



NEWSBRIEFS

Computer ed

Socorro ISD Community Learning Center is hosting an Integrated Computer Lab Class for adults, from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Socorro Learning Center at 313 S. Rio Vista beginning this month. The class offers Keyboarding, Word, Grammar with Word and Excel. The class is self-directed and students work at their own pace. To register, bring identification (driver's license or social security card). Classes are free on a first come basis and open enrollment is ongoing. For further information call 915-937-1700 or 915-937-1704.

Curious?

There are few people who don't know Curious George — it's no surprise that this inquisitive little monkey is universally recognized and loved. So Curious George, the man with the yellow hat, and the staff of the El Paso County Library in Fabens invite the community to help celebrate his birthday. Children can listen to stories and see a skit on Jan. 13, 4-4:45 p.m. at 1331 N. Fabens St. Information is at 764-3635.

In other news

■ The first week of 2005 was a busy one for drug smuggling along the border in the Ft. Hancock and Fabens area. Border Patrol agents in Ft. Hancock seized 310 pounds of marijuana in two separate incidents, which netted four arrests and one vehicle. In the incidents, one involving the abandonment of an automobile containing 195.4 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$156,336 and the detention of a 21-year-old El Paso man after a foot chase. Agents also arrested three subjects in the area in a separate incident later the same day, after following footprints to a stash of two duffel bags containing 114.9 pounds of marijuana worth \$91,920. Later, near Fabens, agents pursued several individuals on foot who escaped into Mexico, abandoning 410 pounds of marijuana, worth \$328,080.

■ The Horizon City Youth League will register boys and girls for separate leagues, ages 7-12, for two basketball league divisions: Minors 7-9 and Intermediate 10-12 at Horizon Vista Food Stores on Friday, Jan. 14, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Parents and coaches will be required to attend a mandatory sportsmanship class at the First Baptist Church on Jan. 23, 2 p.m. Registration fee is \$25 and games will be played at Desert Hills Elementary School on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Try-outs will be held at Frank Macias Elementary School on Jan. 18 and 20 at 6:30 p.m. Season play begins Feb. 4. Coaches and referees are needed.

■ The El Paso Public Library's computer
 See BRIEFS, Page 5

Car sickness is that feeling you get every month when the payment is due.
 — Quips & Quotes

KFOX news story spurs San Eli student to action

By Phillip Cortez
 Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Not all TV-watching is bad for kids, at least not in the case of Sambrano

Elementary fifth grader Kassandra Ross. A few days before the San Elizario ISD let out for the holidays Ross saw a news story that aired on KFOX about area children who would not be getting presents for the holidays.

"Then my mother and I saw a boy begging for money outside a store that night," Ross said.

That's when the 11-year-old decided she wanted to do something. And although Christmas is over, it didn't stop her from discussing some ideas with her mother over the next few days.

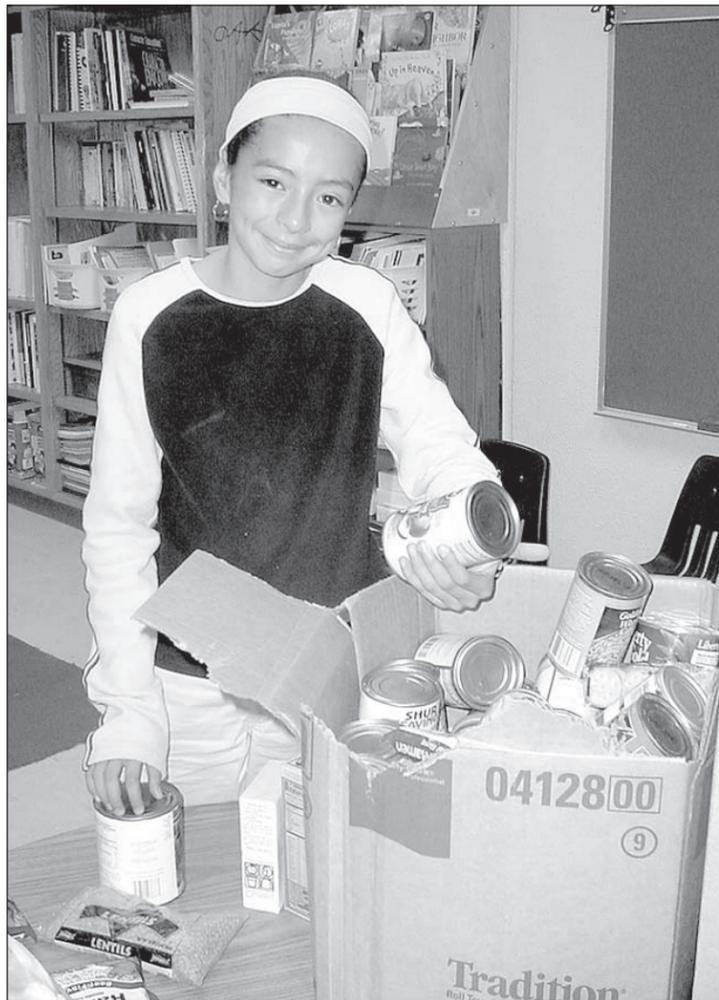
"We started thinking of things the poor might need," Ross said.

She took some ideas and approached her teachers and counselors to brainstorm on a plan to raise money or goods to help needy people for the holidays — despite the fact that the girl's family does not celebrate Christmas because of their religious beliefs.

"Some kids do not have family," she said. "It's better to have family than a toy."

So even though

See ROSS, Page 7



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

FROM TV TO REALITY — Sambrano fifth grader Kassandra Ross looks through one of the boxes of donated items located in the school's counseling office. Items were to be donated to three local charities on Jan. 11.

Americas High trims energy fat with 'Watt Watchers' program

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Kendra McCray knew she had an important job. She'd been appointed Energy Chairman of the Americas High School Student Council and she had to get the word out to students and faculty that school could save money by shaving its electric consumption. And she did, with the help of the University of Texas at El Paso's Center for Environmental Resources Management at The Energy Center.

researched the number of computers we have. We initiated this last June; we're beginning to feel the effects now."



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

TRIMMING THE ENERGY FAT — Members of the Americas High School "Watt Watchers" program met Jan. 6 to measure results. From left: Raymond Long, SIDS Manager of Technical Services; Miyesser Collins, AHS Student Activities Director; April Wilcox, student; Amy Trujillo of UTEP's Energy Center; Kendra McCray, student; (in black coat) Nicholas Moncada, student, and Rafael Padilla, SIDS Maintenance Coordinator.

"We had been getting the Watt Watchers magazines and newsletters. I went to the head technology person here at the school and we

saying they hadn't thought about it that just making the computer go to 'sleep' — instead

See WATTS, Page 7



FBI GRAD — Manuel Rico

Horizon police force has second officer graduate from FBI academy

HORIZON CITY — The Horizon City Police Department has announced the graduation of a second police officer from the FBI National Academy. Det. Manuel Rico, an eight year veteran with HCPD, recently graduated with honors from the 219th Session of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia.

Det. Rico spent 11 weeks at the Academy where he took advanced academic and physical training, successfully completing the course on Dec. 10, 2004.

Det. Rico was nominated by HCPD Chief Anthony Aguilar to attend the FBI National Academy. Det. Rico then went through an extensive background check by the FBI, and a thorough medical examination, prior to being accepted to the academy. Upon completion of the FBI course, Det. Rico earned 15 college hours. He successfully completed specialized courses in Management for Law Enforcement, Legal Issues, Interviewing and Interrogation, Forensics, Counter Terrorism, and Physical Fitness Challenge.

HCPD Sgt. Ron Swenson graduated with honors from the FBI National Academy on March 21, 2003, from the 212th Session. Sgt. Swenson was the second youngest ever to graduate from the FBI National Academy and the first NA graduate from any small rural police department in the El Paso County law enforcement community. Chief Aguilar attended the FBI National Academy as an El Paso Police Department Patrol Sergeant in 1981, during the 126th training session.

"We felt we were very lucky when the local FBI Training Coordinator offered us the opportunity to send Det. M. Rico this year to the FBI National Academy," said Chief Aguilar. "Some law enforcement agencies have been on the waiting list for years for the opportunity to send one of their command officers or supervisors to the NA. We are very fortunate and very pleased that both of our HCPD officers have represented the City of Horizon and the Police Department well and have graduated with honors.

"It will be awhile before we are ready to send another applicant," Chief Aguilar said. "Our current rank structure does not allow for too many applicants to apply for this prestigious training and challenging undertaking. Maybe in the near future when we expand our manpower and increase our command staff, we can apply again. Congratulations to Det. Manuel Rico."



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Computerized complications

The advent of the electronic age was intended to create a paperless society. Well...

I'm among the first to step back in awe when considering the mind-boggling changes the computer has created in our society. It has enormously increased the amount of information that can be stored and accessed at the drop of a hat, or perhaps better stated, the click of a mouse. Human productivity in the world of words and numbers has increased a thousandfold.

I like the clean and easy way it allows me to write, edit, print, store and access what I'm working on. I like the way I can go online and find out almost anything about anything. Whether or not what I find is reliable information is debatable, but there's tons of it practically for the asking and ever-so-easy to access. No drive to the neighborhood library — if there is one — and no lugging heavy books home for research. You don't have to travel anywhere to see the wonders of the world anymore — just go online and see a picture of it.

It's better than we ever dreamed, so much for so little, everything so readily available. It's efficient and infinitely superior to our former cumbersome methods of communication, right?

If this is true, why is it so often that I'm put on hold by a service provider because "the computers are down." They can't make an appointment, tell me when my appointment is, how much I owe, when the payment is due, or the name of the person I should speak with, because they "don't have access."

This is a little scary because our up-and-coming generation is being

taught that if they can't access information on the computer or otherwise in electronic form it doesn't exist, and if it does, it's irrelevant because it's "hard" to find. Maybe that's why they call it "hard-copy." Hard, naturally, has a different meaning for our computerized offspring than it did for us. For them, hard translates into "inconvenient."

Therefore, if the power is off, the internet server is down or the battery is drained, everything comes to a standstill.

I can't help mourning what our all-out-front, posted-on-the-net, tell-all society is doing to personal and private communication.

We're so jaded these days we've begun keeping even our personal journals online so that everybody can read them. This is important, of course, because of a lack of personal identity — we are defined by what the group consciousness thinks of us moment by moment. These electronic journals are called "blogs," written by "bloggers," who are, naturally, "blogging" when they do this. Such inventive terms.

When George Washington died, his widow Martha had the foresight to simply destroy all the personal correspondence they shared as husband and wife to protect his legacy from misinterpretation of his most deeply personal written thoughts.

Thankfully, she didn't have to worry about his letters having been secretly photocopied or illegally downloaded off her email by a hacker. And when she burned them, they were no more. No ghost files to be recaptured, no un-erase programs, no electronic shadows of Washington left to be misused.

But better than that, when she held his letters in her hand, they were real

and personal and private. They were the essence of his thoughts and feeling, transmitted by him personally. That's something you don't get with an email.

When I write letters by hand I find I'm recording my thoughts as they come to me. Though the handwriting may be lacking in uniformity, my subjects disjointed, my spelling unchecked, my sentences rambling, I'm

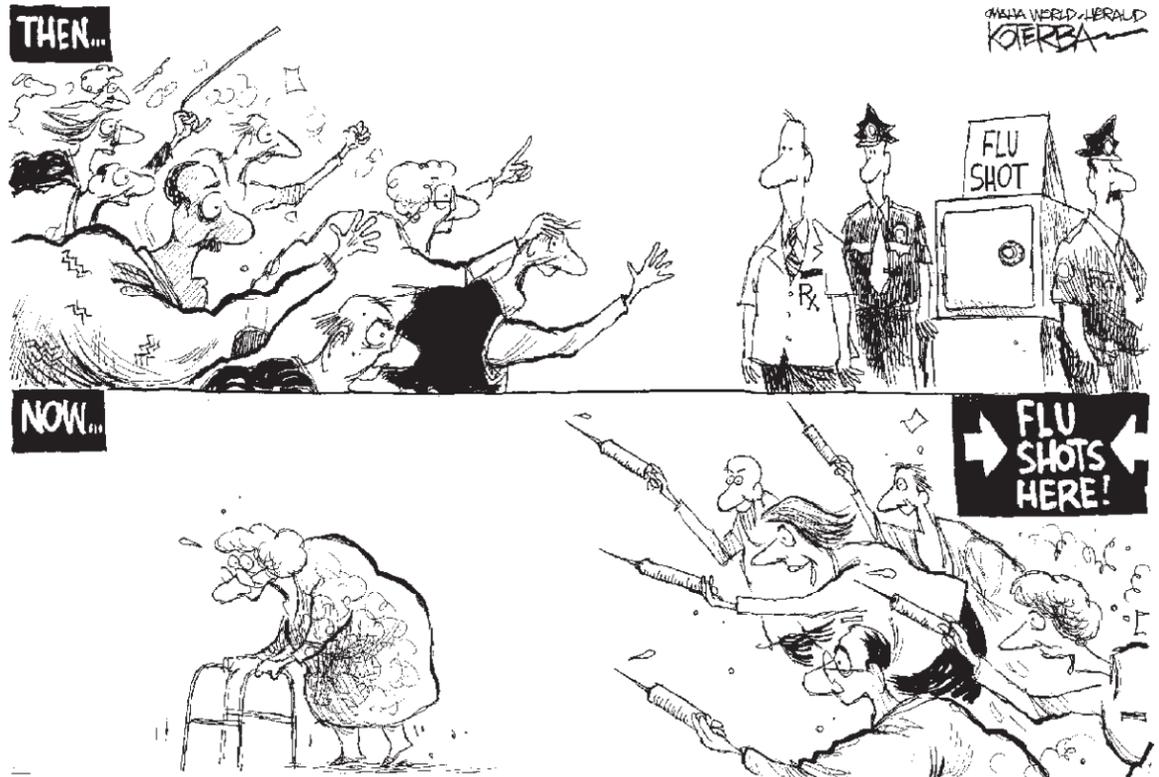
probably doing a more honest job of communicating through these imperfections than I will ever do with a carefully scripted electronic creation.

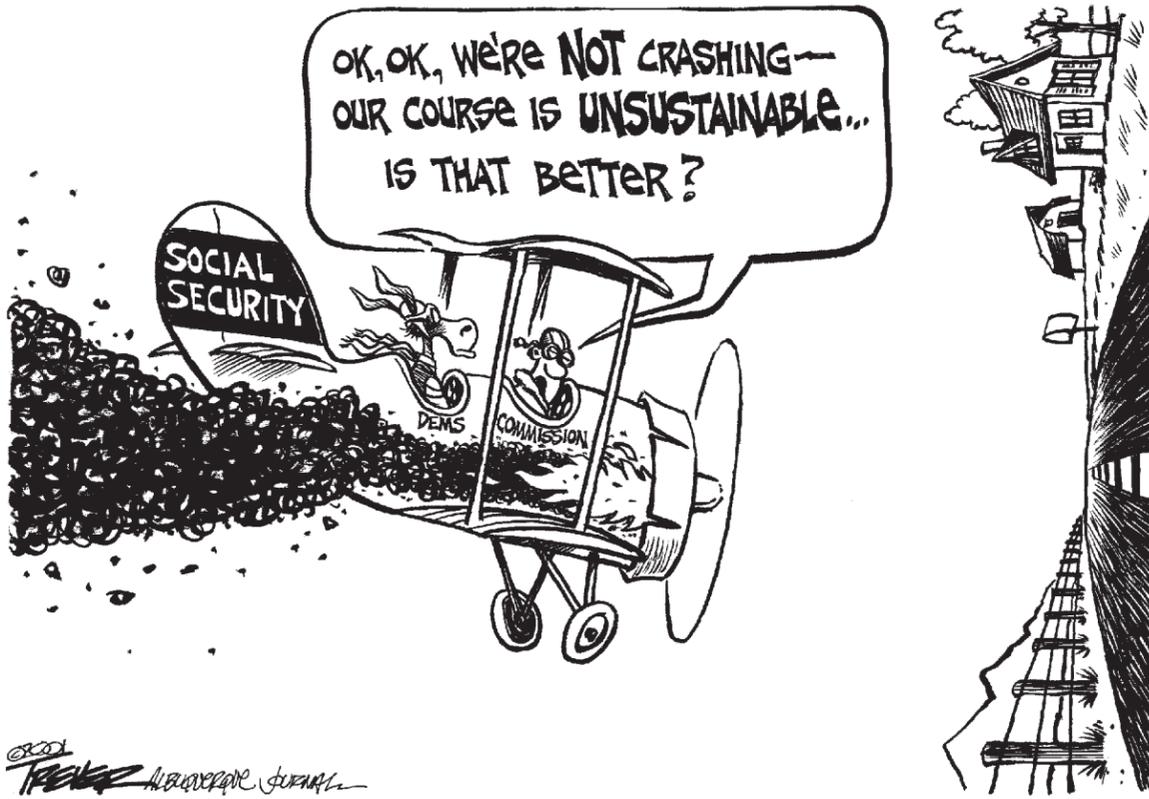
There's something special about reading and re-reading a piece of written communication, knowing that it's likely you are the only other person besides the writer to ever read it, that it isn't simply a forward to be forwarded and forwarded again un-

til the entire free world has access.

Oddly, we now find ourselves awash in an ocean of communication and information that is increasingly superficial and unreliable, transmitted by a complicated and unpredictable electronic medium upon which we are becoming more and more dependent.

Maybe less really is more. P.S. Write soon.





Socorrans will have amnesty period to clear up warrants and fines

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — During the regularly scheduled Socorro City Council meeting on Jan. 6, 2005, an amnesty period was approved for individuals who have outstanding warrants and fines at the City of Socorro Municipal Court.

Carol Garcia told Council the dates for the amnesty period would be from Feb. 21 through March 31. This period would benefit those individuals who have fines and warrants they can resolve without worry of being arrested.

In other business, City Council approved the terms of the Judicial Services Contract between Eduardo Flores and the City of Socorro.

City Council also approved a donation of \$1,500 to the Lower Valley Health Fair sponsored by the Lower Valley School Nurse Association.

Police Chief Charles Mansion approached City council regarding the possibility of entering into a lease agreement for a records and evidence vault from Mobile Mini Corp., El Paso, Texas, for use to securely store records and evidence. After some discussion, it was decided by City Council to table the item to do some further research.

Longtime Fabens resident, Leo Moore, dies

The community of Fabens, especially the First Baptist Church, has lost a special friend with the death of Leo Moore on Jan 1.

Leo Moore was born on Feb. 12, 1917, to Leo Wesley Moore and Hazel Coy Moore. He was preceded in death by his parents and his only child, Kenneth Ray. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ruby; two brothers, Wesley and wife Theollie, recently of Bremerton, Washington; Stanley and wife Jean of Colorado City, Texas; and a sister, Betty Adams and husband, Noel, of Tacoma, Washington; several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Leo has served as a deacon of the First Baptist Church in Fabens since 1953. He was a Past Master of Fabens Lodge No. 1202, A.F. &

A.M. and Past Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 60B. He was also a Scottish Rite and York

Rite Mason. He served 16 years as Worthy Patron of Fabens Chapter No. 764, O.E.S. and was a member of the Optimist Club. Leo was often busy doing odd jobs for friends and anyone needing help.

Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church, Jan. 7, 2005, with Pastor, Dr. John Mitchell, officiating, assisted by Warren Coffman. Serving as pallbearers were Noel Adams, Duane Beach, Joe Burks, Warren Coffman, Salvador Guillen and Robert Gutierrez. Burial was at Restlawn Memorial Park where members of the Masonic Lodge had charge of grave side services with F.O. "Doc" Rountree leading.



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

Serving in Congress means serving you

As your elected representative in Congress, my highest priority is to serve the constituents of the 23rd District of Texas. Our district covers all or part of 23 counties, which account for approximately 20 percent of the total square miles of our great state. The 23rd District of Texas spans two time zones, three climates and is more than 55,000 square miles.

But no matter where you reside within the 23rd District, my offices are there for you. The members of my staff are trained to provide a variety of constituent services. These services range from assisting people as they navigate their way through the layers of the federal bureaucracy, to helping families and schools with tours of Washington, D.C., to providing input on pending legislation, to expediting passport approvals. And that is just the beginning!

The federal government is an enormous bureaucracy. And, too often, people who deal with the government run up against confusing, complicated and even conflicting rules and

regulations. I can help you cut through the red tape. Some of the most common problems arise from Social Security and Medicare benefits; immigration issues; the armed services; veterans' services and benefits; and regulatory agencies. If you need assistance with these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at any of my district offices.

We receive calls everyday from constituents requesting information about bills pending in Congress, federal laws and regulations, and state issues. Some excellent resources that we use and can be accessed by the public include: www.loc.gov/thomas, a website where constituents can look up information on pending legislation and laws; and www.congress.org, a website that can be used to search for federal officials, other Congressional offices, the White House and federal agencies. Our Website, www.house.gov/bonilla, provides information about Washington,

D.C. tourist attractions, how to contact our offices, legislative updates, and instructions about how to order a U.S. Flag that has been flown over the Capitol building.

And, of course, if you ever have a question, an opinion, or a point of view about a current issue or a specific piece of legislation, I want to hear from you. Call my office or send a letter or email.

While my office cannot fix every problem related to the federal government, or fulfill every constituent request, we will always try our best to help. And we can always explore the options and serve as a source of reliable information. I believe I have no higher priority than providing good constituent service to the people of Texas' 23rd District. If you or someone in your family ever thinks my office can help, I hope you will not hesitate to contact us.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

El Paso helps tsunami victims

As a community, El Paso should be extremely proud of the generous donations and assistance we are providing to help rebuild the lives of those hurt by the massive tsunami that crashed ashore in South Asia last month.

I am currently traveling in Asia and South Asia with colleagues from the House Armed Services Committee and the House International Relations Committee. In addition to meeting with government leaders from the five other nations involved in the six party talks on nuclear disarmament — North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia — we will travel to Indonesia to deliver medical supplies to help contribute to the relief effort and assist those touched by the tragedy.

The most crucial component of this

mission in Indonesia — providing medical supplies — would not be a reality without the charitable donations of numerous El Paso hospitals, organizations and individuals. Through their contributions — which amounted to nearly one ton of supplies such as gauze, surgical masks, syringes and antibiotics — the El Paso community has made a direct contribution to the relief efforts.

My many thanks to the following:

- Las Palmas & Del Sol Regional Healthcare System (Hank Hernandez & Doug Matney)
- Sierra Providence Health Network (Tom Cassidy)
- Walgreens of El Paso (Jerry Wilson)
- Helen of Troy (Jerry Rubin)
- Thomason General Hospital (Jim Valenti)
- William Beaumont Army Medical Center/Cardinal Inc. of San Antonio (Colonel James Leech)

Sadly, our world is troubled by terrorism, the war in Iraq, and now the mounting death toll and devastation caused by the tsunami in South Asia. However, the collective outpouring of compassion and quick action from across the globe to aid those in this time of overwhelming need is cause for hope.

In Washington, one of the first orders of business of the 109th Congress will be the consideration of a \$350 million aid package for the victims. President Bush's appointment of former Presidents Clinton and Bush to lead a commission to encourage private giving to tsunami victims set politics aside and underscored our nation's collective resolve to provide assistance to those affected by this terrible disaster. El Paso has also shown that it is committed to assisting the tsunami victims and helping them rebuild their lives. Our entire community should be proud of our contributions to this effort.

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Jan. 10, 1880: Frustrated by U.S. postal officials' rejection of 6 proposed names, the citizens of this Travis Co. burg dub it Nameless, Texas.



Governor designates APS, CPS and education as emergency legislative items

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry this week designated reform of Adult Protective Services (APS) and Child Protective Services (CPS) and edu-

cation legislation as emergency items for the 2005 legislative session. The designation will allow lawmakers to begin almost immediate

hearings on those items. Speaking to a meeting of the state's newspaper editorial writers and Associated Press members, the governor said he designated APS and CPS as emergency items because, "There is no greater priority than protecting those who cannot help themselves, those who are in the dawn of their lives or the twilight of their years who are at risk of abuse, neglect and manipulation." Education reform, he added, represents "a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve education and improve young lives."

Last week Perry called for a massive restructuring of CPS that will invest \$329 million and address how the money is spent. The recommendation is based on thorough review of the agency.

"These CPS reforms will drop investigator caseloads by 40 percent, increase the time investigators spend with children and families by 39 percent and reduce time spent on paperwork by 58 percent," Perry said.

As part of APS reforms already announced, the Health and Human Services Commission has authorized

50 new caseworkers for the current biennium and proposes hiring 144 additional caseworkers by fiscal year 2007, a move that will lower caseloads by 20 percent.

The Commission also will move guardianship services to the Department of Aging and Disability Services, and Perry's office has identified \$1.5 million in Workforce Investment Act funds to expand caseworker training.

In addressing education reform as an emergency legislative issue, Perry said reducing property taxes will be an important part of the debate, as will improving Texas schools.

"My goal is to provide a significant property tax cut that Texans can feel, take to the bank, and count on in the future and not just for one year," Perry said. "And just as importantly, any new business tax enacted to lower property taxes must not harm the engine of growth, Texas jobs."

Perry added that while reducing property taxes is important, there is no greater priority than providing lasting reform to public education.

"We must provide a great education for every child, regardless of where they come from, the sound of their last name or the heritage of their family," he said.

"I believe we must focus reform where it is needed most — in schools where we have large numbers of economically disadvantaged students, where graduation rates are low and where too few children graduate pre-

pared for college and success in life." As part of the education reforms, Perry said he wants to provide strong salary incentives for teachers. Six years ago, as lieutenant governor, Perry helped pass a \$3,000 across-the-board pay raise for teachers, the largest pay raise in state history.

"The trend toward higher compensation for teachers is a good one," Perry said. "But when you reward excellence the same as mediocrity, you make mediocrity its own incentive."

Perry said he is not ruling out across-the-board pay increases for teachers, but he also wants to provide new incentives for teaching excellence.

Among other education reforms Perry said he wants to see are incentives for student achievement on the TAKS test, successful schools that get students to take challenging curriculum and pass end-of-course exams that demonstrate college readiness.

"Not only must we provide incentives for success, we cannot allow schools that fail our poorest children year after year to continue to do so without real consequences," Perry said.

The initial and immediate response to troubled schools, he added, must be to provide expert help.

"But at the end of the day, if failing schools refuse to change, there must be real consequences and real

See GOVERNOR, Page 6

Social Security benefit statements now being mailed

By Ray Vigil
Special to the Courier

With tax time just around the corner, Social Security beneficiaries will be glad to know that their Social Security Benefit Statement, or Form SSA-1099, can be expected to arrive in the mail this month.

Beneficiaries will need this 1099 Benefit Statement to complete their federal income tax return and to find out if their benefits are subject to income tax. The Statement shows the gross amount of benefits that were due and the net amount of benefits paid. The 1099 also shows the amount of any payments (such as Medicare premiums) that were made.

Benefit Statements are only sent to individuals who received Social Security benefits in the prior year, so you will only receive one if you were paid Social Security benefits in 2004. People who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) do not receive Benefit Statements, since SSI is based on need and is not considered taxable income.

If you got Social Security benefits in 2004 and you do not find a Social Security Benefit Statement in your mailbox by Jan. 31, or if you need a replacement copy, you can request one online by visiting our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices. Or you can call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Bonafide Original Real
TEXAS CALENDAR
Full of Texas History & Facts!
by Roger Todd Moore

SPECIAL FEATURES

- ★ Original Texas Artwork by Roger T. Moore
- ★ Texas Trivia
- ★ Important Texas Dates
- ★ Real Texas Events
- ★ Texas History
- ★ A Fully Functional Texas Calendar

January 3, 1834: Stephen F. Austin is arrested by Mexico for treason.



JANUARY 2005

TEXAS TRUISM

January 15, 1940: A rancher near Brownsville puts a makeshift toolbox in his pickup; the rest is history.

REAL TEXAS EVENT

January 9—Ft. Worth Stock Show and Rodeo

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---------|-----------|----------|--------|--|
| TOUTING TEXAS—Jimmy Don Perkins invented the chicken fried steak in Lamesa in 1911. | | | | | | 1 1928: The Milam Bldg. in S.A. becomes the 1 st air conditioned bldg. in U.S. |
| 2 1823: S.F. Austin gets permission to begin colonization in Mexican Texas. | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 1901: Oil is discovered at Spindletop near Beaumont. | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 1874: Reconstruction ends in Texas. | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 1839: The Lone Star flag is adopted by the Republic of Texas! | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

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PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF CLINT, TEXAS

CORRECTION OF PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED COMBINED NOTICE:

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT and NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

On December 9, 2004, the Town of Clint published a Combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds for a project assisted by the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) under Contract No. 724171.

Notice is hereby given that TCDP Contract No. 724171 is for a grant project to provide WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN OF CLINT, not SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS.

Comments regarding this environmental finding are invited and will be received at the Clint Town Hall at 200 N. San Elizario, Clint, TX 79836, until January 31, 2005.

Dale Reinhart
Mayor

Date published
January 13, 2005

Briefs

From Page 1

network will go down temporarily beginning Friday, Jan. 14 due to construction at the Main Library. Library officials expect to have the network restored and functional by the end of day, Saturday, Jan. 15. During that time, the Library's computer servers will be re-located to another EPPL facility. As a result, there will be no access to online services including, Internet, SOL (online catalog), online databases and computer programs such as MS Word or Excel during the down period at any EPPL facility. Patrons will be able to borrow up to 5 items from the Library on a manual checkout system during those two days. Patrons wishing to use the Library's online services are encouraged to call their nearest EPPL facility to inquire as to its availability. For more information call 543-5468.

■ The Upper Rio Grande College Tech-Prep Youth Consortium will host 2005 Groundhog Job Shadow Day on Feb. 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as middle and high school students go to work with mentors from local businesses and organizations in the El Paso area. Organizers said that 40 businesses, 800 students and 14 schools participated, however, about 200 students did not have a mentor last year and did not get to participate. Businesses and organizations which would like to help a young person gain first-hand knowledge of their future in

the workplace are asked to contact 780-6501 or visit www.careersprep.com and click on the groundhog icon.

■ Gov. Rick Perry announced he award of a \$500,000 Self-Sufficiency Fund Grant to La Mujer Obrera, or the Woman Worker, which works with displaced Spanish-speaking women garment workers in El Paso. La Mujer Obrera is in the process of establishing the Center for Bilingual Development and Social Enterprise (CBDSE) to assist with limited English proficiency (LEP) to provide for a more fully bilingual and literate workforce with both job-specific and transferable skills. The principle objective of this grant is to develop training related employment and mobility opportunities for those at highest risk of being left behind in the midst of economic restructuring. Funding for this Self-Sufficiency Fund grant is provided through the Texas Workforce Commission and comes from TANF funds.

■ Socorro ISD, Community Learning Center is sponsoring English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes at four District sites starting Jan. 10. The classes are free, from 6-8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday at:

- Jane A. Hambric School, 3535 Nolan Richardson Drive
- El Dorado High School, 12401 Edgemere Boulevard
- Sierra Vista Elementary School, 1501 Bob Hope Drive
- SISD Community Learning Center, 313 South Rio Vista Road

Classes are on-going with open enrollment — those registering should provide valid identification

such as driver's license or social security card. For more information, call the SISD Department of Community Services, 937-1700.

■ The El Paso Public Library and the Northeast Teen Network are sponsoring the fourth annual Parent-Child Olympics at the Skyline Optimist Club, 5050 Yvette on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. Teams of one parent and one child compete in three events: football toss, basketball free throw and strongest link trivia contest. Everyone who competes will receive a free MLK Food Drive t-shirt. Trophies will be awarded in each event as well as the all around. Entry fee is \$5 plus five canned goods. All proceeds will be used to help feed the homeless. Register at the event or by calling 543-5468.

■ A Master Gardener program is being offered by the Texas Cooperative Extension with 14 sessions of horticulture training in exchange for at least 50 hours of volunteer service after course completion. Classes begin Feb. 22, with deadline to enroll on Feb. 4. Call 859-7725, ext. 221 for application information.

■ Del Sol Diabetes Treatment Center has relocated to 10525 Vista Del Sol, Suite 110. The Diabetes Treatment Center is joining the Del Sol Wound Management Center, which is also at this location. The free blood glucose screenings will be moved to Wednesdays, from 2-4 p.m., at the new location. Yvonne Davila is the Administrative Director. Las Palmas and Del Sol had consolidated the diabetes service line with Del Sol in 2004. "By combining our resources, and

fully concentrating on the Del Sol Diabetes Treatment Center's new location on the east side, we can better serve the community. Our program remains dedicated to helping in the detection and ongoing management of diabetes," said Doug Matney, CEO of Del Sol Medical Center. The phone number remains 915- 595-1645.

■ Socorro High School's Missionettes dance troupe is sponsoring a dance camp for young dancers Jan. 22 in the high school's "Pit" gymnasium, 10150 Alameda Avenue.

- For dancers aged 5-7 years, the session is 10 a.m. to noon and the price is \$6 plus \$3 more for an optional T-shirt. The group will perform for the families at 11:45 a.m.

- Dance classes for students aged 8 or more years are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; lunch and a T-shirt are included for \$15. Two dance sessions are included, and the family performance is scheduled for 2:45 p.m.

- A new afternoon session to teach country line dancing is also scheduled for 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a performance planned for 2:45 p.m. The fee is \$6, plus \$3 more for a T-shirt. All money for the dance camp is due to a Missionette by Friday, or call Moncada, 937-2246. Prospective participants can also leave a message in the school office, 937-2000 to arrange for an application. Students can register between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Jan. 22, however, late

registrants will not receive a T-shirt or lunch.

■ SISD's Department of Guidance and Counseling is sponsoring a series of three Financial Aid Workshops for parents and students with college plans. Director of Guidance and Counseling, Hilda Lopez, says the sessions are being presented to help parents find the best ways for them to pay for college. "It's to help senior students and their families fill out the required paperwork for financial assistance. We can start submitting for financial aid now, and the earlier kids turn it in, the better shot they have at qualifying for scholarships, federal and state loans and grants. Now they've got to sit down and start applying." Workshops are at 6 p.m. at the following locations:

- Jan. 12, Americas High School. For English - Theater. In Spanish - Band Room.
- Jan. 13, Montwood High School. In English - Commons Area. In Spanish - Library.
- Jan. 26, Socorro High School. In English - Cafeteria. In Spanish - Bulldog Café.

■ The International Coin Club of El Paso, Inc. will be holding its 42nd Annual Coin Show on Feb. 18, 1-6 p.m.; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 19-20 at the El Maida Shrine Center, 6331 Alabama Street. Over 50 coin dealers will be on hand to buy and sell.

Steve's West Texas BBQ

Dine In • Take Out • Catering • Family Atmosphere

14476 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City 852-9988
(Across from the new Clint ISD Administration Bldg.)

★ COMING SOON ★

Horizon Laundry Mat

(Across the street from AutoZone on Horizon Blvd.)

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF ANTHONY**

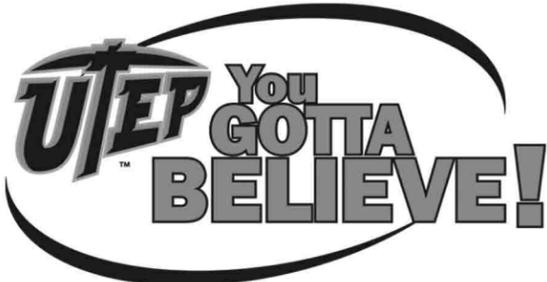
**TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM FY 2005/06**

The Town of Anthony, Texas, submitted an application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for a grant from the FY 2005/06 Community Development Fund of the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP). The previously published notice of availability of that application erroneously stated that the application was for a neighborhood facilities/community center.

The public is hereby given notice that the application the Town of Anthony submitted for FY 2005/06 TCDP grant funding is for a SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS project. The application is available for public review in the municipal offices at the Anthony Town Hall, during regular office hours.

Art Franco
Mayor

Date Published
January 13, 2005



UTEP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Nevada VS. UTEP
THURSDAY, JAN. 13TH 6:05 @ THE DON

Fresno St. VS. UTEP
SATURDAY, JAN. 15TH 6:05 @ THE DON

* THE MEN'S GAME VS. FRESNO ST. WILL BE SHOWN ON MINER VISION FOLLOWING THE GAME

GROUP TICKET INFORMATION: 747-5817
GENERAL TICKET INFORMATION: 747-5234



Spoiled rotten receiver continues in spoilsport ways

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We're smack dab in the middle of one of my favorite times of the year — NFL playoff time.

It doesn't matter what team you root for, everybody watches the playoffs with anticipation and intensity. This is football after all, professional football. The world's best players put it all on the line for that Lombardi Trophy.

All individual achievement is put aside for the betterment of the team. The team's success is the only thing that matters to each and every athlete on that field.

From Indianapolis to Philadelphia to New England to New York to Pittsburgh to St. Louis to Atlanta, each and every player will put it all on the line for his teammates and coaches. Winning is all that matters to every team in the playoffs.

Wait a second, going back to the teams I mentioned, I see that I only included seven teams. But there are eight teams left in the playoffs — I'm missing one.

Oh yeah, the Minnesota Vikings. Now why

did I leave them off the list of teams fighting for a common cause. Let's see, Daunte Culpepper cares for the team, Michael Bennett cares for the team, Mike Tice cares for the team, Randy Moss cares... oh, I see the problem.

Randy Moss cares about one thing and one thing only — Randy Moss.

The idea of a professional athlete putting himself above his teammates, the team and the fans is hardly a new one, but most jerks at least have the decency to attempt to disguise their contempt.

Not Randy. He says he doesn't care what his teammates say, he doesn't care what his teammates do. He said he didn't know if his coach was the right guy to lead his team. He said on national TV that he was going to do and say whatever he wanted and he didn't care what the Minnesota Vikings thought of it.

Now I know where they got the model for that infamous fictitious athlete "Leon" in those Bud Light commercials.

At least Leon is funny, Moss is just sad.

There's little doubt that Randy Moss may be the best wide receiver in the game since Jerry Rice, but Moss' non-football related ac-

tions are quickly making more news than his on-field achievements, which at times are miraculous.

Moss came under considerable fire a couple weeks ago when he became so frustrated with his teammates that he walked off the field with two seconds remaining in the game.

Now two seconds may not seem like a lot but there was a timeout on the field and his team was about to attempt an onside kick.

What would have happened if his team would have recovered the kick and could only attempt a last-second 50-yard heave into the end zone? Randy Moss would have been sitting in his locker room sulking.

As bad as that behavior was, he went a step further last week at Green Bay by getting back at the Packer fans in the most mature way possible. He stood in the back of the end zone after scoring a touchdown, turned with his back to the fans, bent over and pretended to pull his pants down and moon the crowd.

My five-year-old nephew would have been proud.

What is it that makes grown men act like they just regressed to those carefree elementary school days?

Coaches, for years, have been repeating that famous line: There's no "I" in "team." Well, apparently there's no "Moss" in "team," either.

Funny, there's also no "Moss" in "common sense," or "smart," or "intelligent," or "wise," or ...

El Paso should be proud

The first college all-star football game will take place in San Francisco this weekend and El Pasoans have reason to pay extra attention to this one.

UTEP's Robert Rodriguez will play linebacker for the West squad in the annual East-West Shrine Game on Saturday.

The Montwood High grad will attempt to convince pro scouts that he can play at the next level.

Rodriguez, who led the WAC in tackling in three of his four years, will find out quickly how he stacks up against higher level competition.

But whether Rodriguez turns out to have a professional football career or not, one thing is certain — Rodriguez is a winner on and off the field. He will succeed in any work he desires.

He is very simply, the kind of son we all aspire to raise, and the kind of man young people aspire to be.

In this world of the selfish athlete, Rodriguez is a throwback. A respectful, decent, hard-working, dedicated man who takes nothing for granted and is thankful for everything that comes his way.

And we're lucky that he came our way.

Looking for a role-model, El Pasoans? You don't have to look any further than your own backyard.

El Paso Public Library hosts workshop on grant writing

EL PASO — New grants make it possible for cash-strapped agencies to bring important services into the community and get innovative ideas off the ground. Yet applying for and receiving grants is a very competitive process.

To help members of the nonprofit community and government agencies decipher the intricacies of the grant seeking process, the El Paso Public Library is hosting the Grantsmanship Training Program, Feb. 28 through March 4, at the Clardy Fox Branch Library located at 5515 Robert Alva.

The five-day workshop will be conducted by The Grantsmanship Center, the world's oldest and largest training organization for the nonprofit sector.

"This is just another way that El Paso Public Library helps provide the community with the resources they need to succeed," said Carol Brey-Casiano, Director of Libraries. "Nonprofit organizations continue to face an uncertain future. With tight state and federal

funding, we must acquire the skills to compete for limited resources."

Designed for both novice and experienced grant seekers, this workshop covers all aspects of searching for grants, writing grant proposals, and negotiating with funding sources. "Participants will work in teams to actually develop a grant proposal," Brey notes.

To ensure personal attention, registration is limited to 30 participants. The program fee of \$825 includes workshop tuition and one year of TGCI Membership benefits and services. Fifty-percent scholarships may be available for organizations with annual operating budgets under \$300,000.

To register for the workshop, or to apply for a scholarship, contact The Grantsmanship Center, at 800-421-9512 (outside California) or 213-482-9860. For local information, call Jack Galindo at the El Paso Public Library, 543-5468.

— Contributed by Jack Galindo

Governor

From Page 4

reforms that will reassure parents and students," Perry said.

The governor also said that the legislature should revisit the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2005.

"In better economic times, there is growing support for offering more benefits to CHIP families," Perry said. "But that does not mean the members of this Legislature should retreat on eligibility rules."

Perry noted that last year he asked Health and Human Services Commissioner Albert Hawkins to look at restoring dental and eye care as incentives to get more eligible children enrolled.

"Those who argue for a 12-month re-enroll-

ment period need to explain why an ineligible family found on the rolls should receive subsidized health insurance for six more months when they don't qualify," he said.

Perry reminded the audience that of the children who are no longer on CHIP, 31 percent are now covered by Medicaid. In fact, today, one-third of all Texas children are covered by either Medicaid or CHIP — more than double the number of young Texans on government-sponsored health care since 1999.

"We will carefully review the CHIP benefits package to make sure we have a program that meets the needs of working families and that taxpayers can afford," Perry said.

Regardless of revenue estimates for the upcoming two-year budget cycle, Perry said he believes that "in a state that budgets more than \$120 billion a biennium and that is among the ten largest economies in the world, we can and we will find a way to fund essential priorities."

King Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CLONES | 58 Shucks | 117 Infantry action | 27 "What?" | 82 "Yo!" |
| ACROSS | 59 "Beagle" passenger | 118 Cheeseboard choice | 28 It may be common | 83 _ Canals |
| 1 News bit | 60 _ Spumante | 119 Landed | 29 Rub out | 84 Klutz's cry |
| 5 Billboard | 61 Lout | 120 Bearing | 33 Packs groceries | 85 Mardi _ |
| 9 Request an encore | 62 "State Fair" state | 122 Like Corn Belt soil | 34 "The _ Dachshund" ('66 film) | 86 Farm feature |
| 13 Flying Pan? | 64 Etta of the comics | 123 Congenial | 35 Swarm (with) | 88 Rouse |
| 18 Praise passionately | 65 Commercials | 124 _ list | 36 New York university | 89 Finished first |
| 19 Singer Guthrie | 68 Part 3 of remark | 125 Beige | 37 _ Dawn Chong | 93 Act like the Earth |
| 20 Top-notch | 72 Actor Fernando | 126 "The Threepenny Opera" star | 38 Made mucky | 94 " _ Wave" ('63 hit) |
| 21 Pit | 73 Learning method | 127 Antlered animal | 39 Faultfinder | 97 Comic Kaye |
| 22 " _ It Up" ('73 hit) | 75 Grant or Elwes | 128 Out-of-this-world org. | 41 Response | 99 "Trees" poet |
| 23 A roaring success? | 76 Youngster | 129 Meat cut | 42 Clothing category | 101 Author Christie |
| 24 Nary a soul | 77 Emulated | | 43 Jacksonian bill | 102 Word with fruit or Stanley |
| 25 Actress Address | Pinocchio | | 46 Kid's query | 103 Crown covering |
| 26 Start of a remark by Laurence J. Peter | 79 Winter wear | DOWN | 47 Hodges of baseball | 105 Florida city |
| 30 Unfashionable | 81 Milo of "Ulysses" | 1 April initials | 48 Loser's locale | 106 Locale |
| 31 Castilian cry | 83 Malamutes and huskies | 2 "Cheerio!" | 51 Antipollution grp. | 108 Knight time |
| 32 " _ and shine!" | 87 Poe crow | 3 Sinister | 52 Storm | 109 Muscat's nation |
| 33 Part 2 of remark | 88 More owlsh | 4 Wine variety | 53 Winter wear | 110 Be inclined |
| 37 "Golden Girl" | 89 Coat material | 5 Greet the general | 55 Joan Van _ | 111 Magnus or McClurg |
| McClanahan | 90 Singer Amos | 6 Rainbow goddess | 57 Lava particles | 112 "Laugh-In" name |
| 38 Read quickly | 91 Relished the rigatoni | 7 Whipped-cream serving | 58 "Bali _" | 113 Literary pseudonym |
| 40 Spellbound | 92 Ullman or Gold | 8 Hendryx or Gayer | 59 '73 Elton John hit | 114 Pine for |
| 44 Generation | 94 Flicka's foot | 9 Wicked thing? | 61 Ancient epic | 115 Puerto _ |
| 45 McGregor of "Trainspotting" | 95 Chum | 10 At large | 63 Prosperous | 116 Garr of "Mr. Mom" |
| 47 Company | 96 Harper of "Tender Mercies" | 11 _ May Wong | 65 Genesis peak | 117 "Silent" president |
| 49 Hot off the press | 98 Adequate | 12 Jury member | 66 Contribute | 121 Sister |
| 50 Mirth | 99 Understanding | 13 Knitting stitches | 67 Ranges | |
| 52 Tennis legend | 100 Part 4 of remark | 14 Less demanding | 69 Beethoven | |
| 53 Kanga's creator | 104 Lug | 15 Part of Micronesia | 70 Air safety org. | |
| 54 Crafter's need | 106 Actress Zadora | 16 Colleague of 101 | 71 Nugent or Knight | |
| 56 Anderson's "Tea and _" | 107 TV's "Have _ Will Travel" | Down | 74 Poetic preposition | |
| | 108 End of remark | 17 Rug type | 78 Banned pesticide | |
| | | 21 Like a Vermont village | 80 Picnic pest | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|---|----|---|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | | | 21 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | 23 | | | | 24 | | | | 25 | | | | | | | | | |
| | 26 | | | 27 | | | | 28 | | | | 29 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 30 | | | | 31 | | | | 32 | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | 34 | 35 | | | | 36 | | 37 | | | 38 | 39 | | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | | | | |
| 44 | | | | | | 45 | 46 | | | 47 | | | | 48 | | 49 | | | | | |
| 50 | | | | 51 | | 52 | | | | 53 | | | | 54 | 55 | | | | | | |
| 56 | | | | 57 | | | | 58 | | | | 59 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | | | | 62 | | 63 | | 64 | | | | | |
| 65 | 66 | 67 | | 68 | | | | 69 | | | | 70 | | | 71 | | 72 | | | | |
| 73 | | | | 74 | | 75 | | | | 76 | | | | 77 | | 78 | | | | | |
| 79 | | | | | | 80 | | 81 | | 82 | | | | 83 | | 84 | 85 | 86 | | | |
| 87 | | | | | | | | 88 | | | | 89 | | | | 90 | | | | | |
| 91 | | | | | | 92 | 93 | | | | | 94 | | | | | 95 | | | | |
| 96 | | | | | | 97 | | 98 | | | | | | 99 | | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 | | |
| | | | | | | 104 | 105 | | | | | | | | | 107 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 110 | 111 | | | | 112 | 113 | 114 | | 115 | 116 | |
| 117 | | | | | | | | | | 118 | | | | | 119 | | | | 120 | | 121 |
| 122 | | | | | | | | | | 123 | | | | | 124 | | | | | 125 | |
| 126 | | | | | | | | | | 127 | | | | | 128 | | | | | | 129 |

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



NASA missing the boat on mission

By Don Flood

At this time of year, with the holidays just behind us, it's time to pause and remember those less fortunate than us and, yes, perhaps dig a little deeper into our own pockets to help.

As you might guess, I'm talking about the Scott Peterson Investigation Fund, a fund that allows you to contribute to the continuing investigation for the real killer in the Peterson case.

This real-live fund, which you can visit at petersoninvestigation.com, includes not only an address to mail contributions but also a handy PayPal feature that allows you to donate immediately by using your credit card. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

And don't worry, the website, set up Peterson's lawyer Mark Geragos, says that any funds raised "will be used solely for investigators" and not "for attorneys' fees." So give till it hurts!

Naturally, I'd be among the first to donate myself except, well, I'm a little tapped out on account of my continuing contributions to the O.J. Simpson "search for the real killer" investigation.

(Sadly, the trail on that case seems to have grown cold, despite Simpson's relentless pursuit of evidence on the nation's golf courses.)

But now on to the real business at hand, namely the good news that NASA has found a mission — launching attacks on comets.

Plans are under way for a Jan. 12 liftoff, and, if the mission proceeds on schedule, the probe should crash — at 23,000 mph — into the comet in time for the Fourth of July.

Pictures of the colossal collision — our first attack on an interplan-

etary neighbor — will be sent back to Earth. Is this a great idea or what?!

Among NASA's goals are: 1) to gain a better understanding of the nature of comets; 2) learn more about the formation of our solar system; and 3) to create a really cool explosion.

I used to do scientific experiments like this myself, albeit on a small scale. Using little firecrackers, I would blow apples to smithereens. To this day, I credit those experiments with providing me a deeper appreciation and understanding of applesauce.

But as much as I like the idea, I was disappointed to see a mission scientist say that the impact "will not appreciably modify the comet's orbital path."

Come again? Doesn't NASA realize that we need all the practice we can get in deflecting "killer asteroids"?

I mean, it was just six years ago that Bruce Willis and Ben Affleck barely saved us from that monster asteroid in "Armageddon."

(Science note: While most asteroids are friendly, fun-loving celestial bodies, so-called "rogue roids" are psychopaths — always on the lookout for a heavily populated planet to destroy.)

In fact, as far as I can tell, NASA has not even consulted with either Willis or Affleck. Duh!

If these hotshot scientists would just take the time to rent the movie, they might see that Willis — who even died in his efforts to save the human race, thank you very much — used a nuclear bomb, which NASA hasn't even mentioned.

And that would make an even cooler explosion.

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Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 21, 2005

FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT RFP NO. 199-0121-0581
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed

specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-01/13/05

HEALTH

Be Healthy
Join a Wellness Trek
915-852-2156
915-204-7227

REAL ESTATE

VALLEY FARM LAND COMMERCIAL LAND
4-bedroom home 10604 Rio Vista
3-bedroom home 11423 Alameda
APODACA LAND CO. 859-5472

TFN

El Bombero Restaurant
10755 N. Loop, Suite B

APODACA LAND CO. 859-5472

TFN

RENTALS

Fairway Townhouse, Horizon City, view 18th hole, Emerald Springs. Two bedroom, two bath, available. 755-1730, 494-3054.

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Información: 838-6264.

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding

Gimme a Ring"
JIFFY GLASS REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office: (No repairs within Horizon City)
R.V. Dick Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
•Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
•Appliance installation
•Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

Watts

From Page 1

of shutting it off saves energy."

Manuel Verduzco is Executive Director of Technology Services for SISD. "We're looking at energy usage by the monitors right now, and we're using Americas as a test case before we expand the program."

Amy Trujillo coordinator of the University of Texas at El Paso's Center for Environmental Resources Management and Research administers the Watt-Watchers program. "We knew that there are a lot of computers out there in schools, and the program has been available to every school in Texas for the last few years. It's not as if this was the only school offered the opportunity to participate in the Watt Watchers program but in El Paso, Americas High took the initiative and made it happen."

The students on the council including McCray, with the help of the District Technology Services department and the EZ Save computer program are McCray and seniors April Wilcox and Nicholas Moncada, Student Council President.

Ross

From Page 1

Ross does not receive toys or presents for Christmas, she still recognized the importance of making sure that needy kids could have something under their Christmas trees.

"I told her it was a good idea and that it was nice to think of others and not just herself," said Elena Outram, Kassandra's teacher.

Thinking of others first just happens to be a characteristic that comes natural to Ross, Outram said. "She is always thinking about others," Outram said. "Even when it come to making sure that Cookie, the classroom turtle, has enough food."

Once Ross was able to speak to Outram, principal Nancy Swanson and school counselor Mayela Sanchez, it was decided that the best way for the school to raise money was to have a dance, the proceeds going to needy people in the area. Once Kassandra's friends got wind of her efforts, they wanted to join in on the good deed, too. Sambrano students Yannete Amparan, Desiree Andrade, Mayra Estrada, Xochitl Medina, Marlene

Gonzalez, Jacqueline Rojas, Gloria Covernali, Jessica Alvarez, Jacqueline Herrera, and Elizabeth Valdez would all volunteer their time to collect donations and make the signs promoting the dance.

According to Sanchez, the holiday break made it difficult for the school children to get together and bring their money and donations in time for Christmas, but this week three area organizations that help people in need received the donations. These organizations are the Salvation Army, the Child Crisis Center, and Annunciation House. Roughly \$140 was raised which also went to charitable causes.

A high point of the delivery included some personal play time the students were able to spend with children at the Child Crisis Center.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I am about to apply for Social Security disability benefits. I have two children, ages 13 and 15. If my claim is approved, will they get benefits, too? Or do the children also have to be disabled to qualify for benefits on my record?

A: If you qualify for Social Security disability benefits, your children will get dependent's benefits based on your work record. If your disability does not improve, their benefits will continue until they turn 18, or until age 19 if they are still in high school.

Q: I am 50 years old and now getting Social Security disability benefits. Can I still get my regular Social Security retirement benefits when I reach age 65?

A: You will not receive both a disability and retirement benefit from Social Security. If you are still receiving Social Security disability benefits when you reach "full retirement age," which for you should be age 66, we

will automatically switch you from disability benefits to retirement benefits at that point. The money amount will remain the same — we will just classify you as a retiree instead of a person with a disability.

Q: I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Will my monthly payments be going up next year?

A: Yes. Every year Social Security and SSI beneficiaries receive a cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index. For 2005, the national basic SSI benefit amount

(many states add money to the basic benefit) is increasing from \$564 to \$579 per month. For couples receiving SSI, the amount will rise from \$846 to \$869. For more information about the COLA, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us at 1-800-772-1213.

Q: I am saving up for a car. I have \$1,000 in the bank now and need a little more. How much cash can I have without affecting my SSI eligibility?

A: The resource limit is \$2,000. Unless you have other valuable resources, this means you could save

up to \$2,000 before you would become ineligible for SSI. We usually do not count your primary car, the home you live in or certain amounts set aside for burial expenses. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov, call us at 1-800-772-1213, or visit your local Social Security office.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have questions that you would like answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

| THURSDAY | THUR. NIGHT | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Mostly sunny. | Mainly clear and cold. | A good deal of sunshine. | Partly sunny. | Mostly sunny. | Sunshine and some clouds. | Partly sunny. | Times of clouds and sun. |
| ▲ 54° | ▼ 28° | ▲ 56° ▼ 28° | ▲ 56° ▼ 30° | ▲ 58° ▼ 32° | ▲ 56° ▼ 30° | ▲ 56° ▼ 32° | ▲ 58° ▼ 34° |

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----|
| Thursday | 4 | Low |
| Friday | 4 | Low |
| Saturday | 4 | Low |
| Sunday | 4 | Low |
| Monday | 4 | Low |
| Tuesday | 4 | Low |
| Wednesday | 3 | Low |

TEXAS WEATHER

| | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| Anthony | 55 | 28 |
| Canutillo | 55 | 29 |
| Clint | 54 | 29 |
| E. Montana | 54 | 28 |
| Fabens | 54 | 29 |
| Horizon | 55 | 29 |
| San Elizario | 52 | 26 |
| Socorro | 53 | 27 |
| Tornillo | 54 | 29 |
| Vinton | 55 | 29 |



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

REAL FEEL TEMP®

The exclusive AccuWeather composite index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Thursday | 62° |
| Friday | 42° |
| Saturday | 44° |
| Sunday | 45° |
| Monday | 42° |
| Tuesday | 55° |
| Wednesday | 57° |

AGRICULTURE

Thursday will be cooler than the last several days, despite a good deal of sunshine. High pressure to the north of the region will keep dry air in place for the next several days. Temperatures will be close to seasonal averages with highs in the middle 50s.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2005

TRAVELERS CITIES

| City | Thur. Hi/Lo/W | Fri. Hi/Lo/W | Sat. Hi/Lo/W | Sun. Hi/Lo/W | Mon. Hi/Lo/W |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Albuquerque | 47/22/s | 45/21/s | 47/26/pc | 51/27/s | 49/29/pc |
| Atlanta | 64/44/t | 50/29/r | 46/23/pc | 37/25/s | 41/24/s |
| Atlantic City | 64/44/sh | 45/17/r | 34/10/pc | 26/16/s | 34/13/pc |
| Austin/San Antonio | 61/30/s | 48/23/pc | 43/27/pc | 40/34/pc | 51/31/c |
| Baltimore | 69/42/t | 43/20/r | 30/14/s | 33/18/s | 36/13/pc |
| Boston | 56/42/sh | 46/24/r | 26/18/pc | 31/20/pc | 30/15/pc |
| Chicago | 30/2/sf | 12/-2/pc | 14/2/pc | 12/8/pc | 22/7/c |
| Dallas/Ft. Worth | 53/29/s | 40/18/pc | 35/28/pc | 39/32/pc | 41/30/c |
| Denver | 34/10/pc | 34/13/pc | 32/6/pc | 46/19/pc | 46/19/s |
| Flagstaff | 43/12/s | 42/14/s | 46/16/s | 46/19/s | 46/18/c |
| Houston | 60/38/pc | 52/32/pc | 48/32/pc | 46/30/pc | 48/34/pc |
| Kansas City | 25/-1/c | 18/3/pc | 21/10/sf | 32/18/pc | 35/18/pc |
| Las Vegas | 52/34/s | 56/36/s | 58/38/s | 58/38/s | 58/38/s |
| Miami | 80/71/sh | 80/64/t | 73/58/sh | 73/56/sh | 68/54/pc |
| Minneapolis | 3/-15/pc | -5/-20/pc | -5/-14/pc | -4/-10/s | 12/-3/pc |
| New Orleans | 65/46/r | 56/34/pc | 50/31/pc | 48/35/s | 48/35/s |
| New York City | 60/41/sh | 42/24/pc | 28/16/s | 24/16/s | 31/18/pc |
| Philadelphia | 68/43/sh | 44/22/r | 28/14/s | 30/16/s | 34/15/pc |
| Phoenix | 60/42/s | 68/44/s | 67/46/s | 68/46/s | 70/42/s |
| Portland | 39/28/pc | 39/28/s | 42/32/pc | 44/34/pc | 46/40/c |
| San Francisco | 54/42/s | 56/46/s | 55/45/pc | 56/46/pc | 58/49/s |
| Seattle | 36/22/pc | 38/26/s | 40/30/pc | 42/32/s | 46/42/pc |
| Tucson | 60/36/s | 64/38/s | 66/40/s | 66/42/s | 69/37/s |
| Washington, DC | 70/40/t | 44/25/r | 29/18/s | 27/17/s | 37/16/pc |

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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