VOL. 35, No. 20

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

MAY 15, 2008

NEWSBRIEFS

Trash trouble

The City of El Paso Environmental Services Department is aking residents not to place their 96-gallon blue bins on the curb on windy days if the containers are not at least half full. Strong winds can tip the containers causing recyclables, which tend to be light in weight, to fly away and create a public nuisance.

Signs speed crossings

A portable message board has been installed at both the Zaragosa and Santa Fe Street (Paso Del Norte) bridges in an effort to help speed up border crossing wait times. The digital signs, placed near the U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspection stations, advise motorists and their passengers to be prepared for inspection by ending all cell phone conversations, declaring all items and having their documentation ready. Each message is displayed on an 8-second cycle and is delivered in both English and Spanish. The \$36,000 cost of the signs was paid for by bridge toll revenue.

HDTV info

Gary Sotir, General Manager of KTSM TV, will be the guest speaker at the Kiwanis Club of Horizon City meeting on Saturday, May 17, 2008. He will be discussing the switch to digital broadcasting that is to occur in February 2009. The Club meets at 8:00 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of every month at the Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City. The public is invited to come hear the facts about digital broadcasting.

Saving energy

Canutillo Independent School District (CISD), in an effort to lower energy consumption and wisely use district resources, will have an adjusted work schedule for seven weeks beginning Wednesday, June 11, through Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008. CISD employees will work four, ten-hour days from Monday through Thursday, and be off on Fridays for these seven weeks in June, July, and early August. All Canutillo ISD facilities and schools, including the Administration offices will be officially closed for business from Friday through Sunday. Business hours for the public at the administration facility will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Franchising

Entrepreneurs considering franchising can now access a new online course from the U.S. Small Business Administration and FranNet to help them navigate the competitive franchise industry. The introduction to franchising course, Franchising Basics, is a free online seminar which provides three key sections that examine more than 10 essential areas relating

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Character is made by many acts; it may be lost by a single act.

— Quips & Quotes

County residents seek fireworks ban

By Araceli Lazcano Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY - At least 30 eastcounty residents urged the Commissioner's Court to intercede before state representatives in order to ban the use of fireworks in their residential area. Residents living in Montana Vista and surrounding areas showed their discontent and preoccupation during last Monday morning's (May 12) regular session.

"It's the same every year, and we are tired that all the people go where we live to celebrate and leave their trash behind," Tina Silva said, a Montana Vista resident and community activist.

During her presentation, Silva gave the Commissioner's Court a petition with more than 200 signatures from people who reside in that part of the county. They are hoping the commissioners could restrict as well as establish a designated zone for the use of fireworks.

"For many years, we have had this problem, however, there not much that we, the local governments, can do. The only option available is to keep on pushing the state legislators to take this matter into their hands and help to come up with a banning on the sale of fire-

Teran added.

At the same time, County Judge Anthony Cobos, called for the establishment of a designated zone for the use of fireworks to be added to next year's legislative agenda, this in order to protect the families that live in that area.

Among the concerns expressed by the Montana Vista residents:

- The lack of sufficient water;
- The risk of fires on their property;
- The response time of the volunteer fire department; and
- The excessive amount of trash left behind after each celebration.

Federico Camarena told the Commissioner's Court that during the 20 years he has lived in the Montana Vista area, the situation has gotten worse every year. He said every time it is more difficult for the rescue teams to provide a faster response without being stuck in the traffic jam caused by the people who frequent the area to celebrate.

"My trailer burned three years ago, it took the fire department three hours to arrive, and I lost everything. For many, the Fourth of July is a day full of joy — but our families' only see it as a day of fear," Camarena said.

The east-county residents were represented by Precinct 3 commissioner-elect, Willie works," Precinct 3 Commissioner Miguel A. Gandara, who will be sworn in next January.

Pipeline not wanted in east El Paso County

By Araceli Lazcano Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — County Commissioner Miguel Teran has urged the State Department to deny a Presidential Permit to PMI Services North America who wants to construct and operate a 28 mile pipeline along the border to transport gasoline and diesel to Mexico.

The project proposed by Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) would run from the Longhorn storage tanks, located close to the intersection of Montana and Zaragosa Road, all the way to Mexico.

Last Wednesday (May 7) the State Department held a public meeting at the Lower Valley Water District offices with approximately 100 people attending.

Joining the concerned residents who live in the eastern part of the county were federal, state, and local elected officials or their representatives.

"There are 7,500 families living above the projected pipeline, three municipalities, and six water districts that could be affected if a leak or explosion may occur," Teran said. "One hundred percent of my constituents are not in favor of this project and nobody speaking tonight agreed with the proposed pipeline."

County Commissioner-elect Willie Gandara Jr. expressed his concern about the possibility of a massive emergency and the lack of information available to the community from the company in charge of the project. "As a constituent of this area I believe it is unfortunate our opinions had not been taken into consideration. If this pipeline is constructed, it will only mean a catastrophe for area residents and the Lower Valley," he said.

Maria Carmona, a Montana Vista resident, said that she and her family live less than 600 feet away from the proposed pipeline and she does not want to see the homestead she has built with lots of sacrifice to be put in jeopardy. "My children and grandchildren won't have a future like other American citizens. I beg the federal government to take us into consideration because if you don't listen to us our lives would be a constant worry."

Most of the concerns expressed by residents and farmers during the hearing were related to the possibility of a hazardous situation affecting not only them but also the students attending schools along the pipeline route. Participants also spoke about the imminent underground and irrigation water contamination, depreciation of property, and a possible lack of fire or medical services in case of a massive emergency.

Mayors for the cities of Socorro, San Elizario, Horizon, and Clint, as well as representatives of the Socorro Independent School District and El Paso Community College provided the State Department a copy of adopted resolutions opposing the pipeline construction.

Although the State Department does not have a statute of limitations to conclude their

County elections decided by few voters

By Don Woodyard Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — From Anthony to Fabens, a handful of El Paso County voters decided the fate and future of issues and individuals in Saturday's general elections.

Of the 245,850 registered voters in El Paso County, only 6,563 went to the polls in 118 precincts, according to data from the county Elections Department. That comes to 2.67 percent. Elections Administrator Javier Chacon was "disappointed" by the low turnout.

He said Tuesday that the results as posted on its website are "unofficial final" and are subject to change from ballots that may still be coming in from military personnel overseas. The results would be made official Thursday.

Note: Two numbers are given for each candidate, such as (180/55). The first number is votes received; second number is percentage of total votes cast.

Anthony ISD

Board of Trustees (at-large positions)

Two were elected to board positions. They were Chrissy Singh - (61/38). She was followed by Michelle Hernandez (52/32.7). A total of 159 residents went to the polls.

Village of Vinton

Incumbent Mayor Madeleine Praino defeated former mayor and alderperson Juvencia Rios Ontiveros. Her numbers were 126/52) to Ontiveros with (116/47.9)

Alderperson Place 1

Winner was Yassu Grier — (129/53). He beat out Victor Gonzalez Jr. — (113/46.9).

Alderperson Place 2

Socorro ISD

Yolanda Lucero won -(134/56.5). She defeated Bertha Candaleria — (103/43.4).

Board of Trustees (at-large positions)

The two winners were Joe Sarabia — (1,172/23.6) and Tony Ayub - (983/19.8)

Horizon City

Four council positions were up for grabs in Horizon City. There were 619 votes cast.

Alderman Place 1

The winner is Ruben Mendoza -(275/46.5)**Alderman Place 2**

The winner is Don Smasal –(296/50)

Alderman Place 4

-(345/58.6)Kathy Masters won

Alderman Place 6

Carole Zimmerman - (337/56.7) was vic-

Horizon MUD

Board of Directors

There were 655 votes cast for two board positions.

Position 1

Benny Davis — (361/55) emerged victori-

Position 2

Bob Jarvis -(391/59.4) was the winner.

Lower Valley Water District There were 522 votes cast in the first race.

Position 4

David Armstrong won with 100 percent of the votes. He was unopposed.

Position 5

There were 1,037 votes cast in this race. Alicia Fresquez was the clear winner —

City of Socorro

There were 1,152 votes cast in mayoral race.

The winner was Trini Lopez -(783/67.9). There were five aldermanic races.

See ELECTIONS, Page 8

See PIPELINE, Page 4

Mountain View student awarded at State Science Fair



A study of magnetic fields and its effect on biofuels earned Jessica Ramirez a Second Place award at the Exxon Mobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair. Ramirez, a student at Mountain View High School, was one of over a thousand students in middle and high school to compete in the state level science fair in April. In her second year of study and experimentation of this topic, Ramirez has determined that magnetic fields increase the germination rate and growth rate of corn. This can lead to an accelerated production of corn for conversion to biofuel.



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

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Socorro ISD's Future Educators to serve as historians

By Irma Flores Special to the Courier

Socorro High School students are getting a jump start on their future careers as educators. The chapter of the Texas Association of Future Educators at Socorro received several honors at the annual convention in Frisco, Texas. In addition, the chapter was elected to serve as state historian for the organization.

"Our students are learning about the teaching profession, its opportunities, responsibilities, and its important role in our world," said SISD Su-

perintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. dren in need. The chapter was also ties of character, service, and leader- Character", a children's book writship which are essential in good teachers."

Led by sponsors Marie Cox and Melissa Haggerty, the 30-member chapter met with students from across the state to learn about different projects and take in leadership workshops. At the two-day conference, the Socorro chapter received a blue ribbon for the scrapbook contest and for its service project, "Operation Christmas Child." For this project, students fill shoe boxes with different items and send them to chil-

"They are also cultivating the quali- presented another project "Count on ten and illustrated by Perla Soriano and Marilu Castellano. Two members also competed in the Speech competition. Brenda Pimentel and Monica Arrago placed 1st and 2nd during the regional contest. Socorro senior Pimental was ranked 3rd out of 20 participants.

> "This was first year competing. I had a huge knot in my stomach. I didn't think I would get anything at all," said Pimentel who hopes to

> > See HISTORIANS, Page 5



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Fighting against the pipeline

U.S. Depart-

held its required public hearing on the portunity for El Pasoans to speak dimately decide whether the pipeline was permitted.

I was very impressed with the number of attendees who put forth excellent arguments against the pipeline. Everyone contributed a relevant the pipeline did not belong at the proposed location.

Early on in the process of fighting the pipeline, my office became a center for coordinating the effort. We collected petitions from residents,

Hola, mi that clearly attacked any thought that have in the hearing provided a much gente. On the pipeline is in the national inter-stronger argument than that provided May 7, the est. There is too much evidence that by PEMEX. I am very hopeful that the pipeline is injurious to El Paso ment of State County as now proposed.

This week I sent a copy of the testiproposed pipeline in East El Paso mony prepared by my office to the County. The meeting was the one op- offices of Congressmen Reyes and Rodriguez, Senators Cornyn and rectly to the agency that would ulti- Hutchison, the Homeland Security Office of Governor Perry, the Office over the testimony of the local of the Speaker of the House, Commissioner Patterson of the General Land Office, and Commissioner Staples of the Department of Agriculture. I am asking those offices to join the fight fact that reinforced our argument that on behalf of El Paso County so that the pipeline will not be approved.

I do, however, have to recognize the reality of fighting international oil companies. Many of the political leaders, including the state leaders, have in the past taken very pro-oil resolutions against the pipeline from positions. In contrast to those argucities and school districts, and ments in favor of families and farmworked with the farmers. From all of ers, it seems that arguments in favor this cooperation, I was able to de- of oil issues are given the greater your friend and public servant, velop a 26 page written testimony consideration. I am confident that we Chente for la gente.

we do prevail.

The decision about the pipeline is the responsibility of the Department of State in consultation with various other federal agencies. Through this procedure, the final decision may be based on the opinion of the agencies people. Normally I would be grim. But because so many people testified to the State Department, the outcome may not be so obvious.

I can say without reservation that there is no one in El Paso County that wants the pipeline. I am proud of the effort that so many individuals and entities put forth in fighting PEMEX. We will know how well we argued at the end of July. Let us all say a prayer that the federal government listens to it citizens and denies this multinational corporation its request.

Gracias, mi gente, and I remain



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Stimulus check deadline moved

and President

economic stimulus plan that will provide thousands of El Pasoans and millions of Americans with a tax rebate of up to \$600 per individual, plus \$300 per child beginning this month. I was proud to support these rebates — it was important that my colleagues and I acted promptly to provide hard working Americans with this incentive as part of a larger plan to improve our economy.

While April 15 is the annual deadline for filing taxes with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the agency has extended that deadline to October 15 for those individuals who might qualify to receive a stimulus payment, but are normally not required to file their taxes with the IRS. This includes individuals who receive Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits, recipients of certain veterans' payments, low-income workers with earned income

As many of and/or benefits of at least \$3,000, and you know, the individuals who have combined in-U.S. Con- come of at least \$3,000 from any gress passed combination of these sources.

these funds are unaware of this extended filing deadline. It is important to note that this extended deadline is not to file federal taxes, but to claim eligibility for the stimulus payment. If you believe you may qualify, you should claim your eligibility with the IRS immediately to receive your check as soon as possible. Also, filing well in advance of the deadline allows individuals to make any necessary corrections, should the IRS discover errors in their paperwork.

Many residents in our community rely on Social Security, veterans' benefits, and other assistance as their primary source of income. If you are normally not required to file taxes with the IRS and earned more than \$3,000, you may qualify to receive a stimulus payment. If you know of someone who might qualify for these funds, please inform them of the October 15 extended deadline.

Unfortunately, many scam artists are taking advantage of the federal stimulus package to defraud individuals of their checks. Many indi-While many El Pasoans have al- viduals across the country have re-George W. ready received their stimulus checks, ceived calls from people claiming to Bush signed into law a bipartisan many more who might qualify for represent the IRS. People should never disclose their personal security information, such as their Social Security number and financial information, over the telephone, or the internet. The IRS will never contact you to provide such information.

> For those who have received your stimulus payment and have questions about the amount you received, the IRS has created an "Economic Stimulus Payment Calculator" for recipients to review their calculations. The Economic Stimulus Payment Calculator can be found at http:/ /www.irs.gov/app/espc/ and calculates the amount of your stimulus payment before any offsets against federal tax debts, other non-tax federal debts, and state income tax debts.

> Those with further questions can also call 1-800-829-1040 to speak with an IRS representative. People may also contact my office at 915-

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THE DECLARATION OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE





Lead found in Mexican candy, recall under way

By Emily Palmer Special to the Courier

An El Paso company is voluntarily recalling containers of a granulated candy imported from Mexico after testing by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) found elevated lead levels that could cause health problems.

Distributor Mexican Specialty Products El Loco, Inc., is recalling all lots of the JOVY brand of Acirrico Sour and Hot Powder manufactured by Procesadora de Alimentos Cale, S.A. de C.V.

The orange granular product is packaged in 33 gram white plastic containers with a red shaker-style lid. The label features red lettering outlined in white, blue and black with a picture of a red chile above the name of the product.

DSHS officials said the problem is with the product, not with the distributor.

Laboratory tests show lead levels above 0.1 lead levels should of parts per million, which is considered to be a clinic about testing.

potential public health hazard by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Product samples ranged from 0.208 to 0.407 parts per million of lead. The tests were part of DSHS product surveillance.

Eating products containing lead can be especially harmful to infants, young children and pregnant women. Too much lead intake can result in delayed mental and physical development and learning deficiencies.

Children who have high blood lead levels may be tired or cranky, not have much appetite, have headaches, vomit, be constipated, be clumsy or weak, not be able to sleep or not be able to pay attention. Some children who have lead poisoning may not look or act sick.

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

Castroville meat company recalls beef jerky

By Doug McBride Special to the Courier

R&R Alsatian Sausage and Products is recalling beef jerky sold in bulk quantities at its Castroville location on April 25 and later. The jerky is being recalled because of possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes, a bacterium.

Consumers who have the product should not eat it and should destroy it or return it to the company. Packages contain the product name and company name.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) laboratory testing detected Listeria monocytogenes in samples of the beef jerky. The testing was part of a routine DSHS inspection.

Listeria monocytogenes can cause listeriosis. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches

and sometimes diarrhea or nausea. Headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance or convulsions may occur if the infection spreads to the nervous system. The incubation period is usually from 12 hours to three weeks but can be longer.

Healthy adults and children rarely become seriously ill from Listeria infection.

Pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems are at greater risk. Pregnant women may only have mild cases of the illness, but infections during pregnancy can lead to premature delivery, miscarriage, stillbirths or babies being born with infections that can be life threatening.

DSHS is not aware of any illnesses associated with the recalled product.

More information is available from the company by calling (830) 931-2430.

Dope seized, gang busted

By Matthew Taylor Special to the Courier

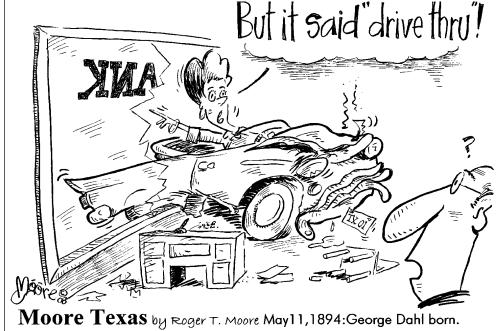
EL PASO — John J. Riley, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), El Paso Field Division, announced the arrests of Rafael Garcia, Jorge Garcia, Manuel Gonzales, Aida Cervantes, Andres Cardenas, Margareta Avila, Melissa Avila and Michael Avila and the seizure of 1,603 pounds of marijuana on May 8, 2008.

The Rafael Garcia Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) has been the subject of a DEA Task Force investigation by the DEA, El Paso

thru banking facility in Dallas.

County Sheriff's Office, El Paso Police Department, United States Border Patrol, and the United States Attorney's Office. The Garcia DTO is predominantly involved in the illegal importation, bulk storage, and transportation of large quantities of marijuana into the United States for Mexican drug cartels. Additionally, the Garcia DTO was responsible for transporting large quantities of marijuana to cities throughout the United States.

"Illegal activities associated with drug trafficking and associated violence will not be tolerated. These arrests would not have been possible without the cooperation and critical assistance of our law enforcement partners. The DEA and its law enforcement partners will hold organizations like the Garcia DTO accountable and responsible for their illicit activities," Riley said.



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AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE OF A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 P.O. Box 3880 Fabens, TX 79838-3880 (915) 764-2212 May 5, 2008

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS:

The USDA Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4. The proposed project consists of:

DESCRIPTION OF OWNER'S PROJECT (Water System)

WELL NO. 4:

The project for Well #4 consists of furnishing and installing equipment to pump water from Well No. 4 including pump, shaft, column piping, discharge head base, pump appurtenances and the motor for the well. The obligations under this contract shall consist of delivery, furnishing and installing the well equipment, materials, manufacturer's shop drawings, submittals, articles, mechanical completion, training, delivery, and other appurtenances and items for complete and functional system of the Well, cement-lined ductile iron piping, controls, valves and related appurtenances; construct retention pond; construct a Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) building to house all electrical and miscellaneous equipment, AC unit, a steel structural steel canopy, gravel driveway with header curb, furnish and install 12-inch ductile iron well collector line and connect to the existing well transmission main inside the fenced area, all associated above ground yard piping and appurtenances, trench safety system, all labor and materials necessary for an operational well site.

10th STREET BOOSTER STATION SITE:

The booster station water system improvements consists of furnishing and installing filter treatment unit including backwash, inline booster, and reclaim pumps, reclaim tank, prefabricated metal building including ventilation, lighting, architectural fascia, controls and all related appurtenances; construct retention pond; provide and install centrifugal booster pumps, valves, cement-lined ductile iron piping, meter, related appurtenances, CMU building expansion attached to existing booster station; furnish and install 0.5 MG steel reservoir, and all associated above ground yard piping and appurtenances; construct site improvements including site grading, retention pond and gravel driveway with header curb, trench safety system, and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, all labor and materials necessary for an operational site.

The work covered under this contract will be performed at Well No. 4 site located at 1220 Camp Northeast; the 10th Street Booster Station site is located at 990 Walker Ave.

DESCRIPTION OF OWNER'S PROJECT (Wastewater Treatment Plant)

The overall project will consist of the following improvements to the wastewater plant: The construction of a new 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd) pre-engineered extended aeration wastewater treatment plant located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the intersection of State Highway 20 (Alameda) and Fabens Road adjacent to the existing wastewater treatment plant. The site is located at 17154 Alameda Avenue. The existing wastewater treatment plant will be abandon in place.

The new plant will be located adjacent and east of the existing Fabens Wastewater Treatment Plant. Work shall include, but not be limited to, all equipment and installation, complete in place, 10 feet beyond the existing limits of the existing fence, according to the plans and specifications as fol-

lows: site work, grading, and site finish work; chain link fence; controls, valves and related appurtenances; architectural fascia and noise attenuation blankets, controls and related appurtenances; plant water booster station including pumps, controls, valves, stainless steel piping and all related appurtenances, headworks system including controls, valves and all related appurtenances; extended aeration system including controls, valves, PVC piping, stainless steel piping, slide gates, blowers, silencers, filters, and all related appurtenances; belt press system including controls, sludge pump, polymer feed system, piping and all related appurtenances; chlorine disinfection system including controls, valves, chlorine equipment , stainless steel weir, jib crane and all related appurtenances; plant drain station including controls, pumps, PVC piping, and all related appurtenances; Plant water station including controls, pumps, and all related appurtenances; effluent flow meter, controls and all related appurtenances.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Rural Utilities Service has assessed the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and has determined that the proposal will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an Environment Impact Statement will not be prepared. The basis of this determination is that the original Environmental Information Document (EID) that was conducted in January 2001 for the specific upgrades and expansions to improve the water and wastewater infrastructure within the current District boundaries has not changed. Therefore, no changes to the EID are required. A Supplemental Information Record was conducted on September 2007 to address any changes on the existing environment based on the proposed improvements. No environmental impacts were found to affect the environment receptors in the study area.

In March 2008, Brown and Caldwell, the District's engineering firm, contracted with Geo-Marine, Inc. to conduct an archaeological survey for construction of the new wastewater treatment plant and the refitting of an existing water tank for the town of Fabens, Texas. The Texas Antiquities Permit number for the project is 4855. No historic or prehistoric cultural materials were located during the survey. Geo-Marine, Inc. also excavated backhoe trenches to sample the larger survey block in an effort to determine if any buried cultural remains were present; no subsurface cultural remains were observed. No isolated occurrences were identified during the course of the project.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment can be reviewed or obtained at the USDA-Rural Development Office, 11940 Don Haskins, Suite E-1, El Paso, Texas 79935, (915) 855-1229. For further information, please contact Anita Sprankle, Rural Development Manager at (915) 855-1229.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDINGS

All interested agencies, groups, and individuals disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 at the address set forth above.

Such written comments must be received at the address specified no later than 4:30 P.M., May 23, 2008.

All such comments so received will be considered by the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4. The District will not submit the Request for Release of Funds or take further administrative action on the project prior to the end of the comment period specified. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

Geri de la Torre West Texas County Courier Interim General Manager Published: El Paso County Water Control May 15, 2008 and Improvement District No. 4

Pipeline

From Page 1

final recommendation they will be collecting comments for a 30 day period. Comments may be sent to:

• Mail: Elizabeth Orlando OES/ENV Room

2657 U.S. Department of State Washington, DC 20520

• Fax:

(202) 647-1052

Attention: Elizabeth Orlando

• E-mail: orlandoea2@state.gov

Briefs

From Page 1

to franchising, including Is Franchising Right for You and How to Choose the Right Franchise. The course also covers franchising options, strategies for growth, and pitfalls to avoid. Course participants will be able to better understand franchising and decide if it is the best small business option for them. The Franchising Basics course can be accessed from the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov, under the Free Online Training icon by selecting Franchising Basics in the Starting a Business section. The courses can be reviewed at the learner's own pace and in their own time, and a certificate of completion will be provided to participants who finish the course.

No Limits

Horizon city's No Limits Track Club is signing up track participants weekdays at 5:30 p.m. by the track at Col. John O. Ensor Middle School.

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the El Paso Fire Department in locating the person or persons unknown who stole a vehicle and then set fire to it, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Friday, April 18, at 7:00 a.m., units with the Fire Department responded to a vehicle fire in the 12000 block of Mercantile in east El Paso. The units reported heavy flames and smoke coming from the passenger area and requested a Fire Marshal Investigator. An investigation was conducted and it was determined that, sometime during the night, an unknown suspect or suspects stole a 1995 Mitsubishi Eclipse from a residence. After the suspects finished with the vehicle, they set it on fire in the desert area. Total damages were estimated at more than \$6,000. Arson is a 2nd degree felony, punishable by 2-to 20-years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine. The investigators are asking for the public's help in solving this crime. If you have any information at all about the identity of these suspects, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit online your tip www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org.



Students in Shirley Montgomery's first grade class performed their own choreographed country western dance for the audience during the Bill Childress Elementary School Mother's Day Program.



RECORD KEEPERS — The Socorro ISD chapter of the Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) will serve as historians for TAFE this year. They are, back row from left, Aide Marentes, Monica Banuelos, Alejandra Lopez and Elizabeth Dominguez. Middle row, from left are, Perla Soriano, Allannah Sanchez, Marilu Castellon, Brenda Pimentel and Irasema Ramirez. In the front row, from left are, Jessica Alvarez and Monica Arroyo.

Historians

From Page 2

become a special education teacher. "This is a great leadership opportunity and it really leads you into a teaching career." Pimentel is currently getting field experience working as an intern at Campestre Elementary.

Fellow TAFE member Alejandra member in TAFE also helps you terests in the various fields of teach-

new friends and helps with your communications skills."

"This definitely builds leadership and communication skills," said Cox who also leads the Academy of Careers in Education at Socorro High School. "We get students involved by tutoring elementary students and many of them volunteers at the elementary schools during their intersession."

"This organization gives students Lopez agrees and added "being a the opportunity to explore their in-

break out of your shell. You make ing. With this guidance and support, our students will become exceptional teachers," said SISD Board President

Charles E. Garcia. T.A.F.E. is a statewide non-profit student organization led by dynamic and passionate teachers and sponsors. The organization was created in 1984 so that the best high school students in Texas would have the opportunity to learn how and where teachers receive their training, the cost, scholarships available, number of years required, certification requirements, and standards.

THANK YOU — GRACIAS

Benny Davis



Position One

Bob Jarvis



Position Two

... To all the citizens of Horizon who supported us in our campaign for the position of Director on the Board of the Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District. We will work for the taxpayers to improve the quality of service.

Ad paid for by Janet Davis, Campaign Treasurer, 3615 Colville, Horizon City, TX 79928 and Donna Jarvis, Campaign Treasurer15000 Ashford #61, Horizon City, TX 79928

Canutillo students honor their mothers

By Kim Guzman Special to the Courier

Students at Bill Childress Elementary School, in the Canutillo Independent School District, performed a variety of cultural songs and dances for States and around the world," said recently during the annual Mother's Coordinator and BCE teacher. Day Program.

ite "Las MaÒanitas", and second grade students also recited a poem both in English and Spanish.

"Preparing for the Mother's Day program gives students the opportunity to develop an interest in songs and dances from across the United

The Mother's Day program has been Students performed to a variety of a tradition since 2000 for BCE students. dances including the "Chicken Parents contribute and support students Dance" and "La Raspa". The choir by volunteering and assisting in making sang the traditional Mexican favor- the costumes for the performances.

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Anthony ISD Offers Summer Food Program

The Anthony Independent School District in Anthony, Texas announces the sponsorship of The Summer Food Service Program. The program is open to any child from 1 to 18 years of age. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided at the Anthony Middle School Cafeteria five days per week during June beginning June 9, to June 30, 2008. In July the district will be closed on Fridays operating four days per week Monday through Thursday July 1, to July 24, 2008. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:35 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. The school will be closed from July 3-4, 2008. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against. In accordance with the federal law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights Office 1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington D.C. 20250 9410, or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

El Distrito de Anthony Ofrece Comida en el Verano

El Distrito Independiente de Anthony en Anthony, Texas, anuncia que va ha ofrecer El Programa de Comida en el Verano. El Programa es para los niños de 1 a 18 años de edad. El desayuno y comida serán servidos en la Cafeterla de la Escuela Secundaria del Distrito de Anthony cinco días a la semana de lunes a viernes comenzando el 9 de Junio al 30 de Junio del 2008. En el mes de Julio el distrito va ha estar cerrado los viernes, permaneciendo abierto de Lunes a Jueves del 1 de Julio al 24 de Julio del 2008. El desayuno se va ha servir de 7:30 a.m. a 8:30 a.m. y la comida se va ha servir de 11:35 a.m. a 12:35 p.m. **Los** días 3 y 4 de Julio la escuela va a estar cerrada. Las personas que tienen derecho a participar en el programa, no se les debe discriminar por raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, incapacidad, religión ni creencia política. Cualquier persona que crea que lo han discriminado debe escribir inmediatamente al Director, USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington D.C. 20250-6382 (TTY). USDA tiene igualdad de oportunidad de oportunidad para proveedores y empleados.

WTCC: 05/15/08

Refs hurt flow of game, NBA players need to grow up

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

I have to admit, I've enjoyed watching the coverage of the NBA playoffs this year.

I've enjoyed watching the players perform while their games go down to the wire.

The one thing I haven't enjoyed is watching the referees battle each other for camera time.

I mean it's rare that there are two consecutive trips down the court without a foul being

It's difficult for any two teams to get into

any kind of a rhythm when play is stopped the Los Angeles Lakers and the Utah Jazz, the every 45 seconds.

What particularly irks me is when an official makes a foul call on a play that is 30 feet from the basket and has no significance on the fouled the guy, but what almost made me fall flow of the game.

It's as if the refs were tired and just wanted a quick breather.

Another complaint I have is when any player gets within a foot or so from a star player and the whistle is blown when there was little or cal foul. no contact on the play.

But one referee took the cake last weekend. In last Sunday's NBA playoff game between

That's okay, Okur may or may not have out of my chair is what happened afterward.

With just two minutes or so left in a very close playoff game, Okur reacted by making a kind of "no way" gesture with his arms.

The referee immediately gave him a techni-

Are you kidding me? The ref is going to call a technical foul late in the game for that?

Now don't get me wrong, I think every player should get a technical foul whenever he responds in a childish manner. But because referees never call that, they shouldn't call it late in a game.

By the way, why have NBA players lost all respect for the referees' authority? It's because the guys in stripes have allowed them to.

Isn't it true that NBA players act like they've just been accused of murder every time a foul is called on them?

Guys throw their hands in the air, slam the ball on the court and shout back at the refs and they walk back down the court with no more than some boos from the crowd (or worse, cheers from the home crowd).

The referees should take back the game. They should force the players to act respectfully — because the players won't do it themselves — by calling a technical foul every time a player acts like a spoiled 3-year-old.

any time during the game — even the last in his dorm room or the fancy clothes on his

College of convenience

Let's talk a little bit about what I consider the top professional sports organization in the country — the USC Trojans.

I know the University of Southern Califor-Jazz's Mehmet Okur fouled a member of the nia is a college, and college athletes are supposed to be amateurs, but I also believed in Santa Claus once

> First of all we'll discuss all those improprieties with football star Reggie Bush. While at USC, the former Heisman Trophy winner and his family received illegal gifts totaling over \$100,000 from marketing agents.

> Bush enjoyed some things that his fellow students did not. They included \$1,500 a week for Bush's family, rent-free living at a residence for a year and \$28,000 to Bush's family to pay existing debts.

> That is just a small example of all the money and gifts received by the star running back.

> Of course, the USC coaching staff and school administrators claimed to have no knowledge of all this wrongdoing which occurred right under their noses.

> You don't think school officials and coaches put winning ahead of the rules, do you?

> In true USC tradition, now the basketball team is showing that the football team has nothing on them.

> One-year star O.J. Mayo has made news lately — not for his play on the court — but for his behavior since he was in high school.

> Seems Mayo has been receiving toys and goodies from a sports agency since his teenage years. And naturally, Mayo continued receiving all kinds of illegal gifts and cash while at USC.

And you guessed it, no coaches or administrators had a clue what was going on. No one Then the refs can call technical fouls at knew how he could afford the flat screen TV back — no one asked.

> But it's hard to blame guys like Bush and Mayo, after all, they're only doing the same thing the guys in authority at USC are doing looking out for themselves by way of their pocketbooks.

Canutillo High School Health Occupations Students of America advance to Nationals

Two students from Canutillo High School's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) will travel to the HOSA National Conference being held in Dallas in June. Senior Miriam Garcia, left, won first place in Prepared Speaking at the state conference and will now compete in the national competition; Junior Patrick Cereceres was elected the 2008-2009 HOSA State Vice President. He will represent Texas at the national conference. "I am ecstatic about attending the national conference. This will definitely be a great conclusion to my four years involved in HOSA, and I am excited about competing at the national level. I hope to make my state, school, and community proud," said Garcia.

— Contributed by Kim Guzman

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Town of **Horizon City**

CORRECTED PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEAR-ING will be held during a Regular Planning and Zoning Meeting on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding the following properties:

1) Rezoning application #08-001RZ, from R-9 "Singlefamily Dwelling" to "Mobile R-MH Home Single-family Dwelling" of certain parcels out of Blk. 78 Tsp. 3, T&PRR Co. Survey 31, said parcels addressed as 14033, 14041, 14049, 14057, 14065. 14101. 14109, 14117, and 14125 Texas Rainbow Drive, and shown as unplatted by the Town's records but listed as Lots 16-24, Desert Mesa Estates Unit Two by the El Paso Central Appraisal District, PIDS D45400001302400, D45400001302300, D45400001302200. D45400001302100. D45400001302001. D45400001301901, D45400001301800, D45400001301700.

D45400001301600); and to initiate the rezoning from R-2 to R-MH of two unplatted, unaddressed parcels south of Cow Tongue Drive, both being portions of Blk. 78 Tsp. 3, T&PRR Co. Survey X57800033100100 n X57800033100200).

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk at the above address or call 915-852-1046. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to

Karen Ellefson City Clerk WTCC: 05-15-08

this meeting..

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or ser-

d

vices will be accepted at the following times:

> **THURSDAY MAY 22, 2008**

DUST MOPS SERVICES CSP NO. 199-0522-8064 **ACCEPTED** UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

METAL SHADE STRUCTURE <u>CSP NO.</u> 199-0522-8066 **ACCEPTED UNTIL** 3:00 P.M.

ADULT EDUCA-**SIONAL DEVELOPMENT** CONSULTANT <u>CSP NO.</u> <u>199-0522-8069</u> **ACCEPTED** UNTIL

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12440 Rojas

3:30 P.M.

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. Mon-

days through Fri-

Proposals are also available at the District's website: www.sisd.net WTCC-05/15/08

BARGAINS

Sale: 18 Wheeler Trailer-48x8.5. NO TITLE. Good shape for storage, white, \$2,200. 478-4282.or 922-8875 or 852-0075.

COUNSELING SERVICES

DAMIAN MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/ Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FFF SCALE AC-CEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP, 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro. Texas Call 858-3857 for

appointment.

EDUCATION JUMP START your

child's education. CERTIFIED TEACHERS for tutoring. Call Eddie, 526-1739. Maribel, 525-9656.

HOUSES

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

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? Hav solucion. Informacion: 838-

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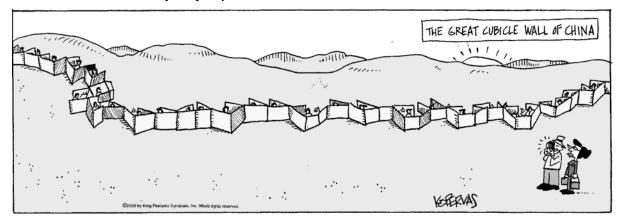
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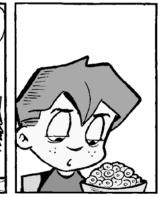
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps









THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering







R.F.D. By Mike Marland







'Tag' is no longer 'It' at school

By Don Flood

Parents: It's 12 noon. Do you know where your children are?

If you answered "school" and figured they're safe, you're in for an alarming surprise: They may be playing "tag."

According to a recent Washington Post story, a Virginia elementary school is banning what the principal described as a game of "intense aggression."

Intense? Try nuclear. The posttraumatic stress disorder I received as a result of my schoolyard tag days leave me, even now, reluctant to handle such tasks as taking out the trash and raking leaves. (My wife would include just about all household chores.)

But many schools still allow this school mentioned above some parents are trying to return tag to the playground, with one parent complaining, "We're not letting children be children."

I'm sorry, but isn't that the whole point of sending kids to school children?

the remote control breaks.

But today's parents have more to worry about besides tag; namely, can they throw a child's birthday party for less than \$10,000?

That's right. A recent CNN story highlighted the fact that, despite concerns about plunging home values and the economy, something about children's birthday parties causes parents to deeply question their most basic values and ask, "What's the stupidest possible way to spend our money?"

In some cases, kids' birthday party expenses have begun to rival those of a wedding, including cakes that cost a thousand bucks.

Let me tell you a secret. All cakes taste about the same, and they all taste good, which is why Marie Antoinette, trying to appease the rabble, said, "Let them eat cake, the kind with all that really thick creamy icing."

Unfortunately for Marie, the last part of her quote was left off and many peasants figured she was keeping the best pieces — the ones with the extra icing — to herself.

Not surprisingly, they quickly planned a "bon voyage" party for Marie's head.

And that suggests a great children's birthday party theme the French Revolution, complete with guillotines, which make great party props and serve double duty barbaric game, and even at the as "enforcers" if the kids get out

Child-care note: As Dr. Phil has said repeatedly, the guillotine only works as effective behavior modification if the parent is ready to "follow through" on threats to use the device, which, despite its age, so they can learn not to act like is still rated highly in Consumer Reports for its "unmatched head-I mean, if we want kids to act removing capacity." (There's no like children they may as well stay reason to buy high-price brands; home and watch Dad pout when the most recent ratings listed the Sears standard model as a "best

> But for parents afraid of losing control of their birthday-party spending, I offer an easy way to stop the insanity.

> For \$3,000, I will handle all aspects of the party, except for invitations, decorations, entertainment and any other stuff I find boring. I will provide cake.

> I admit that sounds like a lot, but my true value lies in providing security: I'll make sure the kids don't play tag.

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

King Super Crossword

ALL WRAPPED UP **ACROSS**

- _ Instinct" ('92 film) 6 Biblical region 11 Dryden's "_ for
- Love" 14 _ Zedong
- 17 Hercule's creator
- 19 Schedule 21 "Dizzy" singer
- 23 Woodworking tool 24 Riddle: Part 1 27 Auxiliary verb
- 28 Skates 30 Ornamental vine
- 31 See 35 Down 32 French cheese
- region 33 Sports-shoe features
- 37 ls it?
- 39 Lamb product 42 High-flying Wally
- 44 Utah city 45 Help with the
- dishes
- 46 Skater Sonja 47 Exile
- 50 Riddle: Part 2 56 Perfect
- 58 Bando of baseball 59 Brooks or
- Schreiber
- 61 Brindisi bread
- 60 Foil kin 62 Stickpin locale 64 Claude of "The

- Invisible Man' 67 Gaunt 69 Nautical rope
- perhaps 75 Bank statistics 76 On the QE II 78 Pass into law
 - 79 Seize 81 It may be common 84 Famed fabulist
 - 86 "Sea Hunt" shocker 89 Actress Dvorak
 - 90 Answer to riddle: Part 1 95 Fit to feast on
 - 97 Panatella kin 98 Itches 99 Trusting sort 100 Dismal
 - 102 Herring 103 Dee or Bullock 106 Islamic greeting
 - 107 Little lake 109 Wells creatures 110 Vixen's offspring 111 Emilia's husband
 - 112 Shopping ctr. 115 Answer to riddle:
 - Part 2 122 Parmesan alternative 124 Spare tire
 - 125 Inflatable item? 126 Herman or Reese 127 Afterword

- 71 Trick-or-treater,
 - - DOWN 1 Big name in

131 Black Sea city

130 Dwelling

128 Summer abroad

129 Morning moisture

- 2 Eastern leader 3 "You it!" 5 Word with bomb
- or tomato 6 Biting film? 7 "Gross!"
- 8 "The Partridge Family" actress 9 Remnant
- 10 Bustle 11 Bunch of battalions 12 Christie or
- Costello 13 Moon crawler 14 "Upstairs, Downstairs" extras 15 Simpson of
- fashion 16 Desert refuges 18 Jai
- 20 Singer O'Day 25 Family-room features 26 Orange Bowl site
- 29 "By all means!" 32 Boxer Max 33 First name in
- comedy 34 Director

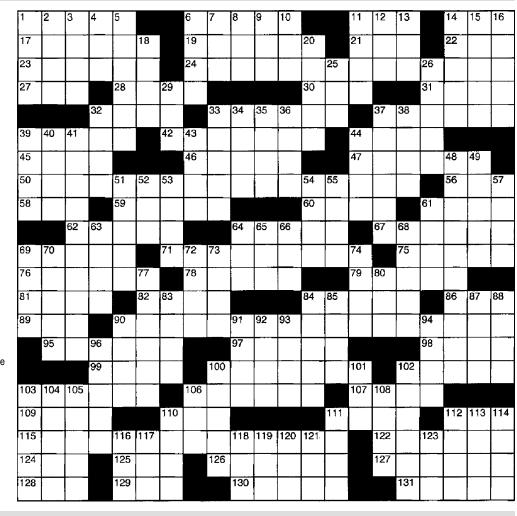
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- 72 Depend (on) 73 Once again 74 Autumn color 77 Showy flower 80 Boar's beloved 83 Fast-food favorite

84 Pertinent

- 85 Seth's son 87 Sicily's highest point
- 88 Like some sheep 90 It'll give you a lift 91 Word form for
- 92 Forearm bone
- 93 Tra-_ 94 TV's "_ Blue" biryani
- 100 Took in the late show 101 Bath, e.g. 102 "Peanuts" pooch 103 It suits many 104 Indigenous
- Alaskan 105 Nick of "The Prince of Tides" 106 Silly Caesar 108 Grimm creature
- 110 Feel certain 111 " fixe" 112 Shopper's paradise 113 Clove hitch, for one 114 Forum wear

116 Made one's mark

- 117 Season firewood 118 Teachers' org. 119 _ page 120 _ Jima 121 Beatty or Brooks 123 Actress Sara
 - Answer Page 6



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

but won't be collecting Social Security for a few more years. My income is limited. Can I get help paying my Medicare Part B premium?

A: Yes. If your income and re-tronic coinsurance amounts.† State rules 0778). vary on the income and resources that apply. Contact your state or lo- Q: If both my spouse and I are encal medical assistance, social ser- titled to Social Security benefits, will

Q: I'm about to apply for Medicare vices or welfare office, or call the Medicare hotline, 1-800-MEDI-CARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask about the Medicare Savings Programs. To learn more about the Medicare program, read our elecpublication sources are limited, your state may www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ be able to help with your Medicare 10043.html or call us toll-free at 1-Part B premium, deductibles and 800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-

we each get our own full retirement amounts, or is there a reduction?

A: When each member of a married couple works and earns enough credits to be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, their lifetime earnings are calculated independently to determine their Social Security benefit amounts. Each of you A: There is no minimum age requirewill receive a monthly benefit ment, as long as you have a disabilamount based on your own individual earnings; there is no "marriage penalty." In fact, it's quite the opposite, because if one member of a couple earns lower wages or didn't earn enough Social Security credits to be insured for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse based on the higher-earner's record. For more information, visit website

toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: How old do I have to be to begin receiving Social Security disability benefits? I've been severely injured, but I'm still a young guy.

ity that keeps you from working and is expected to last at least one year or end in death. To qualify for disability benefits you also must have worked long and recently enough under Social Security to earn the required number of work credits. The number of work credits you need for Younger workers don't need as many at credits as older workers since El Paso, Texas 79935.

www.socialsecurity.gov or call us younger people haven't had time to build up as much of a work history. In fact, in some cases a young worker could qualify for disability benefits with only 1 and a half years of work. To learn how many credits you'll need to qualify for disability benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ dibplan/dqualify3.htm. 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 disability benefits depends on your like to have answered, please mail age when you become disabled. them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil,

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging **★★★** HOO BOY!

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archives: www.wtccourier.com

Elections

From Page 1

Alderman at Large

Total votes cast were 1,073. Sergio Cox won - (637/59.3).

District 1

There were 263 votes cast.

The winner was Jesus Hern — (143/54.3)

District 2

Total votes were 295 in the race which ended in a dead heat. Tied with 105 votes each at 35.59 percent were Mary Perez and Tommy Faulkner. The elections administrator said there would "most likely" be a runoff in District 2. However, ballots not yet tallied from military personnel overseas could break the present tie.

District 3

Total votes cast were 338 The winner was Jose Hernandez — (182/53.8)

District 4

Jesse Gandara won in the race in which 190 votes were cast. His numbers were (120/63).

Socorro City Charter Amend-

All 19 of the proposed city charter amendments were passed with comfortable margins. Voter approval of each of the amendments was generally in the 60 percent plus range.

Fabens ISD

Bond Election

Sixty-three percent of the voters in the Fabens ISD approved the issuance of \$9 million in bonds which, according to the proposition will go "for the construction, renovation, acquisition and equipment of school buildings in the district." There were 165 votes cast, with 104 in favor of the proposition.

