



NEWSBRIEFS

New UTEP hire

UTEP has hired Catherine McCorry-Andalis as the new Assistant Dean of Students. Andalis joined the UTEP family Dec. 5. As assistant dean, Andalis will lead and supervise the University's student conduct process, Student Development Center and University Childcare Center. She will also oversee the development and implementation of new initiatives and projects within Student Affairs. Andalis holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Public Administration from Notre Dame de Namur University. Andalis has more than 13 years of experience in student affairs. Before joining UTEP, she was the Assistant Dean of Students at Menlo College in California.

K-9 pays off

The Anthony Police Department found quick use for a pair of officers who graduated from the National Canine Facility on Dec. 16. Police Chief Ed Miranda said Officer Flores and his partner, "Linda," were called into action on their first day of work, Dec. 20, after a routine traffic stop conducted by another officer, Officer Agan, on Interstate 10 for speeding. The driver of a 2000 Daewoo, 27-year-old Jesus Martinez of Anthony, seemed to be nervous, Chief Miranda said, causing Officer Agan to call from Officer Flores and Linda. When Linda "alerted" on the trunk area of the vehicle, it was found to contain several bundles, subsequently identified as about 70 pounds of marijuana. Also arrested was 28-year-old Daniel Solis of Roswell, N.M.

In other news

■ Robert W. Gilbert, former Chief Patrol Agent of the Houston Sector of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, has been named as the new Senior Executive Service Chief Patrol Agent for the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. He was named to the post by National Border Patrol Chief David V. Aguilar. A second generation border patrol agent, Gilbert was raised in Deming, N.M. He has been an agent since 1985, holding numerous posts along the southwest border. He replaces Luis Barker, who was promoted to Deputy Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol in Washington, D.C.

■ The Clint ISD Departments of Instructional and Technology Services produced and presented a live videoconference program titled *Mrs. Claus and Her trees — Oh My!* to over 700 second grade students in the district Dec. 13-15. The educational program showed the students pictures of evergreen trees including a stem, cone, and trunk from a tree. The students were able to view Mrs. Claus and the items she was discussing on monitors located at each campus and students were able to ask

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Even though we can't have all we want, we ought to be thankful we don't get what we deserve.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy of Socorro ISD

A RARE MOMENT — Students of Socorro ISD were treated to artistic masterpieces performed by cellist Evan Drachman and pianist Mary Au in a free concert, courtesy of the Piatigorsky Foundation, established by Drachman in 1990 in honor of his world-renowned cellist, Gregor Piatigorsky.

Renowned musicians treat Socorro ISD students to concert

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The students that filled the Socorro High School auditorium could not believe that Evan Drachman's cello was over 300 years old. But the beautiful music that he made with that cello was much more amazing to Sun Ridge Middle eighth grader Nicholas Casillas.

"The music was nice," he says. "I didn't realize how hard it is to play the cello. I guess you have to practice a lot."

Students from Socorro ISD were treated to artistic masterpieces performed by cellist Evan Drachman and pianist Mary Au. The free concert was courtesy of the Piatigorsky Foundation, established by Drachman in 1990 in honor of his world-renowned cellist, Gregor Piatigorsky. The goal of the foundation is to evoke cultural curiosity of classical music through educational and accessible live performances.

Irene Garcia, orchestra teacher at Sun Ridge Middle, says the Piatigorsky concerts are great op-

portunities for students.

"Students don't get to go to these types of concerts, to get to listen to famous performers like this," she says. "I like it because the performance was just for the students. The setting was more educational and the students had the chance to ask questions."

The concerts came to El Paso and the Socorro ISD via Oscar Troncoso's brother Sergio who lives in New York and is married to Drachman's cousin.

"Evan would tell my brother about all the different places he would play," Troncoso says. "One time my brother asked Evan why they had never played in El Paso. He told Evan that I was an assistant principal in El Paso and the next thing I knew I had a message from Evan on my home phone."

Troncoso and Drachman arranged the first concert about four or five years ago. After that, each year other musicians from the Piatigorsky Foundation have come to Socorro High School.

"But I was very thrilled when Evan came back because the cello

See CONCERT, Page 6

Successful passage of defense bill means millions for Ft. Bliss

By Kira Maas
Special to the Courier

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Millions in federal funding for Fort Bliss and the El Paso region, as well as important changes in current law, were included in the Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006, and the Defense Authorization Bill for fiscal year 2006, both of which the House of Representatives passed. Congressman Silvestre Reyes, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee said, "There was much controversy surrounding these bills, but they ultimately serve our responsibilities to our military and their families."

The House included the following funding for Fort Bliss and El Paso in the Appropriations bill:

- \$58.5 million for 45 ATACMS missiles, which are assembled at the Lockheed Martin plant in Horizon City. These will replace missiles used in Iraq. These are in addition to the 90 missiles funded through the 2005 Emergency Supplemental funding bill.
- \$2.1 million for the continuing development of the instrumentation of training facilities at Fort Bliss.
- \$2.1 million for Cognitive Air Defense Simulators (CADS) at Fort Bliss. The Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT) and Fort Bliss have worked together to develop CADS, which will improve training for Air

Defenders through simulation.

- \$2.1 million for the development of Texas Regional Geospatial Service Centers at UTEP and Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX. These centers will work with the Texas Army National Guard to serve Texas governmental entities to prepare FEMA-mandated hazard mitigation action plans and serve as a connection between local entities and the U.S. Geological Survey's National Map.

- \$1.4 million for the development of mobile sensor systems, known as a Mobile Optical Tracking Systems (MOTS), which will provide high-resolution 3-D imagery information, a critical need at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range.

- \$1 million in continued funding for research on communications sensors for miniaturized Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), which are being developed by Aerospace Missions Corporation in El Paso.

Impact Aid

Impact Aid is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Education that compensates school districts for tax revenue lost by a local federal presence such as a military base. Due to the location of Fort Bliss, the El Paso Independent School District is unable to collect sufficient operating funds through income taxes, and relies on Impact Aid funding to supplement its budget. Since 1998, it has received almost \$220 million in Impact Aid funding.

El Paso is expected to grow by about 60,000

soldiers and family members due to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and overseas basing process, and local schools need to be prepared for a major influx of new schoolchildren. Reyes said he crafted language in this year's defense authorization bill to assist school districts that will experience significant increases or decreases in average daily attendance of military dependent students due to BRAC. House appropriators funded Reyes' program at \$7 million.

"Impact Aid funding is extremely important to El Paso schools, and with our expected gains due to BRAC, we will be educating even more students without a similar increase in tax revenue," said Reyes.

The bill also includes:

- \$30 million for regular Impact Aid funding.
 - \$7 million for additional Impact Aid funding for Children with Severe Disabilities.
- Federal programs of interest to the El Paso community:
- The Army's Future Combat System (FCS) research and development program is funded at \$3.2 billion.
 - The Defense Authorization bill includes legislative language to allow JTF-North in El Paso to support both counterdrug and counterterrorism activities.
 - The Defense Appropriations bill includes \$50 billion in emergency funding for military

See BILL, Page 4



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Jumping to conclusions

I can't help but get a little

amused every now and again listening to what people say about other people, especially when they see someone doing something that doesn't quite add up to equal the sum of their mental limitations.

One of the greatest gifts our Creator gave us was the inability to read one another's minds. Just imagine the chaos if we could. There would be hand-to-hand combat in every household, office building, warehouse and classroom on the planet.

I can just imagine the confrontation:

Person 1: "I heard what you just thought!"

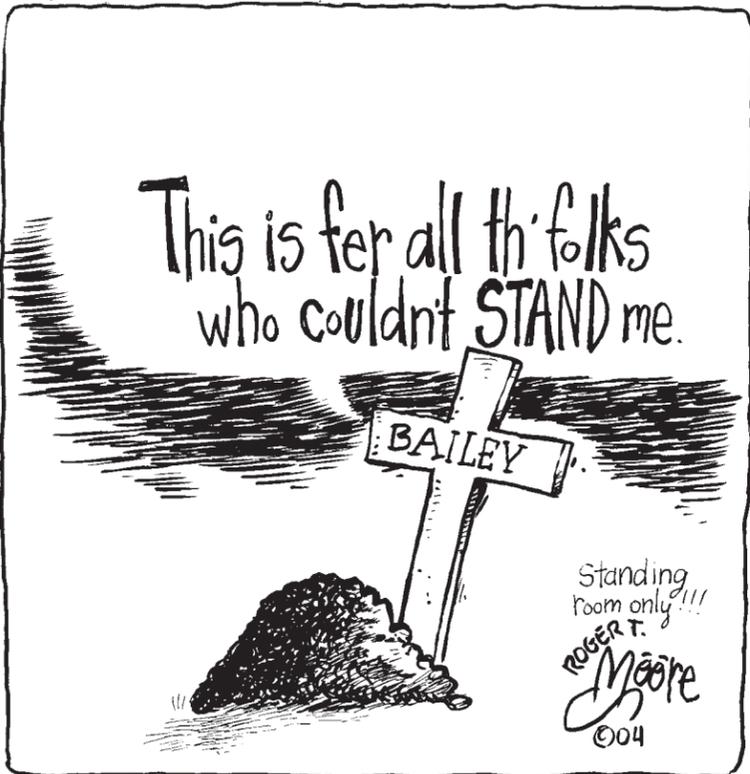
Person 2: "No you didn't. And I am NOT a moron despite what you think."

But since we can't read other people's minds, we do the next best thing.

We jump to our own conclusions.

Jumping to conclusions has been a favorite activity of human beings since the beginning of time, far surpassing the enjoyment of jumping on the bed, off cliffs, out of airplanes, into the swimming pool or on a trampoline.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Dec. 6, 1832: Ornerly James Bailey of Austin's Old 300 dies and he is buried standing up and facing west according to his wishes.



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Landing at the wrong spot, though, is just about as sure as the fact we're going to jump in the first place.

The biggest reason folks do all this energetic jumping around is usually related to gossip, the ever-present stream of human communication that was functioning quite well before the internet came along. Now it's on steroids.

Rooting out the historical origins of common words — no pun intended — is a highly fascinating activity. Something as common and influential as gossip is surely something we should understand, right?

Not surprisingly, it has to do with relatives.

The word actually comes from *godsibb*, meaning godparent. According to one of my reference books, the word evolved from the idle chatter that accompanied the exchange of news and small talk during the reunion of relatives at christening events.

Now, talking to someone close to you about intimate and personal issues isn't a bad thing. In fact, being creatures with herd-instinct, it's essential to our survival and well-being. Unfortunately we sometimes choose to share sensitive information with people who are either incapable

of keeping anything to themselves or are oblivious to the consequences of divulging intimate information about other people.

Thus is created a high dive from which to leap to conclusions. A tragic side-effect is that trust and friendship often die in the fall.

People who jump to conclusions are often, as put by a familiar colloquialism, "barking up the wrong tree," something which hunting dogs sometimes do when they smell the left-over scent of their prey in a tree after it has actually moved on to another location.

What some folks base their conclusions on is little more than something that may have been true at one time but even if it was before it isn't true now. This is especially embarrassing if people actually do something based on a conclusions they have drawn from the fact that they smelled a suspicious scent but didn't bother to investigate any further.

Sort of like when the minister asks the guests at the wedding whether or not there is any reason a couple should not be wed, and some doofus actually stands up because he knows something the bride did back in high school. Not a pretty picture.

I was recently reminded that it can

be pretty embarrassing if we simply assume things. It has to do with the way assume is spelled — the practice of assuming will make the first three letters out of "u" and "me."

Some folks live by the adage that "if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck then it must be a duck." The biggest problem with jumping to conclusions of this sort — not actually relating to duck identification — is that we conclude that just because someone did something wrong in the past they are doomed to repeat it.

Well, maybe they are.

But it is also incumbent upon us to give others the opportunity to out-grow our indiscretions, put our past behind us, fumigate the closets where all the skeletons used to be, and move on. That's what we desire for ourselves. We just have a hard time extending the same courtesy to others, especially if we still get a whiff of skeleton off each other every now and again.

Maybe next time we get ready to leap off the cliff based on information we think we know, we should take a step back on good old terra firma and rethink our conclusions.

There's a description for this, too. It's called giving the benefit of the doubt.

What's up, doc

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

Blackbird

Have a bird for the holidays, before a bird has you! While chickens are vaccinated in China, globalization and shrinking U.S. manufacturing muscle have given the blackbird a head start of five years in the race to the next pandemic.

It is no longer a question of "if" an influenza pandemic will occur, but "when." Will we be more prepared than our cousins of 1918 to face the viral challenge, or will politics bring modern medical machinery to a screeching halt? Here are the facts. You be the judge.

Some statistics will put the "bird attack" in perspective and move hands closer to the alarm bell. A typical year in the U.S. brings the deaths of 30,000 to 50,000 people as a result of influenza virus infection, and global death rates are 20 to 30 times higher. The past 300 years have seen 10 pandemics of influenza A, and the now-famous pandemic of 1918 and 1919 killed between 50 million and 100 million souls. The number of hospitalizations each year from 1979 to 2001 related to influenza in the U.S. reached 226,000, and 325,000 patients died in the U.S. from pulmonary and circulatory causes con-

nected to influenza from 1990 to 1999.

Now comes the bad news. The H5N1 avian influenza virus promises to eclipse those statistics if action is not taken immediately. Although to date there have been only 100 cases of human infection with the avian virus since 1997, mutation and reassortment of genetic material are likely to shift the balance and create a highly infectious "viral monster" capable of easily spreading from human to human. As the matter stands now, infected wild birds shed the influenza virus in their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Their domesticated "kissing cousins" contract the virus directly from their wild relatives, or through contaminated surfaces, cages, water, or feed.

Hapless humans in direct or close contact with domesticated chickens, ducks, and turkeys develop symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, eye infections, severe respiratory illnesses (acute respiratory distress syndrome), and other life-threatening conditions. To halt the onslaught, killing the birds, the chicken farmers, and their progeny might have been a suitable solution for Pharaoh, but modern man is a more humane creature. His arsenal is a ban on poultry importation, a limitation of travel, and prescription

medicines, some of which have already been rendered impotent by viral resistance. Stop-gap measures simply cannot win the day.

Questions continue to abound, and expedited solutions are not forthcoming. Mechanical ventilators are in short supply, and it will take a while for cell-culture technology for production of vaccine to replace the current egg-based manufacturing process. Furthermore, most vaccines are manufactured abroad. The U.S. might have contemplated a similar "doomsday scenario" when it decided to become a service economy, close down factories, and export manufacturing plants overseas and to countries where the per capita income is pennies to the dollar.

Ramping up vaccine production would require a minimum of six months, and that only after isolation of the circulating strain of virus. Supplies of those vaccines during those months might reach doses sufficient to vaccinate perhaps 500 million people, or roughly 14 percent of the world's population. Perhaps Pharaoh's idea would not be so bad in the long run, after all. The extremely limited supply of anti-viral agents and vaccine might even mandate it.

Enough bickering. Is it too late? What are the options? Where do we go from here? U.S. health authorities must "come clean," and develop a system of risk communication in order to allay the public's fears. A detailed plan for vaccine and anti-viral agent allocation and stockpile positioning will also be needed, and unpopular decisions are going to have to be made in the short-term, in order to prevent devastation in the long-term. Vaccination of health care workers at the expense of our children might be one such unfavorable stance to take. After all, sick doctors and nurses would put us all in jeopardy.

If cell culture-based technologies for vaccine production are not developed, implemented, and sustained in short order, we may become the birds on holiday tables.

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View from here By Jamie Story

Texas is lagging behind in math, science

Approximately half of all students in Texas state universities and colleges need remedial classes. Meanwhile, 30 percent of entry-level job applicants do not meet eighth-grade skill levels on a competency test administered by Texas Instruments, according to a company vice president.

Particularly in math and the sciences, Texas school children are lagging behind.

At first glance, results from the state achievement test, the TAKS, paint a positive picture, as scores have steadily increased across grade levels and subjects since the test was

implemented.

But the TAKS may not be the best measure of student achievement. While 81 percent of Texas fourth-graders exhibited proficiency on the Math TAKS this year, only 40 percent exhibited proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. This discrepancy between the Texas and national tests is one of the largest in the nation.

And the problem is not just one of quality, but also of quantity.

"In Texas, more students graduate with a degree in Parks and Recreation than with one in Engineering," said

one Texas businessman at an education forum in October. He and his fellow panelists were concerned — "panicked" might be a better description — about the dwindling supply of quality engineers coming out of Texas colleges and universities.

On the same panel, it was noted that Fort Worth-based Lockheed Martin alone needs to hire 90,000 engineers in the next five years — more than Texas will even produce in that time.

A recent report by the Fordham Institute points to one cause of this inadequacy — our science curriculum. The Institute gives the Texas science standards the third worst score in the country. One reviewer surmised, "the writers of the physical science

See TEXAS, Page 6

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

A New Year's Resolution

The new year is upon us and once again I find myself wondering where time has gone. It seems just days ago I sat on my couch, watching football and regretting my second-helping of pecan pie on Thanksgiving. The holiday season seems to pass so quickly. It's already time to consider New Year's resolutions. So much has changed in the last two years. I find myself contemplating what New Year's really means.

Unlike many of our traditional holidays, the meaning of New Years is unclear. Although it is the world's most celebrated holiday, it lacks a single central theme. It is a collection of good intentions. Perhaps, New Years is simply a yearly detour on the road to self-improvement, enlightenment and finding happiness. A new beginning we are allowed each year.

This year, New Years finds us at our absolute greatest. Americans have bound together to show their

pride and patriotism for our amazing country. Let's ring in this New Year with an unconquerable will. Let's continue to support our servicemen and women; let's boast our unwavering patriotism; and let's continue to proclaim confidence in our President.

Here are a few suggestions to keep your New Year's resolution on track:

- Don't try everything at once. Odds are in your favor, if you begin small. Consider sending an encouraging message to troops deployed away from home. Or perhaps scheduling more frequent phone calls to friends and family.

- Be flexible. Allow your resolution to grow with you throughout the year. Don't make a specific resolution, that does not allow for change. Less specific wording such as "this year I will express my patriotism," provides room to challenge yourself to be creative with your resolution

throughout the year.

- Make a plan. Search for ways you can volunteer. Help by filling-in roles left behind by those deployed away from home. Devote a specific amount of time to any causes you choose. And ask friends and family to join in the act.

There's no reason why we shouldn't continue to make the traditional resolutions to lose weight and get organized. But it is my hope that we will also focus our resolutions on developing the true spirit of America. Remember to smile and laugh every chance you get. The soul needs to be balanced, as well as the scale. Don't pass up an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. And most importantly, don't leave anything unsaid. Let's ring in 2006 as a nation united together.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Seniors need to know deadlines for prescription drug program

New Year's is always a time of change and new beginnings, and 2006 will usher in major changes for El Paso's Medicare beneficiaries. In fact, Jan. 1, 2006 marks the beginning of the government's new Medicare prescription drug program.

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people ages 65 and older and for individuals with disabilities. I have long been a strong advocate for providing America's Medicare beneficiaries with an affordable, comprehensive prescription drug benefit under Medicare. However, I am concerned that this prescription drug benefit program might not be the best option for many seniors on Medicare, and is overly complex and difficult for seniors to understand. Therefore, I have been working to educate El Pasoans about the many different plans available under this new benefit.

By now, Medicare beneficiaries should have received a Medicare & You 2006 handbook in the mail,

which explains the new prescription drug benefits under each plan and lists what plans are available in the El Paso area. If referencing the printed handbook received in the mail, please be aware that it contains a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' error that misleads readers about premium payments, and incorrectly states that all premium payments will be covered by the federal government. Learn more about this on my website at www.house.gov/reyes/news_detail.asp?id=862 or access a corrected handbook online at www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf.

Medicare has an online Enrollment Center available at www.medicare.gov. Participants can also enroll by calling the program's toll free number, 1-800-MEDICARE, by mailing in an application to a particular plan, or by visiting a plan's website. Coverage begins Jan. 1, 2006 if you join by Dec. 31, 2005. The deadline to enroll for coverage next year is May 15, 2006. If you

enroll after May 15, a late-enrollment fee is imposed and the next open enrollment period is Nov. 15, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2006. However, coverage for people who enroll during this period will not take effect until Jan. 1, 2007.

Please be aware of the late-enrollment fee: If you decide to join, it would be better to do so before May 15, 2006. If you join after that, your premium cost will go up at least one percent per month for every month that you wait to join. Like other insurance, you will have to pay this penalty as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage.

I have held numerous events in El Paso with representatives from local hospitals and community health care and advocacy organizations to educate them about the new prescription drug benefit, and they are now ready to assist seniors deciding whether to apply for the new Medicare program. Please call my office at 534-4400 or visit my website at www.house.gov/reyes to obtain a listing of these organizations.



DUAL-PURPOSE IRAQ POLICY BUMPER STICKER



"REPEAT AFTER ME: AT LEAST WE DON'T GET HURRICANES... AT LEAST WE DON'T GET HURRICANES... AT LEAST..."



"...AN EXPLANATION OF THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN."

It's a long way from El Paso County to Europe international leadership summit

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro Middle seventh grader David Lee Urquidi was looking forward to visiting the European School of Economics, the European Union, the Eiffel Tower and the Arch of Triumph during his October trip to Paris, London and Brussels as part of the People to People International Summit. But he was most impacted when his group went through a tour of the Jewish Concentration Camps.

"It was scary," he says. "They showed us the rooms where the captives slept, where they ate and the toilets. I had seen the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. But these really gave us a better perspective of what Jews went through."

The trip to Europe was David's second People to People trip. The goal of the summit is to bring together outstanding student leaders from across the United States and the world to focus on leadership and international relations.

"I'm glad I went," he says. "They taught us to be good leaders, to always be open-minded and not push people around and consider what they have to say."

His parents were also supportive of David's endeavor but a bit worried. At the time of the trip, the bombings in Spain had just occurred.

"My initial reaction was that he had to go. It's a chance of a lifetime," says his mother Belinda Calderon, a teacher at Escontrias Elementary. "But as the time got closer and closer and we heard about the bombings that happened over there, I started to get more and more nervous. We went ahead and let him go on the trip and it was the longest nine days of my life. But we're so proud of him."

And his parents aren't alone in sharing pride for David. All his teachers speak highly of him. His English teacher Ida Corrales, for example, says David is an excellent student.

"What I like about David the most

is that he's very spirited," she says. "He likes participation and he's not afraid to ask questions."

His math teacher Diana Garcia adds that David also works very hard.

"He puts forth every effort," she says. "He probably will be one of our



— Photo courtesy of Socorro ISD

NEW GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE — Overseas trip gave student a leadership perspective on the globe. Top left is English teacher Ida Corrales, math teacher Diana Garcia, reading teacher Sonia Bonilla, history teacher Ruben Melendez and science teacher Joseph Mitchell. Bottom is David Lee Urquidi and mother Belinda Calderon, a teacher at Escontrias Elementary.

responsible and he takes the initiative. You can see his leadership qualities; they come out."

His science teacher Joseph Mitchell says David is all about a positive attitude.

"David always comes into class bubbly," he says. "He's always happy and in a good mood. He always tries and it looks like he always put forth 100 percent, in whatever he does. That's going to take him a long way."

His reading teacher Sonia Bonilla admires David and his parents for their persistence and determination.

"I think he is blessed to have been able to go on this trip," she says. "I told David that he should be very grateful that his parents allowed him to go on this adventure."

But the trip was more than an adventure. David received high school academic credit for both of his trips. Part of the requirement of the summit was to write essays prior to the trip, when he was there and when he returned. But David, who one day wants to go into the FBI, just takes it all in stride.

"I know I need to get good grades and not get in trouble," he says. "But I don't feel pressured. I know everyone is helping me for my future. I'm definitely thankful for all the people that support and push me."

Bill

From Page 1

operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including \$1 billion in additional equipment for the Army and Air National Guard, and the Army Reserve.

• TRICARE military healthcare for the National Guard and Re-

serve: The Defense Authorization bill expands eligibility for members and their families and provides families a period of transitional health care beyond the death of a reserve member enrolled in the program. For the first time, Reservists and members of the National Guard who continue service in the Selected Reserves will have an opportunity to enter into a govern-

ment-subsidized TRICARE health care program for themselves and their families.

• Increases the death gratuity for survivors of deceased servicemembers to \$100,000.

• Provides a 3.1 percent across-the-board pay raise for members of the armed forces, effective Jan. 1, 2006.

Both bills passed amid controversies that had stalled the process.

Briefs

From Page 1

questions and respond to Mrs. Claus from the five elementary campuses throughout the district. This is the first time the district has produced a program of this kind to videoconference live to the campuses. John McNicol, Director of Technology for the district, produced and directed the show from Clint High School. Cast members included members of both the Instructional and Technology Services Departments. Because of the success of the program, the departments plan to produce more programs like this in the future for Clint ISD students.

■ Windbreak trees will be available again this year from the Texas Cooperative Extension in El Paso County. Deadline to order is Jan. 20. Seedlings of both evergreens and hardwoods recommended for the El Paso area

will be sold in packets of 30 to 50 trees, ranging from \$34 to \$58. Pickup will be Feb. 10. For information call 859-7725, ext. 221.

■ The Texas Department of Agriculture is reminding private pesticide applicator certificate holders that their certificates will now be renewed Feb. 28 every five years instead of the Dec. 31 expiration date as in the past. A reminder will be mailed to these, as well as any other TDA license holders, about a month before expiration so it is important the TDA has a current address. For more information call toll-free, 1-800-TELL-TDA.

■ Shelley Black, internationally known artist, will be featured at the International Museum of Art, 1211 Montana, Jan. 12 through Feb. 25. Formal portraits and narrations of natural settings will be featured. She will also give Gallery Talks on Jan. 21 and on Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Museum. For further information call 543-6747.

UTEP

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UT Pan American
7:05 PM

1/6
Tulsa
7:05 PM

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Social Security

From Page 8

document with your new name.

Limits on cards

There are limits on the number of Social Security replacement cards you can get. You are limited to three replacement cards in a year and 10 during your lifetime. But name changes, such as might occur when you get married, do not count toward these limits. And changes in citizenship status that require card updates may not count toward these limits. Also, you may not be subject to these limits if you can prove you need the card to prevent a significant hardship.

Social Security rules

These rules, prescribed by law, help ensure that only those who should receive a social security number do so. They make Social Security Numbers less accessible to those with criminal intent and prevent individuals from using false or stolen birth records or immigration documents to obtain a social security number.

To find out more about the rules for getting a social security number and card, visit our website www.socialsecurity.gov or call our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

Future changed swiftly for Canutillo's new superintendent

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

UPPER VALLEY — The future has taken on a new aspect and dimension for Dr. Pam Padilla, a future fraught with new challenges as the ninth superintendent of the Canutillo Independent School District.

Events have moved rapidly for Dr. Padilla who started out last month as assistant superintendent for performance for the school district. Charles Hart, who had been superintendent since 1997, announced his retirement at the November board meeting. By the end of the month she was the interim superintendent.

At a special meeting Dec. 6, the board of trustees gave her a ringing endorsement by unanimously naming her the only finalist for the vacated position. Barring unforeseen developments, she will take over from Hart who retires Jan. 1, 2006.

Padilla takes a brief time-out from ensuring a smooth transition to discuss the future. It is the day after she was named finalist, and she is sitting in the meeting room of the office of superintendent, not behind Hart's desk. She appears unruffled by recent events that have changed her life in the CISD and has no trepidation about the work that lies ahead.

This may be, in part, because this isn't the first time she has been superintendent. She was head of the nearby Anthony Independent School District from 1997 to 2000. She brings 31 years of experience in classroom and administrative capacities to the job. She started out as a teacher in the Gadsden School District in 1974.

Padilla is high in praise of the work Hart has achieved for the district. Using Hart's team approach, she wants to continue and build on what he has accomplished — to improve student performance — to continue what has already been started.

"We have made great strides in improving student performance," she says. "Our students can match students anywhere."

She emphasizes the ongoing need "to monitor ourselves to ensure the students are at or above grade level."

"I look at every aspect of student operations and see connections to our bottom line which is student performance."

"This helps me to marshal the resources we need and helps others, no matter where they work in the district or outside in the community, to see how important their contribution is to reaching our goals for students."

She points out that the district is recognized as progressive and wants to build on that also "so that we are recognized for outstanding results, especially as students graduate and move on to post-secondary education."

"I want the educational excellence I know we can achieve to translate into significant economic development for the Canutillo community and the El Paso area."

Padilla also lauds the outgoing superintendent for leaving her an "outstanding staff." He was "extremely skilled at finding good people."

The community comes in for its share of praise. "We have a wonder-

ful community. Parents want the best for their children and work with us to achieve it."

Padilla sees a "great future" for the district and community. "The foundation is here to handle growth with excellence."

She broadens her view of the future.

"I am blessed to work in a most important profession. The future of our democracy depends on a strong system of public education as does our economic well-being."

"In my career every time I have recognized a need, that need has been fulfilled, sometimes in surprising ways. So I know that God is with us and provides for us if we do our part. That is the certainty that keeps me going."



Pam Padilla

\$450,000 designated for El Paso County needy

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County will receive \$452,378 out of nearly \$12.7 million in federal funds being distributed to cities and counties across Texas to assist people who are hungry, homeless or in economic need. The funds were awarded to Texas through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program, which is designed to supplement food, shelter, rent, mortgage and utility assistance programs for people in need.

The funds are part of nearly \$153 million that will be awarded to 2,500 jurisdictions nationwide and reach 12,000 non-profit and government-

tal aid organizations. Jurisdictions selected to receive funding met at least one of the following criteria:

- At least 13,000 unemployed and a 4.3 percent rate of unemployment;
- 300 to 12,999 unemployed and a 6.3 percent rate of unemployment; or
- 300 or more unemployed and an 11 percent rate of poverty.

The criteria are based upon Census data and designed to account for a higher-concentration of homeless in urban areas, poverty-ridden rural areas, and the fact that many in need are not shown in published unemployment statistics.

The EFS Program is administered by a national board of voluntary

agencies, which includes representatives from the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army; the United Way of America and faith-based organizations. The state passes the funds to local boards that will distribute them to local non-profits and government agencies, with an emphasis on assistance for the elderly, children, Native Americans, veterans, and the mentally and physically disabled. In addition, eight percent of the year's total EFS appropriation is set aside by the National Board for state grants to aid the needy in jurisdictions that did not otherwise qualify for assistance.

Toys, toys, and more toys for Canutillo Elementary School

CANUTILLO — Canutillo Elementary School students were treated with a special visit during a holiday event held recently in which gifts were distributed to about 400 students in the Canutillo Elementary School Galleria.

Local area businesses joined with

CES teachers and staff members to support the annual holiday event, which is coordinated by the school's Project Harmony program. Some of the business donors were also on hand to participate in the festivities.

"Business persons, teachers, staff members, and administrators were

very generous this year and donated new toys or money to buy gifts so that we could help out some of our less fortunate families in our school," said Kenny Cooper, CES physical teacher and Project Harmony co-coordinator.

—Contributed by Kim Guzman

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad space was formerly requested by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to announce a meeting regarding road improvements that will affect the East El Paso County community.

However, TxDOT has decided not to follow through with their public notice. Therefore, the West Texas County Courier is using this space as a community service to announce the public meeting regarding proposed improvements along Interstate 10 from Eastlake Drive to FM 1281 (Horizon Blvd.)

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006, in the Mission Valley Ballroom, 10600 North Loop Rd., in Socorro beginning at 6 p.m.

**For a complete meeting schedule or more information or assistance:
Blanca Del Valle - (915) 790-4341
Elizabeth Reyes - (915) 790-4310**

Back-to-back winning seasons still doesn't satisfy some Miner fans

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Except for the coming new year, all the holiday hubbub is over and now we can sit back in our easy chairs, relax, and ask ourselves the question of all questions — what happened to the UTEP football team?

The football season is finally over and apparently the Miners' year was a very good one, or a very bad one, depending on who you talk to.

The last time we saw the Miners win a game they smashed Texas Southern 45-0, they were 8-1 and ranked 24th in the nation. All was good.

At least, all looked good. It would be the last time the Miners would leave the field happy in 2005.

UTEP would still advance to a bowl game but were thoroughly roughed up by the Toledo Rockets.

Many El Pasoans didn't have a clue about who Toledo was, going into the game.

In fact, many were disappointed when they

heard the Miners were taking on the little-known Rockets instead of a team like Colorado, whom the Miners played in last year's Houston Bowl.

The matchup seemed like a step backward from last year and most in the city simply took it for granted that the Miners would win this one fairly easily. After all, it was just Toledo.

That kind of thinking is good and it's also bad.

It's good because we finally see the Miners as one of the better teams in the nation. We now look at other smaller teams the way most teams used to look at us.

It's bad because the Mike Price-led Miners are still in their infancy. We expect too much. They are still learning how to win. They are still learning how to be frontrunners. They're still learning how to be the hunted.

Still, the most amazing thing I heard on some of the local talk shows this past week was that some Miner fans are upset with the job Mike Price has done.

Wow! I can't believe how fickle fans can be. Price had led the Miners to back-to-back

bowl games for the first time in 50 years. He led UTEP to back-to-back eight-win seasons. He's won 67 percent (16-8) of his games in his two years here.

Remember, the three years prior to his arrival the Miners won six games and lost 30.

For literally decades, Miner fans have yearned for a football team that could be somewhat competitive. All we wanted was a team that would lose by only 10 points instead of 40.

Now we have a team that has flirted with a Top-25 ranking multiple years. And if you think the last two years were something, UTEP will now begin to fill its roster with Mike Price's own recruits.

The Miners may have stumbled down the stretch this season, but make no mistake, UTEP will be better than ever over the next few years.

I just hope some fans can live with eight-win seasons until then.

Dungy tragedy

Life is hard to figure out sometimes.

One minute you're trying to figure out a way to lead your team to an undefeated season and the next you're trying to figure out why your life has just been turned upside down.

Football took on a much different feeling last week when the news circulated about the apparent suicide of Tony Dungy's 18-year-old son.

The Indianapolis Colts' head coach had been contemplating whether it was wiser to rest his starters for the playoffs or risk the chance of them losing their focus. Now all that means nothing at all. Who cares? After all, that's just football.

What Dungy is going through now is unimaginable.

I must admit that I was one who felt the Colts should do whatever they had to, to stay undefeated. I felt it was the chance of a lifetime.

And yet we found out once again how short a lifetime sometimes can be.

The excitement of the magic the Colts have enjoyed is gone for now. Let's just hope they find a way to regain it in time, if for no other reason than for therapy.

Concert

From Page 1

is one of my favorite instruments," Troncoso says. "It's a privilege to have them here at Socorro to expose our students to good classical music."

Parent Maria Sianez was one of the lucky few non-students who experienced the classical music. Her daughter, who is a student at Slider Middle School, told her about the concert.

"I asked her if I could come with her and she loved the idea," she says. "She loves classical music because she plays the violin. I think this type of concert is phenomenal. My daughter told me she simply loved it when she came out."

And for Drachman, that is exactly what they are hoping to accomplish.

"We love playing for students," he says. "Not so much planting the seed for them to become musicians, but more for them to open up their minds and hearts so that they can love and enjoy music."

Mary Au, who accompanied

Drachman on the piano, agrees.

"I love playing for these types of audiences," she says. "The students are so attentive. It's an opportunity to open up another world for them. That's a blessing for me."

The Piatigorsky Foundation takes music to people who otherwise may not get to hear it. They play in schools, churches, synagogues, libraries, museums, town halls, work places, community centers, retirement communities — anywhere people gather where they don't get live classical music, often in smaller communities.

"Music is a part of all humans," Drachman says. "Whether people realize it or not, music is an integral part. It's needed almost as much as food and shelter. And to be connected to live classical music is a great joy in life. I truly enjoy sharing that gift."

And for Sun Ridge Middle eight grader Nicholas Casillas, the gift was well-received.

"This changed my life," he says.

Learn more about the Piatigorsky Foundation online at www.piatigorskyfoundation.org.

Texas

From Page 3

sections know very little of the subject beyond the fourth-grade level." The Texas Education Agency responded by saying that the report included suggested lesson plans that are not created or mandated by the state, but Fordham replied that Texas would have at best received a "D" without the additional materials.

If the curriculum is inadequate, we can hardly be surprised by lackluster student performance.

Texas is home to several Fortune 500 companies, many of which produce goods and services requiring a labor force skilled in the fields of math, science, engineering, and technology.

But if companies cannot fill their labor needs with Texas graduates, our state will quickly lose its appeal as a premier place to do business.

Fortunately, many Texans are working to create renewed interest among students in math and science, thus increasing the quantity and quality of graduates in related fields.

Townview Magnet School, in the Dallas Independent School District, was recently recognized by *Newsweek* as one of the top-ten public schools in the country. At Townview, students are able to explore their interests in math and science, and often go on to earn degrees in those fields.

But we cannot count on individual schools like Townview to bear the burden on their own. Texas must better align its high school curriculum with higher education and workforce requirements in mind, thus ensuring students are better prepared for both college and a career.

By improving the quality of math and science instruction in Texas, we will guarantee a brighter future for Texas children and the continued prosperity of the Lone Star State.

Jamie Story is an education policy analyst at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit research institute based in Austin.

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

be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - JM2UF31I2G0580706, 1986 Mazda pickup, blue, license 826-XRT VIN - 2MEBN74FOK/694406, 1989 Mercury Grand Marquis, blue/silver, license 622-SBE-5 VIN - 3G3B14682N1244121, 1992 Dodge Spirit, purple, Mexico li-

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

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1	2	3	4
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28	29	30	31
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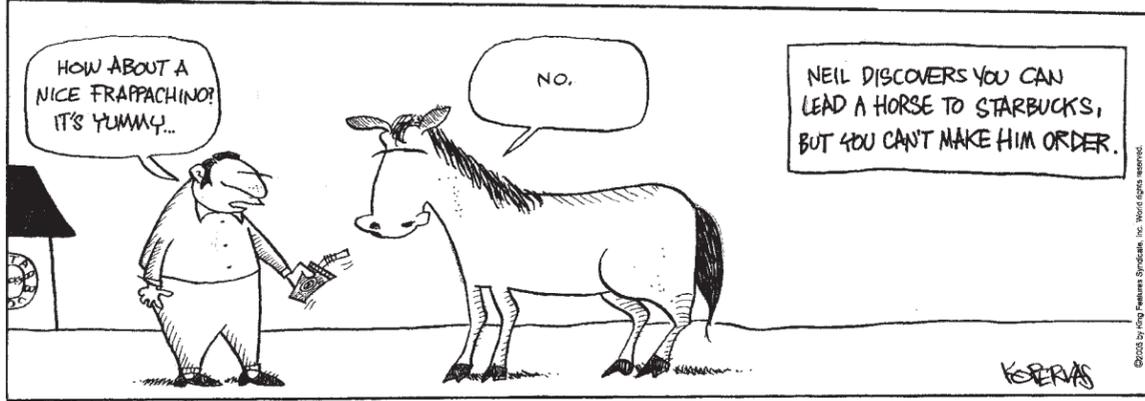
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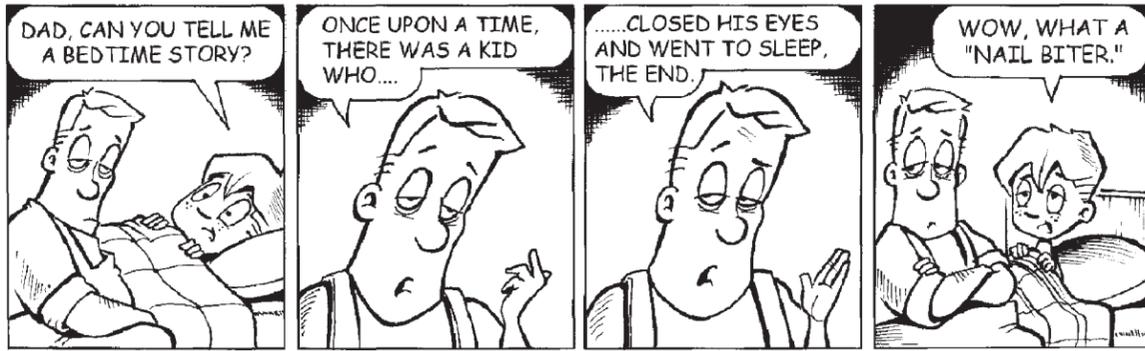
Phone: _____

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



Kiss old educational ideas goodbye

By Don Flood

Back when I was in school, just as the Age of Dinosaurs was drawing to a close and mammals began appearing in greater numbers, educators were very concerned about making courses "relevant."

Everything had to be relevant. Relevant to what, we were never sure, but at the time that didn't seem relevant.

Despite those early failures, the search for relevancy continued.

Now in Baltimore, through a new program call Studio Course, middle schools have begun using teen magazines to help interest students in reading.

These include magazines such as CosmoGIRL!, which this month features "Five Hot New Kisses" and provides tips on making out, and Teen People, which includes articles such as "Hot Boy Next Door" and "Flirt Better!"

Finally, relevancy has come to American education!

They didn't teach flirting when I was in school — kids were somehow expected to learn this on their own — and many kids suffered as a result.

And kissing, forget it. We weren't taught even one way to kiss, much less five.

Sadly, it was common for kids to go on to college with inadequate flirting and kissing skills and wind up having to drop out.

What many Americans don't realize is that the old do-it-yourself method of attaining flirting and kissing competence is hopelessly outdated — the result being that many of our students are lagging behind their peers in other countries.

The U.S., once the acknowledged leader in make-out skills, is in danger of falling behind such uptight countries as Germany and England.

Instead, American schools are

still teaching things like geometry, which doesn't even exist in the real world.

Go ahead, ask your neighbors when was the last time they used geometry.

They'll look at you weird and back away. They may even call Homeland Security.

Not that the Studio Course doesn't tackle rigorous academic subjects. But it teaches them in an exciting new way.

For example, you might remember having to learn that a noun was a person, place or a thing.

(Or since you were asleep with your head on your desk, drooling, you might not.)

What a burden that was to remember! No wonder we didn't have time for relevant topics.

Studio Course takes a simplified approach.

Instead of the old "person, place or thing," nouns are now defined as "stuff."

Your pencil, your town, your mom? They're all "stuff."

See how much easier that is?

Verbs are easier too. They used to be called "action words."

Now they're "what stuff does."

I can't wait to see how they simplify American history. ("Five tips from Betsy Ross for Shaping Up Your Booty!")

And while it's too early to tell, this program may do wonders for the dropout rate:

Just imagine the proud mom of a boy who seemed to lack motivation:

"Before, my son was bored in school. We were even afraid he was going to drop out. But since they've started the new Kissing and Making Out Curriculum, my son's getting A's and can't wait to go to school.

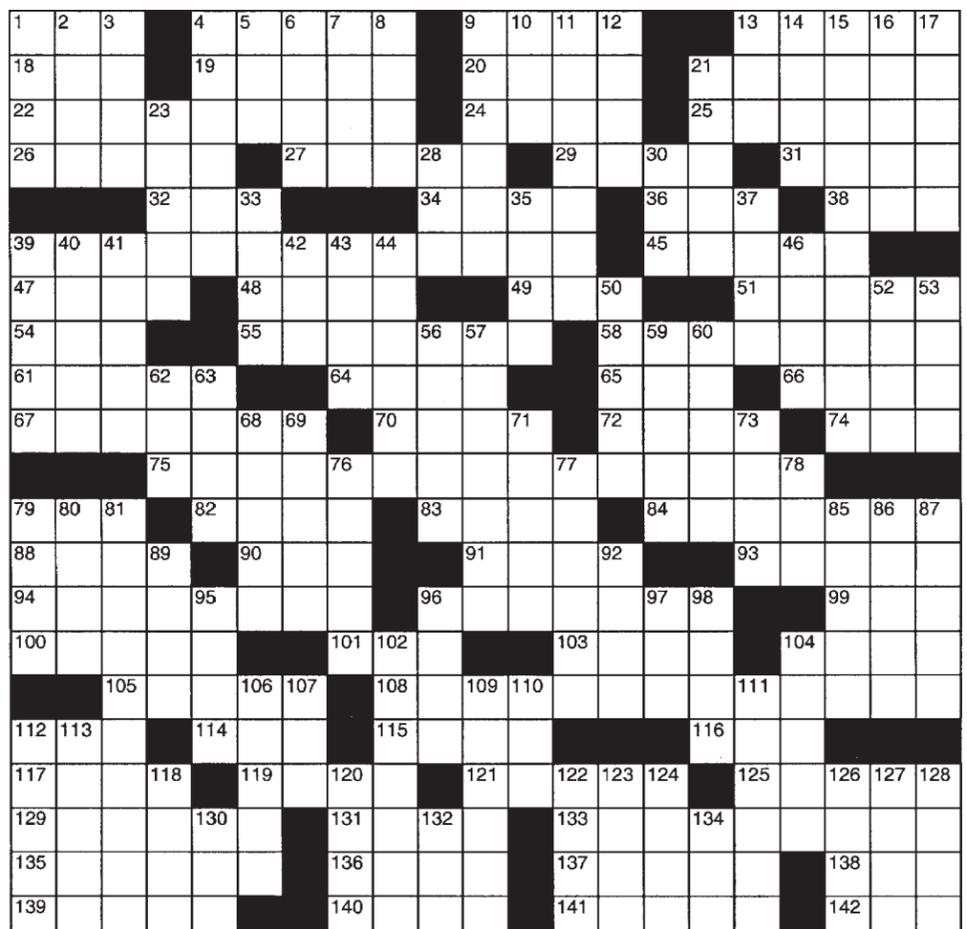
"And homework's a breeze!"

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King Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| SWEET | 66 Redact | 129 Cartoonist Charles | 28 Hockey legend | 86 Window dressing? |
| GNAW-THINGS | 67 "The Bartered Bride" composer | 131 Writer Charles | 30 Urban transport | 87 McCarthy's trunkmate |
| ACROSS | 70 Serenade | 133 Fictional rodent? | 33 Sugar armts. | 89 West. alliance |
| 1 Pugilistic poke | 71 accompaniment | 135 Rink rental | 37 Christmas visitors | 92 Brace |
| 4 Silenced a squeak | 72 TV's "South _" | 136 List ender | 39 Voting venue | 95 Asta's mistress |
| 9 Fuel source | 74 Road curve | 137 "Peer Gynt" composer | 40 Turn of phrase | 96 Snarl |
| 13 "Turandot" tenor | 75 Rodent's educational level? | 138 Psychic Geller | 41 Sib's kid | 97 Banned pesticide |
| 18 Heady quaff | 79 Dit's cousin | 139 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues" | 42 On the _ vive (alert) | 98 London district |
| 19 Savanna sight | 82 Read quickly | 140 Surrender | 43 Summer coif | 102 Shake up |
| 20 Lhasa _ | 83 Actress Virna | 141 Big revolver? | 44 Tristan's tootsie | 104 Actor's actor? |
| 21 Arbus apparatus | 84 Peeper protectors | 142 Sticky stuff | 46 Actress Skye | 106 Spassky's game |
| 22 Rodent's favorite Monkees tune? | 88 Oomph | | 48 Take the honey and run | 107 Pillbox, e.g. |
| 24 Lost in thought | 90 Tokyo, once | DOWN | 52 Mayberry town drunk | 109 Bit of a beach |
| 25 Nuclear | 91 Like some cellars | 1 Secure spot | 53 "Why don't we?" | 110 Medical grp. |
| 26 Brimming | 93 It may suit you | 2 _ mater | 56 Sadistic | 111 TV's "Eight Is _" |
| 27 Join up | 94 Closet freshener | 3 Rosary part | 57 In the saddle | 112 About to sink |
| 29 Take into account | 96 Calculator features | 4 Speak freely | 59 Saying | 113 Screwdriver ingredient |
| 31 Hook's mate | 99 Winter hazard | 5 Roth _ | 60 Cheerful | 118 Spouse |
| 32 _ reaction | 100 Trattoria treat | 6 Exist | 62 Bk. convenience | 120 Composer Wilder |
| 34 Diva Ponselle | 101 TV chef Martin | 7 Temptation | 63 Neighbor of Thailand | 122 Prod |
| 36 Moon crawler | 103 "_ Shuffle" ('77 song) | 8 Earl _ Biggers | 68 Used the microwave | 123 Binky's "_ Road" |
| 38 Relative of _ator | 104 Seaweed product | 9 Living room | 69 Digression | 124 Tend the sauce |
| 39 Rodent cheesecake? | 105 Bobby's flashlight | 10 Antipollution grp. | 71 Prose piece | 126 Wallop |
| 45 Laundry problem | 108 Rodent's Olympic motto? | 11 "The _ Jungle" ('50 film) | 73 Boat bottom | 127 Architect Saarinen |
| 47 Frigga's fellow | 112 Broad st. | 12 Carry | 76 Atlanta campus | 128 Small combo |
| 48 Young boxers | 114 "Gotcha!" | 14 Grandpa McCoy | 77 Indentation | 130 Gibson or Tillis |
| 49 Relished a roast | 115 Article | 15 Rodent refreshment? | 78 Mintz or Whitney | 132 Unbalanced |
| 51 "Taras Bulba" author | 116 "_ Night" ('58 hit) | 16 Pisces follower | 79 Johnny of "Chocolat" | 134 Wager |
| 54 Emulate Pinocchio | 117 Apt rhyme for squirm | 17 Sapphire side | 80 Soap additive | |
| 55 Brandy cocktail | 119 "L_", c'est moi" | 21 Future officer | 81 City of rodents? | |
| 58 Protect with plastic | 121 Matches | 23 "We've Only Just _" ('70 hit) | 85 Architect Jones | |
| 61 Resident | 125 Inception | | | |
| 64 "Yours, Mine and _" ('68 film) | | | | |
| 65 Keatsian creation | | | | |

Answer Page 6



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

What you need to know when applying for a Social Security number or card

Every year millions of people apply for a Social Security number (SSN) or replacement card. It is important to know the rules for getting a new or replacement Social Security card before you apply. Here is a brief primer on what you need to know.

Proof needed

There are strict requirements on

what documents Social Security can accept to prove your citizenship and identity when you apply for a Social Security number (SSN). For example, only certain documents can be accepted as proof of U.S. citizenship. These include your U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, a Certificate of Naturalization or a Certificate of Citizenship. In addition, if you were born in the United States and have never

had an SSN, Social Security will need to verify your birth record before you can be issued a card. Today the parents of most newborns apply for a social security number before taking the child home from the hospital. If that is the case, Social Security will not need to verify the birth record.

If you are a U.S. citizen who is applying for a replacement Social Security card, Social Security will ask you to prove your identity by providing an acceptable document that shows your name, identifying information about you and a recent photograph. Examples of acceptable identity documents include your U.S. driver's license, state-issued non-driver identi-

fication card or U.S. passport.

The rules for issuing social security numbers and cards to non-citizens are also strict. Acceptable documents for proof of identity for non-citizens include current U.S. immigration documents such as Form I-551, I-94 with an unexpired foreign passport or a work permit card from the Department of Homeland Security (I-776 or I-688B).

Name changes

Each year millions of people change their name. Whether due to a marriage, divorce or any other situation, reporting a name change to Social Security helps ensure that you

will receive proper credit for your earnings and, one day, the Social Security benefits based on those earnings. If you need to change your name on your Social Security card, you must show proof of your legal name change. Acceptable documents include a marriage license or certificate, a divorce decree stating that you may change your name or a court order for a name change. If the documents that you provide do not give enough identifying information about you, Social Security will ask that you also provide a document showing your old name and a second

See SOCIAL SECURITY, Page 4

7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

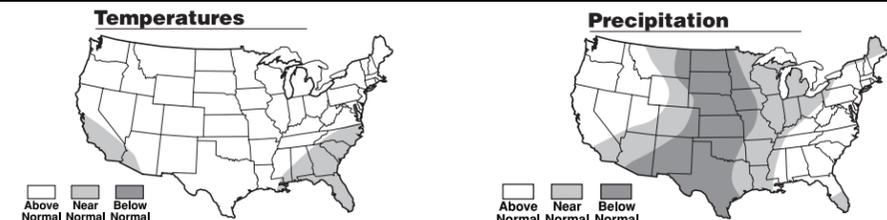
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Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Sunshine and mild	Partly cloudy	Sunny to partly cloudy	High clouds	Partly sunny	Sunny	Brilliant sunshine	Abundant sunshine
68°	42°	64° 38°	63° 37°	64° 36°	59° 37°	61° 36°	62° 38°
RealFeel 65°	RealFeel 36°	RealFeel 60° 31°	RealFeel 59° 29°	RealFeel 60° 29°	RealFeel 67° 38°	RealFeel 63° 35°	RealFeel 66° 44°

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WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY



Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	New	First
Thu.	7:05 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	Thu.	5:47 a.m.	3:39 p.m.		
Fri.	7:05 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	Fri.	6:54 a.m.	4:42 p.m.		
Sat.	7:05 a.m.	5:12 p.m.	Sat.	7:56 a.m.	5:54 p.m.		
Sun.	7:06 a.m.	5:13 p.m.	Sun.	8:49 a.m.	7:09 p.m.		
Mon.	7:06 a.m.	5:13 p.m.	Mon.	9:33 a.m.	8:22 p.m.		
Tues.	7:06 a.m.	5:14 p.m.	Tues.	10:10 a.m.	9:33 p.m.		
Wed.	7:06 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	Wed.	10:43 a.m.	10:41 p.m.		

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REGIONAL CITIES

U.S. CITIES

CITY	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			CITY	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W		HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	74	45	s	62	36	s	67	40	s	70	41	s	Atlanta	53	42	pc	62	48	s	61	43	r	63	44	pc
Albuquerque, NM	58	30	pc	49	23	pc	51	30	pc	54	28	sh	Boston	46	36	r	48	34	sh	46	36	sh	46	31	pc
Amarillo, TX	63	32	s	50	26	s	60	29	pc	56	30	pc	Chicago	38	30	sn	40	32	r	36	28	sf	40	30	pc
Austin, TX	78	49	s	74	43	pc	66	41	s	72	48	s	Denver	54	22	pc	44	19	pc	43	26	pc	47	22	r
Brownsville, TX	82	63	s	82	60	s	76	58	pc	80	60	pc	Detroit	38	32	r	40	34	sh	38	30	sn	38	28	pc
Dodge City, KS	56	31	pc	47	23	pc	51	23	pc	47	28	c	Houston	75	54	s	78	50	sh	68	48	s	72	53	sh
Jackson, MS	62	43	pc	70	47	t	62	42	sh	67	47	pc	Indianapolis	41	34	sh	45	36	sh	42	32	sh	42	28	c
Laredo, TX	77	56	s	80	52	s	75	51	s	80	55	s	Kansas City	50	34	pc	46	28	sh	46	26	pc	45	27	pc
Little Rock, AR	58	41	pc	58	38	sh	59	35	pc	55	39	s	Los Angeles	66	50	pc	66	52	pc	64	50	r	66	50	pc
Lubbock, TX	72	36	s	56	30	s	64	38	s	64	32	pc	Miami	80	64	sh	80	69	s	81	69	s	82	68	sh
Memphis, TN	52	42	pc	59	46	sh	52	40	pc	55	43	s	Minneapolis	34	24	c	31	25	sn	31	23	sf	30	23	c
Midland, TX	76	39	s	60	33	s	68	35	s	71	36	pc	New Orleans	67	48	s	74	57	s	69	52	r	69	55	sh
Pueblo, CO	58	17	pc	45	10	pc	50	16	pc	53	17	pc	New York City	48	43	r	46	41	pc	49	39	r	44	35	pc
Roswell, NM	74	33	s	56	28	s	62	29	pc	63	27	pc	Omaha	50	30	pc	42	24	sn	40	22	pc	40	21	c
St. Louis, MO	42	37	pc	48	34	sh	46	32	pc	48	33	c	Phoenix	74	48	s	71	43	s	71	46	s	70	45	sh
San Antonio, TX	73	52	s	75	45	s	70	45	s	73	51	s	San Francisco	56	51	pc	57	51	r	56	47	sh	56	48	c
Texarkana, AR	68	48	s	65	45	sh	62	43	s	65	45	s	Seattle	47	40	sh	49	42	r	49	40	sh	46	39	r
Waco, TX	74	50	s	67	40	pc	62	42	s	70	47	s	Washington	52	42	r	54	40	pc	52	38	sh	52	36	pc
Wichita, KS	57	33	pc	46	26	pc	47	27	s	49	31	c													

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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