



NEWSBRIEFS

Councilman selected

Due to the death of Horizon City Councilman Art Borst, Place 3 has been vacant since November of 2004. On Jan. 11, 2005 the Horizon City Council unanimously appointed Benjamin Garza to fill the vacancy. Council also presented Mrs. Jackie Borst a posthumous plaque in honor of the hard work and dedication of her late husband to the community of Horizon, which she graciously accepted.

Crime Stoppers

The Anthony Lions Club and the Wildcat Community Crime Stoppers hosted a yellow ribbon campaign last weekend in the Town of Anthony in an effort to bring the community together in support of the U.S. military. The local American Legion Post #122 built a memorial wall in honor of military veterans — yellow ribbons were placed throughout the community's parks. "Currently there are servicemen and women in the military who are serving their country with valor, bravery and we want them to know that the American people do support them," said Anthony Police Chief Edward Miranda. The Town has teamed with the Anthony ISD in establishing the Wildcat Community Crime Stoppers, developing bylaws and electing a board of directors. Chief Miranda said that community events and fund-raisers have provided for a tip-line, 726-2038, to receive information regarding crimes. He said formation of a Junior Crime Stoppers organization in the schools is well underway.

In other news

■ The Ysleta Retired School Employees Association, a local unit of Texas Retired Teachers Association, will host a retirement seminar on Jan. 22 at Eastwood Knolls School, 10000 Buckwood, at 8:30 a.m. Open to all public school employees throughout the county, the event is free of charge. Consultations will be given by Joanne Holshauer of the Texas Retirement System and Ray Vigil of the Social Security Administration. For information call 598-4800 or 851-3145.

■ Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, is calling on Texas students to participate in the 9th annual "Treasures of the Texas Coast" Children's Art Contest. The deadline to submit artwork is Monday, Feb. 7, 2005. Open to students in grades K-6 across Texas, the contest produces thousands of drawings every year. Details for medium, parent release and more are at www.texasadopteach.org. Two winners will be picked from each of the 24 regional councils of government in Texas. From these 48 winners, one grand prize winner will get two round-trip, coach-class tickets from Continental Airlines to any Continental destination in the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

Child psychology is what children manage their parents with.

— Quips & Quotes

Trashion statement: Students make clothing from recyclables

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — There's a saying that one man's trash is another man's treasure and four San Elizario High School students have turned what many consider mere trash into an Earth friendly fashion statement. Students who entered a recent competition were required to only use recyclable materials. They also had to wear what they made.

Rocio Flores, Adriana Castañeda, Daizy Rincon and Sandra Arzate, all seniors, competed in the National Recycling Day Fashion Show late last year at the El Paso equestrian Center and their respective outfits are still on display in Jose Olivas' classroom, 335. Flores and Castañeda took first and second place, respectively, while Rincon and Arzate shared third place. First and second place finishers won a money prize of \$75 and \$50 for their efforts. The girls received their money this week.

Flores created a Renaissance-era gown made of black plastic bags, embossed foil paper and coke tabs that she spray-painted gold to match the gold foil. Castañeda went for the cowgirl look, going as far as to make a pair of boots out of cardboard to go with the newspaper skirt and cardboard cowboy hat she wore. Rincon went with a brown shipping paper skirt and shirt combination while fellow third place finisher, Arzate, made a dress of pink and blue plastic bags.



TRASH TO TREASURE — Turning trash into fashion are, from left, Daizy Rincón, Rocio Flores, Adriana Castañeda and Sandra Arzate.

For Flores, recycling is something she practices all the time.

"I recycle aluminum cans and the newspaper," she said. And who can blame her? Local recycling centers are paying in the 50-cent-range per pound.

There are many recycling tips available on

the Internet, including tips and facts from the Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.epa.gov>). Did you know:

- While recycling has grown in general, recycling of specific materials has grown even more drastically: 42 percent of all paper, 40 percent of all plastic soft drink bottles, 55 percent of all aluminum beer and soft drink cans, 57 percent of all steel packaging, and 52 percent of all major appliances are now recycled?

- Twenty years ago, only one curbside recycling program existed in the United States, which collected several materials at the curb. By 1998, 9,000 curbside programs and 12,000 recyclable drop-off centers had sprouted up

See RECYCLE, Page 5

Canutillo ISD's ag-science program to hold annual FFA Goat Jackpot

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Independent School District's Agricultural Science Program will host its Fourth Annual Goat Jackpot, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 5, at the future site of the Agronomics Center on the Rio Grande, 7750 Doniphan Drive, next to Bill Childress Elementary School in the Village of Vinton.

Goat exhibitors from 4-H and FFA are expected from across the state of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Market and breeding show exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18, and exhibitors in the peewee shows must be 5 and younger or 6-8 years of age.

Goat weigh-in begins at 9 a.m., with the breeding show starting at 10 a.m., immediately followed by the peewee show. Market goat showing will start at 1 p.m. with the awards

presentation to follow completion of all events. The entry fee is \$35 per animal with an entry deadline of midnight Jan. 25. Late entries will be accepted until 12 p.m. on the day of the show with an additional \$10 late fee.

The grand champion will win a goat trailer, reserve champion will receive a metal show box, and showmanship buckles will be awarded in both market and breeding meat goat shows. The Junior Meat Goat Show Circuit (JMGSC) will also sanction this year's event. This means that participants of this event will be eligible to earn points towards end-of-the-year awards and scholarships.

"The Goat Jackpot promotes leadership skills, responsibility and discipline through Agriculture Science. Along with other prizes, students can win cash prizes to help offset the cost of college in the future," said Ron Gil, Canutillo High School Ag-science instructor and FFA advisor.

Horizon City mayor vetoes officer's position, will seek second term

Courier Staff Reports

HORIZON CITY — A majority vote by the Horizon City Council has been nullified by the exercise of executive veto by Mayor Diane Whitty.

Her veto nullifies the Council's vote on Jan. 11 during their regular meeting. They gave the go-ahead to hire the last police officer in a three-officer, 18-month staggered hiring plan funded by a COPS grant initially approved by Council in October of 2003. Two officers have already been hired under the grant, which pays up to 75 percent of each officer's entry-level salary and gradually declines over three years. The grant proposal was presented to Council by Police Chief Antonio Aguilar as a package deal at the time it was approved.

Officers hired under the grant were intended to provide manpower for "community policing" such as Neighborhood Watch, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and other programs which utilize community volunteers. This was the original justification in 2003.

City Council approved the request on Jan. 11 by a vote of 4-2 with the two opposing votes cast by Councilmen Byron Taylor and Jay Blobner. However, a week later, on Jan. 18, Chief Aguilar was given official notice that Mayor Whitty had vetoed the Council vote and that the hiring could not take place.

In a telephone interview this week, Whitty said she vetoed the hiring because Council approved the officer without justification. "We have the grant but not the need," she said. She also cited the cost of Workers' Compensation and insurance as drains on the city budget, and added that if the city were to go into financial decline and officers had to be let go, that the COPS grant officers might have to be retained over senior officers.

Chief Aguilar, however, said the hiring was directly in line with the original grant request justification, and that the positions of senior officers were not jeopardized by the grant.

"This is a community confidence issue," Chief Aguilar said. "The hiring of (this) officer is a benefit to the community. We had the majority support of the council. This hiring is not a benefit to me but to the community."

He said the mayor's veto can be overridden by a majority vote of at least five council members within 31 days.

The mayor also wants to create a Citizen Police Review Board. Discussion of creating such a board took place during the Jan. 11 meeting. Chief Aguilar, however, said that Police Departments routinely investigate their own complaints and he does not see any need for a review board. "Everything is taken care of in-house," he told Council, adding that if a major issue arose from any complaints, he would request assistance from outside law enforcement entities.

In a later interview, the HCPD chief said formation of such a review board was not

See HORIZON, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Gifts of people

My kids used to bring me hand-made Mother's Day cards that I stuck on the refrigerator with magnets.

They brought me colorful rocks which they presented with big smiles: See what I got for you, Mom? Sometimes it was a wilted blossom from a weed in the backyard, or a picture they drew of me or some other equally unrecognizable creature.

But no matter what it was, I loved it. By the time you are old enough to have kids it is beginning to dawn on you how few gifts you're going to receive in your lifetime with that level of heartfelt devotion, so better savor the moment.

Nowadays, my kids are giving me a different sort of gift. They bring them with the same level of hopeful anticipation that I'm going to like these gifts — that I will see and appreciate what they saw as lovely and worthwhile when they picked them.

Nowadays, my kids are bringing me other people. Friends, girl friends, boy friends, mates and potential mates, fellow students, co-workers, teachers, gifts of people young and old.

Like the wilted flowers and questionable works of art, I love them all, just because of the source. Among those gifts have been a skater chick, numerous rough and rowdy young men of varying descriptions, grand-mother types, quiet young girls with shy smiles, weathered old men, more than one teacher with an odd-ball sense of humor, and a mother who attended college with my oldest daughter — and still cuts my hair.

Like all gifts you receive, you will keep some people-gifts and some you won't, some you find useful and lasting, some will simply be a fleeting

and pleasant memory.

But some of the people-gifts your kids give you are more permanent by their very nature. They are called in-laws. They are the person — and the family of same — that your child has chosen as a life partner.

There's a popular movie in the theaters right now about a visit between two couples whose children have married each other. I won't write down the title of the movie for fear of misspelling it since one word is dangerously close to being an expletive. I haven't seen the whole movie, but the premise is that these folks are from totally different backgrounds, have opposing views on practically everything — lifestyle and careers, family relationships, politics and religion. The only thing they have in common is that their children fell in love and married.

You can imagine the comedic opportunities created by that situation.

In real life, however, this has potential to create a little unease in one's life. Not only are you going to have in your life the person your child marries, but you're going to also share your child, and your child's children, and a whole lot else — probably a few weddings, reunions and eventually a funeral or two — with a potentially large bunch of folks you didn't even get to review, let alone select.

Scary stuff.

Last weekend I drove about 11 hours one way to spend a couple of days in the company of a whole bunch of folks I'd never seen or spoken to. These are people my son loves, people whose company he has shared for several years, who have shown him loyalty, support, friendship and love.

I looked on — with tears, of course — as the Nevada skyline glowed

with an exquisite sunset and my son married a young woman extraordinary both in beauty and character. He joined himself not only to her but to her people, because the ties that bind her family are strong and unbreakable.

As I looked around at the tight-knit group of new gifts in my life, I

thought that my boy had chosen well, that the people he had introduced to me with quiet smile and hopeful eyes were really nice gifts — a whole new group of people I might never have known without benefit of his travels, his accomplishments, his associations beyond my horizon.

A friend once said that if you ask

everyone you know, you will eventually run across someone who knows members of your family from circumstances other than their acquaintance with you. In other words, it's a small world.

That's true, and with each people-gift my kids give me, my world gets just a little bigger — and better.

FRESH FROM CRITICIZING A MOTHER FOR LISTENING IN ON HER TEEN'S PHONE CALLS, THE WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT TAKES IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL...



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

CLASSIFIED RATES
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DISPLAY RATES:
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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
 52 issues for \$35. Delivery via 1st class mail.

ADDRESS:
 14200 Ashford
 Horizon City, TX 79928

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Homesteader News, Inc.
 Est. 1973

Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

Flu hits 'widespread' level in Texas

AUSTIN — Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) officials said that influenza activity in the state last week rose to the "widespread" classification for the first time this flu season.

Officials say it is not too late to get a flu shot and encourage those in the priority groups to get one.

Flu season officially runs from October through May.

In Texas, the heavy part of flu season typically occurs in late December, January and February.

Flu is not a reportable condition in Texas, but DSHS relies on reports from a surveillance network to classify flu activity and report weekly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CDC flu activity has five classifications: no activity, sporadic, local, regional and widespread. The widespread classification is used when there is an increase in flu and flu-like illnesses and recent laboratory confirmed flu in at least half of a state's regions. Ten of Texas' 11 health re-

gions had increased flu activity last week.

The A/Fujian and B/Shanghai forms of the flu virus have been identified in Texas. Both are covered by this season's vaccine.

The expanded priority groups for the flu shot are children 6 months through 23 months of age, adults 50 and older, anyone with underlying chronic medical conditions, women who will be pregnant during flu season, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, chil-

dren 6 months through 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy, medical care workers providing direct patient care and caregivers and household contacts of children under 6 months old and of others at high risk of severe complications from the flu.

More vaccine has been shipped to Texas providers in recent weeks.

People wanting to get a flu shot should contact their doctor, call the 2-1-1 information service and call their local public health department

or nearest DSHS regional office.

It takes about two weeks after getting the flu shot for the vaccine to offer maximum protection.

FluMist, a nasal spray vaccine that contains live weakened flu virus, may be used to vaccinate most healthy individuals from 5 years through 49 years of age who are not pregnant.

A pneumococcal vaccine also is recommended for people 65 and older and those with chronic health problems to protect against pneumonia caused by pneumococcus bacteria. Pneumonia is often a complication of influenza.

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



Inaugural milestones

For more than 200 years American's have witnessed the inauguration ceremonies of the President of the United States. This week we will once again celebrate this remarkable American tradition. President-elect George W. Bush's inauguration ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 20 will mark a great milestone. With this milestone comes more than two centuries of history and tradition.

Many of us take for granted that today's inaugural ceremonies usually go off without a hitch. But that was hardly the case when our nation began. When the Constitutional Convention convened in 1787, the proceedings associated with today's presidential inaugurations were entirely new. While drafting the Constitution, our Founding Fathers thought ahead and included several guidelines for the presidential inauguration. Many of those guidelines are still in place today. Our Constitution requires that the president must be a natural born citizen of the United States, has lived in this country for at least 14 years, and has attained the age of 35. It even specifies the oath of office that the new president should affirm. But beyond that, the Constitution remains silent. This silence has left room for a variety of ceremonies, locations and advances in technology.

Our nation's first presidential inauguration was held on April 30,

1789. President George Washington took the oath of office on a balcony in New York's Federal Hall. When the ceremony was complete, President Washington returned to the Senate chamber where he read his brief inaugural address, and called upon "the Almighty Being who rules over the universe" to assist the American people in finding "liberties and happiness" under "a government instituted by themselves."

By 1801, the seat of the U.S. Government had moved to Washington, D.C. The City of Washington was quite crude in comparison to today's standards. With little fanfare, President Thomas Jefferson marked the first president to take the oath of office at our nation's new capitol building. But for a few occasions, the inauguration ceremonies for our president and vice president would continue in the City of Washington for the next 200 years.

In 1829, Andrew Jackson marked the first president to be inaugurated on the East Front of the Capitol. Though Jackson's second inauguration in 1833 was moved indoors to the House Chamber because of his ill health, this tradition would continue until 1981 when Ronald Reagan's inauguration was held on the West Front of the Capitol. The West Front tradition continued with the 1989 inauguration of George Bush and those of Bill Clinton in

1993 and 1997. This new tradition will continue this weekend with President-elect Bush's inauguration ceremony.

There have been more changes to the presidential inauguration than just the location. Significant advances in technology have made their marks on these historic occasions. In 1897, the inauguration of William McKinley ushered in a new age, for it was the first to be filmed using the new motion picture technology. The 1925 Calvin Coolidge inauguration was the first to be broadcast live by radio, and the 1949 inauguration of President Truman was the first to be televised live. Just four years ago, the 1997 ceremony marked another first, as it was carried live on the Internet.

Today's City of Washington, as well as the Capitol Building, bear remarkable differences from the fledgling city of 200 years ago. However, the ideals our presidents are sworn to uphold have remained true and constant. As you watch this week's inaugural ceremony, I hope each of you will keep in mind the history of this great tradition and look forward to a future of peace, progress and prosperity.

May God bless each of you and continue to bless America.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

NOTING SUCCESS — From left, Tracy Baskin, Washington Mutual; Max Padilla, JDE principal; Angie Guzman and Veronica Valenzuela, JDE teachers; Pauline Dow, CISD director; and Leslie Lockett of HEB.

Damian Elementary named to state honor roll for academic performance

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

AUSTIN — Just for the Kids (JFTK) and the Texas Business and Education Coalition (TBEC) honored Jose H. Damian Elementary School along with 70 other Texas elementary schools recently at a reception and dinner in Austin.

The Honor Roll schools are the most consistent performers in educating all student groups over a three-year period of time and rank highest in their individual peer groups, which are the schools across the state that most closely approximate their size and student population makeup.

Max Padilla, Damian ES principal, along with JDE teachers, Angie Guzman and Veronica Valenzuela, and Pauline Dow, director of Academic Language Ser-

vices at Canutillo Independent School District attended a "Share the Success" seminar, awards presentation, and gala dinner, where Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst thanked Texas educators for the job they do each day. The TBEC/JFTK Honor Roll is underwritten by Washington Mutual, HEB and IBM.

"It is important to the business community of Texas to celebrate these Honor Roll Schools," said John Stevens, Executive Director of TBEC. "We are counting on the students of these schools to one day run our state, so it is vital that they be well educated and prepared for the 21st century workplace."

"The only way to effectively measure where improvement is occurring or where it needs to take place," said Mike Hudson of Just for the Kids, "is to analyze academic results. And the academic results of these Honor Roll schools are outstanding."



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Internet key to communication

The internet has become an integral part of our society. Its use has changed the way we communicate and the way we do business. It is making businesses and employees more productive and efficient.

Late last year, my colleagues and I in Congress reassured the American people that the internet will remain a viable business tool when we passed a three-year extension of the current "internet tax ban." Both the House and Senate agreed that this ban on internet taxes was necessary to keep the internet affordable.

When I first came to Congress in 1997, the majority of El Pasoans preferred to communicate with me or my office via phone or mail. Over time, an overwhelming majority of con-

stituents began to use e-mail and the internet as their main methods of communication. Since then, the internet has played a major role in the communication and dissemination of information from my office to the El Paso community.

Early in 2003, I launched a new website (<http://www.house.gov/reyes>) where El Pasoans and others all over the world can easily and efficiently access to information, and also sign up for periodic e-mail newsletters that update constituents and others on the latest federal issues affecting El Paso and Texas.

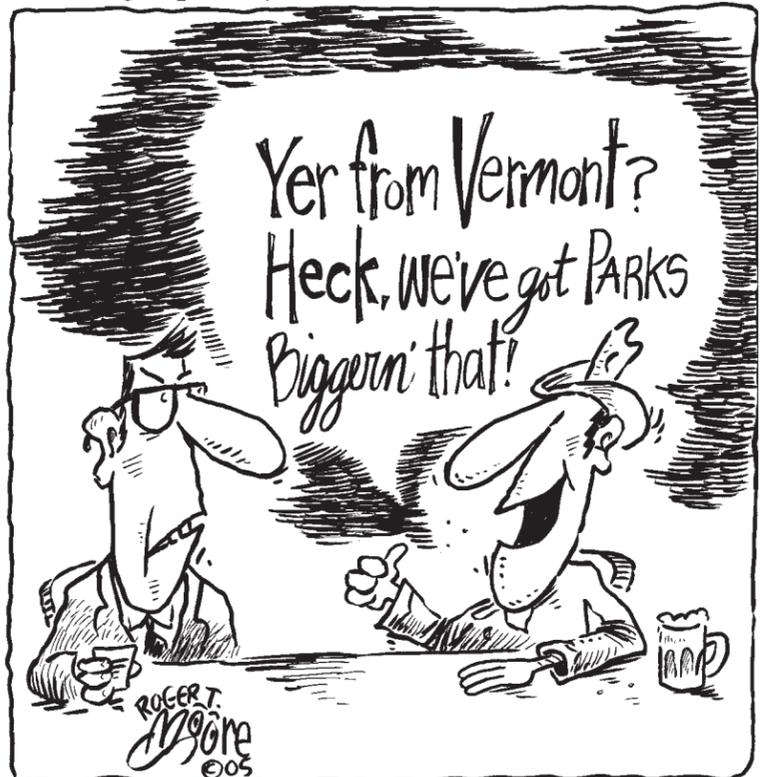
Since the launch, the website has averaged approximately 4,000 visitors per week, 15,000 visitors per month, and about 1,000 subscribers to my e-mail newsletter. Recently, a study commissioned by the Committee on House Administration that

rated all Congressional websites found my new website to be among the top three percent on Capitol Hill.

While the number of visitors and subscribers continues to grow, improvements and additions to the website, tailored to the needs of El Pasoans, will follow. Among the upcoming improvements is a complete Spanish version of the website, which will make my site one of the first Congressional sites to be completely bilingual.

Website improvements and e-mail communications are only a few ways to productively use the internet. The internet has been key to growth and continued success in the business community and other sectors of our economy. I encourage those who have not begun, or those thinking of upgrading, to utilize the internet to its fullest capacity.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Big Bend State Park is our largest park at just over 700,000 acres.



Jamison captures essence of real life in Chamizal exhibition

Whether it be a realistic painting of harnessed horses that measures well over six feet in width, or a softened quiet piece of a dove that welcomes visitors to the Los Paisanos Gallery at Chamizal National Memorial, the work of Las Cruces artist Tracy Jamison is show-stopping.



Jamison's "Resting Horse"

Twenty-eight original works comprise her newest solo exhibition entitled *Making Connections*, which opens Thursday, Jan. 20 at 5 p.m. in the Memorial's main gallery in the Administration building at 800 South San Marcial.

Jamison's works hang in public collections in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Cruces, as well as numerous private collections. She has participated in group and solo exhibitions in El Paso, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Ruidoso and Burbank, CA in addition to being invited to sell her work at auction at Christie's, New York, as part of the Garland Appeal, A Garland for Linda McCartney.

Her local public art includes mu-

ral for the City of Las Cruces, the Dona Ana Branch Community College and Foothills Imaging Center. A portrait of Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of Pluto, hangs in the entrance to the Astronomy Building at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Jamison studied painting privately with retired commercial art master James Michener of Chicago. She also studied art and philosophy at NMSU.

She is primarily a realist painter whose subjects generally concern nature, wildlife, landscape and all other expressions of our natural world, including figurative paintings

and commissioned portraits. She also occasionally works in abstract art, both in paintings and sculpture, but prefers realism in paintings.

The paintings on exhibit at the Chamizal run the gamut from portraits of animals, including horses, a cougar, Mona the Elephant, an alligator and a dove. People subjects are also varied. Landscapes capture both White Sands National Monument and our Chihuahuan Desert.

"This exhibition draws attention to life around us," said Isabel Montes, Superintendent. "We start with the dove of peace and move to studies of everyday people and our natural world. We find our connection in this exploration of our surroundings."

The exhibition will hang through February 13, 2005.

Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso's National Park, is located at 800 South San Marcial between Bowie High School and the Bridge of the Americas. For additional information, call 915 532-7273.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

SERVING IN TRUST — The men and women serving as trustees of the Canutillo Independent School District are shown, front row from left, Carl Fritze, Yvonne Sapien Sanchez, Sergio Coronado, and Jose Villarreal; back row, Frank Lerma, Charley Hecker, and Rafael Reyes.

Canutillo ISD honors board members

EL PASO COUNTY — Gov. Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month and Canutillo Independent School District is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge their commitment to communities and schools.

"Texans benefit every day from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of more than 7,000 men and women across the state. These public servants are elected to serve by local citizens and receive no compensation for their

tireless efforts. These men and women are the local school board members of Texas," said Charles Hart, Canutillo ISD's superintendent.

"These people unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education," Hart said. "Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part."

— Contributed by Kim Guzman

Begins
MARCH 2ND
Texas Independence Day

Bonafide Original Real
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by Roger Todd Moore

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SPECIAL FEATURES

- ★ Original Texas Artwork by Roger T. Moore
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- ★ 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
<p>TOUTING TEXAS—Jimmy Don Perkins invented the chicken fried steak in Lamesa in 1911.</p>						<p>1928: The Milam Bldg. in S.A. becomes the 1st air conditioned bldg. in U.S.</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Public Hearing Canutillo Independent School District

2005 — 2006 School Year Calendar

The Canutillo Independent School District intends to apply for a waiver of the prohibition concerning the date of the first day of instruction for students for the 2005 — 2006 school year. The Canutillo Independent School District intends to begin instruction for students for the 2005 — 2006 school year on August 15, 2005.

A public hearing to discuss the first day of instruction for students for the 2005 — 2006 school year will be held as follows:

- Date:** February 3, 2005
- Time:** 6:00 p.m.
- Site:** Canutillo Independent School District
Central Administration Building
7965 Artcraft Road
El Paso, Texas 79932

For further information, please call the Public Information Office at 877-7482.

Junta Publica Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo

Calendario Escolar de 2005 — 2006

El distrito de Canutillo está propocionando de aplicar para un permiso del estado para poder cambiar la fecha del comienzo del año escolar de 2005 — 2006. El distrito tiene intención de comenzar el primer día de instruction el 15 de agosto 2005.

Una junta para la comunidad para discutir este propósito para el año escolar de 2005 — 2006 se llevará a cabo el 3 de febrero 2005 a las 6:00 p.m. en las oficinas administrativas del distrito escolar de Canutillo en 7965 Artcraft Road.

Para mas información pueden llamar al Oficina de Información Publico al numero 877-7482.

WTCC: 01-20-05

Foundation brings sight to Sybert School

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Some Bill Sybert School seventh graders are seeing better these days, thanks to a visit by the federal government, the Helen Keller Foundation and the El Paso offices of Child Sight Texas. Students receive free eye examinations, testing and, if needed, eyeglasses.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

WATCH THE BIRDIE — Dr. Philip Dangle, O.D., checks the vision of a Bill Sybert school student as part of the Child Sight program.

Seventh-grader Ashley Flores is waiting for her examination. She agrees that the program “will help her look at the board.” Child Sight program coordinator Margie Perez-Martinez says the program visits schools in SISD and other Mission Valley school districts. “We are also funded by the Star Foundation and this is our fifth year in SISD. We work very closely with the school nurses to find students who need an eye examination,” she says, adding the program

examines about 3,000 SISD students each year.

“We have a variety of eyeglass frames, 40 different styles of glasses, a variety of colors — but all the glasses are fit to fit one face.” Perez-Martinez says the organization tries to fit the students with style, too. “For a while, the round-and-small ‘Harry Potter’ eyeglasses were popular.”

Dr. Philip Dangle, O.D., is doing

today’s examinations. He says nearsightedness — the inability to focus on distant objects but to see closer objects — is the most common visual problem revealed by his diagnoses. “Second would be astigmatism (an irregularly shaped lens or cornea); the third is amblyopia, sometimes called ‘lazy eye.’ If the student has trouble seeing what the teacher is

writing on the blackboard; if they have trouble seeing the stars at night or reading license plates in the parking lot, he needs an eye examination. Most know they are deficient but we do get ones that are pretty bad, and still claim that their vision is terrific.”

Dangle says lightheartedly that the program cannot guarantee that eyeglasses will “turn every student into a ‘straight-A’ student overnight but they should be able to pass!”

In the interest of science

Science students in Anna Porras’ 3rd grade bilingual class at Socorro ISD’s Elvida P. Chavez Elementary School staged a Science Expo Jan. 7 to encourage all students to become interested in hands-on activities. Shown from left: Samantha Cordero, Alejandro Gonzalez, Rito Olivas, Anahi Armenta and Alejandra Soltero gleefully investigated garden worms.



Horizon

From Page 1

only unusual but was “really extraordinary,” and is seldom done except in the case of deeply troubled departments with documented misconduct and multiple lawsuits.

Whitty is also looking at changes to the Horizon City Charter. She is requesting that the council place about “10 or 11 Charter amendments” on the May 7, 2005 ballot. She said she has given the council members each item and time to study them before they come up in council. Among them are two issues that she requested be placed before the voters last year, but that did not pass.

In February of last year, the sitting council turned down Whitty’s request to ask voters to approve paying the

mayor \$3,000 per month and each councilman \$50 per meeting up to \$150 per month, via the May 15, 2004 ballot in the general election. She also wanted to make the HCPD chief’s contract run concurrent with the term of mayor — council also declined placing that issue on the ballot. These issues will be revisited.

Meanwhile, Whitty said she will run for re-election May 7. As to the issue of compensating the mayor, she said the town has grown to the point it needs a full-time, accountable mayor. “No one can work full time without compensation.” She said she is running again because there is “still much to be done.”

In other business, Council began the process of annexation on four parcels that include over 838 acres of land. City Council unanimously approved the Plan of Services for the annexation.

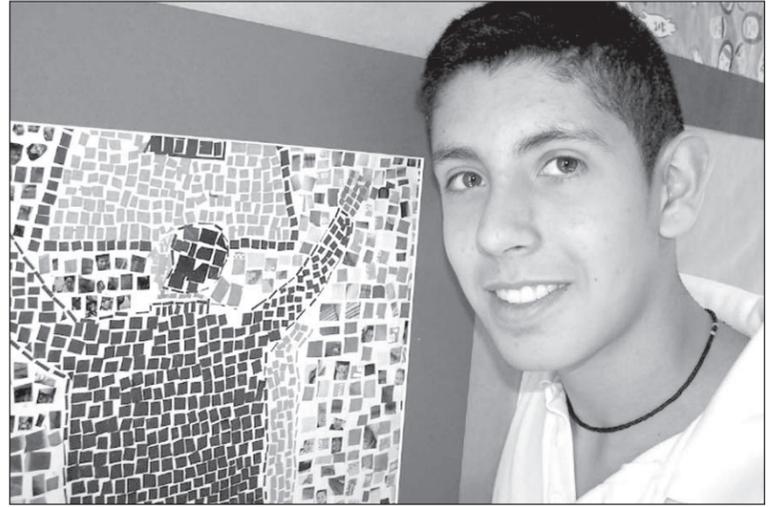
Recycle

From Page 1

across the nation. As of 1999, 480 materials recovery facilities had been established to process the collected materials?

While Olivas’ students have been involved with the Recycling Day Fashion Show for years, San Elizario students have long taken part in recycling programs, according to Cookie Laffler, student activities manager at the school. The student council has partnered up with El Paso Recycles to recycle paper, cardboard,

aluminum, magazine, junk mailings, and plastic bottles. Also, elementary students in the district have participated in various programs aimed at recycling and awareness.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

MEANINGFUL MOSAIC — Col. John O. Ensor Middle School student Anthony Regalado was inspired by the works of Dr. Martin Luther King and created this mosaic of faces, skin and hair in the form of Dr. King’s famed Washington Monument speech. “I like history, and when we were studying it, thought it was fascinating,” he says. The work took about five class periods, and it’s displayed in the Horizon City school’s arts hall. Regalado’s art teacher is Stephanie Romero.

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Baseball says 'it's four strikes and you're out' for pumped up players

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's kind of sad, don't you think? Professional baseball was coming off one of its most memorable seasons ever with the lowly Red Sox finally getting past the Yankees on their way to winning the World Series. But ever since, all the baseball we've been talking about concerns the Balco steroid scandal.

Suddenly, some of the game's most cherished records and record-breakers have come into question. The almighty asterisk is dusting itself off in anticipation of many more appearances in the record books.

Some of the sport's mega stars, past and present, like Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi, Gary Sheffield, Mark McGwire, Ken Caminiti and Jose Canseco have admitted to enhancing their physical ability through better chemistry.

And those are just the few fellows that have decided to come forward — some voluntarily, some kicking and screaming.

To make matters worse, Bonds actually believes he's fooled everyone into thinking the only reason he's involved in all this steroid talk, is because he took his performance enhancers "unknowingly." He says he thought he was taking some kind of deep-soothing analgesic balm.

Hey, Barry, I've got a question. What is it that you thought you were taking that was making your head so big — Noxema?

Too bad his brain didn't grow at the rate his head did.

Anyway, Major League Baseball was told a few months ago, by Arizona Sen. John McCain, to clean up its act or the United States government would do it for them.

So baseball management and the player's union got their regular-sized heads together and came up with what they call the most comprehensive steroid testing program in the history of the league.

The best thing about the new agreement is that baseball is finally heading in the right direction. The worst thing about the new agreement is that it hardly has enough teeth to dent a doughnut.

I mean, c'mon, according to the new agreement, a first offense can earn a player up to 10 days banishment from the game. Wow, 10 days, that's a whole 6-percent of the entire season.

Reading the new "tougher" standards, the question that immediately comes to mind is: Are you guys really serious about getting rid

of steroids or not?

The toughest language in the agreement states that players will receive a year-long suspension after their fourth positive test.

You mean to tell me that the new tougher standards wait till you've been caught *four* times before getting really serious? Don't you wish all of us could get those kinds of odds?

I honestly don't understand why cheating players couldn't get suspended for a year after just one positive test. That's the only way you're going to get rid of the problem, right? Get tough with the perpetrators and they'll think twice before they break the rules.

But Major League Baseball, like all other professional sports, could care less about the rules or the players or the fans. All that matters is the almighty dollar.

If you really get tough with the players, you could get some superstars suspended for the season. And let's face it, the owners know it's the superstars who put the majority of the fans in the overpriced seats.

And full stadiums equal more money.

Don't forget that the owners were already rich when they bought these professional teams. They didn't make their millions by being stupid or clueless.

If anyone thinks professional sports owners will ever really get tough with all the geese that lay their golden eggs — then it's us, the fans, who are truly stupid and clueless.

Pats pound Peyton, again

Sometimes in life, no matter what you do, somebody out there has got your number.

It isn't easy to explain. In fact, it may be impossible to explain. But life is funny that way.

Only I don't think Peyton Manning is laughing about it right now.

No quarterback in the history of the NFL has ever had a season like the Indianapolis Colts' Peyton Manning just had. And yet, I'm sure in his mind, it was all for nothing.

And the reason his season seems like a failure is the same reason it seemed like a failure last year — the New England Patriots.

No matter what Manning does or how good of a team he has, he just can't get by Tom Brady and the Patriots. They just have his number.

I don't know what it is, but Bill Belichick has the recipe on how to stop Peyton Manning.

Amazingly, Manning can shred every defense in the league except that of the Patriots.

Is it in the mechanics? Is it the defensive schemes of the Patriots? Or is it something deeply implanted in Manning's head?

Until he finds a way to get past the Pats, Manning will be known as the quarterback that

can't win the big one. And a quarterback that can't win the big one carries that label with him long after his playing days are over.

Ask the Craig Mortons or the Jim Kellys or the Bernie Kosars of the world.

High standards for self keeps San Eli senior aiming high

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SANELIZARIO — For San Elizario High School senior Nubia Gomez, the difference between being average and above average

is simple: have high expectations. This is the philosophy that has allowed her to become only the second female athlete from San Elizario to earn All City honors.

Gomez was named to the team before the Christmas break and, according to her coach, David Desrosiers, has kept a low profile about it.

"I think she's just being really modest about it," Desrosiers said.

In 27 games played this season, Gomez recorded 55

aces, 241 kills, 4 blocks, 10 assists and 397 digs. Her 55 aces were third in the city — fellow teammate Jennifer Torres' 56 kills were second best — and her 397 digs were tops on an Eagles squad that went 14-13.

Following in her philosophy to have higher expectations, Gomez is determined to continue playing volleyball at a higher level, even if it means taking her top ten academic ranking and her game to Brownsville, Texas, where a successful tryout a few weeks

ago could earn Gomez a scholarship.

Born in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Gomez and her family have lived in Las Vegas, Nevada and San Marcos, Texas before settling into San Elizario the past 11 years. This is a place she considers home.

"It's a place where you feel comfortable," she said.

Leaving this type of comfort, Nubia said, is something she's willing to do in order to venture out into the world and grow. She understands the challenges of being away from home, but Gomez is used to facing challenges, especially as a student athlete.

"It can be hard sometimes because it's not just about athletics," she said. "It's about academics, too. It's not as if my grades suddenly became good in high school — my parents have al-

ways expected my grades to be good. "It would have been weird for my grades to go down in high school because I was playing sports," she said. "I've kept the same standards."

Those standards also helped Gomez excel in other sports, such as softball, basketball, and track. And as long as she maintains those standards and high expectations in the game of life, Gomez knows she'll be just fine — wherever she goes.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

STACKING THE DECK — Nubia Gomez looks to become an ace on a college volleyball court after high school.

King Super Crossword

- CD COLLECTION**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Pinza or Chaliapin
- 5 Baslica feature
- 8 Page
- 12 _ pants
- 17 Relative of PDQ
- 18 Crude cartel
- 20 Comic Radner
- 21 It's down in the mouth
- 22 Connecticut senator
- 25 Cotonou's country
- 26 Swiss miss?
- 27 Rustic sight
- 28 Villainous Luthor
- 30 Bit
- 33 "Pelleas et Melisande" composer
- 38 Intrude
- 43 About
- 44 Sky light?
- 45 August one
- 46 Watchband
- 48 Say "Hey!"
- 50 Drummer Buddy
- 53 Cold-war accord
- 55 Scrabble piece
- 56 Ring site?
- 58 Hero's horse
- 60 Actress Slezak
- 62 Stopped in one's tracks
- 66 Singer Elvis
- 68 Scandinavian
- 71 Handy bit of Latin
- 72 _ Jima
- 73 Window part
- 74 " _ Eyes" ('79 hit)
- 76 "New Look" couturier
- 80 Cambodia's Lon _
- 81 Articulated
- 83 Gridiron position
- 84 Art deco name
- 85 Clementi
- composition
- 87 Fit neatly
- 89 Philharmonic section
- 91 He had a guilt complex
- 94 Pennsylvania sect
- 95 Velvet finish
- 97 Tragic fate
- 100 They squeak for themselves
- 101 Vino center
- 102 Crucifix
- 105 Photo book
- 107 Trams transport it
- 108 Subordinate
- Claus?
- 110 Football's Aikman
- 112 Architect, for instance
- 114 "The Descent of Man" author
- 120 Fumble
- 121 Empty (of)
- 122 Wagner's " _ fliegende Hollander"
- 15 Inventor Howe
- 16 Actor Patinkin
- 130 Removes the cork
- 133 1974 Tony-winning actress
- 137 "Killer Tomatoes" sound
- 138 Fiddled (with)
- 139 Screenwriter James
- 140 Talbot or Naldi
- 141 Like the kitchen sink
- 142 Risked a ticket
- 143 Scrape by, with "out"
- 144 Action figure
- DOWN**
- 1 Big name in Baroque
- 2 '68 US Open winner
- 3 Amritsar attire
- 4 Miss Muffet's nemesis
- 5 Word with cheese or roast
- 6 Homer's field
- 7 Bawled
- 8 Cover
- 9 "Evil Woman" rockers
- 10 Confuse
- 11 Lost luster
- 12 Wheel part
- 13 "Hi, Horace!"
- 14 Puniest pups
- 15 Inventor Howe
- 16 Actor Patinkin
- 19 Stylish
- 20 Bathed in butter
- 23 Corn holders
- 24 Actress Joyce
- 29 Makes one's mark
- 32 Swimmer Biondi
- 34 Multipurpose vehicle
- 35 Lamebrain
- 36 Pop
- 37 Joins forces
- 38 Different
- 39 Around the corner
- 40 Covent Garden
- conductor
- 41 Dernier _
- 42 Grapefruit serving
- 47 Shimon of Israel
- 49 Clear
- 51 "The Power of Love" singer
- 52 Opening remark?
- 54 Tyson stat
- 57 Crockett colleague
- 59 TV's "My Living -"
- 61 Eyebrow shape
- 63 Aquatic mammal
- 64 Former African nation
- 65 Bring bliss
- 67 Santa's problem
- 69 Mets' milieu
- 70 Singer Maresca
- 74 Fountain order
- 75 Luncheonette lure
- 77 Gentleman of leisure?
- 78 "Pagliacci"
- soprano
- 79 Pirate's quaff
- 82 Flatt or Pearson
- 86 Indistinct
- 88 Tenor Georges
- 90 Auctioneer's cry
- 92 43,560 square feet
- 93 Cassandra, for one
- 96 Part of NB
- 98 UK honor
- 99 Ruminant
- 103 Legendary Bruin
- 104 Used a divining rod
- 106 High spirits
- 109 Nourished
- 111 Surprised shout
- 113 Terra firma
- 114 Misfortune
- 115 Hefty herbivore
- 116 Writer Rogers St. Johns
- 117 Factions
- 118 Sag
- 119 1492 vessel
- 124 Brink
- 125 Pursue
- 127 The Chipmunks, e.g.
- 128 Ferrara first family
- 129 Galaxy glitterer
- 131 Short snooze?
- 132 Hog heaven?
- 134 Caustic substance
- 135 Rock's _ Zeppelin
- 136 Diminutive

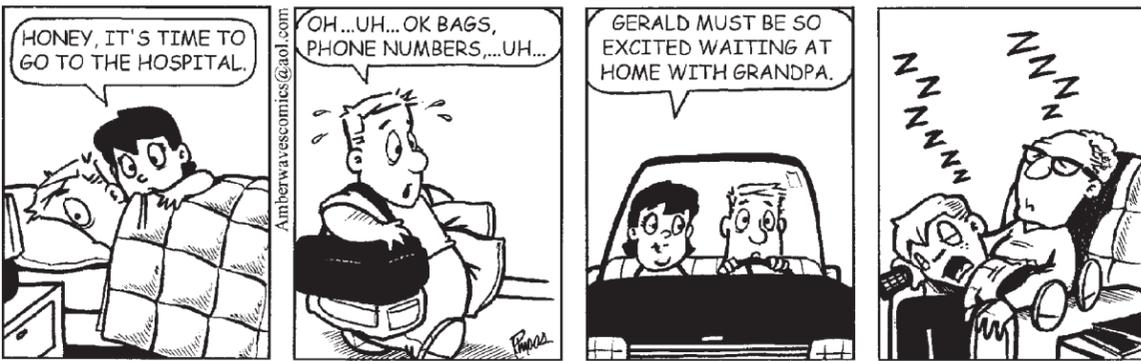
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Comix

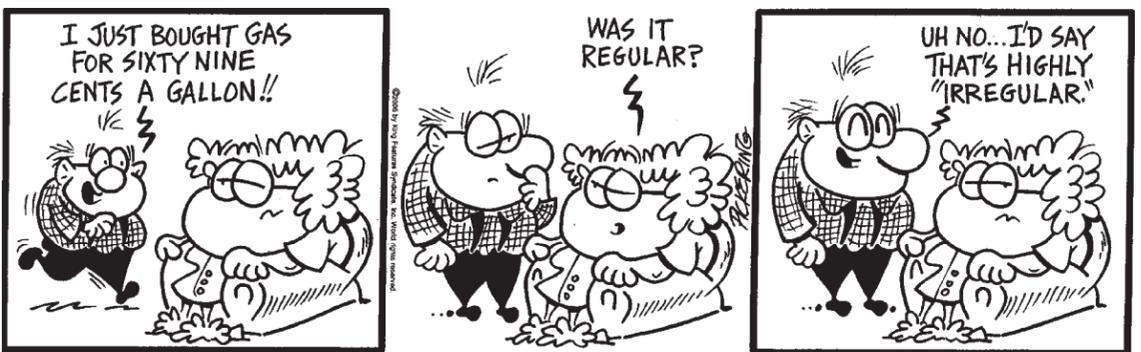
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Will we have Paris in springtime?

By Don Flood

In Casablanca, Rick looked into Ilsa's eyes and declared, "We'll always have Paris."

But that was just a movie. Can we say the same about America in 2005?

Recently, in a piece headlined "We'll never have Paris again," the New York Daily News gossip columnist made a startling New Year's resolution: He would — take a deep breath now — stop reporting on Paris Hilton.

A gossip columnist refusing to report on perhaps the biggest producer of gossip in the world's history!

It's a little like an astronomer who studies the solar system but refuses to acknowledge the sun. An oceanographer who declines to report on anything relating to the Pacific Ocean.

Oh sure, laugh now, but who's next? Someday, perhaps sooner than you think, you may open the paper and find there is no more news about Anna Nicole Smith, Pamela Anderson or Tori Spelling. (Tori who? See, it's already happening!)

Paris Hilton is gossip. She has no other function.

Even more bizarre are his reasons. The columnist objects to her celebrity because, he says, she has triumphed despite no "discernible talent, education, scruples, manners, modesty or underpants."

As a member of the media, I'm shocked.

Perhaps I'm naive, but I've always believed our standards were lower than that.

And that if an ambitious celebrity such as Paris was able to plumb new depths of depravity, then we would be willing to dive into the cesspool too and struggle with her

until we attained the very bottom. That was our calling. That was why we became journalists.

But now, apparently, some are afraid to make that journey.

This so-called gossip columnist also wrote that Hilton "is an insult to the American sense of fairness: the idea that you get ahead by working hard, playing by the rules and acquiring a skill of some sort."

I'm sorry, but are we talking about the same America here?

Besides, Hilton has perfected a certain skill. In every photo of her, no matter her state of dress or undress, Hilton has that smile: a smirky, knowing look that says, "Wherever I am is the most fun place to be in the universe."

Perhaps with an Anna Nicole Smith, I might understand the columnist's reluctance. Smith, sadly, has reached the limits of her witless buffoonery. Her day as source for good copy is fast ending, however ridiculous her escapades.

In Hilton, however, I detect a restless soul willing to seek out and explore new boundaries of trashy behavior.

Paris, if you're reading this, please know that not all journalists have abandoned you.

Forget about New York and those big-shot columnists.

Come to my town and I will make this solemn pledge. If you indulge in wild displays of debauchery, we will be there.

If you set new standards of decadence, we will be ready with our digital cameras.

And if you and Nicole Ritchie set up shop here, we will splash it across our pages.

It could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

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CSP NO. 199-0201-0559
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ACCEPTED UNTIL FEB. 1, 2005, 4:00 P.M.

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As per Article V,

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: In her senior year of high school, my daughter had a sporting accident that partially paralyzed her. It doesn't look as if she will be able to work in the near future, but she hasn't had a job where she paid Social Security taxes. Do disabled children qualify for benefits?

A: There are two Social Security disability programs that include disabled children. Under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, an individual may receive monthly pay-

ments based on disability or blindness if:

- he or she has an impairment or combination of impairments that meets the definition of disability for children; and
- the income and resources of the parents and the child are within the allowed limits. (After a child reaches age 18, the parents' income no longer affects eligibility or payment amounts.)

Under the Social Security Disability Insurance program, an adult child (a person age 18 or older) may receive

monthly benefits based on disability or blindness if:

- he or she has an impairment or combination of impairments that meets the definition of disability for adults; and
- the disability began before age 22; and
- the adult child's parent worked long enough to be insured under Social Security and is receiving retirement or disability benefits or is deceased. Under both of these programs, the child must not be doing any "substantial" work, and must have a medical condition that has lasted or is expected either to last for at least 12 months or to result in death.

Q: I have severe myopia and recently had a detached retina operation, which has left me partially blind in my right eye. Would this qualify me for Social Security disability benefits?

A: Under Social Security, a person is considered blind with corrected vision no better than 20/200 or a limited visual field of 20 degrees or less in the better eye. However, even if your vision does not meet the legal definition of blindness, you may still qualify for disability benefits if your vision problems alone, or combined with other health problems, prevent you from working. For Social Secu-

urity disability benefits, you also must have worked long enough in a job where you paid Social Security taxes. For Supplemental Security Income payments based on disability and blindness, you need not have worked, but your income and resources must be under certain dollar limits.

For more information visit your local Social 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, 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
▲ 68°	▼ 40°	▲ 62° ▼ 38°	▲ 62° ▼ 36°	▲ 64° ▼ 38°	▲ 66° ▼ 38°	▲ 66° ▼ 38°	▲ 62° ▼ 34°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

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

REAL FEEL TEMP®

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

Thursday	71°
Friday	51°
Saturday	48°
Sunday	53°
Monday	67°
Tuesday	63°
Wednesday	60°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	68	41
Canutillo	68	41
Clint	67	41
E. Montana	68	40
Fabens	67	41
Horizon	69	41
San Elizario	66	38
Socorro	67	39
Tornillo	67	41
Vinton	68	41

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	60/36/s	60/34/s	56/32/s	56/34/s	61/33/s
Atlanta	54/36/pc	52/36/pc	52/34/r	48/28/c	49/32/pc
Atlantic City	39/15/c	23/5/pc	27/16/sn	30/22/sn	40/20/pc
Austin/San Antonio	74/40/s	70/44/pc	67/40/pc	63/34/s	66/44/s
Baltimore	38/18/sf	26/10/pc	24/15/sn	28/17/sn	40/21/pc
Boston	32/10/pc	17/5/pc	22/12/pc	30/21/c	32/19/c
Chicago	28/12/sn	20/12/sf	22/14/sn	26/16/pc	30/19/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	70/42/s	64/43/pc	60/36/pc	57/38/s	62/42/s
Denver	64/34/s	58/28/pc	56/28/s	54/30/c	54/24/s
Flagstaff	58/26/s	54/24/pc	54/24/s	54/26/s	51/24/s
Houston	70/48/s	68/48/pc	68/45/pc	66/40/s	66/42/s
Kansas City	42/26/pc	44/26/pc	38/22/c	42/29/c	52/29/c
Las Vegas	68/46/s	70/46/s	66/46/s	64/42/s	64/42/s
Miami	72/55/s	74/57/pc	74/61/pc	76/57/sh	70/55/pc
Minneapolis	16/10/sf	23/4/sn	20/8/sf	20/12/c	26/12/c
New Orleans	66/45/pc	60/46/pc	60/44/pc	60/40/pc	58/45/s
New York City	36/16/c	23/10/pc	24/18/pc	31/26/c	35/24/pc
Philadelphia	37/18/sf	24/10/pc	24/16/sn	26/18/sn	38/22/pc
Phoenix	74/52/s	74/50/s	76/52/s	74/54/s	74/50/s
Portland	54/42/sh	52/42/c	54/44/sh	52/44/pc	52/42/r
San Francisco	63/49/s	61/49/pc	60/49/s	60/49/c	58/42/c
Seattle	54/44/r	52/42/r	52/46/r	52/40/r	49/39/r
Tucson	70/46/s	68/42/s	70/46/s	72/46/pc	74/44/s
Washington, DC	40/22/sf	29/17/pc	27/20/sn	32/26/sn	41/24/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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