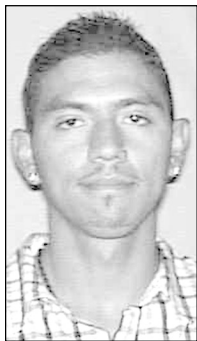




NEWSBRIEFS

Wanted

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is helping the El Paso Police Department locate a sex offender who has evaded authorities since



David Esquivel

2005 by stealing some else's identity, making this the "Crime of the Week." The suspect, 24-year old David Juan Esquivel was involved in a case of indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault of a child. This case involved a 13-year old victim. When Esquivel was arrested on this offense he used the identity of 27-year old Cesar Francisco Garcia. Esquivel was prosecuted and indicted under the name of Cesar Francisco Garcia. This has created a nightmare for the true Garcia, who has not only had his identity stolen, but has also been stopped repeatedly by law enforcement agencies because of Esquivel's crime. Esquivel is described as a Hispanic male, 24 years old, 6-foot to 6-foot-two in height, weighing 150 pounds. He currently has outstanding criminal warrants for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, two counts of Indecency With a Child, and also for failure to register as a sex offender. If you have any information at all about David Juan Esquivel 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. Investigators believe Esquivel may still be using the identity of Garcia.

In the Navy

Navy Seamen Apprentice Robert L. Lucero and Seaman Daniel R. Ortega recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, they 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. Lucero's parents are Maria H. and Salvador R. Lucero of El Paso. He is a 2004 graduate of Americas High School. Ortega is the son of Elizabeth and Raul R. Ortega of Clint and a 2007 graduate of Clint High School.

Play time

The Lion' Players and Irvin High School will present Annie Jr., on Friday, March 14 at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Theater 301 West Missouri, which is located downtown next to the Insights Museum. There will also be two performances for school groups on Thursday, March 13 at 1:30 p.m., and Friday March

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Enthusiasm is contagious — and so is the lack of it.

— Quips & Quotes

CBP agents seize \$1.86 million at border

Separate busts net pot and cocaine

By Roger Maier
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — On Monday, Feb. 25, 2008, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the El Paso port of entry intercepted a vehicle containing \$1,858,085. The money was concealed in the door panels and the rear cargo door of a 1992 Ford Expedition. The seizure is the largest currency seizure made at the El Paso port of entry in more than a decade and possibly the second largest ever.

The seizure was made shortly before 11:00 a.m. when the vehicle carrying a family of three entered the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA) port of entry from Mexico. A CBP officer at the primary inspection booth noticed that the driver of the vehicle was nervous during a routine inspection. The CBP officer began to search the vehicle using a "Buster" density meter and received high readings consistent with hidden contraband. The CBP officer examined a door more closely and spotted bundles of U.S. currency wrapped in clear plastic tape behind the panel.

CBP officers took custody of the driver and continued their inspection of the vehicle. They discovered bundles of currency concealed in all five doors of the vehicle. Denominations discovered included \$100s, \$50s, \$20s, \$10s and \$5s.

"This is an exceptionally significant currency seizure," said Gene Garza, CBP acting Director of Field Operations in El Paso. "The majority of currency seizures made at this port of entry are of the five figure variety. Taking almost \$2 million away from a criminal organi-

See BUSTS, Page 5



— Photo courtesy CBP

MAD MONEY — CBP officers stripped down the door panels of a 1992 Ford Expedition after using a density meter to determine that there was something concealed in the doors. In all, officers removed \$1,858,085 from the vehicle. ICE officers arrested the driver, Saul Sanchez, who is a Mexican citizen. He was attempting to cross from Mexico into the US with his wife and 2-year-old child.

Socorro senior selected as Coca Cola Scholarship finalist

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Socorro senior selected as Coca Cola Scholarship Finalist

Socorro High School student Martha Valdillez has been named a Coca Cola Scholars finalist. As one of 250 finalists nationwide she is guaranteed an award of \$10,000 from the company. She plans to head to Atlanta, Georgia for a final round of interviews and to participate in the Scholars Weekend and Scholars Banquet held from April 24 through the 27. Following the round of interviews, she will be notified if she is the recipient of one of 50 \$20,000 scholarships.

"The first round of applicants was narrowed to 2000 semi-finalists, the second round required a second application and the field was narrowed to 250 finalists," said Valdillez who is also the Student Council President at Socorro High School. "It's a great honor being a finalist out of 8000 applicants."

"I am not surprised that Martha was selected as a finalist for the Coca-Cola Scholarships. I have met with her throughout the year as a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee and her work there shows

me her commitment to her education, her school and her community," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson.

Each year, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation awards a total of \$3 million in achievement-based four-year scholarships to 250 outstanding high school seniors from communities across the nation. The Foundation annually awards 200 Regional Scholarships of \$10,000 each and 50 National Scholarships of \$20,000 each. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation evaluates applicants on the basis of demonstrated leadership in academics, school, community and civic activities, as well as personal character and the motivation to serve and succeed.

"Knowing I will get at least \$10,000 is a weight off my shoulders when it comes to paying for tuition," said Valdillez. "I wouldn't have been able to do everything I have without the moral support from my teachers and my mother who kept motivating me."

Valdillez, who is also DECA president, Senior Class Vice President and a COSMOS stu-



Martha Valdillez

dent, hopes to study business at UTEP next fall and plans on opening her businesses in El Paso.

"I've been asked why I chose UTEP," she said. "El Paso is growing and I want to be part of that growing process," she said.

"I've known Martha since her freshman year and she really is involved in this community. Everything she thinks about starting and creating is for Socorro, and to help her community, and her peers," said Carmen Alvarado, Socorro High School Student Activities

Director. "When she found out she was a finalist the first thing she wanted to do was ask Coca-Cola about funding other scholarships for students."

"It's rewarding to see one of our own be recognized by a company like Coca-Cola and be among a select few is a honor for her and Socorro High School," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. "To have her stay in El Paso shows her devotion to her family and her desire to contribute more to her hometown."



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Southern hospitality

M o s t people just want some place to live — some place safe, and warm or cool as the weather dictates, where they can eat, sleep and spend time with people. Unfortunately, some people don't seem to make much distinction between a home of their own and your home. Some people, in fact, will move right in while you don't happen to be there. Take, for instance, the family in Montgomery, Alabama, who had been gone from home for a week last October. The home-sweet-home they expected to find upon their return, however, no longer existed. What they found instead was a house so terribly trashed it was almost unrecognizable. Almost everything of value had been carted away and everything else had been haphazardly piled here and there. As the man began to search through the rubble he was astonished to see one of the thieves stroll in through the back door — wearing one of his hats.

The homeowner wasn't one of those trash-and-let-live sort of people. He promptly produced a firearm and made the intruder clean up the place — an indignity the thief complained loudly about when police arrived.

He was expecting another kind of Southern hospitality, I guess.

The police laughed, according to news reports.

Oddly enough, on the same day, a woman in Decatur, Alabama, came home after an extended absence and found a strange man asleep in her bed, a woman walking around in her clothes and another man who strode up and demanded to know what she was doing in his house.

Apparently the female intruder was quite a gracious Southern lady, however — she even offered to leave the house if her presence there “was causing a problem.”

Now, that's a downright considerate guest — she exhibited more hospitable behavior than their “host” who, oddly enough, didn't invite them to stay and seemed rather anxious for her uninvited guests to depart.

Meanwhile, a couple of days later, in a little Wisconsin community called Two Rivers, there was another blatant disregard for the principles of Southern hospitality.

A woman awakened in the night when she heard her dog barking. She went to investigate. She found a young man sorting through items in the back seat of her neighbor's van.

She promptly informed her husband who went out to confront the young man who was taking liberties with his neighbor's goods.

They scuffled, and in the melee, the young man lost his jacket, his shirt and one shoe and sock before the resident did the only logical thing to do with an unwanted guest.

He sat on him.

The 200-pound defender of home and hearth sustained some scrapes and bruises but the intruder was quite effectively detained until police arrived.

The news story doesn't say this, but I'd guess the police laughed when they made this call, too.

Now, along about the time all this was happening, there was another incident over in Virginia, where a church-going secretary of the local AARP office had had a bellyful of poor customer service.

This 75-year-old lady and her husband had bought into a much-advertised special for an internet service provider to hook them up to combined phone, television and internet service.

They had an appointment with a technician but he didn't show up until three days later and left without completing the job. They went down to the office and tried to see the manager but after waiting two hours, they were told he had left for the day.

Next morning, this nice elderly lady went back to the office — with a hammer. She smashed a few pieces of electronic equipment, just to get the point across.

As equally inhospitable in manners as they had been in customer service, the ISP company had her arrested. The community came to her support, calling her a hero. She said, naw, she was just a little old lady who got mad and threw “a hissy fit.”

All these stories, however, can be used to illustrate that there is still one place you can always go when the rest of the world closes its doors in your face. There is a place where you will always find unconditional acceptance.

All the people in this story who were uncereemoniously invited to take their company elsewhere were readily accepted into county jail, where they were served food, given free lodging and clothing, and rubbed shoulders with other illustrious guests of the county. In fact, they were so welcomed by their host that they had to pay cash money just so they could leave.

Now, that's Southern hospitality at its finest.

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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Hospitalized Veterans Week

As a nation at war, it is so important that we all take time to honor those who are serving overseas in harm's way. And this month, a week is set aside to honor a particularly deserving group of veterans — those who have sustained injury or are currently fighting disease. The week, National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, specifically recognizes those who are hospitalized.

During this week, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) invites and encourages all individuals, groups, businesses, and media to honor and recognize veterans and active duty personnel at hospitals, VA medical centers, outpatient clinics, and nursing homes. This period also provides the opportunity to learn more about volunteer programs at local VA centers. National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week was a time for all El Pasoans to express their appreciation to the men and women who have valiantly served our country.

This is especially important here in El Paso, one of the nation's largest military and veteran communities. A simple “thank you” goes a long way, and as a Vietnam veteran myself, I know how much these two words can truly mean to those who are serving our country. If you see a servicemember at the airport, in a store or anywhere else, please take the time to walk a few steps and let them know you appreciate their service.

The 110th Congress has demonstrated its commitment to our nation's veterans by passing substantial budget increases for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Last year, under the leadership of the Democrat-led Congress, we provided the Department of Veterans Affairs with the largest budget increase in the 77-year history of the agency. These funds will improve medical care for our returning soldiers, including screening and treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). For the more severely wounded Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, there will be modernized polytrauma centers. These additional funds will also provide better care, more doctors, and shorter waiting times for medical appointments for those 5.8 million veterans who use the VA health care system. It will mean 3,100 new claims processors for our 400,000 veterans who have been patiently waiting to receive their earned benefits in the VA claims processing system.

For those veterans with mental health disorders, there will be a minimum of \$2.9 billion strictly reserved for mental health care services. This represents a \$700 million increase from last year. There will be more VA clinics for veterans living in rural areas, who are unable to access VA hospitals. For the first time since 1979, VA travel reimbursements will increase to 28.5 cents per mile, up from the previous reimbursement of 11 cents. There will be \$1.5 billion in new funding for preventative construction maintenance at VA facilities to prevent those conditions that were found at Walter Reed last year. Finally, to combat homelessness among our veteran population, there will be a \$23 million increase in the homeless per diem program, which will help provide shelter and other resources to homeless veterans.

This Congress has worked and delivered aid those who have worn our country's uniform. However, there is still much work to do, as we must continue to provide sufficient resources to our wounded and returning soldiers in the years ahead. I hope the next time you encounter an active duty soldier or veteran that you take the time to express your appreciation. They certainly have earned it.



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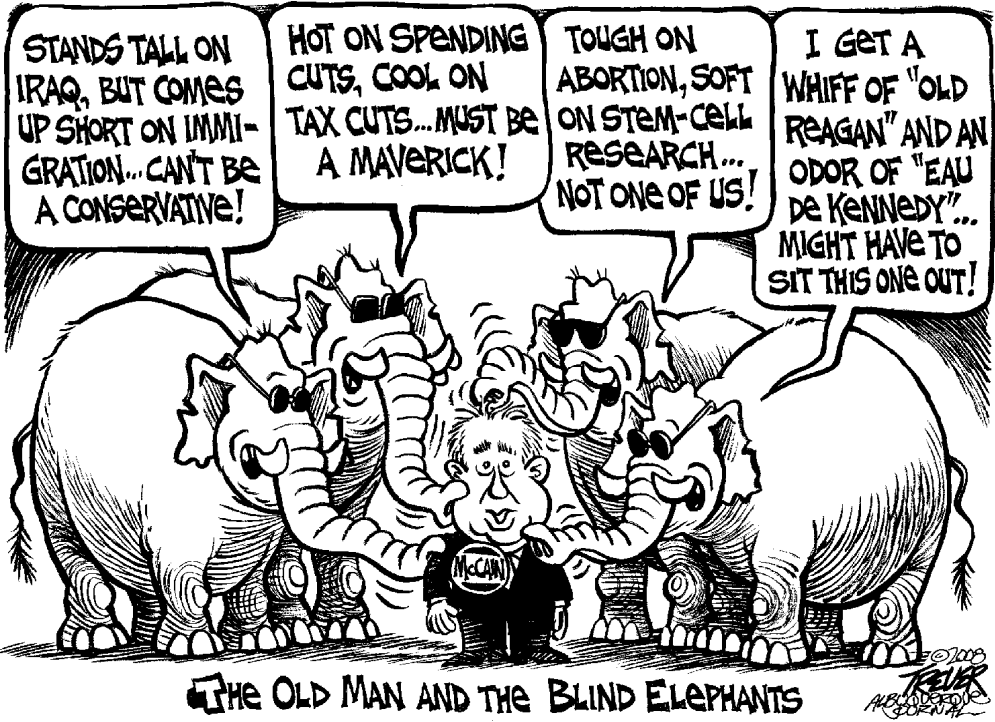
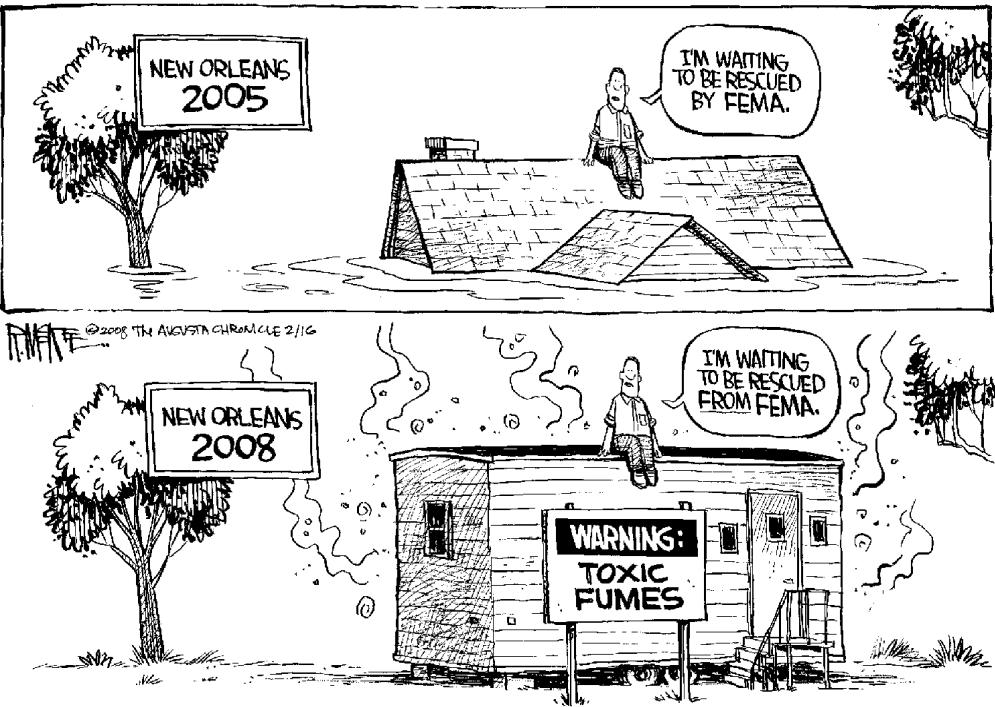
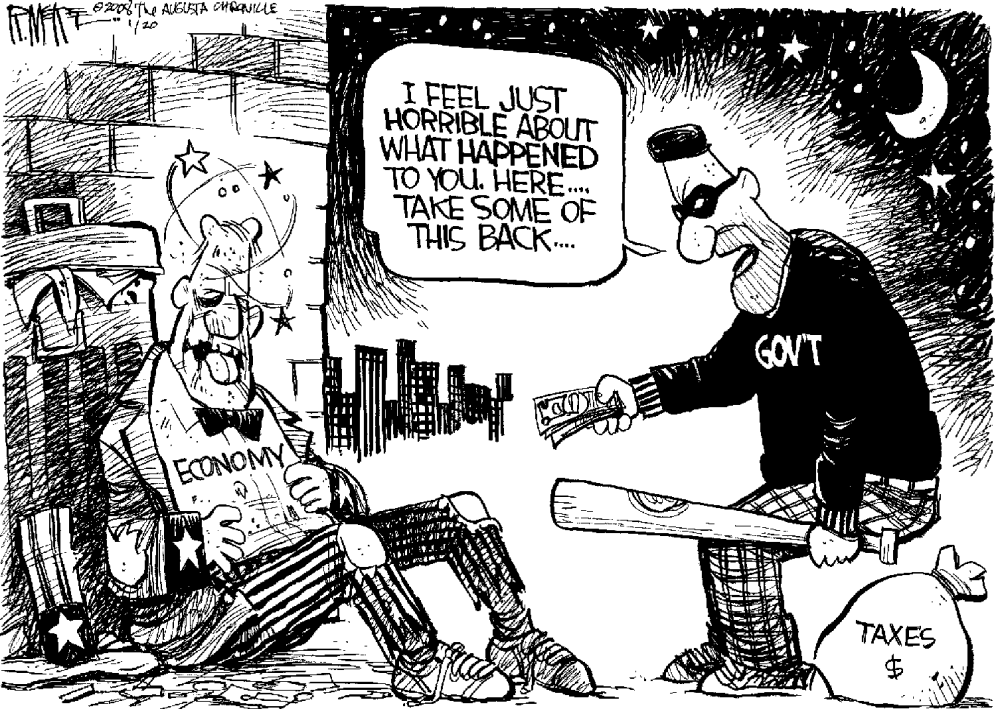
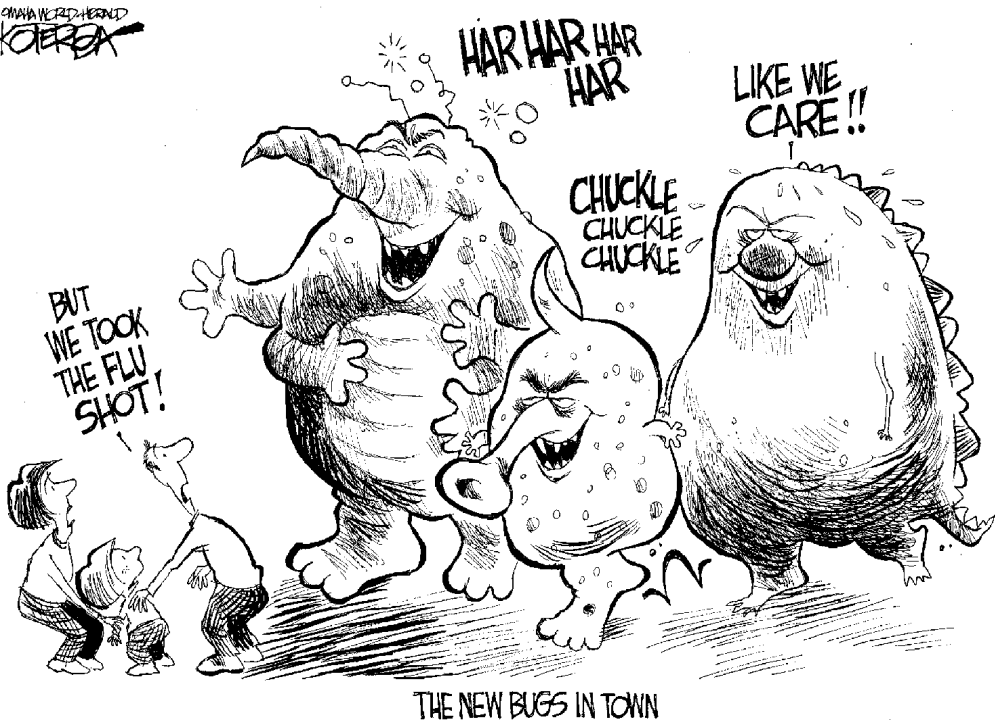
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Aggies



Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Tires near Horizon City cleaned up

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.

Last fall, my office received a call from a constituent who resides in the Horizon City area. She informed my staff about her concerns on the litter in the open areas outside the city limits of Horizon and El Paso.

The open areas have been a target for dumpers for years. This problem is very difficult to fix. It requires either a law enforcement officer to spot the crime and make an arrest or a citizen to report the crime and testify in court as a witness. There are, unfortunately, not enough law enforcement officers and not enough citizens who will testify in court.

My office contacted the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) about the problem a few days after getting the phone call. Our question to TCEQ was how the existing litter could be cleaned. The response was basically a lack of manpower and funds.

Our next conversation was with the warden at the Rogelio Sanchez Detention Center. Our question to the warden was about the availability of the prison population for cleaning the desert. He confirmed our understanding by stating that the inmates could be enlisted in the cleanup process.

Since most of the land that is in question is under the Texas Land Commission authority, it was necessary to also have that agency involved. TCEQ accepted the responsibility of discussing the issue with their contacts at the Land Office.

After several weeks, I received a phone call from TCEQ informing me that the Land Commission had commenced a cleanup operation in the area just north of Horizon City. I was informed that the effort would be incremental but over time comprehensive.

My Chief of Staff confirmed some very impressive changes had occurred. On Darrington road north of East Lake, the dozens of tires that were dumped had disappeared. There was some cleanup in the desert area as well. I also received some positive comments from residents in the area about the effort.

This is another example of how state agencies can help with problems in our area. Of course the solution is to stop the dumping, but the convenience for the environmental criminals is just too attractive; so they dump.

I shall continue to be in touch with TCEQ and encourage more efforts at cleanup on the Texas Land Commission lands. We will continue to make all the efforts that limited budget and manpower allow.

I will also work in the next session to enhance the TCEQ enforcement budget so that their officers can play a bigger role in punishing violators.

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

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Canutillo Middle School students learn about different cultures

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Middle School (CMS) students from Irene Royse, Dolores Reyes and Laura Biernacki’s classes recently attended a presentation about Japanese culture so they can study the language, art forms and traditions in preparation for creating a multicultural cookbook.

The presentation was part of the semester-long CMS and El Paso Community College’s (EPCC) GEAR-UP Multicultural Journey. The project is a collaborative effort designed to give students the opportunity to explore the language, customs, art forms, literature of Japan, China and Mexico.

Students from Irene Royse, Dolores Reyes, and Laura Biernacki’s (CMS teachers) classes attended a presentation on Japanese culture given by Goldie Kazuko, Japanese language teacher from La Paz Language Academy, and Manamai Doyle, independent teacher of Japanese language and calligraphy.

“Through the project study, our students will explore and develop appreciation for various cultures, said Biernacki, CMS Visual Arts teacher. “Our students learned that elementary students in Japan have to memorize and be able to write close to 1,000 characters by the time they complete sixth



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

JAPANESE LESSONS — Goldie Kazuko, left, and Manamai Doyle, Japanese language teachers, explain Kanji calligraphy, or elementary Japanese characters to Canutillo Middle School students participating in the CMS/EPCC Multicultural Project.

grade,” she added. The culmination of this program will produce a multicultural cookbook, T-shirt design, and end-of-year presentation for CMS students, staff and community including El Paso Community College.

Anthony 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	272 Medical Admin. Claims - MAC	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,611,851	\$ —	\$ 188,468	\$ 1,800,319
5800 State Program Revenues	4,632,315	—	400,607	5,032,922
5900 Federal Program Revenues	606,300	5,822	632,469	1,244,591
5020 Total Revenues	6,850,466	5,822	1,221,544	8,077,832
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	2,966,321	—	599,637	3,565,958
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	158,991	—	1,803	160,794
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	18,526	—	53,829	72,355
0021 Instructional Leadership	85,323	—	—	85,323
0023 School Leadership	354,525	—	7,768	362,293
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	77,846	—	62,420	140,266
0032 Social Work Services	6,442	—	—	6,442
0033 Health Services	80,259	5,822	—	86,081
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	129,756	—	—	129,756
0035 Food Services	395,642	—	34,731	430,373
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	193,077	—	—	193,077
0041 General Administration	465,574	—	6	465,580
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	686,874	—	3,365	690,239
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	50,716	—	—	50,716
0053 Data Processing Services	176,394	—	—	176,394
0061 Community Services	75,000	—	1,800	76,800
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	64,902	—	206,000	270,902
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	1,459	—	187,230	188,689
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	—	910	910
6030 Total Expenditures	5,987,627	5,822	1,159,499	7,152,948
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	862,839	—	62,045	924,884
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7913 Capital Leases	39,713	—	—	39,713
7915 Transfers In	19,038	—	—	19,038
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(19,038)	—	—	(19,038)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	39,713	—	—	39,713
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	902,552	—	62,045	964,597
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	1,707,042	—	118,309	1,825,351
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 2,609,594	\$ —	\$ 180,354	\$ 2,789,948

Briefs

From Page 1

14 at 1:00 p.m. The tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students if purchased in advanced. School groups are \$2 per student and free for teachers with their classes. Based on the popular comic strip, Annie Junior tells of a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. The play is part of a community out reach program of Commuity of Faith Christain School and Irvin High School. For more information on this event, you can visit our web site at www.thelionsplayers.org.

Tryouts

Americas High School will have cheerleading tryouts on Saturday, April 5 at noon in the Blazer Gym for Freshman, Junior Varsity and the Varsity squads. All interested students must attend the mandatory student meeting on Wednesday, March 5 at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir room. The mandatory meeting for parents will be on Tuesday, March 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. For information, please contact the Americas High School Student Activities Office at 937-2832.

Autism

The Southwest Chapter of the Autism Society of America (SWASA), along with The El Paso Rehabilitation Center and Region 19 Education Service Center are sponsoring the Ninth Annual International Autism Conference on Friday, April 25, 2008, at the Ysleta Cultural Arts Center Auditorium, 9600 Sims, El Paso, Texas, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Conference, titled “Critical Connections: A Blended, Developmental Approach to Treating Autism and Related Disorders”, will feature Cheryl Baucum, M.A. Ms. Baucum speaks at conferences and workshops internationally, to rave reviews. She teaches a blended, developmental child-centered approach to treating Autism (ASD/PDD). The approach integrates elements of floor time, visual strategies, ABA, sensory integration, integrated play groups, social stories, expressive/receptive language stories, modeling, progressive story telling, and progressive gaming. For fees and reservation information please contact the El Paso Rehabilitation Center at (915) 544-8484 or SWASA at (915) 772-9100.



Busts

From Page 1

A CBP officer moved the van to a secondary inspection area. While searching the vehicle, they detected a non-factory compartment attached to a transmission transfer case on the



— Photos courtesy CBP

X-RAY VISION — CBP officers confiscated 2,366 pounds of marijuana packed in 213 bundles from this truck after an x-ray exam and Quijote — a drug sniffing dog — alerted agents to the drugs.



OLD TIMER — 62-year-old Ignacio Holguin Garcia was arrested by ICE officers on smuggling charges after CBP officers, with the help of Rita — a drug sniffing dog — found 20.8 pounds of cocaine in his 1992 Aerostar van. The cocaine was hidden in false compartment in the van (photo above) and in a transfer case, below, that Garcia was hauling.



vehicle's underside. CBP officers drilled into the compartment, producing a white substance that tested positive for cocaine. CBP officers removed the transfer case to gain access to the compartment where they discovered eight cocaine filled bundles. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested Garcia.

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 	<h1>Sun Ridge Realty</h1> <p>Edward Martinez</p> <p>(915) 526-1739 • (915) 252-7426</p> <p>e_mart2000@yahoo.com</p> <p>www.eddiemartinezelpaso.com</p>	
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Public Notice

Clint Independent School District

Clint ISD Pre-K and Kinder Registration Round-Up

Clint Independent School District will conduct registration for students entering Pre-Kinder and Kindergarten in Clint Independent School District for the Fall of 2008 from March 10 to March 14 and from March 24 to March 28; from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please visit one of the elementary campuses in your area. The next registration will not be held until after August 28, 2008.

Additionally, campuses will conduct evening registration on the following days and times:

WD Surratt Elementary	March 12	4-7 p.m.
Desert Hills Elementary	March 12	4-7 p.m.
Red Sands Elementary	March 13	4-7 p.m.
Montana Vista Elementary	March 13	4-7 p.m.
Frank Macias Elementary	March 13	4-7 p.m.

Noticia Pública

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint

Clint ISD Inscripciones abiertas para Pre-Kinder y Kinder

El distrito independiente de Clint abrirá inscripciones para estudiante que entraran a Pre-Kinder and Kinder en el Distrito para el otoño del 2008. La matricula sera abierta del 10 de marzo al 14 de marzo, y de el 24 de marzo al 28 de marzo, de 9 AM a 12 PM y de 1 PM a 3 PM. Favor de visitar unos de nuestros planteles primarios en su área. La próxima oportunidad para matricularse será después del 28 de agosto de 2008.

Adicionalmente, los planteles conducirán matriculación en los siguientes días y horarios:

WD Surratt Elementary	12 de marzo	4-7 p.m.
Desert Hills Elementary	12 de marzo	4-7 p.m.
Red Sands Elementary	13 de marzo	4-7 p.m.
Montana Vista Elementary.....	13 de marzo	4-7 p.m.
Frank Macias Elementary	13 de marzo	4-7 p.m.

WTCC: 02/28/08



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Blockbuster trades make the NBA interesting again

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I'm like most people who watch NBA games during the regular season. I catch a few minutes here, the final seconds there, and then catch everything in between on ESPN that night or the next morning.

I find that I can't watch an entire NBA game anymore, especially not during the regular season. But, like many of you I have been paying close attention to the sport that usually doesn't kick in until after the NCAA Tournament.

And why am I paying attention now? It's the rash of trades that have sent many of the leagues best players to new teams — and not just new teams — teams that all have a chance to make the NBA finals.

Over the last few weeks we've seen Pau Gasol go to the Lakers, Shaquille O'Neal go to the Suns, Jason Kidd go to the Mavericks, Ben Wallace go to the Cavaliers, Kurt Thomas go to the Spurs, and other guys change teams like Mike Bibby, Wally Szczerbiak, Bonzi Wells, Bobby Jackson, Brent Barry, Drew Gooden and Shawn Marion.

Wow, I haven't seen those kids of wholesale changes since everybody started leaving Hillary's campaign.

The questions are intriguing. Which new player will lead his new team to the championship? Some say it's the Lakers who made the best deal — and I believe them.

But no amount of trades are going to help a team gain the kind of cohesion and professionalism that the San Antonio Spurs have.

New faces in new places bring fans, like me, back into the fold for a while. But teamwork, work ethic and unselfishness win championships. Oh, and so does defense. And no team does all those things as well as the Spurs.

The NBA has people talking about them again.

The General is no traitor

Bobby Knight spent a basketball-coaching lifetime ranting at officials, throwing tirades on and off the court, slapping, poking and manhandling players, and acting in

the kind of immature manner he'd never tolerate from his players.

But one thing I'll say about Bobby Knight — he never broke an NCAA rule.

And that, in a nutshell, is the difference between Knight, the old Indianan coach, and Kelvin Sampson, the former Indiana coach, who was forced to resign in disgrace.

There's no doubt that Knight had his own way of doing things, and for the most part he did a great job of turning boys into men. Knight was a part of the old-school fraternity of disciplinarians — that "my way or the highway" kind of coaching.

And most of the players did it his way and turned out better men because of it.

Then there was Knight's Mr. Hyde side. Throwing chairs, punching policemen and using language unbecoming a man of his stature.

But Knight never did what Sampson did. First of all, Kelvin Sampson was very lucky to get another job so quickly after being kicked out of Oklahoma for breaking NCAA rules and regulations, concerning making illegal phone calls to basketball recruits.

He escaped his mess in Norman, OK., and was fortunate to land in Bloomington, IN. But as a condition of accepting the job, Sampson had to promise not to make those illegal phone calls again.

But as many of you know, promises are made to be broken.

Sampson showed his thanks to Indiana by blatantly doing the exact same thing there.

He was caught and, in a superb move by the Hoosiers, kicked out of the school.

Of course, many of the Indiana players, who haven't yet learned what is really important in life, wrote down K.S. on their sneakers to show their to dedication to Kelvin Sampson.

Too bad he didn't have the self-control to dedicate himself to his players. He sold them out. He sold the school out. He sold his own soul.

A lot of people have bad-mouthed Bobby Knight over the years, and deservedly so. But what Sampson did defies logic. To get what so very few of us ever get — a second chance — and misuse that way is unfathomable.

I say good for Indiana, and shame on any college that decides to give Sampson a third chance.

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LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

THURSDAY MARCH 6, 2008

FLAG GROUP SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0306-8030 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:00 A.M.

CALCULATORS CSP NO. 199-0306-8039 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:30 A.M.

CAREER TECHNOLOGY MODULES CSP NO. 199-0306-8050 ACCEPTED

UNTIL 11:00 A.M.

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

Proposals are also available at the District's website: www.sisd.net WTCC-02/28/08

PUBLIC NOTICE

CLINT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT

The Clint Independent School District hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into a contract for the purchase of real property. The major provisions of the

contract are set forth below:

Property: Parcel "A" Located 13000 Block of North Loop: Tract 23-1 Block 23, San Elizario Grant. The sale of this parcel would include frontage on the north side of North Loop.

Owner: Lettunich Family Farms, Ltd.

Purchase Price: Twenty Thousand Dollars and 00/100s (\$20,000.00) per acre.

Questions regarding this notice of intent or the proposed contract should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, Clint ISD Administration Building, 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, Texas 79928.

WTCC 02/28/08

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all

owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at AG Custom, 1245 Doy Dr., 241-1515, agcustom@juno.com, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - 3299484, 1928 Ford Model A, black and gray, no license plate. WTCC- 01/28/08

HELP WANTED

Farm worker, 4/1/08-1/31/09, Jaime Silva, Fabens, TX. Operate harvesting machines to harvest crops. Adjust speed of cutters, blowers, conveyors, and weight of cutting head, using hand tools. Change cutting head as appropriate for crop. Drive heavy truck to transport produce to elevator or storage area. Drive truck to haul harvesting machines between worksites. Service machinery and make in-field repairs. CDL, MVR,

3 mo exp required. \$8.66/hr, ≤ work guarantee, tools/equip/housing provided, transportation & subsistence exp to work site reimbursed upon completion of 50% of work contract. Apply at nearest TWC office, job #8044889.

ALCALDE. \$75 per irrigation. Call Milo. 860-9802 or 309-7008.

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.

STORAGE

National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS

10'x20' - Special \$85/mth for 3 months. Call Blanca or Gina. 852-8300.

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

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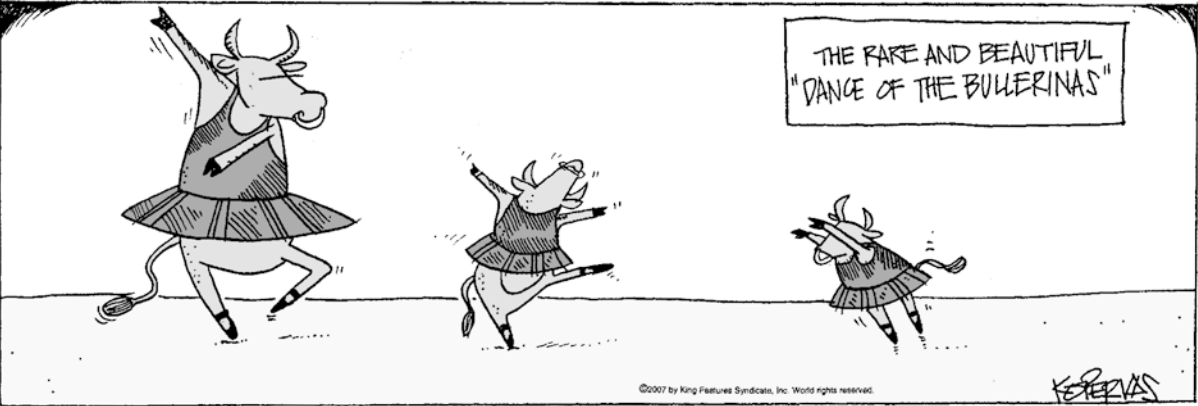
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928
Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Phone: _____

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



Achievement is nothing to sneeze at

By Don Flood

As a boy I dreamed of hitting home runs or running for touch-downs, but as I’ve gotten older I’ve had to set aside childish goals of athletic accomplishment.

Just recently, however, I achieved a record I never thought possible at my advanced age: The other morning, while making coffee, I launched into a sneezing fit of truly heroic proportions.

I must have sneezed a dozen times straight, though it could have 2,784, judging by how addled my brain felt. Never having been a multiple sneezer, I didn’t think to start counting until it was too late.

And like a man who hits a hole-in-one while playing a solitary round of golf, I was keenly aware that no one was around to witness my stupendous feat.

“Are you all right?”” Helen called from upstairs.

Ah, I had a witness after all, indicating that my sneezes were not only numerous, but loud, gusty affairs of the kind usually noted on the Weather Channel.

(My wife, oddly enough, did not feel the need to come down and witness the spectacle in person.)

Over the years, I have witnessed various multiple sneezing fits, and I have been duly impressed.

But after a half century on this earth, I figured the more advanced levels of multiple-sneezing achievement were simply beyond my reach.

(And no, I would never resort to cheating by using such recognized sneeze enhancers as pepper, which has been banned for all those hoping to enter the Sneezing Hall of Fame.)

And since that sneezing fit, my

nose has been off and running, so to speak.

My legs might not be able to run as fast as they used to, but my nose remains extraordinarily youthful — it’s able to run all day without stopping. At the risk of seeming immodest, I have to say that when it comes to running, my nose is a thoroughbred.

In fact, judging by how diligently my nose has been keeping up its regimen, I can only assume it’s getting ready for the Olympics (though, to the best of my knowledge, sneezing and running events for the nose remain “exhibition” sports and not part of the official competitions).

But while I appreciated my nose’s dedication, I decided it needed to stop running long enough for me to get my work done.

This meant taking Sudafed, the buying of which nowadays makes you feel like a major drug dealer. You have to go up and ask for it from the pharmacist, who checks your ID and makes you sign your name.

“Here you go you dirtball,” she said as she handed me the medication. (OK, not really.)

The problem is that Sudafed can be used to make crystal meth. I have to say, though, if crystal meth gives you a more intense version of the Sudafed experience — something of a nervous, jittery feeling — then I’ll stick to coffee, thank you.

But now that the Sudafed has kicked in, I don’t think I’ll need any for a couple of days.

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dflood287@comcast.net

King Super Crossword

- A PLUS

ACROSS

1 Buddy

4 Verne hero

8 Cantata composer

12 Goo

17 _ corny as Kansas ...

19 Orenburg's river

20 Literary pseudonym

21 Like Schoenberg's music

22 Like Felix Unger?

25 Act like Holmes

26 "_ Card" ('90 film)

27 Comic Orson

28 Bungle

30 Sweater letter

31 On the nose

34 Skinny novelist?

39 Get on

40 Rocker Tom

41 Curly coif

42 "Saving Private Ryan" extras

45 Mofo or Magnani

47 Reggae's Peter

49 Offer an apple?

52 Pinnacle

54 Dawns, to Donne

56 Coarse flour

58 "_ on My Pillow" ('58 song)

60 Stiller's partner

62 Tread the boards

63 Man from Munich

65 Ponderosa, for

one

68 Mrs. Zeus

71 Mineral suffix

72 Sgt., e.g.

73 Gamble

75 Extremely encouraging

individual?

79 Kitten's comment

80 Sharpton and Yankovic

81 Hockey great

82 A sweeping success?

83 Calliope's sister

85 '66 Tommy Roe tune

88 Merino male

90 Shiva worshiper

93 Throw forcefully

94 "The Ramayana" heroine

97 Actress Samantha

100 Jury member

101 Economize

103 Calligraphy supply

105 Land in the sea

106 Longing

107 Jets, Mets, or Nets

109 Release

111 Hideaway

114 Dishonest anchorman?

118 New Jersey's Pine _

121 Port: abbr.

122 Director Lupino

123 "Dies _"

125 Be of use

127 Bring to light

130 Corrupt college official?

135 Acid's opposite

136 Bronte heroine

137 Ice-cream thickener

138 Writer Hunter

139 June birthstone

140 Paper quantity

141 Stink

142 Prior to, to Prior

DOWN

1 BB-gun sound

2 "That's _" ('53 tune)

3 Paint ingredient

4 Lots of laughs

5 Part of NATO

6 Hayes of westerns

7 Crafter's need

8 Publisher Cerf

9 Ginger _

10 Security grp.

11 Couldn't stand

12 Canonized Mlle.

13 King's "Salem's _"

14 Motionless

15 "_ Man" ('78 song)

16 Singer John

18 Farm sight

21 Directionless

23 Native Peruvian

24 Yarn

29 Singer Chris

32 Soho streetcar

33 Carson's successor

35 Particle

36 AMEX rival

37 Scacchi of "The Player"

38 Seascape painter

40 Cisco's chum

42 Pin

43 The _ Capades

44 Einstein's chair?

46 New Deal agcy.

48 Convent wear

50 Dentist's fee?

51 Vestige

53 Geologic division

55 Cook veggies

57 Make chair legs

59 Chilly powder?

61 Social worker?

64 Swerve

66 Word with pork or karate

67 Toast start

69 Dietary abbr.

70 TV's "Hearts _"

73 Big party

74 Cary of "The Princess Bride"

76 Bit of a beach?

77 Leisurely, to Leoncavallo

78 Team scream

84 Palm oil?

86 Lloyd Webber musical

87 Principle

89 Booker T.'s group

91 Billy _ Williams

92 Fancy planter

95 Slope

96 Cain's victim

98 _ breve

99 Bring up

102 Gauguin setting

104 Feminist Gloria

108 Pie ingredient?

110 Greek sandwich

112 Neighbor of Turkey

113 Variety show

114 Tight

115 Actress Berry

116 Slezak or Alexander

117 Consumer advocate Ralph

118 Stocking shade

119 Credulous

120 Indian instrument

124 Way over yonder

126 Director Adrian

128 Roller-coaster unit

129 Under the weather

131 Hook's mate

132 Southern constellation

133 Scottish refusal

134 Annoy
- Answer Page 5

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My husband died recently and my neighbor said I might be eligible for survivors' benefits. Am I?

A: In order to be eligible for survivors benefits, your spouse must have earned the required number of Social Security credits. If he did, the following becomes relevant:

- If you were born before 1940, you may be able to receive full benefits at age 65. But the age to receive

full benefits is gradually increasing to age 67 for widows and widowers born in 1940 or later.

- You can receive reduced benefits as early as age 60.
- If you, as the surviving spouse, are disabled, you can get benefits as early as age 50.
- If you take care of the deceased worker's child who is entitled to a child's benefit and is younger than age 16 or disabled, you can

receive benefits at any age. Your children also may be eligible for benefits.

For more information about survivors benefits, read our publication *Survivors Benefits* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10084.html or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: I'm retired and the only income I have is a monthly withdrawal from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Are the IRA withdrawals considered "earnings?" Could they potentially reduce my monthly

Social Security benefits?

A: No. We count only the wages you earn from a job or your net profit if you're self-employed. Non-work income such as annuities, investment income, interest, capital gains and other government benefits are not counted and will not affect your Social Security benefits. Most pensions will not affect your benefits. However, your benefit may be affected by government pensions earned through work on which you did not pay Social Security tax. For more information,

visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free 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.

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 5

★★★ HOO BOY!

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School board notes

By Don Woodyard

Our February coverage includes board actions in the Canutillo, San Elizario and Anthony school districts. The far-flung Clint Independent School District will follow. We will tell you about actions of its board of trustees that affect students and families in Horizon City, East Montana and the town of Clint.

February 12 Canutillo ISD

The board consulted with the district's consul on two possible land acquisitions. The first was for Arellano Elementary School. The second was for acquiring additional land adjacent to the main administrative facility on Artcraft Road. No action was taken.

The board approved a monetary donation for a rose garden at Gonzalo and Sofia Garcia Elementary.

Lilia Martinez, academic language services director, presented the district's three nominees for the BEEMS conference.

Sylvia Gonzalez, principal of Garcia Elementary, is nominated for Administrator of the Year. ESL Teacher of the Year nominee is Dr. Blanca Luna from Canutillo Middle. The Bilingual Education Teacher of the Year nominee is Isabel Ruiz from Canutillo Elementary.

February 13 San Elizario ISD

Efforts to place SEISD into a smaller, more competitive district have failed.

Bernie del Hierro, SEISD's Athletic Department director, told board members that the UIL (University Interscholastic League) has turned down a bid to have San Elizario go from District 4-A to District 3-A. This means that San Elizario, with a high school attendance of just under, 1,000, will compete against teams with high schools of 1,500-2,000 such as Del Valle and Canutillo.

If the attendance had been under 980, Del Hierro said, its teams would be competing against smaller schools such as Anthony, Clint, Fabens and Tornillo.

"The majority of the coaches had hoped we would be in the smaller district where we would be more successful and more competitive," he said.

"It's going to be very tough," the director

added. "We are ready to work hard. The coaches know the cards they've been dealt."

Dedication of the Alexandra Flores park is scheduled for the end of February, reported George Luevano, the support services director. He was working on a date with County Commissioner Miguel Teran.

As reported in the January meeting, a monument dedication plaque has already been installed at the park. Signs for community hours have been posted, and the irrigation system has been installed.

Luevano also reported that the district's water treatment plant, which was purchased for use by a Mexico community, is awaiting appropriate clearances before it is transported across the border.

February 19 Anthony ISD

During the open forum portion, an Anthony High School student spokesman reproved the board for its actions last month in leaving the official school colors at Columbia blue and white with red trim. Students last month had asked the board to make navy/royal blue a part of the official school colors.

"It should be our choice," the unidentified student said reproachfully. "Students wear the colors, not the school board. (You) ignored and overlooked us."

In the open forum process, there is no reply from board members.

Representatives from the DBG accounting firm gave AISD high marks as it made its 2007 audit report.

"The district is in very good condition financially," they said. "The staff has worked real hard." They reported the district had the necessary fund balances to support district operations. "You have a good team here."

Three educators who are trainers and consultants gave a detailed presentation on a balanced literacy program which will be phased in, beginning with grades K-2 in the next school year.

The board approved the town of Anthony's request to transfer a set of bleachers from the football field to the baseball park as district teams play their games at the park.

The town will replace bleachers at the field.



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