

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 6

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

FEBRUARY 7, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Agents shot at

Border Patrol agents were fired on during a recent marijuana smuggling incident near Fabens at a site which has seen similar aggravated assaults on agents in recent months. At about 4:45 p.m. on Jan. 31 agents responded to the sighting of a sedan coming from Mexico seven miles west of the Fabens Port of Entry. When the driver sighted the approaching agents he turned and headed back toward the border, subsequently abandoning the vehicle and crossing the river on foot. As agents approached the area they could see several people on foot on the U.S. side of the border. At about that time, a rear of one of the agents' vehicle was shot out, and the persons sighted on foot ran across the border into Mexico. A duffel bag found in the abandoned sedan contained 219 pounds of marijuana, valued at about \$175,000, along with a two-way radio. The Juarez Municipal Police Dept. and the FBI are assisting in the investigation. Agents in the Fabens area have already made 78 drug seizures in fiscal year 2002, valued at about \$15 million.

New school names

The Socorro ISD is accepting nominations to name two new schools currently under construction. They include a new Pre-K-8th grade school at 11530 Edgemere and Lee Blvds. and a Pre-K-5th grade campus at Loma Verde, west of Loop 375, near the Student Activities Complex. A committee has been appointed to receive and make a recommendation to the board of trustees, which will make the final decisions. Nominations should include reasons why the name should be chosen. Mail or e-mail may be directed to Vicki Icard, Director of Governmental Relations at P.O. Box 292800, El Paso, Texas 79929-2800 or vicard@sisd.net.

In other news

■ William Wesson Navidomskis of Horizon City, a graduate of Clint High School, was recently awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Texas A&M University during mid-year commencement ceremonies. He is the son of John and Carlyle Navidomskis.

■ Americas High School Band will host "Casino Night" fund-raiser on Feb. 16 from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Funds will assist the band attend the national All-American Music Festival in Florida in April. Casino Night tickets are \$10 per person and "funny money" will be provided for use at various games and auction. Music and food will also be available. Call 856-0783 for information.

■ Martha Contreras, a member of the Socorro ISD Board of Trustees, recently completed all requirements to earn a Boardmanship Basics Certificate from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Institute for School Trustee Development. She earned at least 15 hours of continuing education credit by attending

See BRIEFS, Page 4

If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

— Quips and Quotes

Riverpark now has funding for both Upper and Lower Valleys

Courier Staff Reports

EL PASO COUNTY — The Rio Grande Riverpark got a shot in the arm last week when the Texas Transportation Commission approved \$3.13 million to fund a 10-mile portion of the project in the Lower Valley.



— Photo by Don Woodyard

RIVERPARK A WALK AWAY — The Rio Grande levee in the Upper Valley, as in Canutillo shown above, all the way down to the Rio Bosque Wetlands in the Lower Valley, is projected to become a tourist-attractive recreational hiking/biking nature walk providing "recreational access to historical, cultural and natural resources."

20,000 dogs, cats destroyed annually in El Paso County

New non-profit group seeks to finance a 'no kill' shelter

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Representatives from El Paso's business community and the El Paso City/County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee (ASAC) have joined together to raise funds for a new animal shelter and to expand spay/neuter efforts, by creating Pets Alive El Paso.

A Texas non-profit corporation, Pets Alive will work closely with ASAC to determine needs and carry out necessary projects to promote responsible pet ownership while generating desperately needed funds.

Although the County of El Paso is contributing \$1.3 million (35%) and the City of El Paso has earmarked \$2.5 million (65%), at least \$500,000 needs to be raised from community sources to complete a fully sufficient shelter.

"Many people don't realize that the City and County monies are not enough to build a facility of the size and caliber El Paso re-

quires," explained Patricia Palafox, chairperson of ASAC. "When shelter planning first started two years ago, it was conceptualized as a community-based effort. We need at least another half-million to make it a reality. The \$3.8 million just won't cover it. That's where Pets Alive comes in."

Pets Alive's first project was a train float in the Sun Bowl Thanksgiving Day Parade, which featured ASAC and Pets Alive members and their pets in western attire, and some in "cages," which displayed bilingual banners encouraging owners to be responsible and spay/neuter their pets.

Palafox said that City of El Paso Representatives Jan Sumrall and John Cook have contributed \$9000 from their discretionary funds to assist El Paso's indigent and elderly in getting their pets spayed/neutered. These are pet owners who otherwise could not afford to.

"El Paso's euthanasia rate is twice the national average for our population," she said. "With the fundraising work of Pets Alive, we can focus on a realistic goal of

See SHELTER, Page 5

State Rep. Joe Pickett, who attended the Thursday, Jan. 31, meeting, said he had been pushing for Riverpark funding which was passed over in last year's funding cycle.

The funding comes from the federal government's Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program, which provides additional funding for non-highway transportation projects that "enhance scenic, cultural and his-

toric resources."

The Rio Grande Trail System is a city-county joint project that will use the levee of the Rio Grande as an alternate route for pedestrians and bicycles. TTC approved funds totaling \$3,131,040, to cover approximately 10 miles from the Rio Bosque Trailhead in the Lower Valley to



Joe Pickett

Ascarate Park, according to Pickett.

The project originally was not part of the first round of project recommendations by TxDOT's staff last fall but Pickett worked diligently to convince commissioners of the importance of this project.

"I assured commissioners this is a viable plan that will not only improve our quality of life, but bring attention to our historic international border, too," Pickett said. "I appreciate the commissioners' understanding and confidence in our effort to make a difference in our community. I hope we take full advantage of this opportunity."

Groundbreaking on the Upper Valley section of the Riverpark project was held in Canutillo back in November of 2000, with construction projected to begin in the spring of 2001. Now El Paso County Planning Director Nat Campos is projecting "later in 2002" as a possible start date.

The Upper Valley's initial phase was proposed to be concentrated around Gallegos Park

See RIVER, Page 5

Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security addresses possibility of Texas terrorism

SAN ANTONIO — Following the tragedies of Sept. 11 Texas Gov. Rick Perry appointed Texas Land Commissioner David Dewhurst to head the Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security. Charged with examining Texas' ability to respond to and prevent acts of terrorism in Texas, the Task Force has since heard numerous hours of testimony from experts on health and bio-terrorism, the military, first responders, and from city, county, state and federal officials.

"The Task Force has been very focused on ensuring that Texans feel secure in their day-to-day lives by the State's being prepared in case of terrorism," Dewhurst said. "We have received input from many experts, and we believe the recommendations will help our state be stronger and safer."

The just-released "January Report" includes recommendations covering health issues, state response plans, and intelligence gathering. Specific recommendations include:

- Using a statewide system to communicate warning and safety information to the public.

- Request federal authorization and funding for a second Civil Support Team (CST) for Texas.

- Support funding for additional personnel for the Governor's division of Emergency Management for field personnel to support local government efforts to plan and train for disasters.

- Support the Texas Department of Health's recent plan to improve response capabilities in the event of an anthrax or bio-terrorism event.

- Establish 10 Regional HazMat Teams (Hazardous Materials-Weapons of Mass Destruction Teams).

- Establish a centralized point of contact for intelligence information involving critical infrastructure.

Prior to presenting the January report, the Task Force met to vote upon its adoption. A special presentation of the Bexar County and

See SECURITY, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A job well done

It is raining, see, and the boxer has her chain wrapped around the swing set. The girls are clearing up the breakfast dishes and getting ready to start their lessons while I venture out to feed the dogs.

If a job is once begun...
I've said that little poem to my kids *ad nauseam*. It doesn't matter if your mother is the only one who is going to see your spelling definitions, it should matter to *you* how well they are done...It doesn't matter if your mother is the only one who sees the bathroom after your shower, it should matter to *you*...

I can see that the boxer has also managed to dump both water buckets. She's soaked to the skin from the rain and refuses to use her plastic shelter. I'm going to have to move her to the other side of the yard so she can get under the rock shelter with the big red dog.

It rains so rarely I sure don't mind getting a little wet. It's cold this morning but it'll be a simple job. It won't take long.

Back in the house I put on a rain poncho and a pair of gloves. I leave my glasses on the bar. They didn't come equipped with wipers and while I don't see so well without them, I'll be even blinder once they get wet and fog up.

I attempt to unscrew the fastener that holds the boxer's chain to the run line. It is firmly frozen thanks to the water and the sand and time. The boxer is jumping and leaping with all this excitement, and getting me muddy, so I let her off the chain. The hood on the rain poncho keeps slipping over my eyes, so I push it down on my neck.

My hairdo has never been anything to brag about. A little rain isn't going

to hurt anything.

I can't get the clamp loose. Oh, well, I reason to myself, the rain will stop soon and the boxer will dry right out. Besides, she's just a dog.

Never leave it till it's done...
Back to the house. My boots are all muddy and I don't want to track up the floor so I holler at the girls to hand me a pair of pliers.

One pair won't do it. My hands aren't strong enough. Back to the house to get somebody to hand me a second pair. My face is really cold now and my lips aren't working so good. I have to repeat my request.

I try to get some leverage with the pliers but I'm off balance, so I put my knees down in the mud to steady myself. This simple little job is now going to require a pair of clean pants.

Every second or so I have to keep glancing over my shoulder to make sure the Most Valuable Dog in the World hasn't gone over the fence. She's bad about that. That's why she lives on this long chain.

I still can't get the clamp loose, so I turn my attention to a second chain attached to the big pine tree, left there for another good dog, now departed. I can't get it loose, either.

Whether the job be large or small...
The dogs think this is great. They keep nosing me from behind, pushing me over and disrupting my precious little leverage. I throw a pair of pliers at the big red dog to make him back off.

I hope the girls didn't see that.
Do it well...

I finally go to the shed and get the wire cutters. I need the help of a hammer and a make-shift anvil to disengage one of the links on the chain. I attach it to the gate on the other side of the yard where the boxer can reach



her breakfast, the water bucket and roomy, dry shelter.

As I carry my wet, muddy, shivering self back to the house with an

armload of muddy tools, I can hear her begin to yank on the gate, trying

to see around the corner of the house in case someone or something wor-

thy of barking at may be passing by on the sidewalk.

Or not at all.
The thought did cross my mind.

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SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABIENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORREILLO

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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.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The *Courier* reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

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Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Happy birthday Ronald Reagan!

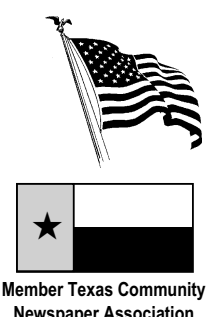
On February 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born to Nelle and John Reagan in Tampico, Illinois. This week, people across our great country will celebrate the birthday of our nation's 40th President.

President Ronald Reagan will be remembered for many accomplishments. Some will remember him for ushering in economic growth with his popular 1981 tax cuts. Others will remember his commitment to our men and women in uniform. His commitment brought down communism all around the world and spawned the idea for a missile defense system. And even some others, like myself, will remember him as "The Great Communicator." I'll remember how his vision and convictions brought all Americans together, raised our morale and once again made us the proudest citizens in the world. It is my belief that this was President Reagan's greatest gift to America.

President Reagan was a very modest man. Although many historians and admirers shower him with thanks for his accomplishments and contributions to America, he kept a sign on his desk both as governor of California and as President which showed how modest a man he was. That sign read: "There is no limit to what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." This is a model I have tried to live by during my time as a

representative. I would like to share with you a portion of President Reagan's farewell speech to the nation.

"It's been the honor of my life to be your President. So many of you have written the past few weeks to say thanks, but I could say as much to you. Nancy and I are grateful for the opportunity you gave us to serve...The past few days when I've been at the window upstairs, I've thought a bit of the 'shining city upon a hill.' The phrase comes from John Winthrop, who wrote it to describe the America he imagined...I've spoken of the shining city all my political life, but I don't know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, windswept, God-blessed, and teeming with the people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity. And if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here. That's how I saw it, and see it still... We've done our part. And as I walk off into the city streets, a final word to the men and women across America for who eight years did the work that brought America back. My friends: We did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city stronger, we made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all."





"... and WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK after THESE MESSAGES with ANOTHER INSTALLMENT of OUR CONTINUING SERIES on the EFFECTS of GLOBAL WARMING..."

ITEM: THE FEDS LOWER THE STANDARD FOR AIRPORT SECURITY SCREENERERS



View from here by Texas Public Policy Foundation

Perry's 'Trans Texas' plan good for state

Governor's emphasis on cost efficiency signals new priorities

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry recently announced the details of his comprehensive "Trans Texas Corridor" plan, incorporating roads, rail, and utility infrastructure.

Jeff Judson, president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, said the fiscally responsible plan aggressively addresses Texas' transportation needs.

"As the governor has said in the past, Texas' funding emphasis must be on what can move the most people for the lowest amount of money," said Judson. "The governor's plan creatively ends the piece-meal approach to transportation planning of the past. This is the best plan on the table to efficiently move people and freight across our state."

Transportation expert Wendell Cox — a member of the federal government's Amtrak Reform Council — agreed, calling the plan "ambitious and visionary."

"The governor is signaling a new turn, that Texas will be using rational decision-making that will leap-frog road capacity ahead of congestion problems, rather than trying to always play catch-up. This is crucial to job creation and the continued economic advancement of the nation's second largest state," said Cox, whose October 2001 study of the impact freight rail can have on congestion is available at the Texas Public Policy Foundation web site, www.tppf.org.

"This is the first time any of the nation's major elected leaders, whether in Washington or in the states, has fully recognized the important role freight rail can play in

Texas' transportation policy."

Cox said better utilization of rail and specialized truck roadways for moving freight across Texas would quickly improve traffic congestion, while considerably reducing roadway wear-and-tear.

With trucks taking 3.8 times the road space of a single car, moving freight from truck to rail quickly decreases traffic congestion. Further, rail is able to move freight at a lower environmental cost than trucks.

The governor said today that Texas' population could more than double "in the next few decades."

Current projections call for a 100 percent increase in truck traffic through Texas' urban areas by 2020, which would increase total urban traffic by the equivalent of 20 percent. But if rail freight's market share continues its decline to the levels seen in Europe, truck traffic could increase 235 percent — the equivalent of a 49 percent increase in overall traffic.

(The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan research institute guided by the core principles of limited government, free enterprise, private property rights and individual responsibility. The Foundation's mission is to improve Texas government by generating academically sound research and data on state issues, and recommending the findings to opinion leaders, policy makers, the media and general public. Research is conducted by academics across Texas and is funded by individuals, foundations and corporations.)

Socorro High School sends local talent to state contests

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Several Socorro High School students will compete at the state level of the Business Professionals of America convention in Houston Feb. 28-March 2 after finishing in top places at area leadership competition, according to Socorro Publishing spokesman Marian McQuiddy.

Barbara Cobos, Brisa Alvarado, Norma Ayala, Jessica Melendez, Lorrie Valencia, Aaron Ayala, Melissa Arenivar, Ben Fresquez, Jennifer Alarcon, Fancy Adams, Daisy Santellanes, Alina Avila, Abel Navejas, Valerie Villanueva, Mary Jane Navarette, Dahlia Acosta, Jessica Aleman, Denisse Berumen, Jessica Pasillas, Nora Nevarez, and Brenda Torres qualified to make the trip.

Another group of equally outstanding students will go to state competition in Houston in April after dem-

onstrating their prowess in the Health Professional Academy by placing in the top three in area contests.

Those qualifying were Nora Padilla, Tanya Kennel, Gaston Baza, Itzel Garcia, Brenda Cervera, Rocio Torres, Gabriela Hernandez, Ross Terrazas, Karina Quintana, Sandra Vaquera, Krystelle Barrera, Crystal Morales, Victoria Castellanos, Melissa Arenivar, Valerie Villanueva, Celene Robles, Garbriel Esparza, Alina Avila, Jessica Aleman, Susana Martinez, Lisett Maldonado, Erika Acosta, Patty Lopez, Emmanuel Enriquez, Ericka Hartford, Angel Pineda, Eva Olivas, Dennise Ornelas, Sylvia Rangel, Jessica Hernandez, Jennifer Hernandez, and Jasmin Juarado.

Joanna Guerrero was elected as area HPA vice-president for the coming school year.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Clint Independent School District**

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2002 during the Clint Independent School District Board Meeting at Carroll T. Welch Middle School, 14510 McMahan Drive, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the adoption of middle school and high school science textbooks.

Parents of students of the District are invited to attend and participate in the hearing.

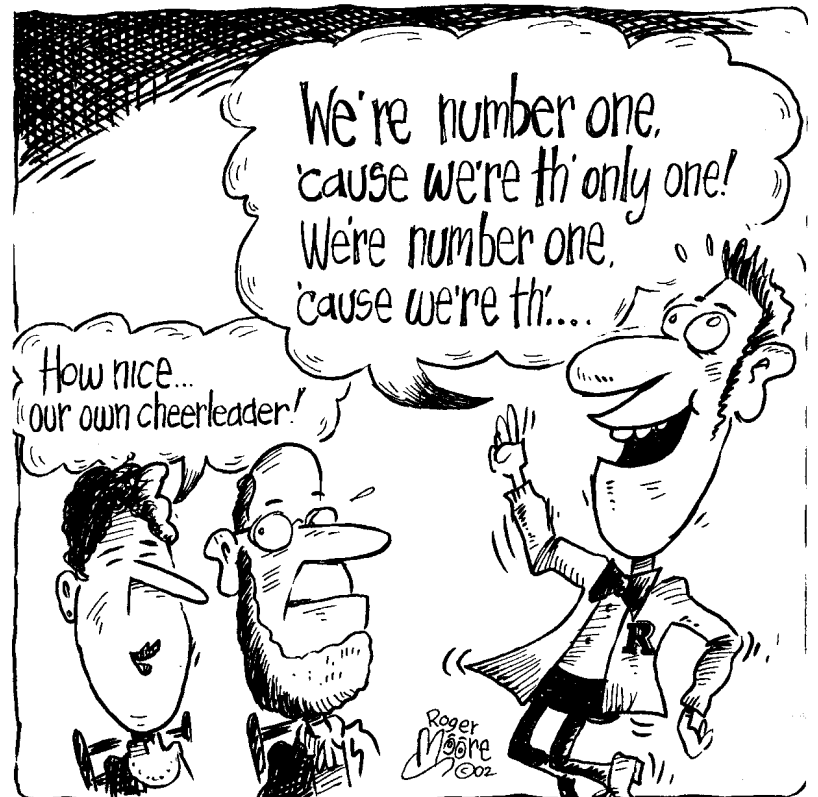
**AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA
Distrito Escolar de Clint**

UNA AUDIENCIA PUBLICA se llevara acabo a las 6:30 de la tarde el lunes, 25 de febrero de 2002 durante la junta de la mesa directiva del distrito escolar de Clint en la escuela Carroll T. Welch, 14510 McMahan Drive, Horizon City, Texas. Propósito de esta audiencia publica es para permitir cualquier persona interesada a presentarse y testificar concerniente a la adopción de libros de ciencia de escuela secundaria y de escuela preparatoria.

Padres de estudiantes del Distrito estan invitados a asistir y participar en la audiencia.

WTCC: 01/??/02

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore Feb. 1, 1840, Rutgersville College (near La Grange) opens its doors. It is the first real college in Texas.



The Austin Colony triumphs over frontier hardships and opposition

History of Texas Public Lands - Part Four

TEXAS — In our last installment on Texas land history, settlers in the Austin Colony were ready to give up due to the uncertainty of their status as landowners and the hardships of the frontier. But they prevailed and the rest is history.

Austin settlers settle in

In their newly official status as Mexican subjects, the colonists were charged with preventing vagrants and thieves from settling among them, providing the authorities with a roster of the immigrant families, and reporting all suspicious activities to the government.

Meanwhile, in Mexico City, Austin lobbied tirelessly for a colonization law and confirmation of his contract. His talent and genuine interest

in the affairs of his adopted country won the support and confidence of the men in power, and earned him influence in their councils, but it wasn't until January 1823 that Austin's patience and tenacity finally paid off. The Mexican Imperial Government at last enacted what came to be known as the Imperial Colonization Law on Jan. 4; on the 18th, Emperor of Mexico Agustín de Iturbide signed a decree authorizing the settlement of Texas.

When Iturbide subsequently abdicated in March under the threat of revolution, Congress suspended all acts he had signed. But largely due to Austin's continued diligence and steadfast belief in the colony, his contract was approved by the Congress the very next month, making Austin's Colony the only one to be established under the Imperial Colonization Law.

Austin left Mexico City on April 18, 1823, no doubt breathing a sigh of relief. In August he arrived at the colony accompanied by the Baron de Bastrop, now serving as the government's commissioner for the purpose of distributing land and issuing titles.

Surveying of the land selected by the settlers began under the supervision of Austin and Bastrop. The settlers generally chose land on the banks of the rivers or principal streams. The rivers provided water, a means of travel and transporting goods to the coast, and fertile land along their banks. The ideal tracts also included timber and pasture land. The timber was necessary for fuel and building houses and fences, while the pasture lands supplied easy grazing for stock.

In July 1824, Bastrop issued titles to the first of the 300 families authorized by Austin's agreement with the

government. Austin and Bastrop also selected and surveyed a site for the town of San Felipe de Austin, which served as the headquarters for the new colony.

The settlement — and transformation — of Texas was underway.

In 1824, a constitutional, federal form of government replaced Iturbide's short-lived imperial reign. The federation included the former provinces of Coahuila and Texas, now combined into one state. In August of that year, the Mexican Congress approved the National Colonization Law allowing foreign *empresarios*, which provided general guidelines but left the details of colonization up to individual states. The next year, Coahuila and Texas passed its state colonization law with provisions for land grants and specifying conditions and terms for colonization contracts.

As much as one league (4,428.4 acres) could be granted to families whose occupation was raising stock and farming. Single men who had only themselves to fend for were offered one fourth of a league.

Although these were called grants, that didn't mean that the Mexican government wasn't expecting payment in return for the land. Between fees for surveying and obtaining the

title, and the actual payment to the government, a settler could expect to pay around \$150 for a league, several cents per-acre of land.

Mexican citizens could buy up to 11 leagues of public land, if they were willing to pay: \$100 would purchase a league of grazing land; farmland suitable for irrigation cost \$200 a league, while the same amount of non-irrigable farmland went for \$150.

(Part V will continue next week. The information contained in this historical series can be accessed at www.glo.state.tx.us, and is reprinted with permission of the Texas General Land Office.)



Valentine's February Special

Dinner for Two

Two 10oz. Ribeye Steak Dinners Includes Choice of Potato with Soup, Salad and Bread Bar Fresh Fruit • Dessert Bar



Coupon expires 02/28/02. Not good with other offers or coupons.

Open 24 hours — Full family menus plus spectacular buffet and salad bar. I-10 at Horizon Blvd., 859-1906.



Briefs

From Page 1

the required courses, which are designed to give new trustees a strong foundation in their first year of board service.

Seven SISD employees and one parent from Robert R. Rojas and Hueco Elementary schools have been recognized for their work to improve children's health by the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and by the Coordinated Approach to Children's Health or CATCH program. Teachers James Butler, Eddie Gardea, Eddie Martinez, Ben

Townes, Cristina Fierro and Martha Vargas were honored, as was parent volunteer coordinator Susie Maese.

Law enforcement officials are asking community assistance to help solve the murder of David Blanco, who died on or about Oct. 2, 2001 in East El Paso County. Blanco was at first unidentified when his body was discovered in an area about 100 yards north of Gateway West on Fino Road. This area is located near mile marker 41 on I-10. Blanco was last seen alive by family members on Sept. 30, 2001, between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. Information regarding this crime may be rewarded with up to \$1,000, and callers may remain anonymous at 566-TIPS (8477).

Classified Ads

LEGAL

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges:

V I N - IGKDMI9WIRB543978, 1994 GMC van, white, Okla. - PLR-756
VIN-IGBT56KOGC131, Chrysler New Yorker, brown
V I N - IB7JP24T3H5413359, 1987 Dodge Ram, black, LDI-336
WTCC-02/07/02

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:

ELECTRICAL PARTS

CSP NO. 199-0214-0212 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2002, 11 A.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-2/07/02

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:

SPECIAL SYSTEMS SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0214-0217 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2002, 10:30 A.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300

Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-2/07/02

PUBLIC NOTICE ANTHONY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Anthony Independent School District will accept sealed bids to lease/purchase one (1) new 2003 model school activity bus. The bids shall be in the business office at 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821, no later than Feb. 14, 2002 at 10 a.m. MST. Envelopes must be marked in lower left hand corner "Bus Bid."

Bid specifications may be obtained at the Administrative Office at 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821, (915) 886-6508.

Anthony Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in the best interest of the An-

thony Independent School District.
WTCC-01/31-02/07/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Respond:

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

RELOCATION OF PORTABLES CSP NO. 199-0214-0239 THURSDAY, FEB. 14, 2002, 2 P.M.

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

Bidders may obtain copies of the bidding documents and project plans beginning Feb. 1, 2002 by contacting the Socorro ISD office at:

Socorro ISD
12300 Eastlake Drive
El Paso, Texas 79927
(915) 860-3497
Attn: Mark W. Vechione

A deposit of \$100 per set will be required for each plan set a contractor wishes to receive. If the plans and specifications are returned in good condition, the deposit will be refunded.

Special Notice:

A pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2002, at 2 p.m. at Socorro Independent School District, Operational Services Department, located at 201 Tanton Rd., El Paso, TX 79927. At this conference bidders will be afforded the opportunity to survey existing conditions and to ask questions and discuss any aspect of each project. Although attendance is not mandatory, all bidders are responsible for the information discussed, and are strongly urged to attend.
WTCC-02/07/02

BARGAINS

Glass-top coffee table with brass legs. \$25
OBO. 852-1682.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

NECESITAS DINGRO, extra llama ahora a compañero internacional. Atencion 726-3186 de 4:00 p.m. a 10:00 p.m.

OFFICE SPACE

Office for lease in Horizon City. Corner of Darrington and Horizon Blvd. \$350/month. Call Horizon Properties, 852-3331.

SELF-HELP OPPORTUNITIES

Alcoholics Anonymous Grupo Paso Del Norte meets at 8501 Kingsway in Westway, Monday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Call 886-4948 for information.

Alcoholicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sábado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-4948 para informacion.

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous Group 8 de Enero meets at 15360 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call 859-0484 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Visitemos. Alcoholicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

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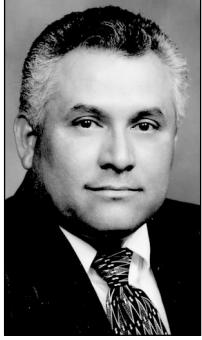
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Ruben Lujan wants to stay on track with JP Pct. 6 programs

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — retirement of longtime Pct. 6 Judge Ruben Lujan wants to keep working as Justice of the Peace in Pct. 6, staying on track with programs involving truancy, traffic citations and environmental issues.



Ruben Lujan

He announced his candidacy for election to the office on his birthday, Jan. 18, during an event at the Emerald Springs Golf Club. He is seeking to retain the post to which he was appointed over a year ago following the

retirement of longtime Pct. 6 Judge Frank Macias.

The energetic Lujan says experience counts, and he points to the number of programs he has instituted over the last year, including a weekly "Truancy Day" in his court during which he works one-on-one with parents and students involved in truancy and juvenile crime. "Punishing the absenteeism without addressing the cause is counter-productive," he said.

Lujan has made the Pct. 6 court a mobile one, holding court in the East Montana community as often as needed due to the lack of public transportation from that area to the Town of Clint where the court is headquartered.

Environmental issues, including desert dumping, are also high on his agenda, as well as equitable settlement of civil disputes.

A member of the Fabens ISD school board from 1992-2000, he served as both president and vice-president during those years. His service on community boards also includes the Thomason Hospital Board of Managers from 1997-99; the Texas Attorney General's Child Support Advisory Board, the Career Placement Advisory Board and Fabens Democratic Party Pct. Chair. He was branch-manager of PCI Communications for 23 years and owned and operated his own business, Rio Grande Radio & Communications.

Lujan carries the endorsement of his predecessor, Frank Macias, as well as County Commissioner Miguel Teran.

River

From Page 1

and Valley Creek Park in the Redd Road area of the Upper Valley, at a price tag of about \$1.5 million. Of that, \$750,000 was to come from a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant; \$370,000 from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation; and \$380,000 from the City of El Paso.

The "Community Millennium Trail" would eventually stretch 42 miles from Anthony, through downtown El Paso, and into the Lower Valley, according to initial planning, and includes improvements to the Rio Bosque Wetlands project in Socorro.

Focus of the linear park system project is to create a winding natural park system that promotes hiking, biking and enjoyment of the El Paso/Rio Grande area's natural wildlife and cultural attributes.

Security

From Page 1

the City of San Antonio Terrorism Preparedness Plan was given by Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff, Mayor Edward D. Garza, and Assistant Fire Chief Mike Miller.

Dewhurst also discussed his Jan.

24 meeting with President George W. Bush and Gov. Tom Ridge and gave an update on meetings with Mexico.

The Task Force will continue to monitor the fiscal impact and developmental stages of those recommendations placed into action. Members may also be called upon to address other safety concerns during their two-year appointments.

Shelter

From Page 1

operating a 'no-kill of adoptable animals' shelter in El Paso."

Approximately 20,000 dogs, puppies, cats and kittens are euthanized every year in El Paso because there are too many animals and too few responsible people to love them, said Palafox.

Members of the board of directors of Pets Alive include Frank Apodaca, CEO of Access Healthsource; Chris Bradley, attorney; Mary Ann Campbell, CPA; Ashton Graham, EPISD Studios;

Charles Hooten, former County Commissioner and realtor; Loretta Hyde, vice president of Animal Rescue League; Bob Moore, Managing Editor of the El Paso Times; Patricia Palafox, attorney mediator and ASAC chairperson; Gayle Ray, Community Relations Director for Wells Fargo Bank; and Pam Vaughn, community volunteer.

Formed in 1999, ASAC leads an on-going effort to reduce the pet overpopulation problem in El Paso County (by increasing Animal Control adoptions and the number of city and countywide spays/neuters) and to reach a point of operating a "no kill of adoptable animals" shelter at Animal Control.

For more information about contributing to Pets Alive for its new shelter and spay/neuter awareness efforts, call Patricia Palafox at (915) 833-9430 or Jennie Van Cleef at (915) 833-6769.



"It's time to reposition ourselves in the marketplace. Let's declare bankruptcy."

Phamiliar phrases
"her dance card was filled"
 The modern usage refers to a busy social schedule. At one time, though, party invitations included an actual card printed with a list of the dances scheduled for the evening - waltzes, quadrilles and the like. Names were placed beside each dance by eager suitors.

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Waltz?
 Foxtrot?

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Village of Vinton PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:00 p.m. during the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2002 at Vinton Village Hall, 436 Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance No. 088-112 Establishing Regulations, Standards, Requirements and Procedures for the Subdivision of Land in the Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas, and its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, Planning and Platting Jurisdiction, Providing for Amendments thereto, and Providing for a Penalty for a Violation thereof.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Clerk of the Village of Vinton. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the Clerk at the above address.

IRMA RODRIGUEZ
 Village Clerk

WTCC: 02/07/02

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Cora Viescas, Executive Director/Chief Appraiser, El Paso Central Appraisal District, is currently accepting application(s) for the following:

RENDITIONS

1. Personal Property
2. Real Estate

DEADLINE FOR FILING OF RENDITIONS, PROPERTY INFORMATION REPORTS, AND REPORTS OF DECREASED VALUE IS MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2002.

EXEMPTIONS*

1. Residential Homestead Exemption
2. Over-65 Exemption**
3. Over 55 Surviving Spouse of a Person Who Received the Over-65 Exemption
4. Medical Disability Exemption
5. Veteran's Disability Exemption
6. Window of Disabled Veteran Exemption

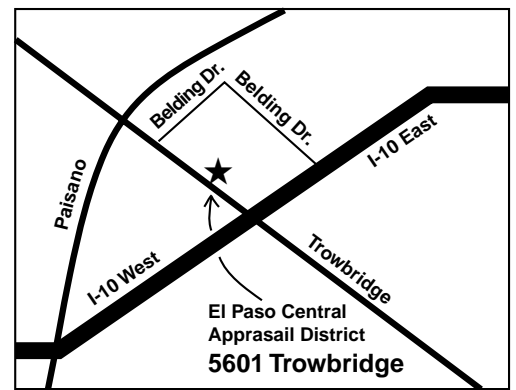
*If you received a Homestead and/or an Over-65 Exemption, or an Over-55 Surviving Spouse of a Person Who Received the Over-65 Exemption, a Disability Exemption, or a Disabled Veteran's Exemption in 2001, it is not necessary for you to file again this year.

**The Over-65 School Homestead Exemption can be transported to another home within Texas on a percentage basis. (Please contact the Appraisal District for forms and explanation.)

SPECIAL USE EVALUATIONS

Agricultural Valuation - Applications are being accepted for Ad Valorem Tax purposes as provided under Article III, Section 1-d and 1-d-1 of the Texas State Constitution. Properties qualifying under these Amendments are valued on the basis of Agricultural Productivity rather than their market value. The tax that would be levied on market value is deferred. Information on agricultural use valuation is available in the State Comptroller's Publication, *Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities*. Copies are available at the Appraisal District Office.

DEADLINE FOR FILING FOR EXEMPTIONS AND APPLYING FOR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS IS APRIL 30, 2002, FOR ALL TAXING JURISDICTIONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AT THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 5801 TROWBRIDGE, EL PASO, TEXAS 79925. FOR APPLICATIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE APPRAISAL DISTRICT AT (915) 780-2131.



NO FEE IS REQUIRED FOR FILING ANY OF THE ABOVE RENDITIONS, EXEMPTIONS OR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS

Signs of the times – it was time for a Patriots victory

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Looking back on it now, how the heck could they have won?

Everything pointed to it. Everything about the day and the time surrounding the moment of the Super Bowl pointed to a St. Louis Rams loss and a New England Patriots win.

On paper, these two teams don't even deserve to share the same ink. The Rams have the best offense in football and were ranked better on defense. The Pats were better in the kicking game and special teams.

But c'mon, no team wins the Super Bowl with just special teams and kicking...right?

There were several unmistakable signs that it was going to be the Patriots' day.

Sign number one: Earlier in the day the NFL aired its annual simulated game where a player from one Super Bowl team plays someone from the other Super Bowl team in a video-football game.

The crazy thing is that the winning team in the video game had won the last six real Super Bowls.

Final video-game score, Patriots 21, Rams 14.

Sign number two: Jimmy's pick. Not everybody knows who Jimmy Kimmel is. Many do. He is a FOX prognosticator who picks football games with, let's say, an unusual flair.

And whether you think he's funny or not, one thing is clear — he does have an uncanny knack for picking the winning football team.

Jimmy's pick — an upset special — New England Patriots.

Sign number three: There was a heavy American influence leading up to Sunday's big game. I don't mean because there were a lot of Americans there, I mean the theme of the day was about how proud one must be to be an American.

There were patriotic songs and music, ex-presidents, American flags, images of the 911 disaster. And even foreigners like Paul McCartney and U2 were singing the praises of the United States.

And one person tied all those factors together with the actual football game.

Terry Bradshaw said that on a day like Sunday, with all the patriotism in the air, it wasn't a good day to bet against any team who wears

red, white and blue — the New England Patriots.

Like I said, the signs were all there. I, as a sports expert, saw them too...just as soon as Adam Vinatieri's kick sailed through the uprights.

The South has fallen

What is going on in the Southeastern Conference? It's a football-rich conference with the likes of Florida, Auburn, Alabama, LSU, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi State, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Seems now this conference has another thing in common besides winning football teams...they are also cheating football teams.

On consecutive days last week the Kentucky Wildcats and Alabama Crimson Tide were put on probation by the NCAA.

Kentucky received a three-year punishment while Alabama got five years. Kentucky will be banned from any bowl game in 2002 while the Tide will be denied bowl games for 2002 and 2003.

Both teams lost scholarships and recruiting trips. It appears that both teams forgot that these were amateur football players and that they

shouldn't receive paychecks until they made the pros.

They also forgot that these were students and that they should do their own homework and their own work on tests.

Oh well, the good news is that both teams will have a lot more time for studying next year...especially around bowl time.

Major Miner

It's no secret that the UTEP Miners basketball team has been major disappointment this season. This team's game has as many cracks in it as the Don Haskins Center floor.

But if there is one player who has surprised everyone and will be counted on heavily next year, it is center Justino Victoriano.

This guy came from nowhere to be one of the best players on the team during the second half of the season. Victoriano is putting together 12-18 point games now with consistency and is always hovering around double-digit rebounds.

And he goes up for rebounds the way Miners of the past did, with quickness and voracity.

Justino Victoriano has been one of the few bright spots in an otherwise gloomy season.

Social Security: Q & A by Ray Vigil

Q. I'm 65 and I get my retirement benefits now. But I want to go back to work. Do I still have to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes?

A. Yes, you'll always have to pay Social Security and Medicare tax on work and self-employment earnings. But what you pay may increase your Social Security benefit. We examine your record periodically to see if additional earnings increase your monthly amount. Since your retirement benefit is based on average earnings in a set number of years, it will only go up if the new earnings are higher than before.

Q. Will I automatically start getting Social Security benefits when I turn age 65?

A. No, Social Security benefits will not start automatically; you must apply for benefits. If you're nearing retirement, you should know that it's best to contact Social Security several months, even a year, before your planned retirement date. Then you can be sure that you start your benefits when it's best for you.

Q. Can I go back to work without affecting my children's payments from Social Security? They've been getting monthly checks on their retired father's earnings record.

A. The amount of benefits your children receive is not affected by your earnings. Their payments will continue until they reach age 18 (19 if they're still in high school) or until they marry. However, if you receive benefits as a mother caring for a child under 16 or disabled, your benefits may be affected by your earnings.

Q. Are there special rules for Federal, State and local government workers and their spouses?

A. Yes. There are two factsheets available from Social Security which explain the different rules, Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. If your earnings were not subject to paying social security taxes, your benefits will be figured under a different formula or they might be subject to two-thirds reduction depending on whether you apply for social security on your own

record or your spouse's.

Q. My wife recently died at age 56. She had worked steadily up until becoming ill a couple of months ago. I'm 60 years old. Could I get Social Security benefits as her surviving spouse?

A. Yes. You, as the surviving spouse, may be able to get survivors' benefits beginning at age 60, provided that your late wife had enough years of work under Social Security to be fully insured for benefits.

Q. Do I have to use direct deposit?

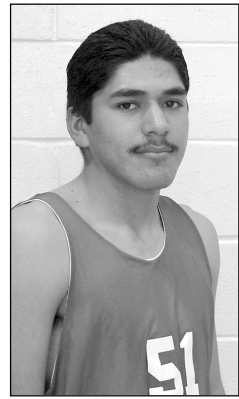
A. Social Security strongly encourages all Social Security and SSI beneficiaries to receive their monthly benefits by direct deposit. As of January 2000, 75 percent of all Social Security and SSI beneficiaries received their benefits by direct deposit. You can still receive your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income benefit by check, but you should consider the many benefits direct deposit offers (e.g. no mail delays or check cashing fees, and it is safer).

Canutillo Eagle athlete named All-State Honorable Mention

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School Junior Hector Saldivar can add All-State Honorable Mention to his list of accomplishments as a member of the Canutillo High Eagles Varsity Football Team this past season.

Saldivar, 5'11" 180-pound running back, previously had been selected to the 2-4A All-District First Team and named to the El Paso Times All-City



Hector Saldivar

Second Team.

"Hector Saldivar might be the first CHS football player to have earned the all-state honor," said Scott Brooks, Canutillo Varsity Football Head Coach.

"I accomplished something I really didn't expect at the start of the season. I'm not only proud for myself but for my teammates because I could not have done it without them," said Saldivar.

Saldivar rushed for more than 1,600 yards and scored 18 touchdowns as CHS Varsity Football team posted a four wins and six losses record last season.

For more information visit your local Security office, see <http://www.ssa.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.

King Super Crossword

CELEBRITY WIVES

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- 1 Craven or Unsel
- 4 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
- 7 Droop
- 10 Beatnik's abode
- 13 Reader's need
- 17 Part of 136 Across
- 19 _ room
- 20 McKinley or Lupino
- 21 Actor Vigoda
- 22 Bread spread
- 23 "Basic Instinct" actress married to comic?
- 27 Drill accessories
- 28 Utah city
- 29 Goddess of youth
- 30 605, to Cicero
- 31 Carpenter -
- 32 USNA grad
- 34 "Buttons and Bows" singer married to Celtics player?
- 40 Learned
- 44 _ mo
- 45 Barley beverage
- 46 Deighton or Dawson
- 47 Charity
- 50 Heidi's hangout
- 53 Nonconformist
- 57 "Five Easy Pieces" actress married to sports columnist?
- 62 Quantity
- 63 Actress Verdugo
- 64 Stocking shade
- 65 Investigate
- 67 Caviar
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- 71 Pillers
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- 75 Teller's partner
- 76 Early sitcom actress married to golfer?
- 80 Paper -
- 82 Buck's beloved
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- 84 _ quo
- 86 Taylor or Torres
- 87 Sierra _
- 89 Marmaduke has two
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- 93 Madrid month
- 95 "Tennessee Waltz" singer married to cable mogul?
- 100 Doc
- 102 Start the laundry
- 103 Galaxy glitterer
- 104 Nosh
- 105 Cornfield cry
- 106 Kind
- 108 Best wishes
- 111 "It's Too Late" singer married to TV producer?
- 119 _ Na Na
- 120 "I _ Rock" ('66 song)
- 121 Hubbub
- 122 Refusals
- 124 "Dies -"
- 127 Pianist Lupu

DOWN

- 1 Used to be
- 2 Return address?
- 3 Trauma aftermath
- 4 Poetic pot
- 5 Engage, as gears
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- 9 Shriver or Dawber
- 10 Religious holiday
- 11 From the beginning
- 12 Lion's lair
- 13 Sampras stroke
- 14 Excuse
- 15 Gas gauge
- 16 Prepared to be shot
- 18 Cornered the cat
- 24 Bus starter?
- 25 Sapporo sash
- 26 Pitches
- 33 Attemp
- 35 Fairbanks' st.
- 36 Actress Celeste
- 37 Sheepish fellow?
- 38 Beethoven's "Fur -"
- 39 TV's "Father Knows Best"
- 40 Actress Sommer
- 41 Kingdom
- 42 Never attained
- 43 Building wing
- 48 Welcome item?
- 49 Fright
- 51 Orange seed
- 52 Handbag part
- 54 Precursor
- 55 Rock's _ Maiden
- 56 " _ Wolf" ('85 film)
- 58 Land
- 59 Drug buster
- 60 Handles
- 61 Salutes the moon?
- 66 Defeat
- 69 General's helper
- 70 " _ John B" ('66 song)
- 72 Crank's comment
- 73 Insomnia cure?
- 75 Flying Pan?
- 77 Horne and Olin
- 78 Actor Fernando
- 79 Asian river
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- 81 Reinforce a raincoat
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- 88 Ike's domain
- 90 NCO
- 92 Fido's dinner, perhaps

- 94 Puerto -
- 96 Math subject
- 97 " _ never work!"
- 98 Teacup part
- 99 " _ bien!"
- 101 Be in debt
- 107 Nairobi native
- 109 Alphabet quartet
- 110 Producer Spelling
- 111 Magna _
- 112 Menotti title character
- 113 Chatter box?
- 114 Painter Frida
- 115 Perfect
- 116 Cambodia's Lon _
- 117 Internet acronym
- 118 Maintain an engine
- 123 Cut a cuticle
- 125 Jezebel's husband
- 126 Begrudge
- 128 Employ
- 129 Cul-de- _
- 130 Ullmann or Tyler
- 131 Geologic division
- 132 _ rickey
- 133 Diocese

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Yes, parenting can be fun!

By Don Flood

Good news, frustrated and frazzled parents!

Lawrence Cohen, a Boston psychologist, has written a book called "Playful Parenting" that stresses the importance of play in raising children.

Take, for example, the classic problem of a child taking too long to get ready for school.

The old-fashioned approach was to smack the kid into submission.

Later, as modern parents became sensitive to the need for a nurturing approach, they threatened nuclear warfare or to ban use of the telephone for 10,000 years.

But a new day is dawning. Here, according to Cohen, is what you should do if your child refuses to get ready for school: put his pants on your head and dance around a bit!

Yes, you read that correctly. Put his pants on your head. Dance around.

And while you're at it, get your paperwork squared away so that your family won't have to waste precious time having you committed!

Despite the fact I have never

tried this approach — yet — I can guarantee you it will work.

In fact, not only will your child get out of the house in a jiffy, the next time you hear from him will be when he writes home from college asking for more money.

Problem solved!

If you're honest, you'll have to admit you've never even thought of that approach, have you?

No wonder your kid is depressed, stuck with a stuffed shirt like you!

Here are more ways — courtesy of me this time — to make a game of parenting.

Typical problem: You order your kid a meal at a restaurant, but he refuses to eat.

In the old days — about two weeks ago — parents would hold a child's nose closed, wait till he was forced to breathe through his mouth, shove the food down his throat and then jerk his jaw up and down to simulate chewing.

In its own way, of course, this was fun too, but think how much better it would be to make a game of it.

Using your spoon as a catapult, launch foodstuff missiles into the mouths of other family members or nearby diners.

Etiquette tip: If your fellow diners don't seem to be entering into the spirit of the game, ask to be seated in the "food-throwing" section.

When your child sees how much fun everyone is having, he'll beg to join in!

Another tip: Take turns shooting food into each other's mouths. For each successful "basket," the player is awarded two points. Before you know it, dinner will be over!

Typical problem: Child forgets to brush his teeth.

Take the toothpaste, squirt it up your nose and then do somersaults around the bathroom.

He'll never forget to brush again!

Typical problem: Kid fidgets too much.

Instead of fussing, collapse on the floor and start flailing around like an electrified monkey.

If someone sends for medical personnel, "come out" of the convulsions briefly to explain that you're just trying to stop your child from fidgeting.

If they have children of their own, they should understand.

And if they don't understand, then they're obviously no fun.

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BOUND FOR STATE — Canutillo High students qualify for BPA state competition. Shown seated: Alejandra Marquez, senior; and standing, from left, Tim Barno, teacher; Carol Sherman, teacher; Brenda Corral, junior; Ruben Vogt, senior; Jackie Segovia, junior; Mildred Ruiz, junior; Jeremy Nelson, freshman; and Dalila Salazar, senior.

Canutillo BPA competitors qualify for state

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Canutillo High School Business Professionals of America (BPA) students advanced to state finals after placing first or second in various business events during the BPA area competition held at Ysleta High School recently. About 300 students from local area school districts participated.

Nine CHS students will be among the group of high school students who will represent the El Paso area in the BPA State Conference, Febru-

ary 28 through March 2, in Houston. Eight CHS students were named state alternates in their events.

CHS State Qualifiers are: Ruben Salinas, Jackie Segovia, Jeremy Nelson, Mildred Ruiz, Brenda Corral, Alejandra Marquez, Ruben Vogt, Alejandra Marquez, and Dalila Salazar.

CHS State Alternates are: Princess Trillo, Marilyn Valdez, Bianca Cortez, Indira Montenegro, Ruben Salinas, Jackie Segovia, Ruby Palacios, Michael Saenz, Andy Acosta, and Bianca Cortez.

BPA advisors are Canutillo High School teachers Denise Werge, Tim Barno, Carol Sherman and Bonnie Lugo.

Top finishers in the state contests will be eligible for national competition which will be held during the BPA National Leadership Conference, May 8-12, in Chicago, Illinois.

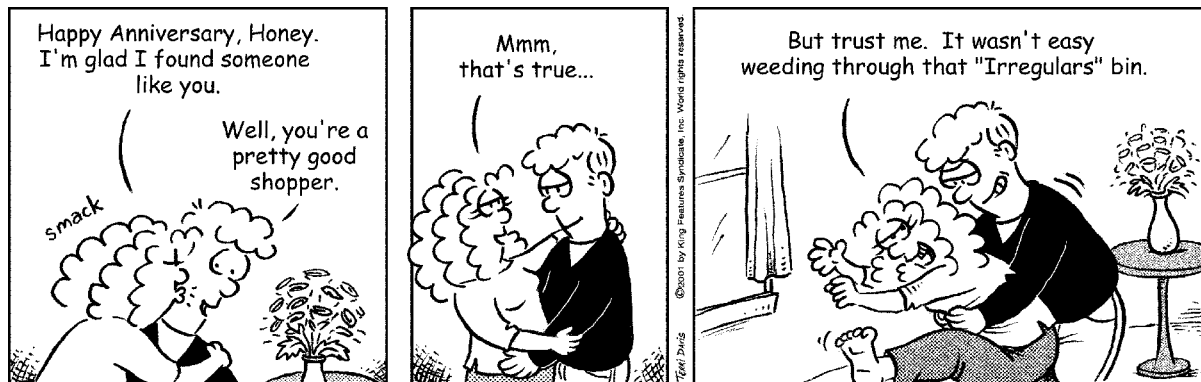
For more information: 877-7500 or 877-7532.

Comix

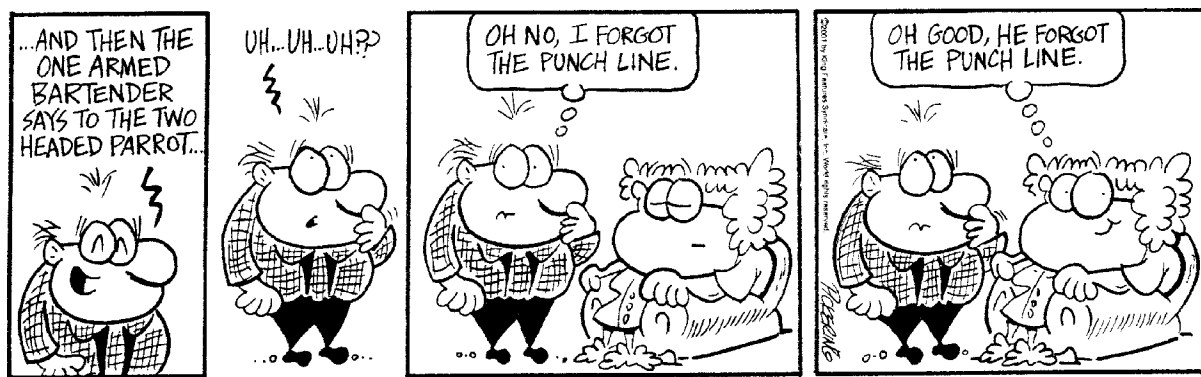
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



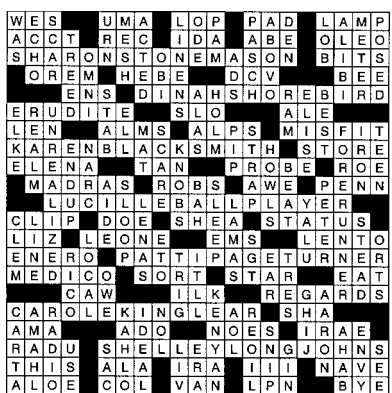
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SSA changes you should know about while preparing for tax season

As another tax season approaches, Social Security Administration is expecting an increased volume of social security number inquiries as taxpayers prepare to file their tax returns electronically. All dependents born any time in calendar year 2001 will require an SSN or an IRS issued tax identification number for tax year 2001. Needing an SSN for federal, State or local tax purposes is not a valid non-work reason for issuing an SSN to an alien without work authorization. Identity theft and so-

cial security number (SSN) fraud has always been a concern for the Administration.

Effective Jan. 14, 2002, the local Social Security Offices will no longer be able to issue full "Numident" printouts for purpose of providing SSN verifications. A Numident is a record of the information provided by the individual on his or her application for an original SSN and subsequent applications for replacement cards. These requests will now be submitted directly to Central Office in Baltimore, Maryland with the ap-

propriate fee of \$16. Various third parties have become familiar with social security jargon and terminology that individuals are being asked by these third parties to provide a verification of their SSN. Providing the Numident record to a third party discloses more information than the third party needs. The agency has created a new Numident Social Security Number verification document that will show name and social security number only. There is no fee for this record. Social Security wants to encourage tax preparers to consider

completing the return based on information and the personal records readily available to the taxpayer, including the individual's SSN card, prior year tax returns, W-2s, birth certificates, etc.

Another change in the SSN process is that a mandatory in person interview is now required of any U.S. born individual 12 years of age or older, applying for an original social security number. The interview is intended to locate a prior SSN by helping the applicant recall possible circumstances under which an SSN

may have been needed so he/she can locate the SSN and also prevent the assignment of an SSN to an individual assuming a false identity.

Two more changes, all U.S. birth certificates will be verified for all U.S. born applicants over age 1 applying for an original SSN and an identity document will be required for original SSN applicants regardless of age.

These changes will affect the SSN application process with possible delays in assigning SSNs and issuing SSN cards.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Bright sunshine.	Clear.	Sunny.	Bright sunshine.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine.	Times of sun and clouds.	Clouds and sun.	A good deal of sun.
▲ 60°	▼ 34°	▲ 62° ▼ 36°	▲ 66° ▼ 38°	▲ 68° ▼ 42°	▲ 66° ▼ 36°	▲ 58° ▼ 28°	▲ 52° ▼ 28°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	6	Moderate
Friday	6	Moderate
Saturday	6	Moderate
Sunday	5	Moderate
Monday	5	Moderate
Tuesday	4	Low
Wednesday	5	Moderate

REAL FEEL TEMP™

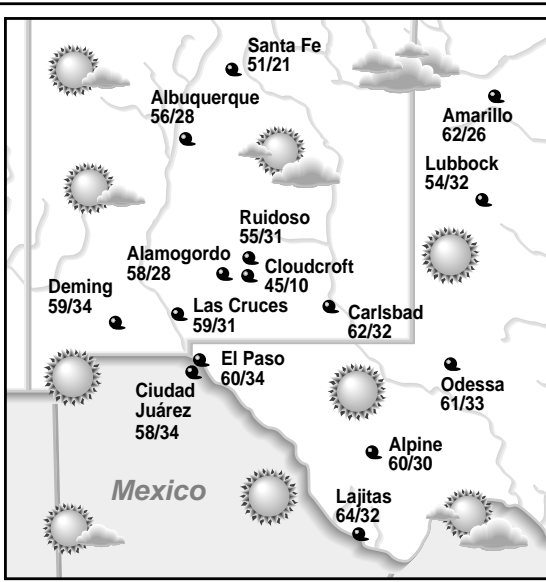
A composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	64°
Friday	60°
Saturday	68°
Sunday	70°
Monday	70°
Tuesday	60°
Wednesday	54°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	60	34
Canutillo	61	35
Clint	60	35
E. Montana	60	34
Fabens	60	35
Horizon	61	35
San Elizario	58	32
Socorro	59	33
Tornillo	59	35
Vinton	61	35

Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	56/28/s	58/28/s	56/26/s	58/32/pc	58/32/pc
Atlanta	46/32/r	56/36/s	58/38/s	58/40/pc	62/42/c
Atlantic City	42/30/sn	44/32/pc	44/28/pc	42/28/c	46/34/c
Austin/San Antonio	62/40/s	68/42/s	68/46/s	68/50/pc	68/52/c
Baltimore	42/30/sn	46/30/pc	44/28/pc	42/26/pc	44/30/c
Boston	36/24/c	36/26/c	34/22/sn	34/22/c	38/32/c
Chicago	40/26/pc	36/28/sf	38/26/sf	36/24/c	32/18/sn
Dallas/Ft. Worth	58/40/s	64/42/s	64/44/pc	64/46/c	62/48/r
Denver	54/28/s	56/24/pc	48/22/pc	54/24/s	46/22/pc
Flagstaff	54/18/s	51/20/pc	52/23/pc	50/25/pc	43/6/c
Houston	66/36/s	68/40/s	68/40/pc	70/44/pc	72/52/c
Kansas City	44/22/s	42/24/s	42/28/pc	42/26/pc	40/18/sn
Las Vegas	63/40/pc	66/44/pc	68/46/c	68/44/c	61/27/pc
Miami	80/60/sh	76/58/pc	76/60/pc	78/64/pc	78/63/pc
Minneapolis	34/14/pc	34/16/sn	30/12/sf	28/12/pc	28/10/pc
New Orleans	58/38/pc	64/42/s	68/48/s	68/52/s	70/54/s
New York City	42/30/c	42/32/pc	42/28/c	40/28/pc	42/34/s
Philadelphia	42/30/c	44/30/pc	44/26/pc	42/26/r	44/32/pc
Phoenix	75/48/s	75/48/s	75/50/s	77/52/s	75/50/pc
Portland	48/38/c	50/42/c	52/44/r	50/38/c	46/36/sh
San Francisco	58/44/pc	62/44/pc	64/44/s	64/44/s	62/44/s
Seattle	48/38/sh	50/42/c	52/42/r	48/38/r	46/36/sh
Tucson	72/40/s	74/42/s	76/44/s	78/46/s	74/44/pc
Washington, DC	44/30/c	46/30/pc	46/30/pc	44/28/pc	46/36/c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2002

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