



NEWSBRIEFS

Leap Year Festival

Make plans to attend the 6th Worldwide Leap Year Festival in the “Leap Cities” of Anthony, TX and Anthony, NM. Food, fun and entertainment are on the three-day agenda beginning Thursday, Feb. 28 and running through Saturday, Mar. 1. People can buy a \$30 meal package for all three days. The festival tees off with golf at Dos Lagos Golf Course on Friday. Music includes performers Lorenzo Mendez and Azucar. A no-fee entry car show takes place on Mar. 1. Information: (915) 726-6788 or (505) 882-5677.

Weather week

The Village of Vinton and Mayor Madeleine Praino have joined Governor Rick Perry in proclaiming Feb. 24 to Mar. 1 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. During the flooding event of 2006, Vinton was the hardest hit community in El Paso County with more than 60-percent of its streets damaged by flooding and more than 120 homes damaged by flood waters. The Village of Vinton will be promoting the Governor’s Division of Emergency Management’s “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” and “Emergency Supply Kit” information to its residents.

Red light cameras

Residents of east El Paso and West El Paso will have additional intersections with red light cameras effective at midnight. The red light cameras, from Redflex, were first installed in Sept. of 2006, and went live on Sept. 16, 2006 with two intersections. By 2007, eleven intersections were equipped with the red light cameras. Now the total number will now be 14 intersections with a total of 22 cameras. The El Paso Police Department would also like to remind drivers that when making a right turn on red they must first come to a complete stop and yield the right of way, before proceeding to enter the intersection and complete the turn. In addition it is also important to pay attention to signs prohibiting such turns on certain intersections. Vehicles that do not make a complete stop while turning on a red will be cited. The new intersections are Joe Battle at Montwood, Joe Battle at Rojas, and Redd at Resler.

Scholarship

The El Paso Lower Valley Retired Teachers Association is offering a \$500 scholarship to graduating seniors who plan on a career in education. Students in the Lower Valley should see their school counselor for an application or send a SASE to the address below. Applications should include student’s name, address, telephone number, high school, and prospective college. Also, provide a GPA, a list of school and community activities and accomplishments, the reasons you are going into the educational field, and a letter of

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A kind word picks up a man when trouble weighs him down.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

Canutillo High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students are helping keep the historic Canutillo Cemetery clean. (Shown in photo, l. to r.)- Miriam Garcia, senior president, and Alfonso Frias, senior, pull weeds around Dr. James Bailey’s gravesite.

Canutillo students clean up cemetery

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Canutillo High School students in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) organization have adopted the Canutillo Cemetery to help keep the historic graveyard clean. The community cemetery is located at the corner of Fifth Street and Vinton Avenue, in the heart of the Canutillo neighborhood.

“We chose to help clean up the Canutillo Cemetery on a regular basis as our service to the community,” said Miriam Garcia, senior FBLA president. We plan to go once a month and do what we can to help make the cemetery look nice.”

The group started its clean up project in January, and they did more weed removal in February. Their next cleanup visit is scheduled for

See CLEAN UP, Page 4

Clint park to open in spring

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CLINT — Colorful little rubber ducks were seen on the table at the Feb. 12 meeting of the Clint Town Council.

As she has done before, Sandra Reinhardt, wife of Mayor Dale Reinhardt, handed out to council members the rubber ducks as she updated them on her pet project, Puddle Duck Park. The name of the park comes from Jemimah Puddle Duck, a lovable character in a children’s book by Beatrix Potter.

She expects to receive the playground equipment for the park within three weeks. It will include three swing sets including one for toddlers, monkey bars and a rocking horse mounted on a large spring.

Total cost for the park project, she said, is \$6,250, all of it paid for with donated funds. She hopes it can open in the early spring. Once known as Hobo Park, it is located on about a half acre of land at the end of McKinney Street.

Adding its voice to that of the San Elizario ISD and other entities, the Town Council passed a unanimous resolution in opposition to the proposed PMI Services pipeline that would carry fuel across Lower Valley lands into Mexico.

The mayor and council discussed two “burning” issues.

The first was, according to the council agenda, was to “consider and adopt a city ordinance regulating outside burning within the city limits in accordance with the Texas Clean Air Act.” Town attorney Jaime Alvarado pointed out that there are limited exceptions to

the Texas Clean Air Act.

Council members expressed concern about health issues from particulate matter in the smoke and the smell of smoke getting into homes. Limitations on when to burn and what could be burned were discussed as well as issues of courtesy in dealing with people burning.

Alvarado said he didn’t know whether limitations could be placed on where people burned, but he would look into it.

“We need to get people together to work on it (a new burning ordinance),” Mayor Reinhardt said. “We need to make our ordinance more clear cut, more fair and equitable using common sense.”

Council voted to table the agenda item and would bring it back “when ready” with a new proposed ordinance.

The second “burning” issue was the council granting permission for the use of the Clint Community Center for a meeting by the community awareness smoke-free coalition.

After discussion, the council also tabled action on a proposal by the mayor for a half-cent sales tax increase to pay for road maintenance. He explained that this would be more fair this way — taxing the people who use the roads to help pay for their upkeep. He pointed out that it was a way to raise revenue without raising property taxes.

Mayor Reinhardt said this week that the proposed sales tax increase was “totally on hold” until he got more information on it. It would not be on the May ballot.

In other action, council also approved a business permit for Tarahumara Café at 12891 Alameda Ave.

IRS ‘Stimulus Payments’ to start in May

Eligible taxpayers must file a 2007 tax return to receive rebate

WASHINGTON DC — The Internal Revenue Service today advised taxpayers that in most cases they will not have to do anything extra this year to get the economic stimulus payments beginning in May.

“If you are eligible for a payment, all you have to do is file a 2007 tax return and the IRS will do the rest,” said Acting IRS Commissioner Linda Stiff.

The IRS will use information on the 2007 tax return filed by the taxpayer to determine eligibility and calculate the amount of the stimulus payments.

The IRS will begin sending taxpayers their payments in early May after the current tax season concludes. Payments to more than 130 million taxpayers will continue over several weeks during the spring and summer. A payment schedule for taxpayers will be announced in the near future.

Stimulus payments will be direct deposited for taxpayers selecting that option when filing their 2007 tax returns. Taxpayers who have already filed with direct deposit won’t need to do anything else to receive the stimulus payment. For taxpayers who haven’t filed their 2007 returns yet, the IRS reminds them that direct deposit is the fastest way to get both regular refunds and stimulus payments.

Most taxpayers just need to file a 2007 tax return as usual. No other action, extra form or call is necessary. The agency’s Web site, www.irs.gov, will be the best information source for all updates and taxpayer questions.

In most cases, the payment will equal the amount of tax liability on the tax return, with a maximum amount of \$600 for individuals (\$1,200 for taxpayers who file a joint return).

The law also allows for payments for select taxpayers who have no tax liability, such as low-income workers or those who receive Social Security benefits or veterans’ disability compensation, pension or survivors’ benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007. These taxpayers will be eligible to receive a payment of \$300 (\$600 on a joint return) if they had at least \$3,000 of qualifying income.

Qualifying income includes Social Security benefits, certain Railroad Retirement benefits, certain veterans’ benefits and earned income, such as income from wages, salaries, tips and self-employment. While these people may not be normally required to file a tax return because they do not meet the filing requirement, the IRS emphasizes they must file a 2007 return in order to receive a payment.

Recipients of Social Security, certain Railroad Retirement and certain veterans’ benefits should report their 2007 benefits on Line 14a of Form 1040A or Line 20a of Form 1040. Taxpayers who already have filed but failed to report these benefits can file an amended return by using Form 1040X. The IRS is working with the Social Security Administration and Department of Veterans

See IRS, Page 8



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Getting over it

I got a notice in the mail the other day that said I was “fully eligible” for membership in AARP.

AARP stands for American Association of Retired Persons. It is a highly visible, and, as far as I can tell, a beneficial association which works to improve and maintain the quality of life for aging Americans. They have a really great magazine and offer numerous other benefits including senior discounts and supplemental health insurance programs.

That’s all well and good, but what does all this have to do with me? I don’t have time to get old. Age, however, doesn’t care about what I have, want or need. It just happens and the consequences be damned.

I got a new job last year after having been “self-employed” for about 18 years. Self-employed is, of course, a misnomer. If you are self-employed that just means you work for the public and the government, both of which are merciless taskmasters. Working for an actual employer can be somewhat of a respite.

So I get this job where someone else is taking all the responsibility for withholding taxes, providing insurance, and making sure that my work place is safe, comfortable, well-lit and sanitary — I even have my own parking space that will be there just for me every day of the week.

I like this pretty good so I began taking a mental inventory of how many years I’ve got as a viable, productive member of the workforce — you know, assessing my personal resources and their potential cumulative value.

Suddenly, it occurred to me that I don’t have that many years left. I need more time to build up my 401K and save up for retirement. What happens if I get sick or maybe am injured in some way that inhibits my job performance?

What if some ill should befall one of my kids, my spouse or other family members — what if something happens within the fragile structure of family so that I’m needed at home the way I’ve spent all the other years of my life, seeing to the day-to-day needs of household and dependents?

What if...?

Well, what if, I finally told myself. Just get over it. The truth is that it’s not a matter of “if.” It’s a matter of “when.” The dreaded “it” happens all the time to everyone of us at some point or another in our lives. Inevitably, “it” happens when we reach the age at which we are no longer the care-givers and we become the ones who must be cared for.

I always thought I understood this concept, and on an intellectual level, I guess most of us do. It is when we become less quick, capable, or competent as we used to think we were, that the reality comes home on an emotionally vulnerable level.

My mother once commented that someone she knew was “aging gracefully.” That concept took root somewhere in my mind and with the arrival of my invitation to join AARP, it came to the forefront of my thoughts.

Aging gracefully is not something Americans do well. In fact, we are probably worse at it than any other society in the world because we make idols of youth, beauty and well-being. A body that no longer possesses these things is considered somehow shameful, undesirable.

The terrible things that so many

American celebrities have done to themselves in a vain attempt to preserve a youthful appearance bears powerful witness to that fact.

But now it’s me.

I’m not talking about these things from the safe side of 50 anymore. Now it’s me who must engage in the real fray, the battleground of life that separates the weak from the strong, those with strength of character from those who are selfish or cowardly.

I’m such a novice. I’m just getting the little tests now, fighting a few skirmishes with failing health and weakness. I’m grateful for these early battles, I suppose, because they should prepare me to fight the bitter firestorms that are sure to come.

Will I face those with strength and grace? Time alone will tell. I have heroes who have led the way onto this universal battleground for life. It’s not like I don’t have fine examples to emulate. The ones I admire most are those who, no matter how little it may be, accomplish whatever it is they can in each day they are given.

I saw a bumper sticker recently that said “Getting old isn’t for sissies.”

That’s true, but sissies do get old — and what then? Young sissies are obnoxious. Old sissies are messy, sad creatures. An old sissy is not what I want to be.

So tomorrow I’ll get up and do my stuff and go to work and add another day to the pay period and be grateful that I can. And if, for some reason, I can’t do that tomorrow, I’ll figure something out.

I’ve got gray hair, wrinkles and my long, lean look fled long ago, but that’s all just part of it.

You really can’t get over it, though. You just have to get on with it.



Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

We all need help sometimes

Hola, mi gente. Most of you who keep abreast of current events are informed more about city and county government actions. State agencies generally do not receive as much press but they do impact our lives tremendously.

One of my priorities as your state representative has been to provide a conduit to those agencies for the constituents in District 75. As the elected state official, I get the ear of the agency directors who in turn help me assist you.

Over the next few weeks, I would like to share with you some of the things that my office has done to grease the wheels of state government for you. In some instances, our involvement was the final option for a constituent.

In May of 2007, the final month of the 80th legislative session, my Chief of Staff received a phone call from a constituent who needed assistance with an insurance matter. Actually, the matter had been considered by other legislative offices and the Department of Insurance previously.

Gregg and Laura Matthews own the Worker’s Choice Pharmacy at 10201 Gateway West near Del Sol Medical Center. They are local business people who must rely on personal funds to be used when their locally owned business requires some infusion of capital. Gregg and Laura run a good business but on occasion business slows down.

The problem, as explained to my staffer, was an insurance sale that they felt was improperly presented. Gregg and Laura were expecting easy access to their money when that really wasn’t the case. That would have presented a serious problem for their pharmacy if it could not be changed.

At the Capitol in Austin, I asked the Department of Insurance (TDI) to meet with my office to discuss the problem. Gregg and Laura spent months preparing evidence that proved their concerns. They just could not seem to make the proper argument to sway the staffers from TDI.

At the end of a lengthy meeting, it seemed that we were not successful either. We asked that they consider the facts of the meeting with an open mind and that we discuss the matter again soon. The next day, however, we received a call from TDI explaining how the case was being reconsidered.

In the end, Gregg and Laura were indemnified a significant amount of money that they initially feared they would lose. The TDI reconsidered the evidence that the Matthews provided and ruled in their favor. Gregg Matthews allowed me to share this comment to us with you: “your office did a great job in rectifying a grave injustice by the insurance company.”

Not all of our efforts are so successful. We do try though. I believe that the office of State Representative should avail itself to assist constituents just as Gregg and Laura did.

Gracias, mi gente, and I remain your friend and public servant — Chente for la gente.

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2008

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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

El Pasoans must file tax returns to receive stimulus rebate check

With dark clouds on the horizon and recession increasingly becoming a real possibility, Congress quickly acted this month to pass stimulus legislation to jumpstart our economy, and President Bush signed the legislation into law. When the idea of a stimulus package was first proposed, I said that it would only work if we delivered a straightforward package that put money into the pockets of those who will spend it — middle class and working Americans.

I am proud the bill we passed does just that. Not only is it targeted, providing rebate checks to those who need them; the relief is also temporary, so as not to damage our long-term budgetary outlook, and timely, so we address the downturn sooner not later.

The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 provides between \$300 and \$600 (or between \$600 and \$1200 for married couples filing jointly) to families with incomes of at least \$3,000. Qualifying income consists of earned income, Social Security benefits, disabled veterans benefits, and benefits for widows of disabled veterans. In addition, families will receive an extra \$300 for every child under the age of 17. Rebates are phased out for families making over \$75,000 (or \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly).

What is most important for El Pasoans to know is that they must file a federal income tax return this year in order to receive their rebate check. It is simple: If you don’t, the IRS will have no way of finding you.

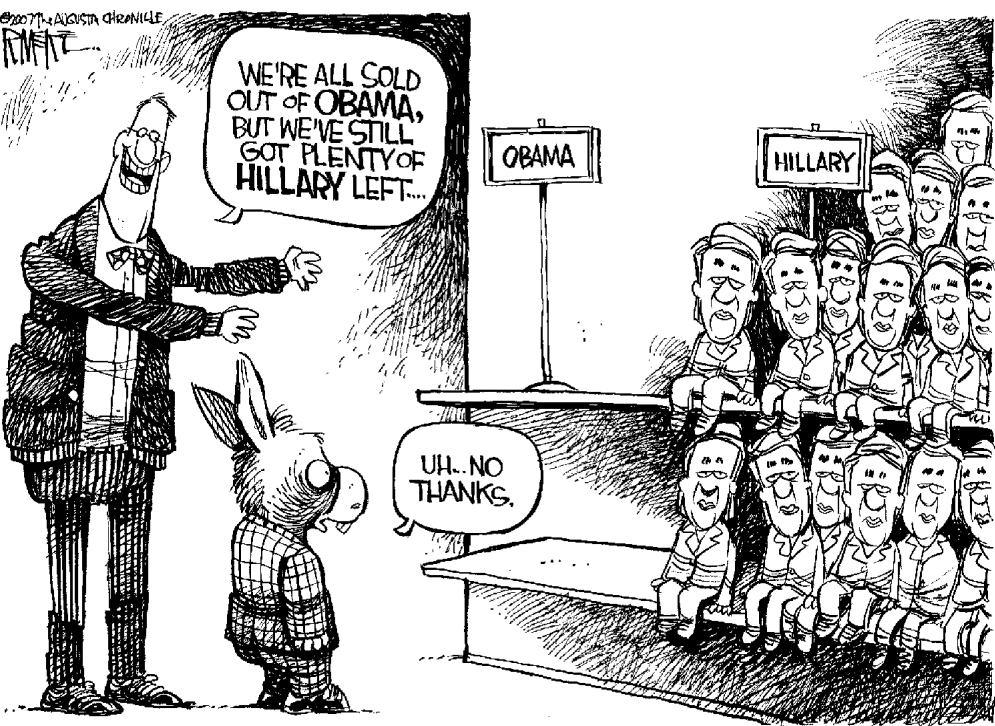
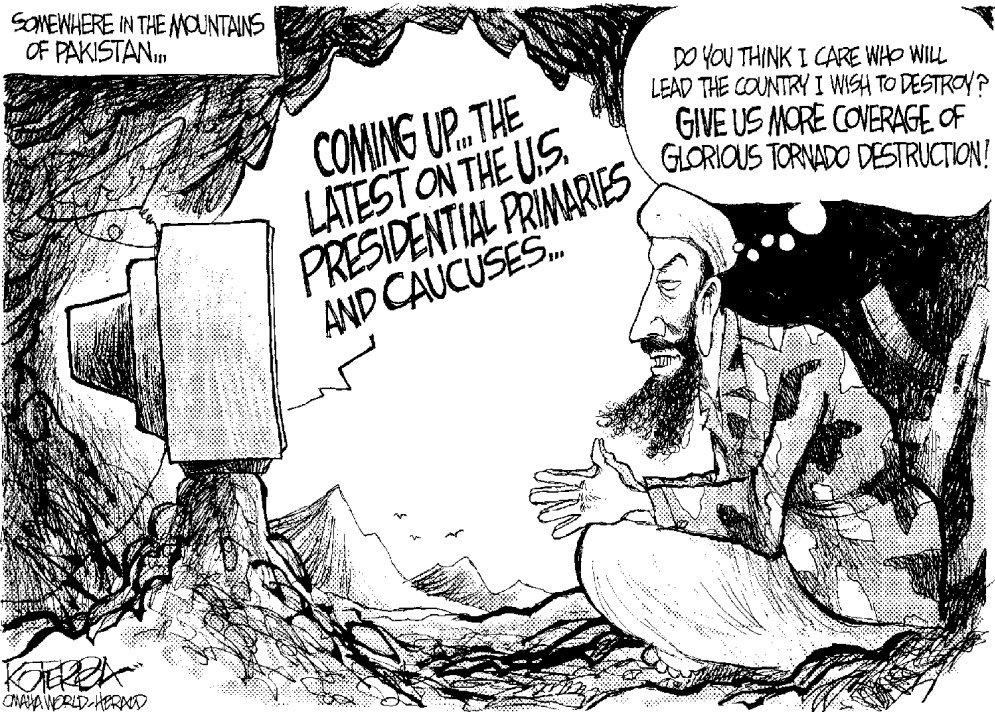
In addition, if you work hard but do not earn a lot of money, filing a tax return could qualify you for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a tax provision that rewards work and could be worth thousands to your family. Please call my office at 534-4400 for a list of free tax preparation services in your area.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson estimates that the IRS could begin processing rebate checks in mid-May of this year.

The stimulus package also includes provisions to help American small businesses remain competitive. In order to help companies quickly recover the cost of certain capital expenses, small business taxpayers will be allowed to write-off the cost of these expenses in the year of acquisition instead of recovering these costs over time through depreciation. The package would also allow businesses to quickly recover the costs of capital expenditures made in 2008 by allowing these businesses to write-off fifty percent of the cost of depreciable property (e.g., equipment, tractors, computers) acquired in 2008.

As tax season gets underway, it is critical that working El Paso families file tax returns with the IRS. Families that do not could miss out on thousands of dollars in tax relief. This stimulus package will provide a much-needed boost to El Paso families and entrepreneurs, and to the economy overall.

UNITED AIRLINES STARTS CHARGING \$25 FOR SECOND CHECKED BAG.... WHAT'S NEXT?



What’s up, doc? By Albert Balesh, M.D.

Helter culture

Mix and match, shock and awe, divide and conquer. Health care and the practice of clinical medicine in the U.S. today has become a hodge-podge and jigsaw puzzle of *non sequiturs*, influenced more and more by national origins and less by pathophysiologic principles. The tapestry and cultural framework of our nation has changed significantly, and with it, our view of pain, suffering, disease, medications, and the almighty caregiver in white. As illegal immigration continues to remain unchecked and uncontrolled, we must first come to the startling realization “they” are here to stay. Only then, can we turn our gaze to how U.S. medical interests are best served. The days of house calls and little black bags are gone. Norman Rockwell is turning in his grave. Yet all is not lost. We can still save a wheezing U.S. medical infrastructure, if we can just understand the needs of the cultural minorities it serves. It is that segment of the population that is uninsured for the most part. It is that segment of the population that congregates around the low end of the socioeconomic totem pole. Finally, it is that segment of the population that equates preventive medicine with Cadillac, Dom Pérignon, and excesses of luxury that only the white folks can afford.

Black, Hispanic, and Native Americans have lived in and on this land for hundreds of years. They are our neighbors, our friends, the men and women we date, and our colleagues at work. Yet they are as unprepared to take their place in the social and medical fabric of this nation as the hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Africans, Arabs, Chinese, Columbians, Cubans, Dominicans, Eastern Europeans, Indians, Koreans, Mexicans, Pakistanis, Puerto Ricans, Russians, and Vietnamese, to name a few, that pour into this country each year. We must no longer tend only to the health care concerns of “our own,” but also to the legions of our future and potential citizens, whether they drive taxicabs or the lasers that repair our hearts. So, lets take a look at some cultural mores, in the hopes that they will help us understand whether health in the U.S. is chugging along nicely, or on a sidetrack to hell.

While asthma, coronary artery disease, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension take their collective financial toll on the nation’s coffers and our individual pocketbooks, imagine the devastation and havoc they wreak on the hearts, minds, and family resources of cultural minorities, older age groups, and homeless veterans now patrolling jungles of

concrete and steel. Young, educationally deprived, pregnant, minority women, and their unborn fetuses, are also at risk, as prenatal care initiated in the first trimester requires education, information, money, transportation, and the ability to understand what they are up against. Even if these requirements could be satisfactorily met, there would still be significant problems, as young, pregnant, Hispanic women might forgo first-trimester prenatal care due embarrassment with the physical examination, lack of time spent in the physician-patient encounter, and long waiting times in the clinics. Pregnant Korean American women might complain of some of these very same issues. Culture is not important, you say!

Let’s take a look at cancer now. Depending on which side of the fence you’re on, it can have a very different affective meaning. African American women view breast cancer with fatalistic resignation. Hispanic women, on the other hand, are not only less likely to perceive themselves as targets of breast cancer, but when they are, indeed, stricken by the malady, perceive a smaller chance of cure.

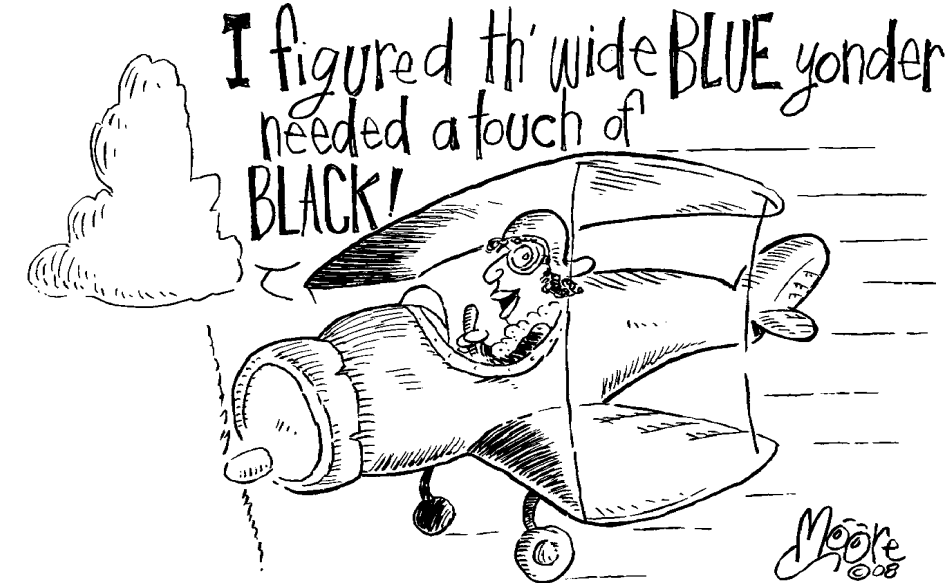
And we are not immune to tribal superstition either. Native American women, for example, become reticent, when it comes to discussing cervical cancer. They do not like to discuss questions of health openly, nor do they trust their physicians or their recommendations. I guess you don’t have to be a Native American to be a Doubting Tom or Thelma, as I, too, often mistrust the advice of my own sawbones. So ingrained, however, is Native American mistrust of professional medical advice, that lay health educators, called *project guides*, are hired specifically to present screening education programs to local Native American women. Tell that to the Lone Ranger!

And if that were not enough, the changing American physician workforce, with most U.S. family physicians being foreign and only 31 percent actual Americans, makes for interesting conversation and cultural exchanges in the examining room, that is, after one has groomed those standing hairs on head.

Where do we go from here? We can continue to lament the downward spiral of U.S. health care, or we can “cowboy up” to conjure up a solution to our multifaceted, multicultural dilemma. Bankrupt and sick is no way to go through life, either for the once mightiest nation in the world, or for the millions of its culturally emarginated inhabitants without adequate health care.

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archives: www.wtccourier.com



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Denied flying lessons in the U.S. because she was black , Bessie Coleman from Atlanta Texas went to France and earned her flying license 2 years before Amelia Earhart .

El Dorado third baseman signs with EPCC Tejanos



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick / SISD
INKED — Bernie Chavira, flanked by Tejanos Coach Shannon Hunt, signs his letter of intent.

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

El Dorado High School senior Bernie Chavira is leaving his mark on the school’s baseball team and in school history. The senior signed his letter of intent to play for the El Paso Community College Tejanos Baseball team on Jan. 23. On the baseball diamond surrounded by teammates and coaches, the 17-year-old became the first El Dorado baseball player to receive a scholarship to continue his career at EPCC.

“I decided to stay close to home, close to family,” said Chavira who will be playing with a former teammate who is playing for the Tejanos. Before he heads to EPCC, Chavira has his eye set on the upcoming baseball season which starts on February 19. “Hopefully we do better than last year. I’m to win district and go as far as we can,” said Chavira.

“Bernie is setting a great example for other El Dorado players,” said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. “I’m sure he will continue to make us proud as he continues his education and his baseball career at El Paso Community College.”

“He has been here since we opened the high school. He’s an absolute gem to coach. Bernie has led in every offensive category in our baseball program,” said Aztec Head Baseball Coach John Beard. “He has set the bar high for our kids to reach this goal. We are proud of all his efforts.”

“Players like this young man show our students they can use their talent on the playing field and further their education,” said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. “I’m sure will hear more about his successes in the future.”

Chavira who has played for El Dorado since 8th-grade is a multiposition player who will fit into EPCC Tejanos Coach Shannon Hunt’s plans for the team.

“We run a summer and fall program at EPCC. During the fall program, local students play against the Tejanos. I watched Bernie play against our pitchers and he handled all our pitchers. He’s a hard player and a very aggressive player,” said Tejanos Coach Hunt. “We are always on the lookout for good local players.”

Chavira, who will start his senior season as the Aztecs third baseman, plans on studying criminal justice at EPCC.

Clean up

From Page 1

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 8, and community members are invited to pitch in.

“I think it is great that these students are taking the initiative and giving up their Saturday morning to help the community in this way,”

said Peggy Frias, a longtime community resident who assists Canutillo’s St. Patrick Catholic Church in caring for the cemetery.

According to Frias, Dr. James Bailey, who was buried in the cemetery in 1919, donated the land for the cemetery to the community when he died. Since then, hundreds of individuals have been laid to rest in the graveyard. “The church does not own it, the priest simply conducts the services when a family wishes to

bury a loved one here,” Frias said.

“We have family members buried here. We don’t want them to be forgotten. There are a lot of memories buried along with all of these people; unfortunately there are some graves that have no identity. That is why my sister, Grace Hernandez, and I are currently working on a map to get as many names as possible of all the persons who are buried in this cemetery,” said Frias.

“I am so appreciative that these CHS students have volunteered to help us keep the cemetery clean,” said Hernandez. “I hope they continue this every year. Maybe in this way, we can get more adults, more community members, to help keep our cemetery in a respectable condition,” Hernandez said.

FBLA is under the supervision of Carmen Guzman and Stella Scott, CHS teachers. For more information, call 877-7837.

UTEP ATHLETIC EVENTS

MEN’S BASKETBALL

ECU vs. UTEP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:05 pm

AT THE DON HASKINS CENTER

FREE FACE PAINTING

FREE UTEP MINER KOOZIES FOR THE FIRST 200 MINER MANIACS

SOFTBALL

UT SAN ANTONIO vs. UTEP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 3, 5 pm DOUBLE HEADER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 11am

HELEN OF TROY SOFTBALL COMPLEX

DONATE A CANNED FOOD ITEM- PAY JUST \$2

TENNIS

AIR FORCE vs. UTEP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, NOON

NORTH TEXAS vs. UTEP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 10:00 am

EL PASO TENNIS CLUB

Clint FFA



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

The Clint High School FFA Chapter would like to make the community aware that Feb. 18 to 22, is National FFA week. The chapter has been contributing by broadening teacher and community awareness about the local chapter. They have been increasing teacher awareness by communicating their goals while distributing small tokens of their appreciation. They are also planning an Ag awareness day with other Clint schools where they will give presentations on the importance of agriculture . They will also inform students about the local FFA chapter and its activities within Clint High School. The ultimate goals of FFA are premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. The Clint FFA Chapter has been demonstrating these goals throughout the week. Advisor, Jack Blandford, and the members of the chapter would like to rejuvenate interest in the community in FFA and its benefits. Above, Danny Jones (left) and Trevor Nelson hold up FFA cups filled with candy and pencils that they will be distributing to teachers.

Texas Middle School Association selects Ensor teacher for award

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Col. John O. Ensor Theater Arts teacher Tracy Levin has been selected as Region XIX winner of the Texas Middle School Association Outstanding Teacher award. Levin, who has been teaching for 21 years, has been at Ensor for the past five years. He will be recognized at the Texas Middle School Association conference which will be held in Austin on February 23, 2008.

“There are great teachers on this campus, so I am surprised to be considered one of them,” said Levin. “I believe this honor is reflective of my colleagues and administrators. I take this as a reward for all of us not just for me.”

“Mr. Levin is a great example of the kind of caring and nurturing teachers we have in Socorro ISD,” said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. “He is passionate and nurturing to all his students and has the respect of his colleagues.”

Levin, who also coaches girls’ volleyball and boys’ basketball, graduated from UTEP with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education. As the Department Chair for the Fine Arts and Elective Departments, he works with middle school students, introducing them to the various aspects of theater arts. From performing on stage to creating sets and playwriting, Levin works on getting students involved.

“I nominated Mr. Levin because he is clearly an outstanding teacher and individual. He goes above and beyond our expectations at the campus and not only does he teach and do morning duty, but he coaches, sponsors the yearbook, works on UIL plays, mentors 8th grade At-Risk students, and collaborates with teachers



Tracy Levin

to help in any way that he can,” said Naomi Esparza Byrne, Assistant Principal at Col. John O. Ensor Middle School. “He is a person of great moral values and tremendous work ethic. The students, staff, and teachers respect him tremendously.”

“It’s a great recognition when a state association recognizes the talented teachers we have in Socorro

ISD,” said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. “It’s wonderful to see that his efforts inside and outside of the classroom are rewarded.”

Each year, TMSA is proud to recognize the finest middle level educators and campuses. Awards for Outstanding Teacher are presented to the individuals and schools which meet strict criteria and best exemplify middle level best practices.

Grant to help fight illegal dumping

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

El Paso County, the University of Texas at El Paso and the non-profit organization AYUDA have been awarded more than \$50,000 to organize clean-up events and educate Colonia residents about illegal dumping and enforcement of the Texas environmental laws.

The grant, funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, was awarded today by the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande

Council of Governments.

According to Cristina Viesca-Santos, Environmental Prosecutor for the County Attorney’s Office, the money will help organize 3 clean-up events in colonias surrounding San Elizario. “A group of Promotoras, along with students from San Elizario High School, and employees of the Lower Valley District, will be meeting with area residents to select the target areas based on the amount of waste observed. Clean-up teams will collect and transport the waste to the Clint landfill,” Viesca explained.

The funds will also be used to or-

ganize community presentations to educate colonia residents on how to prevent illegal and inappropriate waste disposal. The grant requires that UTEP’s Center for Environmental Resource Management track the evolution of the resident’s waste disposal practices by collecting visual evidence during 6 months following the clean-up events.

Viesca will provide training to residents on legal issues regarding inappropriate waste disposal, as well as tips on how residents can participate in the enforcement of the environmental laws in the colonias.

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Wendy Pendell - Owner

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LEAP YEAR SCHEDULE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28TH

10:00 AM Golf Tournament
Dos Lagos Country Club
12:00 PM Registration Begins
Anthony Municipal Park
1:00 PM Tour Registration
SLPark Casino & Old Mesilla
4:00 PM Barbeque Dinner
\$10.00 Per Person Steven Lee Hall
Cadillac Kings, Country Band
6:30 PM Mariachi Spectacular
\$5.00 Per Person - Anthony High Auditorium

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 29TH

7:00 AM Breakfast, Steven Lee Hall
11:00 AM Wine Tasting
La Vina Winery / Lunch
2:00 PM Leap Year Festival Opens
Anthony Municipal Park
3:00 PM Leap Year Parade
Main St. to Anthony Municipal Park
4-9:00 PM Entertainment on the Hour
Anthony Municipal Park
6:30 PM Leap Year Dinner
\$10.00 Per Person Steven Lee Hall
Azucar Jazz Group
8:00 PM Leap Year Birthday Party
Ron Thielman's Orchestra

SATURDAY MARCH 1ST

7:00 AM Leap Year Breakfast
Steven Lee Hall
7:00 AM Hot Air Balloons
Wet N Wild Water Park
9:00 AM Chili Cook Off at Red Rooster Café. Poker Run, Softball Tournament, 5k & 2 mile Run, Anthony Municipal Park
11:00 AM Leap Year Festival Opens
Entertainment on the Hour
BJ Pando/Headliner
9:00 PM Festival Closes

6th Worldwide LEAP YEAR FESTIVAL

Anthony, NM/TX

Feb. 28, 29 & Mar. 1, 2008

Parade
Carnival
Food Booths
Arts & Crafts
Mariachis
Bands & more...

CAR SHOW
SHOW N SHINE

ALL CARS WELCOMED - NO ENTRY FEE

12 NOON - MAR. 1ST

ANTHONY MUNICIPAL PARK / I-10, 0 EXIT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEAP YEAR BABIES!

Info

505.882.5677

915.726.6788

Leap Year Festival FREE to Public
Anthony Municipal Park

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Burton acted less like a congressman and more like a star-struck schoolgirl, at one point during the hearings calling Clemens a

Giambi apologized for what he did and tried to get baseball to follow suit.

To say that this whole steroids episode is

ignore it and pretend it never happened.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF
HORIZON CITY**

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF
HORIZON CITY**

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO.
0166 — Ordering
the Election on Sat-
urday, May 10,
2008 for the pur-

**PUBLIC
NOTICE**

COUNSELING SERVICES

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

sional Counseling/
Therapy: Youth,
Adults, Marital,
Family, Health in-
surance and FEE
SCALE AC-
CEPTED. Medi-
care, Medicaid and
CHIP. 657 Winn Rd.
in Socorro, Texas.
Call 858-3857 for
appointment.

HOUSES

Houses for sale. No down, low interest, financing available. Carlos Aguilar, Broker, Realtor. 857-3374 or 269-1251.

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. Información: 838-6264.

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2	8	9	5	1	7	4	6	3
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[illegible]

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

De La Rosa, an A-B honor roll student with a 3.6 grade point average, said that he plans to major in education and someday be a high school coach. **Yessenia De La Rosa.**

**Fernie De La Rosa**

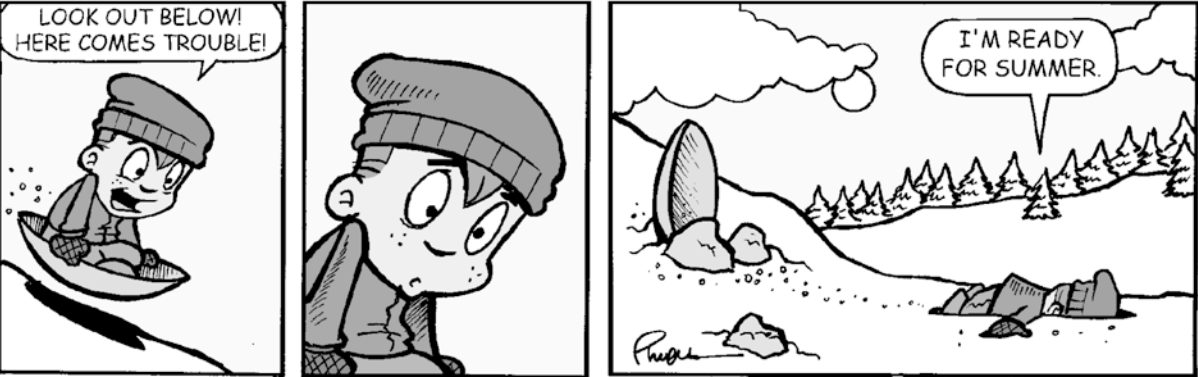
h. His parents are Fernando and

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



For Rambo, it's not over

By Don Flood

With the billions of dollars in losses piling up in the subprime debacle, many Americans have been wringing their hands in anticipation of potentially meager annual bonuses for Wall Street financiers. Turns out there was no need to worry. Bonuses for the seven largest Wall Street firms totaled \$33.2 billion, down just 2 percent from last year.

This is despite the fact that, according to the Washington Post, "Mortgage-related losses reported by the seven firms totaled \$55 billion and wiped out more than \$200 billion in shareholder value."

Apparently wiping out shareholder value pays pretty well. As does wiping out bad guys. The following actual headline appeared on a film Web site: "The Weinsteins Say Another Rambo Sequel Is Inevitable."

Well, of course it's inevitable. He's only 60 years old and, as everybody knows, for action stars 60 is the new 25.

(He may have to make some concessions to age — a body double, a face double, perhaps a grunting double.)

But the important thing is, there are so many more Rambo stories to tell.

The following are just a few of Rambo movies I can envision. Mr. Weinstein, let's do lunch.

"Rambo V" — Owners of an Arizona diner watch helplessly as 55-year-olds with fake IDs take advantage of the restaurant's Senior Citizen Discount for those 62 and up. That is, until they finally look up Rambo in the Yellow Pages (under Death-Destruction).

Though outnumbered 50-1, Rambo makes short work of the bad guys, mainly because he has

automatic weapons and they don't. He also destroys the restaurant but the owners readily agree that justice was served, if not that afternoon's daily special.

"Rambo VI" — A group of aging action stars sit around the swimming pool desperately waiting for a multi-million dollar motion picture deal. Meanwhile, evil agents say one thing to their face, while behind their backs they tell producers these guys were washed up during the Carter Administration.

Deciding they're better off not relying on their two-faced agents, the aging stars conspire with Rambo to take the studio headquarters by force and begin a new era of senior citizen action movies.

In a bravura star turn, Sylvester Stallone plays both Rambo and himself as one of the aging action heroes. (Rambo's the one with the bandanna, which in a touching scene, he hands to Stallone and tells him that he's his hero.)

"Rambo VII" — Retiring to a 55 and up development in Boca Raton, Fla., Rambo thinks his life of violence is finally behind him, but then one morning he catches his neighbor stealing a peek at his morning paper before he's had a chance to read it. "It's not over till it's over," Rambo grunts, as the bloodshed begins anew.

"Rambo VIII" — When the local senior center changes its Bingo Night without proper notice, Rambo teams up with Rocky to take his revenge, with the resulting Shuffle Board Death Match alone worth the price of admission — even without the senior discount.

(c) 2008 King Features Synd., Inc. dflood287@comcast.net

King Super Crossword

- I APPEAL ACROSS**

1 Commedia dell' -

5 One of the Mavericks

9 Seraglio

14 Telescope view

19 Clark's coworker

20 "An apple _ ..."

21 Catherine of "Home Alone"

22 Mindful

23 Start of a remark

by John Yeck

25 _ button

26 Neighbor of Nigeria

27 Confused

28 Artist Mondrian

30 Apprehend

32 Winter hazard

33 Lincoln or Zumwalt

35 Swerve

39 Slavic soup

42 Part 2 of remark

47 Ring stat

48 Pull the Trigger?

49 _ -nez

50 Western lake

53 Fit for farming

56 Patois

58 Rag man?

60 _ lily

61 Raison d'-

62 Big hit?

64 Creepy Christopher

65 Word on a fuse

68 Suffix with racket

69 Farm feature

70 Spice-rack item

71 Part 3 of remark

74 Part 4 of remark

77 Skin problem

78 Monte Rosa, for one

79 Dion's "Run-around" girl

80 Mitchell

81 Glowing

82 Rule

84 " _ Angel" ('60 smash)

86 Persona

90 Publishing

92 Diva Renata

94 Author's afterthought

95 Asta's mistress

96 With 91 Down, fiber source

97 Urchins

99 Fuss and feathers

100 Part 5 of remark

105 Patron

108 Chore

109 "The Longest Day" author

110 Baby rat

111 Lady of the lea

113 Eastern discipline

116 Furious

120 Part owner?

123 Tower material?

127 End of remark

129 Tantrum

130 Johnson of "Brief Encounter"

131 Sometimes it's sweet

132 Stylish

133 Gold bug?

134 Talent

135 Couturier Cassini

136 Diner fare

DOWN

1 See 87 Down

2 Carrot or parsnip

3 Canterbury cans

4 Value

5 Humbug lead-in

6 Fatty

7 Punjabi princess

8 Anklebiter

9 Behave like a bunny

10 "Gotchal"

11 Sought office

12 " _ go brag!"

13 A la King?

14 Bandleader

15 Be in debt

16 Hyper

17 Fromm or Segal

18 Doctrine

24 Biggest part of a fish?

29 Recipe abbr.

31 Reggae's Marley

34 Female zebra

36 German astronomer

37 New York county

38 Tow truck feature

40 Hearsay

41 TV's "One _ Beyond"

42 Gumbo veggie

43 Stable youngster

44 Aspect

45 Pulls together

46 They're very well-armed

47 Tic- _ -toe

51 Islamic deity

52 Muralist Rivera

54 Point the finger at

55 Revere's signal

57 Bailiwick

58 Elfman of "Dharma & Greg"

59 Born

63 Proper

66 Wilder works

67 Wd. segment

70 Wise guy

71 Descendant

72 Prelim

73 Lack of feeling

74 Feed a fire

75 Use another blue pencil?

76 Faucet problem

77 Landon or Kjellin

79 Position

82 Jennifer of "Flashdance"

83 Most minute

85 "The Secret of _" ('82 film)

87 With 1 Down, "Sweet Liberty" director

88 Shiva and Ganesha

89 Conceit

91 See 96 Across

93 _ California

94 Discern

96 "Message to Michael" singer

98 Bible feature

101 Affliction

102 Overhead item?

103 Couple

104 Add nutrients

105 Tic

106 Designer Emilio

107 Made a choice

112 Get _ (retaliate)

114 Bismarck or Kruger

115 Purpose

117 Turkish title

118 " _ can't be!"

119 Impress

121 _ roll

122 Legal matter

124 Slangy suffix

125 Rocker Ocasek

126 Babble

128 Med. test
- Answer Page 6

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I usually get my benefit payment on the 3rd of the month. But what if the 3rd falls on a Sunday or holiday? Will my payment be late?

A: No, just the opposite. Your payment should arrive early. For example, your payment should arrive on the February 1, 2008 because February 3rd falls on a Sunday. You should always wait three days after a missed payment before contacting Social Security. Find more information about the payment schedule for 2008 at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/2008calendar.htm. Of course, if you have direct deposit, you'll get your payment even faster, without

having to wait for the mail. You can sign up for direct deposit by calling Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or by calling your bank, credit union or institution where you have an account.

Q: My dad receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. He soon will be coming to live with me. Do we have to report the move to Social Security?

A: Yes. He should report any change in living arrangements within 10 days. The change could affect his benefit amount. Failure to report the change could result in a penalty be-

ing deducted from his SSI benefits. Also, we need his correct address so we can send correspondence. Please have him call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Or, he can report the change by mail or in person at a Social Security office. Visit our website for more information at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: My uncle is interested in the Medicare Part D Prescription help, but he has about \$10,000 in resources. Would he still be eligible?

A: Based on his resources, yes. However, there are other factors to consider as well. This year a person's total resources are, in most cases, limited to \$11,990 (or \$23,410 if married and living with spouse) to

qualify for extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs. Resources include the value of the things you own, such as real estate (other than the place you live), cash, bank accounts, stocks, bonds and retirement accounts like IRAs or 401ks. There are exceptions. To learn more, go to www.socialsecurity.gov and visit the "Medicare" link. Or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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

IRS

From Page 1

Affairs to ensure that recipients are aware of this issue.

"Some people receiving Social Security and veterans' benefits may not realize they will need to file a tax re-

turn to get the stimulus payment," Stiff said. "To reach these people, the IRS and Treasury will work closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Social Security Administration and key beneficiary groups on outreach efforts."

Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment will receive an additional \$300 for each child who qualifies for

the child tax credit.

Payments to higher income taxpayers will be reduced by 5 percent of the amount of adjusted gross income above \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for those filing jointly.

Taxpayers must have valid Social Security Numbers to qualify for the stimulus payment. If married filing jointly, both taxpayers must have a valid Social Security Number. And, children must have valid Social Security Numbers to be eligible as qualifying children.

Taxpayers who file their tax returns using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number issued by the IRS or any number issued by the IRS are ineligible. Also ineligible are individuals who can be claimed as dependents on someone else's return, or taxpayers who file Form 1040-NR, 1040-PR or 1040-SS.

To accommodate taxpayers who file tax returns later in the year, the IRS will continue sending payments until December 31, 2008. The IRS also cautions taxpayers that if they file their 2007 tax return and then move their residence that they should file a change of address card with the U.S. Postal Service.

The IRS will mail two informational notices to taxpayers advising them of the stimulus payments. However, taxpayers should be alert for tax rebate scams such as telephone calls or emails claiming to be from the IRS and asking for sensitive financial information. The IRS will not call or email taxpayers about these payments nor will it ask for financial information. Scam emails and information about scam calls should be forwarded to phishing@irs.gov.

—Contributed by Lea C. Crusberg

Briefs

From Page 1

recommendation. Applications must be received by May 1, 2008 and should be sent to: Julie Jones; P.O. Box 311; Clint, TX 79836. Phone: 915-851-2702.

Canutillo meeting

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a District Goal-setting meeting, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Alderete Middle School Library-Science Building (801 Talbot Road). The goal-setting meeting will provide the opportunity to parents and community members to express concerns, present suggestions, and ask questions regarding the district's future growth including educational initiatives, student support services, budget priorities, and other topics. The public is invited to attend. Child-care for children 4 to 12 years of age will be available. For more information, call 877-3149 or 877-7482.

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is helping the El Paso Police Department locate an offender who used a handgun to steal expensive jewelry from a store in the northeast part of town, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Saturday, Jan. 19th, approximately 7:30 p.m., the suspect entered the First Cash Pawnshop at 9733 Dyer and hung around for about 45-minutes before asking to see a bracelet in the jewelry showcase. As the suspect held two pieces of jewelry, he talked about putting them on lay-away, and then asked to see a camera in a display case located near the front door. As the clerk was about to show the camera, the suspect pulled out a black handgun and fled with the jewelry. The suspect is described as an Hispanic male in his late 30s or early 40s, about 180 pounds, wearing a Fumanchu mustache, dark blue baseball cap with white lettering, Khaki colored wind-breaker with a blue stripe around the middle and Addidas logo on the back, and blue jeans. 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.

In the Navy

Navy Seaman Robert Torres, son of Claudia G. Valenzuela of Clint, Texas and Roberto M. Torres of El Paso, Texas, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. with honors. During the eight-week program, Torres 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.

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Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain

but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/tx

American Heart Association

Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

9-1-1

HEART ATTACK & STROKE

Read the signs. Raise a flag.

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

Answer Page 6 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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