



NEWSBRIEFS

Stranger alert

If a stranger walked into your home uninvited, you'd be alarmed. But if a stranger gained access to your computer, would you even know? Turning on the computer's firewall to block Internet access to your files and protecting your passwords are just a few of the helpful tips in *Get Net Safe* from Microsoft, the National Cyber Security Alliance, and the Federal Citizen Information Center, including suggestions for how to talk to your children about how to surf the Web safely. For a free copy, send name and address to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 594P, Pueblo, CO 81009. Or call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, and ask for Item 594P. Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov to place your order online or to read or print this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.

School board school

Area school board candidates and interested citizens can learn more about the demands and rewards of school board service at a candidate workshop, Thursday, March 1, 7-9 p.m. at the Region 19 Education Service Center, 6611 Boeing, Service Center/Paso del Norte #1. The workshop will provide a better understanding of what is involved in being elected and serving as a local trustee. Experienced school board members will explain board members' key responsibilities and outline the qualities necessary for effective service. Topics to be covered are what it's like to be a trustee, key responsibilities of the board, division of authority with staff, how to campaign constructively, and where to find more information. Participants will also view *A Call to Service*, a Texas Association of School Boards' video highlighting many aspects of board service and featuring several experienced school trustees. The workshop is free and open to anyone. For more information, call Tanya Barnett at TASB, 512-467-0222 or 800-580-8272, extension 6248, or check the TASB Web Site at www.lts.tasb.org/ candidates for other dates and locations.

In other news

■ El Paso leaders, media personalities, and successful professionals are participating in the San Elizario High School Career Day scheduled for Feb. 23 from 1-3:45 p.m. in the San Elizario High School Gymnasium. Over 40 presenters will be on hand to speak to San Elizario High School students about their professions. More than 600 students in grades 10, 11, and 12 will benefit. Confirmations include John Cook, Mayor of the City of El Paso; other City of El Paso representatives; Trini Lopez, Mayor of the City of Socorro; County Commissioner Luis Sarinana; Pedro Villagrana; Felipa Solis; and representatives from Western New Mexico University, Our Lady of the Lake University,

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Never before has the future so rapidly become the past.

— Quips & Quotes

New congressional representative for 23rd district visits El Paso County

Courier Staff Reports

EL PASO COUNTY — After visiting with elected officials and community leaders in El Paso, Clint, Fabens and Horizon City on Monday, Feb. 19, Congressman **Ciro D. Rodríguez** continued his tour of the 23rd congressional district on Tuesday, Feb. 20 with an early morning meeting in Sierra Blanca followed by Van Horn, Marfa and Fort Davis.

"As I travel throughout the 23rd congressional district, it is clear that my constituents in west Texas are ready for a new direction and want to see their leaders work together to get things done. That is why I am listening carefully to what Texans want their representatives and their congress to focus on," Rodríguez said.

Congressman Rodríguez has committed to visiting all 20 counties at least once every quarter during his first year as representative of the 23rd district.

While visiting in Clint, Rodríguez invited community leaders to breakfast at the Hilltop Cafe for a question/answer session. Clint mayor, Dale Reinhardt, was asked by Rodríguez to put forward the concerns of the area. The topics covered



— Photos by Rick Shrum

WHAT ARE YOUR ISSUES — When asked by **Ciro Rodríguez**, Clint mayor, **Dale Reinhardt** (right) responded with a list including: water, sewer, farms, healthcare, the elderly and veterans.

er were water and sewer, the construction of homes on viable farmland, health concerns of veterans and elderly, and education.

Currently there are 2,500 people in Clint with water connections but no sewer. Mario Aguilar, general manager for the Lower Valley Water District (LVWD) said that 80 percent of the homes are using cesspools. The schools have a sewer line.

He added that the LWVD is in the process of funding a program to provide first time sewer connections to its customers. The project will cost about \$7.5 million. The money is coming from two sources. USDA Rural Development grants will provide \$4 million and the other \$3.5 million will come in the form of loans from the Water Development Board.

Reinhardt pointed out that the sewer project would have a positive impact on all the other items up for discussion.

Illegal dumping of trash and tires in the desert was also discussed.

Rodríguez opened the meeting with a brief overview of his first weeks in Washington.



TELL HIM — **Ciro Rodríguez**, right, listened carefully as **Guillermo Alarcón** detailed some of the frustrations faced by veteran's who try to access government health care benefits in El Paso.

Socorro notary public convicted of deceptive business practices

*By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY — A Socorro notary public accused of engaging in deceptive business practices pleaded guilty to one count of engaging in Deceptive Business Practices by offering to provide immigration services to consumers in violation of Texas law.

Patricia Monroy, doing business as M&N Business Management Services, pled out on Friday, Feb. 16. The hearing took place at the County Criminal Court at Law #2.

After receiving the guilty plea from Monroy, Judge Robert Anchondo sentenced her to one year probation and to serve 100 hours of community service. She was also ordered to pay \$5,449 restitution to the four victimized consumers. Additionally Judge Anchondo ordered her to strictly comply with the terms of the settlement in a separate civil lawsuit filed against her by the Texas Attorney General's Of-



Patricia Monroy

fice for soliciting the preparation of immigration documents. The civil lawsuit identifies 16 other individuals who were victimized by the defendant. The settlement orders her to make full restitution to all the victims.

County Attorney Jose R. Rodríguez expressed satisfaction about the sentence. "Ms. Monroy took money from hard working immigrants promising them to perform services that were never rendered. This case must serve as an example to other notary publics who might be tempted to take advantage of the good will of immigrant families. In Texas, it is illegal for notary publics to do any immigration work. Notaries are not lawyers, and they should not even offer to fill out of immigration forms. I am committed to prosecute violators to the fullest extent of the law."

Convert to digital or lose ability to watch TV by 2009

*By Shermaze Ingram
Special to the Courier*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The deadline for television broadcasters to complete the transition from analog to digital television (DTV) is only two years away. But while the vast majority of television stations nationwide are already broadcasting in digital, the majority of Americans are completely unaware of the federally mandated transition, according to research by the National Association of Broadcasters.

Broadcasters have been preparing for the transition to digital television since the late 1990s, when they began building digital facilities and airing digital channels alongside regular analog broadcasts. Today, more than 1,500 television stations nationwide offer digital programming. In Texas, 121 high-power television stations out of 133 are already broadcasting in digital.

But while television stations are successfully making the transition, consumers remain unaware. According to research commissioned by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), 62 percent of consumers have "seen, read or heard nothing" about the DTV transition, and only four percent of respondents were able to identify 2009 as the year the transition would occur.

To increase consumer awareness of the Feb. 17, 2009 transition to digital television, the NAB has hired a four-person digital television transition team that will spearhead a national campaign to help consumers prepare for the transition. "We're running our consumer awareness campaign like a political campaign, with a great candidate in DTV and an election on Feb. 17, 2009," said Jonathan Collegio, vice president of the NAB's DTV transition team. "Unfortunately, our candidate has very little name ID. Our goal is to ensure that every American knows about the DTV transition and that no consumer loses television reception in 2009 due to a lack of information about the switchover."

More than 34 million households receive over-the-air television signals in their homes and will be affected by the end of analog broadcasting on Feb. 17, 2009. Consumers who receive free, over-the-air broadcasting exclusively on analog sets will have three options for continuing their television service:

- Purchase a set-top converter box that will convert the digital signal into analog for an existing television set;
- Purchase a new television set with a built-in-digital tuner; or
- Subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company television service provider.

Congress has appropriated up to \$1.5 billion to be spent on a coupon program for consumers who choose the option of purchasing converter boxes. The program is being administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and beginning Jan. 1, 2008, households will be able to request up to two coupons valued at \$40 each to go toward the purchase of a single set-top converter box.

The transition from analog to digital

See TV, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A word of warning

“They don’t fly and they can’t swim.”

These were helpful hints offered when we purchased cell phones and it has held true. I’ve also found they don’t like lemonade, even if it’s a tiny drop.

Right after my daughter got her first cell phone, she dropped it on the unyielding tiles of the school hallway. It didn’t fly. It landed with a solid thud and promptly treated her to a flat gray screen for a few minutes. After frantic begging and thumping, it came back to life, but that phone, also, has developed personality quirks that aren’t stock to the model.

Cell phones certainly don’t like to swim. A friend of mine recently bought himself an all-bells-and-whistles-included PDA. How happy he was, with all that technology at his fingertips.

The first day he had it, he proudly showed me all its special features. A few minutes later, on break from class, he made a trip to the bathroom. He returned with a stricken look on his face and began dismantling his new toy, frantically dabbing at the parts with a paper towel.

“What on earth are you doing?” I asked, astonished.

“I dropped it in the pot,” he said sadly.

It started working later — he didn’t mention if he had to give it CPR — but from that time forward it had strange little quirks he couldn’t explain.

At least he didn’t try what one cell phone label warned against: “Don’t try to dry your cell phone in the microwave.”

Now you’d think that people

would know better. But like the fellow at the cell phone store who gave us helpful hints about what cell phones can and cannot do, it seems that Americans need all sorts of instructions to keep them from using products in ways they were clearly never intended to be used.

Or maybe it’s just a vain attempt to keep consumers for suing companies should their common sense take a leave of absence.

I was recently reading about an anti-lawsuit group out of Detroit, Michigan which sponsors the Wacky Warning Label Contest. Every year they gather the strangest, most absurd labels written and posted by manufacturers — a humorous illustration of just how weird warning labels can get in a vain attempt to cover all the legal bases.

Many of the strangest labels involve our kids.

Now, you’d think if we went to all that trouble to birth ‘em, feed ‘em and protect ‘em we’d be careful where we put them. Or not.

Top winner in this year’s contest was posted on the door of a front-loading washing machine. It read: “DO NOT put any person in this washer.”

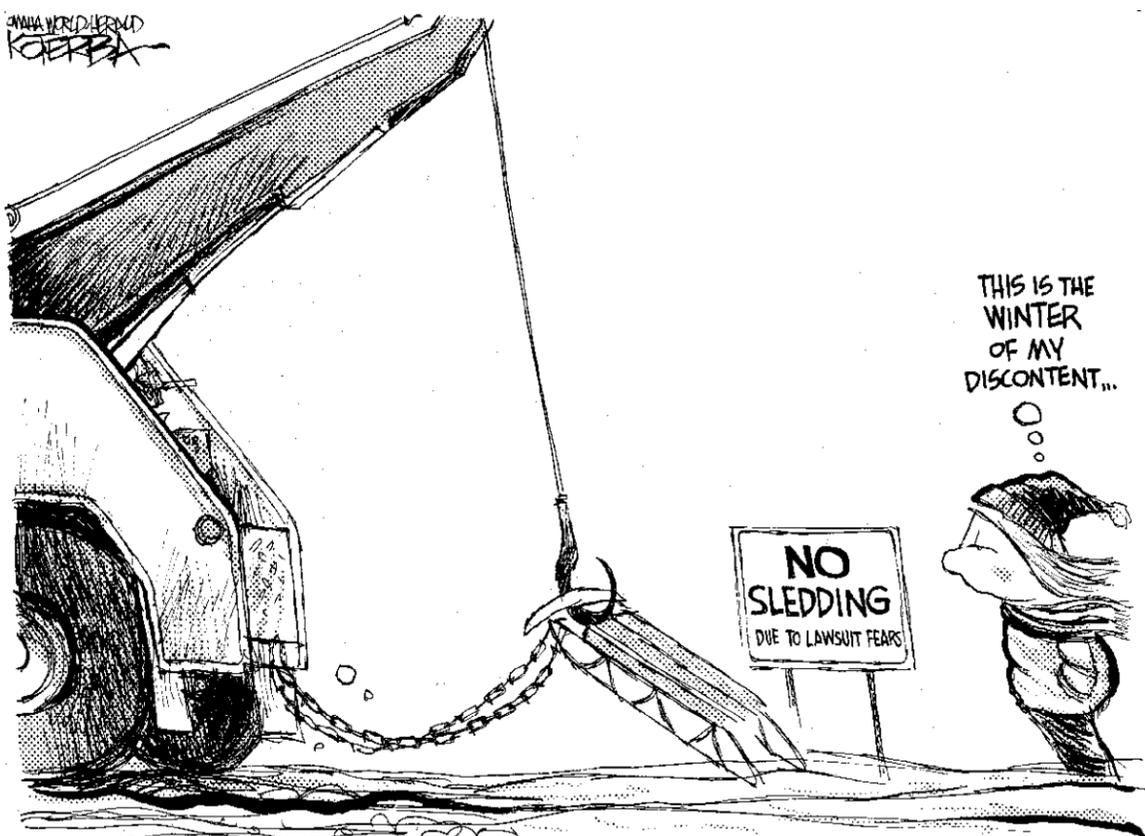
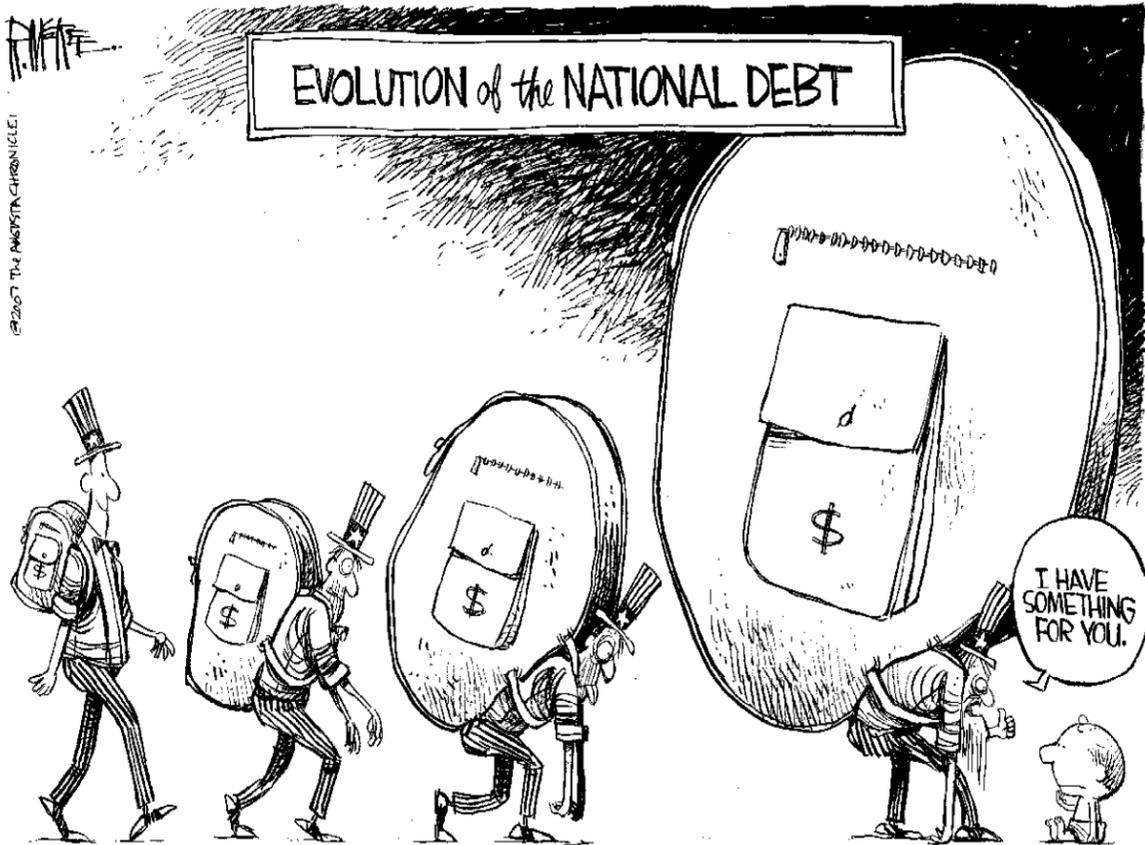
Apparently, someone had.

Robert B. Dorigo Jones, president of the Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch which sponsors the contest has written a book with a title that includes the warning: “Remove child before folding.”

Another winner in the contest was this enlightened instruction found on a personal watercraft: “Never use a lit match or open flame to check fuel level.”

A Super Lotto ticket carried the

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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View from here

By Marc A. Levin

Legislature must empower Texas crime victims

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently overturned a murder conviction — solely because the victim’s brother sat in the courtroom wearing a small pin with a photo of the victim on it.

Fortunately, a December decision by the U.S. Supreme Court reversed this miscarriage of justice and reinstated the conviction. But this case, *Carey v. Musladin*, demonstrates how victims have been marginalized from not only the courtroom, but the entire criminal justice system.

The 80th Texas Legislature should act to restore the primacy of victims.

First, restitution must be more than an empty promise. Only one-third of restitution owed to crime victims is actually collected. House Corrections Committee Chairman Jerry Madden (R-Plano) is filing a constitutional amendment to allow Texas judges to order the garnishment of an offender’s wages to pay restitution. Currently, the Texas Constitution only permits garnishment for child support, but restitution to crime victims is equally important.

Texas can also strengthen restitu-

tion for crime victims by linking the funding of probation departments to their restitution collections. Not all departments report their collections to the state.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation, based on our research, has recommended to the Corrections Committee that five percent of basic adult probation funding be tied to restitution collections so that departments receive 9.4 cents for every dollar in restitution they collect. Such performance-based funding will encourage departments to maximize their efforts in collecting restitution, which should include assisting offenders with finding work and effectively managing their finances.

However, victims cannot drink from a well that is dry, and inmates earn no money to pay restitution. The Legislature should promote the availability of victim-offender mediation as a voluntary alternative to traditional prosecution and incarceration in cases involving minor property offenses by first-time offenders.

Such mediations result in a written agreement that typically requires

restitution, community service, and counseling, which is then ratified by the prosecutor or judge. Failure to comply subjects the offender to traditional prosecution and, if necessary, incarceration.

Victim-offender mediation results in improved restitution collection, better offender outcomes, and reduced costs. There are more than 300 such programs in North America and their success is well documented. Some 95 percent of cases mediated result in a written agreement, and 90 percent of these restitution agreements are completed within one year, giving victims a sense of closure.

This indicates that coming face-to-face with a victim instills a moral obligation in many offenders. And because completion of the agreement avoids a conviction, offenders are more likely to hold a job that enables them to pay restitution. Victim-offender mediation has also been found to reduce recidivism by 32 percent.

Furthermore, mediations cost \$250 per case, a fraction of the cost of court

See EMPOWER, Page 3



"THEY COULDN'T TELL US FOR SURE THAT IT WOULD RAIN TODAY, BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THEY CAN ACCURATELY PREDICT THE WEATHER 50 YEARS FROM NOW?!"



Warning

From Page 2

warning: "Do not iron."

The publishers of a phone book directory — or maybe their lawyers — thought to print this on their cover: "Please do not use this directory while operating a moving vehicle."

With all these warning signs needed to keep Americans from doing things they shouldn't with simple

manufactured items, it only follows that perhaps we should extend these kinds of instructions to more serious sides of life.

A few might include: "Do not apply for this credit card if you are not experienced in the handling of money."

Or: "Do not become pregnant until you are mature enough to raise a kid."

Or maybe: "Do not sign this marriage license until you have consulted at least five grown-ups who care

deeply about what happens to you."

Of course, these instructions aren't commonly seen for logical reasons. For one, where would you post them? Never mind, don't answer that. Secondly, when people misuse their lives, who can they sue?

Maybe the anti-lawsuit group should post their ultimate personal responsibility signs on every bathroom mirror so we can see it first thing in the morning.

It should read: "The buck stops here."

Empower

From Page 2

proceedings, let alone incarceration. The state could impose an offender fee paid by property offenders upon conviction or a participant fee for offenders who choose victim-offender mediation that would cover the up front cost of grants to local district attorney's offices for such programs.

Victim-offender mediation is not for everyone, but many victims of minor property offenses primarily want answers, an apology, and restitution — all of which only the de-

fendant can provide. Victims deserve this option in such cases and studies suggest 60 to 70 percent would choose it.

Finally, Texas must ensure that restitution and other priorities of victims are fully incorporated in sentencing. Plea bargaining accounts for 90 percent of sentences, but Texas is not among the 22 states that require prosecutors to obtain the victim's opinion concerning a proposed plea.

Arizona requires prosecutors to consult with victims, guarantees victims the right to be present and heard during any settlement discussions, and requires that judges consider the victim's viewpoint in deciding whether to accept the plea. Texas law

only says the judge must "inquire as to whether a victim impact statement has been returned."

We must not view crime as simply an offense against the state, and instead ensure that crime victims have a place in the courtroom and a seat at the table. The marginalization of victims is not only unjust, but deprives us of the public safety benefits that are only realized when an offender's conscience is awakened upon realizing the harm caused to another human being.

Marc A. Levin, Esq. is Director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation (www.texaspolicy.com). He can be reached at mlevin@texaspolicy.com.



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

HARD WORK PAYS OFF — These students are heading for the BPA State Conference. Shown from left are Steven Mercado, Alyssa O'Hara, Joel Fierro, Jeremy Rubio, Jonathan Roman, Marisela Higareda, Jonathan Lucero, and Andy Chavez (kneeling).

Business students qualify for BPA State Leadership Conference

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Top students from Mountain View High School in the Clint Independent School District qualified to attend the Business Professionals of America (BPA) 2007 State Leadership Conference, in Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 28 - March 3, 2007, based on their top rankings at the Regional Leadership Conference, Jan. 26-27, at Canutillo High School.

Mountain View chapter members now have the opportunity to join 2,000 other conference delegates from across the state to participate in state level business skill competitions, general sessions, and the state officer candidate campaigns and elections.

"The conference emphasizes business workforce education and Information Technology competitions which local BPA students at Mountain View have received here at the IT Institute. Our students have worked hard on their projects and at

practices all year to get to this point," said chapter advisors Dustin Blystone and Janis Andrade, who teach Career and Technology Education courses.

The following students have qualified to compete at the state level in Team Events: Video Production - Marisela Higareda and Jonathan Lucero; Network Design Team - Cesar Santos and Jeremy Rubio; Website Design - Jonathan Roman and Sandra Perez; Website Application - Alyssa O'Hara, Steven Mercado, Joel Fierro and Joseph DeLoera.

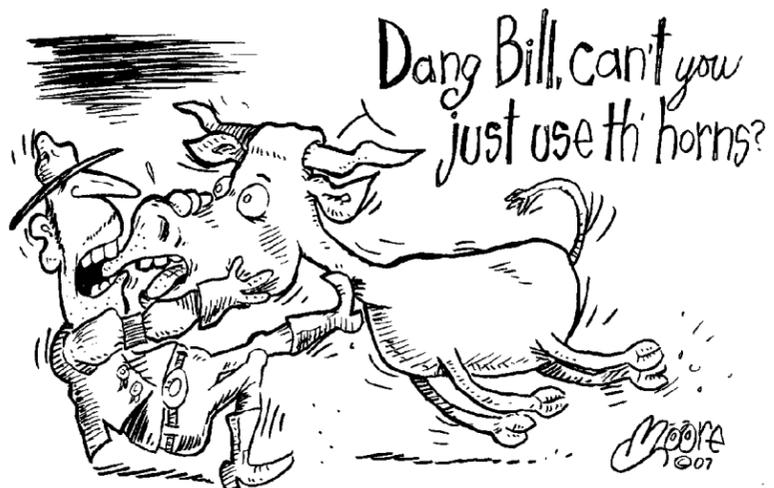
Qualifiers for individual events are Digital Media - Jonathan Lucero; PC Servicing and Troubleshooting - Cesar Santos; Computer Network Technologies - Marisela Higareda; Microsoft Network Administration - Joshua Sones; Cisco - Steven Mercado; Database Applications - Nataly Garcia; XHTML - Jonathan Roman.

Business Professionals of America is a national organization for middle school, high school, and college students preparing for careers in business and office occupations.

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Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Famous black cowboy Bill Pickett from Taylor Texas invented "Bulldogging"...with a twist...he bit the animal's upper lip to help subdue and upend his victim in record time.

Briefs

From Page 1

UTEP, EPCC, Adult Probation and several others. "We want the students to be exposed to as many careers as possible and learn about the world of work from these presenters," said Irene Rodriguez, a counselor at San Elizario High School. The event is open to the San Elizario community. For more information, contact Rodriguez at (915) 872-3970 ext. 3778.

Oz Glaze Senior Citizens Center is inviting senior adults to participate in exercise classes and other weekly activities. For more information, call 852-0062

■ The El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez has been granted the "Vision Award" conferred every year by the El Paso Chief of Police to individuals or organizations distinguished for their outstanding community service. The award was presented during the 2006 Chief's Annual Awards Ceremony at the El Paso Country Club on Feb. 9, 2007. El Paso Chief of Police Richard D. Wiles explained that the award was given to the County Attorney for implementing several initiatives including settlement with the big tobacco companies; recovery of bail bond forfeitures; prosecuting hot check writers; increasing protection for neglected children and the elderly as well as for victims of family violence; creating the Community Safety Zone in collaboration with the



José Rodríguez

Police Department to stop gang violence in downtown El Paso; establishing the first Teen Court that offers young offenders an opportunity to make restitution for their offenses through community service, educational classes, and jury service; and helping to initiate the first Family Drug Court that assists the offenders in abstaining from drugs and crime. Rodríguez has been El Paso County Attorney for the last 14 years.

■ A workplace safety seminar will be held in El Paso by the Texas Dept. of Insurance Division of Workers' Compensation on March 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Camino Real Hotel, 101 South El Paso Street. Cost is \$125 per person, with registration at 7:30 a.m. For more information call 512-804-4610 or visit

www.tdi.state.tx.us/we/services/employers.html.

■ Pre-K Pre-Registration for the Vista Del Sol Pre-K Hub will be held on Saturday, March 3, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. for the Vista Del Sol, Hurshel Antwine and Sgt. Roberto Ituarte attendance area. Children registering must be four years old by Sept. 1, and accompanying parent or guardian should present birth certificate, immunization record, Social Security card, and proof of residency. Vista Del Sol Kinder registration will also be held during the same date and time. Call the campus for further inf

■ The El Paso Police Department will participate in a statewide warrant roundup beginning March 3 through March 10, 2007. Law enforcement agencies from over 150 jurisdictions will be executing thousands of warrants. The emphasis of this roundup is for Class C Misdemeanor warrants, but other warrants are included in the roundup. It is not too late to avoid jail. Anyone with outstanding warrants is encouraged to take care of his or her responsibility before the roundup begins.

■ Americas High School theater troupe will present *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward on Feb. 26 - 27, 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., and on March 14 - 15 at 6:30 p.m. The presentation is a comedy about a writer who wishes to learn about people who communicate with the dead. He holds a seance to learn, and accidentally brings his dead wife back to live with him and his current wife. Ticket prices are \$5 per adult, \$3 per student and \$2

for groups of 25 or more. For more information, contact Tom Haase at thaase@sisd.net or 937-3077.

■ More than 50 Socorro Independent School District High School students will head to the annual Sun Country Regional Science Fair. Out of 139 entries, 62 will represent Socorro ISD at the regional competition held at UTEP on Feb. 24. Among those students will be SISD Sweepstakes winners Cesar Torres, Javier Stell-Fresquez and Aaron Garcia. Torres, a sophomore at Americas High School, won first place in his category of Environmental Science along with the Sweepstake award. His project, *Global Warming and the World of Tomorrow*, projected how countries around the world would undergo climate changes. The team sweepstakes winners of Javier Stell-Fresquez and Aaron Garcia also focused on environmental science. Their project researched how Global Warming would impact the Ecosystem. Other winning projects included Daniel Ibarra's *Magnetization of Seeds*. His project proved how magnetization altered seeds. Studied over a 40 day period, the magnetized seeds grew more than regular seeds, 46.3 centimeters compared to 37.7 centimeters.

■ What's the leading cause of death for U.S. women? If you guessed breast cancer, you gave the same answer many Americans would. But more women die each year from heart disease than from breast cancer, even though taking simple steps can prevent it. Learn more about heart disease and the ways you can prevent it with the free Heart Health package of pub-

lications from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the MetLife Consumer Education Center, and the Federal Citizen Information Center. This is American Heart Month, and it's the perfect time to learn how to keep your heart in shape. Start by visiting your doctor to find out what your cholesterol and blood pressure levels are. If your numbers are high, or even if they're only slightly elevated, just a few changes in your lifestyle can make all the difference. Build exercise into your day by taking the stairs instead of the elevator or parking farther away from the store and walking across the parking lot. Think about what you eat, too. You can start eating in a heart-friendly way by ordering smaller portions in restaurants. Or keep fresh fruits and veggies on hand for snack attacks. And develop ways to keep calm when your stress level gets high. Try taking a short walk to unwind, listening to soothing music, or learning how to meditate. For a free package send name and address to Heart Health, Pueblo, Colorado 81009. Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n57hearthealth.htm to place your order online or to read or print these and hundreds of other Federal publications for free. Call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time and ask for the Heart Health package. Get even more information and take advantage of online government services resources at www.USA.gov and www.GobiernoUSA.gov — your official English and Spanish web portals to the Federal government.

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Saturday Adoption: 8am - Noon
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— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

GREAT PARTY! — Canutillo High School Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students helped host a reception for Ralph Chavez. Shown from left are Norby Padilla, Tania Romero, Joseph Estorga, Katrina Nunez, Kevin Guerrero, Honoree Ralph Chavez, and Stella Scott, FCCLA sponsor.

Canutillo High School students use new skills to host reception

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School students in the Food Science and Technology classes were given an opportunity to apply classroom lessons to a real-life experience recently. These students planned, prepared and hosted a reception for the dedication of the new CHS gymnasium complex by the CISD Board of Trustees in honor of Ralph Chavez, a former CISD coach and teacher.

The reception was held for Chavez, his family, friends, and former players, before the start of the boys' varsity basketball game. Students participating in the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) organization designed and created unique decorations, arranged, prepared, and provided an assortment of delicious foods, dessert and bev-

erages for about 100 guests.

"My students knew that the large task involved a lot of pre-planning and organization, and in the end they were very impressed with themselves as was I. My 5th, 6th, and 7th period classes also helped tremendously in the pre-preparation of the selected menu," said Stella Scott, FCCLA advisor and food science instructor at CHS. "They are a great group of kids," she added.

TV

From Page 1

television represents the most significant advancement of television technology since color TV was introduced. Digital broadcasting makes more efficient use of the spectrum, making it possible for stations to broadcast multiple programming streams simultaneously within the same amount of spectrum and offer superb clarity of picture and sound through high definition television (HDTV). The transition to digital will also free up the airwaves for first responders in cases of emergencies.

"Consumers in many markets are already enjoying the benefits of digital television, including crystal-clear programming, more channel choices and better sound quality," said Collegio.

For more information about the DTV transition, visit www.dtv.gov.



Edgar Argo

Mission Early College High School students head to state finals

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Ten Mission Early College High School students will be heading to Corpus Christi at the end of February to take part in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) state competition. These students placed in the top

three in various categories during a weekend competition at Canutillo High School including first place wins for the Global Marketing Team of Felicia Garcia, Jaime Mendoza and Rebecca Solis and Chelsea Melton for Parliamentary Procedures. Joining them in Corpus Christi will be Valeria Minjarez, Serita Smith, Gerardo Hernandez, Juan Dorado, Karla Jimenez, and

Laura Padilla.

Other BPA members who placed well in their categories were Edna Vasquez who took third; Alejandra Escareno who placed fourth; and Cassandra Barraza who took fifth. Adrian Flores and Nelly Campos both finished in the top five in their categories. This group of freshmen students competed against upper classmen from high school across the region.

State contest looms on horizon for nine from Canutillo

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Nine Canutillo HS students qualified to advance to state finals after taking top honors in various business contests during the regional Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) area competition held recently at Del Valle High School.

CHS first place finishers were Miriam Garcia, Richard Sifuentes, Christy Cereceres, Carlos Carrasco, Andrea Figueroa, Desmond Sapien. Second place qualifier is Eddie Estrada, and third place qualifiers are Stephanie Montoya and Melodie Armendariz.

Almost 300 students from area school districts participated in the competition that qualified high school students to advance and rep-

resent the El Paso area in the FBLA State Conference. This year's state conference will be held March 8-10 at the Abraham Chavez Theater in El Paso.

"The opportunity to meet and compete against other students from across the state is a great opportunity and a stepping stone for my students to qualify for Nationals," said Carmen Guzman, CHS Business teacher and FBLA advisor.

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

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	SEISD Facility Corporation	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,126,059	\$ 5,613	\$ 157,915	\$ 2,289,587
5800 State Program Revenues	24,051,933	—	1,640,244	25,692,177
5900 Federal Program Revenues	2,532,940	—	4,572,219	7,105,159
5020 Total Revenues	28,710,932	5,613	6,370,378	35,086,923
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	13,550,840	—	3,833,749	17,384,589
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	478,183	—	105,747	583,930
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	291,565	—	560,052	851,617
0021 Instructional Leadership	370,610	—	227,153	597,763
0023 School Leadership	2,052,298	—	49,961	2,102,259
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,087,705	—	19,483	1,107,188
0032 Social Work Services	37,288	—	138,692	175,980
0033 Health Services	347,787	—	14,929	362,716
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	971,920	—	11,087	983,007
0035 Food Services	2,347,461	—	57,947	2,405,408
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	510,288	—	—	510,288
0041 General Administration	1,436,477	—	10,875	1,447,352
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	3,341,924	—	29,039	3,370,963
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	575,962	—	13,752	589,714
0053 Data Processing Services	503,476	—	78,817	582,293
0061 Community Services	—	—	184,987	184,987
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	711,000	—	695,000	1,406,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	374,741	—	301,630	676,371
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	12,932	—	910	13,842
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	—	1,247,928	—	1,247,928
Intergovernmental:				
0091 Contracted Instructional Services Between Schools	37,750	—	—	37,750
6030 Total Expenditures	29,040,207	1,247,928	6,333,810	36,621,945
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(329,275)	(1,242,315)	36,568	(1,535,022)
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	2,059,159	782,771	162,31	3,003,961
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 1,729,884	\$ (459,544)	\$ 198,599	\$ 1,468,939

Hardaway's future uncertain after radio show tirade

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are people in this world who are great at multi-tasking, guys who are very good at several things at once. And then there are guys who should just stick to what they know and end it there.

Here's an example. Put a basketball in the hands of former UTEP star Tim Hardaway and you've got one of the best basketball players in NBA history.

Put a microphone in front of his face — not quite as good.

After last week's declaration on a sports radio talk show by Hardaway that he hates gay people, you have to ask yourself a very important question — what the heck was he thinking, or drinking?

Hardaway made the biggest mistake of his life by uttering how he felt about gay people. He said that he hated them, that he wouldn't want to play with them and that there was no place for them in the world and the United States.

Now it's bad enough to feel hatred for a group of people, but to lack self-control and express it openly to the world is downright idiotic.

Hardaway's bitter words were played in every news, entertainment and political show in America last week. Though Hardaway later apologized, his good name was tarnished forever in about four short minutes.

But his were not the only ridiculous words uttered last week.

Let's not be fooled by the words of NBA Commissioner David Stern, who spoke soon after Hardaway's incident. Stern said that Hardaway would not be allowed to participate in any NBA events because the league could not be connected with his kind of attitude.

Stern said there was no room in the NBA for that sort of thing.

This is where I scratch my head. I guess Stern figures it's okay for his league to associate with guys who rape and beat woman. For guys who use and deal drugs, guys who illegally carry firearms, guys who gamble, guys who fight in the stands and guys who commit assault outside the arena. And then there are the guys who steal and guys who abuse alcohol.

C'mon, Stern, don't take this opportunity to try to make us believe the NBA has suddenly found its moral compass.

As for Hardaway, his stupidity will follow him wherever he goes for the rest of his life.

He should have known that you don't have to agree with everyone's lifestyle or choices or morality, but there are intelligent and respectful ways to state that.

But the best advice I could have given Hardaway was, "for goodness sake, man, keep your dumb, bigoted comments to yourself."

And here's one more thing. Hardaway's name will be up for Hall of Fame consideration in the next few years. I'm positive he can kiss that goodbye.

Family man

I'm not exactly a fan of the Philadelphia Eagles but I am a great admirer of their coach. Andy Reid has done a great job of leading the Eagles near the top of the NFL mountain.

But his priorities have taken a swift change. He's taken a leave of absence to try his hand at another job, an even tougher job — being a parent.

Reid's sons have made headlines recently, one for testing positive for heroine and the other for drug and weapons charges.

His 21-year-old son Britt got into trouble after he pointed a handgun at another driver after a dispute. He also lied to police, made terroristic threats and was in possession of a

controlled substance.

Garrett, the 23-year-old, caused a traffic accident and tested positive for heroine.

Oh yeah, I think coach Reid should stay home for a while and tend to his family. Football is great, but football is absolutely useless without your family.

Baseball's here

Remember when the temperatures were hovering around the freezing mark and it eventually snowed a few weeks ago? Well, baseball players reported to Major League Baseball training camp last week and that news has warmed me up just fine.

Can you believe that the baseball regular season will get underway in just six short weeks?

It's time to start thinking about how the New York Yankees will do without slugger Gary Sheffield in the lineup. It's time to wonder whether the Boston Red Sox acquisition of that very rich Japanese pitcher comes with a pennant.

Will the Detroit Tigers repeat their fantastic season of a year ago? Will Barry Bonds hit 22 home runs before he is indicted for perjury?

These and many other intriguing questions will be answered very soon. Hey, are you craving a bag of peanuts, too?

SISD sends 11 wrestlers from three schools to tournament

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Eleven student-athletes from Socorro Independent School District head to Austin to compete in the Wrestling State Tournament. The student athletes will compete against schools

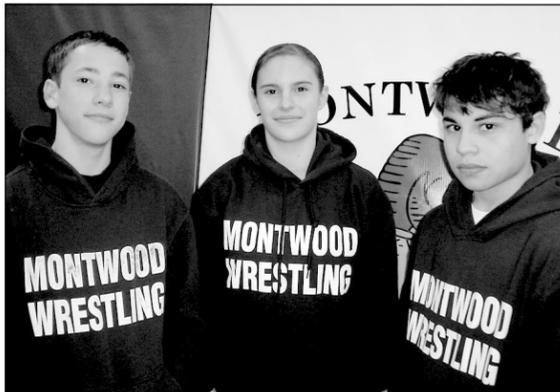
from across Texas on Feb. 23 and 24, 2007 in Austin, Texas.

Representing Americas High School are five seniors. They are Roxy Arzola, Andrew Cigarroa, Daniel Perales, Rudy Reyes and Anthony Valenzuela. The Montwood High School team of Freshman Alex Silva, and Juniors Nicole Silva, and Jesus Urbina and the Socorro High



— Photos courtesy Socorro ISD

AWESOME — America's will send five seniors — Roxy Arzola, Andrew Cigarroa, Daniel Perales, Rudy Reyes and Anthony Valenzuela to Austin.



MIGHTY — Montwood's Alex Silva, Nicole Silva, and Jesus Urbina will compete in Austin, Texas at the Wrestling State Tournament.

School team of Senior Deicy Cervantes, Junior Myra Diaz, and Senior Edie Gamboa complete the SISD contingent. These athletes qualified for the state tournament after placing in the top four in regional meets.

While the majority of these students have been in the wrestling pro-



STUPENDOUS — Socorro High will be represented by Deicy Cervantes, Myra Diaz, and Edie Gamboa. These athletes qualified for the state tournament after placing in the top four in regional meets.

gram throughout high school, high school, but their teammate Valenzuela at Americas High School Cervantes is working on her first and final year which was marked with a first place finish in her regional meet and her first trip to the Wrestling State Tournament.

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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

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Will that be regular or decaf?

By Don Flood

We have good news on the doughnut news front.

Dr. Robert Bohannon, a molecular scientist with too much time on his hands, has developed a way to produce *caffeinated* doughnuts.

Finally! No more trying to wake yourself up with a breakfast of coffee and decaf doughnuts.

Between the coffee and the new doughnuts, which have the same caffeine content as two cups of coffee (but which size? Tall? Grande? El Mucho Biggo Grande?), you'll be cranked up until next April.

Bohannon, in a jittery news conference where he talked way too fast, appeared fairly upbeat — having eaten two dozen of his creations that morning — but expressed regret that he wasn't able to follow through with his idea for crystal meth doughnuts. "Krispy Kreme and Dunkin' Donuts just totally wimped out," he screamed at the top of his lungs.

OK, that last paragraph wasn't exactly true, in the sense it was a fabrication, but who exactly was demanding caffeinated doughnuts?

It's hard enough now to pick out a dozen doughnuts. You get a few of these and a few of those and the people are waiting behind you and you haven't had any coffee yet so you can't think clearly and the pressure builds and builds and builds until you finally start choosing those nasty doughnuts that nobody eats.

They just sit and sit in the box until you have no choice but, well, to eat them anyway.

But now it's going to be worse: "Do you want regular or decaf doughnuts?"

And with all this caffeine coursing through our veins, how will America relax?

No problem. We recently got the word from Drew Barrymore.

There's nothing I find more useful in the Sunday papers than relaxation tips, especially from movie stars, who are experts at relaxation, so much so that they are continually checking into rehab to recover from their extensive relaxation activities.

Barrymore did not disappoint. Here, printed verbatim from Parade magazine, is how Barrymore becomes "one with nature."

(Which is really a good thing, unless of course you're in one of those countless places where nature is yucky and filled with bugs.)

"I'll drive in Ireland and park my car and run out into the field and rip all my clothes off and just run in the wheat fields naked."

Excellent! But what if you can't make it to Ireland's wheat fields?

Not to worry. Any field will do. In fact, if you're really hopped up on coffee and doughnuts you might want to try it on the freeway.

Also on the food and beverage news front is a report of a non-alcoholic beer made especially for dogs.

This is good news, especially if your dog serves as your designated driver.

But be warned. The doggy beer, called Kwispelbier, costs four times more than a Heineken, a pretty expensive beer; so don't serve it unless your dog is a real connoisseur.

And, if he is driving, keep some caffeinated doughnuts on hand to make sure he stays awake.

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King Super Crossword

I LOVE NEW YORK

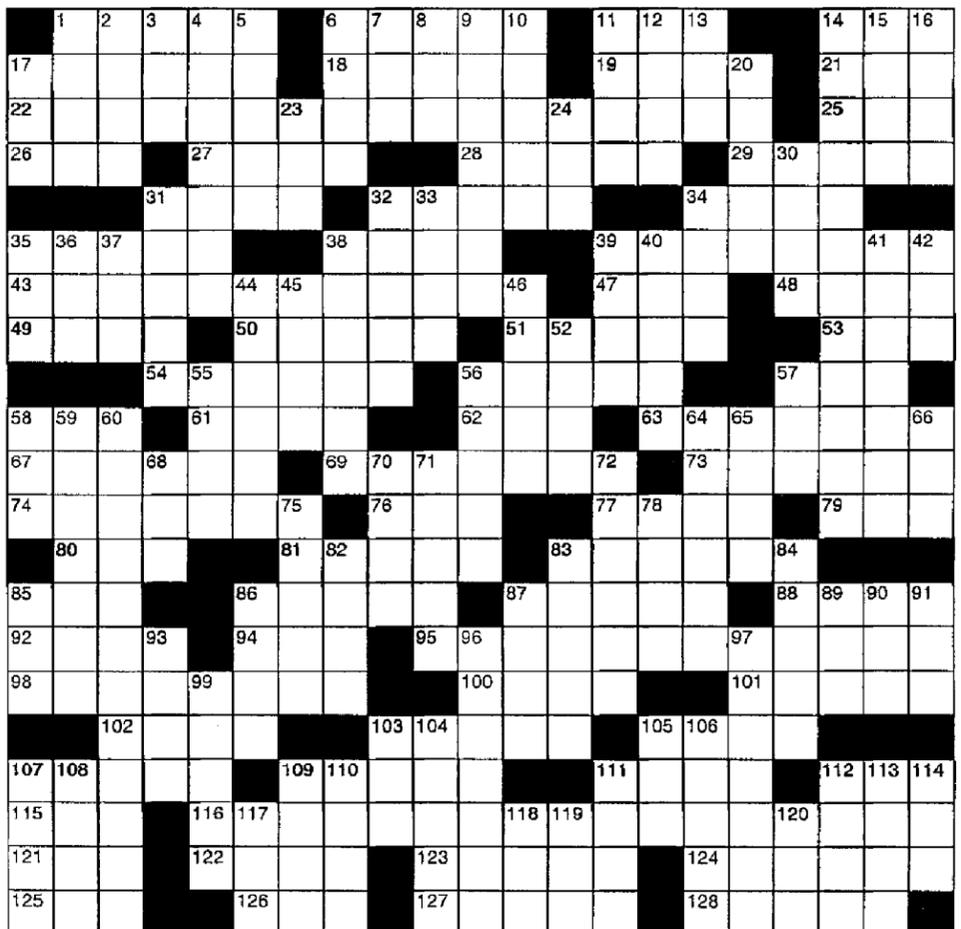
- ACROSS**
 1 _ France
 6 Literary genre
 11 One of the Bushes
 14 Unrefined
 17 Chemical compound
 18 More advanced
 19 Basilica area
 21 Paleozoic _
 22 RYE
 25 New Jersey fort
 26 Where the buoys are
 27 Article
 28 To the point
 29 Lightheaded
 31 High-pitched instrument
 32 Detective Vance
 34 Delhi wrap
 35 Mrs. Kramden
 38 Zip, to Zola
 39 Cyd of "Silk Stockings"
 43 HARRISON
 47 _ Doll" ('64 hit)
 48 Food fish
 49 Chaplin prop
 50 Come up again
 51 Go
 53 Bikini half
 54 Gratitude
 56 One of the Hobbits
 57 Murcia Mrs.
 58 Wine word
 61 Concerning

- 62 _ -tzu
 63 "The Godfather" director
 67 TV's "Ensign -"
 69 Downfall
 73 Warmed up
 74 Infant
 76 Caustic stuff
 77 Soprano Dal Monte
 79 "Waking _ Devine" (98 film)
 80 Slugger's stat
 81 Let up
 83 Coarse
 85 Year, in Yucatan
 86 "The Merry Widow" composer
 87 Tendon
 88 Composer Nino
 92 "Martha the Mouth"
 94 Altar answer
 95 BUFFALO
 98 Barge
 100 All nerves
 101 Public
 102 Susa's locale
 103 Actress
 109 Fancy fiddle
 111 Like molasses
 112 Wee one
 115 Blazer part
 116 ROCHESTER
 121 _ bind

- 122 Balder's dad
 123 Willow
 124 '59 Marty Robbins hit
 125 Cariou or Deighton
 126 Prone
 127 Stand out in the crowd
 128 Use rollerblades
- DOWN**
 1 Acknowledgment phrase
 2 "Damn Yankees" siren
 3 RCA competitor
 4 Unit of loudness
 5 Melpomene's sister
 6 Believe
 7 "Treasure Island" monogram
 8 Commercials
 9 Rendezvous
 10 Synthetic fiber
 11 Pantry stock
 12 Duel tool
 13 Youth org.
 14 AUBURN
 15 Parched
 16 Like some buildup
 17 Drivers' lics., e.g.
 20 Painter Degas
 23 Peg for Palmer
 24 Buddy
 30 Author Murdoch
 31 Mid-size band

- 32 Devout
 33 "Mein _" ("Cabaret" tune)
 34 Wise guy?
 35 Easy as _
 36 Massari or Thompson
 37 Singer Janis
 38 Calculate
 39 Seashore sidler
 40 Devastation
 41 Universally liked one?
 42 Author LeShan
 44 Pencil topper
 45 Fellow
 46 Inventor Howe
 52 "The Time Machine" people
 55 Sign of sanctity
 56 Run in the wash
 57 Mineral spring
 58 Offspring
 59 Likely to last?
 60 TROY
 64 Canada's capital
 65 Crooner Collins
 66 Find the sum
 68 Ben _ -Wan
 Kenobi
 70 Lohengrin's love
 71 Powers' portrayal
 72 Cheap
 75 "I _ vacation!"
 78 Carry out orders
 82 "Cat on _ Tin Roof"
 83 '39 Wimbledon

- winner
 84 Transmission setting
 85 Pound sound
 86 A roaring success?
 87 Mean Marquis
 89 Cockney's abode
 90 Pitch
 91 Cockpit fig.
 93 Raison d'_
 96 Woodstock performer
 97 Connecticut city
 99 It's played with a plectrum
 103 Exist
 104 Crystal of country
 105 Pie _ mode
 106 Prepares pears
 107 Sheep's shaker
 108 Sarah _ Jewett
 109 Cut a cuticle
 110 Nomad pad
 111 Cartoonist Silverstein
 112 "L'_, c'est moi"
 113 _ majesty
 114 To and _
 117 Periodontists' org.
 118 Catchall abbr.
 119 _ Guevara
 120 No. cruncher



Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: My brother and I are both retired and get Social Security benefits. We worked side by side in the same factory for years, but he gets a higher Social Security payment. Why does he get more?

A: Unless you are twins and made exactly the same amount every year of your careers, you wouldn't get the same benefits as your brother. Social Security benefits are based on your age and your lifetime of earnings — generally the top 35 years. In order

to get the same benefit as your brother, you and he must have been the same age, had the same earnings for each year and would had to have started and stopped working at the same time. To learn more about Social Security benefits, visit Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: My 3-year old son is autistic. My husband and I have been told that he

may be eligible for disability benefits from Social Security. How would he qualify for benefits? My husband and I both work full time and pay Social Security taxes.

A: Social Security administers the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI) which does pay disability benefits to some children. SSI is a needs-based program, so if your family is having a hard time making ends meet, your son might qualify for a monthly SSI payment. And if he gets SSI, he might also get Medicaid coverage. The only other way your son would qualify for payments is as a dependent on either your or your

husband's Social Security record. When either you or your husband retire — or if either one of you becomes disabled and begins drawing a Social Security disability payment — he could collect because he's your dependent child. To learn more, visit Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: I'm planning to move back to Puerto Rico so I can be closer to my family. I know you have to live in the United States to get SSI (Supplemental Security Income). Does Puerto Rico count, since it is a U.S. territory?

A: No, it does not. To receive SSI, you must be a resident of a state in the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands. For more information about SSI, visit Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have questions you would like 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

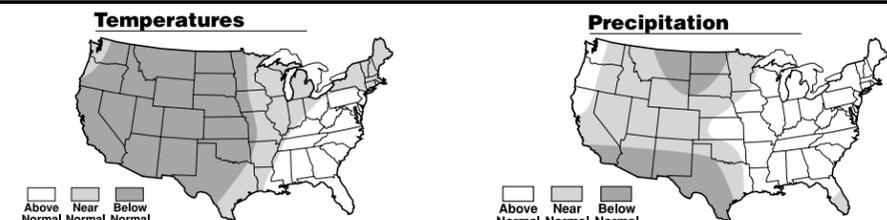
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WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY



Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	First	Full
Thu.	6:41 a.m.	5:58 p.m.	Thu.	9:41 a.m.	none		
Fri.	6:40 a.m.	5:58 p.m.	Fri.	10:22 a.m.	12:03 a.m.		
Sat.	6:39 a.m.	5:59 p.m.	Sat.	11:10 a.m.	1:12 a.m.		
Sun.	6:38 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	Sun.	12:05 p.m.	2:17 a.m.		
Mon.	6:37 a.m.	6:01 p.m.	Mon.	1:05 p.m.	3:16 a.m.		
Tues.	6:36 a.m.	6:02 p.m.	Tues.	2:07 p.m.	4:07 a.m.		
Wed.	6:35 a.m.	6:02 p.m.	Wed.	3:10 p.m.	4:50 a.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

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	75	56	s	73	53	pc	69	43	pc	62	37	s	Atlanta	71	39	s	63	42	pc	66	49	s	61	48	t
Albuquerque, NM	63	35	pc	58	34	c	48	28	r	52	30	pc	Boston	38	22	pc	30	20	pc	34	24	pc	38	26	pc
Amarillo, TX	67	38	s	70	36	pc	48	31	c	52	29	pc	Chicago	42	22	pc	39	25	r	45	29	r	40	27	sn
Austin, TX	79	54	pc	73	60	c	75	48	t	70	39	s	Denver	56	28	pc	56	26	pc	39	21	sn	43	20	pc
Brownsville, TX	80	64	pc	80	67	c	86	64	c	80	54	s	Detroit	38	20	pc	34	19	pc	36	24	c	43	31	sn
Dodge City, KS	58	35	s	69	39	pc	44	27	r	46	25	pc	Houston	77	56	pc	75	63	c	75	56	t	72	45	pc
Jackson, MS	72	42	s	69	50	c	71	55	c	70	43	t	Indianapolis	45	23	pc	43	29	pc	45	37	r	52	34	r
Laredo, TX	82	65	pc	77	61	c	92	51	pc	80	51	s	Kansas City	54	34	s	58	40	c	55	32	t	42	26	sn
Little Rock, AR	66	43	s	60	51	c	65	52	t	59	39	pc	Los Angeles	62	50	r	60	44	sh	64	47	s	67	50	s
Lubbock, TX	70	42	s	72	41	pc	58	34	c	58	30	s	Miami	82	62	pc	80	64	s	79	69	s	84	71	pc
Memphis, TN	66	43	s	61	48	c	64	51	t	63	39	t	Minneapolis	38	21	pc	35	22	sn	32	18	sn	29	17	sn
Midland, TX	73	49	s	71	45	pc	65	38	pc	61	36	s	New Orleans	74	54	pc	71	58	c	70	60	c	75	53	t
Pueblo, CO	59	23	pc	64	29	pc	47	20	r	46	20	pc	New York City	44	25	pc	38	21	pc	38	27	s	38	33	c
Roswell, NM	71	36	pc	71	38	pc	62	35	c	63	32	s	Omaha	45	30	pc	51	34	c	36	21	sn	33	21	sn
St. Louis, MO	55	33	pc	53	40	c	57	41	r	50	30	t	Phoenix	77	51	s	66	44	sh	63	42	s	67	47	s
San Antonio, TX	76	58	pc	73	61	c	80	46	t	71	39	s	San Francisco	56	44	r	57	45	c	58	45	pc	59	45	s
Texarkana, AR	72	49	s	68	56	c	70	51	t	61	39	pc	Seattle	44	35	sh	47	38	c	46	36	r	44	34	r
Waco, TX	78	54	s	72	58	c	72	49	t	66	38	s	Washington	52	30	pc	49	27	s	47	32	s	48	40	c
Wichita, KS	60	41	s	65	45	pc	53	29	t	41	27	sn													

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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