



NEWSBRIEFS

Drought lessens

Rio Grande Supply Forecast Leaps to a Full Supply for 2005 After many years of drought conditions and two years of severe cut-backs in river water supplies, the early February projection by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's El Paso Field Office indicates a possibility for a full water supply for Rio Grande Project water users in 2005. A greater-than-average snow pack in the upper Rio Grande basin and record breaking rains in the lower elevations have resulted in almost doubling January's 53 percent water supply projection for the year. Snow pack conditions in much of the upper Rio Grande basin mountains of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado range from 110 to 155 percent of average for this time of year. The Bureau of Reclamation's supply projection is based on the assumption that these conditions will continue through the remainder of the winter season as it is still early in the year. Projections and actual water supply are subject to many factors such as changes in weather patterns, the amount of water kept in up-stream storage, evaporation and division of water under interstate Compact rules for the Rio Grande.

New school names

The Socorro ISD is accepting nominations for naming the new elementary/middle school combo school the district will build in the Joe Battle/Zaragoza/Montana area. Two names will be selected, one for each portion of the school. Individuals may submit their recommendations through March 8 to Vicki Icard at 12300 Eastlake, El Paso, TX 79928, or by e-mail at vicard@sisd.net. A brief reason why the name should be selected is requested. Information: 937-0090.

In other news

■ The Town of Anthony is giving free trees to its residents as part of a joint project with the Texas Forest Service under the Neighborhood Tree Partnership. Residents must qualify by contacting the town hall and they can pick up their trees on March 11 at the Anthony maintenance yard. Mayor Art Franco said he applied for the \$5,000 grant with the assistance of TFS Forester Oscar Mestas. The grant will be supervised by Rebecca Little of the TFS office in El Paso, and is intended to increase the number of trees in the community and replace old ones which are dying and are an eyesore. More information is available by calling the Town of Anthony at 886-3944.

■ Six business students from the Clint Independent School District qualified for state competition following the Business Professionals of America (BPA) competi-

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The kind of man that doesn't know the meaning of fear is usually the kind that doesn't know the meaning of many other words either.

— Quips & Quotes

Internationally acclaimed artist again captures spirit of Siglo de Oro festival

EL PASO COUNTY — Captured by the flickering light of her candle, a young woman appears focused on what lays before her. The contrast is sharp. Darks and lights receive dramatic play as scrolled letters proclaim *Siglo de Oro XXX*.

Aleksander Titovets, an El Paso artist of international stature, has crafted this work carefully.

Each year, the Chamizal National Memorial links the performing and visual arts by utilizing a visual image to promote this now 30-year-old festival, which celebrates the cultural, literary and historic ties of the border region with Spain.

Born in Siberia, Titovets was raised and educated in St. Petersburg, Russia. He earned a master's degree in Fine Arts from the State University in St. Petersburg. Following graduation, he was inducted into the Union of Artists of the USSR.

Since his 1992 arrival in the United States, Titovets has been widely recognized. The National Academy of Design, New York, NY and the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society,

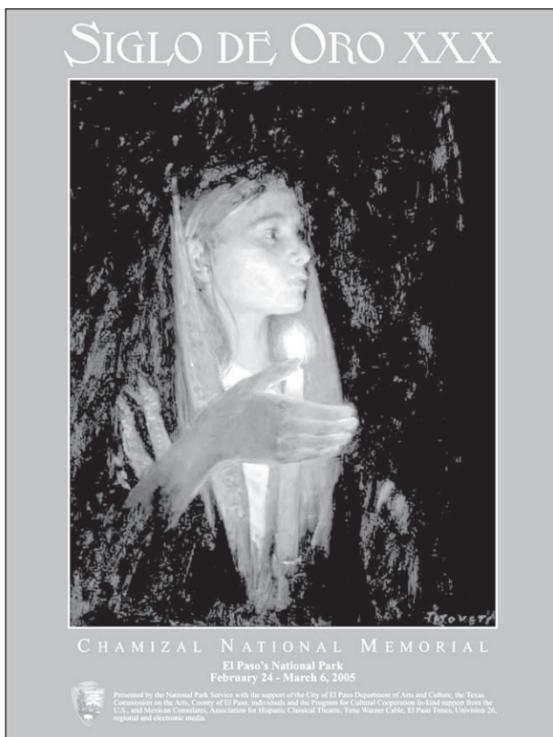
Osage Beach, MI have featured his work.

He has been a featured artist in the national invitation exhibition Artists of America in Denver and the Great American Artists in Cincinnati. Many of his paintings can be found in public and private collections throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, England, Germany, France, Israel, Russia and Finland.

An exhibition featuring the work of this widely recognized painter will open in the Los Paisanos Gallery, on Thursday, Feb. 24, 5-7 p.m. prior to the opening of the 30th Siglo de Oro Drama Festival. The show will hang through April 3.

The reception is open to the public. Admission is free.

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



YOUNG AT 30 — The Siglo de Oro festival, now in its 30th year, is celebrated in this painting (used in the festival's promotional poster) by Aleksander Titovets. A exhibition of his work will appear at the Chamizal beginning Feb. 24.

Some concerned about proposed Horizon City annexation

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — Some opposition to a proposed plan for annexation of over 800 acres by Horizon City was voiced during a public hearing on the issue during the Feb. 8 regular City Council meeting.

Alex Contreras, a concerned citizen, asked council for their reasoning behind the annexation if they continually state there is not enough money for police cars, to fix parks or to pave roads.

Most of the concerns voiced were from people who bought land outside of the city limits for the purpose of avoiding city taxes. These landowners said they don't want to become a part of Horizon City.

David Ballard, a land developer, also expressed his opposition to the annexation.

In other business, council discussed at length an ordinance to establish a Board of Citizen Police Review. The purpose for this board is to investigate any complaints made towards the police department. Lillard Thompson, a former mayor of Horizon City, expressed his opposition to the ordinance because he said it will only cause micro managing.

Council member Keenen Greseth said he

feels the creation of this board is "going a bit overboard." He said he is not convinced there is a need for a board such as this one.

Council member Byron Taylor is in favor of establishing a review board because he said it will keep employees from becoming complacent. He compared his view to that of an experienced teacher as opposed to a new teacher with lots of energy. After considerable discussion, council voted to table the agenda item, to allow for the two absent council members to have a vote on this issue. The two council members who were not in attendance were Walter Miller and Robert Reyes.

Council approved an ordinance authorizing the submission of Charter Amendments to the qualified voters of the town in the upcoming election. One controversial amendment includes that of wanting to put the Police Chief's contractual position on the same schedule as that of the mayor's.

Another amendment of concern is one which provides for compensation for the mayor and council members. Originally, Mayor Whitty had included a \$3,000 a month compensation for the mayor and a \$50 per meeting compensation for Council members. The amendment has been changed to read that the elected council members will decide on the compensation for the mayor.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

MORE HONOR — Nubia Gomez was named to the All City squad in December and now has been selected to receive the Flo Hyman Award.

San Eli senior to receive prestigious Flo Hyman Award

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — San Elizario High School senior Nubia Gomez has been selected to receive the Sixth Annual Flo Hyman Award based on her contribution and participation in academics, athletics, and leadership. The award is given to El Paso's most outstanding elementary, junior high, and high school female student-athlete.

According to Lisa Campos, Associate Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator at UTEP, the award recognizes female athletes who have made sports an important part of their success in life. The award is dedicated to Flo Hyman, an Olympic Volleyball player who passed away suddenly from a rare heart disease. Hyman was a leader on and off the volleyball court. She took an active role in promoting opportunities for women athletes. Hyman spent much of her time lobbying to gain passage for the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which restored protection against sex discrimination in high school and college athletic programs.

The national Flo Hyman Memorial Award is given by the Women's Sports Foundation in her honor each year on National Girls and Women in Sports Day. This national award is presented to an athlete who captures Flo Hyman's "dignity, spirit, and commitment to excellence." Past national award winners have included Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Evelyn Ashford, Diana Golden, Nancy Lopez, Lynette Woodard, Billie Jean King, Nadia Comaneci and Bonnie Blair.

Gomez took part in a week-long celebration, which included attending the Flo Hyman Reception on Monday, Feb. 14. She will receive her award from the UTEP Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the El Paso Parks and Recreation.

Tuesday, Gomez was present at City Hall as El Paso Mayor Joe Wardy proclaimed the day as the "National Girls and Women in Sports Day."

Finally, on Thursday night, Gomez will be recognized along with the two other Flo Hyman recipients at the UTEP women's basketball game.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Cell phone hangups

A friend has a bumper sticker on his car that reads: Hang up and drive.

Not a bad idea. What is astonishing to me is why that bumper sticker was ever printed in the first place. How on earth did so many of us become so important that we couldn't afford to be incommunicado for a trip to the store? It is an amazing fact that the world will actually keep right on turning without our input for hours — even days.

I'm not pointing fingers at anyone who wouldn't have a perfectly legitimate reason to point right back at me. You see, I have a cell phone, too.

I don't leave home without it. I make sure its little power source is appropriately recharged every night. I keep it warm and dry. If I lose it, I make sure I find it again right quick.

If I'm out of range of service — and some of the places I go, believe it or not, really are outside the reach of a cell phone communication tower — I have begun to get this uneasy little feeling in the back of my mind, a whispering that says if something happens I can't phone home.

It's a little hazy in my memory as to when I began developing this cell-phone dependence. I used to be one of those folks who sniggered when I'd see people with their cell phones glued to their heads, jabbering away in the check-out line, in the restaurant, and worst of all, in the car.

I used to have this wonderful sense of liberation when I left the house or office, knowing that no one could reach me — that for an all-to-brief space of time I was out of touch.

Then I got a cell phone. Rather it was given to me. You know, as part of a family plan the cell phone com-

panies are so good at concocting so that everybody and the family dog are wired for communication. It's not about connectedness with your friends and family, of course, it's about money — training new customers from an early age to either buy or whine for the latest, greatest, most colorful, and, oddly, the smallest rather than the biggest model on the market.

At first I scowled and had an attitude about having to have one. I didn't want a leash, I said. I don't want to be where everybody can reach me *all the time*, I said. But I took the thing and stuffed it in my purse.

A cell phone is like a television. It has a persona of its own, endowed with the ability to form a relationship with you because it transmits the ideas, the presence, the influence of other human beings. So, of course, my phone didn't just stay quietly in my bag. It began to issue summons.

At first I didn't turn it on. It wasn't part of my routine so I didn't do it. Then people would ask me why I hadn't turned it on, how come they couldn't contact me now that I had a cell phone. So I started turning it on. It was all down hill from there.

Like all modern inventions — computers, televisions, CD players, cars, etc. — the cell phone is simply a tool. Of itself, it isn't a bad thing. But it has the potential to be used equally for good or evil. It has come in real handy when my car broke down and I needed to call for help. It has helped out when I forgot the grocery list and found myself in the store with a blank slate. It has simplified my schedule when I needed to pick up a kid who didn't know exactly when the school trip would end. It is

also frequently a contributing factor in those terrifying moments when we find that the car next to us is sharing the same lane, or we sit with our teeth on edge listening to someone we're with talk to someone else who isn't even there.

I'm not sure why it seems so inconsiderate to have interaction between people interrupted by a cell phone, except I feel like if you are with someone, you should be *with* them. Shut the thing off — we need to learn how to put the rest of the world on hold.

I watched a young family in a store

last weekend strolling around, spending a little quality time together. The only problem was that both the man and woman were talking on their cell phones, and I can virtually guarantee it wasn't to each other. Their little kids were tagging along behind, probably yearning for the day they can have their own phones so they can talk to somebody interesting, too. And you can be equally sure it won't be mom or dad.

I hope they hurry up and pass a law against using the cell phone in the car so I can't — right now it is so easy, so convenient, so *not* against the law,

to slip in that quick call without pulling over. I tip my hat in admiration to folks who do. Now that my kids are older, I make them do the calling if I'm driving.

For now, we co-exist, me and my cell phone, that ticking little time bomb that can at any given moment erupt into a raucous electronic melody summoning me to attention — or lie patiently at the ready in case I need to use it.

As advanced as the features on these electronic gadgets are becoming, maybe someday I can simply look over at it and say: Hang up and drive.

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Funding of border programs should be reconsidered

The Bush Administration recently released its \$2.5 trillion fiscal year 2006 budget, which unfortunately cuts funding for key border, veterans, health care, and education initiatives. This week, let's take a look at how federal programs that promote safety and security along the border fared in this year's budget proposal:

• State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

In a budget that emphasizes homeland security and defense programs, zeroing out funding for the SCAAP program is unfair to El Paso and other border communities. El Paso is on the frontlines of our nation's defense, yet the proposed budget leaves paying for the incarceration of criminal aliens up to our already over-burdened taxpayers. This is the fourth year in a row the SCAAP program has been cut. As always, I will lead the fight in Congress to re-instate the program. We have successfully kept SCAAP alive, although it

suffers from continual shortfalls. Even before the Administration released this budget, I supported legislation to fund SCAAP at \$750 million next year.

• Southwest Border Prosecutor Initiative

The Southwest Border Prosecutor Initiative was also eliminated, which helps relieve El Paso and other border communities of the burden of financing federal drug prosecutions. President Bush recognizes the importance of this initiative — he has funded it for the past four years and was even the first administration to ever allocate federal money to the program. As a former federal law enforcement officer in El Paso, I know the high volume of drug-related cases tried in El Paso's court system and that these cases are complicated and dangerous. This program was created in El Paso and needs and deserves continued federal support.

• Border Patrol

The President and his Administra-

tion continue to severely underestimate the needs of America's first line of defense — the U.S. Border Patrol. At a time when we're being told that the nation continues to be at risk, the President's budget provides for the hiring of only 210 Border Patrol agents, which is barely two percent of what was proposed in last year's intelligence reform bill.

• High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

Elimination of funding for the HIDTA program would be another huge mistake. The West Texas Region of the Southwest Border HIDTA alone must try to dismantle drug trafficking organizations over a stretch of 490 miles of international border, including five of the busiest ports of entry we have nationwide. A loss of over \$7 million annually in West Texas to do this job would be devastating.

Not only does El Paso rely on these important programs, but they are important to the safety and security of the country as a whole.

Write stuff

Dear Editor,

When the council of the City of Socorro tries to cross the minds of the people by saying that a Master Plan needs to be done, makes you wonder. When a plan was conducted a year and a half ago then something not positive was in the works. It costs the taxpayers a portion of \$63,000 to conduct a plan with the help of UTEP students and a state grant of \$40,000 to complete the survey. Why would the City Council and mayor want to spend more thousands of dollars and why at this time? The only thing that this mayor and council would gain by doing this is the change of zoning at certain areas to benefit certain individuals. With a Comprehensive Plan there can be changes as the

growth comes in. With a Master Plan, it is final. By doing this Master Plan it would say that the previous administrations were not doing a good job or did not know what they were doing. Everything was a waste. The areas that are residential should not be re-zoned. One specific area that needs to be left out of this plan is the Mission Trail.

Eduardo Flores
Socorro

Dear Editor,

How can the constituents of a poorly represented city deal with a council that has made a choice to maliciously misrepresent the citizens of Socorro. Time after time the

people of Socorro have desperately tried to have faith in candidates who run for office. Unfortunately, it is the wrong people that are elected with the exception of one member each term. The council of the City of Socorro, once again, has proven itself to be dishonored. I am afraid that it will not be long before this city will be in a situation that it will not be able to recover from. When a person runs for election, it is his/her integrity that will determine if they will be good representatives. It is very sad when an elected official loses integrity. That is exactly what happens in the City of Socorro, term after term.

There have been times when the city has had professional, ethical, responsible persons that could be utilized to help the city evolve into a good, potential city for everyone, and not just a few. However, these persons are quickly terminated. A factual example is the removal of the city attorney to bring back a former individual who had already had the opportunity for the position and did not do a good job. How could anyone even consider doing something like this?

These officials must have really lost focus of why they are seated in city council. Regrettably, all of this is not what honest politics is about.

Martha Trujillo
Socorro

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

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SISD students qualify for Skills USA competition

EL PASO COUNTY — Seventy-one SISD Career and Technology students will be going to the Texas Skills USA competition in Fort Worth March 30-April 3. The students were selected during the Feb. 4 El Paso competitions headquartered at the El Paso Community College's Valle Verde campus.

The students were given tasks in a number of disciplines including carpentry, web page design, advertising design, crime scene investigation,

residential plumbing, culinary arts, business procedures, television production and cosmetology — then timed as they raced the clock to complete the tasks. The challenges included written tests, writing a resume and interview skills.

From Americas High School, the list includes Kris Cullen, Angel Silva, Teresa Cervantes, Eric Fernandez, Cesar Arvizo, Chris Correa, Alma Ortiz, Brenda Chavez, Amaida de la Torre, Liza Gonzalez, Mercedes

Leyva, Jacqueline Pedroza, Crystal Fernandez, Gloria Polame, Amanda Urenda, Aaron Calderon, Lillian Sanchez, Matt Toothaker, Jessica Irigoyen, Phillip Lujan, Jessica Hernandez, Liza Moraza, James Harris, Cory Mulgrave and Carlos Amaya. The Americas instructors are Corina Escalante, Rose Sanchez, Ken Jury, Lee Fisher and David Dean.

The winning students at Socorro High School include Vivien Carbajal, Elaine Gameros, Raul Garcia, Anthony Duarte, Esmeralda Duenezza, Lisa Copas, Ruben Perez, Vicky Apodaca, Viviana Aranda, Alex Lozano, Emma Gomez, Carlos Dominguez, Fernie Renteria, David Zuniga, Brenda Ramirez, Alex Barraza, Robert Avalos, Adrian Montes, Edna Navarrete, Angel Hernandez, Jennifer Rivas, John Prisiem, Jennifer Ash, David Saucedo, Enrique Valencia, E. J. Rojas, Omar Gutierrez, and John Valles. Instructors include Dennis Wearmouth, Betty Thomas and Oscar Melendez.

El Dorado High School students

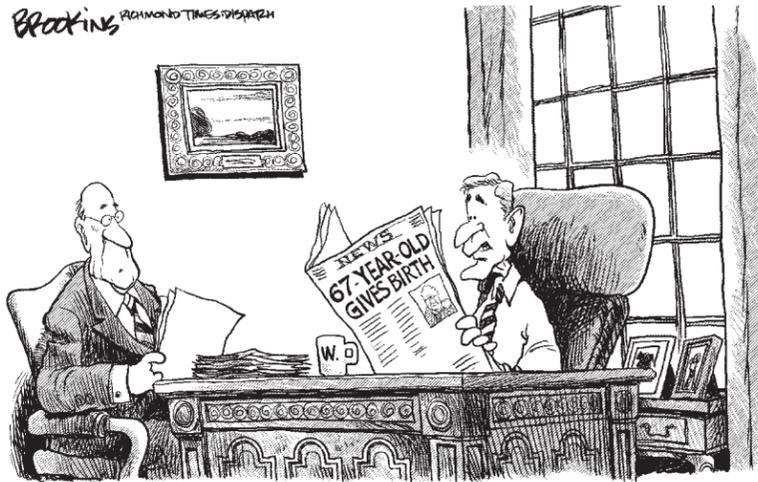
scheduled to go to Fort Worth include Vianey Gurrola, Diana Elizondo, Erica Huerta, Alba Quiroz, Patricia Serrano, Marilu Andrade, Jessica Archuleta, Regina Chavez, Alejandra Martinez, Ivonne Nieves, Nellie Oporto, Jessica Rodriguez and Mercedes Lewis. Michelle Saucedo is the instructor.

Montwood High School's Miguel Toyeka, Hector Perez and Simon Gutierrez are also scheduled to compete in Fort Worth, and they are being trained by instructor Rudy Tabbutt.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

SISD Carpentry Students were given a four-hour time limit to build the flats for a wood frame house during the Skills USA competition Feb. 4 at El Paso Community College's Valle Verde campus.



"I GUESS WE'LL NEED TO ADD MATERNITY BENEFITS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS..."



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— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

BRAKE JOB — Socorro High School senior Ricardo Aldavas tests his brake repair skills against the clock.

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

Remembering an American patriot

This weekend we will mark the birthday of "The Father of our Nation:" George Washington. President Washington is still hailed today as one of America's greatest leaders. This holiday pays great tribute to a great American patriot.

George Washington was born on Feb. 22, 1732 to a Virginia farming family. His upbringing focused on learning the morals, manners, and body of knowledge requisite for an 18th century Virginia gentleman. He pursued two intertwined interests: military arts and western expansion. Many of his early lessons followed him through his years of service and leadership.

Washington demonstrated his tremendous leadership qualities long before becoming the first president of the United States. During our nation's Revolutionary War, Washington proved himself to be a great general as he led our troops in the war for independence from Britain. As Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Washington defeated the British, and America soon became its own free nation.

Shortly after the war, he became the first president of the United States of America. There were several men that could have been chosen for this

esteemed position. Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams were all involved in the political landscape of our nation. But it was George Washington who was unanimously chosen by his contemporaries to serve as our first president. This is a true measure of greatness. These men looked first to Washington, knowing his leadership skills and his potential to make our nation great.

Washington served as president from 1789 to 1796. In eight short years, Washington helped to establish our nation's Constitution and defined the president's role in the new country. It is George Washington we have to thank for the notion of creating our nation as a democracy. He had the foresight to step down after his second term, hoping to bring America one step further from the monarchy rule of Britain. This was an instrumental move, which taught our nation the importance of elections and democracy. In a letter to James Madison, Washington wrote, "As the first of everything, in our situation will serve to establish a precedent. It is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents be fixed on true principles." The model and examples that George Washing-

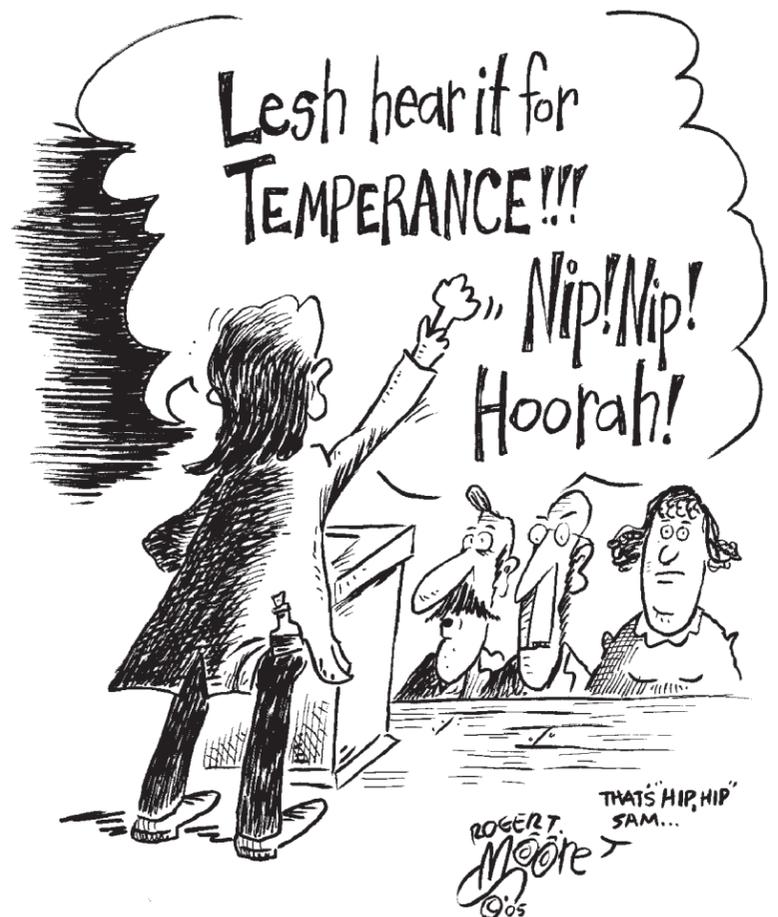
ton established are still respected today. Put simply: he created the foundation upon which America was built.

Citizens of our new nation began celebrating George Washington's birthday long before his death. The first public celebration of Washington's birthday was held in 1781 during the American Revolution. Americans were eager to pay respect to the leader who encouraged a strong democracy as the foundation of their new nation. Troops marched through the streets and the day was made an official holiday. Very few men in history have received this type of honor during their lifetime.

Let's take this time to honor the leadership that created America. Washington's birthday is commonly celebrated today as President's Day. This is a day designated to honor the contributions of the many great presidents who have shaped this great nation. Please use this holiday as more than a chance to shop for "President's Day Sales" events, and teach your children about the first American patriot, the father of our country, President George Washington.



TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Feb. 19, 1839: Sam Houston attends Texas' 1st Temperance Society meeting, and the notorious imbibor makes a speech as well.



ROBERT MOORE '05
 THAT'S HIP, HIP SAM...

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San Eli ISD envisions new library, new roads

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Construction will soon be moving forward on two fronts in San Elizario.

The first is the addition to the San Elizario High School library. Bids for construction of the new 11,000-square-foot facility were approved at the Feb. 9 meeting of the San Elizario ISD board of trustees.

Preparatory work is also under way on the grading, paving and signage of approximately a mile and a half along FM 1110, construction that will require two road closures.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for March 2 on the library addition, according to Superintendent Dr. Mike Quatrini. The new structure will be a separate building whose design complements the present high school complex. It will have classroom and administrative space as well as com-

puters. It will be connected to the main library by a covered breezeway.

It incorporates features of UT El Paso's Undergraduate Learning Center and will be more than twice the size of the present library.

"It will be a very, very nice addition to the community as well as high school," said Quatrini who added that it will be available to community members after school hours. The superintendent pointed out that the number of books would qualify the libraries for exemplary status.

Construction of the library addition is expected to be completed in August.

Robert Longoria, SEISD's assistant superintendent for support services, updated the board on the road work. He first reported on the projects and their impact on the district at last October's meeting.

According to a statement from the Texas Department of Transportation road construction will take place on FM 1110 from Chicken Ranch Rd. to Camino Barrial and will commence on Monday, Feb. 21.

On Monday, February 24, construction will head south on FM 1110 from Chicken Ranch Rd. to FM 258 (Socorro Rd.). The project is expected to last approximately six weeks, Monday through Saturday.

Students in San Elizario riding buses in the area will be picked up at their regular time by their regular bus. Buses will take an alternate route on Chicken Ranch to and from school.

For more bus information, contact Barbara Orozco, principal at Alarcon Elementary at 872-3930.

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San Elizario Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2004

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,741,541	\$ 166,973	\$ 1,908,514
5800 State Program Revenues	23,122,202	1,425,822	24,548,024
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,938,370	3,525,381	5,463,751
5020 Total Revenues	26,802,113	5,118,176	31,920,289
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
0011 Instruction	12,507,629	2,932,414	15,440,043
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	452,433	125,280	577,713
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	223,433	506,936	730,369
0021 Instructional Leadership	353,911	193,258	547,169
0023 School Leadership	1,844,768	52,785	1,897,553
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,025,276	17,129	1,042,405
0032 Social Work Services	107,495	65,903	173,398
0033 Health Services	390,339	24,076	414,415
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	915,274	11,820	927,094
0035 Food Services	2,075,436	42,996	2,118,432
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	437,105	—	437,105
0041 General Administration	1,274,674	9,229	1,283,903
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	3,055,087	46,339	3,101,426
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	576,239	14,436	590,675
0053 Data Processing Services	435,753	2,271	438,024
0061 Community Services	—	161,968	161,968
Debt Service:			
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	496,000	650,000	1,146,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	417,639	566,142	983,781
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	4,134	318,783	322,917
Capital Outlay:			
0081 Financial Aquisition and Construction	33,754	—	33,754
Intergovernmental:			
0091 Contracted Instructional Services Between	30,550	—	30,550
6030 Total Expenditures	26,656,929	5,741,765	32,398,694
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	145,184	(623,589)	(478,405)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
7911 Capital-related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	9,222,354	9,222,354
7949 Other Resources	—	4,082	4,082
8949 Other (Uses)	—	(8,674,000)	(8,674,000)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	—	552,436	552,436
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	145,184	(71,153)	74,031
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	2,828,523	145,824	2,974,347
1300 Prior period adjustment	(27,711)	—	(27,711)
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 2,945,996	\$ 74,671	\$ 3,020,667

Grand opening announced for Socorro Business Resource Center

SOCORRO — The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), a partnership program of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the One Stop Business Resource Center of The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and the City of Socorro have announced the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the Socorro Business Resource Center on Friday, Feb. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Rio Vista Center at 860 Rio Vista Road.

The Socorro Business Resource Center is a satellite office of the One Stop Business Resource Center and will provide both counseling and training in English and Spanish. The business center will support business and economic development in the Mission Valley and was initiated by the Mission Valley Business Alliance, Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, SCORE and the City of Socorro.

Chuck Wehmhoner, El Paso SCORE Chair worked with the national SCORE office in Washington, D.C. to obtain funds to open the office. An allotment of \$5000 from SCORE allowed for the purchase of office furniture, a computer system, and small business educational materials in both English and Spanish. "We will open the office one day a week and as demand for counseling increases we will expand our services," said Wehmhoner.

Sen. Shapleigh, Socorro Mayor Willie Gandara and Council, the Mission Valley Business Alliance, SCORE, The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, and SBA representatives are expected to attend.

Canutillo high business students advance to state

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) will send four students to state competition after they placed among the top three finishers in their events in the FBLA Area II Leadership Conference, which was held at Del Valle High School recently.

CHS students advancing to state finals are: Christy Cereceres, sophomore, first place in Word Processing II; Nancy Esparza, sophomore, second in Computer Applications I; Raul Acosta, junior, third in Computer Applications I; and Miriam Garcia, freshman, third in Job Interview.

CHS advisors for the FBLA organization are business teachers Yvonne Lugo and Carmen M. Guzman.

"These competitions are held to promote mutual understanding and

cooperation among business and educational institutions, and they help prepare students for a useful occupation," said Guzman. "Students are taught to work efficiently, be responsible and to think clearly to help make the world a better place for everyone," she added.

Eleven area schools participated in the annual area conference including Franklin, Del Valle, Socorro, Parkland, Burges, Eastwood, Ysleta, Cordova, Irvin, Hanks and Canutillo

High Schools. Processing II, said that this year she will be better prepared and more confident. "I am a lot more dedicated than last year. I am going to take more time to study and work more closely with my teacher as I prepare for this year's competition," she said.

Students advancing to state will begin preparation for FBLA state competition, which is scheduled for March 10-12, in Arlington.

Cereceres, who also qualified for state competition last year in Word



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

STATE BOUND — Canutillo High School students advance to FBLA state competition, from left, Christy Cereceres, Raul Acosta, Nancy Esparza, and Miriam Garcia.

Briefs

From Page 1

tion in January held at the EPISD Center for Career and Technology. Business Professionals of America is a student organization whose mission is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academics and technological skills. The six will go to Arlington for the state competition during the BPA State Leadership Conference in March. The following qualified in individual events: Clint High School, Becky Torres; Mountain View High School, Steven Ogrey, Alexandra Ogrey, Josh Estrada, Ruben Aldaz, Marisela Higuera. Mountain View High School students, Steven Ogrey, Alexandra Ogrey, Josh Estrada and Ruben Aldaz, received second place in the team E-commerce competition which also qualifies them for the state competition. The Clint ISD Coordinator for Career and Technology is Jan Palmer.

■ A book chronicling the accomplishments of Cliff "Magic" Thomas, seven-time World Kickboxing Champion, written by Horizon City author Thomas W. McKay, will be available during the Golden Gloves Tournament Friday-Sunday, Feb. 18-20 at the Carolina Recreational Center, 563 N. Carolina in El Paso, and the "Black Knight" himself will be on hand to autograph cop-

ies. The book is a comprehensive account of Thomas' triumphs, his rise to glory and his fame in kickboxing, coupled with the ups and downs of his personal life. Thomas collaborated on the book with his friend, McKay, who is himself a longtime boxing coach, official, historian and founder of the El Paso Boxing and Martial Arts Hall of Fame. Thomas and McKay will be on hand 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

■ The El Paso Public Library invites everyone to attend the official unveiling of plans for the new Eastside Regional Library. The event will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at the Irving Schwartz Library, 1865 Dean Martin, at 6 p.m. The public will get its first glimpse of the design for the new 20,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility which will include a children's area, teen area, computer lab and community meeting room. The project is being funded as part of the Quality of Life bond election passed by El Paso voters in 2000. For more information call 543-5468.

■ Vista del Sol Elementary School's kindergarten classes will celebrate Presidents' Day in style with a parade around the campus. The procession is planned for 2 p.m., Feb. 21 at 11851 Vista del Sol Drive, just west of the intersection with Zaragoza Road. Besides being dressed in colorful costumes recalling past Presidents of the United States, the students will ride in student-created parade floats as

they circle the Eastside campus. For more information, call the campus, 937-7500.

■ It's an exciting time at SISD's Americas High School. The AHS Boys and Girls varsity wrestling teams have each won their 2005 District Championships right on the heels of the Lady Trailblazer's District championship. The school honored the wrestlers and celebrated the victories with a pep rally staged in the school rotunda on Feb. 14.

■ A free workshop on preparation of a last will and testament will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the office of Justice of the Peace Judge Ruben Lujan, 12708 Alameda. Purpose of the clinic, conducted by the El Paso Young Lawyers Association, is to assist elderly and financially challenged citizens to prepare wills and medical directives. To register, call Sergio Enriquez at 595-6694, Sandra Moore-Duarte at 533-2739, or Kenneth Krohn at 532-5562.

■ Students from all four of the high schools in the Socorro ISD who are part of the NJROTC will go to the 2005 Texas Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Drill Meet Feb. 25-26 at Texas A&M University, according to Col. Mike Steward, Senior Military Science Instructor at Montwood High School. He said Americas and Socorro High Schools will send their own units, and Eldorado students will attend as part of the Montwood squads.

How Can We Improve the Transportation System in El Paso?

The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is starting the development of the new Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which will become a blueprint of how the transportation system in El Paso will change through 2030. The new MTP will show **how, when, and where** will new highways be built, public transportation services expanded, and bicycle and pedestrian projects implemented between today and 2030.

Every resident of the County of El Paso affording an opportunity to all residents of El Paso County and the City of Sunland Park NM (MPO study area) is invited to participate in the development process. All comments, ideas, or concerns can be submitted through the MPO's web site www.elpasompo.org and during the two public meetings that MPO staff will host:

Tuesday, February 22, 2005
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Tribal Courthouse-9241 Socorro Road

Thursday, February 24, 2005
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Guillen Middle School
Training Center-900 S. Cotton

The current MTP and other MPO documents are available for review at the MPO web site and at the MPO office, located at 10767 Gateway West, Suite 605, El Paso, TX 79935. For more information please call the MPO office at (915) 591-9735.

WTCC: 02/17/05

Cómo Podemos Mejorar el Sistema de Transportación de El Paso?

La Organización Metropolitana de Planeación de El Paso (MPO) está iniciando el desarrollo del Nuevo Plan Metropolitano de Transporte (MTP), que sera la guía de como evolucionará el sistema de transportación de El Paso por los próximos 25 años. El Nuevo Plan indicará **como, donde, y cuando** se construirán nuevas carreteras y vialidades, se ampliarán los servicios de transporte público, y se implementarán proyectos para bicicletas y peatones entre el día de hoy y el año 2030.

Todos los habitantes del Condado de El Paso y la Ciudad de Sunland Park, NM (area de estudio de la MPO) están cordialmente invitados a participar en el desarrollo del Plan. Cualquier comentario, idea y sugerencia se pueden transmitir a través de la página web (internet) de la MPO www.elpasompo.org, y durante dos reuniones públicas que organizará la MPO:

Martes, 22 de Febrero de 2005
5:00 a 8:00 p.m.
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Tribal Courthouse-9241 Socorro Road

Jueves, 24 de Febrero de 2005
5:00 a 8:00 p.m.
Guillen Middle School
Training Center-900 S. Cotton

El MTP vigente y otros documentos que genera la MPO están disponibles para consulta en la misma página web al igual que en la oficinas de la MPO, ubicadas en 10767 Gateway West, Suite 605, El Paso, TX 79935. Para mayor información favor de llamar a la MPO al teléfono (915) 591-9735.

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Body of steroid-use evidence getting as large as the players

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There was a time in American where the term "naming names" had to do with the McCarthy hearings on communism back in the 50s.

Well, the term "naming names" is back in the news, and the intent is just as un-American and damaging as it was back then.

Now the term has to do with the ranting of a bitter, washed up baseball player who has nothing better to do than to rat out his former friends and colleagues.

The saddest thing of all is that although the acts of Jose Canseco may be crude and unusually hurtful, it doesn't mean they are without merit.

Canseco's new book "Juiced" made its long-awaited appearance on the store shelves this week and just like the infamous Sen. Joseph McCarthy, his only purpose is to see people's reputations wither away like his own career.

In his book, Canseco, who has a reputation of having about as much cork lodged in his

brain as Sammy Sosa has in his bat, names several baseball players that he claims he has first-hand knowledge they took steroids.

Among the athletes Canseco names are some of the most beloved in the game like Mark McGwire, Pudge Rodriguez and Rafael Palmeiro. He also named former MVPs Juan Gonzalez and Jason Giambi.

We're talking about some of the best players of the modern era.

Canseco even admitted during his "60 Minutes" interview with Mike Wallace last week that there was no way he could have played professional baseball if he hadn't taken steroids.

Remember the Oakland A's of the late 1980s and early 1990s resembled more a football team than a baseball squad — it's all beginning to make sense now.

But the "naming names" bug didn't get squashed by Canseco.

If all this isn't worrisome enough, another person has come out of the woodwork to implicate Barry Bonds, and we're talking more than just steroids use here.

Kimberly Bell made an appearance on

Geraldo's show last week and proclaimed that she had a 9-year affair with the married Bonds, when she claims he admitted to her that he knowingly took steroids.

Bonds, of course, has pleaded stupidity saying over and over again that he did take steroids, but didn't know it was steroids.

I guess that's the same as a teenager having a nice, cool drink of vodka and later claiming that he never knew it was vodka.

It happens all the time.

Bell claims that Bonds told her that he began using steroids back in 1999. She said that Barry claimed all the players in the league were doing it.

Bell, who is also promoting a book, added that Bonds told her he was worried that the steroids would begin to change his appearance, ranging from acne to bloating.

Have you noticed Bonds lately? If the man were in a western movie he'd wear a 14-gallon hat.

So the bigger question now is what does this mean for professional baseball?

If all the accusations are found to be true,

and I think the evidence is beginning to swell, what do we do with all the home run records of the last seven years?

Major League Baseball suffered through a very difficult time after the strike season of 1994 but came back in a big way thanks to Cal Ripkin Jr.'s streak and then the 1998 home run derby that McGwire and Sammy Sosa put on.

I guess looks can be deceiving.

McGwire and Sosa — they will always be linked together for their home run duel and stomach-punching celebrations. Too bad they're now known more for steroids and cork.

By the way, my 11-year old son began to take notice of the game of baseball in 1998. His two favorite players were Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. Because of that magical season, many young boys claimed the two as their favorites.

My son had to learn a hard lesson in life when I told him that McGwire had taken steroids. He looked at me with very simple eyes and said, "but that's cheating, dad."

How do you go about explaining that one to a young boy?

Classified Ads

LEGAL

Do you believe that you have been charged excessive towing or storage fees by Southwest Wrecker Service? Please report your complaint to attorney Victor Parra at 592-9999. 2/17

NOTICE OF PETITION TO RECONCILE FUEL COSTS

El Paso Electric Company ("EPE") petitioned the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") on August 31, 2004 for authority to reconcile its eligible fuel expenses and revenues for the period of January 1, 2002 through February 29, 2004 ("Reconciliation Period"). In its petition, EPE has also requested to implement a fuel surcharge of its cumulative under-recovery of fuel expenses through the end of the Reconciliation Period. This petition, if granted, will affect all Texas retail customers who pay fixed fuel factors. This petition has no effect on EPE's non-fuel base rates. EPE incurred a total of \$264,144,513

in eligible fuel, fuel related, and purchased power expenses to generate and purchase electric energy for its Texas retail customers. At the conclusion of the Reconciliation Period, EPE had a cumulative under-recovery of such expenses of \$8,632,150. EPE seeks to implement a surcharge of this amount, along with associated interest, over a 12-month period, effective with bills rendered during the first billing cycle of November 2004 through the October 2005 billing cycle. If the proposed 12-month surcharge is approved, a residential customer using 500 kWh per month will see an average increase of \$0.65 in the monthly bill, 1.17% of the total electric bill during the surcharge on other customers' bills will vary depending on the rate schedule under which the customers take service.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this Petition may contact El Paso Electric Company at 123 W. Mills, El Paso, Texas 79901, or call toll-free at 1-(800)-592-1634

(when instructed, press 7, then four-digit extension 5947 plus #) during normal business hours. A complete copy of this Petition is available for inspection at the address listed above. Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this Petition should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call 1-(512)-936-7120, or toll-free at 1-(888)-782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call 1-(512)-936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) at 1-(800)-735-2989. A deadline for intervention will be established for this proceeding. WTCC: 02/17/05

AVISO DE SOLICITUD DE CONCILIACIÓN DE TARIFAS

EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY ("EPE") solicitó a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas

("Comisión") el 31 de Agosto del 2004 que se le otorgue la autoridad de conciliar gastos e ingresos elegibles de combustible desde el primero de enero del 2002 al 29 de febrero del 2004 ("Período de Conciliación"). En su solicitud, EPE también propone implementar un Sobreprecio de Combustible por el acumulado no recuperado en gastos por combustible hasta el fin del período de conciliación. Al otorgarse, esta solicitud afectará a todos los clientes de menudeo de Texas que actualmente pagan costos fijos por combustible. Esta solicitud no afectará las tarifas de EPE que no se basan en combustible. Durante el período de conciliación, EPE incurrió un total de \$264,144,513 en combustible elegible, en otros gastos relacionados al combustible y en gastos por la compra de energía para la generación y compra de energía eléctrica para clientes de menudeo de Texas. Al concluir el período de conciliación, EPE tenía un acumulado de gastos sin recuperar de \$8,632,150. EPE busca implementar un sobreprecio por esta cantidad y los intereses asociados durante un período de 12 meses, efectivo a partir de los recibos producidos durante el primer ciclo de facturación de noviembre del 2004 hasta el ciclo de facturación de octubre del 2005. Si el sobreprecio propuesto por 12 meses

aprobado, un cliente residencial con consumo mensual de 500 kwh tendrá un aumento promedio de \$0.65 en su recibo mensual, 1.17% del recibo total de electricidad durante ese período de recuperación. El efecto del sobreprecio en los recibos de otros clientes variará dependiendo de la tarifa que les corresponde.

Las personas que tengan dudas o que requieran mas información sobre esta solicitud pueden comunicarse a El Paso Electric Company, 123 W. Mills, El Paso, Texas 79901, o pueden llamar gratis al 1-(888)-592-1634 (cuando le sea solicitado, presione el 7, después horas hábiles normales). Una copia completa de esta solicitud está a su disposición en la dirección arriba mencionada. Las personas que deseen participar formalmente en estos procedimientos o deseen expresar sus comentarios sobre esta solicitud deberán comunicarse a la Oficina de Protección al Consumidor (Office of Customer Protection) en la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, o llamar al 1-(512)-936-7120, o llamar gratis al 1-(888)-782-8477. Las personas o personas imposibilitadas del habla y del oído con teletipo (TTY) pueden llamar al 1-(512) 936-7136 o llamar gratis a

través de Relay Texas al 1-(800)-735-2989. Se establecerá una fecha límite para la intervención en este procedimiento. WTCC: 02/17/05

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

FEBRUARY 25, 2005

PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0225-0576 ACCEPTED UNTIL 1:30 P.M.

CONCRETE RED-MIX CSP NO. 199-0225-0567 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS - OEM CSP NO. 199-0225-0591 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

FLAG GROUP SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0225-0564 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

GENERAL APPAREL CSP NO. 199-0225-0563 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION CSP NO. 199-0225-0584 ACCEPTED

UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

PLUMBING MATERIALS CSP NO. 199-0225-0577 ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:30 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 and on the Socorro Independent School District's website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-02/17/04

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - 2MECM75W8NX659913, 1992 Mercury Grand Marquis, 4-door, brown, New Mexico license GFN 409 VIN - IG2NWI4DXJC772694, 1988 Pontiac Grand Am, white, Nebraska permit 772694/4409 VIN - IHGCB7677PA080066, 1993 Honda Accord, 4-door, white, Texas dealer license P62 347 WTCC-02/17/05

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HELP WANTED

EL PASO COUNTY TORNILLO WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT is seeking applications for groundwater operator for 870 meter system. Qualifications: prefer TCEQU Class C licensed groundwater operator, valid Texas driver's license with good driving record, experience of basic water works operation and operating a backhoe. Salary based on experience. Position will remain open only until filled. Apply at 19225 Highland St., Tornillo, TX phone 764-2966. Equal Opportunity Employer. WTCC-02/17/05

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RENTALS

Vinton Mobile Home Park. Spaces for rent. \$140 per month, in Vinton, between Canutillo and Anthony TX. at 7840 Kiely Rd. Vinton, TX. Easy access to freeway, walking distance to elementary school. Call **915-877-2955.**

SELF-HELP

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

Has a problem with alcohol? Hay una solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

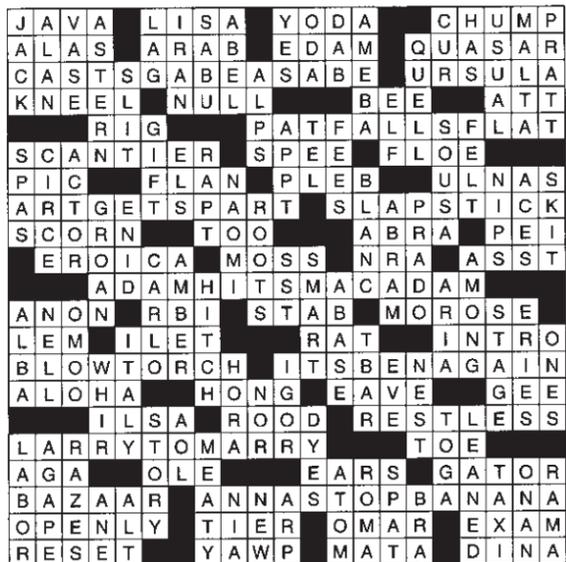
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Super babies could give Washington hope

By Don Flood

Last summer The Associated Press reported that somewhere in Germany there lived a 5-year-old "Super Baby," with a genetic mutation that caused his muscles to grow twice the normal size.

Then last month, in Brazil, a woman gave birth to a baby boy weighing a whopping 16.7 pounds — a birth made even more unusual by the fact he is believed to be the first baby to sign with an agent while still in the delivery room.

Interesting stories, to be sure, but unrelated; only a journalist desperate for the attention that comes from needlessly causing panic would suggest these two boys are the beginning of a race of Super Babies that will soon rule the Earth. Sadly, I am that journalist.

It's time to face facts. We humans will soon be replaced by genetic mutants the size of tyrannosaurus rex.

This will likely be the end of Western Civilization, though, on the plus side, it could result in some terrific football teams.

The Brazilian baby's agent is already in talks with several NFL teams including, thankfully, the Washington Redskins, the team followed by all right-thinking Americans.

No word on the German Super Boy yet, though speculation that his mutant gene may allow him to fly like Superman has piqued the interest of basketball and football coaches alike.

Leading football strategists agree that a flying Super Boy, used either as a running (flying?) back or a receiver, would cause serious problems for most NFL defenses and — let's be fair here — should be prohibited from even playing in the league, unless of course he were to play for Redskins, the team

followed by all right-thinking Americans, but who, unfortunately, have not fielded a Super Bowl-caliber team since the days of King Arthur's Round Table.

As the Redskins are the team of our nation's leaders, their success has national and, indeed, international implications. Bluntly, we need Super Boy on our team — plus that kid from Brazil, though I realize it could be another two or three years before he's playing at a professional level.

This becomes even more crucial when one considers that professional baseball will once again be rearing its ugly head in our nation's capital.

Washington-area residents haven't had to cope with the scourge of professional baseball since the Senators — long heralded as the all-time Loser Hall of Fame team — departed in 1972, an event that by all rights should have been celebrated with parades and fireworks.

(You may recall the old line: "Washington — first in war, first in peace and last in the American League." It was no joke. Even with George Washington himself as cleanup hitter the Senators failed because, as he said in his second State of the Union Address, "Jefferson hit and ran like an old woman, resulting in countless double plays.")

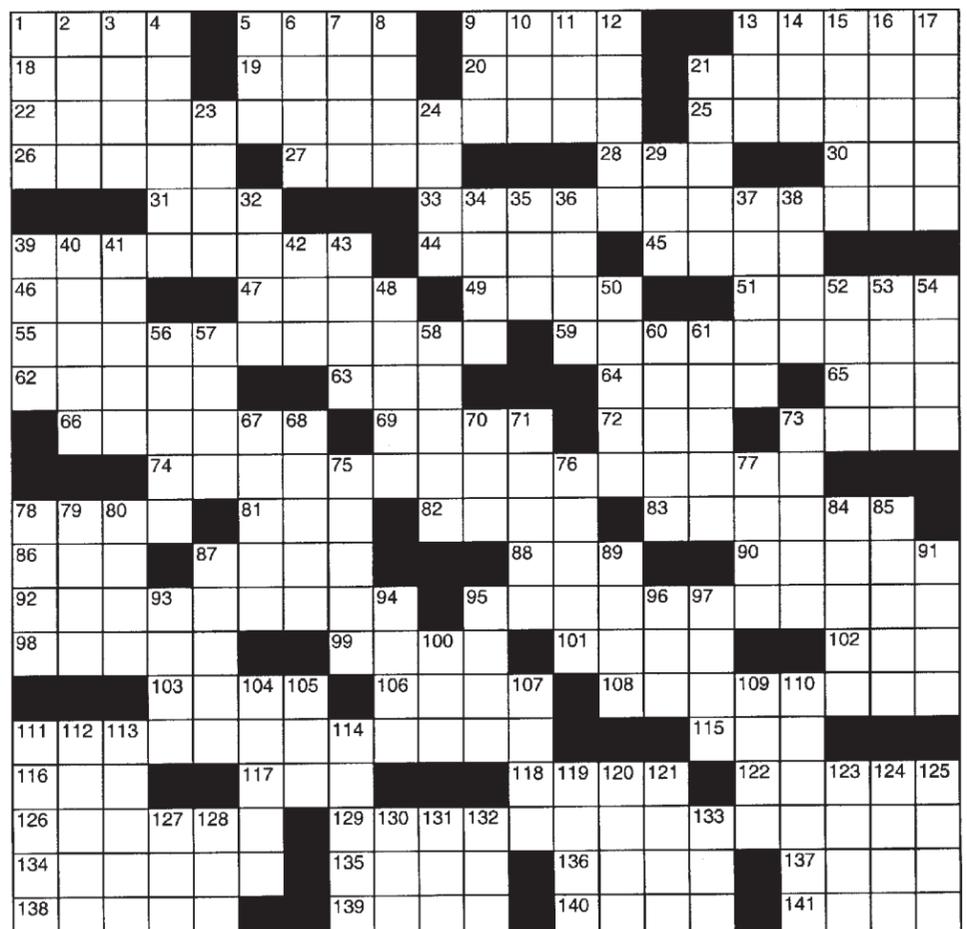
Now the threat of another losing team is staring Washington in the face. Here's a thought: how about Super Boy for the baseball team and the Brazilian Bruiser for the Redskins?

Washington, finally, could be first in war, peace — and in football and baseball.

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King Super Crossword

- HOLLYWOOD HEADLINES ACROSS
- 1 Hirt hit
- 5 Kudrow or Hartman
- 9 Lucas character
- 13 Gullible one
- 18 Rueful cry
- 19 Certain Semite
- 20 Imported cheese
- 21 Extragalactic object
- 22 DIRECTOR PICKS KAPLAN TO PLAY LINCOLN!
- 25 Author Le Guin
- 26 Prepare to propose
- 27 Valueless
- 28 Hum bug?
- 30 ABA member
- 31 Fix a fight
- 33 "WHEEL"
- RATINGS PLUNGE!
- 39 More meager
- 44 "Graf _"
- 45 Navigation hazard
- 46 Film, for short
- 47 Castilian custard
- 49 Commoner
- 51 Arm bones
- 55 CARNEY IN NEW FILM!
- 59 Vaudeville staple
- 63 Unduly
- 64 "_ -Ca-Dabra" ('74
- song)
- 65 JFK Library architect
- 66 Beethoven symphony
- 69 Velvety plant
- 72 Pro-gun grp.
- 73 Little helper?
- 74 SANDLER GOES ON TOUR!
- 78 Ever's partner
- 81 Slugger's stat
- 82 Attempt
- 83 Sulky
- 86 Moon crawler
- 87 "_ a Song Go ..."
- 88 TV s "The _ Patrol"
- 90 Prelim
- 92 Plumbing tool
- 95 AFFLECK WINS SECOND OSCAR!
- 98 Ho hi
- 99 _ Kong
- 101 Roof part
- 102 "Holy cow!"
- 103 "Casablanca" character
- 106 Crucifix
- 108 Agitated
- 111 HAGMAN PLANS NUPTIALS!
- 115 Piggy
- 116 Khan opener?
- 117 Castilian cry
- 118 Head set?
- 122 Croc's kin
- 126 Mideastern mall?
- 129 PAQUIN GETS STARRING ROLE!
- 134 In public
- 135 Row
- 136 General Bradley
- 137 Final
- 138 Alarm button
- 139 Raucous noise
- 140 _ Hari
- 141 Actress Merrill
- DOWN
- 1 Item in a trunk
- 2 Economist
- Greenspan
- 3 Ming thing
- 4 Behind a windjammer
- 5 Fall behind
- 6 OPEC member
- 7 "Elephant Boy" star
- 8 Cain's victim
- 9 "Of course!"
- 10 Harem room
- 11 Apply gently
- 12 Petite parasite
- 13 Mongrel
- 14 Owns
- 15 Nothing special
- 16 Mediterranean island
- 17 Brooklyn school
- 21 Suppress
- 23 Skirt feature
- 24 Skiers' mecca
- 29 Wee one
- 32 Present
- 34 Datebook abbr.
- 35 _ Aviv
- 36 Charges
- 37 "The March King"
- 38 Fedora fabric
- 39 Mineral springs
- 40 She brought out the beast in men
- 41 Part owner?
- 42 Urban transport
- 43 Absorbed
- 48 Ruth's mother-in-law
- 50 Mont _
- 52 Puppy bites
- 53 Fighter pilots
- 54 "SNL" bit
- 56 Haunted-house sound
- 57 Oklahoma city
- 58 Alex Haley book
- 60 Pianist Chasins
- 61 Bandleader Perez
- 67 Bergonzi or Ponti
- 68 "Waves of grain" color
- 70 Fast flier
- 71 Bright
- 73 Between three
- 75 Bum a ride
- 76 Humble
- 77 Soprano's showcase
- 78 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
- 79 Comic Carter
- 80 Melville novel
- 84 Play ground?
- 85 Great Lake natives
- 87 Po land
- 89 It'll give you a lift
- 91 Change for a five
- 93 Helicopter sound
- 94 Circle dance
- 95 Sikorsky or Stravinsky
- 96 First offender
- 97 Jay's house
- 100 Negative correlative
- 104 It may be tall
- 105 Internet acronym
- 107 Colors
- 109 Demetrius' duds
- 110 Inclined
- 111 Sweat and slave
- 112 Dumbstruck
- 113 Brings down the house
- 114 Thought-provoking
- 119 Particle
- 120 Maffia or Downey
- 121 Petty clash?
- 123 Prepare to fly
- 124 _ even keel
- 125 Sita's husband
- 127 Chemical suffix
- 128 PC key
- 130 Long or Peoples
- 131 Unused
- 132 Dadaism founder
- 133 Lingerie item



Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I'm getting Social Security disability benefits, and I've used up a few of my trial work months. Did the amount I can earn in a month without counting it as a trial work month change?

A: Yes, we've increased the monthly earnings amount that we use to decide if a month counts as part of the trial work period. In 2005, a person who gets disability benefits must earn \$590 or more during a given month before that month counts as one of

the nine trial work months. (For 2004, the amount was \$580.)

Q: Recently, I began receiving a Social Security disability benefit. I also receive a disability benefit from a private disability insurance policy. Will the private policy affect my Social Security disability benefit?

A: No. Your eligibility for Social Security disability payments is not affected by any private insurance you may have. However, the amount of

your benefit may be reduced if you get worker's compensation or certain other public disability payments.

Q: What happens to my monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability payment of \$579 if I work?

A: If you receive SSI and work, earning more than \$85 a month, your SSI payments will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 you earn. The following example shows how we would recalculate your SSI payment: In January 2005, you earned \$317; after deducting \$85, you have countable earnings of \$232. One half of this amount is

counted against your benefits, which reduces your \$579 SSI payment to \$463.

Q: I'm disabled and want to work. But I don't want to risk losing my benefits. If I do try working, will there be a medical review?

A: Not anymore. Social Security encourages people who get disability benefits to work if they would like to do so. There are a number of work incentives in place to help you achieve your work goals. In the past, going to work was a reason for Social Security to conduct a continuing

disability review of your medical condition. The Ticket to Work Program allows individuals receiving Social Security disability benefits to participate in the work force and at the same time suspend any review of your medical condition just because you are working.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 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
▲ 61°	▼ 39°	▲ 63° ▼ 41°	▲ 61° ▼ 38°	▲ 61° ▼ 36°	▲ 61° ▼ 36°	▲ 59° ▼ 34°	▲ 59° ▼ 32°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	2	Minimal
Friday	2	Minimal
Saturday	1	Minimal
Sunday	2	Minimal
Monday	3	Low
Tuesday	3	Low
Wednesday	2	Minimal

REAL FEEL TEMP®

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

Thursday	52°
Friday	55°
Saturday	44°
Sunday	42°
Monday	48°
Tuesday	50°
Wednesday	46°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	63	41
Canutillo	63	41
Clint	61	40
E. Montana	62	40
Fabens	61	40
Horizon	64	42
San Elizario	61	39
Socorro	61	39
Tornillo	60	40
Vinton	63	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	54/34/r	54/35/r	54/31/r	52/32/sh	54/26/c
Atlanta	52/32/s	54/38/pc	54/44/r	60/46/r	62/44/r
Atlantic City	42/20/pc	40/22/s	42/28/c	42/30/pc	43/27/c
Austin/San Antonio	52/41/sh	60/51/sh	73/54/sh	68/42/r	65/44/c
Baltimore	43/23/pc	41/23/s	45/27/c	45/30/pc	45/28/sh
Boston	36/20/pc	28/20/s	32/22/sf	36/24/pc	35/23/s
Chicago	28/20/pc	34/24/sf	34/22/pc	32/20/c	36/23/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	53/39/pc	55/46/sh	66/45/sh	61/42/c	59/39/s
Denver	48/24/pc	44/24/c	38/22/sn	48/24/pc	48/18/c
Flagstaff	44/30/r	42/26/sn	38/20/sf	41/19/sn	41/18/sn
Houston	60/46/pc	64/55/sh	72/57/sh	74/48/t	62/44/pc
Kansas City	44/28/pc	46/28/c	42/25/r	37/23/pc	42/25/c
Las Vegas	62/45/sh	62/43/r	60/43/sh	58/43/pc	60/41/r
Miami	81/63/pc	79/65/s	79/65/pc	81/67/s	81/63/pc
Minneapolis	23/11/pc	26/10/sf	25/11/c	25/12/sn	26/12/c
New Orleans	62/44/sh	62/53/pc	70/58/sh	71/54/sh	67/52/r
New York City	38/26/pc	36/28/s	36/30/sn	41/31/pc	40/30/c
Philadelphia	39/25/pc	37/25/s	41/28/sn	43/30/pc	42/29/c
Phoenix	69/51/r	65/48/r	65/46/sh	65/48/sh	66/44/c
Portland	54/34/s	52/38/pc	50/38/pc	50/36/pc	51/35/r
San Francisco	62/48/r	59/46/r	57/48/sh	57/48/pc	59/45/sh
Seattle	52/34/s	50/36/pc	48/38/pc	48/36/pc	49/37/r
Tucson	68/46/r	63/42/r	61/40/sh	63/40/pc	65/42/pc
Washington, DC	45/26/pc	42/26/s	47/30/c	47/32/pc	46/33/r

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

AGRICULTURE

A storm system off the West Coast will push inland into California Thursday. Despite the distance from West Texas to the center of the storm, a few showers will still occur as moisture flows into the region. Showers will become more numerous on Saturday. Most areas will receive between 0.15-0.45 of an inch from Thursday through Saturday.

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