



NEWSBRIEFS

Get your papers

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Department of State are issuing a reminder today that beginning Jan. 23, 2007, citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda are required to present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere. Since announcing this requirement last November, the departments have been encouraging all travelers to obtain passports before they travel. A separate proposed rule addressing land and sea travel will be published at a later date with specific requirements for travelers entering the United States through land and sea border crossings. As early as Jan. 1, 2008, citizens traveling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea may be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security to enter the United States.

Victim advocacy

The El Paso Police Department Victim Services Response Team is recruiting for its 25th VSRT class. Volunteers advocate and deliver services such as immediate crisis intervention, guidance, death notification, transport, education and referrals to local agencies. Victim Services volunteers are required to complete a total of 80 hours of training before they can become certified to assist victims. In addition, volunteers must pass a background check and be able to volunteer at least four hours a month. The Victim Services Response Team is currently recruiting for its 25th class starting on Feb. 6, 2007 and ending April 5, 2007. Classes are held 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Police Headquarters Large Conference room on the second floor. The volunteers will be trained in Domestic Violence situations, Crime Scene, Protective Orders, Death Notification, and many other interesting topics. These evening classes are open to the public. Contact Cindy Duran at (915) 564-7368.

In other news

■ The council of the City of Socorro has agreed that the unruliness of its council meetings has become excessive and therefore has voted to give itself training on how to properly conduct a council meeting without unruliness. Council member Josie Trillo requested an item on the Jan. 18 agenda to have a Sargeant-at-Arms present at each meeting to assist in keeping it civil. After "considerable discussion" the council voted to have training sessions in how to conduct a public meeting with decorum.

■ El Paso Lower Valley Retired Teachers

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It's what we learn after we know it all that really counts.

— Quips & Quotes

Faulty home heating can equal death

By Lt. Mario Hernandez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Every year, winter leaves carbon monoxide poisonings and deaths in their path. Carbon monoxide, also known as the Silent Killer, is a tasteless, odorless and colorless poisonous gas. Fire Officials estimate about 140 people die each year from unintentional exposure to carbon monoxide associated with consumer products nation wide.

People die when they improperly use gas generators, charcoal grills, and fuel-burning camping heaters and stoves inside their homes or in other enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. They also die when home heaters and furnaces that have not been professionally and annually inspected leak carbon monoxide.

This winter the El Paso Fire Department has already responded to 41 carbon monoxide calls compared to 41 for all of last winter.

The El Paso Fire Department is urging the public to take these important steps to protect

themselves against carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Never use portable generators inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open. Use generators outside only, far away from the home.
- Never bring a charcoal grill into the house for heating or cooking. Do not barbeque in the garage.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Have home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- Install battery-operated CO alarms or CO alarms with battery backup in your home outside separate sleeping areas.
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.

Fabens musician named to ATSSB All-State Band

FABENS — The Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB), a 1,000-member group of band directors in class 1A, 2A and 3A high schools in Texas, recently announced the selection of the 2007 ATSSB All-State Band, which included Jonathan Reyes, a member of the Fabens High School Band.

More than 9,000 high school band students from across Texas auditioned in 20 different regions for a place in their respective all-region bands. The top chairs in each region advanced to one of the five area auditions and only 240 of these 1,360 students were selected for all-state honors.

Reyes is a private student of Jimmy Olivas and plays the Alto-Saxophone at school under the direction of Robert Gonzales, who is an ATSSB member.

Reyes' other interests include National Honor Society, Health Occupations Students of America and Business Professionals of America. He is active in church activities at

CEVA (Comunidad Evangélica Vida Abundante) under Pastors Ruben and Irma Tabares. He is the son of Arturo and Rocio Reyes of Fabens.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Jonathan Reyes

The ATSSB All-State Bands will meet in rehearsals in the historic Scottish Rite Auditorium in downtown San Antonio, Texas, from Feb. 14-17 and will present a concert beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007 at that site.

Jeff Hellmer from UT-Austin will be the clinician-conductor of the All-State Jazz Ensemble. Jerry Junkin, also from the UT-Austin, will be the clinician-conductor of the All-State Symphonic Band. Bill Brent from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, will be the clinician-conductor of the All-State Concert Band.

ATSSB has commissioned David Holsinger to write *On The Overland Stage of El Paso* for the Concert Band. ATSSB has been commissioning works for small-school concert bands each year since 1995.

Horses taken into custody, owner arrested for cruelty to animals

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez has obtained a judicial order to protect two horses from malnourishment and abuse while the owner, charged with animal cruelty, is on trial.

On Jan. 11, 2007 Justice of the Peace Precinct #2 Sissy Hernandez ruled that 61-year-old Pedro Luna, a resident of Canutillo, was mistreating two horses and ordered that the animals be placed with Animal Cruelty Heartline of El Paso

The case began in early January 2007, when a detective with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Matthew Durning, received a complaint

of animal cruelty. His investigation revealed two brown horses that appeared to be malnourished and in bad health, as indicated by their exposed hip bones, ribs and spines. Detective Durning said a mare had what appeared to be a chain dog leash tight around her neck, and a male horse had a halter strap that was clearly too small for him. There was no evidence of hay, grass, alfalfa, grain or other horse feed in the area where the horses were being kept and there was only a broken pail with a small amount of dirty water in it.

On Jan. 5, 2007, Detective Durning obtained and executed the warrant to have the two animals removed from Pedro Luna's custody.

The final hearing on the case was held on

Be a buddy to neighbors during extreme weather

By Soraya Ayub
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — With the freezing temperature that we are experiencing it is essential for the public to use precautions and keep safe. Not only should we worry about keeping ourselves safe, but friends and neighbors by being a "buddy" to the elderly living alone, disabled individuals living alone and pets, especially those that live outdoors.

If you know an older person, even one living with another older person, make contact with them either by phone or in person. Some questions to ask them:

- How are you keeping warm?
- Do you have layers of clothing on?
- Do you have enough blankets?
- Have you been shivering?
- Have you eaten?

With age, the body may become less able to respond to long exposure to very hot or very cold temperatures. In cold weather some older people might develop hypothermia, a drop in internal body temperature that can be fatal if not detected and treated. This occurs when exposure to cold causes a person's body to lose heat faster than it can be replaced. Hypothermia can be a problem for older people, who often have other illnesses or take medications that can interfere with the body's ability to regulate its temperature. Older people are especially vulnerable to hypothermia.

Hypothermia can be a risk if you or someone you know:

- Has insufficient heat in their home due to substandard housing conditions, poor insulation, lack of money to pay for fuel, etc.
- Lives alone and may be exposed to cold without others noticing.
- is physically inactive due to illness or disability.
- Eats poorly and has no hot, balanced meals for good nutrition.
- Takes medication that reduces the body's ability to protect itself against cold.
- Reacts abnormally to cold, for example, does not shiver when cold.
- Acts like "a different person." This could be the result of not being warm enough.

If you know of high risk situations, contact the following agencies:

- American Red Cross: 592-0208
- Area Agency on Aging: 533-0998
- Project Bravo: 562-4100
- Salvation Army: 544-9811
- El Paso Fire Prevention Division: 771-1090
- Emergencies: 911
- RSVP Calling All Seniors: 541-4374
- Adult Protective Services: 521-3882, (24 hour hotline: 1-800-252-5400)
- El Paso County General Assistance: 532-8850
- El Paso Electric Company: 543-5970
- Texas Gas Service: 562-2003
- Sun Metro: 533-3333

During this weather it is also important keep your pet safe. It is also important to help the animals that are left outdoors without essential care from their owners.

- Bring all pets into the house when the temperatures drop!
- Make sure all "outdoor" dogs have a

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See WEATHER, Page 3



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

It looks bad

Anybody who ever watched *Law and Order* knows what circumstantial evidence is and how damaging it can be in a court of law.

Anybody who hasn't can just read the words. It means evidence that indicates somebody committed a crime based on the surrounding circumstances of behavior, background, motive, location or lack of alibi.

Sometimes we put people to death because a jury believed a case prosecuted on just such evidence — they just *looked* bad.

I once saw an interesting exchange between a prosecutor and a defense attorney in a court drama.

"Juries aren't stupid," the prosecutor said.

"You must be arguing cases in a different court of law than I am," the defense lawyer replied.

We don't want to believe this is true, but there are never guarantees when the human element is involved. After all, the factors that lawyers consider when selecting a juror are little more than, well, circumstantial evidence.

It's our human nature to make decisions based on what *looks* good or what *looks* bad.

Because of this frailty in our justice system, specialized legal research groups have begun to spring up, such as Centurion Ministries and the Innocence Project. These groups revisit cases, often of long-forgotten inmates with few resources, where the forensic evidence still exists that put them in jail for long periods of time and some even on death row.

Armed with the new weapon of DNA testing and other improvements in the collection and analysis of forensic evidence, they are finding a surprising number of people who re-

ally and truly "didn't do it" no matter how bad they may have looked.

Brandon Moon did 17 years for a rape that post-conviction DNA testing proved he could not have committed. He was misidentified by an eye witness and test results of the evidence were flawed.

Herman Atkins did 11 and a half years for a crime post-conviction evidence proved he didn't commit. The victim failed to identify him until after she was shown his picture on a wanted poster for an unrelated crime.

Having your face on a wanted poster looks *really* bad. People will believe you are capable of anything.

Robert Clark did 24 years, Ronald Cotton did 10 and a half, Jimmy Ray Bromegard did 15 and a half — all for crimes that evidence later proved they didn't commit. Most of these convictions were the result of eye-witness misidentification, faulty handling or interpretation of forensic evidence, or circumstantial evidence ultimately shown to be false.

Another area in which changes in evidence analysis has made a big difference is arson. Advanced studies along with new methods of analysis and computer simulation have shown that many factors once considered solid proof of arson are either absolutely false or are true only sometimes.

The National Fire Protection Association says that in 2005, there were 31,500 structure fires ruled to be arson, resulting in 315 deaths and \$664 million in property damage. A related story posted just this week, Jan. 23, 2007 by Emilie Lounsberry, writing in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, cites the case of Daniel Dougherty who has spent the last 22 years on death row in Pennsylvania for the

See LOOKS, Page 5



ANOTHER FORM OF ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER



1973
34
YEARS
2007

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

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

OFFICE: 14200 Ashford
MAIL: 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
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Website: wtccourier.com

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Homesteader News, Inc.
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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Gov. Rick Perry meets with Demos in Washington

Last Friday, for the first time, my Texas Democratic colleagues and I met with Gov. Rick Perry in Washington, DC. This meeting, held at our request, grew out of a recent Texas Democratic delegation meeting here in Washington, DC, and was an effort to repair the severe damage wrought in recent years by three unprecedented special sessions in the Texas State Legislature and the resulting mid-decade redistricting. Redistricting has cost Texas substantial political clout, including three members who would currently chair full committees in the House of Representatives: Martin Frost (Rules Committee); Charlie Stenholm (Agriculture Committee); and Jim Turner (Homeland Security Committee). As a result, today I am the only full committee chairman from Texas.

At the meeting, we raised numerous important issues in terms of the congressional delegation working together in the Majority with respect to Gov. Perry's agenda for the State of Texas. With regard to El Paso, I thanked the governor for:

- helping our community in the wake of the August floods;
- facilitating the infrastructure necessary for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) gains at Fort Bliss;
- supporting University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) as the Center of Excellence for Border Security;
- advocating for funding for the four-year medical school in El Paso;
- taking a stand against a border fence; and
- supporting an economic policy program that fully recognizes the importance of Mexico as a trading partner, both for Texas and the U.S. as a whole.

I also expressed concern to the governor about the disparity in state funding for border infrastructure, particularly highway money, and about the potential harmful economic impact on citizens as a result of proposed toll roads.

I invited Gov. Perry to El Paso to learn about the innovative new alternative energy program "Power the Army" at Fort Bliss. It is a pilot solar energy program that has produced outstanding results. Perry indicated he will make it a priority to visit El Paso to see this 21st century technology.

As the meeting drew to a close, I recommended to Gov. Perry that when he is in the nation's capital, we should continue these meetings. He agreed, and I look forward to meeting with him again soon.

MARGULIES
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View from here By Bill Peacock

City of El Paso set to become next poster child for eminent domain abuse

EL PASO COUNTY — When the Supreme Court told Susette Kelo that she had to give up her home so that New London, Connecticut could increase its tax revenue, outrage ensued. State legislatures — including here in Texas — moved swiftly to enact laws to curb similar acts of eminent domain abuse.

Unlike the rest of the country, El Paso seems unaware of the violence done by the court to the Takings Clause in the U.S. Constitution. As a result, the city has moved forward with a plan to redevelop its downtown and the Segundo Barrio using eminent domain.

The Texas Legislature did pass a law in 2005 that banned the use of eminent domain for “economic development” takings. But the law contained an exception for takings designed to eliminate “slum or blighted areas.”

The city has done its homework and determined — to no one’s surprise — that the entire area is blighted.

Yet the city’s own study clearly shows there is vibrant economic activity taking place within this “blighted” area.

For instance, the study cites 1,055 businesses in the 79901 zip code employing 12,485 people with an annual payroll of more than \$325 million. The sales for these businesses totaled more than \$340 million dollars in 2005 — \$120 million of which were retail sales.

There are also almost 100 residential buildings in the area, including single family homes, duplexes and apartment buildings. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, more than 14,000 people live in the vicinity.

Many of the area’s residents and business owners don’t feel like their homes and businesses are blighted — and in fact, they are not.

Yet the blight exception in state law

allows the city to take properties that are not blighted themselves — they only have to be in an area that the city has determined to be blighted. It won’t matter whether the property in question is a thriving business like Starr Western Wear or someone’s apartment in the Segundo Barrio.

In December, the El Paso City Council put the final touches on the plan by adopting a Tax Increment Financing Zone — what it calls “a formidable force in the redevelopment.” And indeed it is — through the TIRZ, the city will be able to engage in Kelo-style takings, just like New London.

And also like New London, the city will target residents and business owners in a “low and moderate income area” to benefit well-connected developers.

The city may try to allay fears of this by pointing out that they have put a moratorium on eminent domain takings for a year. But all this does is provide the related Real Estate Investment Trust the opportunity to buy up properties from owners under duress who know that if they don’t sell now, the city will be back in October with a court order.

Incredibly, El Paso has been pressing forward with its rerun of Kelo despite indications that the Texas Legislature will strengthen protections against eminent domain abuse, setting up a potential legislative showdown this year.

Move over, New London. El Paso is set to be the new poster child in the battle over property rights in Texas.

Bill Peacock is the director for the Center for Economic Freedom with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, an Austin-based research institute. He may be reached at bpeacock@texaspolicy.com.

Recent loss of life calls for greater enforcement of Socorro speed limits

By Sergio Cox
Special to the Courier

Once again, for the second weekend in a row, Socorro High School has had a student lose their life to an accident involving speed. The first one was Adriana Mendoza, age 14, only a freshman at SHS. The second, Jesus Xavier Garcia, age 17, was a senior at SHS. Both of these students were just entering new phases of their lives before they were tragically lost in accidents that involved cars and speed.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of these two young people. There is nothing that one can say to members of a family that has lost a young loved one before their time. The emptiness and loss of what could have been done differently as a parent is indescribable. There is constant second-guessing and different stages of grief that families have to go through during the healing process.

In my career of 26 years as a police officer for the El Paso Police Department, I was often the first unit

to roll up on these types of accidents. I witnessed the pain and suffering that was taking place as a person’s life was being extinguished. I had to go to the homes of the victims and try to find the words that would ease the pain for the family members, and maybe somehow lessen the trauma. Sometimes I was unsuccessful.

It is because of what I have lived and experienced in my life time and because of the position that I currently hold as a Councilman with the City of Socorro, that I will be requesting that our Socorro Police Department take a more proactive approach to speed and radar enforcement. I will ask them to exercise zero tolerance. I will also ask that both our Mayor and Council members take this approach if one of their constituents calls to complain that they were unfairly given a speeding ticket. We must explain: “We are doing this in an attempt to save lives.”

The city needs to make our police force, as small as it is, more visible to the driving public. Almost every unit is radar equipped and most of officers are radar certified thanks to the

efforts of our training supervisor, Lt. Jaime Avalos. He is also seeing to the training of those that are not certified.

As for the driving public, let this article be a warning. If you get caught speeding, you will be issued a citation. Yes, you can take the citation to court, have your day in court and explain to the judge why you were speeding. If there is a legitimate reason, I am sure that the judge, he or she, will be lenient, but if not, it is going to be expensive.

You, the voters of Socorro, have given me — as well as all the other council members — the authority to take the proper action to protect your health, life and property and to preserve and enforce good government, order and security for our city as per the Socorro City Charter. That is why I am asking our police department to take that more proactive approach to this problem. Should anyone have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at Socorro City Hall, 858-2915.

Sergio Cox is the At-Large Rep. for the citizens of Socorro.

Weather

From Page 1

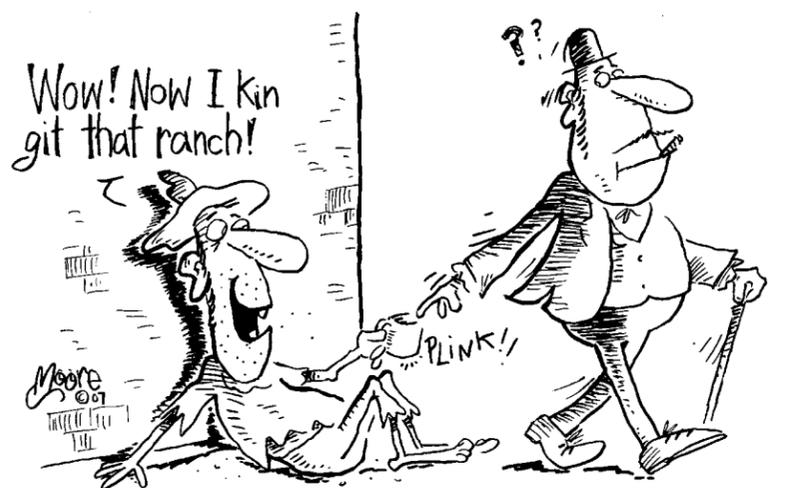
warm, dry doghouse, with a flap-type door and straw to snuggle in.

- Make sure they have access to food and water. Feed them a little more because, like people, they burn more calories in the cold to keep warm. Make sure their water doesn’t freeze over where they can’t drink it.

- Keep your pets away from anti-freeze and windshield de-icer. Even a little teaspoonful can kill in a matter of 4-8 hours or less. Symptoms include lack of coordination, vomiting, depression and increased water intake and urination.

Report animal neglect or cruelty to:

- El Paso Police Department: (915) 832-4400
- Animal Regulation and Control: (915) 842-1000, 842-1001, 842-1002
- Animal Cruelty Heartline of El Paso: (915) 833-1737



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Jan. 22, 1883: The “50 cent” act, which allowed the sale of Texas public lands for \$.50 an acre is repealed.

Physicians urged to be aware and offer aid to victims of domestic abuse

By Brent Annear
Special to the Courier

A far cry from “open wide and say ‘ahhhh,’” physicians are urged to ask patients, “Do you feel safe in your home?” Doing so might identify victims of domestic violence and bring aid to the victims.

Texas law requires doctors to provide information about safety and shelter to patients with injuries that might be the result of family violence. The law also says the physician should document this type of discussion in the patient’s medical record. Physician experts urge colleagues to mention the sensitive subject in typical patient visits, in hopes of helping patients through a difficult situation.

“The overall national incidence

rates of domestic violence are falling, yet the Texas rates are rising and are now twice the national average,” writes Rita E. Schindeler-Trachta, DO, and F. David Schneider, MD, MSPH, both Texas Medical Association (TMA) physician leaders. “Domestic violence, now termed intimate-partner violence (IPV), affects both men and women of all ages, races, and socioeconomic strata.”

The physicians’ journal article urges physician colleagues to use their unique diagnostic skills to help identify and aid victims of IPV. “Our best hope to aid in breaking the cycle of violence is to actively screen and distribute safety information to our patients,” the article says.

Because patients trust their physicians, they often will divulge fears, threats, and actual events of domestic violence to their doctors.

Most any physician may encounter a patient who is an IPV victim, though the symptoms may not be readily apparent. “While some victims come in with the obvious broken bones and contusions, many others have vague, nonspecific complaints for which domestic violence needs to be considered in the differential diagnosis,” the article says.

One physician describes a chilling account of a patient visit: “Her estranged husband, recently released from jail, broke into the house. After forcing her to have intercourse, despite her protests, he took the broken window glass, cut himself, and deliberately bled into her eyes. He told her he wanted her to get his hepatitis C. Despite all this, her initial complaint when she visited my office was ‘hair loss.’”

Physicians can then assist the vic-

tim, including referring her or him to a shelter.

Texas has seen an 18 percent increase in the incidence of domestic violence in the past 10 years, though the nationwide rate has declined by 61 percent. Both women and men can be IPV victims. Each year as many as 1.5 million women and 800,000 men are victimized.

“We can increase public awareness, treat domestic violence as a disease, and employ preventive and transmission-reduction strategies,” the physicians reason. “In so doing, we stand a better chance of breaking the cycle of abuse, reducing domestic violence, creating improved behavior models for tension and conflict resolution for ourselves and our children, and, as a result, reducing the transmission of domestic violence to the next generation.”

Briefs

From Page 1

Association will meet on Monday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. at the Bollweevil Restaurant off I-10 and Clint exit. Ray Vijil with the Social Security office will be the guest speaker. For information call Julie Jones at 851-2702.

■ The Rio Bosque Wetlands Park has community events scheduled for February that include a Bird Tour at 9 a.m. on Feb. 10, a Community Workday on Feb. 17 and an Introductory Tour at 3 p.m. on Feb. 18. The place to meet for all these events is at the bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. Take the Americas Ave. (Loop 375) exit from I-10 down to Pan American Drive, turn left and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. The park was hosting 2,000-plus birds at the end of December, including a male Eurasian Wigeon and a record number of Cave Swallows. January is the month for annual memberships to be renewed. Those who would like to contribute to this important conservation project can do so by enrolling as a “Bosque Buddy” for those under 12 years of age at \$4 per year; a student or senior for \$8; individual for \$10; family for \$15; booster for \$50; or Cottonwood Commando, Restoration Patron or Wetlands Society for those with higher contributions in mind. Information: <http://www.riobosque.org> or e-mail jsproul@utep.edu or call 747-8663.

■ As part of the “100 Hours” agenda, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007. Congressman Silvestre Reyes of El Paso voted in favor of the bill which will cut interest rates in half for undergraduate students with subsidized student loans over the next five years. If enacted into law, the College Student Relief Act of 2007 will cut interest rates to 6.12 percent on July 1, 2007, and will continue to decrease rates until they reach 3.4 percent in 2011. Under this bill, UTEP students enrolling in 2007 would save \$2,300 on an average debt of \$13,800, and students enrolling in 2011, when the full interest rate cuts take effect, would save over \$4,400 on the same amount of debt. “Today, the House invested in our nation’s best resource — our youth,” said Reyes. “This bill will help students who need it most, and is significant to the strength of our nation’s economy and security as well. By making college more affordable for our young people, we are also paving the way for these students to seek careers in high-tech, innovative fields where the U.S. is currently lagging.”

A new year could mean a new job

AUSTIN — A popular New Year’s resolution — finding a new job — may be easier than ever this year, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

Texas employers added 213,200 jobs over the last 12 months, according to TWC. Employment reached a record level at 11,118,200 workers.

To help job seekers maximize the

existing opportunities in today’s labor market, TWC has developed steps toward a successful job hunt.

- Examine your work history, achievements and education to help you discern your qualifications and expectations.

- Write your résumé and one or more cover letters that you can later personalize to fit a job opening.

Proofread all correspondence.

- Register on WorkInTexas.com, TWC’s no-cost, online employment resource for employers and job seekers that boasts more than 74,114 available positions statewide.

- Network. Ask acquaintances, friends/relatives to look for openings.

- Call contacts and references to inform them of your intent to apply for jobs, and ask their permission to list them as references.

- Research listings and companies.

- Contact potential employers by mail, e-mail, phone or fax to apply for the desired position. Many companies encourage applying through company Web sites.

- Practice interview skills.

- Schedule an interview and arrive 10 minutes early.

- Exhibit your working knowledge of the company and the available position.

- Send the interviewer(s) a personal thank-you note.

Clint Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2006

	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 9,121,785	\$ 1,288,416	\$ 154,031	\$ 454,628	\$ 11,018,860
State Program Revenues	48,808,968	5,647,201	—	1,391,177	55,847,346
Federal Program Revenues	463,308	—	—	10,470,618	10,933,926
Total Revenues	58,394,061	6,935,617	154,031	12,316,423	77,800,132
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
Instruction	31,098,351	—	—	6,081,454	37,179,805
Instructional Resources and Media Services	753,125	—	—	216,027	969,152
Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	277,758	—	—	458,758	736,516
Instructional Leadership	1,022,006	—	—	598,619	1,620,625
School Leadership	4,087,999	—	—	51,948	4,139,947
Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,292,996	—	—	537,031	1,830,027
Social Work Services	110,117	—	—	1,653	111,770
Health Services	574,085	—	—	8,353	582,438
Student (Pupil) Transportation	2,953,893	—	—	35,917	2,989,810
Food Services	—	—	—	4,071,872	4,071,872
Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	2,060,953	—	—	1,842	2,062,795
General Administration	2,116,998	—	—	34,360	2,151,358
Plant Maintenance and Operations	7,078,454	—	—	317,319	7,395,773
Security and Monitoring Services	1,295,556	—	—	30,838	1,326,394
Data Processing Services	1,190,096	—	—	4,531	1,194,627
Community Services	101,923	—	—	128,669	230,592
Debt Service:					
Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	—	3,095,000	—	—	3,095,000
Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	—	3,536,846	—	—	3,536,846
Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	5,013	—	—	5,013
Capital Outlay:					
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	677,724	—	7,268,828	500	7,947,052
Total Expenditures	56,692,034	6,636,859	7,268,828	12,579,691	83,177,412
Net Change in Fund Balances	1,702,027	298,758	(7,114,797)	(263,268)	(5,377,280)
Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	12,926,623	236,810	8,046,837	1,621,247	22,831,517
Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$14,628,650	\$ 535,568	\$ 932,040	\$ 1,357,979	\$ 17,454,237

**To Advertise
Call 852-3235**

Two from Montwood serve as officers in State Energy Board

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Two Montwood High School students are working to bring awareness about energy issues to El Paso. Cesar Leyva and Ariana Dobbins were nominated to the Texas Energy Education Development (TEED) Project for the 2006-07 school year. The two will join other students from across the state to discuss ways to educate their fellow classmates on issues such as conservation, recycling, and helping the environment.

Both are student officers for the project that meets throughout the year. Cesar is the newsletter coordinator for the project and Ariana is the secretary officer. Along with working with the 14-member student board, the two will also interact with the corporate board made up of professionals in the various energy fields.

“More than anything I am learning to work with other people and

carry myself in front of adults as well as learning about the energy issues that are affecting our world,” says Cesar, who is also on the student council and is a member of the National Honor Society.

The pair will focus on informing students about current environmental issues, such as alternative fuel sources, new uses for recycled materials, and new environmental laws. Another project the two will work on in El Paso is weatherization, which is the process of making homes energy efficient.

Over the course of doing this project, students learn how to insulate a water heater to prevent heat from escaping, caulk windows and doors to prevent air from leaking in and out of the house. Ariana, who heard about the project from another Montwood student involved with the project last year, is finding out more about the energy issues and how she can encourage others to participate in the project’s various programs. They are scheduled to go to Austin in February for their next meeting with the student and corporate boards.



Cesar Leyva



Ariana Dobbins

Horses

From Page 1

Jan. 11 when Judge Hernandez divested Luna of ownership of the two horses and ordered him to pay \$783 for court costs, costs incurred by Animal Regulation and Disease Control, transportation costs, and expert witness costs.

Sheriff’s officers have also arrested Luna on criminal animal cruelty charges and will present the case to the District Attorney’s Office for

prosecution under Penal Code Sec. 42.09. Luna was released on Jan. 6 on \$5,000 bond.

“Animal Cruelty is a serious crime which we will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law,” said Rodríguez. “While my office has jurisdiction to only request permanent removal of cruelly treated animals, it is an important first step in trying to save the lives of callously treated animals.”

To report animal cruelty, call Animal Control at 821-7000 or your local law enforcement agency: El Paso Police Dept. at 832-4400, or El Paso Sheriff’s Dept. at 546-2280.

Looks

From Page 2

deaths of his two sons in a home fire.

As the clock inexorably ticks away the remaining hours of his life he continues to deny setting the fire, though he admits to having been involved in other factors — namely drinking and fighting with both his girlfriend and his ex-wife — that prosecutors used in their indictment.

Dougherty’s dwindling hopes are hanging on evidence analysis that has transformed the field of arson investigation. Here’s why.

One inmate who spent 17 years on Texas’ death row was released in 2004 after prosecutors acknowledged that the factors used to convict him of arson were proven to be unreliable. A less happy ending occurred for another inmate who was executed for a 1991 fire that killed his three children. The Innocence Project posthumously presented credible evidence that the fire was mislabeled as arson.

The prosecutors in our legal sys-

tem perform an often thankless task, as do the police investigators. They deserve recognition for that. However, they can become like the parent who doesn’t feel too badly about punishing a child for something he may not have done because, in all likelihood, the kid did something else wrong that he got away with.

The finger of guilt automatically swings toward he or she who has a prior record of misbehavior, as unrelated as it may be.

As for us civilians, the best legal advice we can follow, I guess, is to make sure we never engage in anything that looks bad.



SEISD superintendent stays focused on excellence at all levels

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — “The kids have to be successful.”

Looking ahead at the start of 2007, that is the bottom-line criterion that motivates and challenges Dr. Mike Quatrini, long-time superintendent of the San Elizario Independent School District.

The figure of 100 percent comes up often in a conversation with Quatrini in his district office just off Socorro Road in the Lower Valley.

“We cannot guarantee a 100 percent success rate from our students,” he points out. However, with an emphasis on teachers giving 100 percent, “we can guarantee 100 percent of our effort (toward the success of students).”

In simple terms he notes that district employees get 100 percent of their paychecks from the community. Therefore, those employees should be giving back 100 percent of their effort for the students in the community.

“We really need to meet that goal (of

100 percent); we need to be consistent.” Coupled with 100 percent, Quatrini stresses attitude. More precisely, he speaks of “changing attitudes regarding what can be done in the district.”

In particular, focusing on:

The attitude that students can and will be successful. “We have potential,” he says.

The attitude that everybody plays an important part in the success equation, students and teachers alike.

The attitude that everybody is equally important.

Quatrini, 53, says 2006 “was a pretty good year. We are fine-tuning priority areas for students to be successful in TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.)”

A renewed team effort is needed, he says, in order that students “are getting the best education possible.” He makes no bones about where the final responsibility lies in ensuring that the students get “the best education possible.” He explains the importance of quality education for

youth by using the analogy of car manufacturers’ actions regarding defective automobiles.

“You can’t recall kids; you’ve got only one shot with them. The buck stops here.”

He adds, “Every student is capable of excellence; every student makes a difference.”

Construction has been a dynamic in the SEISD. In one form or another there has been construction every year since Quatrini took over the reigns of the district 11 years ago. In just over a decade the district has added a new high school, a new elementary school, a library, two educational gyms and a new administrative building.

Quatrini, who has been in the education field for 30 years, isn’t quite ready to retire.

One of the main reasons he doesn’t want to retire is that he has a dream, a goal of SEISD being a Recognized District. “That is my focus; that is my priority; that is my goal. I won’t be comfortable until the district is Recognized.”



Mike Quatrini

NO FEE REQUIRED NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Cora Viescas, RPA/CTA Executive Director/Chief Appraiser, El Paso Central Appraisal District, is currently accepting application(s) for the following:

RENDITIONS

1. Business Personal Property (**mandatory as of 2004 — failure to file a business personal property rendition will result in a 10% penalty.**)
2. Real Estate

DEADLINE FOR FILING OF RENDITIONS, PROPERTY INFORMATION REPORTS, AND REPORTS OF DECREASED VALUE IS MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007.

A filing extension will be allowed for business renditions upon receipt of a written request received by the filing deadline, Monday, April 16, 2007.

EXEMPTIONS*

1. Residential Homestead Exemption
2. Over-65 Exemption**
3. Over 55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption
4. Medical Disability Exemption**
5. Veteran’s Disability Exemption
6. Widow of Disabled Veteran Exemption

*If you previously received a Homestead and/or an Over-65 Exemption, or an Over-55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption, a Disability Exemption, or a Disabled Veteran’s Exemption, it is not necessary for you to file again this year. However, if the level of certified disability for the Veteran’s Exemption has changed, you may file a new application.

**The Over-65 School Homestead Exemption or Medical Disability Exemption can be transported to another home within Texas on a percentage basis. (Please contact the Appraisal District for forms and explanation.)

SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS

Agricultural Valuation - Applications are being accepted for Ad Valorem Tax purposes as provided under Article III, Section 1-d and 1-d-1 of the Texas State Constitution. Properties qualifying under these Amendments are valued on the basis of Agricultural Productivity rather than their market value. The tax that would be levied on market value is deferred. Information on agricultural use valuation is available in the State Comptroller’s Publication, *Taxpayers’ Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities*. Copies are available at the Appraisal District Office.

DEADLINE FOR FILING EXEMPTIONS AND APPLYING FOR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS IS MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007, FOR ALL TAXING JURISDICTIONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AT THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 5801 TROWBRIDGE, EL PASO, TEXAS 79925. TO OBTAIN APPLICATION(S) CALL (915) 780-2131 OR WRITE TO ABOVE ADDRESS, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.elpasocad.org.

ACCURACY & EQUITY — OUR GOALS.



NO FEE IS REQUIRED FOR FILING ANY OF THE ABOVE RENDITIONS, EXEMPTIONS OR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS. SERVING YOU IS OUR JOB.

Vick needs to get a grip before luck runs out

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's too bad that with just two weeks before the Super Bowl, the NFL's crown jewel event, much of the media has turned its focus on a quarterback that didn't even make the playoffs.

Michael Vick came into the league with a whole lot of promise. But even though he is one of the most exciting players in the league, his performance with the Atlanta Falcons has been somewhat disappointing.

Speaking of disappointing, Vick's recent strange behavior hasn't been limited to the football field.

The Falcon's organization was really let down by Vick when it was learned that he was detained at the Miami International Airport last week for getting into an altercation with airport officials about his trusty water bottle.

Apparently, Vick hadn't heard of the limit on liquids and other personal items that can be carried onto airplanes in this country. I guess Mr. Vick doesn't tune into Fox or CNN very often.

Seems Vick's now infamous water bottle drew some added suspicion because it didn't smell so much like water to the airport security team. According to them, it smelled more like marijuana.

And we all know that when something smells like marijuana, security is going to want to take a closer look.

Maybe that's why Vick was reluctant to hand it over.

When he did, investigators found that the innocent looking bottle contained a hidden compartment at the bottom. I figure you can guess what

they found in Vick's little hidden compartment — let's just say it wasn't oregano.

I don't know what's going on with Vick, but this is the second problem the program has had with the celebrated quarterback.

A couple of months ago he showed a complete lack of class by making an obscene gesture toward Atlanta fans who heckled the team as it came off the field after a 31-13 loss to New Orleans. Though Vick apologized profusely, he had to pay a \$10,000 team fine and then did the PR thing and donated another \$10,000 to charity.

Police have said that it will take a while for them to decide whether or not to file charges.

Right! You, me and my Aunt Velma know that there is no way any charges are going to be filed by any police department against Vick.

Why? Because he's a rich celebrity, that's why. And in this country rich celebrities almost always find a way to beat the system.

Vick is lucky that he lives in a country whose justice system is not colorblind. It respects, recognizes and responds to the color green.

Costume conundrum

From the "just how much have we humans really evolved?" department, comes the news out of the University of Illinois about their all-important mascot uniform.

The fighting Illini, of course, is Illinois' nickname and is represented by a proud Native American warrior.

Seems that back in 1982, the university bought the costume, which included a headdress with eagle feathers, from the Oglala Sioux tribe. According to Illinois officials,

it was purchased for \$3,500 from Chief Frank Fools Crow, whose wife made it.

Now, after the costume has been exhibited proudly for 25 years, it has suddenly been deemed offensive by members of the Sioux tribe.

It has been called a degrading racial stereotype and they want their costume back.

First of all, and I've said this before, the wearing of a Native American costume as a mascot by a college team is not a slur. On the contrary, it is a show of respect for a brave people.

To emulate these warriors should be taken as a compliment. But unfortunately, you can always count on some people to always be insulted by something.

Illinois officials have said that the costume was not lent to the college, it was purchased.

These members of the Sioux tribe not only want the costume back, they want the original eagle feathers that went along with it. According to them, the feathers are sacred.

As you can probably figure out, 25 years is a long time and the original feathers are no longer on the costume — they were replaced by turkey feathers.

But for some of these short-sighted people, turkey feathers seem appropriate.

I beg you, all you guys at Illinois, don't cave in to these radical members of the Sioux tribe.

If they aren't smart enough to figure out what the costume represents to the college and that it is being held up as something to be proud of, then they are the ones bringing shame and disrespect to the costume and the warriors who once wore it in battle.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fabens Independent School District

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Proposals for the following project:

New Field House, Multi-Purpose Building

located at Fabens Independent School District, Fabens, Texas. Proposals for this project will be received at the VeMac LP Office located at 2914 E. Yandell Suite #3, El Paso, Texas until:

2:00 p.m. (local MST time) February 9, 2007

Bid documents may be secured from VeMac LP Office located at 2914 E. Yandell Suite #3, El Paso, Texas after:

January 26, 2007

A refundable deposit of Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250.00) per set of documents is required. Plans are also available on the Construction Manager virtual plan room.

Contact Garnett Hall or Frank Gallardo at VeMac LP located at 2914 E. Yandell Suite #3, El Paso, Texas, (915) 566-1911.

WTCC: 01-25-07 and 02-01-07

PUBLIC NOTICE

AYUDA

Invitation for Bids

AYUDA is a recipient of HOME Contract for Deed Conversion grant contract #1000562. AYUDA will receive sealed bids for residential rehabilitation for 5 residences on:

Feb. 8, 2007

at 1325 Beverly Ann, in San Elizario, from:

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All submittals must be sealed. Submitted envelopes must be marked "Home Deed Conversion Bid" on the lower left hand side of the envelope.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on:

Jan. 31, 2007

at 1325 Beverly Ann, in San Elizario, from:

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employ are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. AYUDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. AYUDA is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

WTCC: 01-25-07

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2007

INSTRUCTION MATERIAL FOR SPECIAL CSP NO. 199-0202-7055

ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

GENERAL APPAREL CSP NO. 199-0202-7057

ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 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 ISD website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-01/25/07

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 - 3RY7HAR456312, 1080 Oldsmobile Regal, 4-door, gray, New Mexico license 579 NZZ WTCC-01/25/07

STORAGE

20X45' SPACE FOR LEASE
HORIZON SELF STORAGE
418 S. Kenazo
852-9371
3/29

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick
Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING

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

UTEP Men's Basketball

BASKETBALL

FREE pom-poms for the first 5,000 fans.

UCF vs. UTEP

Saturday, January 27 @ 2:00pm
in the Don Haskins Center

Radisson

Women's Basketball

In the Don Haskins Center

Friday, January 26th @ 7:05pm

UCF vs. UTEP

EPI SD Night all employees and students pay \$2.50

Sunday, January 28th @ 2:05pm

Southern Miss. vs. UTEP

YISD Day all employees and students pay \$2.50

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	(STOP HERE FOR \$5 AD.)
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35

Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928
Deadline: Mondays

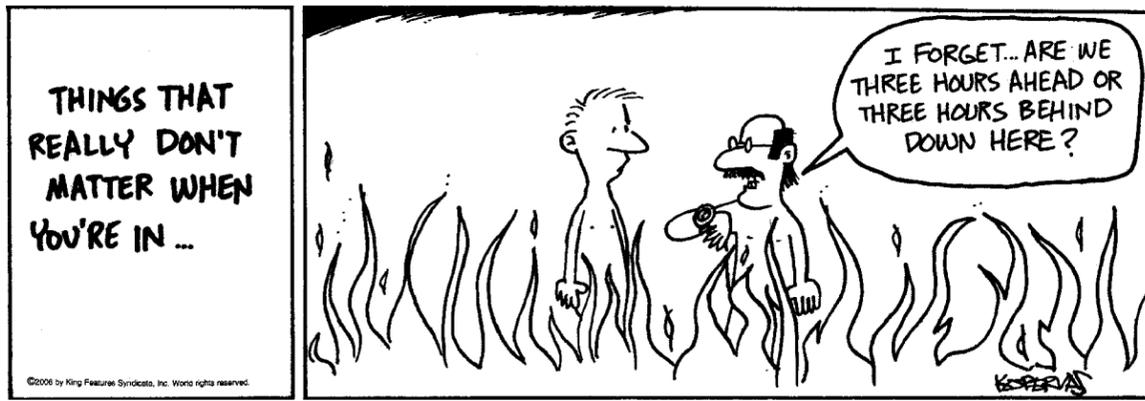
Contact Information:

Name: _____

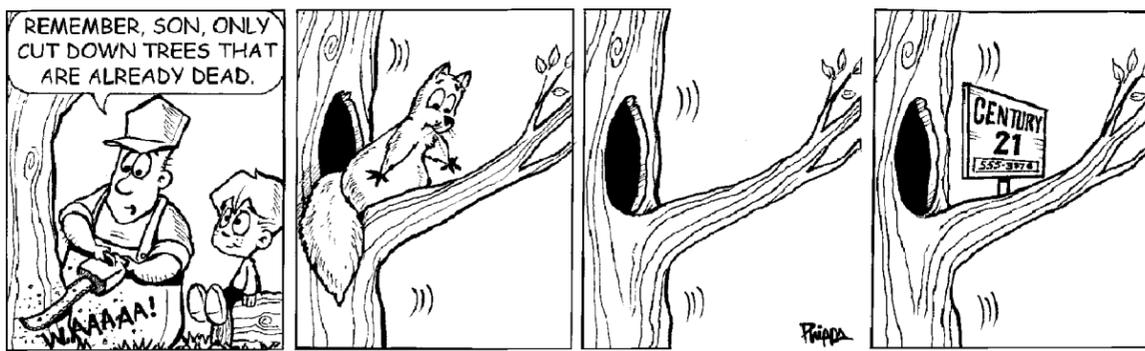
Phone: _____

Comix

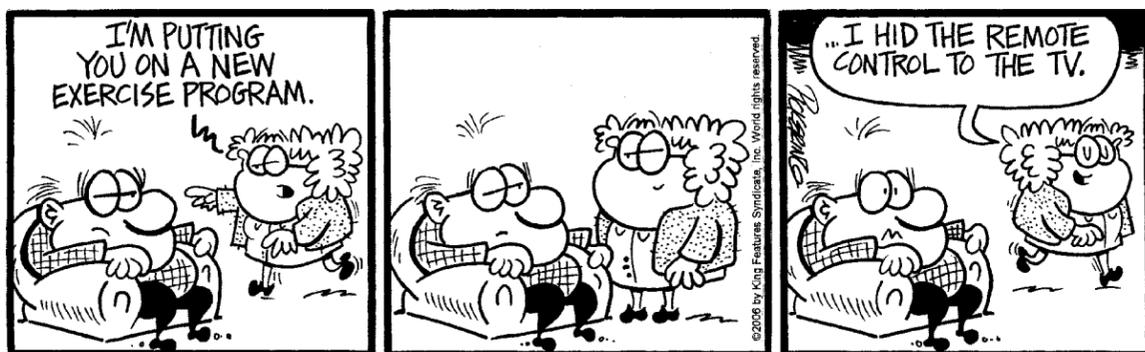
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



NASA seeks celebrity support

By Don Flood

NASA recently made an important discovery — space is a cold, airless environment totally lacking in celebrities.

That spells trouble for space agency.

"The American public engages with issues through people, personalities, celebrities, whatever," said George Whitesides, executive director of the National Space Society.

NASA employs no celebrities, and to this day, neither Britney Spears nor Lindsay Lohan has ever partied at NASA headquarters. The reason for this oversight is unknown, but it means scant press coverage for the agency.

This makes it harder for NASA to attract attention and support for its next great adventure — TADA! — a Mission to the Moon!

Yeah, I know, been there, done that.

But there is a way that NASA can attract attention and enlist celebrity support: embrace the old urban legend and announce the 1969-1972 moon landings were fakes.

First, it takes care of the "we've already done that" argument.

Second, Americans' faith in their government has been shattered by disasters such as Iraq and Katrina. We need to feel proud of our government once again.

What better way than to announce that the federal government successfully punk'd the whole world! That's right, the whole space race, moon-landing thing was nothing more than a huge practical joke — the biggest in history.

Gotcha, rest of the world!

Convincing the rest of the world that the moon landings were a fake, however, will not be easy, as present members of the administration lack the credibility to make such an announcement.

Which is why I'm suggesting it be made by Ashton Kutcher, host of "Punk'd," MTV's practical joke show.

(Potential danger: Some of the original astronauts are still alive and might be inclined to claim they did reach the moon. However, they're getting up in years and are not celebrities, so it's unlikely people will pay attention to them.)

Coinciding with Kutcher's announcement could be the launch of a new slogan centered around Paris Hilton: "The moon — it's hot!"

Some of the old NASA hands might object, but, after all, the alternative is to tell the American public that we, um, need more moon rocks to study.

But even with Paris Hilton on board, NASA faces problems.

As Mary Lynne Dittmar, president of a company that surveyed young people's attitudes toward NASA and space travel, said, "If you're going to do a space exploration program that lasts 40 years, if you just do the math, those are the guys that are going to carry the tax burden."

Wow, no wonder these people have trouble getting projects off the ground. You never, ever use the word tax when drumming up support for a government program.

If you say "tax burden," people will feel like they're going to pay. Young people need to understand it will be their grandchildren or maybe their grandchildren's grandchildren who will pay.

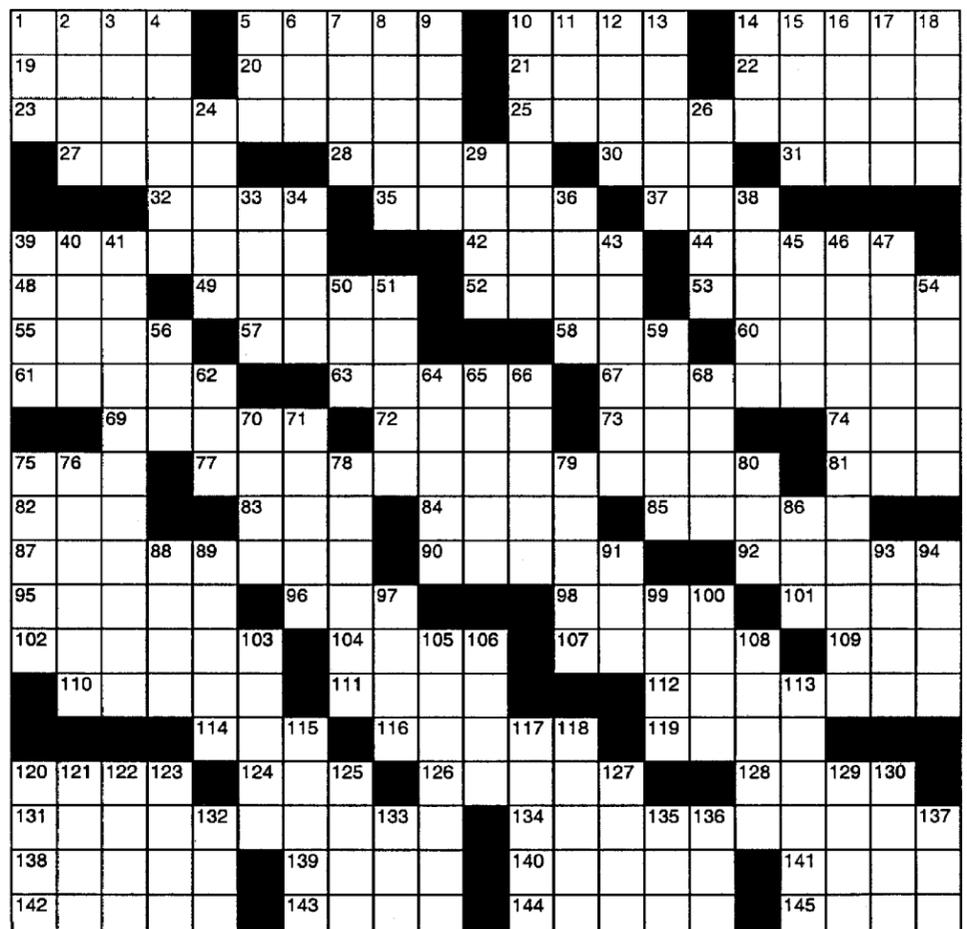
Some might object to sticking future generations with the tab, but my feeling is that they should have had the gumption to 1) be born earlier or 2) hire lobbyists on their behalf.

And if the deficits do get out of hand, we can always announce they're fakes too.

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- RHYME TIME**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Covenant
 - 5 Come out of one's shell
 - 10 King or queen
 - 14 Tracking tool
 - 19 " _ patriae"
 - 20 Moscow's locale
 - 21 Clarinet kin
 - 22 Cover story?
 - 23 Deception
 - 25 Gibberish
 - 27 Detergent target
 - 28 Roman fountain
 - 30 British bar
 - 31 Nut part
 - 32 Achy
 - 35 Civil Rights org.
 - 37 Baseball's Kluszewski
 - 39 "Moby-Dick" narrator
 - 42 Canvas cover
 - 44 Some are deviated
 - 48 _ -Locka, FL
 - 49 Equine exclamation
 - 52 _ gin fizz
 - 53 Sufficient
 - 55 Actress Reid
 - 57 Misplace
 - 58 Vane letters
 - 60 Ring champion-ship
 - 61 Caribbean isle
 - 63 Songwriters' org.
- DOWN**
- 1 "Fie!"
 - 2 Famous fellow?
 - 3 Fashion's Chanel
 - 4 Platitude
 - 5 Cool
 - 6 Fuss and feathers
 - 7 Savoir-faire
 - 8 Make butter
 - 9 Biblical book
 - 10 Amusing
 - 11 _ Dhabi
 - 12 Frolic
 - 13 Premiere
 - 14 Scott's "The _ Quartet"
 - 15 Grad
 - 16 _ novel
 - 17 Eban of Israel
 - 18 Disturbance
 - 24 Ashcan artist John
 - 26 Too heavy
 - 29 Puncheons
 - 33 Rod's companion
 - 34 Designer Fiorucci
 - 36 Freighter front
 - 38 Al _ (cooking term)
 - 39 It comes before kappa
 - 40 Practice punching
 - 41 Reckless
 - 43 Foreign correspondent?
 - 45 "Petits _"
 - 46 Kind of confection
 - 47 Blazing
 - 50 Youth org.
 - 51 "Siddhartha" author
 - 54 Soprano Traubel
 - 56 Presidential nickname
 - 59 Ridges
 - 62 Ooh's partner
 - 64 Military unit
 - 65 Selling point
 - 66 Hearth hardware
 - 68 Forgo the fudge
 - 70 San _ , Italy
 - 71 Consternation
 - 75 Inner circle
 - 76 Journalist Fallaci
 - 78 Shock
 - 79 Author Jong
 - 80 Prison pariah
 - 86 Taxing org.
 - 88 Withered
 - 89 Act like an egret
 - 91 Norm
 - 93 D-Day site
 - 94 "... my banjo on my _"
 - 97 Mount _ , FL
 - 99 Schubert song
 - 100 Carson's successor
 - 103 Haggard
 - 105 Connecticut town
 - 106 Extinct bird
 - 108 "The Bristol _" ('61 hit)
 - 113 Christmas decoration
 - 115 Criminal caper
 - 117 Director Lubitsch
 - 118 Dais covering
 - 120 Way off base?
 - 121 Lassie's father
 - 122 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
 - 123 Choir member
 - 125 Poet Wilcox
 - 127 Give off
 - 129 Hook's mate
 - 130 Steinbeck character
 - 132 Craving
 - 133 Drink like a dachshund
 - 135 Street salutation
 - 136 Hither and _
 - 137 Puppy protest



Answer Page 5

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I am 43 years old and make decent money. How much can I count on getting from Social Security when I retire?

A: Get an estimate by using one of the benefit calculators on our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/calculators.htm. You also can find out just what you might expect from Social Security by checking your Social Security Statement, which is mailed each year to all workers age 25 and older approximately three

months before their birthday. This Statement is intended to help you plan your financial future by providing estimates of the monthly Social Security retirement, disability and survivors benefits you and your family could be eligible to receive now and in the future.

Q: I am a 60-year-old office worker and have been thinking a lot about retirement. But even with all of the financial advice available today, I still need help. Is it better financially

to retire at age 62 and get reduced Social Security benefits for a longer time, or to try and hang on at my job until I reach full retirement age?

A: Figuring the best time to retire and collect Social Security benefits is very much a personal decision. You should take into account your financial resources, health, retirement plans and other variables. The answer may be different for each individual, depending on his or her circumstances. However, everyone should understand just how the decision to retire at a specific age will affect their Social Security retirement benefits. A good place to start is Social

Security's Retirement Planner for those near retirement at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/near.htm>.

Q: I get Supplemental Security Income payments because of my disability. What does Social Security mean by "living arrangement?"

A: A living arrangement for Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, considers where a recipient lives, who else is in the household, and what the recipient and others pay towards the household expenses. Owning your own home and living with another person, for example, are different liv-

ing arrangements. Living in an institution or as a transient with no fixed home are also considered as other types of living arrangements. Your living arrangement can affect your SSI payment amount. For example, your payment may be reduced by up to one-third if someone gives you food or shelter for free.

For more information visit our website at www.socialsecurity.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.

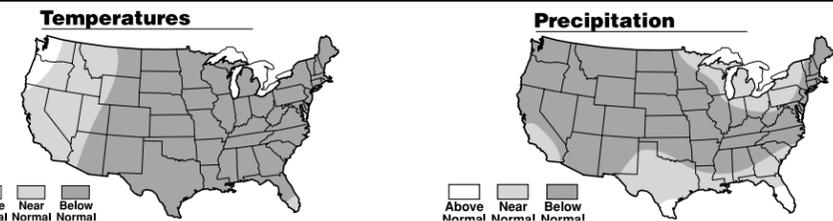
7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

AccuWeather.com®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
45°	31°	48° / 34°	61° / 34°	62° / 33°	61° / 35°	56° / 25°	55° / 29°
RealFeel 39°	RealFeel 26°	RealFeel 49° / 29°	RealFeel 62° / 30°	RealFeel 62° / 29°	RealFeel 63° / 29°	RealFeel 47° / 24°	RealFeel 59° / 24°

The patented RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK



IN THE SKY

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	First	Full
Thu.	7:03 a.m.	5:33 p.m.	Thu.	11:04 a.m.	none		
Fri.	7:03 a.m.	5:34 p.m.	Fri.	11:41 a.m.	1:02 a.m.	1/25	2/1
Sat.	7:02 a.m.	5:35 p.m.	Sat.	12:24 p.m.	2:11 a.m.	Last	New
Sun.	7:02 a.m.	5:36 p.m.	Sun.	1:13 p.m.	3:19 a.m.		
Mon.	7:01 a.m.	5:37 p.m.	Mon.	2:10 p.m.	4:23 a.m.	2/10	2/17
Tues.	7:00 a.m.	5:38 p.m.	Tues.	3:12 p.m.	5:20 a.m.		
Wed.	7:00 a.m.	5:39 p.m.	Wed.	4:16 p.m.	6:09 a.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	49	34	pc	45	38	r	59	34	pc	49	33	pc
Albuquerque, NM	47	26	r	45	27	c	49	28	pc	49	27	pc
Amarillo, TX	43	26	pc	43	25	c	45	23	pc	43	23	pc
Austin, TX	54	34	c	51	41	r	63	39	pc	59	38	pc
Brownsville, TX	55	48	r	63	54	r	70	55	r	71	55	pc
Dodge City, KS	45	23	s	47	20	pc	33	16	c	36	17	pc
Jackson, MS	52	26	pc	55	33	s	59	37	c	53	32	pc
Laredo, TX	49	44	r	56	45	r	68	52	r	68	50	pc
Little Rock, AR	44	26	s	51	33	s	49	32	c	44	26	pc
Lubbock, TX	43	30	pc	44	27	c	52	27	pc	48	27	pc
Memphis, TN	50	24	s	52	29	s	52	35	c	43	31	pc
Midland, TX	45	32	c	43	34	r	60	32	pc	52	32	pc
Pueblo, CO	51	13	pc	49	14	pc	43	17	c	38	14	sf
Roswell, NM	46	28	r	47	29	r	60	28	pc	52	28	s
St. Louis, MO	34	18	s	42	29	s	37	21	sf	33	19	pc
San Antonio, TX	54	40	c	54	43	r	64	44	pc	62	41	pc
Texarkana, AR	50	32	s	54	38	s	56	37	c	49	31	pc
Waco, TX	53	33	pc	51	41	r	60	39	pc	53	35	pc
Wichita, KS	43	23	s	48	27	pc	33	21	c	32	20	s

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

U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Atlanta	52	23	pc	52	25	s	58	35	pc	47	33	pc
Boston	22	9	sf	12	8	sf	34	24	pc	34	18	pc
Chicago	24	11	pc	31	25	pc	25	15	sf	22	13	c
Denver	48	23	pc	45	20	pc	37	16	c	37	16	c
Detroit	22	7	sn	22	20	pc	36	20	sf	25	16	sf
Houston	52	40	c	58	44	pc	63	45	r	62	43	pc
Indianapolis	26	8	sf	31	24	pc	37	22	sf	30	15	sf
Kansas City	35	24	s	46	27	pc	28	15	sf	29	14	pc
Los Angeles	74	47	s	63	47	pc	63	48	pc	68	48	pc
Miami	74	54	r	71	60	pc	74	65	c	77	62	r
Minneapolis	22	16	pc	32	16	sf	16	4	sf	17	5	pc
New Orleans	59	42	pc	57	44	s	62	47	c	60	44	pc
New York City	29	15	sf	22	17	sf	41	31	pc	38	26	pc
Omaha	28	21	pc	36	19	pc	22	11	c	15	9	s
Phoenix	65	45	s	65	45	pc	68	45	pc	68	46	s
San Francisco	55	44	pc	55	45	c	55	43	c	57	44	r
Seattle	46	36	r	46	35	c	46	35	pc	47	36	pc
Washington	34	20	sf	31	15	sf	47	33	pc	43	27	pc

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