



NEWSBRIEFS

Texas Exes

The El Paso Texas Exes would like to invite all Longhorn Fans to participate in its Texas Longhorns Golf Tournament to take place Friday, Sept. 5, 2008 (before the UTEP game) at Butterfield Trail Golf Course. Proceeds will benefit the El Paso Texas Exes Scholarship fund for area El Paso High School graduates who attend the University of Texas. For more information please contact Steve Raney at 915-838-6855 or Armida Martinez at ArmidaMartinez@alumni.utexas.net

Carshow

On Feb. 23 2008, El Paso Honda presents the 9th annual Xtreme Tuner Carshow and Expo at the El Paso Convention Center. The proceeds will go to the Insights Museum of Science in El Paso. The show presents the best cars from West Texas, Southern New Mexico and Northern Mexico. The show is NCCA (National Custom Car Association) sanctioned and judged. With over 6,000 attendees and participants in the 2007 edition of the Xtreme Tuner Carshow it was marked as the largest and most credible show in the area. For more information on the show, please contact Voodoo Blue Studios or visit www.xtremecarshow.com or www.myspace.com/xtremecarshow

Adoption workshop

Methodist Mission Home will host an Adoption Information Session for all interested (Infant Domestic International) from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, at Trinity First UMC on 801 North Mesa Street, El Paso, Texas. MMH has placed over 5,652 children in loving adoptive families. All families, faces, and faiths are welcome and sessions are free. Please RSVP by calling (210) 696-2410 ext. 128 or email elizabethm@mmhome.org. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.mmhome.org>.

Baseball

The Fabens Valley Lions Club is holding registration for its 2008 Summer Baseball League. Registration continues every Saturday through Mar. 1 at the SWIG baseball fields from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Birth certificates are required. There are different leagues ranging in skill and age from 5- to 12-years old. A girls softball league is available for players 9- to 12-years old. Coaches and volunteers are also needed. For more information call Patty Miller at 764-3205 or Sylvia Gonzalez at 764-2279.

Soccer

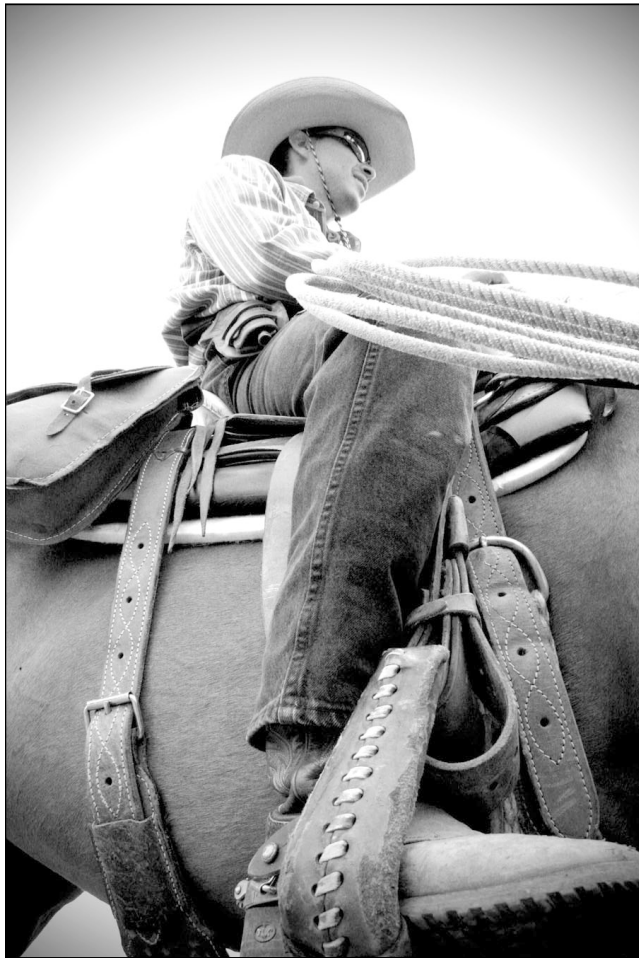
The Cotton Valley Youth Soccer Organization (CVYSO) will begin its third season on Mar. 1. Teams to have started

See BRIEFS, Page ???

Courage is the quality it takes to look at yourself with candor, your adversaries with kindness, and your setbacks with serenity.

— Quips & Quotes

Marquez photo best in Austin show



COWBOY BUCK — Bianca Marquez' photograph earned her Best of Show honors at the Paséo Art in Austin show.

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

When El Dorado senior Bianca Marquez took a photograph at a ranch in Hueco Tanks, little did she know it would end up at the State capitol in Austin, Texas. As part of the Paséo Art in Austin show, Marquez's piece "Cowboy Buck" was selected as Best in Show and will be on display at the office of Texas State Senator Eliot Shapleigh. Marquez's work is one of three pieces from Socorro Independent School District students that were chosen to be part of the annual exhibit. H.D. Hilley 4th grader Saul Flores received second place in the Level II (3rd to 5th) competition with his photograph of El Paso Community College. Socorro High School senior Martina Guerrero's piece on El Paso murals was picked to be part of the Paséo Art in Austin:

See BEST, Page 5

San Elizario ISD creates space for expanding young minds

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

Wide open spaces, bright scenery, and comfortable conditions greeted Garcia-Enriquez Middle School (GEMS) students and faculty upon moving into the campus' latest addition, a brand-new 20 classroom facility. On January 7, GEMS students and teachers officially occupied the new classroom space with much excitement after months of anticipation.

The process of moving 20 classrooms into the new space was not an easy task but was successfully accomplished over the winter holiday with the cooperation of many hard working San Elizario Independent School District personnel. Linda Rodriguez, GEMS Principal,

was impressed by the cooperation and team work shown during the relocation and the positive attitude expressed by all during the heavy construction phase.

"I am very appreciative that during the entire construction time the teachers and students have been flexible and adaptable to the many inconveniences they have had to endure," Rodriguez said.

Overseeing the ongoing construction projects for San Elizario ISD is Support Services Director, George Luevano whose department shouldered most of the work involved with the move to the new building. Moving to the new facility required a carefully orchestrated plan which involved moving 20 class-

See EXPANDING, Page 4



BRAND NEWS HALLS — Principal Linda Rodriguez stands in the hall of the District's new 20-room addition at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School.

— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Vinton remains incorporated, readies for May 10 election

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

VINTON — A dark cloud of disincorporation that has hung over the village of Vinton has dissipated.

The disincorporation petition, presented at the Feb. 5 Village Council meeting, was subsequently found lacking the required signatures to have it placed on the May 10 election.

Town clerk Jessica Garza said there were only 279 valid signatures on the petition. Based on 735 registered village voters, the number of signatures necessary for inclusion on the ballot was 490.

The dark cloud of concern was painted by two notable speakers at the crowded council meeting. They were El Paso Mayor John Cook and Dr. Pam Padilla, superintendent of the Canutillo ISD. Also weighing in, through letters, opposing disincorporation were elected federal, county and state officials.

The County Courier was unsuccessful in attempts to reach council member Juvencia Rios-Ontiveros for comment. Rios-Ontiveros, a former mayor of Vinton, had presented the petition issue for inclusion on the Village Council agenda.

Coming from his own lengthy City Council meeting, the El Paso mayor praised Vinton for "the great work" it had accomplished since the floods of August 2006. "To your credit, you have done a remarkable job."

Cook's main point was that Vinton would miss out on economic grants and matching funds from the Texas Department of Transportation if it disincorporated.

Padilla expressed concern that, with resultant unrestricted growth, disincorporation would adversely affect education in Vinton. Childress Elementary, located in Vinton, is in the Canutillo ISD.

Vinton resident Sal Payan, who works in the office of U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, read a letter from the congressman opposing the action. Echoing Padilla, he said it would bring uncontrolled growth, and the citizens would lack a voice. He also mentioned the risk of school taxes increasing.

Payan: "Penny wise and dollar foolish."

Other views:

State Rep. Pat Haggerty: "a step backward."

State Rep. Joe Pickett: "most disastrous, would be cherry-picked by city of El Paso."

County Commissioner Dan Haggerty: "very disturbing. Now is not a time to ask the county for help."

"I will concentrate on pushing the town forward," said Mayor Madeleine Praino when she learned that petition lacked the required signatures. "I am looking to and concentrating on the future of Vinton."

She said it was important to continue with village projects which includes repairs to six streets.

In other action, the council approved moving the Open Forum portion closer to the top of the agenda and the Village election was approved for May 10.

National Child Passenger Safety Week

Buckle children up, save their lives

By Lt. Mario E. Hernandez
Special to the Courier

El Paso Fire Department Officials wants to remind the citizens of El Paso that this week is National Child Passenger Safety Week. National Child Passenger Safety Week occurs each year during the week of Valentine’s Day. Fire officials want to remind the public on the importance of keeping children strapped into their properly secured safety seats and that being properly belted is also an important issue once they outgrow their booster seats as well.

Q: What can turn a 60-pound child into a 2,700-pound elephant?

A: A 30-mph crash. Force = Mass x Acceleration.

While that may be an oversimplification, the fact is the laws of physics are unyielding. Imagine this: A 60-pound unbelted child in the back seat of a car traveling at a mere 30 miles per hour in a sudden collision can weigh as much as a young elephant — about 2,700 pounds. That means the child can, during a frontal accident, impact the windshield or the front seat

occupant — with deadly force. Not a pretty physics lesson.

Accidents will happen, but they don’t have to become tragedies. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an estimated 7,896 children under the age of five were saved from 1975 to 2005 by the use of safety belts and child restraints. Among passengers over the age of four, seat belts saved an estimated 15,632 during the same period. According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, 75 percent of all crashes occur within 25 miles of home. And most of those take place on roads with maximum speed limits of 40 mph or less.

In 2005, 1,946 children age 14 or younger were killed riding as passengers in motor vehicle accidents. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that motor vehicle crashes account for one in three injury deaths among children. Further, it states that crash injuries are the leading cause of death among five- to 12-year olds. Additionally, NHTSA states that of the children ages zero to 14 years who were killed in motor vehicle crashes during 2005, nearly half were *not* restrained.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

American Heart Month

February is once again upon us, and regardless of how you feel about the holiday, this means that Valentine’s Day is quickly approaching. But this February 14 while we are gifting candy hearts and heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, let us take a moment and think about our own hearts. That’s right, February is American Heart Month.

Congress designated February American Heart Month over 40 years ago in an effort to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease. We rarely think about it, but heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in America. In fact, the American Heart Association finds that cardiovascular disease kills more women each year than “the next five causes of death combined.”

Surveys conducted by the American Heart Association have shown that few women associate lifestyle choices with the risk of heart disease, of which there are numerous causes. Heredity, high cholesterol, tobacco usage, obesity, high blood pressure (hypertension), diabetes, lack of regular exercise, a high-fat diet or emotional stress are all factors. As

you can see, there is a direct correlation between individual lifestyle choices and some of the causes of heart disease.

Preventing heart disease starts with us. Our choices about what we eat and how much we exercise, drink and smoke play a critical role. If we, as individuals, start making more health-conscious decisions about our lifestyles, then we will not only decrease our chances of getting heart disease, but we will also improve our quality of life. These decisions can be as small as regularly walking or jogging, substituting fries with vegetables, or eating less red meat and/or chocolate (which can be especially difficult).

The federal government is making an effort to inform people about heart disease. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other national organizations such as the American Heart Association have come together in a nationwide campaign called “The Heart Truth.” This campaign is focused on educating everyone, but especially women ages 40-60, about the dangers of heart disease and how to take precautionary measures to prevent this deadly condition.

In El Paso, we need to be especially aware of the conditions associated with heart disease—particularly diabetes, from which about 80,000 El Pasoans suffer. According to statistics published by the Office of Minority Health, diabetes disproportionately affects minorities. As a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, I work diligently with my colleagues to draft legislation that will help to prevent, treat and find a cure for diabetes. For example, I am proud to have co-sponsored H.R. 2210, the Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2007. This legislation specifically focuses on minority populations so that diabetes prevention, detection and treatment can be available to those whom diabetes affects most severely.

So, this Valentine’s Day when we are enjoying the usual sugary foods, we should take into consideration how it is affecting our health. This campaign reminds us all that the decisions we make, regardless of how small they seem, can have very serious consequences.

For more information about heart disease or “The Heart Truth” in English or Spanish, please visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/hearttruth> or www.americanheart.org.



From D.C. By U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez

Hospitalized Veterans Week

This week is National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. It is an appropriate time for all Americans to stop and count our blessings and to thank veterans and their families, who have sacrificed so much in behalf of the American family.

At 155 VA hospitals all across our nation, there are approximately 98,000 veterans who face daily the physical and mental wounds of combat long after their military service has been completed. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to them, but we have a moral obligation to thank and support them with our words and our deeds.

This week, Congress will pass by bipartisan resolution I introduced with Congressman Jeff Miller (R-TX), H.Res. 963, to honor our hospitalized veterans and encourage Americans nationwide to personally thank our veterans.

Some local VA hospitals have a tradition of school children bringing Valentines’ cards to our veterans. Year after year, I have seen on the faces of veterans, young and old, the gratitude of knowing their service to country has not been forgotten. If you live near a VA hospital or clinic, take the time this week to visit and say “thank you” to our veterans. Those two simple words can make a big difference in the lives of those who have done so much for us.

If you don’t live near a VA hospital or clinic, then call someone you know who has served in uniform and thank them for their service. If you’re traveling through an airport and see a young serviceman or woman departing for training or for combat, walk a few steps and let these veter-

ans of tomorrow know you are grateful for their service to country. A few steps and a few words can go a long way.

For those of us in Congress, I believe it is vital that we support our hospitalized veterans and all veterans not just with our speeches but with our budgets. It’s not good enough for elected representatives to honor our veterans with speeches on Veterans Day while dishonoring them with inadequate budgets all other days.

At long last, it’s a new day for America’s veterans. After years of VA budgets that barely, if at all, kept up with inflation, the new Congress has kept its promise to honor veterans with meaningful budget increases.

In 2007, the new Congress increased health care and benefits funding for veterans by \$11.8 billion, which was \$5.5 billion more than requested by the President. This is the largest funding increase in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration and a larger increase than the combined total of the six previous years in Congress. The truth is our veterans have earned every dime of this funding.

So, what does this new funding mean for individual veterans?

For 5.8 million veterans who use the VA health care system, it will mean better care, more doctors and shorter waiting lines for medical appointments.

For the 400,000 veterans backlogged in the VA claims processing system, it will mean 3,100 new claims processors to reduce the unconscionable 6-month delay for those waiting to receive their earned benefits.

For Iraq and Afghan war veterans, it will mean everyone coming into the VA system will be tested for PTSD

and the non visible forms of traumatic brain injury.

For the most severely wounded Iraq and Afghan vets, it will mean modernized polytrauma centers and a new polytrauma center in San Antonio, the first of its kind anywhere in the southwestern United States.

For veterans from all wars with mental health issues, it will mean a minimum of \$2.9 billion dedicated to better mental health care services, a \$700 million increase over last year.

For veterans in rural areas far away from VA hospitals, it will mean more VA clinics closer to home, and for the first time since 1979, when gasoline prices were 95 cents per gallon, VA travel reimbursement is increasing from 11 cents to 28 and a half cents per mile.

For all Americans who never want to see one veteran living in the squalid conditions Army soldiers were subjected to at Walter Reed Annex 18 last year, it will mean nearly \$1.5 billion in new funding to do preventative construction maintenance at our VA hospitals and clinics.

For thousands of homeless veterans, increasing the homeless per diem program by \$23 million will mean the dignity of a roof over their heads and hope for the future.

In just 12 months, the new Congress has come a long way in keeping our promises to those who have kept their promise to serve our nation, but we should do more.

This week you can make a difference by thanking a hospitalized veteran. In the weeks, months and years ahead, let us all work together to thank our veterans with our words and our deeds. They deserve no less.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee.



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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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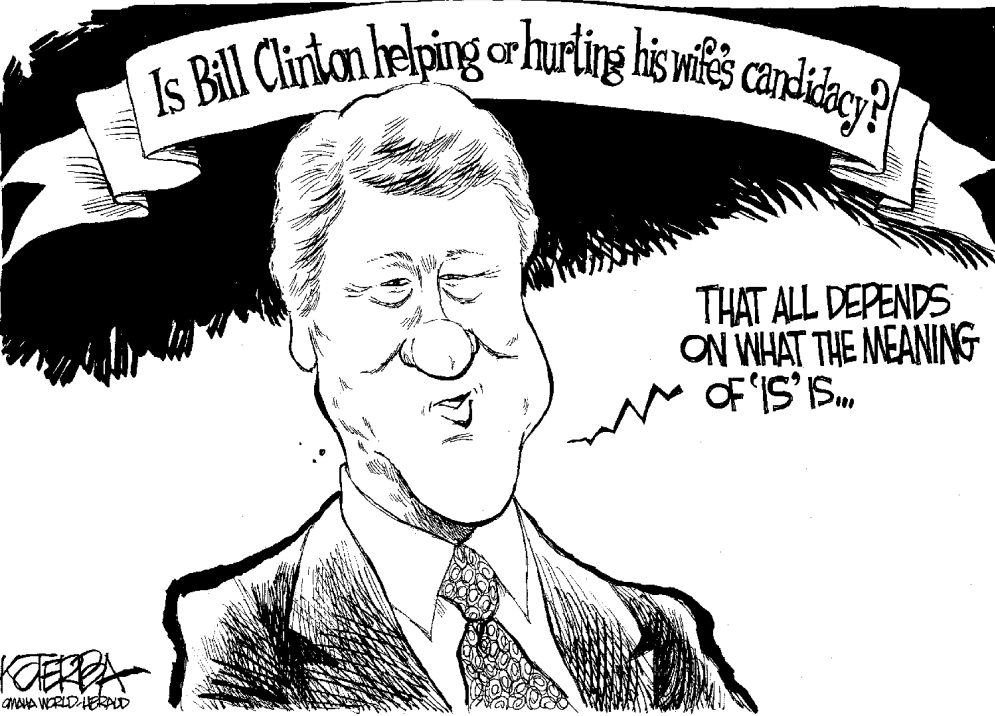
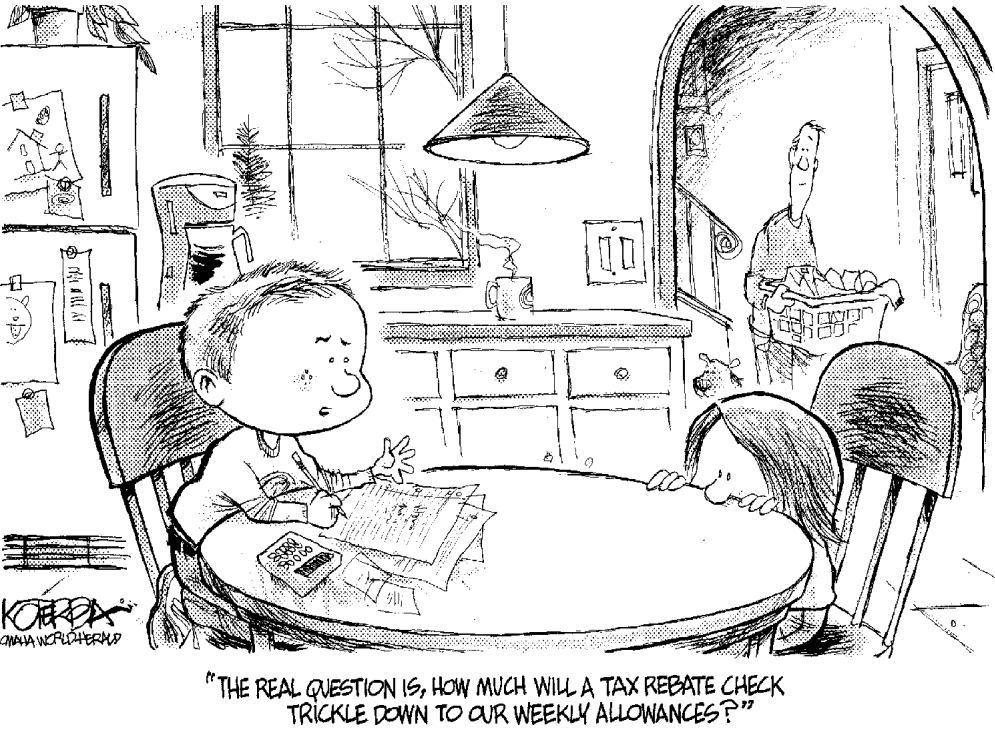
Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Jan Engels

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Physicians urge parents to vaccinate adolescents against meningitis

By Brent Annear
Special to the Courier

Parents, vaccinate your young adolescent children against meningococcal disease, urge physicians of the Texas Medical Association (TMA). The statewide medical society and other medical leaders now recommend vaccinating young adolescents against the devastating disease. Outbreaks of bacterial meningitis in college dormitories have made headlines in recent years, and the disease can be fatal.

Meningitis is an infection of the meninges, the thin lining that surrounds the brain and the spinal cord. There are several causes of meningitis, including bacterial infections that can permanently injure or kill people. The good news is there is a vaccine against meningococcal bacteria, the most common cause of bacterial meningitis. The vaccine is approved for anyone 2 through 55 years old.

"It's very important to protect your children from meningococcal disease, including meningococcal meningitis," says Amy Middleman, MD, a physician member of TMA's "Be Wise — Immunize" campaign. "The vaccine will protect your child against four of the five main types of meningococcus that cause serious disease," adds Dr. Middleman, a Houston pediatrician who specializes in adolescent health. TMA recommends parents make sure their 11- and 12-year-old children receive the vaccine as part of their annual check-up, before they have a greater chance of exposure.

The parents of Ryan Milley know the risk of not vaccinating. Meningococcal meningitis

killed their vibrant teenage son in 1998, days after he graduated from high school. He became ill with an earache and fever on Father's Day. "Within 14 hours, he had blood coming out from every [opening] of his body," describes Ryan's mother, Frankie Milley. Ryan died only one day after becoming ill.

Though he died from a vaccine-preventable disease, only after his death did his parents learn a vaccine was available. The vaccine was not widely used at the time. Ms. Milley now strongly advocates for vaccination through her Meningitis Angels organization.

The new statewide push is to target adolescents, one of the most common groups to contract the disease. Adolescents are statistically more likely than babies and young children to die from the disease if they contract it.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends catch-up vaccinations for all adolescents 13 to 18 years of age. It also recommends the vaccine for anyone with special risk factors who are between 2 and 55 years old.

TMA physicians, who advocate shielding people from disease through "Be Wise — Immunize", hope recommending the vaccine to parents will alert them to act.

"I urge parents to ask their doctor about getting this shot for their child. The ideal time is when they take them to the physician for routine checks when they are 11 or 12 years old, or as young teenagers ... certainly before heading to college," urges Dr. Middleman. "You definitely want to protect your child from a vaccine-preventable disease that could harm him or her, or even take a life."

Canutillo ISD/ EPCC names principal for Northwest Early College High School

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Peggy Gustafson will be the first principal of the newly created Northwest Early College High School (NECHS) when it opens in August for the 2008-09 school year. Canutillo Independent School District and El Paso Community College officials announced her selection in January.

Plans are to open the new school, which will be located on the EPCC Northwest campus, with 100 students and add another hundred each year for the next three years for a total of 400 students.

Gustafson, who joined the CISD staff recently, said, "For now, my job is to recruit students and teach-

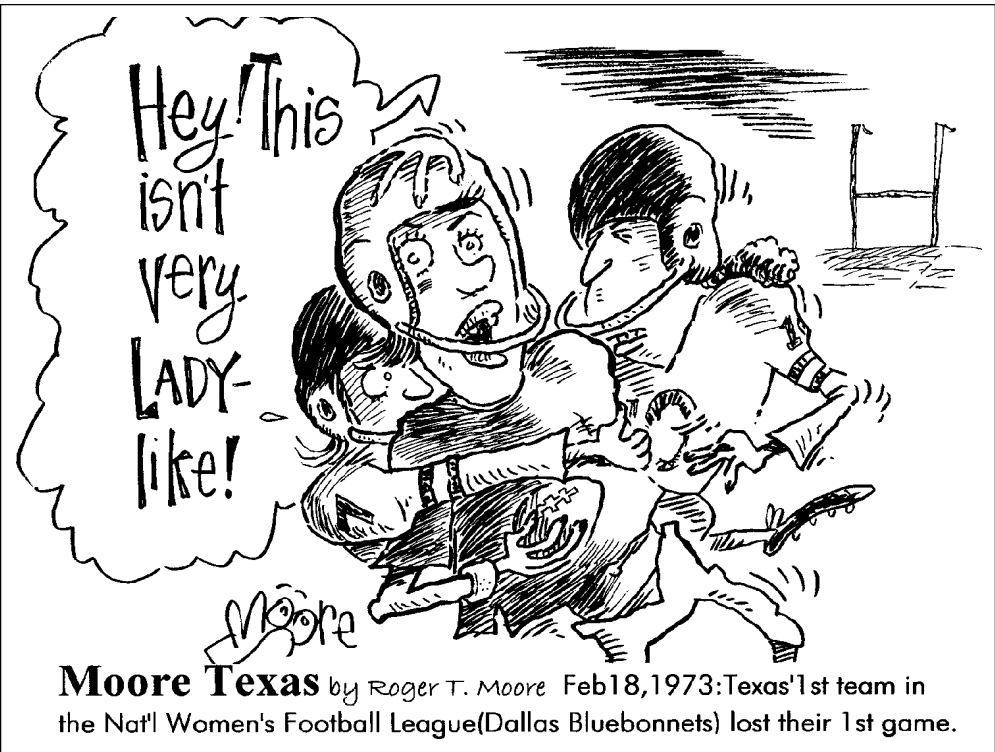


Peggy Gustafson

ers to be the pioneering members of this new school. It is a very exciting job, because I get to be part of the creation of this unique initiative. I have been working closely with both staffs to get everything off the ground. I am impressed with the collaboration that is already in place between the two educational institutions."

The new principal comes to CISD with 22 years of experience in education. In the past 20 years, she has worked for El Paso ISD as an administrator, specialist, coordinator, and teacher. Since 2006, she was an assistant principal at Bowie High School, where she was the administrator for the Academy of International Business and Public Affairs mag-

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Gatlin named Canutillo ISD purchasing agent

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) recently promoted Ron Gatlin, School Resources Coordinator, to Purchasing Agent for the CISD Business Services Division.

As purchasing agent, Gatlin will direct and manage the purchasing activities of the District and coordinate the distribution of supplies and equipment district-wide.

“I applied for this position because as a community member and taxpayer of the District, I feel I can contribute positively to the efficient operation of the District’s business services,” said Gatlin.

Gatlin has worked in sales and

management for more than 30 years; the past four years have been with CISD. He began his career with the District as the Transportation Supervisor in 2000. In 2004, Gatlin was hired to oversee the District’s warehouse operations including supervising warehouse personnel, purchasing and inventory control, safety, textbook operations, property tax verifier, and energy management.

“The District is truly lucky to have an individual like Ron Gatlin. His experience, work ethic and character are simply outstanding.

His strengths will help the Business Services Division handle the demands of a fast growth school district,” said Tony Reza, Executive Director for the Business Services Division.



Ron Gatlin

Expanding

From Page 1

rooms to the new building and relocating 6 other classrooms within the existing facilities. Luevano had to reassign custodians from other district campuses to facilitate moving equipment and supplies, preparing floors, and unpacking everything again within a matter of a few days. As soon as Luevano’s team finished their part, Technology Director Alice Ramos moved in with her crew of computer technicians to move and install 78 computers throughout the new classroom building.

The transformation underway at GEMS is not easy to see from the exterior but just take a few steps inside and you’ll uncover a gem slowly revealing itself. The new building boasts over 24,300 square feet of space housing 18 class rooms, two science labs, and service and storage rooms. The building is complete with the exception of small enhancements such as wall mounts, equipment, and some networking projects that still need to be installed.

The land where the new building

now sits was previously the site of 7 portables. The “H” shaped building houses 8th grade classes in one wing and a combination of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes throughout the rest of it. Additionally as if the shining, large classrooms were not enough, teachers and students will also be able to enjoy an expansive plaza that is incorporated into the landscape design featuring creative outdoor seating which can also serve as another location for conducting special lessons.

“The new facility is up to date with TEA standards as far as classroom size since a larger space promotes a better instructional environment. Landscaping is also instructional and will be inviting to students to come eat lunch there, read, or to function as an alternative classroom setting,” Luevano said.

Since moving in and settling into their new environment, Mrs. Rodriguez has noticed a calming change in her students, staff and faculty.

“The stress level seems to have decreased. The students are more at ease and there is no bumping into each other in the hallways. Everyone is calmer and hopefully more focused on their school work now,” Rodriguez added.

The new classroom facility is only

the beginning of much more yet to come as the San Elizario Independent School District nears completion of several construction projects in progress district-wide. As the liaison between San Elizario ISD and the contracted construction manager, Luevano has been overwhelmed with the magnitude of what has been accomplished so far.

“I think that by concentrating on less projects and not stretching out our resources we were able to get architecturally beautiful buildings. At this point we are 95% complete on all our projects,” Luevano concluded.

The construction of the new facilities has been made possible through Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) funds awarded to the San Elizario Independent School District in 2006. The other projects under development include an 8,000 square foot modern, state-of the art library at GEMS and a 10,300 square foot cafeteria at Alarcon Elementary all scheduled for completion in late February. Leading the design of all the work was the firm of Wright & Dalbin Architects while Venegas Engineering Management & Construction (VEMAC) provided all the general contracting services.

San Elizario Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2007

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	SEISD Facility Corporation	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,328,854	\$ 79,386	\$ 173,212	\$ 2,581,452
5800 State Program Revenues	25,581,805	—	1,633,962	27,215,767
5900 Federal Program Revenues	2,457,784	—	4,407,905	6,865,689
5020 Total Revenues	30,368,443	79,386	6,215,079	36,662,908
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	14,382,347	—	3,532,670	17,915,017
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	385,308	—	74,075	459,383
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	249,936	—	474,982	724,918
0021 Instructional Leadership	335,040	—	322,713	657,753
0023 School Leadership	2,036,594	—	27,912	2,064,506
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,137,401	—	16,322	1,153,723
0032 Social Work Services	37,381	—	160,335	197,716
0033 Health Services	267,222	—	82,693	349,915
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,127,174	—	—	1,127,174
0035 Food Services	2,512,582	—	62,709	2,575,291
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	606,721	—	—	606,721
0041 General Administration	1,379,462	—	—	1,379,462
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	3,632,265	—	—	3,632,265
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	554,291	—	—	554,291
0053 Data Processing Services	430,338	—	76,727	507,065
0061 Community Services	2,431	—	225,671	228,102
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	1,402,000	—	725,000	2,127,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	523,494	—	276,386	799,880
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	8,798	147,781	910	157,489
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	—	5,966,033	—	5,966,033
Intergovernmental:				
0091 Contracted Instructional Services Between Schools	52,935	—	—	52,935
6030 Total Expenditures	31,063,720	6,113,814	6,059,105	43,236,639
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(695,277)	(6,034,428)	155,974	(6,573,731)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	9,285,000	—	9,285,000
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	—	9,285,000	—	9,285,000
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(695,277)	3,250,572	155,974	2,711,269
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	1,729,884	(459,544)	198,599	1,468,939
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 1,034,607	\$ 2,791,028	\$ 354,573	\$ 4,180,208

Principal

From Page 3

net school among other duties.

NECHS will be the third school of its kind in the El Paso region, and the third partnership between EPCC and a local school district. Socorro ISD opened the Mission Early College High School two years ago; Ysleta ISD opened its Valle Verde Early College High School this school year.

“An early college high school provides students with the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree while completing their high school requirements. This allows students to save both time and money. Due to the small size, the early college high school provides the opportunity for individualized attention. And, we start early reinforcing the skills students will need to be successful college students,” said Gustafson.

Eighth grade students going to ninth grade are eligible to apply, said the NECHS principal. Application packets are now available. Deadline for applying is Feb. 29.

For more information, interested individuals may call 877-7438.

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Best

From Page 1

People, Places and Culture art show.

“We have so many talented student artists here in Socorro,” said



Bianca Marquez

SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. “It’s an honor to have several of our students’ works displayed in Austin.”

Marquez, who has been taking photographs for the past three years, saw the winning shot when she was at a relative’s ranch.

“I was at the Fast Hand Ranch when I saw the cowboy on his horse. I just had to get close to the horse,” said Marquez of the black and white photograph that garnered the top prize. “I was at the ranch taking photos for the Border Culture Exhibit at the Chamizal and decided to enter this piece for this competition.”

As for winning the competition, Marquez was shocked when she saw the “Best in Show” ribbon hanging from her entry.

“She asked me what that meant,” said Candace Printz, El Dorado Art Instructor referring to the “Best in Show” title. “She really didn’t know she won. She felt that photograph wasn’t good enough to enter.”

“It doesn’t surprise me that our students continue to be recognized on a state level,” said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. “The credit goes to these students, their teachers and their parents for striving to meet the highest standards.”

Printz said in addition to photography, Marquez is also in advanced drawing and AP sculpture.

“She is growing. Her photos have changed since she first started a few years ago,” said Printz.

“I was in shocked. I didn’t believe it,” said Marquez as she was joined by Printz and Senator Shapleigh at the award presentation at La Galería de la Misión de Senecú on Jan. 17. Senator Shapleigh described the event as a way to bring El Paso life and culture to Austin. Shapleigh added this exhibit allows other Texans and visitors to the state to get a sneak peek into everyday life along the border.

“It’s a fantastic exhibit that gets better every year,” said Shapleigh. “To see El Paso from the eyes of our children is amazing. We have very talented students here in El Paso.”

The 8th annual photography competition is open to students from kindergarten through 12th grade throughout the El Paso region. In partnership with Senator Shapleigh, the pieces will be sent to various Texas state offices in Austin to be put on display. Students were encouraged to submit original photographs that depict El Paso. Each year, the winning photographs are displayed in Shapleigh’s office at the Capitol in Austin.



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick / SISD

MEDALIST — Adam Baray tees off at the Del Rio tournament. His two-day total of 159 in chilly conditions made him tournament champion.

Montwood golfer wins Del Rio Tournament

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Montwood High School senior Adam Baray was named tournament champion at the Del Rio Golf Classic held the first weekend in February. The two-day tournament had teams waiting out a two-hour frost delay and teeing off in 30 to 50 degree weather. Held in Del Rio, Texas, the tournament featured eight teams from throughout the state. While Baray received Medalist honors, the Montwood team, coached by Joey Pennisi, came in second behind tournament host Del Rio by two shots.

“They are awesome. They did great despite the cold weather,” said Coach Pennisi. “We had a frost delay and when the tournament started on Friday we had blustery conditions to work with.”

“These athletes are top notch and their coach deserves a pat on the back for the time and effort they put into helping these kids succeed,” said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia.

Baray, a four-year starter, posted 80 on the first day of the tournament held at the San Felipe Country Club and 79 on the second day held at the

Leaning Pines Country Club on Laughlin Air Force Base. Baray and the Montwood Boys team of senior Ruben Carrillo, senior Michael Vasquez, junior Brandon Cornali and sophomore Chris Apodaca braved stiff, cold winds and narrow fairways lined with oak trees and streams to earn second place.

“The ball would just hang in the air and the greens were frozen. I thought it was fun. You don’t get to play in that kind of weather all the time,” said Baray, Senior Captain for the Montwood golf team. “It felt good to win this tournament. The year didn’t start too well, but it’s been picking up. The hard work is paying off.”

Baray who has been playing since 7th grade picked up the sport after playing alongside his father and hopes to continue playing at the next level.

“Hopefully, I can get on the UTEP team. I loved playing. Golf is never the same, the swing is never the same. It’s up to you to make it happen,” said Baray during team practice at Ascarate Golf Course.

“It’s great to see our students reap the rewards for their hard work. Their parents and our community continue to be very proud of them,” said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson.

San Eli migrant students honored



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

San Elizario students Yesica Luna and Suguey Gutierrez were honored by the Education Service Center-Region 19 as exemplary migrant students for the district on Feb. 2 at the 17th Annual Migrant Student Leadership Conference. Yesica is 14 years-old and an 8th grade student at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School, and Suguey Gutierrez is 15 years-old and a 10th grade student at San Elizario High School. The Education Service Center-Region 19 recognizes migrant students from throughout the area every year and selects two top students from each district for the award. The winners are chosen based on the following criteria: community service, grades, participation in school activities, migrant status, career goals, and an essay submission.

— Contributed by Cynthia P. Marentes

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Public Notice Clint Independent School District

The Clint Independent School District Special Education Program will hold a public meeting on the Program Performance (PBMAS) Review, from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 15, 2008, at the CISD Administrative Building Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, Texas.

This meeting will allow school and community stakeholders the opportunity to conduct a needs assessment and share information regarding the effectiveness of the services provided to our students with special needs.

For more information, call the CISD Special Education Department at (915)851-8383.

Junta Pública Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint

El Programa de Educación Especial del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tendrá una junta pública en le Revisión de Función de Programa (PBMAS) de 8:30 - 10:30 de la mañana, el viernes, 15 de febrero de 2008, en CISD Administrative Building Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd., EL Paso, Texas.

Esta junta le dará la oportunidad a la escuela y la comunidad interesada a transmitir una valoración de necesidades e información de parte estimando la efectividad de los servicios provistos para nuestros estudiantes con necesidades especiales.

Para más información, llame al Departamento de Educación Especial De CISD at (915)851-8383.

WTCC: 02/14/08

Sprewell’s downward spiral continues with money shortage

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Former NBA guard Latrell Sprewell made a name for himself by being selfish, arrogant, hostile and obnoxious — oh, and he played a little basketball too.

The guy was difficult for anyone to guard and was named to the all-star team on four occasions but in the end, he just couldn’t get out of his own way.

Of all the dumb things Sprewell did and said over the years, there are three events that will always define him.

One was the fact that he beat up his wife in front of their children. Fortunately for him, the charges will be dropped if he behaves himself over the next year.

The second and most publicized of Sprewell’s wrongdoings happened when he choked his coach, P.J. Carlesimo, during a team practice session back in 1997.

Coaches and players had to pry Sprewell from Carlesimo’s throat.

Then, of course, there was the time Sprewell turned down a \$21-million contract extension uttering the still unbelievable words, “I’ve got my family to feed.”

It was this action that turned most fans

against him. Fans thought to themselves, “how can you expect us to like you when you’re complaining about making millions of dollars?”

Wasn’t \$21-million enough for Sprewell? Evidently not. It seems that the self-centered basketball player might have known what he was talking about after all.

It appears that Sprewell’s home was recently up for foreclosure and his 70-foot yacht was sold at auction to pay for millions he is behind on his payments.

Sprewell is behind about \$300,000 on his house payments and some of his personal property is being auctioned to help pay the \$1.3-million debt he owes.

Ironically, Sprewell never played in the NBA after turning down the \$21-million. But don’t feel sorry for the guy, he was making over \$14-million a year at the time.

What does a guy do to lose millions of dollars like that? What can you possibly spent that much money on — besides feeding your family?

Should we feel sorry for Latrell Sprewell? Of course not. He had it better than about 98-percent of the rest of us.

Now he can learn to live day-to-day like normal Americans do.

Baseball on steroids

The Major League Baseball steroids scan-

dal was thought to hit its peak when the Mitchell Report was released a few months ago but it appears that things are just beginning to get interesting.

The names are in the news everyday. Names like Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, Brian McNamee, George Mitchell and Kirk Radomski. Now we can add John Rocker, Bud Selig and Clemens’ wife Debbie to the sordid list.

First Clemens tape-recorded conversations with McNamee, then McNamee says he vaccinated Clemens and his wife with steroids and Human Growth Hormone. Rocker said commissioner Selig knew back in 2000 that he was taking steroids but failed to make a federal case out of it.

That, of course, was Mitchell’s job.

Where in the world is this baseball story going? Who is going to be implicated next? Where’s the popcorn?

This is the kind of soap opera a guy can really get into.

The real story is finding out who the liar is. Either Clemens or McNamee is lying.

Both men are testifying under oath this week and one thing is certain — somebody is going to spend some time in jail.

But no matter how this turns out, one guy is really benefiting the most out of this.

Who, you might ask.

When was the last time you heard anything negative about Barry Bonds?

Hockey hooligans

I’m sure most of you sports fans know that some of the toughest guys out there are hockey players.

And, except for the goons around the league, hockey players are generally known as good guys.

I guess a couple of Montreal teammates didn’t get the “good guy” memo.

It seems that Ryan O’Byrne showed his true colors by stealing a woman’s purse outside a Tampa nightclub. His hockey-playing buddy, Tom Kostopoulos, was also arrested for resisting an officer.

Now I’ve heard of a lot of tough-guy crimes before but stealing a woman’s purse! What’s next for these two — spitting on the sidewalk? Failing to yield the right of way? Jaywalking?

How can these two nerds ever skate on the ice again?

The only tough thing about these two guys is the thickness of their heads.

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Proposals are also available at the District’s website: www.sisd.net WTCC-02/07/08

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— Photos courtesy Canutillo ISD

HE’S A RAIDER — Canutillo High School football star Brandon Reid, flanked by his parents Sandra and Wilbert Reid, signed a letter of intent with Texas Tech University.

Canutillo HS seniors accept football scholarships with Texas Tech, Western New Mexico University

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Canutillo High School Football running back standout, Brandon Reid, signed a letter of intent during the first day of national signing day to play football for Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Reid, his family, friends, and teammates were in attendance during a signing ceremony that was held Feb. 6, at Canutillo High School.

“I decided to sign with Texas Tech, first of all, because my parents and I were impressed with the high graduation rate among athletes in the football program and because the school has great athletic facilities. It is also close enough to El Paso that my family will be able to go see me play regularly,” said Reid, who had eight division one schools vying for his signing commitment.

Reid helped lead CHS to its first 2-4A district championship this season, as he rushed for nearly 1,000 yards and scored ten touchdowns. He was selected to the All-District Football Team three consecutive years. The Dave Campbell Football Magazine also named him among the top twenty football players in Texas this year.

Reid, who attended Canutillo ISD since elementary school, is the son of Retired Master Sergeant Wilbert Reid and Sandra Reid.

Linebacker Eddie Rascon will continue his football playing days at Western New Mexico

University, in Silver City. Rascon signed a letter of intent Friday (Feb. 8), in the Canutillo High School cafeteria, while his teammates and coaches looked on.

Rascon, the 6’1”208 pound outside linebacker for the 2-4A District champions, said that he chose to sign with Western New Mexico because he was impressed with the coaches and because it is close to home (about a two and a half hour drive). Rascon considered offers from Southern Virginia University, McMurray University, and Doane College.

This season, Rascon led the Eagles defensive team with 117 tackles, two interceptions, a touchdown, and a safety. He was selected to the All-District First Team, and he was named the MVP on defense in the Senior Bowl All Star game, which was played recently.

Rascon, an A-B Honor roll student, plans to major in political science and one day be a high school football coach. “I want to thank Coach Brooks and Coach Ramirez for shaping me into the player I am today,” he said. Rascon is son of Eduardo and Arcelia Rascon.



Eddie Rascon

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OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



You get what you think you pay for

By Don Flood

Money, as we all know, can't buy happiness.

Oh, come on, you didn't fall for that one, did you?

According to a recent study, money can buy happiness — or at least rent it for a short time.

Researchers asked people to sip wines ranging from \$5 to \$90 a bottle.

(I strongly suspect the researchers kept most of the \$90 wines for themselves. For that matter, they probably kept most of the cheap stuff for themselves too.)

When people sipped the wine costing \$90 a bottle, scientists discovered that "brain scans showed increased activity in the medial orbital frontal cortex, the area of the brain that registers pleasure."

Big deal, you say. (Yes, I can hear you.)

But here's the important point: The medial orbital frontal cortex — the part of your brain that thanks you for watching "American Gladiator" — registered just as much pleasure when the people were drinking a \$5 bottle of wine as long as they were told it was the expensive wine.

There are probably a lot of important and profound truths about the human condition that could be derived from this study but, well, the scientists were pretty sloshed by the time they finished up the wine tasting.

(My guess, however, is that another study will be on the way — perhaps featuring different levels of Scotch.)

So the next time you want to impress your friends, look for a bottle of Dom Perignon. That's right, just the bottle. You don't want what's in there, because that will seriously

set you back.

Getting a bottle may require you to hang around the dumpster of a fancy restaurant but, hey, nobody said being classy was easy.

Once you find it, buy the cheapest champagne you can find. Or, if it's easier, just buy Mountain Dew. (Your guests might like it better anyway.)

As long as your guests see the bubbly pouring out of the fancy bottle, their medial orbital frontal cortex will light up like the Fourth of July.

This research also has implications for husbands: What really buys your wife's happiness is how much she thinks you paid for the gift.

Remember how one of the most important rules of etiquette is to remove the price tag when wrapping presents?

Well, that's still true today — with one important difference: The smart husband should remove the store's price tag and replace it with a sticker showing a much higher price.

How much higher? That's up to you, but remember, if something is worth doing then it's worth doing right.

So if you're going to lie, tell a whopper. Your goal should be: Sticker Shock.

Yes, there are limits. You probably shouldn't buy a ring from a gumball machine and slap an \$8,000 price tag on it, but be bold. Be the liar your first-grade teacher always knew you could be.

My wife probably won't like this column, but that's OK. I bought her a very expensive present — says so right on the price tag.

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dflood287@comcast.net

King Super Crossword

WAYNE'S WORLD

ACROSS

- 1 Big bargain
- 6 Carpentry device
- 11 Diplomacy
- 15 Sault _ Marie, MI
- 18 Fill with fizz
- 19 "Bolero" composer
- 20 Return address?
- 21 Pallid
- 22 Frequent Wayne co-star
- 24 Film directed by Wayne
- 26 Wayfarer's whistle wetter
- 27 Thrill
- 28 Troubles
- 30 Pianist Gilels
- 31 Word with car or pea
- 33 Muhammad's daughter
- 36 Commotion
- 38 Tune
- 41 Small mall
- 42 Bearing
- 43 Faced the day
- 44 Wayne's birth name
- 49 _ Grande
- 50 Plot
- 53 Facilitate a felony
- 54 Poetic preposition
- 55 Makes one's mark
- 56 Tortellini topping
- 57 Fretful
- 60 Songwriter
- Greenwich

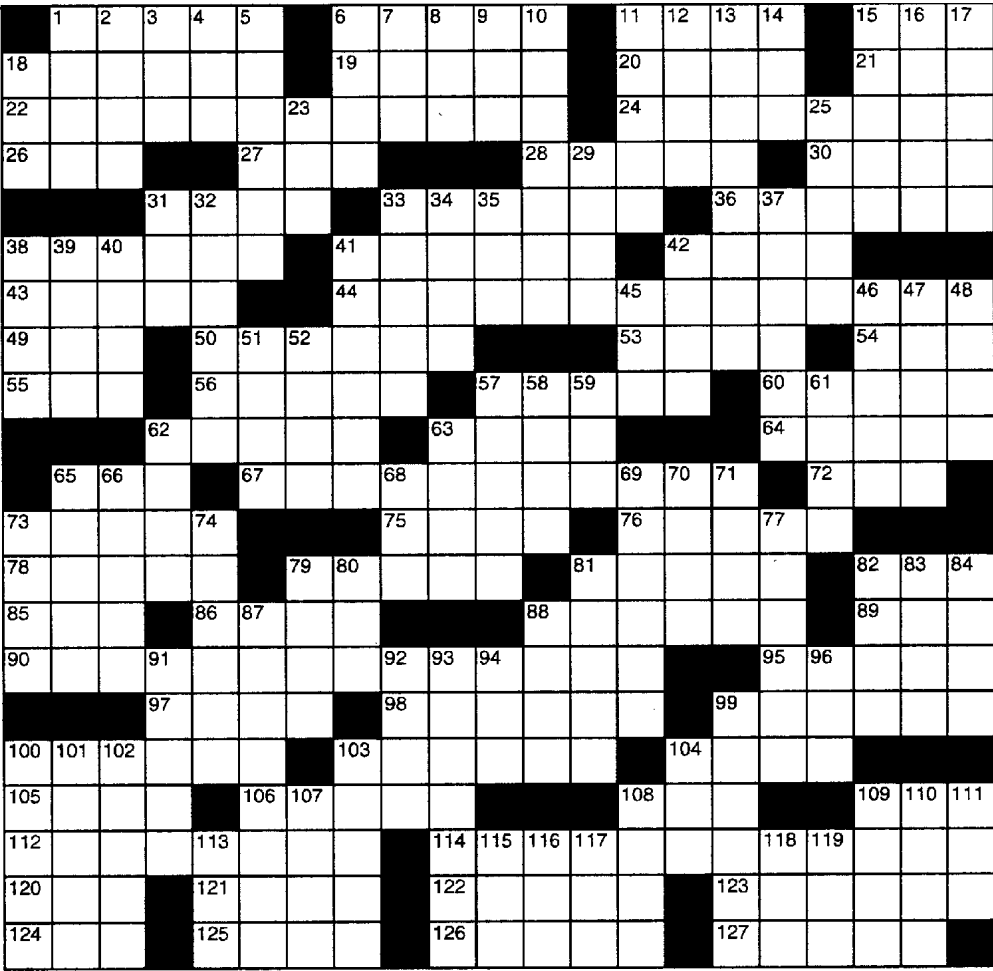
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- 63 " _ Sorry Now" ('58 hit)
- 64 Gossip material
- 65 Numbers man?
- 67 Wayne's final film
- 72 Went jogging
- 73 Maestro Zubin
- 75 "Braveheart" costume
- 76 Fielder's equipment
- 78 Yale or Root
- 79 Corn
- 81 Simon's "Plaza _"
- 82 Rascal
- 85 Out of sorts
- 86 Restaurateur
- Toots
- 88 Seat cover?
- 89 Actress Peggy
- 90 Oscar-winning Wayne role
- 95 Hugh of "Small Time Crooks"
- 97 Spineless
- 98 Egg evaluation
- 99 Rich soup
- 100 Insist
- 103 Lost one's tail?
- 104 A shake in the grass?
- 105 "Star Trek VI" actress
- 106 Bendix role
- 108 Tease
- 109 Spigot

- 112 Frequent Wayne director
 - 114 Wayne's role in "The Searchers"
 - 120 Rink legend
 - 121 New York city
 - 122 Shortstop Pee Wee
 - 123 Volcanic state
 - 124 Comedian Louis
 - 125 Actor Epps
 - 126 A la King?
 - 127 Proficient
- DOWN
- 1 Navy warrior
 - 2 " _ Colors" ('86 hit)
 - 3 Teacup part
 - 4 Tackled a taco
 - 5 Margin
 - 6 Singer Sheryl
 - 7 _di-dah
 - 8 Palindromic name
 - 9 "Mal de _"
 - 10 Luciano's colleague
 - 11 Neon _
 - 12 Flu symptom
 - 13 _ cat
 - 14 Shelley's " _ Skylark"
 - 15 Okefenokee, for one
 - 16 Indian tongue
 - 17 " _ Gay"
 - 18 Internists' org.
 - 23 " _ if I can help it!"
 - 25 Tea of "The Naked Truth"
 - 29 Prayer finale

- 31 _ Cob, CT
- 32 Forsyth's "The _ File"
- 33 Surround a Seurat
- 34 "God's Little _" ('58 film)
- 35 Skater Babilonia
- 37 Olympian Al
- 38 "You Bet Your Life" emcee
- 39 Part of HOMES
- 40 Author Anita
- 41 Don of "Cocoon"
- 42 Melville title start
- 45 "Nowhere _" ('66 hit)
- 46 Actress Diamond
- 61 Sky stalker
- 48 _do-well
- 51 Supermarket
- vehicle
- 52 "Be quiet!"
- 57 Complete
- 58 Night noise
- 59 Relative of -ator
- 61 Tempt
- 62 School subject
- 63 Crackerjack
- 65 Casals' instrument
- 66 Detective Vance
- 68 Emulate
- 102
- Down
- 69 Exotic pet
- 70 Lingerie item
- 71 Shopper's sack
- 73 Golda of Israel
- 74 Darcy's creator
- 77 "The Aeneid"

- author
- 79 Mindy's mate
- 80 Circle section
- 81 Fathered a foal
- 82 Neighbor of Jordan
- 83 Waiter's offering
- 84 Fancy appetizer
- 87 TV's "Max _"
- 88 Teen title
- 91 Proust protagonist
- 92 Eye appreciatively
- 93 Cheesecake
- choice
- 94 " _ Girls" ('79 smash)
- 96 Pretoria's loc.
- 99 "The Enlightened One"
- 100 Mustard city
- 101 Atlanta campus
- 102 Athlete Phil
- 103 More advanced
- 104 Rush
- 107 Role for Shirley
- 108 Patella's place
- 109 Kisser
- 110 Mine feature
- 111 Pressure meas.
- 113 To and _
- 115 Pigskin prop
- 116 "Tell _ About It" ('83 song)
- 117 " _ see it ..."
- 118 Gum gob
- 119 Overwhelm

Answer Page 4



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My husband and I both receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A couple of months ago he took a part-time job as a greeter at a nearby grocery store. My situation didn't change, but because of his work both of us will get less in SSI payments. Why is that?

A: Because SSI is a needs-based assistance program, eligibility for SSI and the amount of any benefit payment depends largely on the applicant's income. A husband and wife who live together normally share their income. Therefore, when one of them applies for SSI, part of the other's income must be counted as though it were the applicant's. For more information about the SSI program, you can visit the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi. Or you can call Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the pub-

lication, Supplemental Security Income.

Q: A few days ago I saw a poster that urged people who are age 65 or over with limited income and resources to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). I thought I'd be eligible for SSI but my neighbor told me that SSI is like a grant program, and that I must first figure in what my grown children should be able to contribute to help support me. Is this true?

A: No. Your eligibility for SSI depends on your income and resources (the things you own). And if you have limited income and few resources, you may be able to get SSI. But if you were to receive any support from your children, your SSI payment would be affected. For more information, you can visit the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi. Or you can call Social Security's toll-free

number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the publication, Supplemental Security Income.

Q: I got denied for disability benefits and I'd like to appeal. Can I do it online?

A: Yes — in fact, the best way to file a Social Security appeal is online! Our online appeal process is convenient and secure. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal to appeal the decision. If you prefer, you can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to schedule an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to appeal.

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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

New car help

In the market for a new car but don't know where to start? Don't worry, your friends from the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Citizen Information Center can help. They've put together a handy package of publications with all the ins and outs of getting a good deal on your new ride.

First, calculate how much car you can afford. If you're financing or leasing your new vehicle, use the Monthly Spending Plan to figure out an affordable payment. Next, think about what type of car you would like. Do you want a coupe, sedan, truck, or SUV? Manual or automatic?

After you've decided on your dream ride, shop around for new car prices and features using auto buying guides, the Internet, and other sources. Negotiate with the dealer about lowering their profit margin, which is usually 10 to 20 percent of the MSRP. Once you're at the dealership, it's important that you stay within the price range you can afford.

If you plan on financing your new

car, you'll want to check your credit report first. Errors or inaccurate information may affect the finance rate you're able to obtain. Next, compare annual percentage rates (APRs) and financing terms from multiple finance sources such as a bank, finance company, credit union, or car dealer. Be aware that if you choose to finance your car, the lender keeps the vehicle's title until you've paid the contract in full. And remember to read the contract carefully. Once you sign, you're obligated to the terms.

Make buying your new car a breeze by sending for the New Ride package. There are three easy ways to get your package of publications: Send your name, address, and a check or money order for \$2.00 to New Ride, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov/media-promo.htm to place your order online or to read or print these and hundreds of other Federal publications for free.

Call toll-free 1-888-878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time, and ask for the New Ride package. Have your credit card handy.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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!

Answer Page 4

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Briefs

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practice, but it is not too late to register. The playing ages range from 3- to 13-years old. There are 20 teams involved from East El Paso, Socorro, San Elizario, Clint and Fabens. Practice is held at Surrat Elementary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. and anyone wanting to register can stop by the practice field. Games will be played in Clint at Surrat Elementary. Registration cost is \$35.00 per child. Uniform and Referee fees are separate. For more information on CVYSO visit www.cvyso.com or call 540-0765.

Board vacancy

The deadline for submitting letters of interest to apply to fill a vacancy on the San Elizario ISD Board of Trustees is this Friday, February 15. All individuals interested in being considered to serve on the San Elizario school board should deliver or mail a letter of interest to the Superintendent's Office at 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, Texas 79849-0920. The letter of interest should provide any information regarding qualifications, background, commitment or other information which the applicant believes would assist the Board of Trustees in making a decision. The position in consideration is for Trustee Place No. 7, an unexpired term, which the Board hopes to fill until the regular election to be held in May 2008. All letters of interest must be received by 5:00 p.m. February 15, 2008. For additional information please contact the Superintendent's office at 915-872-3900 Ext. 3515.

Dance competition

The National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) and National Dance Alliance will have its Super Store set up at the 9th Annual Americas Cup Cheer and Dance Competition on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. by the school's gym hallway. They will be selling cheer and dance clothes as well as other products. Public is invited and admission to the Super Store is Free. Information, contact 937-2832.

Training

Horizon Alderwoman Renee Shufeldt was in Irving, TX from Feb. 1-3, 2008 to attend the Texas Municipal League (TML) and Association of Mayors, Councilmembers

and Commissioners (AMCC) Elected Officials' Conference. The conference is designed to provide city elected officials-mayors, councilmembers, and commissioners-an opportunity to voluntarily enhance their knowledge of city government, sharpen their leadership skills, and visit with elected officials from across Texas to learn more about how other cities cope with similar changes. During this event, conference attendees were offered a number of educational sessions regarding legal issues, budgeting, governance, personnel, open meetings, and more. Elected officials from all over the state attended the educational event, which was sponsored by both TML and AMCC. TML is a voluntary association of more than 1,090 (of a possible 1,210) Texas cities. The Town of Horizon City is a member of the Texas Municipal League.

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the El Paso Police Department's Special Victims Unit in locating an offender who has been scamming elderly women, causing them to lose a considerable amount of money, making this the "Crime of the Week." In two separate incidents recently, a black woman approached two different elderly women in their 80's and stated that she had found some money and needed the victim to help her return it for a reward. In both incidents, the suspect asked the victims to provide cash or valuables as a deposit to receive the reward money. The suspect drove one victim to her bank to withdraw a very large amount of money, and drove the other to her home where she handed over a painting that is worth a fortune, and also a coin collection. The suspect is a black woman, approximately 30-40 years of age, 5-foot-3 to 5-foot-5 inches tall, slender build, weighing about 110 pounds, with brown hair, brown eyes, and medium brown complexion. She was well dressed, in business attire, wearing a blazer with nice black leather bag, and spoke in an educated manner with a slight accent, claiming she worked for a bank. A black man may also be involved as the driver. The vehicle they used may possibly be shown in the surveillance photos. It appears to be a blue or gray or dark-colored PT Cruiser with the right back tail light not working. 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. You will be anonymous and you may earn a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

To Advertise
Call 852-3235