



NEWSBRIEFS

Boundary meetings

Canutillo Independent School District Community Meetings to present Elementary Schools' Attendance Boundary Changes will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 7, at Bill Childress ES, 7700 Cap Carter Rd. and Thursday, March 8, at Jose Damian ES, 6300 Strahan Rd., according to Alfredo Vasquez, district spokesman. Canutillo ISD officials announced recently the student attendance boundary re-alignment for its elementary schools as they prepare for the addition of the District's fifth elementary campus next school year. Construction of the new school, which is located near the intersection of Borderland Road and Westside Drive, is expected to be completed by January 2008. "After careful consideration of different re-alignment scenarios, projected growth studies, and input from the School Board, District employees, and community residents during our five-year plan presentations in the fall, we feel we have made the best possible adjustments to the elementary school attendance boundary lines," said Dr. Pam Padilla, CISD Superintendent.

Man saved

A Socorro man, 60-year-old Gary Lee Hamilton, has an off-duty El Paso police officer and a retired firefighter to thank for saving his life after he collapsed on Feb. 5. while going through a checkpoint at the El Paso International Airport. Jason Cartwright, a 12-year veteran of the El Paso Police Dept. was working on assignment at the airport as was Frank Malone, a retired firefighter working as airport operations officer. Cartwright and Malone quickly determined that the unconscious man was in cardiac arrest. They called for an ambulance and successfully administered CPR until he could be transported to Thomason, where he recovered from the life-threatening incident.

In other news

■ Canutillo High School NJROTC program will undergo its annual inspection regime, starting at 10:45 a.m., Tuesday, March 6, at the CHS Julius and Irene Lowenberg Eagles Stadium, 6675 South Desert Boulevard. The NJROTC Area Ten Manager, Commander Mike Hale, of San Antonio, will conduct the annual inspection. He will inspect each individual cadet as well as the program's facilities, financial and administrative records, and inventory of Navy equipment and uniforms. A Cadet Battalion Pass In Review will highlight the inspection. "The annual inspection gives cadets the opportunity to demonstrate their training in close order drill, required NJROTC knowledge, and military bearing," stated Lieutenant Commander Gerry Mangrum, CHS senior Naval Science instructor.

See BRIEFS, Page ???

Most people like the old days best — they were younger then.

— Quips & Quotes

Morales to run again, spends time with new congressional rep

Courier Staff Reports

Looking to establish a working relationship with Washington, Horizon City Mayor Ray Morales has taken advantage of opportunities to meet with newly elected District 23 Congressman Ciro Rodríguez on two occasions. Rodríguez was in El Paso County several times last month, meeting local officials, finding out about his district and bringing local government officials up to date on his efforts in Washington.

In a rundown to Rodríguez, Morales listed healthcare as the number one challenge to his constituency.

Morales explained that if Horizon was measured by the residents around the golf course, it might not look too bad. But he said if anyone looked south of Horizon Blvd., they would get a different picture of the population and its ability to afford insurance and good healthcare. In an interview this week, Morales told the *Courier*, "This is a community of split (economics)."

The mayor said economic development and education were "directly linked." He sees the lack of good industry and good jobs being responsible for what has come to be known in this area as "brain drain."

"We need jobs, industry and infrastructure. We need to create a solid tax base. We need to keep our assets here by providing good jobs after we give our children a good education," Morales said.

Addressing area development, the mayor said the enormous growth being experienced by the East County cannot be stopped, but that it should be "done right." He feels there is still resistance

to major development in the community.

Morales, who plans to run for mayor again, said that Horizon had some great civil programs in place. He pointed out the Citizen's Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, the Citizen's Police Academy and the Explorer Post (which is CERT qualified).

In confirming his bid for reelection, Morales said, "Two years is not enough time to get some things done, to finish big projects. I would like to see the mayor's term changed to four years."

During his tenure Morales has assumed some duties that go beyond the city limits of Horizon. He is chairperson for what is called the Citizens Program which falls under the nation's Homeland Security Initiative. He said the Citizens Program is comprised of 39 cities competing for \$395 million to establish sound security infrastructure on the local level. As chairperson he is responsible for area CERTs, the Reserve Nurses Corp., the American Red Cross and the Fire Corps.

He is also a member of the six-county Regional Unified Command for Emergency Management as administered through the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) He serves under El Paso Mayor John Cook, as deputy commander of the urban arm of the command. Jerry Akain is deputy commander of the rural branch. Accessing and managing the resources within RGCOG counties are their primary responsibilities.

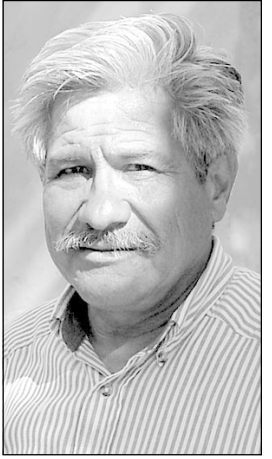
On a wider spectrum, Morales cited Iraq as a concern. He said he personally doesn't think the politics of Iraq will change because the U.S. is there. He said America's troops could be used better elsewhere and that the money being spent on Iraq would be better used in America for its people.



Ray Morales



Ciro Rodríguez



Trini Lopez

Construction starts this summer at intersection of Horizon Blvd., I-10

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro Mayor Trini Lopez said this week that \$38.4 million in highway construction funds has been approved for construction on the I-10/ Horizon Blvd. intersection to begin this summer. An additional \$1.1 million has been allocated for land acquisition to extend Eastlake Blvd. south to N. Loop, Lopez said.

The Socorro mayor said he would like to see Old Hueco Tanks Rd. connect from N. Loop to Gateway East before the construction begins on the I-10/ Horizon Blvd. intersection to provide traffic relief during the project. He admits it is a longshot.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) will be making a presentation to Socorro City Council on Thursday, March 1, at 5 p.m. in regard to this and other upcoming projects in the Socorro area. Topics to be discussed are the extension of Eastlake Blvd. south, Horizon Blvd., North Loop expansion and Socorro Road lighting.

Lopez said there will be four new traffic lights going up at the intersections of Bovee and Socorro; Zebu and Socorro; Glorietta and Socorro; and at Bauman and N. Loop

The public is invited to attend the meeting which will be held at 860 Rio Vista.

Sun Metro makes taking the buses easier, cheaper

EL PASO COUNTY — Riding the bus just got easier. Sun Metro continues to look over every aspect of operations to improve the quality of service while increasing operational efficiency. Students and children can now have access to bus service at a discounted rate, without the need of a Sun Metro identification card.

• How does fare discount work?

Children ages 6 to 18 do not need an I.D. to get the 50-cent Child Fare.

Students over 18 years must show a valid school I.D., no exceptions to get the 50-cent Student Fare. Seniors and Disabled passengers will continue to use a Sun Metro identification card until further notice, which ensures the 30-cent Senior and Disabled Fare.

• How much is the cost savings?

Estimated cost is \$5 to issue one Sun Metro I.D. and over 7,000 I.D.s were issued in 2006 at a cost of about \$35,000. Over 1,600 of these were student I.D.s The new fare access method which allows students and children to receive fare discounts without the need of an identification card will produce a savings of over \$8,000. It also costs \$3 for a passenger to replace a lost I.D.

Sun Metro administrators said they are committed to move forward by providing a transit service that is more efficient, cost effective and most importantly, focused on providing an excellent customer service experience.

Franco seeks eighth term in Anthony

ANTHONY, TEXAS — Incumbent Mayor of Anthony, Texas, Art Franco, has announced his intention to seek re-election to the office he has occupied for 14 years.

"I would like to announce my candidacy for re-election as Mayor of Anthony, Texas," Franco said in his announcement. "I am proud of the accomplishments we have achieved and am also proud of the leadership the Town Council has provided. We have brought economic development to our community, increased and improved our police department and this year we again lowered the tax rate to help our citizens due to increased taxes from other taxing entities.

"We have continued to expand and increase our water and sewer infrastructure to accommodate the new growth which has lead to an increase in our tax base. I also serve as Vice-President of the Solid Waste Ad-

visory Committee of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, serve on the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, serve on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and am extremely proud of being appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Regional Review Committee for the Upper Rio Grande State Planning Region of the Texas Community Development Program which oversees grants for the West Texas area.

"Because of my participation in these committees the Town of Anthony in the last two years has received over a million dollars in grants to improve the quality of life for our residents.

"My only promise is to continue to work for the citizens of Anthony and continue the leadership needed to make Anthony a great place to live and work.



Art Franco



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Penance

There are a tiny few among us who will pound their chests in pride and proclaim that they have nothing in their past that they feel they should apologize for.

“No regrets! No apologies! I did everything my way and glad of it!” So goes the reasoning of the precious few.

And then there are the rest of us.

I try to remind myself regularly that cowards die a thousand deaths and brave men die but once. You can’t spend time worrying about what might happen because nine times out of ten, it won’t.

However, brave men must have the ability to discount the hordes of mistake makers like me who leave their houses every morning and get in their multiple-ton iron boxes fueled by highly flammable liquid and go charging around the narrow little spaces we call roadways at high rates of speed.

Some have had too much coffee. Some have had too little.

My sixteen-year-old took the car this morning and drove herself to school without me for the first time.

My brave mind re-played all the narrow escapes and close calls we have encountered over the many months she has been driving with me biting my nails in the seat next to her.

Not discounting the fact that she’s quite capable and ultra-responsible, I can’t help thinking about everyone else on the road.

Including me.

Ever do something you just wish you could die over? Something so impossibly dumb or careless or thoughtless — not to mention dangerous — that you just wanted to crawl into a hole somewhere and not come out for, say, about a week?

I have. I later wished that somebody would condemn me in writing, give me a lecture, key my car, just anything so I wouldn’t feel so bad. Maybe I’d feel better if a cop would write me a ticket...

Well, that is an option. Especially if you *are* a cop.

See, there is this police chief up in Kewaskum, Wisconsin. One day last September he drove past a stopped school bus with its lights flashing.

News reports like this are always dreadfully brief. They never give enough detail. They don’t explain

whether he was on duty or off, if it was early morning or the afternoon of a hard day. But whatever the circumstance, he did this thing.

It also doesn’t say whether anyone saw him, if he nearly hit a kid or whether he got a sound honking-at by the bus driver. But this fellow was convicted by his conscience so he wrote himself a ticket. For \$235. And docked himself four points on his driving record.

Neither did he announce his good deed in the street. He just did it — but somebody in court records blabbed to the media.

Now this man is being hailed as an honest cop, a defender of all that is good and right in the world, a true George Washington type who just couldn’t lie about that cherry tree thing. He’s getting congratulatory e-mails from all over the world and some folks even sent him a little cash to help pay the fine.

Of course, he didn’t keep it.

This man has reportedly been chief of police for over 20 years in this town and he says that police officers do good things everyday and we just don’t hear about it. He said the news mostly likes to report about police officers being in trouble.

I’d say that’s true about most people. I mean, nobody writes about your average citizen either, unless he or she does something spectacular, either for good or evil. Like the middle-aged woman in Michigan, who, during rush hour traffic, got so

fed up with being tailgated that she took out her 9mm handgun — which she was carrying legally — and fired it at the tires of a pickup which had been pulled up behind her. She got arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon and wound up in the pokey under \$50,000 bond.

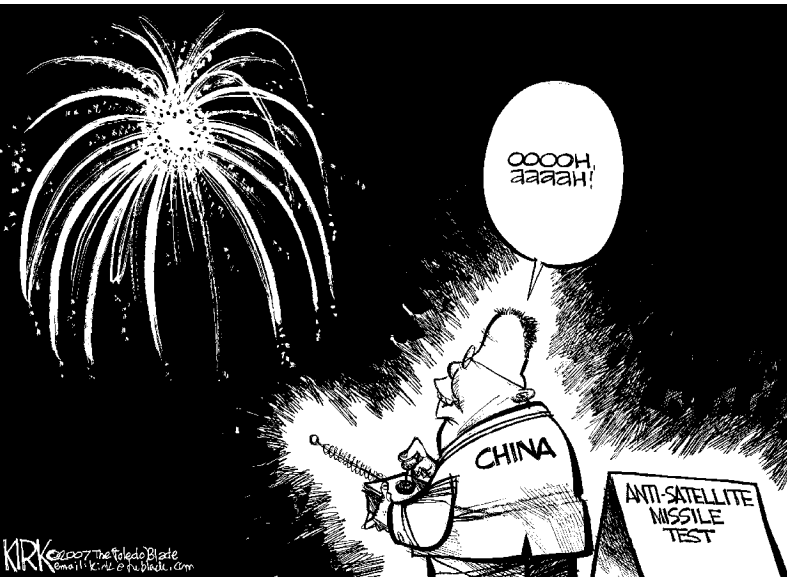
Again, the reports don’t tell us much — like if she was taking something she shouldn’t or wasn’t taking something she should. They don’t say if she was under some kind of unusual stress, maybe lost her job, husband or parent. Still, everybody knows what she did.

Both of these people, I suspect,

honestly wish they hadn’t done it. The odd thing is that penance for one is getting him lots of high fives while penance for the other is getting her lots of bad press and lawyer fees. Truth is, the end result of both of their actions had the potential to be so much worse.

I’m trying to be brave, so I don’t want to think too much about a child getting run over in the street by a police chief who had a careless moment or a driver suffering gunshot wounds because he ran afoul of a clearly unbalanced woman.

Sometimes penance is just too big to contemplate.



Tornillo Elementary receives ‘distinguished’ rating from TEA



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

A LITTLE CELEBRATION — The Tornillo Elementary School students and staff hosted “a little celebration” after hearing that they were considered “Distinguished” by the Texas Education Agency.

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Tornillo Elementary school has been rated a Distinguished Performance School by the Texas Education Agency. Schools that are bestowed this honor must be first rated “Exemplary” by the agency in 2006, and have been rated “Exemplary” or “Recognized” in 2004 and 2005. Also, the school must have at least 40% of their students from low-income families, and must meet federal adequate yearly progress requirements in 2005 and 2006.

Only two schools in the Region 19 area received this honor for their achievements last school year. The other campus receiving this rating was Frank Macias Elementary, a school in the Clint ISD. A total of 129 schools throughout the state received the distinguished rating, which were announced in late January.

Tornillo Elementary is one of four campuses in the Tornillo Independent School District. The campus has 480 students in pre-kindergarten through third grade. TES is the only school in the Region 19 area to earn “Exemplary” status twice in the last three years.

Tornillo Principal Severo Alcoset said he and the staff “celebrated a little” when they received the news about the rating. Alcoset credited the school’s performance to a hard-working, team-oriented staff and to reading and English-language development programs.

Not wanting to rest on their laurels, the school was in the midst of preparing for its next go-round of state testing when the Distinguished rating was announced. Third grade students took the reading portion of the TAKS on Feb. 20. Results should be received by March 9. Students not passing will have two other opportunities to take the TAKS, or face possible retention in the third grade.

— Contributed by Rudy Barreda



San Elizario has strong showing at SkillsUSA

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

Students at San Elizario High School are preparing for the real world and the jobs of tomorrow by honing their abilities and collecting valuable experiences by participating in SkillsUSA. From Feb. 2-9, over 80 San Elizario High School students proved their talents at applying classroom instruction to contextual problems at the regional SkillsUSA Competition held at El Paso Community College and Western Technical College, turning out top performances in several categories.

The SkillsUSA Regional Competition consists of over 70 contests, including web-page design, technical drafting, photography, auto steering and suspension, cosmetology, extemporaneous speaking, job interview, computer technology, and more.

San Elizario students took numerous first, second and third awards. Additionally, Western Technical College a full scholarships to San Elizario’s own Adrian Reyes for \$20,500 for placing first in the Computer Maintenance Technology.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

GOT SKILLS — First place winners Crystal Reyes (Texas T-Shirt Design) and Andres Corral (Emblem Ceremony).

Hundreds of students from the Socorro, Ysleta, El Paso, Canutillo, including the San Elizario Independent School Districts participated in the SkillsUSA Regional Competition organized this year by Socorro

See SKILLS, Page 5

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YEARS
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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

A wage deal father and son can both support

Every time someone brings up the effect of a minimum wage increase on small business, I think back to a story I once heard. The story has two characters, a father and a son, and takes place in 1996, the year Congress last passed a hike in the minimum wage. The father was the hardworking owner of a small business, a bowling alley, and the son was a minimum wage worker, just out of high school. With President Clinton working to push a wage bill through Congress, the father and son, like many Americans did at the time, took opposite sides of the issue. Predictably, the father argued against the rationale for an increase, while the son supported one.

Unfortunately, the debate between the two men became so fierce that it, in part, caused them to stop talking to each other. The issue, as we all know, was resolved with Congress passing and President Clinton signing an increase in the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour. But that did not resolve the father-son argument. Though the debate had ended in Washington and compromise had been reached, the father and son were not able to heal the anger between them. They did not speak for an entire year.

After a year, however, a funny thing happened. The father was going over his accounting books and noticed that in the first year of the wage increase, his business experi-

enced its most profitable year ever. The bowling alley was booming. That softened his anger enough to be able to pick up the phone and reconcile with his son, but the point here is broader. What he realized had occurred is what many economists have been telling us about for years. When you raise wages, especially the wages of working people who spend most of what they earn, it is in many ways good for business. Workers took the extra money in their paychecks and bought more games of bowling, more chili cheese fries, more icy slushes. It was “win-win.”

Raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do. It has now been over a decade since the last increase and, with inflation, the minimum wage is worth less than ever. Raising the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years, as the current proposal would, benefits 13 million Americans, including 7.7 million women, 3.4 million parents, and 4.7 million minorities, and provides an additional \$4,400 per year for a family of three, equaling 15 months of groceries or over two years of health care. It is wrong to have millions of Americans working full-time and still living in poverty, and at \$5.15 an hour, a full-time minimum wage worker makes \$6,000 less than the poverty level for a family of three. For these reasons, I was proud to co-sponsor and vote for H.R. 2, the minimum wage increase bill in the House.

Meanwhile, two weeks ago, I

voted for H.R. 976, the Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2007. The bill includes \$1.3 billion in tax cuts that would alleviate the pressure of higher wages on small businesses. Specifically, H.R. 976 would:

- Help small businesses invest in new equipment and more easily afford large capital expenses by extending small business expensing for one year — increasing both the amount small businesses can deduct from their taxes and the number of small businesses that can take these deductions;
- Extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) — which provides incentives to employers to hire individuals from targeted groups that frequently experience barriers to work — for one year and expand it to cover disabled veterans;
- Enhance the current tip credit for small businesses; and
- Simplify tax filing requirements for businesses owned jointly by husbands and wives, and ensure that small businesses are fully able to claim the WOTC and tip credit against Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) liability.

This package offers needed economic dignity to low wage-earners and their families, ensures the burden does not fall too heavily on our small businesses, and promotes economic growth by putting more money in the pockets of spenders and equipping business to invest, compete, and expand. I think it is a deal on which father and son could agree.



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Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

‘Break the cap’ vote had many issues behind it

On Jan. 29, 1997, during the 75th Legislative Session, the House Select Committee on Revenue and Public Education Funding met for the purpose of considering property tax relief. The tax plan put forth by then-Gov. George W. Bush was never adopted because the Democratic Legislature, led by Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, considered other plans. Some of those proposals have resurfaced in various forms in every session since then.

The Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives have been promising property tax relief for over ten years now. Until this session, nothing has happened except talk.

In the final special called legislative session last year, a school finance plan was passed. The plan again promised Texas property owners significant property tax relief. The goal of the legislation was to lower the education portion of the property tax to \$1 per hundred dollars of property value. After much debate, the bill was passed and our promise to give Texans property tax relief was law.

Although the property tax bill was passed, additional legislation would be needed to accomplish the entire intent of the bill. For instance, because the tax rates for senior property owners was frozen by a constitutional amendment, senior citizens would not get property tax relief like other property owners. Also, the tax cuts were not sufficiently funded in the bill, so either the tax cut would be smaller or other services would be cut.

Those were basically the dilemmas that we faced when the 80th Legislative Session convened. Before the business of the legislature could continue, we needed to find a solution to the property tax problem.

The leadership of the House of Representatives decided the best way was to spend more money than the amount projected to be available from taxes; that is, “break the spending cap” which is required by the Constitution.

In its entire history, the Texas Legislature has never voted to “break the cap.” Essentially, the Legislature has spent only what has been produced in tax revenues; no deficit spending.

As the time approached to vote on the issue, there was an over abundance of politicking for representatives to vote for or against the measure. The basic line by both sides was “you need to vote with us against them.” My vote would not be based on that type of persuasion.

When I voted to allow the legislature to “break the spending cap” I did so because I believed it was the best thing for my constituents, the property owners of District 75 and of El Paso County. After ten years I wanted the promise of property tax relief to be more than talk.

I voted to drop the effective property tax for school funding down to \$1 per one hundred dollars of valuation.

I voted to give seniors the same tax cut that other property owners were given.

I voted to make sure that the funding for the four-year Medial School was not taken away again.

If breaking the spending cap was wrong, we will have to fix it another way without hurting property tax relief and important spending. I stand by my vote.

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Southern NM State Fairgrounds
12125 Robert Larson Blvd.

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Friday Adoption: 8am - 6pm
Saturday Adoption: 8am - Noon

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Briefs

From Page 1

■ A man was arrested after robbing a West El Paso convenience store and attempting to run from officers on Feb. 20 at 6:28 p.m. Carlos Ibarra, 18, entered the Running Bear convenience store located at 900 E. Redd Rd.,



Carlos Ibarra

picked up a 30-pack of beer and exited the business without paying. A store employee caught up to Ibarra outside and advised him to pay for the

merchandise, but the witness said Ibarra threatened the employee and left. Westside officers responded to the scene and were able to locate Ibarra by a nearby canal. As the officers were attempting to make contact with him, Ibarra began to evade the officers and a foot pursuit ensued. Ibarra was taken into custody without further incident and charged with robbery, a second degree felony, and evading ar-

rest. Bond was set at \$10,300.

■ A classical guitar concert featuring over 40 musicians from Americas, El Dorado, Montwood and Socorro High Schools will be held on Friday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda. Admission is free.

■ County Health and Environmental District is holding a

“Microchipping Day” for dogs and cats at Animal Regulation and Disease Control at 5001 Fred Wilson in El Paso on Sunday, March 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5 for each dog or cat and the following tips should be noted to make the day go smoothly.

- Cats must be kept in a carrier at all times.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.

- Do not feed or offer water to your pets 12 hours prior to arriving.
- It is best to have one adult per large dog. We ask that if you have multiple dogs you bring another person to handle each dog.
- Bring your own plastic grocery bag to pick up your pet’s feces — just in case! Animal Control Officers will be on hand to enforce this.

Free parking will be available next door at Sun Metro employee parking area. A microchip is an effective way of permanently linking pets to their owners, increasing the chances of them being reunited if the animal is lost, stolen or strays. The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and cannot be seen after it is implanted in the pet by a procedure similar to administering a vaccine. Each microchip has a unique number, which is entered into the local database alongside the owner’s name, address and telephone number. A hand-held scanner can read the details of the microchip if a lost or injured animal is found. Every year, thousands of pets never find their way home due to nonexistent or inadequate pet identification. The Health District plans to conduct microchipping days throughout the summer. For information, call Irene Rivas at 771-5703 or 474-4551.

■ Pre-K Pre-Registration for the Vista Del Sol Pre-K Hub will be held on Saturday, March 3, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Vista Del Sol, Hurshel Antwine and Sgt. Roberto Ituarte Attendance area. Loma Verde Elementary has scheduled registration for the week starting Monday, March 26-Friday, March 30, 8 a.m. to noon Registration for Hurshel Antwine Pre-K-8th grade begin Friday, March 23 through April 12. Call the individual campuses for more information

■ The Oz Glaze Senior Citizens Center in Horizon City is hosting Tai Chi classes for seniors every Wednesday at 4 p.m. to help maintain balance and muscle flexibility. Call 852-0062 for more information.

■ Just \$10 gets lucky ladies into a sea of eligible bachelors at the First Annual Pets Alive El Paso Bachelor Auction Friday, March 9, at 6 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel (formerly Airport Hilton). Event organizers hope to raise \$25,000 from top auction bids to support efforts to create a No-Kill Community of Adoptable Pets while promoting responsible pet ownership. To be

See BRIEFS, Page 6

COMBINED NOTICE FROM THE TOWN OF ANTHONY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ON THE ENVIRONMENT and NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE
OF FUNDS in connection with the HOME Investment Partnerships Program

TOWN OF ANTHONY
401 Oak St.
Anthony, Tx 79821
(915) 886-3944

TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

On or about sixteen (16) days after this publication, the Town of Anthony intends to request that Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) release federal funds under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, for the following project:

HOME Program Contract Number 1000298
Program/Project Description:

Owner-Occupied Housing Assistance Project consisting of rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing the following locations in the Town of Anthony, Texas: (1) 501 Jamie; (2) 912 Poplar; (3) 904 Elm; (4) 808 Tamarisk; (5) 402 Franklin.

Total HOME Contract Award: \$187,546.00

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such a request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, accordingly, the Town of Anthony has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190). The reason for the decision not to prepare such a statement is based upon the fact that all environmental concerns could either be minimized or mitigated.

The Town of Anthony has made an Environmental Review Record addressing the project referenced above and documenting the environmental review status of the project.

That Environmental Review Record is on file in the Town of Anthony City Hall, and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups, and individuals disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the town at the address set forth above.

Such written comments must be received at the address specified within fifteen (15) days after this publication.

All such comments so received will be considered by the Town of Anthony. The town will not submit the Request for Release of Funds or take further administrative action on the project prior to the end of the comment period specified. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

Release of Funds

The Town of Anthony will undertake the project referenced above with funds from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program of the Texas Department of Housing and Com-

munity Affairs under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990.

The town is certifying to Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs that the Town of Anthony and the Honorable Art Franco, in his official capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental review, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied for this project.

The legal effect of the certification is that, upon its approval, the town will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 24 CFR Part 58, and may use HOME Program funds.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if the objection is based on one of the following reasons: (a) That the certification was not, in fact, executed by the chief executive officer or other certifying officer of the Contract Administrator approved by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; or (b) That the responsible entity,s Environmental Review Record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the required environmental review procedures (24 CFR Part 58); or (c) That the program grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; or (d) That another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Potential objectors should contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs will not consider objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above. Objections will be received for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or the actual receipt of the request, whichever is later.

Any objection must be made in writing to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, P. O. Box 13941, Capitol Station, Austin, Tx 78711-3941. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. No objections received later than thirty-three (33) days after this publication will be considered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Art Franco
Mayor

Date Published:
March 1, 2007

Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees names new elementary schools

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees has named the elementary school currently under construction on Westside Drive after a former board member and his late wife, and a second elementary school planned for construction soon will be named for a current board member. The decision was made during a special board meeting Feb. 22.

After receiving six different recommendation presentations from members of an audience of about 50 persons, the board voted 6 to 0 — board member Shonda Jordan was not in attendance — to name the new elementary school currently under construction near the intersection of Westside Drive and Borderland Road

in honor of Gonzalo “Chalo” and Sofia Garcia.

Board members also voted 5 to 1 to name the second elementary school, which is anticipated to be built east of Interstate-10 and south of Transmountain Road, in honor of Margarito “Mago” Arellano, a current board member.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

IN THE BEGINNING — Gonzalo “Chalo” and Sofia Garcia played a major role in establishing Canutillo ISD in 1959 and have since been honored with a school named for them. Sofia passed away in July 2006.

“All of the recommendations presented tonight are deserving of special recognition, but the individuals selected to be honored are truly pillars of this community and have been instrumental in helping our school district succeed,” said Sergio Coronado, CISD School Board president.

Gonzalo and Sofia Garcia Elementary School is scheduled to open in January 2008. Construction of Margarito “Mago” Arellano Elementary School should start in 2008 and be completed in 2009.

Gonzalo and Sofia Garcia played a major role in starting CISD in 1959. They were the first persons to sign the petition to create a new school district and were the first residents to pay taxes to CISD. Chalo was also a charter member of the CISD Board of Trustees, serving

from 1959 to 1968, and he later served two additional terms on the board, from 1977-78 and 2002-04. Sofia passed away in July 2006.

Margarito “Mago” Arellano is a lifelong resident of Canutillo. He graduated from Canutillo High School in 1972. He has been elected to the CISD School Board for five terms serving 1989-95, 1997-2000, 2001-2004, and 2005-2008. He is owner of a local business, International Fluid Power.



“Mago” Arellano

Skills

From Page 2

ISD. A packed house of students, parents and school administrators attended the awards ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 9 Socorro ISD Career and Technology Education (CATE) Director, Alan Long, was pleased at the turnout for the closing ceremony. “Three years ago SkillsUSA was in danger from lack of interest and low participation,” Long said.

SkillsUSA, formerly known as VICA or Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, Inc., has a mission is to engage students in activities that will help develop and expand their leadership and workforce skills to pursue careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health and law enforcement. The SkillsUSA also promotes community service and integrating workforce standards recommended by industry into academic settings. The San Elizario team is but one of many in the nation and Canada that form part of the SkillsUSA program.

Julian Encina, CATE Coordinator for the San Elizario Independent School District, said that most people don’t know about the emphasis that SkillsUSA places on developing other capacities that are important for students to become successful adults. “SkillsUSA not only shows students how the skills they are learning in school will translate to the workforce, it also encompasses leadership skills,” Encina said.

Students at San Elizario are primarily recruited for SkillsUSA membership from Career and Technology Education (CATE) Trade and Industrial classes. Both sponsors and students devote extra time and effort in class, after-school, and on weekends to work on their SkillsUSA projects which can be complex and time-consuming. One project that students completed was a multi-media display built from scratch and wired for electricity connections.

San Elizario’s SkillsUSA sponsors include Bill Grimm, Manuela Diaz, Rafael Cardoza, Veronika Hernandez, Jose Olivas and Sylvia Ruvalcaba.

Most of the first and second place winners will travel to Corpus Christi to compete in the state SkillsUSA Competition from March 28-31, 2007.

ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL

SENIOR NIGHT

#7 MEMPHIS

VS.

UTEP

DON HASKINS CENTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 1ST 7:05 PM

FREE

Cheer Noodles

For First 5,000

Courtesy of

El Paso Electric Company

For More Info Call 747-5234

ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL

El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 Notice of Public Hearing

The Board of Commissioners for the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 will conduct a public hearing during its next regular meeting on the 13th day of March, 2007, at 7 p.m., at the Socorro Fire Department, 11440 North Loop Rd. for the purpose of:

1) Discussing and voting on making mutually agreeable changes in its boundaries with the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 pursuant to §775.056, Texas Health and Safety Code. The Board of Commissioners will also set a mutually agreeable effective date for the changes in the boundaries.

Maps which detail the proposed changes may be viewed at the office of the El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 at 13976 Montana Ave., El Paso, TX 79938, each day, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for accommodation for interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the District’s offices at (915) 857-0999 for further information.

WTCC: 03/08/07

Town of Horizon City Public Notice

The Town of Horizon City will conduct an election on Saturday, May 12, 2007 for the purpose of filling positions for mayor and council members whose two (2) year terms are expiring. There are also two council member positions, due to resignations, that are for one (1) year terms. The following places are up for election:

Full two (2) year terms:

Mayor, Alderman Place 3, Alderman Place 5 and Alderman Place 7.

One (1) year terms:

Alderman Place 2 and Alderman Place 4.

Qualified persons interested may apply for a place on the Town of Horizon City General Election ballot beginning February 12, 2007 through March 12, 2007 at 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday — Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WTCC: 03-01-07

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2007** during the **Special City Council Meeting** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

1) Ordinance 0157 — Ordering an Election on Saturday, May 12, 2007 for Mayor and three Council Members for two (2) years terms each and two Council Members for one (1) year terms each.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk at the above address or call 915-852-1046. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address or phone, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fidel Morales
Interim City Clerk

WTCC: 03-01-07

Heat’s hoop dreams come unraveled with injury riddled season

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Everything was finally falling into place for the Miami Heat. The defending NBA champions got Shaquille O’Neal back after missing 35 games with a knee injury.

They finally got coach Pat Riley back after missing nearly seven weeks due to hip replacement surgery.

Naturally, without those two pieces of the puzzle, the Heat had struggled all season. Hovering just under the .500 mark.

And it didn’t really matter where the Heat ended up in the regular season, with all their players back Miami figured to be the team to beat in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

But then the unthinkable happened.

Miami’s best player, Dwayne Wade went down with a potential season-ending shoulder injury.

Talk about bad timing. For Miami, losing Wade is like Sonny losing Cher or Manning losing Harrison or Paris losing Brittany.

The sight of watching Wade clutching his shoulder in pain was devastating to everyone

except the Detroit Pistons, Washington Wizards, Toronto Raptors, Cleveland Cavaliers, New Jersey Nets and all the other eastern squads interested in a conference title.

Now Wade has a decision to make. He has to choose between rehabbing his shoulder for a possible return in time for the playoffs in a couple of months, or undergoing surgery which will guarantee his not returning until next season.

What to do?

If Wade comes back this season, there’s always the chance that he could reinjure his shoulder on a collision while driving to the basket. But at least he would prove that he was a hero and didn’t give up on this season.

On the other hand, he could go under the knife and almost guarantee a full recovery in time for the 2008 season. Of course, that would also mean that he could be accused of giving up on his teammates this year.

I hold no controlling stock in the Miami Heat so I can speak freely. I think Wade should say adios to this season as visit his local surgeon.

At 25, Wade is still young and has at least six or seven all-star seasons ahead of him. Why should he risk his future? Why would Miami risk its future?

Like the saying goes, “you can’t win them all.” But, like the other saying goes, the Heat can “live to fight another day.”

Wade and the Heat should be smart and do the right thing. Heck, let’s be honest, the Heat obviously don’t have the same kind of hunger they had a year ago anyway. A year off would take care of that.

Swallow your pride guys and do the right thing, or you may regret it for many more years to come.

UTEP goes Tiger hunting

Well, UTEP basketball fans, you’ve waiting all season long for this Thursday’s matchup between the Miners and the Top-Ten ranked Memphis Tigers, who are 25-3 and haven’t lost since before last Christmas.

I guess you can call it one of those “be careful what you ask for” kind of things.

It’s no secret that the Miners have struggled to stay at or above the .500 mark all season. Currently at 14-14, the Miners are doing a whole lot better than I ever thought they would when I saw them before the regular season even started.

I honestly expected this team to win less than 10 games. I truly believe what Tony Barbee

has done with this team is amazing. They aren’t the most talented team around, by Barbee’s own admission, but they hustle, they scratch, they hound, they dive and they believe.

And I think, though the guys at ESPN are expecting an ugly slaughter, the Miners are just naïve enough to believe they can give Memphis a run for its money.

And so do I.

Do I expect the Miners to win — please? That’s like me saying Buster Douglas has a chance to best Mike Tyson, or the USA hockey team can beat the Russians, or Joe Namath can actually knock off the Baltimore Colts.

Of course I don’t expect it — but crazier things have happened.

Maybe it’s because I think Memphis will be overconfident. Maybe it’s because the Miners have absolutely nothing to lose. Maybe it’s because I live in El Paso and I’ve always been as big a fan of the Miners as anyone.

Whatever the reason, I hope Miner fans fill the Don Haskins Center for this game. Can you honestly think of anywhere else you’d rather be this Thursday night than watching our collection of “Davids” aim for the forehead of those Goliath-like Memphis Tigers?

Briefs

From Page 4

hosted by KDBC-TV 4 Meteorologist Robert Bettes, the auction opens with cocktail hour at 6 p.m. with the myriad of attorneys, professionals and self-employed proprietors. The actual auction will be at 7 p.m. Gentlemen will respond to a series of questions about who they are, what they do, favorite pets and their descriptions of a perfect date. Highest bidders join the bachelors for a formal dinner “group date” when they all return on March 31. “It’s a wonderful, fun-filled night that brings pet lovers together,” said Pets Alive Board Member Rebecca Rojas. “But more importantly, the event helps draw public attention to the plight of tens of thousands of unwanted animals needlessly destroyed every year.” For more information, call Rojas at 915-565-0502.

■ Sen. Eliot Shapleigh will host an open door and interactive visit on Friday, March 2. The first Friday of every month, Sen. Shapleigh invites constituents to the El Paso senate office, 800 Wyoming, Suite A, to share coffee and conversation with him and his staff. For those who cannot visit, Shapleigh has created an “interactive visit forum” on his website, www.shapleigh.org where he will answer questions and respond to comments in real time from 10 to 11 a.m. at http://www.shapleigh.org/coffee_with_eliot

■ Whether you travel regularly for business or are heading out on your first overseas adventure, women have to be especially careful when alone. A healthy dose of common sense and the suggestions in *Tips for Women Traveling Alone* from the Department of State can help prepare and stay safe while abroad. Learning about the culture in your destination, especially local customs of dressing and so-

cializing, may save trouble. This publication costs \$1. Send name, address, and a check or money order for \$1 to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 350P, Pueblo, CO 81009. Or call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, and ask for Item 350P. Have your credit card handy. Or visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov to place an order online or to read or print this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.

■ College-bound high school students can register by March 9 for the next national ACT test date. The test will be administered nationwide on Saturday, April 14, 2007. Students who miss the March 9 deadline can do a late registration for an additional fee. The late registration deadline is March 23. Students can register online at

www.actstudent.org, or they can get registration materials from high school counselors. The ACT is accepted by all colleges and universities that use admissions tests in their application process. It’s an academic achievement test covering four subject areas: English, reading, mathematics, and science. Students can choose to take the ACT with or without the optional Writing Test. The ACT costs \$29 without the Writing Test and \$43 with writing. The majority of colleges don’t require a writing score, so students should check with the colleges they’re considering before registering for the test. The late registration fee is \$19. Students with lower ACT scores are likely to need remedial courses to help bring them up-to-speed for college-level courses so many juniors take the ACT, check their scores, and then take additional coursework to

address academic weaknesses before re-taking the ACT as seniors. Students can choose not to report any scores automatically to colleges and can test again before reporting scores. For more information about the ACT, including sample tests and online preparation, go to www.actstudent.org.

■ Comptroller Susan Combs has posted detailed expenditure lists for eight state agencies on the Web site, enabling Texans to easily see how their tax dollars are being spent. Making state expenditures public is part of the Comptroller’s initiative to make state government more transparent. “As the window on state government, the Comptroller’s office can’t have the blinds pulled down,” Combs said. “During my first week as Comptroller, I began posting my

agency’s expenditures online, right down to pencils, and I asked other state agencies to join us.” Expenditures by the following agencies are posted at www.window.state.tx.us: Texas Education Agency, Texas Workforce Commission, Health and Human Services Commission, Department of Family and Protective Services, Department of Aging and Disability Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and Department of State Health Services. Not all state agencies currently have an automated system necessary to report their expenditures to the Comptroller for posting on the Comptroller’s Web site. The Comptroller is developing a plan to put more agencies’ expenditures online.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

**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,
MARCH 9, 2007**

**VOLUNTARY
EMPLOYEE
BENEFITS**

**CSP NO.199-
0309-7067
ACCEPTED
UNTIL 2:00
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-03/01/07

PERSONAL

Thank you, St. Jude and Sacred Heart of Jesus for favor received. Rosy Hernandez.

3/27

STORAGE

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

3/29

SELF-HELP

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

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

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
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**HORIZON CITY
PLUMBING
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•Electric rooter service for sewers and drains
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•Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



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: _____

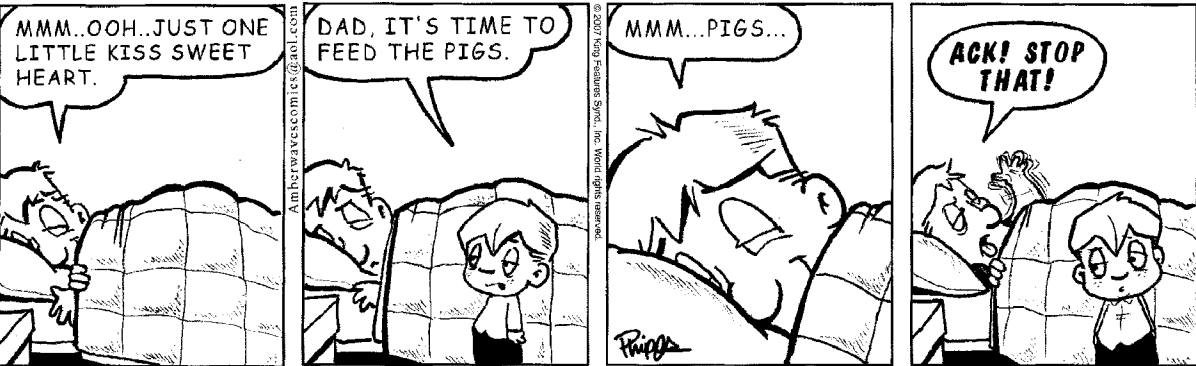
Phone: _____

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



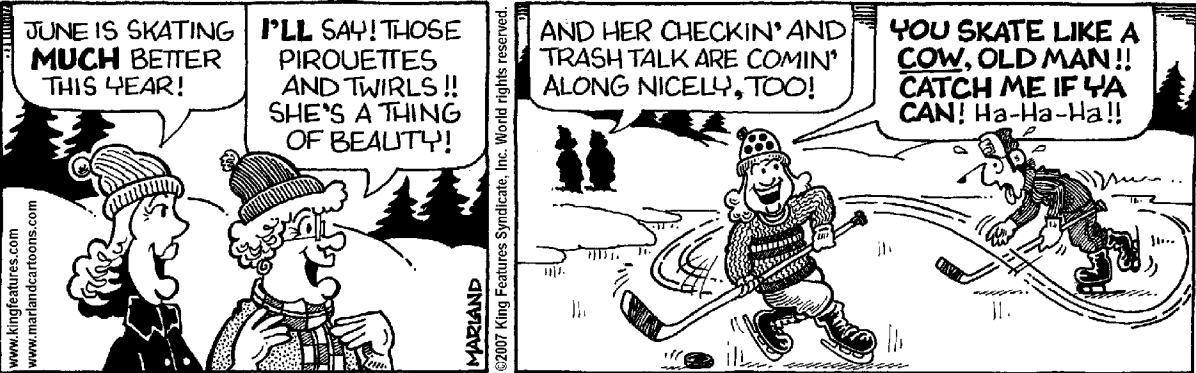
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Be careful when wishing for jackpot

By Don Flood

Here’s a sign that you may be spending too much time at the casino: giving birth. A woman at Atlantic City, N.J., casino recently hit the jackpot and had a baby boy while visiting to play the penny slots.

(Would she have had multiple births if she’d been playing the quarter slots?)

I mention this because gambling experts warn that if you are among those who regularly give birth while at a casino, this could be a sign that you’re gambling too much.

This is especially true for men. In fact, men who even *think* they are about to give birth while at a casino should see their doctor immediately, even if they’re on a “hot” streak.

Elsewhere in birthing news, an Illinois woman, apparently desperately seeking the Wife of the Century award, recently arranged to have her labor induced early so that her husband could attend a Chicago Bears football game.

Not just any game, of course. This was the NFC Championship game against the New Orleans Saints.

“I thought, how could [Mark] miss this one opportunity that he might never have again in his life?” said Colleen Pavelka, who immediately became the National Poster Girl for Incredibly Understanding Wives. (President Bush hailed her as one of America’s heroes in his State of the Union address.)

Good point. I mean, kids get born all the time. This was an NFC title game. Who knows when the Bears will get another shot, especially with Grossman as quarterback?

But, if nothing else, today I want

to squelch the rumor that Paula Abdul is drunk during “American Idol” auditions.

I know this for a fact because she releases a news bulletin every day saying she is not drunk.

If there was a Paula Abdul cable channel — and there should be — it would have a constant news crawl at the bottom saying, “Paula Abdul is not drunk. Paula Abdul is really not drunk. Paula Abdul is so NOT drunk, and why does everybody keep saying that...”

Speaking of “American Idol,” it’s time to tackle one of the great controversies facing America, an issue that pits brother against brother, cat against dog, and, in our household, sadly, wife against husband: Are the “singers” on “American Idol” auditions faking it? Are they trying to sound awful?

My wife says yes, insisting nobody can sound that bad and not realize it.

I disagree, saying no one should underestimate Americans’ “cando” spirit when it comes to self-delusion.

(This does not include me, of course. I really am a gifted singer, and I’m sure Paula Abdul would agree, especially if she was hammered and I told her she was really hot.)

I believe that immigrants came to America all dreaming the same dream: that one day they or their children or their grandchildren would be discovered on a TV show that highlighted amateur singing talent and featured a daffy female judge who was not drunk, even though everybody said she was.

Overall, though, I’d rather hit the jackpot — as long as it was a *cash* jackpot.

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- SPAGHETTI WESTERNS ACROSS**

1 Applies lightly

5 Helicopter sound

9 Swedish rockers

13 "Whole _ Love" ('69 hit)

18 Guinness or Baldwin

19 Actress Skye

20 Chrysler competitor

21 Toils

22 "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Ragazzo" star?

25 O'Neill's "The _ Cometh"

26 New Hampshire city

27 Postpone

28 Leaf part

30 Married Mlle.

31 Tarbell or Lupino

33 Theft

36 Spring mo.

37 "Duello at Diablo" star?

43 Punjabi princes

46 Ornamental vine

47 It may be bitter

48 Blue hue

50 The very bottom

52 Tijuana title

55 "Star Wars" Skywalker

57 Fawn's father
- 59 Pride of lions?

61 Be a pest

63 Actress Helgenberger

65 Alaric, for one

67 Easily read

71 Kedrova of "Torn Curtain"

73 Unwell

74 Gulf ruler

75 Part of EEC

76 "The Tin Stella" star?

79 Wrath

80 Fateful 15th

82 Demolished a Danish

83 Rain hard?

84 Incorporated, as territory

87 Smith or Jones, e.g.

89 Junket

91 Petite pooch

92 Forster's " _ With a View"

93 Evaluate

96 Level

98 Account entry

102 Have _ over one's head

104 "My Sweet _" ('70 smash)

106 Debtors' letters

108 Indefinite pronoun

109 Baal and Elvis

111 "Rosso River" star?
- 115 Funnyman Phillips

117 Hailing from Haifa

119 Paw part

120 Once around the track

121 "Peter Pan" pirate

122 Pound the podium

126 Stallone role

130 Puts up

132 "How the Ovest Was Won" star?

136 Actress Tyson

137 Poker stake

138 Peter and Gordon song, e.g.

139 Small combo

140 Asian capital

141 Tavern staples

142 District

143 Prophet
- DOWN**

1 TV's " _ Shadows"

2 Burn remedy

3 Neuwirth or Daniels

4 Picturesque

5 Humor

6 Car part

7 Memo start

8 Scuba site

9 Insult

10 Derisive cry

11 "It's freezing!"

12 Confuse

13 Tablecloth fabric

14 UK honor

15 "Riders of the
- Purpleo Sage" star?

16 Vagabond

17 Ed of "Lou Grant"

21 Tripoli native

23 Change the decor

24 Earl _ Biggers

29 Hockey's Bobby

32 Current unit

34 Honey bunch?

35 Wild child

37 "M*A*S*H" extras

38 " _ been had!"

39 Writer Rand

40 Vinegar's partner

41 Dejected

42 Detergent ingredient

44 Actress Gertz

45 Saying

49 Linda of "Alice"

51 Join the leisure class?

53 Kimono closer

54 Massage

56 Fromm or Segal

58 Comic Radner

60 Start the slaw

62 Shimmer

64 Rub it in

66 Distort

67 Camera company

68 Writer Welty

69 "The Grande Country" star?

70 Go in

72 Blazing

77 Kidney-related

78 De Havilland or
- Hussey

81 Hair net

85 Start to snooze

86 Spud bud

88 Melville novel

90 Menial laborer

94 Tiberius' threads?

95 A Great Lake

97 Sister

99 Lad

100 Bed and breakfast

101 Pigskin prop

103 Poorly made

105 Costello or Del Rio

107 Use a straw

110 Compass pt.

112 Neighbor of Tenn.

113 Weft's opposite

114 Modifies

115 Vote in

116 Lanza or Lemieux

118 "King Lear" role

121 WWII site

123 Verdi opera

124 _ de force

125 Fencing weapon

127 Full-grown filly

128 Soft cheese

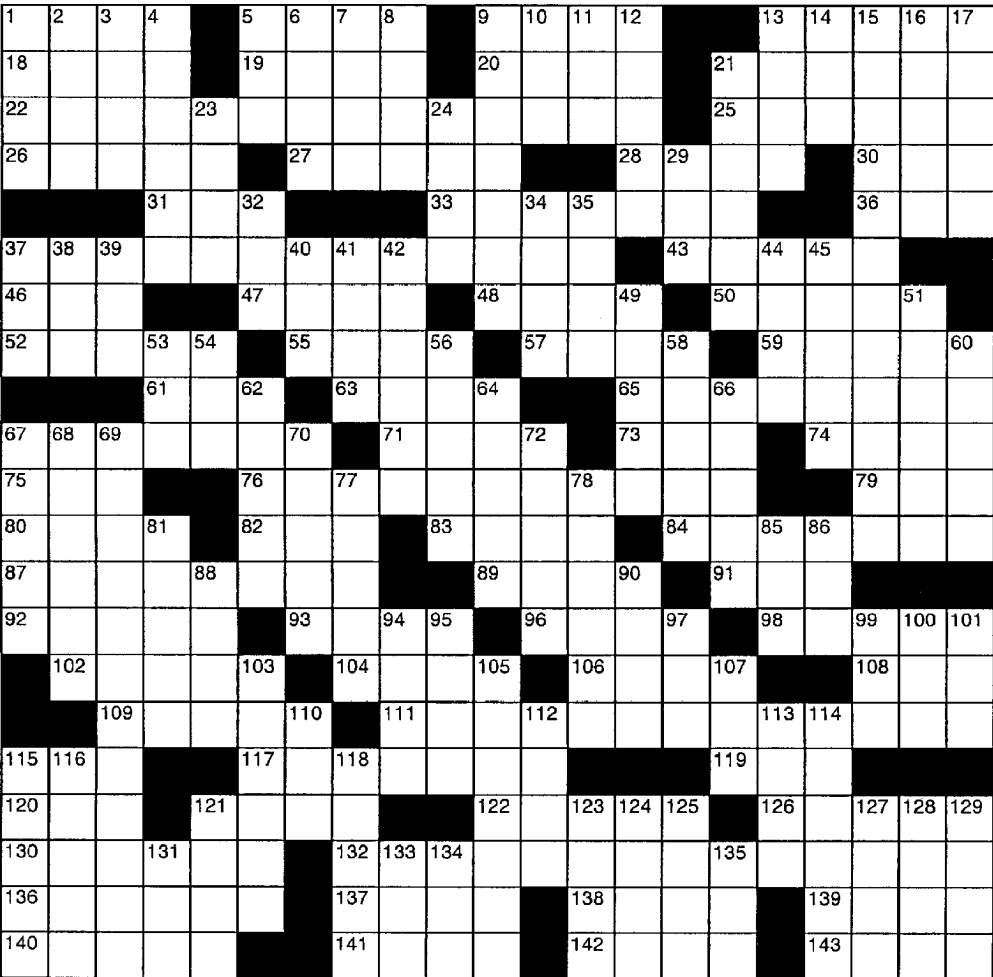
129 Scent

131 Dodger Ron

133 Shiba _ (Japanese dog)

134 Giant legend

135 Greek vowel



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: It has been about a month since I applied for Social Security disability benefits and I still haven't heard anything. How long does a decision usually take?

A: The amount of time it takes for a decision on a disability claim varies. The nature of your disability and how quickly we are able to get medical evidence from your doctor or medical sources can make a difference in how long it takes. Generally, to get an initial decision on your case, it

takes about three to five months. If your claim is initially denied, there are several steps in the appeal process that you can pursue. 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: How much of my annual earnings are subject to the Social Security payroll tax?

A: In 2007, the maximum earnings

taxable is \$97,500. That means workers must pay Social Security tax on the first \$97,500 of earnings for the year; any wages above that amount are not subject to Social Security taxes. However, there is not a limit for Medicare tax. A taxpayer's total annual wages are subject to Medicare tax.

Q: My parents recently moved into a retirement community and they are signing their house over to me. Can I still get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or will home ownership make me ineligible?

A: You can own a home and still receive SSI as long as you live in the

home you own. In most cases, when determining SSI eligibility we don't count the home you own and live in or the car you use as resources. For more information about SSI and Social Security, 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 was born in February of 1944, so my full retirement age is 66. Do I sign up for Medicare at the same time?

A: No — the Medicare eligibility age is still 65, so you should make an appointment to apply for Medicare first. Call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-

325-0778) now to file for Medicare. While on the phone, we'll discuss your retirement plans and you may be able to sign up for Social Security at the same time. To learn more, visit Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call 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 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.

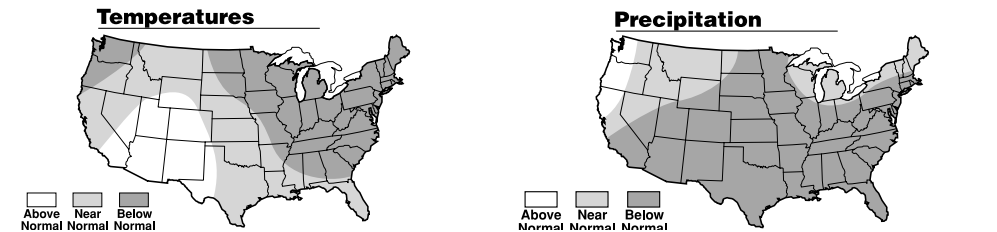
7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

AccuWeather.com®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly sunny and cooler	Mainly clear; very windy	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Sunny to partly cloudy	Sunny to partly cloudy	Plenty of sunshine	Sunny and warmer
59°	36°	59° 32°	55° 29°	63° 36°	70° 42°	68° 46°	78° 47°
RealFeel 53°	RealFeel 24°	RealFeel 56° 22°	RealFeel 55° 23°	RealFeel 65° 26°	RealFeel 68° 30°	RealFeel 75° 45°	RealFeel 80° 46°

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	Full	Last
Thu.	6:33 a.m.	6:03 p.m.	Thu.	4:11 p.m.	5:26 a.m.		
Fri.	6:32 a.m.	6:04 p.m.	Fri.	5:09 p.m.	5:57 a.m.	3/3	3/11
Sat.	6:31 a.m.	6:05 p.m.	Sat.	6:05 p.m.	6:25 a.m.	New	First
Sun.	6:30 a.m.	6:05 p.m.	Sun.	7:00 p.m.	6:50 a.m.		
Mon.	6:29 a.m.	6:06 p.m.	Mon.	7:54 p.m.	7:14 a.m.	3/18	3/25
Tues.	6:28 a.m.	6:07 p.m.	Tues.	8:49 p.m.	7:39 a.m.		
Wed.	6:26 a.m.	6:08 p.m.	Wed.	9:44 p.m.	8:05 a.m.		

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REGIONAL CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	67	35	s	61	30	s	56	30	s	64	37	s
Albuquerque, NM	47	26	pc	44	22	pc	48	26	s	60	33	s
Amarillo, TX	50	25	pc	48	23	s	49	26	s	63	29	s
Austin, TX	76	38	pc	68	40	s	63	34	s	68	36	s
Brownsville, TX	84	59	pc	78	57	pc	73	48	pc	73	50	s
Dodge City, KS	49	23	c	45	19	pc	50	25	s	56	28	s
Jackson, MS	73	46	t	71	40	s	58	32	pc	62	39	s
Laredo, TX	86	57	pc	80	52	s	71	45	s	71	51	s
Little Rock, AR	75	40	t	58	36	s	53	33	pc	61	39	s
Lubbock, TX	59	28	s	52	26	s	52	25	s	66	32	s
Memphis, TN	71	43	t	64	36	s	51	33	pc	57	37	s
Midland, TX	63	35	s	59	29	s	54	29	s	63	36	s
Pueblo, CO	42	17	sn	39	12	pc	48	18	s	57	25	s
Roswell, NM	59	28	s	57	30	s	56	25	s	61	30	s
St. Louis, MO	59	31	r	46	27	c	38	26	sf	47	33	s
San Antonio, TX	79	47	pc	73	41	s	64	36	s	70	41	s
Texarkana, AR	75	40	t	64	41	s	57	36	pc	65	42	s
Waco, TX	75	40	pc	65	35	s	60	37	s	66	39	s
Wichita, KS	49	27	pc	47	24	pc	46	29	pc	52	32	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

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Atlanta	65	52	r	62	44	pc	57	34	pc	55	35	pc
Boston	36	29	pc	38	35	r	47	32	c	37	27	sf
Chicago	50	26	r	36	21	sf	33	17	sf	33	23	pc
Denver	36	14	sn	34	12	c	42	24	s	55	28	s
Detroit	45	33	r	37	25	sf	34	22	sf	36	21	sf
Houston	76	49	t	74	43	pc	63	42	pc	69	44	s
Indianapolis	57	33	c	44	25	c	37	23	sf	40	23	pc
Kansas City	40	24	sn	38	20	c	38	22	pc	50	30	s
Los Angeles	62	44	pc	68	46	s	73	49	pc	72	51	s
Miami	85	72	pc	87	72	pc	86	66	pc	77	58	pc
Minneapolis	31	16	sn	24	12	sf	24	12	sf	30	19	pc
New Orleans	78	57	t	71	54	pc	64	42	pc	62	48	s
New York City	41	39	r	46	38	r	45	34	c	44	31	pc
Omaha	38	19	sn	30	15	c	37	16	pc	42	23	s
Phoenix	63	42	s	64	42	s	70	47	s	78	52	s
San Francisco	57	42	pc	59	45	pc	61	47	pc	63	47	pc
Seattle	44	36	r	47	41	r	51	41	r	51	40	r
Washington	49	45	r	60	38	pc	48	32	c	47	31	pc

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