



NEWSBRIEFS

Sunrise service

The Horizon City Kiwanis Club will hold their 33rd Annual Sunrise Service on Sunday, March 23, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. in Horizon City's Corky Corcoran Park, 500 Rodman. The service will include presentation of the colors by a local Boy Scout Troop and special music. Should the weather turn bad, the service will be moved indoors. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Mortgages

Although adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) have recently been affecting many homeowners negatively, they're still available. If you're in the market for a house, you should know what they are and how they might affect you. Unlike fixed-rate loans where the interest rate stays the same for the life of the loan, the interest rate on an ARM changes periodically, usually in relation to an index. As a result, your monthly mortgage payments may go up substantially, especially if you received a low introductory rate. Find out more, including how ARMs work, issues borrowers may face, and ways to reduce risks with the Consumer Handbook On Adjustable Rate Mortgages. This informative publication from the Federal Reserve Board costs \$1.00. For your copy, send your name, address, and a check or money order for \$1.00 to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 349R, Pueblo, CO 81009. Or call toll-free 1-888-878-3256, and ask for Item 349R. Have your credit card handy. And visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov to read or print this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.

New church

The Swedenborgian Church announces the opening of the New Church of the Southwest Desert, to be located at 1302 Bennett Street in Silver City, NM. Open House celebrations will be held Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Worship services will be held each Sunday at 11:30 a.m., beginning April 6, 2008. All are invited to attend. For more information, call 575-590-2979 or visit: www.SouthwestSwedenborgians.com.

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting investigators from the F.B.I. in locating an offender who committed a bank robbery in Socorro, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Saturday, Feb. 23, approximately ten o'clock in the morning, a lone man walked into the Big 8 store at 10720 North Loop in Socorro and jumped over the counter of the Wells Fargo branch in the store. He brandished a gun and demanded money. After receiving an undisclosed amount of funds, he fled the scene out the back door of the store. The suspect was described as an Hispanic male in

See BRIEFS, Page 2

Lawyers would have a hard time making a living if people behaved themselves and kept their promises.

— Quips & Quotes

Six Socorro schools qualify for Destination ImagiNation State Competition

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Six Socorro ISD (SISD) schools advance to the Destination ImagiNation State Competition in April. There were 71 teams from area school district including SISD that competed in the day-long event at Americas High School on March 1. Only 14 teams advanced to the next round of competition to be held in Austin, Texas. Among those are teams from Americas High School, Bill Sybert School, O'Shea Keleher School, Sierra Vista Elementary, Sun Ridge Middle School and Vista Del Sol Elementary.

"This competition shows students how to collaborate and bring together all their skills to reach a common goal. Destination ImagiNation lets students think outside of the box and use their creativity and push the limits of their imagination," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson.

The teams had to test their skills in areas including:

- Obstacles, Of Course. This focuses on Technical Design and Construction, Innovation and Design Process, Mathematics, Experimentation, Theater Arts, Teamwork;
- Hit or Myth. This category combines Science, Theater Arts, Research, Teamwork, International Studies;
- I've got a secret! This competition includes Playwriting, Theater Arts (Design, Construction, Costumes and Set Pieces), Optical Physics, Teamwork;
- Chorific. Chorific focuses on Improvisational Acting, Story Development, Theater Arts, Teamwork, Sound Design;
- SWITCH! SWITCH focuses on Architectural Design, Structural Engineering, Construction, Research, Innovation and Design Process, Mathematics, Theater Arts, Teamwork; and
- TWISDID History — focusing on Imagining Possibilities, Storytelling, Research, History, Geometric Shapes, Performing in front



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick / Socorro ISD

THINKING AND TINKERING — The Americas High School Destination ImagiNation team placed first in the SWITCH category — even putting an eight gram bridge project up against other bridges weighing 22 grams in a test of strength. The team players are, clockwise starting with coach Denise Robles, Jeremy Webb, Monica Padron, Nicole Garcia, Christopher Ferman and Anthony Castillo.

of an audience, Working with others.

"Participating in Destination ImagiNation builds our students' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. "All the students who took part in this challenge are building their imagination along with their academic skills."

The team from Bill Sybert School will head to Austin after winning first place for their presentation of "The Princess and the Pea" in the "Hit or Myth" category. The students worked on disproving the story and used props and dis-

plays as part of their entry.

"They chose the legend of "The Princess and the Pea" and took it through the scientific method to disprove it," said Team manager Chavez. "During this process, they would use their problem solving skills. They would run into bumps and figure it out."

For Sybert student, Nastasha Johnson, the competition is a whirlwind of activity.

"It gets very emotional and it can become a roller coaster," said the 10-year trying to pre-

See COMPETITION, Page 8



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

BILINGUAL STANDOUTS — Canutillo ISD educators named outstanding by the Bilingual Education Organization are, from left, Dr. Blanca Luna, BEEMS ESL Secondary Teacher of the Year; Sylvia Gonzalez, BEEMS Administrator of the Year; and Isabel Ruiz, BEEMS Elementary Bilingual Teacher of the Year.

Canutillo ISD educators recognized by bilingual organization

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Three educators in the Canutillo Independent School District were recently recognized for their contributions to promote high quality bi-

lingual education programs during the 15th Annual BEEMS (Bilingual Educators Emphasizing and Mastering Standards) Conference.

Sylvia Gonzalez, Gonzalo & Sofia Garcia Elementary School principal, was named

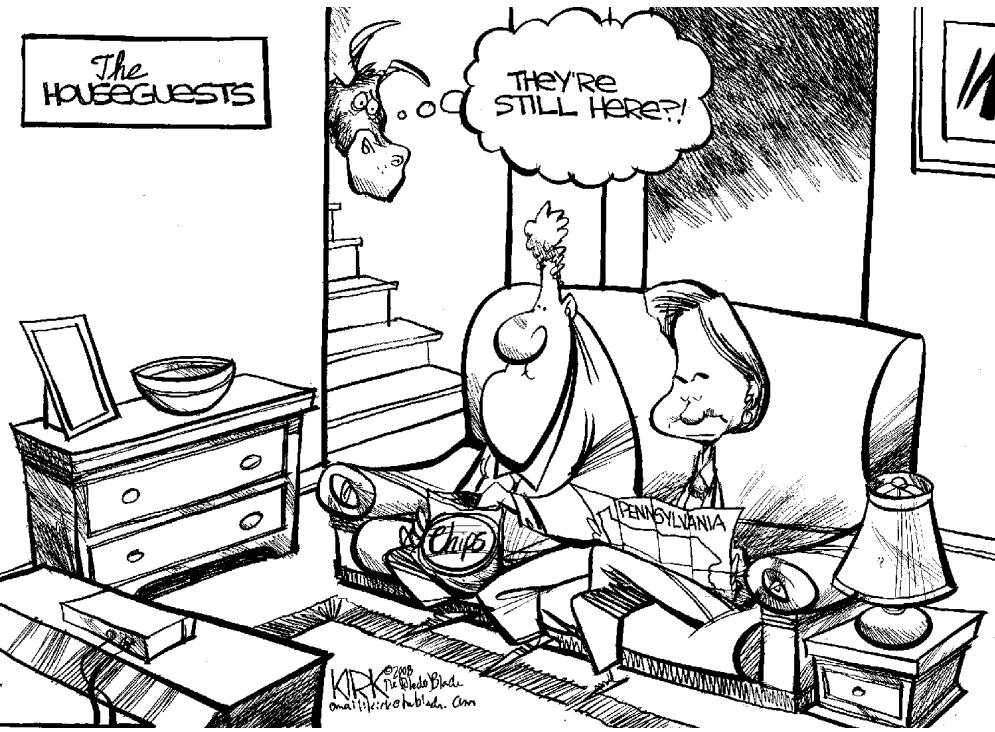
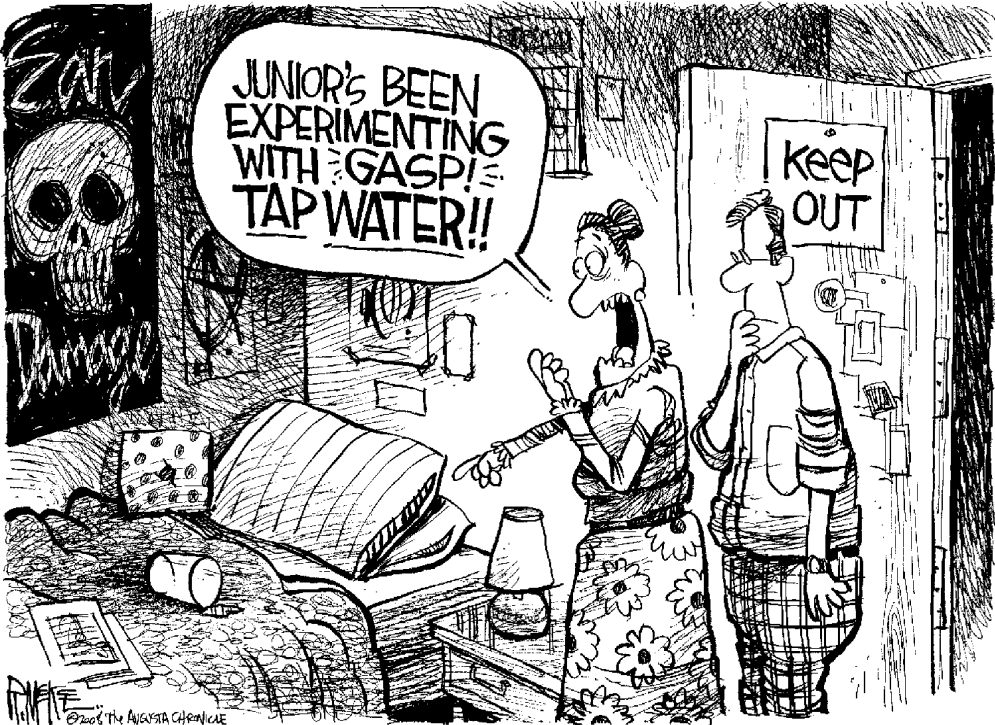
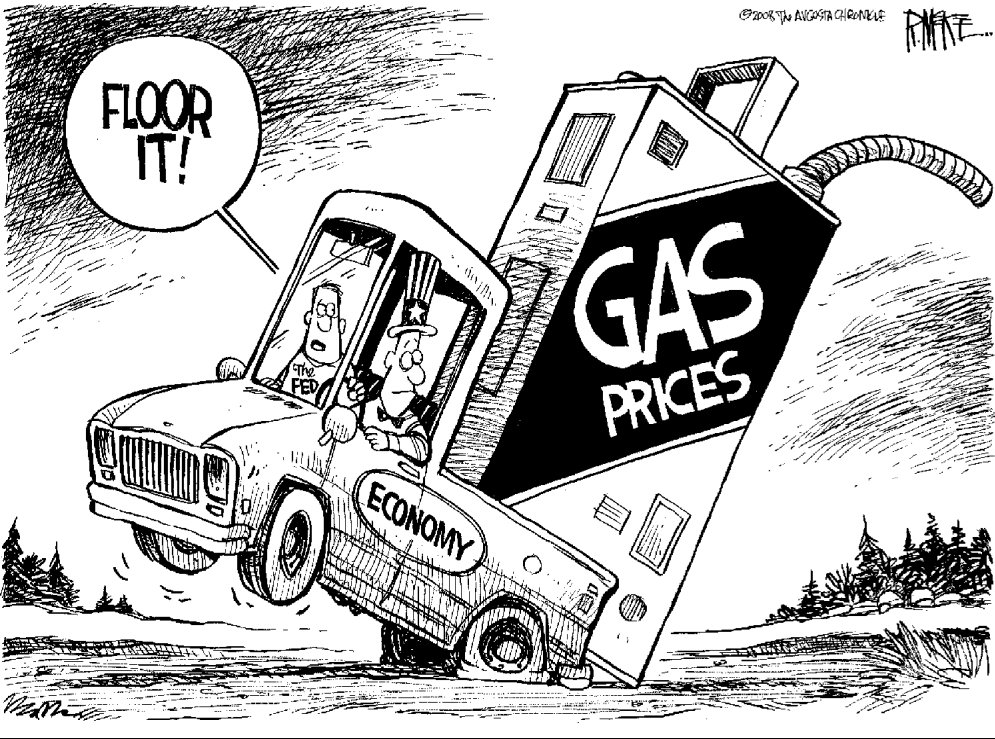
See BILINGUAL, Page 8

Ortega sworn in

Priscilla Ortega was sworn in as a member of the San Elizario Independent School District Board of Trustees by Judge Ruben Lujan. Ortega took the oath of office at the school district's regularly scheduled board meeting on March 12. She will be serving as Trustee for Place No. 7 previously held by former Board President Roberto Garcia. After drawing no opponents for the upcoming May 10 school board election, current Board President, Ramon Holguin, Vice-President, Ramon Martine, and Trustee Fernie Madrid will be re-appointed to serve another term.



— Contributed by Cynthia P. Marentes



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

LEADING THE WAY — Clint ISD's recycling efforts are being directed by the Facilities and Construction Staff. From left are Yvonne Aranda, Tommy Garcia, Sandra Odenborg.

Clint ISD goes green

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

Recycling in Clint ISD is well underway. The District's recycling program was kicked off in November of 2007 and is already making an impact on the environment. In February of 2008 alone, 10.5 tons of recycled materials were disposed of districtwide.

"Turning 'green' demonstrates the commitment the District has towards the environment and the future for our students," says Sandra Odenborg, Director of Facilities and Construction.

The current recycling program is based on "mixed recycling" which allows flexibility in collecting the recyclable items. Recycling bins can be found throughout all campuses and facilities. Paper, cans and bottles can be placed in these bins. Friedman Recycling collects the recycled materials from the District.

The amount of solid waste going into the trash has been reduced districtwide. In some areas, the amount of waste has decreased by more than half. Over time, the costs of trash disposal for the district will also be reduced.


Clint ISD, for over 20 years, has been making efforts to be environmentally friendly. In 1996,

the district implemented an Energy Management Program encouraging energy conservation at all campuses and facilities by monitoring the gas, electricity, and water usage of the district. This program has also resulted in significant savings for the district. "Providing a comfortable setting for students and staff while still controlling consumption is the goal of this program," says Tommy Garcia, Energy manager for Clint ISD.

Through the SCORE program, the district has partnered with the El Paso Electric Company to consider all alternatives to conserve electricity districtwide. Consultants provide information to the district, benchmarking, planning workshops, and review plans in new construction. The District also operates on shorter weeks in the summer time to conserve on energy usage. This has also provided the district with considerable savings each year.

As Clint ISD grows, new campuses and facilities are being constructed. The District is making efforts to utilize green products by incorporating those products in construction of new buildings.

"To be environmentally friendly, we need to do what will make an impact. We need to be role models for our students by promoting recycling and energy conservation," says Odenborg.



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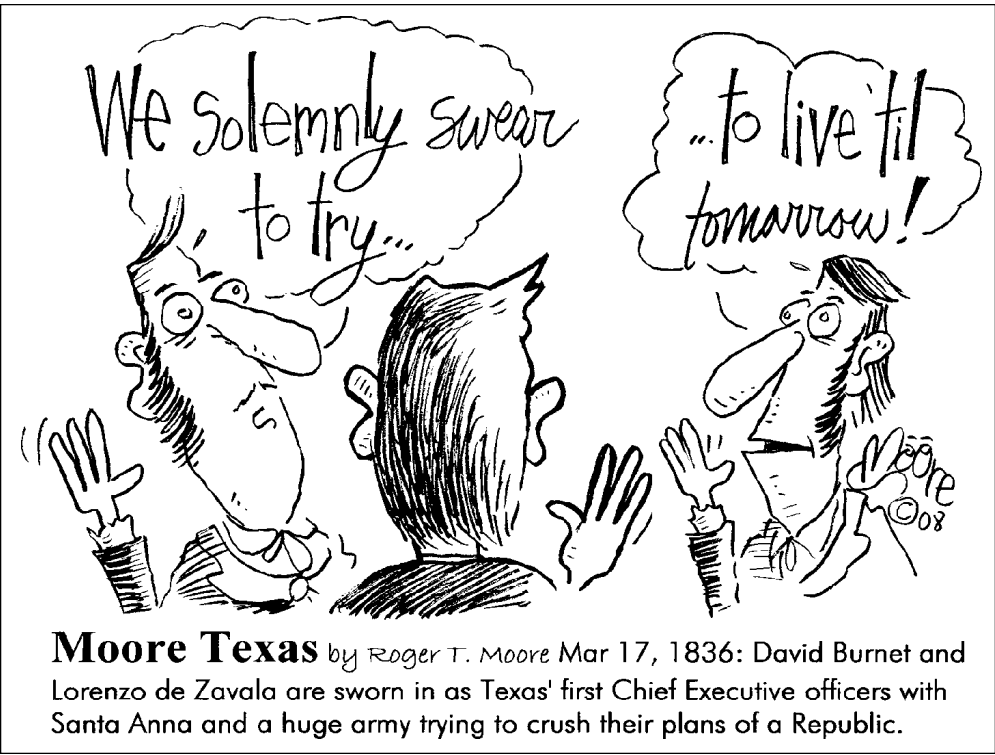
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UTEP men and women will play post season basketball

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

What is happening to the basketball teams at UTEP? It looks like everybody is getting ready to play some post season basketball. Anyone remember the last time the men and women played basketball this time of year? Me neither — because it’s never happened before. After years and years of cheering the UTEP men at the NCAA Tournament or the NIT, this year is one for the ages in El Paso.

For the first time in school history, the UTEP women are playing playoff basketball of any kind and the UTEP men are among the first to host a game in the brand new College Basketball Invitational.

The UTEP men will host old rival Utah on Wednesday and the UTEP women take on Western Kentucky Saturday in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament in Palo Alto, Calif.

Then things change a bit. The UTEP men will have an excellent chance to play yet another game at home against the Miami (OH)-Tulsa winner.

Why? I’ve heard two explanations so far. UTEP told me it all comes down to which team has the higher attendance figure at the opening round game. UTEP averages nearly 3,000 more a game than Tulsa.

The BCI guys told me it all came down to who the higher seed was. UTEP in the top seed in the South Regional, Tulsa is second and Miami (OH) is third.

So both scenarios lean toward the Miners getting a second home game, as long as they win the first game.

As for the women, if they get past Western Kentucky in the first round, what awaits them is a likely game with second seeded Stanford on their home court.

Now that doesn’t sound very fair does it? But if any team can pull the big upset, UTEP can. It wouldn’t surprise me in the least if the Lady Miners shocked the Pac-10 bullies.

What a week. UTEP basketball fans will get to watch some post season basketball in person against an old nemesis. They’ll get to cheer on the women’s team like they literally never have before.

And I’ll bet you didn’t attend a single men’s or women’s game in person this year — shame on you.

Pants are on fire

Somebody lied to us. I don’t know who it was but the sports fans of El Paso were certainly sold a bill of goods, that’s for sure.

When the UTEP Miners were shopping around for a new conference a couple years ago, I remember hearing one of the reasons Conference USA was the best choice was the fact that El Pasoans would enjoy the superior TV package they were offering.

It now appears that the term “superior TV package” meant: “I hope you have a good radio.”

It’s obvious by all the phone calls to local radio personalities John Teicher and Steve Kaplowitz, that UTEP fans are very frustrated that very few road games have been televised this season, in football and now in basketball.

They all wonder what happened? They too were expecting an improvement over what they were getting in the WAC. And they clearly are not.

Even my father called me during the early going of last week’s C-USA Tournament. He told me he was puzzled why he could pick up almost every college basketball tournament game imaginable on the satellite — except for UTEP — which was playing SMU at the time.

It’s unusually upsetting that Miner fans

couldn’t even watch the first two games UTEP played in their own tournament. That’s ineptness if I’ve ever seen it.

Why, we get more live NMSU games than UTEP games.

I don’t know if Conference USA lied to us. I don’t know if UTEP Athletics Director Bob Stull lied to us. I don’t know if UTEP President Diana Natalicio lied to us.

All I know is that everybody said things were going to be great and El Paso would benefit

greatly if the Miners skipped out on the WAC and joined C-USA.

Just like Brian McNamee and Roger Clemens, someone is lying and I’m betting nobody is going to step up and take responsibility.

But I know one thing — El Pasoans are going to have to do what they seemingly always have to do — just sit there and take it.

We’ll sit there and take it, but my bet is it won’t be televised.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & INTENT TO APPLY FOR FUNDS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) will receive suggestions and recommendations from the public on the issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the scope of work for the amended regional water plan during the third cycle of regional water planning at a public meeting of the planning group.

Notice is also given that the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) will submit an application for financial assistance to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to carry out the scope of work. The application will be submitted on or before June 13, 2008. Jake Brisbin, Jr., RGCOG Executive Director, is the official representative of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. Region E includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Presidio and Terrell.

Town of Horizon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 the Town Of Horizon City approved the following ordinance(s):

1) ORDINANCE NO. 0102 — AMMENDMENT NO. 022 — To modify Appendix I, “Cellular Communication Towers” and Appendix II, “Ground-mounted radio or television broadcasting support structures” so as to require camouflage and screening of communica-

tion towers.
2) ORDINANCE NO. 0163 — AMMENDMENT NO. 007 — To amend the Budget Ordinance to transfer \$15,450.00 from Budget Item # 400605 (Miscellaneous Revenue to Budget Item # 508707 (Maintenance — Parks) for use in procuring, delivery and placement of compost and soil-compost mix on city parks.

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

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
WTCC: 03-20-08

BARGAINS

PEARL 9-piece Double Bass Drum Set Black complete with cymbals. Very good condition. \$1,200. Call 505-

496-2359.

COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE SCALE ACCEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

HOUSES

Houses for sale. No down, low interst, 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.

Informacion: 838-6264.

STORAGE

National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS
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Socorro student receives local Flo Hyman award

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

It’s been a busy week for 9-year-old Pamela Herrera. From meeting UTEP Women’s Basketball and Softball players to being honored at an El Paso City Council meeting, the 4th grader at Lujan Chavez Elementary was in the spotlight as the Elementary winner of the Flo Hyman Award. As part of the National Girls and Women in Sports celebration, the Flo Hyman Award was created to honor a top female athlete for her accomplishments both on and off the field of competition.

“It’s really good to get this award because it is for the whole city,” said Herrera who plays on the school’s basketball, softball and track teams. “I was really surprised. My coach told me that he was going to nominate me and last week he told me I was a finalist.”

Later that same day, Principal Yvonne Walker and Coach Rick Barraza announced to the school that Pamela had been named as

the outstanding elementary recipient of the Flo Hyman award.

“She exemplifies what this award stands for. We are really proud of her,” said Coach Barraza. “She is very outgoing and very competitive. Any sports she decides to follow she will be good at.”

“This award recognizes her spirit and commitment to excellence in the classroom and on the playing field,” said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. “She is a role



Pamela Herrera

See AWARD, Page 8

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Award

From Page 6

model to her classmates and we are proud of her accomplishment.” Awards were given in the following age groups: elementary school, middle school and high school. Pamela along with the middle school and high school recipients were recognized during a banquet hosted by UTEP on Monday, Feb. 25 and were VIP guests at the UTEP vs. SMU Women’s Basketball game on Thursday, Feb. 28. “This award celebrates the best of female athletes in El Paso. Having Pamela selected by the El Paso Girls and Women in Sports Day Committee for her contributions in academics, athletics and leadership is a great honor,” said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. The award is part of the 9th An-

nual National Girls and Women in Sports Day sponsored by the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the El Paso Parks and Recreation Department. This national celebration began in 1987 as a day to remember Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman for her athletic achievements and her work to assure equality for women in sports. Flo Hyman was a three-time All American, ranked among the top six players and named Best Hitter in World Cup Competition in 1981, a bronze medalist in the 1982 World Championship and a silver medalist in the 1984 US Olympics. It was because of her resolve and sportsmanship that the Women’s Sports Foundation established the annual Flo Hyman award to a female athlete who best exemplified over the course of her career Hyman’s dignity, spirit, and commitment to excellence.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: If I retire at age 62 will I be eligible for Medicare?

A: No. Medicare starts when you reach 65. If you retire at 62, you may be able to continue medical insurance coverage through your employer or purchase it from a private insurance company until you become eligible for Medicare. For more information see our publication, Medicare, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: It’s hard for me to get around because of my disability. Can I apply for disability benefits online?

A: Yes. Our online disability application is convenient and secure. You can apply for benefits over the Internet at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability. If you prefer, you can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to schedule an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to apply. However you

decide to apply, begin by taking a look at our Disability Starter Kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm or calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to request a copy. It will help you prepare for your application or interview.

Q: As a senior, my only income is Supplemental Security Income (SSI). My brother recently died and left me a little money. Will this extra money stop my SSI benefits?

A: It all depends on the amount of your inheritance. It is considered income for the month you received the inheritance. You will have to report that and we will adjust your benefit for the month accordingly. If you keep the money into the next month, it then becomes a part of your resources. To get SSI benefits, you are limited to \$2,000 in total resources, although there are exceptions. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and report the inheritance. We will tell you how

your eligibility will be affected. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: Will my military retirement affect my Social Security benefits?

A: No. You can get both Social Security benefits and military retirement. Generally, there is no offset of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement. You will get full benefits based on your earnings. The only way your Social Security benefit may be reduced is if you also receive a government pension based on a job in which you did not pay Social Security taxes. You can find more information in the publication Military Service and Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html. 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. Please mail any questions that you would like to have answered to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 6 ★★★★★ HOO BOY!

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Competition

From Page 1

pare for the “Chorific” category. “We don’t know what chore we get to do so we have to improvise the play using sound effects and props in six minutes.” Joining the Bill Sybert team in the Chorific category where O’Shea Keleher, William D. Slider, Sun Ridge Middle School, Vista Del Sol Elementary and El Dorado High School. “Our session went very well. The students covered all their elements,” said Destination ImagiNation Coach Antonio Miramontes from O’Shea Keleher Elementary. “They had practiced so many scenarios that they

could pick and choose or develop something new which they did. This helps develop character and improve students’ self-confidence.” “I really like it. It brings out the students’ creativity and helps them think beyond the norm,” said Sonja Kern who was with her 7-member team from William D. Slider Middle School. Preparing for their turn were students from Vista Del Sol. The school fielded two teams that were coached by 6th grade social studies teacher Margaret D. Morgan and 5th grade teacher Patricia Rodriguez. “This is a really excellent program. The students get so creative. They have to problem-solve at a moment’s notice,” said Morgan. Rodriguez agrees and adds “every time we give them a challenge, they outdo them-

selves.” Another team that was problem-solving at a moment’s notice was the Americas High School team coached by Denise Robles. The team had prepared for the SWITCH category but found out their model was below the weight limits. “We had to build a structure that was 22 grams, ours ended up at eight grams,” said Americas Junior Monique Padron. In the SWITCH category, teams designed and built a structure made completely of wood and glue. During competition, the teams tested the strength of the structure by using various weights and had to integrate a storyline within the presentation. Despite the weight difference, the Americas team placed first in the SWITCH category in the high school division.

Bilingual

From Page 1

BEEMS’ Outstanding Bilingual Administrator of the Year Elementary category. Gonzalez has 35 years of experience in education, with the last 17 years as an administrator in CISD, where she is a strong advocate for bilingual education. Isabel Ruiz, in her ninth year as a Two-Way Dual Language teacher at Canutillo Elementary School, was recognized as BEEMS’ Outstanding

Bilingual Education Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Ruiz acknowledges that good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher. Dr. Blanca Luna, seventh and eighth grade ESL teacher at Canutillo Middle School, was selected as BEEMS’ Outstanding English as a Second Language Secondary Teacher of the Year. Dr. Luna has been in the education field for seven years and believes that educators should continually commit to renew their skills and talents to better serve all students. She is a mentor

for the Big Brother, Big Sister Program and volunteers as a coach for the girl’s soccer team. Candidates for the BEEMS awards were nominated by school districts throughout the area. Winners now qualify for the Southwest Association of Bilingual Educators awards program. “We as a District, support well implemented bilingual education programs because we believe that language minority children should acquire academic English as rapidly as possible,” said Pauline Dow, BEEMS Co-Chair and CISD Associate Superintendent.



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