, unlike the standard income tax, the AMT is not indexed to inflation.

The original thinking behind the AMT was straightforward and well-intended, but as people's wages increased throughout the years, more and more taxpayers begin to be liable for the AMT. What was originally intended only for those with more than enough money to spare has increasingly begun to affect middle-class taxpayers who often feel the pinch from the extra tax requirement. In fact, if Congress does not pass this fix, there would be a 758 percent increase in El Paso families affected by the AMT.

In 2005, 2,332 families in El Paso paid the AMT. Without this bill, 20,015 families will have to pay the AMT in 2007.

Additional components of H.R. 3996, the Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007:

- Expansion of refundable child credit;
- Additional standard deduction for real property taxes;
- Extension of the deduction of state and local general sales taxes, which affects states like Texas with no income tax;
- Extension of above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses;
- Extension of provision encouraging contributions of made for conservation purposes — El Pasoans could use this tax tool to preserve desert landscapes like arroyos;
- Extension of above-the-line deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers; and
- Extension of Indian employment credit.

# Scams

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precaution ensures that consumers are talking to an actual company representative.

Fraudulent offers also can arrive in the mail. As tempting as it sounds, consumers can rest assured they did *not* win the Spanish lottery, the Canadian lottery, or any other foreign

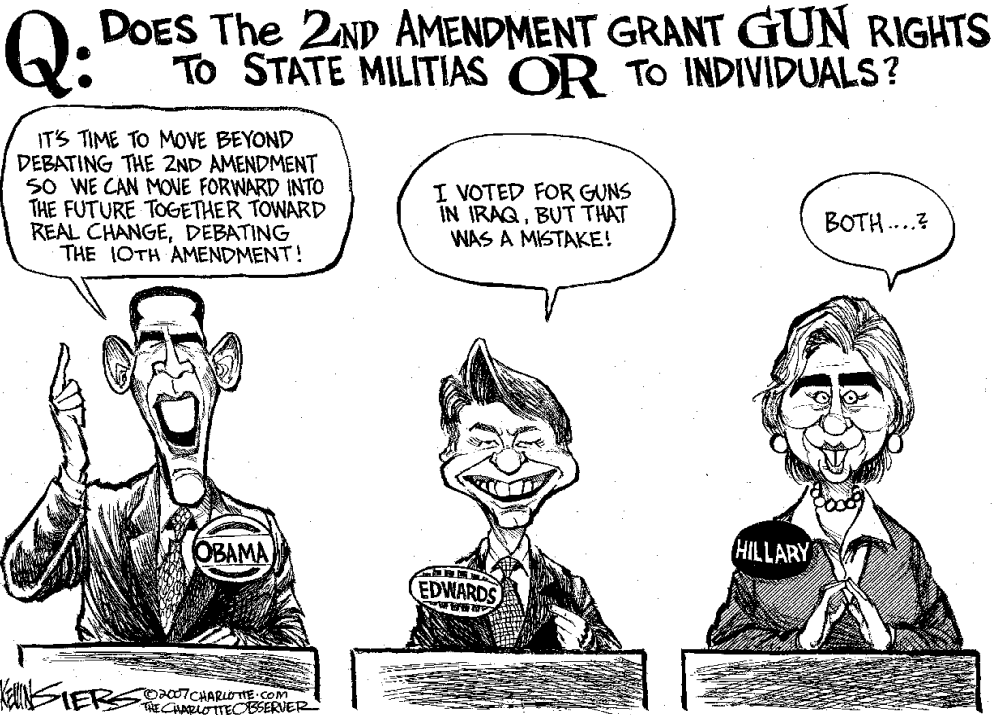
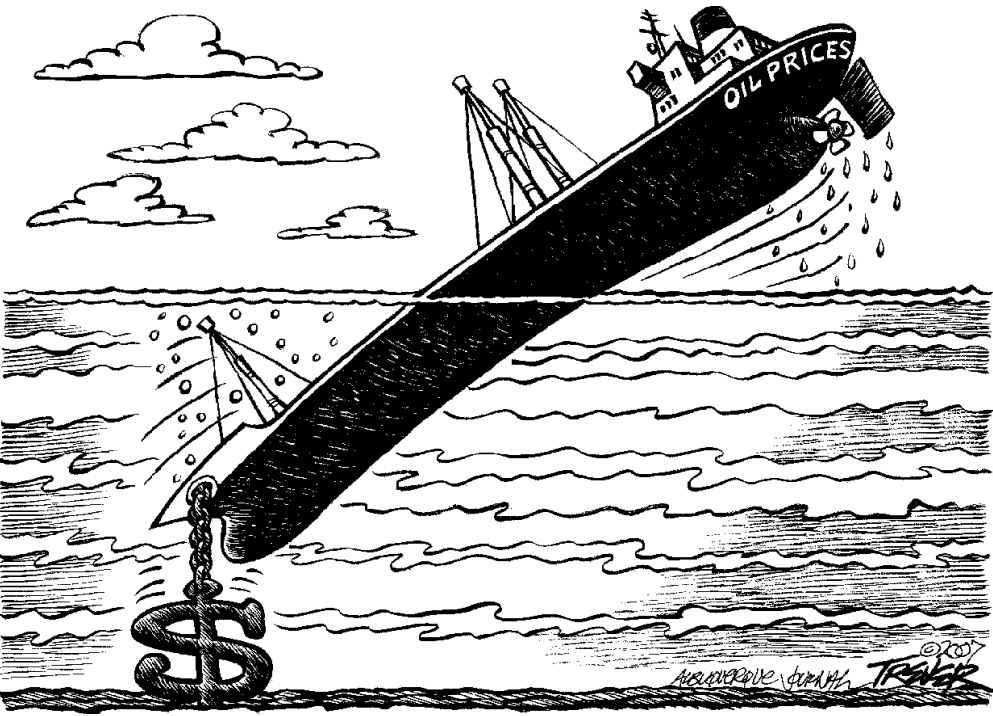
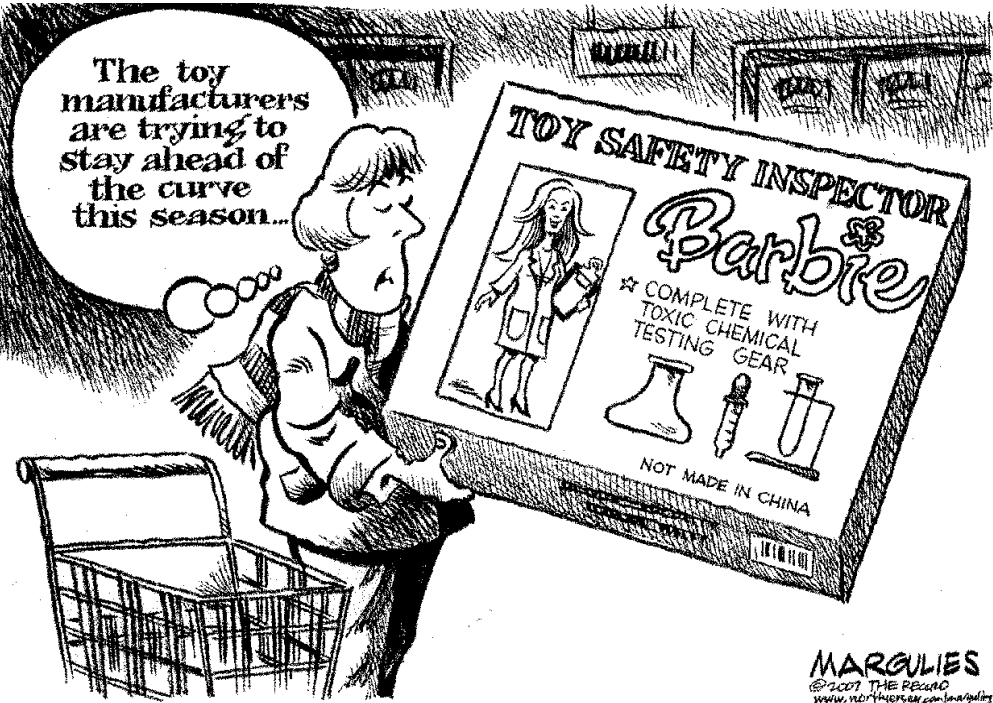
lottery just in time for the holidays. Texans should be extremely wary of cashier's checks sent by people they do not know and should never provide their personal financial information to unfamiliar solicitors.

## Credit repair scams

Online or in the classifieds, credit repair offers often guarantee consumers loans despite their poor credit ratings; all consumers have to do is pay an upfront "processing fee." These

offers are invariably a form of advance fee fraud, so Texans should steer clear of them. Consumers who need extra money over the holidays should visit a local lender in person.

Con artists tend to spend money just as fast as they steal it, so money lost in these or similar scams is difficult to recover. Prevention is an important key to stopping thieves in their tracks. By taking a few simple precautions, Texans can enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.



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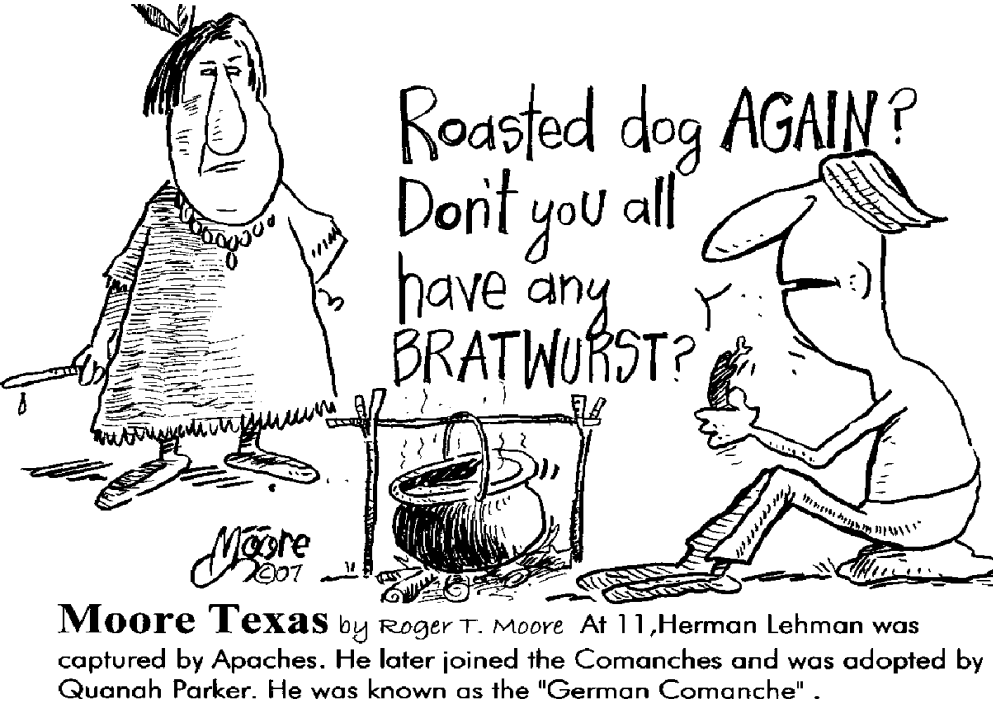
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# Check toys, gifts carefully for lead

By Farrell Johnson, MD  
*Special to the Courier*

If you have children on your holiday gift list this year, be careful that you don't give them something that no one wants — lead poisoning. As you are probably aware, lead and lead-based paint has been found recently on a number of brand-name toys and other gifts for children manufactured in China and elsewhere.

Children — especially those under age six — are more sensitive to the effects of lead than adults. Children exposed to lead can experience

slowed growth and physical development and speech, hearing and learning problems. At very high levels, lead poisoning can even be fatal.

Lead is not absorbed in the body through the skin; it has to be inhaled or swallowed to be dangerous. Most lead poisoning cases are caused by dust from lead paint in old buildings or industrial sources. But toys made of lead or with lead-based paint are particularly dangerous because most children put things in their mouths.

Lead poisoning often has no symptoms. When symptoms are present, they vary from person to person, but may include muscle or joint pain, stomach pain, vomiting, headaches,

fatigue, irritability, lack of energy or tremors.

Only a blood test can determine for sure if these symptoms have been caused by lead. Consult a doctor immediately if you suspect exposure to lead or lead poisoning. All children should get lead tests as part of well child check-ups. Doctors know when to do the tests, but it's always good to ask when you take a child to a doctor.

Talk to your child's doctor about lead testing. In Texas, the state recommended guidelines for testing children for lead poisoning is once between the ages of 12 and 24 months; and if a child is at high risk for lead poisoning, at 6, 9, 15 and 18

months and at 3, 4, 5 and 6 years old.

To be sure that you do not own or are using an unsafe toy, it's a good idea to check with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Most retail stores have postings of toy recalls and you can be sure that most unsafe toys have been pulled from the shelves. Be wary of buying used toys. Toy resellers like eBay, Amazon, Once Upon a Child and Salvation Army are on the look out for recalled toys; however, buyers should be cautious and know which products could be hazardous for their child's health.

To get the most up-to-date information on toys that have been recalled because of lead and other dan-

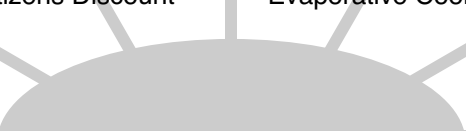
gers, you can call the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission toll-free at 800-638-2772 (TTY 800-638-8270). Or you can visit the Commission's Web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prerel.html>.

To join the Commission's email subscription list of recall updates for toys and 15,000 other type of products when they are issued, go to [www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx).

*Dr. Johnson, a Family Practice physician, is Medical Director of UnitedHealthcare-Texas, a health plan serving beneficiaries of the Texas STAR Medicaid program.*

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## Briefs

From Page 1

energy to serving students with disabilities. The Special Educator of the Year award is given to special educators who demonstrate outstanding contributions in providing services to disabled students and whose work reflects the highest professional and ethical standards. Borrego and Laign will represent Region 19 to compete for state honors at the TCASE Midwinter conference in Austin January 22 through January 24th.

■ Navy Seaman Abel C. Villarreal, son of Alma R. Villarreal of El Paso, TX, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL. During the eight-week program, Villarreal completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. Villarreal is a 2007 graduate of Americas High School.

■ Sun Ridge Middle School has been named among best public schools in the state in the December issue of Texas Monthly Magazine. This is the fourth year the magazine has published a list which has included other SISD schools in previous years. The National Center for Educational Accountability (formerly Just for the Kids), analyzed student test results for the past three years as the basis for this year's ranking. The Texas Monthly article says students at the elementary schools performed better, across all grades, on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test than other schools. Middle schools and high schools made the list because student improvement on the TAKS test was higher than predicted by previous test scores. For a detailed explanation of the methodology behind the ranking, go to <http://just4kids.org>.



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# Socorro High School senior signs to play baseball for UNM

By Irma Flores  
Special to the Courier

Socorro High School senior Gabriel Aguilar will go from Bulldog to Lobo after signing a letter of intent to play for the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The 17-year-old officially joined the Lobo team on Nov. 17 when he and his parents signed the letter in front of teammates, friends and family at Socorro High School. Aguilar who will play his 3rd Varsity season for Coach Chris Forbes this spring will also be receiving a scholarship from UNM. Aguilar hopes to study either Bio-Chemistry or Bio-Medical Engineering.

“Gabriel is among many SISD students who have been recruited by universities and given athletic schol-

## Documents

From Page 1

Travel Initiative (WHTI). WHTI proposes to establish documentation requirements for travelers entering the United States who were previously exempt, including citizens of the U.S., Canada, and Bermuda. As recommended by the 9/11 Commission, Congress enacted WHTI in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. WHTI will result in both enhanced security and increased facilitation across the border once implemented. During this transition, DHS and the Department of State are working diligently to minimize the impact on legitimate trade and travel.

Currently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers may accept oral declarations of citizenship from U.S. and Canadian citizens seeking entry into the United States through a land or sea border. However, as of January 31, 2008:

- Oral declarations of citizenship alone will no longer be accepted;
- U.S. and Canadian citizens ages 19 and older will need to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver’s license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate;
- Children ages 18 and under will only be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate; and
- Passports and trusted traveler program cards — NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST — will continue to be accepted for cross-border travel.

All existing nonimmigrant visa and passport requirements will remain in effect and will not be altered by this change.

DOS reminds the public that the current turnaround time for a passport is four to six weeks, so Americans planning international travel may wish to apply now. For information on obtaining a U.S. Passport visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) or call 1-877-487-2778.

Specific documentation requirements for land, sea and air travel may be found at [www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/ready\\_set\\_go/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/ready_set_go/).

To learn more about NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST, visit [www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted\\_traveler/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted_traveler/).

arships,” said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. “I am confident what he’s learned in the classroom will make him a success off the field as well.”

“Gabriel is representing a proud tradition of baseball at Socorro,” said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. “We wish him well at UNM.”

Aguilar’s presence on the mound led the UNM recruiters to the Socorro pitcher. Before starting his junior year, Aguilar attended a UNM camp where the baseball staff noticed him.

“They liked how I pitched and how I played the game. They asked me if I wanted to play with them,” said

Aguilar who was on the Socorro team that headed to the Sweet 16 round last year. “When I was little I was picked on and was told I wasn’t any good. Now knowing that I’m going to play Division I baseball, it’s a big accomplishment.”

Coach Forbes agrees saying Aguilar has the mentality to play at the next level.

“He is really a tough player. He’s not that big but he has it in him to be a college pitcher. He is one of the better players in town because of his mentality. I felt all along since he was sophomore on the Varsity team that if he worked hard he would have the opportunity to play Division I,” said Forbes.

### Public Notice

### Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District

**BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HORIZON REGIONAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT THAT:**

The Rules of the District are hereby amended by adding a definition to Article I, Definition of Terms, which definition shall read as follows:

“Water and Wastewater Service Area” shall mean the delineated boundaries of sub areas within the District in which the water or wastewater infrastructure within that sub area was constructed to provide service to such sub area in compliance with criteria established by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the District. A map showing the sub areas where water and wastewater service is currently available can be reviewed at the office of the District.

The rules of the District are hereby amended by revising Article II, Commitments and Connections, A. Procedures for Issuance of Water and Wastewater Commitments, 2. Processing and Approval of Application, to read as follows:

Processing and Approval Application. Upon receipt of the attached, fully completed Application and fee, the General Manager shall authorize the District’s consultants to begin the evaluation of the request. The fee will be used to cover the expenses incurred by the District for the preliminary evaluation by the consultants as to whether the requested service is located within an established Water and Wastewater Service Area. An Application outside an established Water and Wastewater Service Area or sub area may not rely on facilities designed or constructed for the established Water and Wastewater Service Area. The evaluation and review of the Application shall be completed and final approval or disapproval given by the General Manager within 60 days of receipt and acceptance of the fully completed Application. Should the Application be disapproved, the General Manager shall return the application fee less the actual cost of review.

All other provisions of the District’s Rules not specifically amended hereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District offices are located at 1539 Pawling. Documents are available for review Monday through Friday during normal business hours. To contact the District, call (915) 852-3917.

WTCC: 12/06/07

By playing at UNM, Aguilar will have a chance to play close to home.

“With UNM coming down to play New Mexico State University, I might see him pitch,” Forbes added, “It’s always satisfying to watch one of your players take their game to the next level.”

“It’s an honor to play for Coach

Forbes. He made us play to the best of our abilities and we would not be where we are without him,” said Aguilar who will play for Lobo Head Coach Rich Alday.

The UNM Lobos are a Division I school and are part of the Mountain West Conference. The 2007 Lobo team posted a 12-12 season.

### Town of Anthony

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**A PUBLIC HEARING** will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 during the Regular Town Council Meeting at Anthony Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Dr., Anthony, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s), second reading:

1) Ordinance No. 446. An ordinance of the Town of Anthony to Tax Tangible Personal Property in Transit Which Would Otherwise Be Exempt Pursuant To Texas Tax Code, Section 11.253, for the Town of Anthony, Texas.

Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the Town Clerk at the above address. Those that are unable to attend may submit their written comments to the Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821. Persons in need of assistance to attend are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 886-3944.

*Myriam P. Uribe*  
*Town Clerk*

WTCC: 12/06/07

### Canutillo Independent School District

### Notice of Public Hearing

### AEIS Report

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2006-2007 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at the CISD Administrative Offices, 7965 Artcraft.

The public is invited to attend. The AEIS report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Canutillo ISD campuses and central office.

For more information, call 877-7440.

### Junta Publica

### Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo

### El reporte “Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica”

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar el reporte “Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica” (AEIS) del año escolar 2006-2007. El reporte será parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el Martes 11 de diciembre 2007 a las 6:00 p.m. en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas localizado en 7965 Artcraft.

Todos los individuos interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte AEIS estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito y en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas.

Para mayor información, favor de llamar al 877-7440.

WTCC: 12-07-06

# New England Patriots showing signs of mortality

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Is it just me, or have the New England Patriots recently resembled Superman after he’s spent the afternoon with a little kryptonite? Suddenly, the best team in the history of the NFL looks just like a pretty good team in the NFL. The Patriots have taken on a couple of mediocre opponents the last couple weeks and struggled to stay undefeated.

Two three-point wins over the Philadelphia Eagles and the Baltimore Ravens have the Patriots looking almost mortal.

So what’s going on with Tom Brady, Randy Moss, and the cheating Bill Belichick? Maybe the undefeated record of the 1972 Miami Dolphins will be safe after all. At 12-0, the Patriots have two easy games left on the schedule and two tough games.

In its quest for an undefeated season, New England’s last four games are home to the Pittsburgh Steelers, the New York Jets and the Miami Dolphins. They finish the season at the New York Giants.

The Steelers and the Giants could provide some competition but the Jets and the Dolphins are among the worst teams in the league.

So do the Patriots have a legitimate chance

of winning them all? They sure do, but they look as beatable as ever. A few weeks ago it looked like no team on the planet could compete with them.

Even a Super Bowl match-up with the Dallas Cowboys is looking more and more like it would be a great game.

But it’s a fact that the rest of the teams on the Patriots’ schedule are going to do the same thing the Eagles and the Ravens did, pressure Brady and get extra physical with the rest of the team.

It almost worked for teams with very little talent. Imagine what the Colts, Cowboys or Packers could accomplish with the same game plan.

## What’s in a name...

I like nicknames.

Nicknames like Don “The Bear” Haskins, Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Julius “Dr. J” Erving, Walter “Sweetness” Payton and Randy “Big Unit” Johnson.

In fact, I like giving out nicknames. I’ve got a new nickname for the coach of the New York Knicks — “Houdini”.

What else could it be? Isaiah Thomas has escaped being fired more times than Houdini escaped from — well — anything.

What in the world keeps this guy in the NBA? Other than when he played the game,

Thomas hasn’t done anything to positively promote the league, the team or himself.

On the contrary, I don’t know anyone who has gone so far out of his way to give the league a black eye and a rotten reputation.

I’m just not sure if this guy was worse as a coach or a general manager. Anyone who’s ever said that consistence has its place, must have been talking about Isaiah Thomas.

His lack of control was never more evident than last week when his New York Knicks were dismantled by the Boston Celtics by the you-got-to-be-kidding score of 104-59.

There’s no doubt that his team has quit on him. Under his leadership, his team shows no heart, no hustle, no grit, and no chance of having a winning season.

From messing up player personnel decisions, to single-handedly bringing down a minor league basketball league, to making unfathomable coaching decisions, to costing his team millions for sexually harassing a female colleague, Thomas is like Michael Myers from those Halloween movies.

Every time you think he’s dead in the water — Thomas emerges unscathed, again and again and again. Just without the hockey mask.

Everybody in the civilized basketball

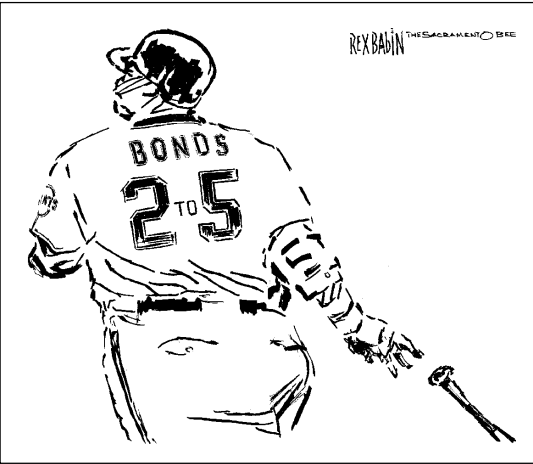
world knows Isaiah Thomas is totally incompetent. So why is he still in the league?

Maybe he’s got something on Commissioner David Stern. Maybe he’s one-quarter cat and he still has four lives left. Maybe he’s the luckiest guy in the world.

Whatever it is, it defies logic and all the laws of common sense and normalcy.

I guess there are some things we’ll never know, like the whereabouts of Jimmy Hoffa, who really killed John Kennedy and how many licks it really takes to get to the middle of a tootsie pop.

Now we can add, how does Isaiah Thomas stay in the NBA? I guess some things we just weren’t meant to know.



## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

**Town of Horizon City**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 during the Regular Council Meeting at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

1) Proposed Amendment No. 005 to Ordinance No. 0163. Which is now necessary to amend said budget for items not previously considered. The following funds are to be transferred as follows:

From : Acct. #500818: Contingencies \$3,500.00

To: Acct. # 504303: Street Department Materials and Supplies \$3,500.00

Explanation: To adjust for the materials and supplies to repair and pave

Veny Webb Street.

2) Proposed Amendment No. 021 to Ordinance No. 0102, Section 103, Duration and Extensions of Building Permits and Section 103.3, Work Commencing Before Permit Issuance.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address or call 915-852-1046, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Karen Ellefson  
City Clerk  
WTCC: 12-06-07

**Town of Horizon City**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

During the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 the Town of Horizon City Council approved the following ordinance(s):

1) Amendment No. 019 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102, Section 602.2, “Bulk Standards,” so as to permit smaller commercial lots when served by shared driveways; and Section 602.3, “General Regulations,” to impose minimum driveway separation requirements for commercial uses in the Town of Horizon City.

During the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 the Town of Horizon City Council approved the following ordinance(s):

1) Amendment No. 001 to Ordinance No. 0163 Which is now necessary to amend said budget for items not previously considered. The following funds are to be transferred as follows:

From: Acct. #500818 Contingencies \$15,000.00

To: Acct. #504303

Street Department Materials and Supplies \$15,000.00

Explanation: To adjust for the materials and supplies needed to repair/pave Rodman Street

2) Amendment No. 002 to Ordinance No. 0163 Which is now necessary to amend said budget for items not previously considered. The following funds are to be transferred as follows:

From: Acct. #500818 Contingencies \$4,500.00

To: Acct. #504303 Street Department Materials and Supplies \$4,500.00

Explanation: To adjust for the materials and supplies needed to repair streets.

3) Amendment No. 003 to Ordinance No. 0163 Which is now necessary to amend said budget for items not previously considered. The following funds are to be transferred as follows:

From: Acct. #500818 Contingencies \$15,000.00

To: Acct. #504303

To: Acct. #503712 Public Works — Materials and Supplies \$1,500.00

Explanation: To adjust for the cost of using the landfill for waste disposal.

4) Amendment No. 004 to Ordinance No. 0163 Which is now necessary to amend said budget for items not previously considered. The following funds are to be transferred as follows:

From: Acct. #500818 Contingencies \$9,000.00

To: Acct. #503303 Public Works — Materials and Supplies \$9,000.00

Explanation: To adjust for the cost replacing missing storm gates for ponding areas.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 915-852-1046.

Karen Ellefson  
City Clerk  
WTCC: 12-06-07

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Invitation to Bid/Respond:**

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

lowing times:

**FRIDAY JANUARY 4, 2007**

**E-RATE PRIORITY 2-NETWORK EQUIPMENT AND RELATED CSP NO. 199-0104-8034 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 P.M.**

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-12/06/07

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - JNIBTD5AX4W752084, 2004 Nissan Xterra, tan, Mex. license plate DZE3937. WTXCC-12/06/07

**COUNSELING SERVICES**

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE

SCALE ACCEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

### YARD SALE

Dec. 8-9, Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. MINI YARD SALE 607 Ave. San Lorenzo (next to church) in Clint. Designer clothes, purses, winter clothes, sweaters, jewelry, gifts, a little of everything. Mink coat - gorgeous!

### HELP WANTED

Full Time Manager Trainee Wanted Applications available at: Ryan Supply, Inc/ Ace Hardware 117 N. Fabens Street Fabens, Texas Equal Opportunity Employer

### 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 solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

### STORAGE

National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS 10'x20' - Special \$85/mth for 3 months. Call Blanca or Gina. 852-8300.

### SERVICES

**“Windshield**

**Ding — Gimme a Ring” JIFFY GLASS REPAIR**

Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger 915-203-7005

**HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079**

- Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
- Appliance installation
- Many other plumbing services

Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



When traveling, be prepared

By Don Flood

Before finalizing your holiday travel plans, consider this recent real-life news story: “Workers at a chain of budget hotels are being given advice on how to deal with naked sleepwalkers.”

In some cases, according to the Travelodge study, nude sleepwalkers “wandered all over the building” and even “walked into the reception area asking for a newspaper or saying they wanted to check out.”

This offers the savvy traveler some important information:

1) The old custom of asking for a non-nude-sleepwalking floor is useless. Nude sleepwalkers are all over the place now. They may even offer to park your car when you drive up.

2) When staying at Travelodge, always carry a newspaper, in case a nude sleepwalker asks you for one. It might also come in handy if you plan to do some nude sleepwalking yourself.

3) When confronted by a nude sleepwalker, don’t panic. Remember, he is a person just like you, only with fewer clothes. Smile politely, zap him with a Taser gun and continue on your way.

According to the Travelodge study, the trend toward nude sleepwalking is growing, with more than 400 cases last year. Experts say it is often the result of stress and alcohol abuse, which is why parents should be cautious about taking their children to the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

(The guards, however, generally do an outstanding job of handling the nude Congressmen, whether or not they are actually sleepwalking.)

Elsewhere in travel news, we have a report about airlines and lost luggage.

Airlines used to follow the standard practice of shipping travelers’ suitcases to the wrong airport. For

many years, this method proved sufficient, but airlines admit it doesn’t meet the demands of 21st-century travel screw-ups.

Under the old system, luggage was generally retrieved fairly easily — often without damage.

To prevent this from happening, airlines are exploring new ways to lose luggage, the most innovative being a recent case where a Delta flight dumped two suitcases over Chicago.

Airline executives called the drop successful, despite disappointment that the suitcases didn’t hit any presidential candidates — “winnowing out the field” being considered an important side benefit of the luggage-losing operation.

Airlines promise to try again, first honing their skills on larger candidates like Fred Thompson before moving on to tougher targets such as Dennis Kucinich.

Also on the objects-raining-from-the-sky news front, a couple narrowly missed being killed by a “falling” cow.

In this true story, Charles and Linda Everson were driving to their hotel in Manson, Wash., when a 600-pound cow, unaccompanied by any luggage, “fell” from a cliff onto their minivan.

The reason for the kamikaze cow attack remains a mystery, especially since the minivan didn’t have leather seats, making revenge an unlikely motive. (Officially, the government still refers to the incident as an “accident.”)

According to the story, Mr. Everson said he kept repeating, “I don’t believe this. I don’t believe this.”

My advice to readers is: You better believe it, especially if you’re staying at Travelodge.

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dflood287@comcast.net

King Super Crossword

ANIMAL TAILS

ACROSS

1 Messina or Morrison

4 Address abbr.

7 Pass into law

12 Pillager

18 Vein contents

19 Historic org.

20 Mideastern mall?

22 Herbivorous reptile

23 Stocking shade

24 Indefinite pronoun

25 Benjamin Bunny's creator

27 Theologian Thomas

29 Director Sergio

30 Lumberjack tools

31 Rocker Ocasek

32 "God's Little \_" ('58 film)

35 Wordless greeting

38 Musical medium

43 Dolls up

47 "Whether \_ nobler in the mind ..."

48 Groom's gangplank?

49 He'll give you a squeeze

51 Baltimore bird

53 Maestro Leinsdorf

56 Slippery character?

57 Source of ills

59 Like King's fans

61 "Ritorna vincitori!"

singer

63 Mr. Mineo

64 Military chapeau

65 Uruguayan title

66 Adjusts an alarm

68 Undiluted

71 Provide rooms

72 Software

77 Duval's org.

80 Mailer's "The \_ Park"

81 Stick in the mud

82 Daze

86 Marineland

performer

88 "The \_ Daba

Honeymoon" ('14 song)

90 Court order?

92 Compensation

93 Genesis peak

97 After taxes

99 Ravi-shing instrument?

100 Scott role

101 Mil. base

102 Slanted

104 Expert

105 Doesn't have to

107 Myron Floren's boss

111 Stroke's implement

112 Seldom seen

113 Joan Van -

114 Blind part

118 Emit

122 Spock's specialty

126 "Roseanne"

actress

131 Pablum variety

132 Conduit fitting

133 Stang or Schwarzenegger

134 Author Collins

135 Buckingham (Abbr.)

136 Spider's snare

137 Tangled

138 Gravel-voiced

139 Ending for Capri

140 Boot part

DOWN

1 Spanish dance

2 Tigris-Euphrates

3 Computer

selection list

4 Classical hunk?

5 Cure-all

6 Very, in Versailles

7 Subside

8 Rob Roy's refusal

9 Showy shrub

10 Blanchett of "Elizabeth"

11 Starch source

12 Bigwig

13 Give it \_ (try)

14 '87 Streisand film

15 Base stuff?

16 " \_ Leaf" ('71 film)

17 Ulrich of Metallica

21 - Tin Tin

26 Lucy Lawless role

28 April initials

32 Perplexed

33 Ma, for one

34 Hwy.

36 Smell

37 "David Copperfield" character

38 She brought out the beast in men

39 Oriental

40 Equal an opponent

41 Cops' org.

42 Forever, so to speak

44 Jeopardize

45 Dynamite

philanthropist?

46 Stowe sight

47 Hardy heroine

50 Hersey setting

52 Way out

54 Gator's cousin

55 "Salome" role

57 Hale or Revere

58 First name in fashion

60 Knight's better half?

62 Believe

67 Nimble

69 Part of MA

70 Gogol's " \_ Bulba"

73 Compote component

74 Metropolitan

75 End a space flight

76 French Sudan, today

77 Ostentation

78 React to a pun

79 Intense

83 South African

province

84 Pottery defect

85 Thornfield

governess

87 Poker stake

89 Inland sea

91 Notre Dame's river

94 Fuss

95 Moffo or Magnani

96 Fit \_ fiddle

98 RN's specialty

102 Coach Parseghian

103 4 p.m. vehicle?

106 In good shape

108 Inflicts

109 Twist and turn

110 Scrape by, with "out"

114 Act like a wrestler

115 \_ Flynn Boyle

116 Em or Bee

117 Jogger's gait

119 Emulate Betsy Ross

120 Recipe instruction

121 West Coast sch.

122 London district

123 Salamander

124 "The People's Choice" pooch

125 Czech river

127 \_ de France

128 Hall of Famer Roush

129 Mouth piece?

130 Enchanted

Answer Page 6

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CLINT PAIR HOGS TOP SPOT — Justin Owen, center, of Clint and his Grand Champion Hog — The Duke — are surrounded by family, friends and Duke's new owners. — Photo by Danny Bolin and Linda Doane

# ‘The Duke’ holds court, brings \$13,000 at auction

**By Dorothy Spencer**  
*Special to the Courier*

Louisville, KY — Sporting his champion jacket and belt buckle, Justin Owen of Clint, TX posed with his Grand Champion Hog — The Duke — and family and buyers during the 2007 Sale of Cham-

pions at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, KY. Feeders Supply Co., JBS Swift, Louisville Area Broadcasters, Tosh Farms, Hampton Inn, Residence Inn and the Louisville Ag Club purchased Justin’s 267-lb Crossbred hog for \$13,000 at the sale. Owen is the 17-year-old son of Ray

and Brandy Owen. The Owen family drove the grand champion hog 1,500 miles to show him at the NAILE. 2007 marked Owen’s tenth year showing and his first experience at the NAILE. Owen will use proceeds from the

sale to fund his education at Texas Tech University and hopes to eventually become a lawyer. Youth who sell their market animals in the Sale of Champions receive 80% of the sale price. Kentucky Harvest accepts 10% of sale proceeds to fund a school program known as “Blessings in a Backpack”, along with meat from champion animals, which is used to feed area homeless people. Ten percent is reserved by the Sale of Champions Committee to promote buyers of champion animals.

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

*Q: Which Preventive Services are covered by Medicare?*

A: The following Medicare covered Preventive Services are listed on MyMedicare.gov:

- “Welcome to Medicare” Physical Exam
- Cardiovascular Screening
- Screening Mammography
- Cervical and Vaginal Cancer Screening (Pap Test and Pelvic Exam)
- Colon Cancer Screening (includes Fecal Occult Blood, Sigmoidoscopy, Colonoscopy, and Barium Enema)
- Prostate Cancer Screening (PSA)
- Pneumococcal Vaccine
- Diabetes Screening, Supplies and Self-Management Training

*Q: I am a 62-year-old woman who was married for almost 30 years before my divorce several years ago. I expect a relatively small Social Security retirement check, since I mostly worked part-time jobs. However, I am thinking of remarrying my ex-husband. He is 69 and already getting about \$1,800 per month from Social Security. Would I be entitled to wife’s benefits if I remarry him?*

A: Yes, you would. But you also should know that you would be due the same benefits even if you do not remarry. Under Social Security, a divorced wife who was married for more than 10 years and is currently unmarried is entitled to the same benefits as a wife. Learn more by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

*Q: My 88-year-old father is terminally ill and is not expected to live much more than another year or so. Will my 86-year-old mother have to apply for widow’s benefits after his death, or is that an automatic process?*

A: When your father passes away, your mother should notify Social Security. She can do so by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). If your mother is receiving spouse’s benefits based on your father’s work record, and if they were living at the same address, we should be able to switch her to widow’s benefits automatically, and also pay the one-time death benefit. Otherwise, she may have to complete a few forms before receiving benefits. Learn more by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

*Q: I will be eligible for my company’s pension at age 60. But I also have Social Security coverage, having paid into the system for the past 36 years. Will my Social Security retirement benefit be reduced because of my pension?*

A: No. But the earliest that you can start collecting Social Security retirement benefits is age 62. If you start your Social Security at 62, your benefit will be reduced — not because you get a pension, but because you are collecting Social Security earlier than your full retirement age. However, you should check with your pension office to find out whether Social Security benefits will reduce

your company pension once your benefits start. Learn more about Social Security by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

*Q: I never got around to applying for Medicare Part D, or for the extra help. I remember reading earlier this year that the late enrollment penalties had been waived. Is that still true now that the year’s more than half over?*

A: Yes, it’s true for the entire year. There are no late enrollment penalties in 2007 for people who qualify for the extra help. This means that if 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](http://www.medicare.gov). To learn more about the extra help and to apply, visit Social Security’s website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

*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.*

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		1			5	6		7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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