



VOL. 30, No. 42

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

OCTOBER 16, 2003

NEWSBRIEFS

Livestock relief

Livestock producers in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson Counties who have suffered grazing losses caused by natural disasters will find some relief through the Livestock Assistance Program offered by the USDA, Farm Service Agency. The sign-up period ends Oct. 24. Jaime Bustamante, County Executive Director, said the office has received 25 applications for the relief which is intended to address the needs of producers who were not adequately covered by the Livestock Compensation Program. However, producers may not receive payments under both programs for the same loss. Disasters covered include drought, hot weather, disease, insect infestation, flood, fire, severe storms or other natural disasters. For details log on at <http://disaster.usda.gov> or call (202) 720-2600.

Turf rebates

Residential customers of the Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District who want to replace grass landscape with low-water usage alternatives may qualify for a rebate program. Applicants must submit plans and receive approval before beginning the project to be eligible. At least 100 square feet of landscape must be converted in front and side-yards to water-friendly plants and trees to qualify for a rebate of one dollar per square foot. This is a one-year pilot program and details are available at 852-3917.

In other news

The Chamizal National Memorial is inviting regional artists and arts organizations interested in displaying their work at the Memorial to submit their portfolios for consideration in upcoming exhibitions. Those interested should submit a proposal in writing, according to Arts Director Virginia Ness. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their work supports the mission of the Memorial, which commemorates the peaceful settlement of an almost 100 year border dispute. The Chamizal National Memorial, 800 South San Marcial, has three exhibition areas. For additional information, call 915 532-7273.

Community volunteers may wonder if their efforts make a difference. For members of the American Legion, apparently they do — to the tune of \$40.5 million and counting over the past 12 months. Post service officers helped veterans obtain earned benefits, provided graveside military honors, provided job placement assistance, and drummed up more than 90,000 pints of blood in local blood drives. Founded in 1919, the American Legion is the nation's largest wartime veterans organization. Information: 317-630-1253.

One way to be popular is to listen attentively to a lot of things you already know.

— Quips & Quotes



DOGGONE GOOD — El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Special Weapons and Tactics team (SWAT) was recognized as the first place NOVICE Team at the Texas Tactical Police Officers Association SWAT competition. This is the first time the team has competed. The competition was held in Houston, Texas September 14-18, 2003. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office SWAT was founded in 1993.

Sheriff's Office given statewide recognition

EL PASO COUNTY — Several members of the El Paso County Sheriff's Department were noted at the state level for excellence in their chosen career during a special recognition ceremony on Monday, Sept. 22.

Sergeant Ruben Orozco was named the "2002 West Region Supervisor of the Year." The Texas Narcotics Officers Association gave the award to the 22-year veteran of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. He is currently assigned to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Metro Narcotics Task Force.

Deputy Louie Almonte and his K-9, Black-

jack, were named Texas Narcotics Officers Association "Narcotic Detector Dog Team of the Year" 2002-2003. The award is based on specific criteria including the number of seizures, and value in dollar amount of those seizures.

Deputy Almonte is a lifelong resident of the city of El Paso, and is a 22 year veteran of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. He is currently assigned to the El Paso County Metro Narcotics Task Force as a K-9 officer. His primary

See SHERIFF, Page 4

Illness retires SISD's friend, Mendi

EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro Police Sgt. Eddie Orozco's eyes are moist as he talks about his police partner, Mendi. They worked together for three years to keep El Paso and Socorro schools safe — but canine lupus, a type of cancer, cut short the young dog's life Oct. 4. The Socorro district retired the four-year-old German Shepherd dog that day, and she died two hours later.

Mendi was the District's first female canine officer, but handler Orozco says Mendi — whose name is German and pronounced MEN-dye — will be remembered for the way she loved children.

"I'd walk into a room with her and we were swarmed. Several kids told me, 'You know, we don't fear you. But we respect you and the dog.' And that was like a pat on the shoulder."

Orozco says Mendi loved to search. "She loved backpacks. She'd put her nose all the way in the backpack, and just like a woman, if there was makeup in the backpack, she'd leave her nose there for a few seconds, loved it, and kept on going."

Mendi — who responded to commands spoken in German — didn't like other dogs, but loved people.

During the retirement ceremony, Socorro district police chief Ramon Rendon praised Mendi. "She prevented a lot of drugs within

the school district, and has done a beautiful job," says Socorro district police chief

See MENDI, Page 4



CANINE FAREWELL — Officers and Canine Officer Eddie Orozco's sons say goodbye to Mendi.

For Crystal, computer camp may have been crystal-ball glimpse of her future

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Very rarely do high school seniors get the opportunity to look inside the crystal ball and see a glimpse of their own future after graduate, but San

Elizario High School senior Crystal Martinez got that chance this past summer.

Martinez was one of 50 girls throughout the state of Texas — and the only El Pasoan — selected to participate in a unique summer camp

called First Bytes Computer Science Camp, June 22-28 in at the University of Texas at Austin. The program is designed to introduce young girls to the prospects of pursuing computer science degrees in college, a field where males dominate.

"I want to major in Biomedical Engineering," Martinez said. "But I also want to minor in Computer Science."

Sounds ambitious? Not for Martinez. After all, she happens to be on the varsity basketball and volleyball teams, gets creative as a member of the Art Club, is Earth friendly as a Recycling Advocate of America participant, crunches numbers in the Math Club, is a member of the National Honor Society, and is ranked fourth academically in a senior class that elected her its Vice President.

"She's eager to try new things and is willing to see the world outside of San Elizario and explore it," said Karen Thompson, an English teacher at San Elizario High School. It was Thompson who suggested to some of her students to apply for the First Bytes Camp.

"She's the only one who took me up on it," Thompson said. "So I recommended her and helped guide her through some of the paperwork."

Martinez admits that she didn't exactly know what to expect from the camp, only that she was going to be able to stay on the UT campus and meet girls from across the state, some of which had experience in computer science while others didn't. When it was time to pack her bags and return home, she had a much different outlook with her experience.

"I left with the feeling that I might want to pursue this," she said. "I also met a professor there that majored in Biomedical Engineering and minored in Computer Science."

Meeting a possible mentor was just one highlight in a week that saw her participate in underground bowling — you'll have to ask her about that — take a tour of the UT campus, learn how to build a computer, take an IBM tour and, most importantly, meet UT graduates and take part in discussions regarding the women in Computer Science careers.

Perhaps one of the most important highlights Martinez experienced was trying something different, even if she had no idea what it was about.

"I liked the fact that I had no idea what this was but still went through with it," she said. "This camp really motivated me and I didn't feel intimidated. The camp was very diverse; it was neat to interact with a different variety of girls."



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Snakes in the bed

When I pulled back the sheet there they were, all wadded together the way snakes do when they den up.

I survived that first blood-curdling moment by realizing that none of them were writhing, then I scooped them up and put them over on the chair while I finished making the bed.

This happens to me regularly these days. Sometimes it is frogs, sometimes lizards, sometimes bugs of the most awful variety, all in a myriad of sizes and colors. Under beds, in the couch, behind the potty in the bathroom or scooted up under the edge of the kitchen counter — in all the places one would expect such creatures to hide.

My mother says that kids are born with their interests already fully formed. She says that, from birth, some

people will love horses, some music and art, some mechanical things.

I got one that loves snakes.

Of course, he is mine once removed. He's my second grand-boy, now two and a half years old, and I am beginning to believe that my mother is right.

Environment has nothing to do with it. Believe me, we tried the farm animals, the stuffed dogs and cats, the cars and trucks with clever ramps for them to coast down. We even brought in Noah's ark with funny-looking creatures that would capture his imagination, I was sure.

I even degenerated to monkeys, anteaters and other equally ugly mammals. Still, he wanted the bugs and lizards.

He discovered them in one of my Goldenbook field guides, appropriately enough labeled "Spiders and Their Kin." With morbid fascination, he carried the poor book around until it started falling apart.

He soon graduated to "Insects" and is currently studying "Reptiles and Amphibians."

Then he started field research on the live ones in the back yard — the ants, the June beetles, the praying mantis on the fence. He squats for what seems like hours studying the inanimate corpse of some bug that has concluded its span of life, gesturing occasionally and issuing some sort of diagnosis of the situation in language only a true entomologist could understand.

One of his first words was "Boog."

At least he's not stupid about it. He fully understands that there is a certain element of danger associated with these creeping things he finds so fascinating. His first reference has now expanded into "Boogs bi-choo."

He has even learned to scream like the female occupants of our household when he sees a moving bug then stands with satisfied expression waiting for someone to critique his dramatic performance.

His favorite song is "The Ants Go Marching." I'm not kidding.

He has managed to cohabit with a large number of red fire ants in the back yard without having been stung.

Wonders never cease.

Like every good mother, my daughter has set out to encourage and expand her son's chosen field of expertise. We live in a house now populated with plastic versions of the creatures I have striven my entire life to eradicate.

We have lizards, snakes, frogs, fish, even an iguana. We have beetles, ladybugs, bees, flies, scorpions, ants, butterflies, spiders and centipedes. The toy manufacturers have no mercy.

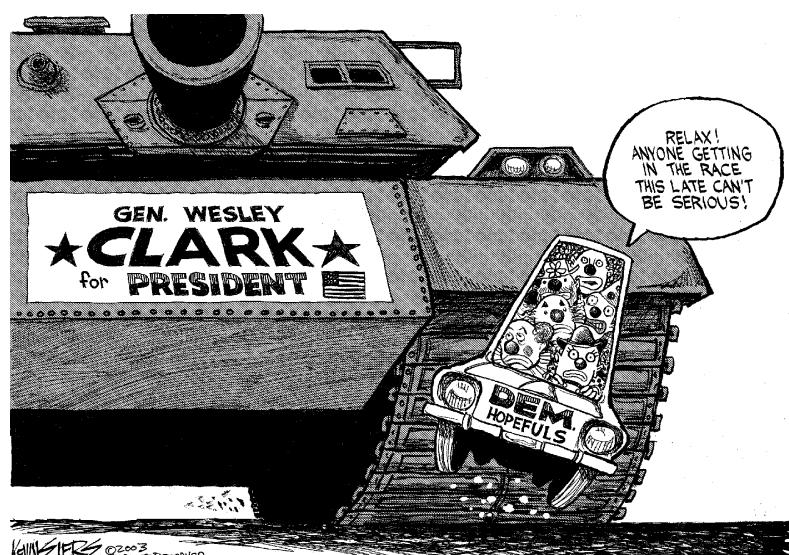
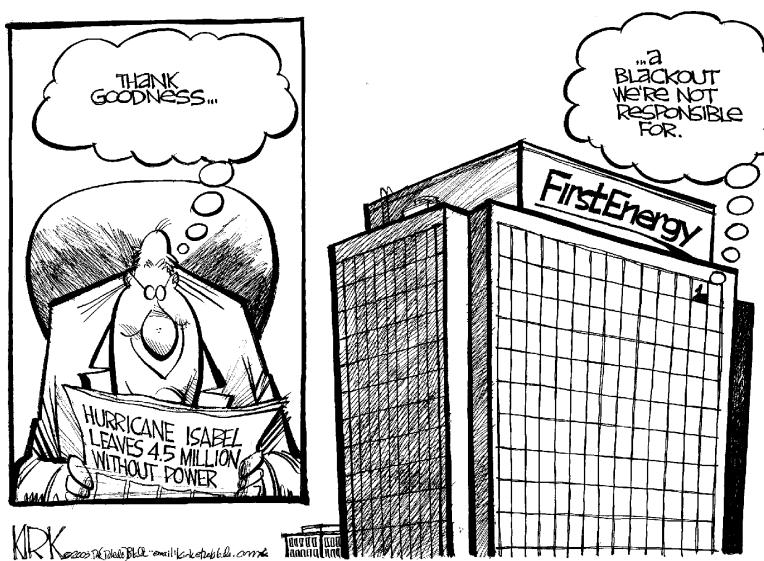
The other day she came home with a huge bucket full of arachnids. It contained a variety of sizes of boogs, I mean, bugs, including several spiders about the size of my hand and a scorpion the size of a vinegaroon — for those who don't know what a vinegaroon is, it is basically a scorpion on steroids.

It was too much. Finally we sorted out the largest of the spiders, scorpions and centipedes that were certain to give me a heart attack if encountered in a darkened hallway in the middle of the night. We put them away indefinitely.

Then we took a count of the ones remaining and I issued an order that they must all be accounted for in their bucket before bedtime.

I watch this budding zoologist with interest as he thumbs through his manuals, one of which we keep on the back of the potty so he'll stay there long enough to do his business. He knows the names of many of the species listed and says them all enthusiastically as he passes their pictures.

So much for art and music.



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

U.S. Dept. of Education provides a helping hand for special projects

Schools across El Paso County are feeling the effects of our nation's current economic crisis. With increased enrollment and decreased budgets, school administrators and teachers are forced to look outside their budgets to fund important and innovative programs.

The U.S. Department of Education's many competitive grant programs allow schools to apply for funding for certain programs. Thanks to the hard work of educators and administrators, El Paso schools recently won thousands of dollars in federal grants.

The Ysleta Independent School District (YISD) won \$268,500 to expand its fine arts program. YISD will integrate arts disciplines such as music, dance, theater, and visual arts into the regular curriculum at six early childhood and elementary schools.

The El Paso Independent School

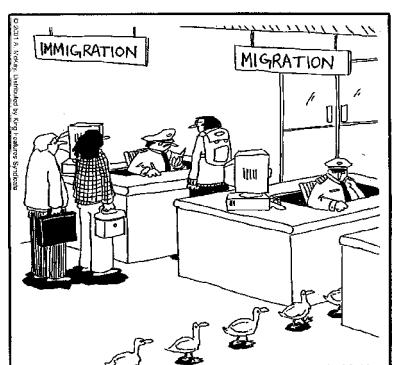
District (EPISD) won \$463,500 from the Department of Education's Emergency Response Plans for School Safety Initiative program. Since September 11, 2001, communities across the nation have worked to improve their emergency preparedness plans. This grant will improve and strengthen EPISD's emergency response and crisis management plans.

UTEP won \$302,286 from the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). This grant, which will be funded over three years, will teach business and engineering skills to Hispanics and other minorities.

The program, "Forging Global Supply Chain Management in Engineering Education," will develop two senior-level courses cross-listed in UTEP's engineering and business schools and a graduate course in supply chain management. The program includes a year-long internship for UTEP and Howard University (a predominantly African-American uni-

versity in Washington, D.C.) students in companies on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and a supply chain management seminar series with faculty from two American and two Mexican universities.

As these grant awards attest, El Paso's teachers and administrators consistently seek innovative ways to improve our educational community's needs. The future of El Paso is in their hands, and they are far surpassing the expectations of their challenging jobs. I recognize their hard work and thank them for it.



View from here By The Honorable Hector V. Barreto

Hispanic Americans are seeking opportunity through free enterprise

A few weeks ago, the Census Bureau announced that Hispanics are now the largest minority group in America, totaling 13 percent of the population, 38.8 million strong.

A recent survey of Latinos in the US by the Pew Hispanic Center of the Kaiser Family Foundation sought to help answer some of the difficult questions that have been on the minds of many Americans since the new Census numbers were released: Do Hispanics want to be part of the melting pot? Are they willing to learn English and assimilate to American culture? Or are they and their children happier to stay separate from the American mainstream, divided by culture, customs, and language?

The survey found that the answer is: "Both, to some extent."

As the son of Mexican immigrants, this finding rings very true for me.

To Hispanics, assimilation versus preservation of traditions and culture is not an either/or proposition. The Pew survey, for example, found that while most Hispanics speak Spanish or are bilingual, they feel very strongly that they must learn English in order to be successful in the United States.

The Pew survey also found that while Hispanics see the United States as offering more education and employment opportunities for their children than their family's native countries, they are also worried about the moral values and the strength of family ties here in this country. For people with a strong faith and love of family, this is the less positive side of the U.S., but Hispanics are confi-

dent that they can maintain and pass on their cultural values even as they assimilate to this country.

This dual-desire to assimilate while also maintaining cultural identity, priorities and pride is not dissimilar from other groups who came here as immigrants. From the Scottish family whose fifth generation American men wear a kilt on their wedding day, to the Chinese-American family who celebrates Chinese New Year, maintaining cultural traditions while assimilating is what has made this country such an incredible, diverse place.

And like virtually all of the other groups who have come here, Hispanics come to the USA primarily seeking the opportunity that only comes with the kind of freedom, the kind of free market that we have here in this country.

The growth of Hispanic-owned small businesses is strong evidence of this thirst for opportunity, and an entrepreneurial spirit that has helped so many previous generations of immigrants to become major contributors to the U.S. economy.

Over 1.2 million of America's small businesses are owned by Hispanics... and the number of Hispanic-owned firms is growing at a rate of about 30 percent. That's twice the rate of all other firms. In an economy where small businesses create three-quarters of the net new jobs, this rate of increase is extremely significant.

As President George W. Bush has said, owning a small business is the "embodiment of the American

dream." It is no coincidence that Hispanics and other immigrants seek the dream through self-employment. My own family did. The fact that this path also benefits our economy and creates jobs is much more than the icing on the cake — it's an essential part of our ongoing economic recovery, job creation and growth.

If we as a country want to help Hispanics assimilate and achieve the American dream, and ensure their ability to be entrepreneurial and create jobs, we've got to make sure we aren't weighing down that incredible entrepreneurial spirit with excessive taxation and government regulation at every level (local, state and federal). We've also got to take steps to make health insurance more affordable for the self-employed and the employees of small business. Our economy depends on making sure that the American dream can always be reached — for Hispanics and, indeed, for all American entrepreneurs.

The Pew survey reminds us that Hispanics want the same things that those who came before them wanted: freedom and opportunity. Good jobs. Safe streets. Strong schools for their children. And many want to start, or grow, their own business. They share the values that made this country great, and that is why they are achieving what so many others have sought and achieved here: the American dream.

Hector Barreto is the Administrator of the U.S. SBA.



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

October is breast cancer awareness month

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is a good time for us to learn and remind ourselves about the serious facts surrounding this disease and to look ahead to the promising news about breast cancer research.

The widespread impact of breast cancer is staggering. Every year, almost 184,000 American women are diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 44,000 will die from the disease. These are not just faceless women. They are our wives, our mothers, our sisters and our daughters. Breast cancer has become the leading killer of women aged 35-44.

Breast cancer is not just a war fought by the families directly affected by it. It is every American's war to win. Each year breast cancer costs this country \$6 billion in medical costs and lost productivity. When it comes to this disease, no one can afford to take a "that won't happen to me" attitude.

It's unfortunate, but sometimes our federal government wastes time and money on trivial causes. But if there's one thing it should be dedicating time towards, it's searching for cures to deadly diseases - such as breast cancer. I am proud to sit on the House Appropriations Committee which funds breast cancer research.

Cancer research is a national priority. That is why

Congress has consistently provided necessary and ample funding to expand breast cancer research through the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health.

The good news is that researchers are making exciting new strides in breast cancer research. Genes responsible for inheritable breast cancer have been isolated. New drugs like tamoxifen lower the risk of developing the disease in high risk women. And scientists are developing a better understanding of the cancer cell itself. We now have the armor and weapons needed for the fight against this disease.

There's still a lot we don't know about breast cancer. But what we do know is that early detection and treatment is essential to winning the war against this terrible disease. The number of women dying each year from breast cancer is declining. The experts tell us that this is a direct reflection of the recent increase in early detection and treatment of breast cancer. Let's keep that trend going.

I encourage everyone to learn more about breast cancer this month. Through education, research and sheer tenacity, we can work together to help the millions of women and their families whose lives are threatened by breast cancer.

**Miss an issue?
www.wtccourier.com**

For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

A prayer for moms of preteen daughters

Here's a prayer for all the moms of daughters who are barreling ahead toward teen years faster than we'd like.

Dear Lord,

Be with us as we learn to give the little girl room, the little girl who once upon a time liked to put our makeup on her dolls, or little brother, but who now wants to know when she can wear makeup to school. Help us to stand firm in our boundaries, "Not until the seventh grade," yet share in her anticipation and excitement of the new world that's opening up to her.

We know that she's bombarded by images on television and in magazines of how a teen acts and looks. Help us to know when to turn off the television — despite the balking. But also help us to remember that although she may try on some of these looks and attitudes, underneath is the personality that You designed in her. As moms we have the ability to nurture her strengths and guide her gently toward good choices.

When she goes into our closet to find something to dress us in, let us praise her for her sense of style rather than be offended that she was, quite frankly, right — the frump needed a fashion makeover.

Although it seems that there aren't enough mirrors in the house nowadays and that clothing, jewelry and fingernail polish seem to be the key topics, let us continue to engage her in conversations about You, the world, her dreams (to be an actress, fashion designer, model) and opinions. She's not only beautiful, but she's also smart.

Help us to loosen our apron strings, our grip, our stronghold — letting her have opportunities where we don't hover over her like a helicopter, but give her room to breathe and grow, trusting in the job we've done so far.

Let us remember to never be too busy to hug her, pray for her and to never take for granted that she still likes to read with us each night before she goes to sleep.

Give us the wisdom to celebrate this time of our daughters' lives, rather than mourn for the way it was only a few short months ago.

Give us also patience to share our mirrors, our curling irons, our clothes with this little girl who is on her way to becoming a big girl, and before long, on her way out our door.

Amen.

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Clint ISD Food Services are finding the way to healthy students' hearts is through their stomachs

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Because of the alarming increase of childhood obesity and its relation to the availability and accessibility of junk food, additional restrictions and changes at both the state and federal level regarding school lunch programs are inevitable.

In an effort to stay ahead of these anticipated changes, Clint ISD is taking a proactive approach. Clint ISD Food Service Department aims to provide students with healthy food item choices, as well as improved taste and quality of food while increasing student participation.

"Our goal at Clint ISD is to bring menu variety as well as nutritious

foods for our students to enjoy," says Olivia Campos, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services. Clint ISD has limited the sale of competitive foods at all campuses during the meal period from vending machines and campus fundraising snack bars to two days of the week. The other three days the campuses may not sell these items until after school.

Clint's Food Service Department, Supervised by Cecilia Ontiveros, is working closely with the campuses, Coca Cola, Tom's Snacks and other vendors to provide quality nutritious snacks for the children. The vending companies are loading the machines with fruit-based juices, water, ice cream, granola bars, trail mix and other popular but acceptable snacks that the children like. The sale of foods of minimum nutritional value

such as carbonated beverages and hard candy are also not permitted during the meal period on any campus.

Cafeteria Managers have been given more flexibility and autonomy in decisions regarding the menu to satisfy the border palate to which our students are accustomed. Clint's Food Services has also contracted with Burger King to provide hamburgers and Peter Piper Pizza to offer these food items in the regular lunch line several times per month. This will encourage the students to participate in the school lunch program which offers USDA balanced meals including fruits, vegetables, and other allowable calories.

Students will have the opportunity to give their opinions on cafeteria food and service in random campus surveys throughout the school year.



TAKING THE LEAD — Canutillo Middle School Student Council officers, from left, Sarah Lopez, Drew Norris, Jessica Soto, and Ishia Adams.

Canutillo MS student council members get involved

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Middle School Student Council election brings in new officers with plans for getting more students involved in school and community activities.

CMS students voted in a new slate of student council officers recently after listening to candidates' campaign speeches via the school's Channel One, a daily intra-campus television broadcast, and being bombarded by posters and fliers during the weeklong campaign period.

Elected to office were eighth graders: Jessica Soto, president; Drew Norris, vice president; Sarah Lopez, secretary; and Ishia Adams, treasurer. Also, elected were representatives from each first period class. The new

student council group consists of 55 seventh and eighth grade members.

"As president, I want the Student Council to get involved in helping improve our school and encouraging all students to concentrate on their class work. Also, we want to help bring important student issues to the attention of the campus administration when necessary," said Soto.

Student Council advisor Sharon Norris said, "I really appreciate the faculty and staff's assistance with the students' campaign activities, especially Robert Marshall, CMS science teacher, who helped candidates videotape their speeches for Channel One."

The new student council is currently working out details for its upcoming projects including the annual Spirit Week activities in October, a canned food drive in November, and the traditional spring carnival.

Sheriff

From Page 1

duties are assisting members of the task force in any law enforcement capacity utilizing his canine for the purposes of detecting narcotics and maintaining integrity in drug searches.

Blackjack, unfortunately, passed away Saturday, July 5, 2003, and was recognized posthumously. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office retired the Blackjack's badge on July 9, four days after his death. Blackjack began his career with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office in 1997.

Deputy Almonte and Blackjack seized 96,316 pounds of marijuana; 195,730 grams of cocaine; 4.1 grams of Methamphetamine; and were responsible for several hundred felony arrests. They are responsible for numerous money seizures totaling \$519,981.00 in U.S. currency.

They also were awarded first place in the team competition in April 2003 at the National Narcotic Detector

Dog Association National Competition in Texarkana, Texas. In this competition, Deputy Almonte and Blackjack teamed with Deputy Joe Quiroz and K-9 Charly. The Almonte/Blackjack team also won the 2001-2002 Texas Narcotics Peace Officers Association Dog Team of the Year Award.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Special Weapons and Tactics team (SWAT) was recognized as the first place NOVICE Team at the Texas Tactical Police Officers Association SWAT competition. This is the first time the team has competed. The competition was held in Houston, Texas Sept. 14-18, 2003. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office SWAT was founded in 1993.

The team members competing were Sgt. Bobby Flores, Detective Stephen Haack, Deputy Victor Cordero, Detective Raul Apodaca, Detective Fernando Garcia, and Deputy Luis Rodriguez.

Alternates were Sgt. Larry Guerra and Sgt. Natividad Guerrero. The Commander of the SWAT team is Captain Angel Colorado.

Mendi

From Page 1

Ramon Rendon.

Rendon told the crowd that Mendi had searched 1,128 vehicles, 3,800 lockers, 1,500 backpacks and made more than 300 classroom presentations. She never lost a court case."

Mendi came to Socorro about one year ago with Orozco, her handler.

"It is important to understand that she was a part of the team and a certified peace officer in the State of Texas, and is recognized and treated just like a police officer." Representatives of other law enforcement agencies attended the ceremony.

"She was as much a part of my family as my four children," Orozco says.

The District will soon acquire another dog, returning the canine staff to two.

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SBA takes steps to strengthen Hispanic role in small business arena

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration has recently taken several steps that are intended to support and strengthen the participation of Hispanics in the realm of small business.

The SBA has begun offering an interactive online course for Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs on its Spanish language website, www.negocios.gov, in addition to signing a strategic alliance agreement with the Hispanic Business Roundtable designed to increase the participation of Hispanic-owned businesses in SBA programs.

On-line business course

The nine-session interactive course — titled “My Own Business” — was developed by My Own Business, Inc., a nonprofit firm founded in 1992 by a successful entrepreneur to develop and provide educational materials on entrepreneurship. The

courses cover such topics as writing a business plan, marketing and e-commerce, and are offered through a joint effort between the SBA and My Own Business Inc. to provide a free, comprehensive online entrepreneurship course for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

“We are very happy to provide this valuable educational tool on our Spanish language website,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “These courses help a prospective entrepreneur walk through the initial steps as they are getting ready to start their business. By taking the time to prepare themselves with training like this, entrepreneurs can better ensure the success of their businesses in the long term.”

The SBA established its Spanish language website a year ago. The site contains information about SBA programs and services and provides a

wide range of useful information for entrepreneurs. Since its inception, the website has logged almost 3 million hits with the number of visitors steadily growing.

My Own Business, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) company, was founded by Phil Holland after the 1992 riots in Los Angeles. The successful founder of Yum Yum Donut Shops in 1970, Holland established My Own Business, Inc., to share his expertise and experience in creating successful entrepreneurial businesses with people in economically distressed neighborhoods. Yum Yum Donut Shops grew from a one-shop operation to become the largest privately owned chain of donut shops in the United States.

Supportive business focus

Meanwhile, in the SBA/HBR alliance agreement, the focus will be on communications at national and

local levels in order to meet the program objectives established in the agreement which calls for the parties to cooperate on six major areas: capital access; training/management and technical assistance; procurement; international trade; women-owned businesses; and veteran-owned businesses.

The main goals of the agreement for these areas are increased lending to Hispanic-owned small businesses; increased awareness of SBA programs and services among Hispanic-owned small businesses; increased participation of Hispanic, women and veteran-owned small businesses in the SBA’s procurement programs.

Both parties will jointly conduct workshops and seminars on SBA’s 8(a), HUBZone and SDB Programs, and will work together to promote and increase the participation of His-

panic-owned businesses in such programs.

The cooperative memorandum took effect at the time of execution and will remain in effect through December 2004.

For more information about all of the SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 UASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>.

For more information about SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 UASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640 or visit the SBA’s extensive website at www.sba.gov. The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter SBA Solutions. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New SBA Solutions Newsletter.

Parental involvement means more than just paying child support

By Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas

When parents are involved in their lives, children have a better chance at growing up healthy, happy and well-adjusted. Most parents instinctively understand this and do what is needed. However, sometimes a healthy reminder, doesn’t hurt. President George Bush recently set aside “Family Day” for the nation to engage in activities “to strengthen the relationships between parents and children.”

In issuing his proclamation, the President noted that parents play a central role in steering their children toward healthy behaviors and clear of harmful ones. Simple activities such as sharing a meal or going to a ball game together provide ideal opportunities for this kind of interaction. While the Sept. 22 observance has passed, parents really can choose any day — ideally, all days — as their own Family Day.

As the one charged with ensuring that Texas children receive the financial support they need from parents, I see every day the need for fathers and mothers to be involved in their kids’ lives. This starts with regular child support payments. Children depend on child support to provide basic needs like food, shelter, health care, and clothing. Research shows that children who receive regular

child support reap intangible benefits as well, such as making better grades in school, being more likely to finish high school and attend college, and even having fewer behavior problems at school.

But money is only part of the equation. Too often, children would benefit from more, not less, involvement from the parent who pays their child support. My office is working across Texas to encourage parental involvement through such programs as the Parenting and Paternity Awareness Program (P.A.P.A.), which teaches middle and high school students about responsible parenting and the skills needed to build strong, stable families.

President Bush noted that children from two-parent families have increased chances for success in life because they are less likely to end up in poverty, become addicted to drugs, suffer abuse, or have a child out of wedlock. I agree with his assessment, and so does social research. In some instances where the safety of mothers and their children is in danger, marriage may not be suitable. But where appropriate, programs produced by my office — such as P.A.P.A. — extol the benefits of getting married before becoming parents.

I am thankful that most parents faithfully carry out their responsibilities to

their children. All children deserve the security that comes from knowing their parents care enough to make regular child support payments. For those parents who need extra encouragement, I have several enforcement measures at my disposal that can remind them of their duty to pay.

My hope, however, is that more parents will truly understand just how necessary they are to the success of their children.

POINTS TO REMEMBER PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- Support them financially;
- Help them avoid risky behaviors;
- Point the right way toward adulthood;
- Show them they are loved.

The A G Will Help You:

- Learn many responsibilities of parenthood;
- Locate a non-custodial parent;
- Establish your child’s paternity;
- Establish and enforce child support and medical support orders;
- Review, adjust, collect and distribute child support payments.

For more information about the P.A.P.A. curriculum, call the AG’s Child Support Division at (512) 460-6124. To apply for Child Support Services visit Child Support Interactive at: www.oag.state.tx.us or call toll-free (800) 252-8014.

Painting exhibit illustrates Chihuahuan desert’s many moods



EL PASO COUNTY — The illustrative mood for the six month *Faces and Places of the Chihuahuan Desert* project has changed with the installation of regional artist Hilda Rosenfeld’s delicate watercolors in the Visitor Center Gallery at Chamizal National Memorial. The project, which explores the Chihuahuan Desert, opened in April and ends in late October. Rosenfeld was born in Juarez and is noted for her flowers and landscapes. “I have been painting and exhibiting for the last 25 years and now I celebrate this milestone by paying homage to the land I love, to the land of my birth.” Rosenfeld has had more than 30 one-person exhibitions at museums and galleries in Mexico and the United States. *Desert Grasslands* (above) is one of the paintings on display. This exhibition will be on display 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at 800 S. San Marcial between Bowie High School and the Bridge of the Americas. Admission is free. For more information, call 532-7273.

Helpful hints to move your pet

EL PASO COUNTY — Each year, more than 43 million Americans pack up their treasured belongings, the kids and their pets for a move to a new home in a new community. That includes thousands of families moving to and within El Paso County.

Many of these moves take place between May and September while school is out to ease the transition for children. But moving is stressful for pets, too, and there are some simple things that can be done to ease the stress on both you and your pet.

“Humans are not the only ones who need to adjust to new surroundings after relocating,” said Carl D. Poer, vice president, general manager and nationally certified moving consultant for the region’s only Allied Van Lines agent. “Pets can also feel the stress and anxiety of an unfamiliar environment. Whether it is the proper food or water dish location or new yard to frolic in, we offer ideas and suggestions to help ease pets into their new homes.”

Poer said creating the right environment for your pet is especially important in a new home, since a healthy, happy pet has positive impact on the whole family.

- Encourage pets to sleep and play in central living areas so they can watch what’s happening and feel like a part of the action.
- To ease stress, choose a bed in warm earth tones.
- Place your pet’s food dish in the kitchen, another central point of action and a common family gathering place.
- Do not place your pet’s feeding area near the trash, but keep it safe where it won’t be a hazard or accidentally kicked or spilled.

While creating a positive environment in your new home is important, preparing a pet for the relocation process ahead of time can also help to ease stress and prevent sudden illnesses or personality changes in your pet once you relocate.

- Maintain your pet’s routine as the

moving date approaches. This is not a time to experiment with new food or new brands.

• If moving by plane, book a direct flight to avoid the hassle of changing airlines, and preferably travel during a weekday when there is more room in the cargo section.

• If moving by car, acquaint your pet with riding in a car before the trip begins by taking a few short trips around the neighborhood.

• Once you arrive in your new home, familiarize your pet with his new surroundings and show him his old toys, blankets, and dishes.

• If moving in town, try to take your pet with you on several visits to the new house or apartment, perhaps when taking smaller items over first.

To request a free brochure, “Guide to a Good Move,” offering general moving tips, call International Moving and Warehouse Co. at (915) 778-4271. Additional tips and moving information can be found at www.alliedelpaso.com.

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Thanks for the memories: Plimpton didn't just dream it, he did it

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

As a child I dreamed of doing all the things that many would say, realistically, were out of reach.

There were things I wanted to experience, if only for a little while.

One of my many heroes growing up was a gentleman who felt the same way I did. Only he went out there and tried them, even if it was evident he had no business doing so.

Unfortunately, he passed away recently.

George Plimpton was a modern-day Walter Mitty. A man who didn't wait for an opportunity, he went out and created it.

Plimpton, who died at the age of 76, was the ultimate sports fan. Though not blessed with natural athletic ability, he made a name for himself, not only as an author, but by trying things you and I could only dream about.

Here are some examples: Plimpton stepped into the ring and boxed with Archie Moore, he pitched some baseballs to Willie Mays. He performed as a trapeze artist for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus.

He also acted in some movies, including "Reds" and "Good Will Hunting." He also appeared in an episode of "The Simpsons."

But his is most remembered for getting the chance to play professional football for the Detroit Lions. He played quarterback for three plays. Of course, he wrote about his experiences going through the Detroit Lions training camp back in 1963 in the best selling book, *Paper Lion*.

Though his performance was awful, he still went out and did it.

And wouldn't we all like the opportunity to pitch a baseball to Sammy Sosa, or play one-on-one with Kevin Garnett or play nine holes with Tiger Woods?

Thanks for all the dreams, George Plimpton.

I'm not sure about going a round with Mike Tyson, though.

NBA heading East?

How many of you are still wondering whether Yao Ming is making a giant mark on the NBA?

Of course, Yao is the 7-foot-6 Chinese basketball player who had a successful first year with the Houston Rockets.

Well, Yao has made such an impact with the

league that he may get to play some home games. No, not in Houston... in China.

The NBA is considering playing some regular season games in China in 2004. A few factors will have to be ironed out but they are seriously talking about it.

Evidently, interest in the NBA is booming in China. This year the NBA launched a Chinese-language website, the league publishes a Chinese version of its official magazine and has a Beijing office.

Stick to tennis

Martina Navratilova was, without a doubt, one of my favorite female tennis players ever. I always loved her determination, power and will.

She was so intimidating that it always seemed that most of her matches were already won before she stepped onto the court.

I liked the fact that she was honest and hard-working. Even today, she still competes in many events as a mixed-doubles partner.

The time that I began to lose interest in Martina, though, is about the time she began to get political. I don't mind actors, musicians and athletes speaking their mind, but I think they're starting to take themselves a little bit

too seriously.

Navratilova also made her homosexuality a big issue a few years back and that turned a lot of people off... including myself. Personally, I don't care what the sexual preference of anyone is. I've just got bigger things to worry about.

I care about a person's homosexuality as much I care about a person's heterosexuality. I don't care.

The talk about such things is just another vehicle to help keep people further apart.

Now Martina, going on 47, is thinking about entering the political arena.

She said she plans to play tennis until 2005 and then run for office. She said if Arnold Schwarzenegger can run for governor of California, then who knows? She added that she, too, had the muscles.

And if it were all about muscles, she might be a good politician.

But please, Martina, please stay out of the lives of other Americans.

I enjoyed watching you as a player, you worked all your life to become the best at your craft. But that was tennis, this is politics.

I hope you're smart enough to know the difference.

Aviation program offers chance for almost anyone to pilot a plane

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More and more people are learning to fly thanks to "Be A Pilot," the aviation-community program designed to educate the public about the benefits, fun and adventure of flying.

Through the program, anyone interested in becoming a pilot can take an introductory flying lesson for just \$49 and experience what it's like to fly a small plane.

Registration can be made online at www.beapilot.com or call 888-BE A PILOT toll-free to receive an Introductory Flight Certificate, which can be presented at more than 1,900 participating flight schools nationwide to receive an introductory flight for just \$49.

Since 1997, more than 180,000 people have registered for the Introductory Flight Certificate. Thousands of them are flying today.

They've also discovered that learning to fly is easier than they imagined, thanks to technological advances in flight training and computerization. And more affordable. Many people qualify to fly solo with just 12-14 hours of training for just over \$1,000.

A private pilot license can be earned with as few as 40 hours of training and practice flying. Even a more typical 50-70 hours can cost as little as \$3,000 - \$7,000 depending on region of the country.

Aviation-field organizers say being a pilot

opens up a whole new world of fun, adventure and opportunity, as well as personal growth and sense of accomplishment.

There's also the freedom and independence of knowing you can fly above the stoplights or bumper-to-bumper traffic in miles of open sky.

Be A Pilot opens the door to career opportunities, they add, for younger people or middle-aged career switchers.

In fact, the aviation industry has a shortage of qualified pilots, from airline captains to new flight instructors, to handle its ever increasing needs. Consider that of the 19,000 pilots hired last year to fill positions with the major, regional and commuter airlines, the majority

were civilian-trained in General Aviation. Even with the layoffs announced this fall by several major airlines, the long-term need for professional pilots is expected to increase as more than 40,000 career pilots retire.

Until recently, most airline pilots were trained by the military. But with military pilot training at historically low levels, 60 percent of today's airline hires come from civilian General Aviation.

Be A Pilot is a nonprofit organization supported by more than 60 aviation companies, organizations and businesses dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of General Aviation flying.

Agreement joins Chamizal National Memorial with Gila Cliff Dwellings

EL PASO COUNTY — The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, located within the Gila National Forest outside of Silver City, New Mexico, will benefit from a partnership agreement just signed by the National Park Service (NPS) and the

US Forest Service, according to Chamizal National Memorial Superintendent Isabel Montes.

Montes, who is responsible for NPS oversight of supervisory personnel at the Gila Cliff Dwellings, said that the "The sharing of resources

will assist us to provide our visitors an enjoyable and memorable experience at our park sites. I am delighted with this partnership and the assistance the U.S. Forest Service will continue to provide Gila."

The partnership agreement allows

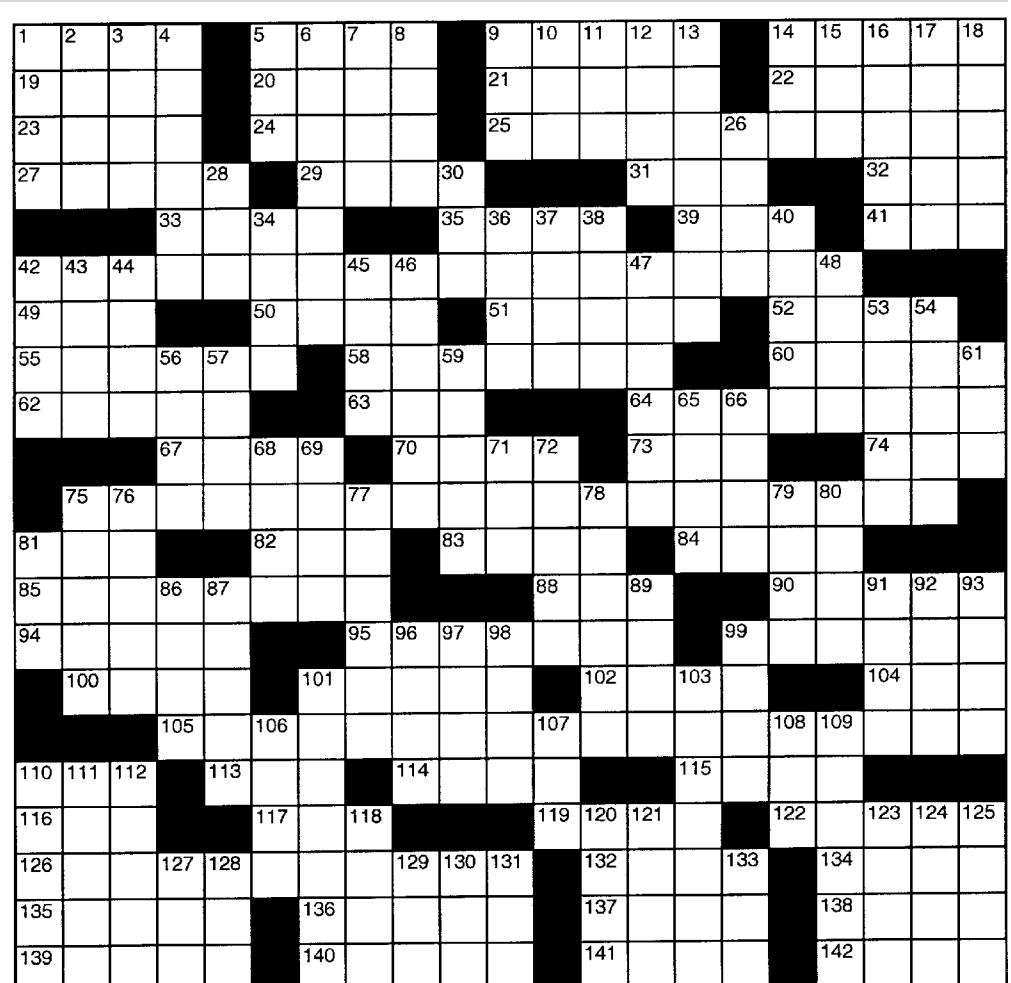
close collaboration between agencies and regions in the administration and operation of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument.

The well-preserved cliff dwellings were inhabited from about 1280 to the early 1300s. They were proclaimed a National Monument on Nov. 16, 1907. Signed by President

Theodore Roosevelt, the proclamation noted that the dwellings were known as the Gila Hot Springs Cliff Houses. Situated in the Mogollon Mountains, within the Gila National Forest, in the then-territory of New Mexico, the dwellings gained the protection of the federal government with the National Monument designation.

King Super Crossword

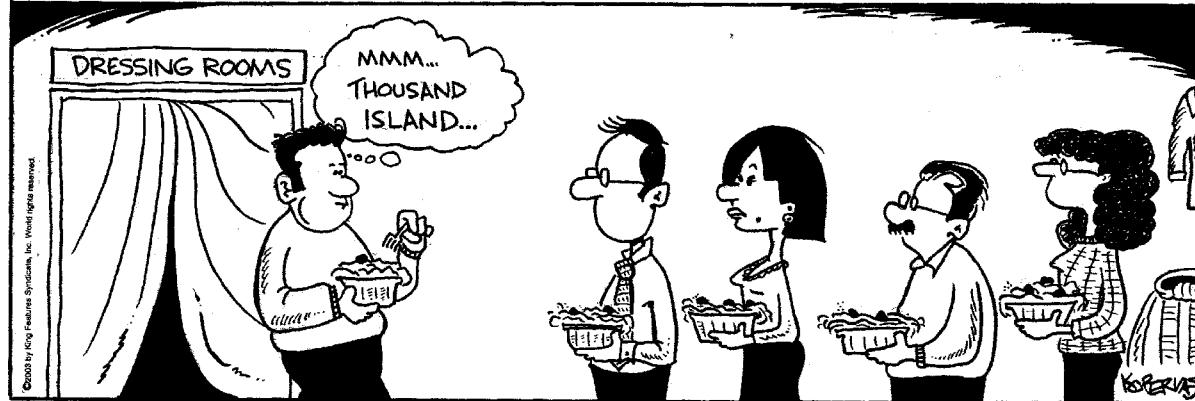
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ACROSS	70 Add fringe	140 Sorcery	45 '68 US Open win-	99 Shoestring
1 Trails	73 Remsen or Flatow	141 Lacquered	ner	101 Persian poet
5 Strikebreaker	74 Cambodia's Lon _	metalware	46 Mason's tool	103 Fleshly
9 Burst of energy	75 Part 2 of remark	142 Footfall	47 Proposition	106 Push a product
14 "Lonesome	81 Fire	DOWN	48 Apiece	107 A/C measure
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19 Gulf country	83 Oomph	1 Like a wet noodle	54 TV's "Broken _"	109 Porthos' pal
20 Unwind a rind	84 Floor model	2 Section	56 Facts, for short	110 Appomattox signa-
21 Actress Shire	85 Flatter	3 "The Journey of	57 Spruce	ture
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23 Vittle statistics?	90 Stiller's partner	4 Apt rhyme for worm	61 Sniggler's quarry	112 Gold brick?
24 Movie mutt	94 Be nosy	5 Bath, e.g.	65 Parched	118 Author Ferber
25 Speaker of remark	95 Null and void	6 They're nuts	66 Sheet of stamps	120 "Braveheart" extra
starting at 42 Across	99 Impasse	7 Commedia dell'_	68 It'll give you a lift	121 Nevada city
27 Alarm	100 Basilica area	8 Den denizen	69 "Elephant Boy" ac-	123 Gusto
29 Mrs. Zeus	101 Make some dough	9 Fr. holy woman	tor	124 Stanley Gardner
31 XXVII x II	102 Jet-setter's need	10 Norm	71 Guy's counterpart	125 Profound
32 Sleep stage	104 Onassis' nickname	11 Einstein's birthplace	72 Monitor message	127 Viking weapon
33 Contralto Stevens	105 Part 3 of remark	12 100 dinars	75 Animals	128 Fleur-de_-
35 Rampur royalty	110 Sosa stat	13 "Bewitched" kid	76 Successful	129 Souffle ingredient
39 Soho snack	113 Swell place?	14 Actress Rita	77 "High Sierra" ac-	130 Actress MacGraw
41 Diocese	114 Moment of truth	15 Planet, for one	tress	131 Cal. page
42 Start of a remark	115 _do-well	16 Transvaal residents	78 Salad veggie	133 "Toodle-oo!"
49 Hair ball?	116 Browning's bed-	17 Roast host	79 Bullets, briefly	
50 Former nation:	time?	18 Delibes opera	80 Director Nicolas	
abbr.	117 Pipe cleaner?	26 Done	81 "Nash Bridges" net-	
51 D-Day code name	119 Manipulates	28 Org. founded in	work	
52 Gilbert of	122 In shock	1947	86 Reggae's Peter	
"Roseanne"	126 End of remark	30 Eyebrow shape	87 Duel-use items?	
55 Game division	132 Word with steak or	34 Cozy	89 "What _ for Love"	
58 Massachusetts city	soda	36 Sailor's shout	(75 song)	
60 Paint pigment	134 Marseilles mother	37 "Nautilus" captain	91 Slightly open	
62 Author Irving	135 Adhesive ingredient	38 Author Dinesen	92 Exceptional	
63 Fluffy female	136 Viewpoint	40 Moral man?	93 Surrounded by	
64 September birth-	137 Hunky-dory	42 Wading bird	96 Neither masc. nor	
stone	138 Key	43 "Candid Camera"	fem.	
67 They may be satu-	139 Rob of "Silk	creators	97 Crooner Jerry	



Answer Page 7

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



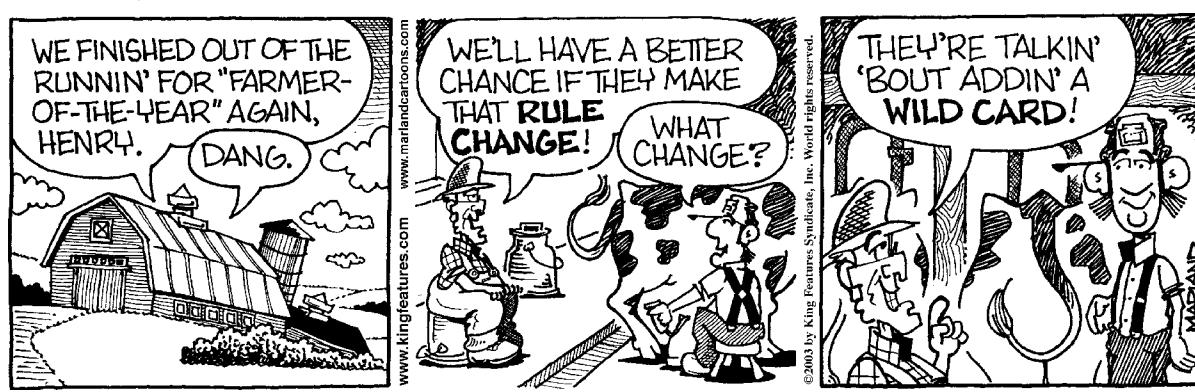
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DPS releases new Top 10 Most Wanted list

The Texas Department of Public Safety has released the new Top 10 Most Wanted list. The fugitives on the new list are wanted for a wide range of crimes, including murder, sexual assault of a child, burglary, delivery of heroin and possession of ammunition by a felon. Texas Crime Stoppers will give a \$1,000 cash reward to any person who provides information that leads to the arrest of one of these fugitives.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of any of these fugitives should call 1-800-252-TIPS (8477). The Crime Stoppers hotline is open 24 hours a day. You do not have to give your name when calling.

DPS urges caution around these fugitives. "Any fugitive should be considered armed and dangerous," said Col. Thomas A. Davis, Jr., director of the DPS. "You should never attempt to apprehend these fugitives yourself."

The top 10 fugitives are:

- Charles Randall Brunson, DOB 3-5-67, last known address: Del Valle. Wanted for aggravated sexual assault of a child and injury to a child.
- Danny Ray Daniels, DOB 9-4-51, last

known address: Beaumont. Wanted for possession of a firearm by a felon. Daniels is a registered sex offender.

- Jim Paul Davis, DOB 3-5-74, last known address: Groveton. Wanted for aggravated sexual assault, DWI and burglary of a habitation.

- Victor M. Delgado, DOB 7-13-59, last known address: El Paso. Wanted for murder with a deadly weapon. Delgado is a member of the Barrio Azteca.

- Fred Garcia Gonzales, DOB 1-29-70, last known address: San Antonio. Wanted for delivery of heroin, burglary of a building, possession of ammunition by a felon and possession of marijuana.

- John Paul Johnson, Jr., DOB 8-24-68, last known address: Houston. Wanted for possession of cocaine and homicide.

- Juan Arturo Moreno, DOB 8-4-70, last known address: San Antonio. Wanted for indecency with a child and failure to register as a sex offender.

- Margie Trevino Ortez, DOB 5-10-51, last known address: Dallas. Wanted for murder.
- Lee Herman Wackerhagen, Jr., DOB 9-

19-53, last known address: Maxwell. Wanted for murder, interference with child custody and unlawful flight. Wackerhagen is considered a suicide risk.

- Reginald O'Keith Williams, DOB 8-8-69, last known address: Houston. Wanted for sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault of a child and failure to comply with sex offender registration.

You can find the list with photos on the DPS website at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/wanted/>. The list will be updated as needed.



Americans suffering from new syndrome

By Don Flood

We need to talk.

I mean the nation as a whole here, because we have a problem.

By which I mean, *you* have a problem.

As many as one third of you are suffering from CWS, or Celebrity Worship Syndrome.

That's according to James Houran, a psychologist with the Southern Illinois School of Medicine.

I realize this is hard to accept as a real disease, because, after all, the guy announcing it isn't a celebrity.

If it were Dr. Phil or Dr. Joyce Brothers or even Dr. Ruth saying this, it might be a little easier to swallow.

But how are we supposed to believe this Mr. Nobody saying that many of us have an unhealthy interest in celebrities?

Here are examples of the three levels, as offered by Houran.

Entertainment social: "My friends and I like to discuss how Ben could have moved from Gwyneth to J.Lo."

Intense personal: "I consider Halle Berry to be my soul mate."

Borderline pathological: "When he reads my love letters, Brad Pitt will leave Jennifer Aniston and live happily ever after with me."

My friends, if you think Brad Pitt has time to read your letters, you are seriously delusional. Leave him alone!

Besides, how do you expect Brad and Jennifer to answer my letters when you're bothering them with who knows what trivial nonsense you're writing?

Overall, though, I think Dr. Nobody has exaggerated this so-called "illness."

Not that I'm apathetic. I'm sure CWS is a real problem, for some people.

It's just that I have more impor-

tant things to worry about — like Demi Moore, for instance.

I'm sorry, Demi, but wake up — you're old enough to be this guy's mom!

This Kutcher character is going to hook up with one of his cutie-pie co-stars, and you'll be history!

Not that Bruce Willis is any better. His current insignificant other is 25.

Why don't you and Demi get back together?

It would give us all one less thing to worry about.

And Gwyneth, face it. Brad's gone. He's with Jennifer now — even though he *wasn't* with her at the Emmy's. What's that about?

And I don't know what to make of Ben and J. Lo.

One minute the wedding's on, the next minute it's off.

Should I buy a present or shouldn't I?

Speaking of weddings, maybe it's time for Colin Farrell to consider one.

You've got a kid now, Colin!

I can't pick up the paper without reading about you out carousing all night.

Why don't you come over to my house some night, and we can have a quiet game of cards.

And Colin's not the only one with a new arrival.

David Letterman has a new baby — at age 56! (Letterman, that is, not the baby.)

Dave, but what you were thinking?

Same with you, Britney.

You can't expect to meet a nice boy if you've seen smooching with an older woman.

Frankly, I don't know what I'm going to do with you people.

I have half a mind not to be your friend anymore.

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I am on SSI. When I die, will SSI or Medicaid take my home?

A: There is not. My wife is age 46 and our child is 14. How do I get their SSI checks started?

Q: The SSI program will not take your home after you die. But you will have to ask your local welfare or social services office (which runs Medicaid) if it can put a lien on your home.

Q: I am 56 years old and have just been approved for an SSI disability check. I thought there would also be a payment for my wife and child, but

A: The SSI program does not pay benefits to dependent spouses or children. If your wife and child also have disabilities, they could apply for their own SSI payments. But if they are not disabled, then you are getting all the money you are due from the SSI program. Your local Social Security office can refer you to other community agencies that might be able to

help you and your family

Q: I plan to retire at age 50. I've been getting estimates of my future Social Security benefits from your agency. Will my benefits be reduced if I stop work at 50? If so, how much?

A: First, you should know that you cannot collect any Social Security retirement benefits until you are at least age 62. Second, that estimate we send you assumes you're going to keep working until age 62. If you retire at 50, your benefits will definitely be less than they could have been had you kept working until age 62. How

much less depends on your earnings history. The best way to estimate what your Social Security retirement benefit would be if you retire at age 50 is to use the retirement calculators at our website.

Q: I know the retirement age is going up. I was born in 1940 and I have to be age 65 and 6 months to get my full Social Security benefit. But I am also a widow. Is the age when widows can get Social Security also going up?

A: Yes, it is, at the same rate the retirement age is going up. So you would

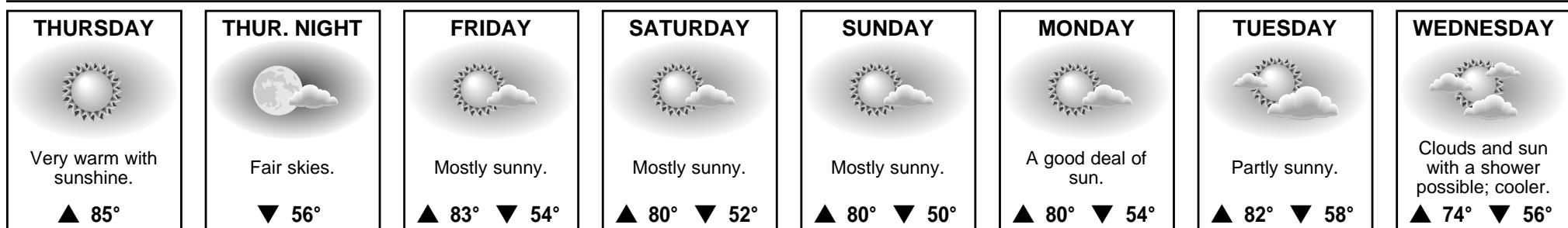
also have to be age 65 and 6 months to collect your full widow's benefit. But, as with retirement, the age at which you can get reduced benefits has not changed. Retirees can still start their benefits at age 62 if they want, and widows or widowers can get their benefits as early as age 60.

For more information visit your local Security office, see 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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO



UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Day	UV Index	Description
Thursday	7	High
Friday	7	High
Saturday	7	High
Sunday	7	High
Monday	7	High
Tuesday	7	High
Wednesday	5	Moderate

REAL FEEL TEMP™

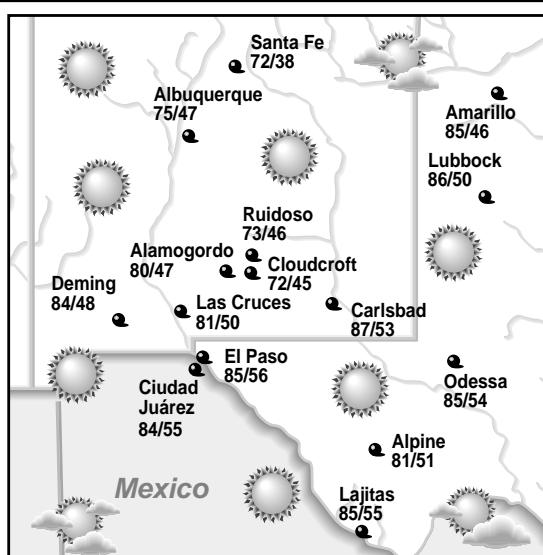
The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Day	Real Feel Temp
Thursday	83°
Friday	81°
Saturday	80°
Sunday	79°
Monday	79°
Tuesday	79°
Wednesday	76°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	82	53
Canutillo	83	54
Clint	83	54
E. Montana	85	56
Fabens	83	54
Horizon	83	54
San Elizario	80	51
Socorro	83	55
Tornillo	83	54
Vinton	83	54

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



AGRICULTURE

A large ridge of high pressure over the Desert Southwest will promote plenty of sunshine and warmer-than-average temperatures for the next several days. The ridge will also suppress the Pacific moisture that has recently soaked parts of western Texas. Afternoon humidity for the next few days will reduce to 20-30 percent, promoting good drying.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2003

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	75/47/s	73/46/s	72/49/s	74/47/s	71/46/s
Atlanta	72/52/s	70/50/pc	68/48/s	68/50/s	73/54/s
Atlantic City	63/46/s	60/44/s	59/44/c	59/41/pc	60/37/s
Austin/San Antonio	82/62/pc	78/53/pc	78/53/s	80/57/s	82/59/s
Baltimore	64/42/s	62/46/s	58/46/c	60/44/pc	60/37/s
Boston	60/44/s	58/44/s	56/42/c	54/42/pc	55/40/s
Chicago	58/38/pc	54/36/pc	58/40/pc	62/44/c	60/45/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	79/60/s	74/54/s	76/56/s	80/61/s	81/59/s
Denver	70/40/pc	72/42/s	76/45/s	74/45/s	67/38/s
Flagstaff	66/33/s	68/33/s	70/35/s	70/33/s	66/35/s
Houston	84/60/pc	80/56/pc	78/56/s	78/56/s	80/58/s
Kansas City	70/42/pc	60/44/pc	70/52/pc	72/51/s	71/51/s
Las Vegas	86/58/s	88/60/s	90/62/s	88/59/s	86/61/s
Miami	85/75/pc	85/73/pc	85/73/c	84/72/pc	85/71/pc
Minneapolis	52/34/pc	52/38/pc	60/44/pc	66/46/pc	56/39/c
New Orleans	79/60/s	78/59/pc	75/59/s	77/60/s	77/58/s
New York City	59/48/s	61/46/s	56/47/c	58/48/pc	58/43/s
Philadelphia	62/46/s	60/46/s	58/46/c	58/46/pc	60/43/s
Phoenix	92/68/s	96/68/s	98/70/s	91/66/s	91/68/s
Portland	64/54/r	68/54/r	68/52/c	62/49/r	64/50/c
San Francisco	70/54/pc	70/56/s	70/54/s	70/54/s	70/54/s
Seattle	58/52/r	62/50/r	62/50/r	59/49/r	60/50/c
Tucson	89/61/s	94/61/s	92/64/s	92/62/s	90/61/s
Washington, DC	66/49/s	62/51/s	58/46/c	60/46/pc	63/45/s

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

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