



NEWSBRIEFS

Thanksgiving conference

The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society (SEGHS) will host its 16th Annual Conference on April 29. The public is invited to come participate and learn about the First Thanksgiving in America — held in San Elizario, Texas. The conference will be held at L.G. Alarcon Elementary School Auditorium, 12501 Socorro Rd., in San Elizario with registration starting at 8 a.m. The free event will be a full day with exhibits and speakers. Lunch will be provided for \$10 a person for those that make reservations. All proceeds will go to the SEGHS. For more information or reservations contact Frank Soto at sanelzario@sbcglobal.net or call (915) 851-1682. To register by mail send your \$10/plate check to: Marta Garcia, SEGHS, P.O. Box 1090, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Horizon Spring Festival

The First Annual Spring Days Festival in Horizon City, April 5-8, will bring four days of unprecedented fun and festivities to 14100 Horizon Blvd., between Darrington and Kenazo. Co-sponsored by the newly forming Eastlake Lions Club and the Five-Points Lions Club, the fun will begin daily at noon and run to 10 p.m. with a full carnival, food, games, live entertainment, a classic car show and motorcycle rides. Parking and admission are free. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club charities in their service to the local community.

In other news

■ A memorial service for Horizon resident Bonnie Ezell-Phillips will be held at the Horizon Bible Church, 14802 Duanesburg, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, with Pastor Joseph Onick officiating. The community is invited to attend.

■ The Oz Glaze Senior Center is having a rummage sale on April 14 at 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City. Donated articles from the community to sell to support the center are being accepted until Friday, April 13. Vendor tables for arts and crafts or other items are available for \$10. For more information call Alice Bennett at 852-4006.

■ The Lower Valley School Nurses Association will hold its annual health fair on Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Socorro High School. The association, along with co-sponsors El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District and Las Palmas and Del Sol Health Care are offering free cholesterol checks, blood pressure, blood sugar, Pap smear and other screenings. All childhood immunizations are available at \$10 per child. The Kids Korner Program will offer free developmental screenings and fun

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Poison Jungle Safari to teach, thrill kids and adults alike



— Photo courtesy El Paso Zoo

EL PASO COUNTY — The Banded Rock Rattlesnake is a local example of venomous snakes to be on exhibit when the El Paso Zoo hosts the West Texas Regional Poison Center's fun-filled educational event for the whole family on March 24. Different education stations will be set up throughout the Zoo to teach kids and their families in both English and Spanish about the dangers of household poisonings, bites and stings, illegal drugs, prescription medica-

tions, environmental and lead poisoning, and toxic plants. Free T-shirts will be given to the first 500 children under 12 who successfully complete the Poison Jungle Safari. Clowns, face painting, free giveaways and other fun family activities will be available. One child will be admitted free with a paying adult from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with coupon. Coupons are available for downloading from the West Texas Regional Poison Center website: www.poisoncenter.org.

Jane Hambric students send 12,000 cookies to soldiers

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Students at Jane A. Hambric School were on a mission to bring in 1,000 dozen cookies. One week later, 12,060 cookies were on their way to members of the 4th Brigade Combat Team which left Fort Bliss in November for Iraq.

Students helped soldiers from the 27th Support Brigade Battalion from Fort Bliss pack nearly six boxes with 1,005 dozen cookies on March 8, 2007. This is not the students' first campaign to support troops. They have sent letters and artwork during the holidays and are planning another drive to collect toiletries before school ends.

"I am proud of these students for coming through on this project and sending a little taste



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

MORE THAN A MOUTHFUL — Some of the 12,000 cookies collected by Jane A. Hambric students are packed for shipping by, from left, Nick Diaz De Leon-5th, Private Hawkins, Specialist Lazox, Matthew Alonzo-7th, Tiffany Davis-5th and Rachel Lujan-4th (hidden) for US troops in Iraq.

of home to troops serving overseas," says Ronald Reeves, Hambric counselor.

Three classes went above and beyond and collected the most. Ana Figueroa's 3rd grade class brought in the most with 44 dozen cookies. They were followed by Noel Rodriguez' 4th grade bilingual class which collected 41 and Diana Razloznik's 3rd class which donated 39 dozen.

"I am not surprised," says Lt. Meagan Drew of the students' support. "Whatever they promise, they do tenfold for us."

Canutillo ISD hosts School Board Member Institute during Bilingual Conference

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — A pre-conference institute featuring neuroscience research in dealing with language learning and the brain will be the kick-off event for the 14th Annual BEEMS (Bilingual Education with Emphasis in Math & Science) Conference with this year's theme: *Leading English Language Learners to Success*.

The conference, co-sponsored by the College of Education, UTEP, Canutillo ISD, and Ysleta ISD, will be held Thursday through Saturday, March 29-31.

The special School Board Member Institute, which is designed for school board members and school administrators, will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 29, at the Canutillo ISD Administrative Facility, 7965 Arcraft.

The institute will feature distinguished keynote speaker Dr. Janet Zadina, a Post Doctoral Fellow in cognitive neuroscience in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology at Tulane University and author of *Writing Now*, presenting *Using Brain Research to Energize and Enhance Second Language Instruction*.

Featured presenters also include Dr. Josefina Tinajero, Dean of the College of Education-UTEP, Professor, Director of the nationally acclaimed Mother-Daughter/Father-Son Program, and co-author/editor of *The Power of Two Languages 2000: Effective Dual-Language Use Across the Curriculum*; James Crawford, Executive Director of the Institute for Language and Education Policy and author of *Educating English Learners: Language Diversity in the Classroom*; and Dr. Jose A. Ruiz-Escalante, University of Texas-Pan American presenting *Different Perspectives of Dual Language Models: The South Texas Dual Language Immersion Model*.

"The BEEMS Conference will not only provide attendees with the opportunity to receive the latest research and information on successful bilingual programs, but will also endow them with the experience of seeing the bilingual programs in action during the school site visits," said Lilia "Teddy" Martinez, Academic Language Services director. "The conference, once again, is featuring top notch researchers in the field of second language acquisition and dual language programs and we are expecting a great turnout," she added.

About 1,000 teachers, administrators, school board members, parents, and students from the El Paso-Juarez area, Texas, and across the country are expected to participate in the three-day conference.

Other conference events will include site visits to school campuses, Two-Way Bilingual Program Institutes in El Paso/Juarez area schools, a Gifted and Talented 6-hour update, and over 60 concurrent sessions focusing on Dual Language Programs, ESOL Middle/High School, Parental Involvement, Literacy Development, Special Education, Leadership, and Assessment.

For more information, call 877-7435.

You can only extend the hand of friendship. You cannot force the other fellow to grasp it.

— Quips & Quotes



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

The right battles

Everyone knows, or at least should know, that when the PCP (Politically Correct Police) go on a witch hunt there is no telling where it will lead.

One recent hunt has ended up at the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. They were on the trail of a couple of witches who used to drive a 1968 red Dodge charger.

They don't burn witches at the stake anymore. They just prohibit them from performing in a Pops concert in Ohio.

Tom Wopat and John Schneider, who played the original Luke and Bo Duke in the 1979-1985 *Dukes of Hazzard* television series, have apparently become unacceptable faces on a stage where they have performed successfully several times in the past, because someone whined to the PCP that the *Dukes* program had "racist overtones."

Proof of this accusation is apparently because the Charger the Duke boys drove had a Confederate flag emblazoned on top.

The simple truth is that canceling a concert like this is narrow-minded, negative and selfish, and therefore will never improve anything. What it does do — and very successfully — is further widen the chasm across which various groups view each other.

It also makes the Cincinnati Pops Concert people look downright silly.

Cancellation of the July 14 concert has forced otherwise uninvolved people to take sides, including four-term Georgia Congressman Ben Jones, who once played Cooter in the *Dukes* series.

Jones is a member of the NAACP and was an activist in the 1960's Civil

Rights Movement. Still, he is quoted by *E! Online* as saying the concert's cancellation was "a dangerous affront to the rights of performing artists and their audiences, and the worst example of political correctness I've ever heard of."

Unfortunately, I'd have to agree — not because I think *Dukes* was any great cultural event. In fact, I could name several things about the program that would make me question why it would even be associated with the Cincinnati Pops — but not a single one of them would have to do with racism.

I sure can't see why Wopat and Schneider should be marked with any kind of stigma, lo, these many years later.

What does concern me is the seemingly mindless drive that seems to engulf some forces in America to wipe out anything in history that is not immersed in the most bland, colorless and nameless of political correctness.

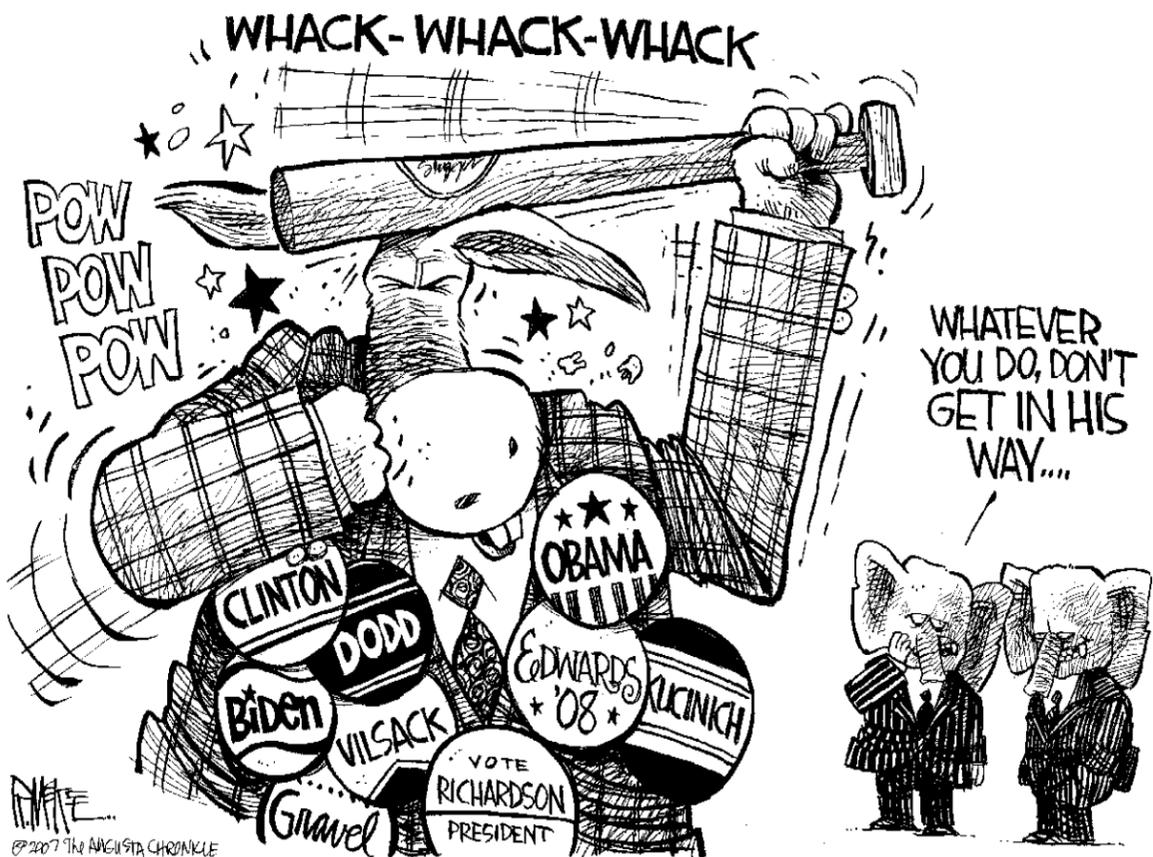
I believe we might do well to remember the phrase coined by George Santayana who warned that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

The Confederate flag is a symbol of the American Southland, past and present. So what. Get over it and get on with it. There have been quite as many atrocities committed under the Stars and Stripes, the Union Jack and any number of other national symbols that are still proudly waving over nations from sea to shining sea that we acknowledge with respect.

The main difference is that the Confederacy lost the war.

To the victors go the spoils, they

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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View from here

By Todd Stottlemeyer

Don't balance the books on small business' back

For many small-business owners, three little words — Internal Revenue Service — can send chills down the most steely of spines.

The IRS recently announced that the agency intends to target small businesses for increased scrutiny and audits to close what's called the tax gap — the difference between what's owed to the government and what's actually collected.

The IRS estimates that the net tax gap — which includes unpaid and underreported taxes — is about \$290 billion. The agency says that underreporting income is a significant source of the gap, although by no means all of it.

Of course, no one defends tax scofflaws. We all need to pay our taxes owed, and to punish those who intentionally evade their tax liabilities. But what no one knows is exactly what portion of the tax gap is due to evasion, and what is due to simple mistakes. What percentage of the tax gap is attributed to the complexity of the tax code? And what other external factors, such as the nature of these business' transactions,

affect their tax reporting?

For example, if you're engaged in business-to-consumer transactions, it's hard for the IRS to track your activities. Unreported income from these transactions could be a significant contributor to the tax gap, but data to prove it one way or another isn't thorough enough to warrant drastic measures.

The IRS claims that individuals underreport business income by an estimated \$109 billion. Of that, \$68 billion is attributed to underreporting by Schedule C filers or sole proprietors (the balance is due from large corporations and other taxes, such as employment and estate taxes).

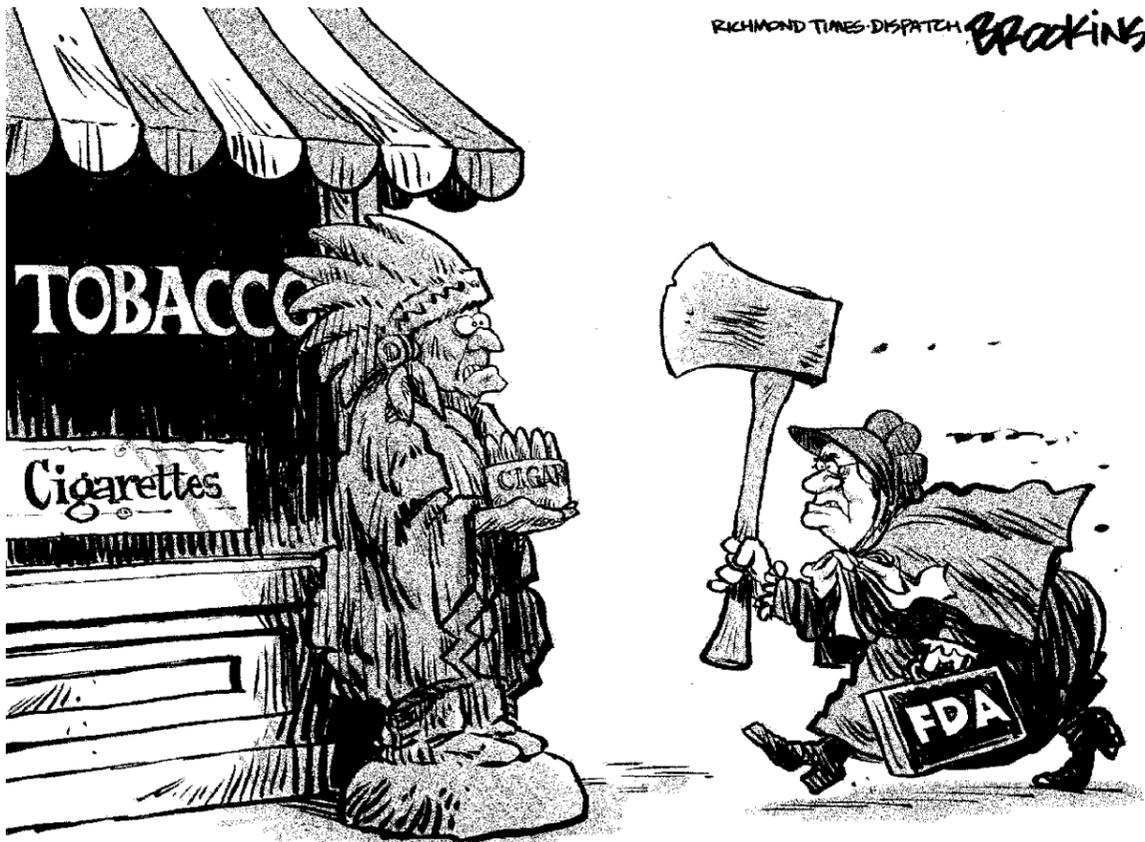
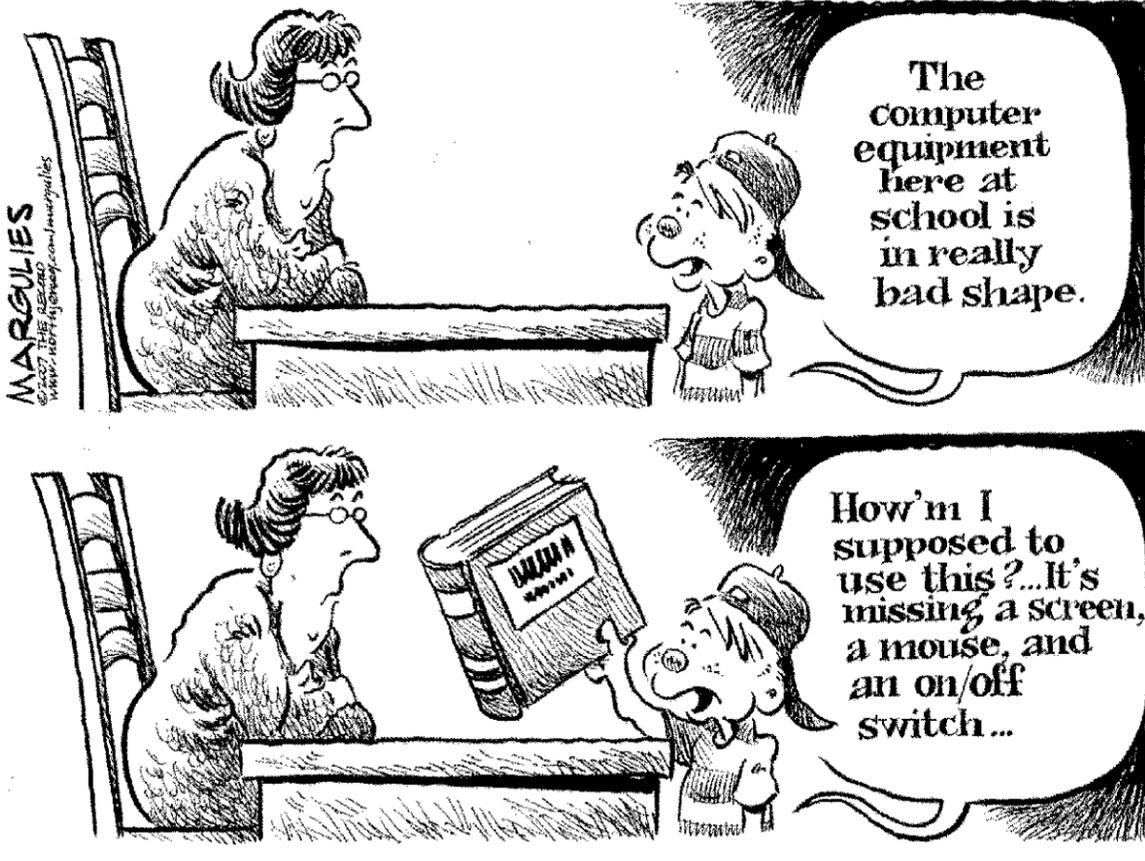
In tax year 2001, 20.6 million individual tax returns reported non-farm income on Schedule C. Two-thirds of these Schedule C businesses are very small; about 13 million had gross sales of \$25,000 or less. If you include those with sales of up to \$100,000, the total rises to nearly 17 million. Clearly, the IRS is looking to gore the wrong ox, and one that's working very hard for the nation's economy.

The IRS tacitly admits that small businesses are simply easier to pursue. Big corporations can employ evasive tactics such as offshore tax havens and other shelters. Last year, Commissioner Mark Everson testified to an investigative subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, "We have real difficulties finding out what's going on [with large corporations]," he said. "Our challenges are acute and ever-growing. Offshore abuses are a real problem."

Amid continuing budget deficits and record debt, the IRS and many lawmakers look to tax-gap enforcement to find more money. The budget that the president just released this month recommends 16 proposals to address the tax gap, at least seven of which have the potential to create a significantly increased compliance burden for small businesses.

Small businesses need to be vigilant in order to fend off harmful tax-gap proposals. In addition, we need

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World is halfway to influenza pandemic, medical magazine reports

By Brent Annear
Special to the Courier

According to foremost international health experts, the world is halfway to an influenza pandemic, reports the February *Texas Medicine* magazine.

That is according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which established a scale of six phases of pandemic influenza. A pandemic is larger and more widespread than an epidemic in that the illness occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally large slice of the population. By contrast, epidemics are limited to one general area and affect a smaller segment of people.

The world is currently in the third of six phases on the WHO scale. The third level is "a pandemic alert phase" of the virus commonly referred to as the avian flu virus. In phase three humans have been infected but have not spread the bug to each other.

The six WHO pandemic phases include:

1. New virus in animals, but no human cases;
2. New virus in animals, and people might be able to contract the virus, but there are no known human cases;
3. Heightened alert stage due to humans contracting the disease, but none or very few humans are transmitting the disease to each other;
4. Heightened alert stage, because people more easily transmit the virus to each other;
5. Heightened alert due to evidence of significant human-to-human transmission; and
6. Full pandemic, as humans easily and commonly infect each other with the virus.

The avian flu virus (Influenza A H5N1) moves rapidly, and typical immunity defenses are no match. The virus first appeared in birds in 1997 and re-emerged in domestic and wild fowl in 2004. Over time, 220 people

have become infected, and half did not survive. Those people contracted the virus from infected birds. So far humans cannot transmit the virus to each other. However, if that occurs, the United States will initiate its pandemic response.

"[Once] human-to-human transmission [of the virus] is established global spread is inevitable," *Texas Medicine* reports.

Should a pandemic strike the United States, the forecasts are chilling.

As many as 30 percent of Americans, or some 90 million people, could contract the disease in a pandemic outbreak. Half would seek medical care. The number of people predicted to die could range from 200,000 up to as many as 1.9 million. So what are public health officials planning?

"Emphasis will be placed on detecting the first few cases and containing their spread as much as possible to allow the production of enough vaccines... to cover the majority of the population," *Texas Medicine* reports. Officials have two vaccine-related goals: create a vaccine stockpile big enough to immunize 20 million health care and support workers against the strain that presents the pandemic threat; and then produce enough to immunize the entire U.S. population within six months.

The United States, Canada, and Mexico are working together to treat North America as a single, disease-fighting unit to counter-attack a pandemic. Health authorities ranging from the federal level to the border community level are strategizing how to plan for and respond to emergencies. They are discussing how to identify and count animal and human cases and how to handle the issue of border crossings, among other items.

Three global influenza outbreaks have occurred during the last century, in 1918, 1957, and 1968. The 1918 pandemic resulted in 40 to 50 million deaths worldwide, 500,000 of which were in the United States.

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Funding bill would alleviate flood damage to Rio Grande

Federal funding to help clean the silt and debris out of the Rio Grande river basin and safeguard El Paso from future flooding took an important step forward in the House of Representatives last week. \$10 million in federal funding to remove silt from the Rio Grande in El Paso was included in the \$124 billion emergency war supplemental bill the U.S. House Appropriations Committee approved on Thursday. My colleague Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, D-West Texas, and I worked together to secure these funds, and their inclusion marks a huge victory for El Paso.

I am pleased that my colleagues recognized the need in El Paso. As we know all too well, El Paso experienced a severe flood last summer that resulted in millions of dollars worth of damage, prompting President Bush to declare El Paso County a federal disaster area. While El Paso

is moving ably toward recovery, last year's flood waters deposited hundreds of thousands of tons of silt and debris in the Rio Grande river channel, which piled up on top of other silt and debris that had accumulated in the channel. These materials severely reduce the capacity of the river channel to contain water, and if last year's weather conditions repeat themselves this summer, it is likely that flood waters will breach the levees that protect our region.

This affects the safety of our community, and the timeliness of the matter necessitates funding in the emergency supplemental bill. I have been working with several leaders in the House on this issue, and in fact, I invited Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson to El Paso in February, taking him to the Rio Grande to gain an understanding of the threat the silt and debris poses to the region. I also worked with the leaders of the Appropriations Committee, informing them of the

problem, showing them photographs and other evidence of the danger facing El Paso, and urging them to pass this funding immediately.

The emergency funding bill also includes \$3.1 billion in Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) military construction funds critical to El Paso. This funding, in addition to the \$2.5 billion for BRAC military construction in the fiscal year 2007 Continuing Resolution signed into law in February, fully funds the \$5.6 billion BRAC military construction account for 2007, which will keep construction projects at Fort Bliss on track.

While traveling with Speaker Pelosi in Iraq in January, we met with soldiers from 4/1 Cav, and I made the point that it would be soldiers like these who would not have a permanent place to go home if Congress did not provide full funding. I also worked with House leadership and Appropriations Committee leadership to include this funding for BRAC military construc-



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore March 20, 1941: Possum Kingdom Reservoir is created by damming up the Brazos River.

tion in the bill.

Both of these projects require timely action and fit the nature of the emergency supplemental bill, and are important to both the safety and well-

being of our community. It was critical that the House Appropriations Committee include them in the bill, and I applaud them for recognizing this need in El Paso.

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State of AISD is good, superintendent says

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — Vern Butler, superintendent of the Anthony ISD, is seeing the fruits of educational labor.

Those fruits are not just in the classroom, but also in the administrative support.

The district is moving forward.

Butler points to positives, indicating that the three-campus Upper Valley school district is moving forward in three primary areas.

Academically: "We have made great strides."

Financially: It is the third year in a row for a balanced district budget.

Personnel: "We have good people."

"We are seeing benchmark gains (for students) through MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress)," he says. Butler emphasizes that MAP is just as its name indicates, merely a measurement, not a test, of where the student is academically. "It has legitimacy."

Factored in and aligned with MAP, now in its second year, are results from other standardized tests like TAKS which area students are presently taking. This enables the teacher

to see where the individual students are academically and then fine-tune and adjust instruction accordingly.

He wants "to define the role between teaching and learning."

The superintendent appreciates and applauds the efforts of teachers — their willingness to sit down and meet and work together for the students' benefit. "It has been a lot of work for them. (But) we have made great strides."

Butler's bottom line: "We have expectations for the kids. Our hope is seeing their success at all levels and doing our best for them to be successful when they leave the Anthony school district."

Butler's expectations for students' success go beyond the classroom teacher, beyond the campus, beyond the district and into the students' homes to draw even more parents into the educational process.

He praises the support of many parents, but his long-term goal is to have 100 percent participation. "I would like to see more parents involved, asking (us) the hard questions."

Citing financial concerns, the superintendent points to Fred Herrera, the district's chief financial officer.

Previously it was a "hit or miss" situation in terms of financial operations, Butler admits. Herrera "oversees everything" and has restructured finances and is "defining our overall operations. He is helping us spend in the right areas in the best interest of our students and teachers."

Positive results are evident. For the third year in a row, the district has a balanced budget. And there has also been an increase in the general fund balance, Butler adds.

"We want to focus on personnel, defining their roles and responsibilities. We are restructuring the district, and we want to give more support — more help — to district employees."

"We have good people," Butler says simply and directly. "We rely on these people and their expertise. We let the teachers teach, (and) we want to give teachers more of a voice."

Butler's goal for the Anthony Independent School District: Earning "Recognized" status from the Texas Education Agency. Presently all three campuses are rated "Academically Acceptable."

"I think it is within our reach to achieve 'Recognized' status," he says confidently. "It will take some doing; it will take some hard work."



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

MARCHING TO STATE — Canutillo High School's HOSA participants and their advisors are shown in photo, front row from left, Robyn Weiss, CHS teacher and HOSA advisor; Erika White, Lidia Lopez, Cindy Galvan, and Melanie Garcia. Back row, from left, is Richard Del Val, Miriam Garcia, Steve Fierro, Patrick Cereceres, Julie Vinikoff, CHS teacher and HOSA advisor; and Alfonso Frias. Not shown in photo Dominick Ruiz and Suzette Baeza.

Canutillo High HOSA winners advance to state

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Eleven Canutillo High School health occupations students advance to state competition after placing among the top finishers in area contests during the annual Area IV HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) leadership conference held in Lubbock recently.

First place winners from CHS include: Alfonso Frias, junior, in First Aid/Rescue Breathing; Miriam Garcia, junior, in Prepared Speaking. Second place qualifier was Suzette Baeza, senior, in Interviewing Skills; Melanie Garcia, freshman, in Physical Therapy; Lidia Lopez, junior, in Medical Spelling. Third place finisher was Cindy Galvan, sophomore, in Medical Assisting. Also placing in the top 5 and advancing to state are: Dominick Ruiz, freshman, in Nutrition; Steve Fierro, junior, in Dental Terminol-

ogy; and Erika White, junior, in Medical Terminology.

"We have two HOSA members that have been elected for the local area. Patrick Cereceres, sophomore, is the new president for Area 4, and Richard Del Val, junior, is the new Reporter for Area 4. Miriam Garcia will also be running for a state officer position during the state conference," said Julie Vinikoff, CHS health science teacher and HOSA advisor.

The Area IV HOSA conference included students from high schools and health occupations magnet schools throughout West Texas including El Paso, Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Abilene and San Angelo. More than 500 students competed in the local area contest to qualify for state competition.

The April 12-14 state level competition will be held in Galveston. Qualifiers will go on to nationals in Orlando, Florida in June. Participants include students and instructors from seven different areas throughout the state of Texas.

Audits

From Page 2

to emphasize that just because large corporations' tax liabilities are more difficult to determine doesn't mean the IRS shouldn't pursue these companies. Finally, simplifying the tax code to make it easier for small businesses to comply could go a long way to closing the gap.

Todd Stottlemeyer is president and CEO of the National Federation of Independent Business in Washington, D.C.

The Heat is on

HORIZON CITY — The Horizon City Youth Association recently concluded its annual basketball season with the Heat taking first place in the boy's league in tournament play. The victorious team is shown front row from left, Logan Asleson, Andy Facio, Damian Cervantes, Angel Flores, Charles Luevano, and Brandon Banuelas. Second row is Saul Flores, Zack Asleson, Jesse Hernandez, Irvin Carillo and Isaac Morales. Coaches are Derek and D'Anne Asleson.

— Photo by Catherine Brown



Battles

From Page 2

say, and, apparently, so does the re-writing and revision of history.

I'd agree that in the association between humans, we should follow the adage that if you can't say something nice, it might be a good idea to keep your mouth shut. On the other hand, it is pretty stupid to try to whitewash the plain and simple facts.

It is an unfortunate truth that ev-

ery group of people who ever became a nation, be they white, black, red or yellow, has — without exception — done things of which it should not be proud. It is equally true that whether we like it or not, we will again if faced with similar choice.

The United States of America is an incredible place with an incredible history — some of it not so pretty. But those who have graced the soil of this country have been given opportunities almost unparalleled in human history. We've come to a

place where the greatest possible number of people have greater individual freedoms and opportunities than virtually any nation on the face of the earth.

Yet, with familiarity comes contempt. Instead of working together to preserve these national blessings, we turn on each other with the kind of pettiness that would curl the hair on a citizen of a country less blessed.

It's time for Americans to grow up and starting fighting the right battles, and those battles shouldn't be against each other.

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El Dorado student signs to play collegiate soccer



By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Senior Sasha Ortiz is helping write history at El Dorado High School. She will be in the school's first graduating class and she became the first El Dorado student to sign a letter of intent to play college sports. The senior, accompanied by her mother and coaches, signed the letter from Texas A & M International University on March 6, 2007.

"We knew she was going to be playing collegiate soccer," says Soccer Coach Jerry Paugh. "She was a huge part of our success."

With the drum line and her teammates watching, Sasha committed

to play soccer for the Laredo-based school. Ortiz, who played forward, midfield and sweeper, has been playing for two years at El Dorado. Last year, she was selected as MVP of District 2-4A. In addition, the soccer team was the first team in the school's history to make the playoffs in 2006.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive this scholarship and be the first El Dorado student to sign," says Sasha. "It's been great playing with the team and I thank them because they helped make this dream come true."

Texas A&M is a member of the Texas A&M University System. TAMU Women's Soccer team finished its first year as a NCAA Division II provisional member.



A LITTLE LOCAL HISTORY — Jerry Paugh, soccer coach, EDHS Senior Sasha Ortiz with brother Ismael and mother Veronica alongside Nora Paugh, EDHS Principal during the signing celebration.

— Photos courtesy Socorro ISD
ON THE DOTTED LINE — Sasha signs her letter of intent to play soccer at Texas A&M International.

SISD seniors receive scholarships

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — They spent their high school careers playing, practicing or performing in various extra-curricular activities. As they prepare for their next stage in their education, four Socorro ISD students will have some help in paying college costs.

— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

THE FUTURE IS NOW — Socorro senior Brenda Elizabeth Alcantar meets Brian Young, former UTEP and current New Orleans Saint football player at the 15th Annual All Senior All-Star Football Classic.

Brenda Elizabeth Alcantar from Socorro High School, Julio Lopez from Montwood High School, and Dillon Martinez and Leslie Joy Montano Maulit from Americas High School received \$1,000 from the 15th Annual Senior All Star Football Classic.

This year, the 15th Annual Senior All Star Football Classic handed out 24 scholarships to students throughout the El Paso region. Students were selected based on their participation in school based programs such as athletics, cheerleading, drill team, choir, JROTC, band or sports medicine. Along with an application, students submitted a personal essay on who had the greatest influence on their lives.

The two dozen seniors were recognized at a banquet on March 1, 2007 at the Ysleta ISD Administration and Cultural Center and heard from guest speaker El Paso Mayor John Cook who encouraged students to pursue a degree higher education. Other guest speakers included Brian Young, former UTEP football player who currently plays for the New Orleans Saints. All 24 students also participated in the Annual West vs East All Star Football Game.

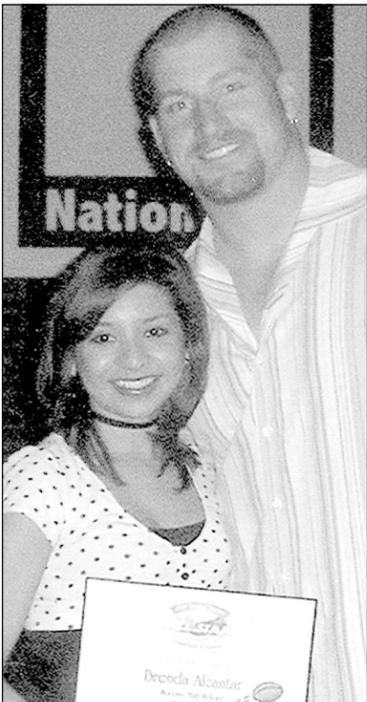
"He said education will change our lives for the best," said Alcantar. She is in the dance program at Socorro High School and is a Missionette.

People know Pueblo for its...



Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.



Briefs

From Page 1

activities for children. The Health Fair is proudly sponsoring two Family Fun Walks at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Free shirts will be offered to adult participants. For more information call 937-4044.

■ The Kiwanis Club of Horizon City, El Paso will be celebrating its 32nd Annual Community Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 8, 2007. The event will be held at the Horizon City Municipal Park. Refreshments will be served in the Oz Glaze Senior Center after the service. Everyone is invited to attend. Questions may be directed to Dottie Mersinger at 852-3207.

■ Student registration is underway for Pre-K through 12th grade students in the Socorro ISD and will continue with various dates, depending on campus, through July. For dates and times for specific campuses, contact those campuses directly on log on at www.sisd.net.

Requirements for a new student to Socorro Independent School District:

- Birth certificate.

- Shot record — if shot record is not up to date child will not be registered.

- Utility bill — light, gas, or water — as proof of district residency. No bill termination notices; if bill is not under parent/legal guardian name a notarized letter is required.

- Guardianship letter is required if student resides with anyone other than parents and the parents must reside in the U.S. If parents reside outside the U.S. a legal guardianship letter is needed.

- Social security card if applicable.

- Parent or guardian ID.

- Report card or withdrawal from previous school.

Registration requirements for a returning student to SISD:

- Utility bill (light, gas or water) no bill termination notices, if bill is not under parent/legal guardian name a Notarized letter is required

- Parent or guardian ID

If a student has attended any school in the Socorro ISD but left to go to another school, they must have documentation as a new student.

■ Students in grades one through eight are invited to participate in the annual Law Day Chess Match against lawyers and paralegals representing the El Paso Bar Association from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2007 at St. Clement's

Episcopal Church, 810 N. Campbell in El Paso. For more information call Clinton Cross at 546-2050 or e-mail dmeir@elp.rr.com.

■ Not only are baby boomers living longer lives, but their parents, aunts, and uncles are, too, and their long-term care must be considered. Assistance to handle the changes are available from the free Long-Term Care kit from the MetLife Consumer Education Center, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The four-step development of a care plan, including in-home care, insurance and legal issues are all included. Send your name and address to Long-Term Care, Pueblo, Colorado 81009. Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n58longtermcare.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 Long-Term Care kit. Other online government services resources are available at www.USA.gov and www.GobiernoUSA.gov, the official English and Spanish web portals to the Federal government.

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To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/tx

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Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

9-1-1

HEART ATTACK & STROKE

Read the signs. Raise a flag.

WNIT dropped ball by not inviting Lady Miners

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's been well chronicled how some college teams feel they were cheated by not being selected to participate in the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

The two teams that had the biggest gripe this year were Syracuse and Drexel.

But personally, I feel the team that really got hosed was the UTEP Miners — the UTEP Lady Miners, that is.

After their historic season, it was disheartening to witness the team getting snubbed by the Women's NIT. With an impressive 22-8 record, I don't know what else the Miners needed to do to get into the tournament.

I must say I thought the Miners were a shoo-in to play some post season basketball. It would have been the first time in the school's history, but it was just not to be.

I feel really bad for the players and coach Keitha Adams, who I spoke to a few days before the announcement. She felt pretty confident that her team would be chosen by the WNIT.

Adams even told me the college was busy giving the WNIT all the information they would need in anticipation of holding a first-round game at the Don Haskins Center.

So not being chosen was especially tough.

I believe the WNIT really dropped the ball. Everybody in the country likes when a new team makes its first appearance in the post season. Everyone loves a great story like that. And can you imagine how many El Pasoans would have supported a game in The Don?

The only good news is that the Miners return almost everybody next year along with some talented new recruits and transfers. Maybe the Miners can win their way into the tournament and not wait to be chosen.

You just can't trust those people to do the right thing.

One more to go

I don't want to seem biased but let's face it — I really am.

Former Miner coach Billy Gillispie and his Texas A&M Aggies have managed to make it to the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament and you can bet I'll be in front of my TV

set during their next game and cheer loudly — for Memphis!

It's not so much that I'm still upset about his leaving the Miners high and dry — which I am. But it's more about a claim every El Pasoan has been able to make since 1966.

The UTEP Miners are the only Texas team ever to win the NCAA basketball championship and I would really like it to stay that way.

So for that to remain the case, A&M will have to lose sooner or later. I'd much rather it be sooner.

Anyway, if I'm going to root for anybody with ties to El Paso, it will be for Tim Floyd and Southern Cal.

There's no doubt that Gillispie has done a masterful job at A&M. But there's also no shame in bowing out in the next round.

I would hate to see Gillispie be the one who takes that proud distinction from El Paso and UTEP. Besides, he's already managed to disappoint us once — that should be enough.

No big news

Did you catch the big news concerning Pete Rose last week? Me neither, because there was no big news about Pete Rose.

I thought it was absolutely ridiculous that the ESPN-types around the country fell all over themselves reporting that Pete Rose admitted that he bet on his own team while he was the manager of the Cincinnati Reds.

Rose said that he bet on his Reds every night. What a surprise! Is there anyone left on the planet that doubted whether Rose bet on his team?

To treat this like big news is like reporting that Mike Tyson is of questionable character.

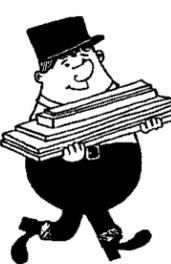
C'mon, ESPN, quit spending so much time idolizing Barry Bonds and demonizing Pete Rose. They are both bad boys who think of themselves and not much else.

What's next? Will ESPN confirm that George Steinbrenner actually does has a type-A personality, or that Ron Artest has an anger management problem?

Thank you, Captain Obvious.

Is ESPN so jealous about the news networks hogging up all the attention via Brittany Spears and Anna Nicole Smith, that it has to try and create big stories?

Sorry, ESPN, you're a little too late. The men's soap opera has already been claimed by professional wrestling.



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Two Clint High athletes named to Academic All-State Football Team

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

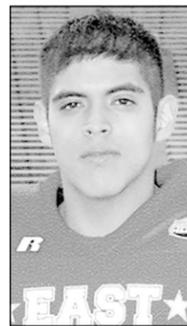
CLINT — The Texas High School Coaches Association named two Clint High School Senior Football players to the 2007 Academic All-State Football Team.

Josh Macias was selected 1st Team and Justin Powell was selected honorable mention. These young men perform well in the classroom as well as on the football field. Both are the only El Paso area class 3-A football athletes to be given the award.

"Congratulations go out to both of

these athletes from the coaching staff. It's always great to have kids being recognized for their efforts in the classroom as well. Hopefully, we can have more athletes recognized in the future. We are very proud of them," says Rosvel Martinez, Clint High School Varsity Football Coach.

The Texas High School Coaches Association selects the Class 4-A



Josh Macias



Justin Powell

Academic All-State Football team for 2005-2006 based on a point system that awards points for GPA, class rank and SAT and ACT score. Student athletes are required to meet certain criteria to be nominated: 1) overall GPA of 92 or above; 2) Be a member of the team in good standing at the time of nomination; 3) Be of good moral character.

archives: www.wtccourier.com

Classified Ads

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Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. is soliciting bids for the manual application of pink bollworm pheromone ropes. Ropes will be tied to cotton plants at an approximate rate of 200 ropes per acre at certain stages of growth. A minimum of 10-15 people over a two to four-week period will be needed for this activity. Applications of ropes in the El Paso and Trans Pecos areas will begin in late May or early June. Bidders must furnish the Foundation, Workers Compensation coverage prior to contract approval. Bids will be accepted through April 2, 2007. For more information and detailed instructions, please contact the local Foundation office at (877) 765-2139, or the Foundation Headquarters office at (800) 687-1212 Ext. 3124. WTCC: 03/22/07

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D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family. Health insurance and fee scale accepted. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

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Applications For Office Position

EP County WCID

#4 is taking applications for full time office position in Fabens, Tx. Required: HS diploma/GED, cashiering, computer experience, bilingual; some AR knowledge preferred. Position available immediately. Starting pay \$8.50 or negotiable, dependent on experience. Submit applications to office at 117 East Main Street, fax to 764-4840, e-mail hgarcia@epcwcid4.com. Questions? Call 764-2212. Previous applications will be considered. E.O.E. WTCC: 03/22/07

Part-time bartender needed at the Horizon City American Legion. Call 852-4823 after 3 p.m. 3/29

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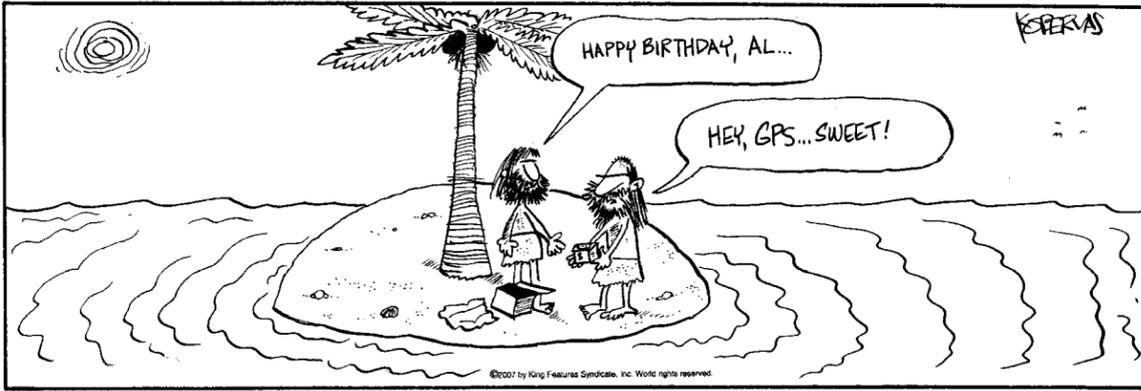
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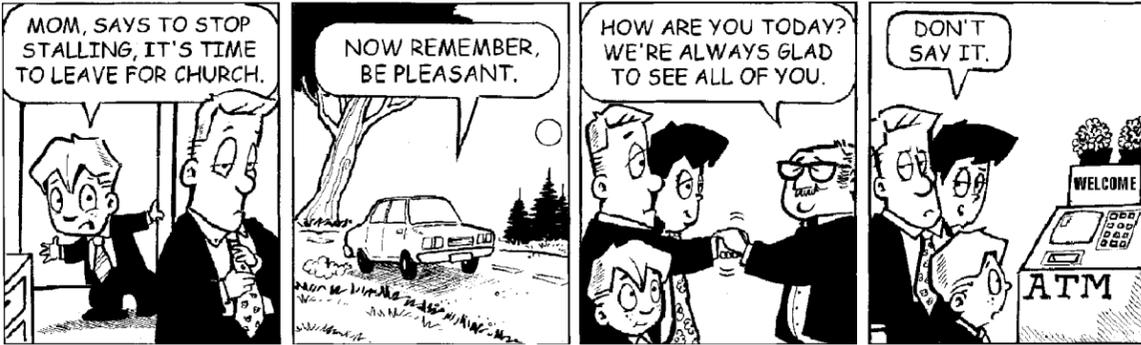
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OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Another use found for duct tape

By Don Flood

Just when you think there couldn't possibly be another use for duct tape, they come up with a new one.

NASA's latest function for duct tape: controlling crazed astronauts.

(This is absolutely true, as would have been certified by the extremely trustworthy Price Waterhouse Coopers accounting firm if I had felt like bothering with them.)

Following the story of the unstable astronaut on Earth, reporters asked what would happen if an astronaut had emotional problems in space.

The answer, as any handyman might expect, is duct tape.

According to an AP report, the "astronauts should bind his wrists and ankles with duct tape, tie him down with a bungee cord and inject him with tranquilizers if necessary." (Bungee cord?)

This is in line with modern psychiatric practice, which holds, "If it moves and it shouldn't, use duct tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40."

Though used less often than duct tape in modern mental health care, WD-40, when aimed at the face in quick blasts, is considered "very effective" for short-term treatment of patients in a "lethargic" state.

Duct tape, of course, is already an essential part of every astronaut's tool kit. It's used for countless repairs and odd jobs, including:

- Fixing holes in wall of spacecraft.
- Repairing spacesuit leaks.
- Keeping those darn doors closed.
- Landing on low-gravity asteroids inhabited by space babes.

The NASA guidelines also suggest how to talk to the troubled astronaut:

"Explain what you are doing,

and that you are using a restraint to ensure that he is safe."

Sure, that would go over well. Astronaut No. 1: What are doing with that duct tape?

Astronaut No. 2: Oh, I'm just fixing the door. I think some rain's seeping in around the cracks.

Astronaut No. 1: There's no rain out in space! You're trying to tape me down!

Astronaut No. 2 (with help from others): Now, now, take it easy. We're just going to bind your wrists and ankles so you'll be nice and safe.

Astronaut No. 1: Help!!!
Astronaut No. 2: And just a little more for your mouth. There, isn't that better?

But while conflicts brought about by zero-gravity love triangles hold potential dangers for manned (and womanned) space missions, they also offer an opportunity.

I've said this before, as did Albert Einstein and Wernher von Braun before me, but if NASA expects Americans to support the space program, it needs to provide them with a practical reason for doing so.

I'm talking about a reality show based on the old "Love Boat" TV series.

Bring a bunch of good-looking people who don't know each other and blast them into orbit.

Since this is space travel, and therefore inherently dangerous, the passengers would have to be carefully screened to make sure at least one of them was a certifiable whack job.

This person's role would be to provide the "spark" to keep the viewers coming back week after week.

They just need to remember one thing: pack plenty of duct tape.

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King Super Crossword

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| PARTY OF ONE | 66 Ralston or Miles | 130 Shed | Schubert | 93 Cautious |
| ACROSS | 70 Terminate | 131 Around the corner | 41 Autumn birthstone | 94 Sicilian rumbler |
| 1 Pay to play | 71 "Ask _ Girl" ('59 film) | 132 Smallest | 42 Mouth watering? | 95 Air bear? |
| 5 Merry | 72 Part 3 of remark | 133 Spitz sound | 43 Musical Myra | 98 _ Ane Langdon |
| 11 Off. equipment | 76 TV's "Major _" | 134 Loathe | 44 Pullover part | 99 Prom dates |
| 14 Vicious | 78 Quiet _ mouse | 45 Youth org. | 49 Analyze poetry | 102 Capek play |
| 19 Crawl (with) | 79 Singer Tori | 49 Analyze poetry | 50 Well-ventilated | 103 "Nightmare on Elm Street" villain |
| 20 Culmination | 80 Jennifer of "Rio Lobo" | 51 Run up the phone bill | 51 Run up the phone bill | 104 Silverware city |
| 21 Slangy sib | 83 Ad _ committee | 53 Caustic | 53 Caustic | 105 Word with farm or frog |
| 22 Songwriter | 84 Put on guard | 54 Vandyke site | 54 Vandyke site | 106 Long-legged waders |
| Greenwich | 86 Campanella or Clark | 57 Next | 57 Next | 107 "_ tov!" |
| 23 Speaker of remark at 29 Across | 88 Unimprovable | 58 Cosmetician | 58 Cosmetician | 108 Faced the day |
| 25 Writer Rand | 90 Stick | 60 Aromatic plant | 60 Aromatic plant | 109 Sealy competitor |
| 26 Stiller's partner | 92 Solemnly swear | 62 Vex | 62 Vex | 114 "_ bien!" |
| 27 Club creed | 94 Cauliflower _ | 65 Dickens title start | 65 Dickens title start | 115 Throw a party |
| 28 Bit of sunshine | 95 Anxious | 67 Letter from Athens | 67 Letter from Athens | 116 Demonstrative pronoun |
| 29 Start of remark | 96 Pastoral poem | 68 Sleep stage | 68 Sleep stage | 117 Holiday of "Matlock" |
| 31 Columnist | 97 Button or snap | 69 Bother | 69 Bother | 119 Piece of fencing? |
| Bombeck | 100 DC figure | 71 Confidential comment | 71 Confidential comment | 120 Quahog, e.g. |
| 33 Author Umberto | 101 Part 4 of remark | 73 Coach Levy | 73 Coach Levy | 121 Garr of "Mr. Mom" |
| 36 When the French fry | 107 Bell and Barker | 74 Where to dance the hora | 74 Where to dance the hora | 124 Energy |
| 37 High rails | 110 Samovar | 75 Equine accessory | 75 Equine accessory | 125 Vintage |
| 38 Part 2 of remark | 111 Affirmative vote | 76 Connecticut senator | 76 Connecticut senator | 126 Widget for Woods |
| 46 Zinc or copper | 112 Give a hoot | 77 Sore | 77 Sore | 127 Saucepan |
| 47 Quick comeback | 113 Part 5 of remark | 81 Rent | 81 Rent | |
| 48 Lamb product | 116 Ring stat | 82 Light tool | 82 Light tool | |
| 52 Dennis, for one | 118 Build | 83 "Bali _" | 83 "Bali _" | |
| 55 Cambridge quaff | 122 Don Diego de la Vega | 84 Singer Guthrie | 84 Singer Guthrie | |
| 56 Arkansas hrs. | 123 Chips' accompaniment | 85 Vegan staple | 85 Vegan staple | |
| 58 Flowering shrub | 125 End of remark | 87 Sarah _ Jewett | 87 Sarah _ Jewett | |
| 59 Cookie quantity | 128 _ Park, CO | 89 Director Adrian | 89 Director Adrian | |
| 60 Mr. Baba | 129 SHAEF commander | 91 Brownie, for one | 91 Brownie, for one | |
| 61 Mako or hammerhead | | | | |
| 63 Joan Van _ | | | | |
| 64 Wilde's Gray | | | | |

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Medicare Part B deadline approaching

If you didn't sign up for Medicare Part B medical insurance when you first became eligible for Medicare, you now have an opportunity to apply — but time is running out. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2007. If you miss the deadline, you will have to wait until 2008 to apply.

Medicare Part B covers some medical expenses not covered by Medicare Part A (hospital insurance), such as doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits, and other medical supplies and services that are not covered by Medicare Part A.

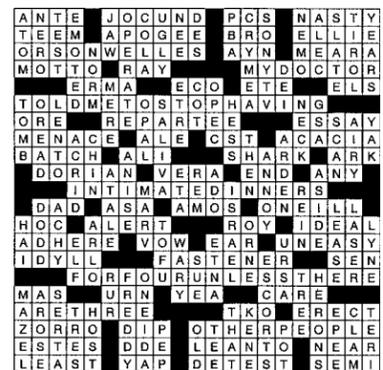
When you first become eligible for

hospital insurance (Part A), you have a seven-month period (your initial enrollment period) in which to sign up for medical insurance (Part B). After that, you have to pay a higher premium — unless you were covered through an employer's group health plan or a group health plan based on a spouse's employment. You are given another opportunity to enroll in Part B during the general enrollment period, from January 1 to March 31 of each year. But each 12-month period that you are eligible for Medicare Part B and do not sign up, the amount of your monthly premium increases by 10 percent.

You can learn more about Medicare by reading our electronic booklet, Medicare (SSA Publication No. 05-10043) at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html. You may also call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to ask for a copy. Or visit the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov. You may also call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

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.

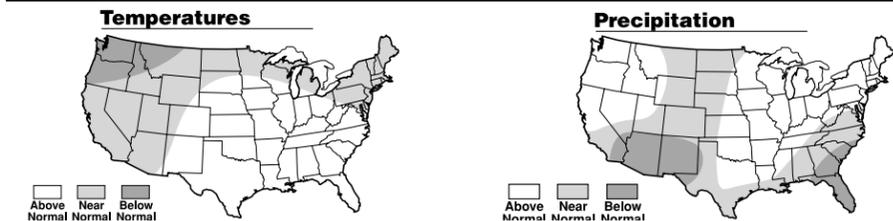


7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX AccuWeather.com®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
A thunderstorm possible	Rain late	Thunderstorms possible	Partly sunny and breezy	Sunny, breezy and nice	Mostly sunny	Brilliant sunshine	Sunny and cooler
70°	49°	67° / 48°	67° / 47°	76° / 50°	79° / 52°	76° / 42°	63° / 37°
RealFeel 71°	RealFeel 40°	RealFeel 65° / 41°	RealFeel 65° / 39°	RealFeel 74° / 44°	RealFeel 78° / 44°	RealFeel 78° / 33°	RealFeel 62° / 31°

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WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK



IN THE SKY

Sun			Moon			First	Full
	Rise	Set		Rise	Set		
Thu.	7:08 a.m.	7:18 p.m.	Thu.	9:18 a.m.	11:59 p.m.		
Fri.	7:06 a.m.	7:19 p.m.	Fri.	10:05 a.m.	none	3/25	4/2
Sat.	7:05 a.m.	7:20 p.m.	Sat.	10:59 a.m.	1:08 a.m.	Last	New
Sun.	7:04 a.m.	7:20 p.m.	Sun.	11:58 a.m.	2:11 a.m.		
Mon.	7:02 a.m.	7:21 p.m.	Mon.	1:01 p.m.	3:05 a.m.	4/10	4/17
Tues.	7:01 a.m.	7:22 p.m.	Tues.	2:04 p.m.	3:51 a.m.		
Wed.	7:00 a.m.	7:22 p.m.	Wed.	3:05 p.m.	4:28 a.m.		

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	70	57	t	70	57	t	72	53	t	74	55	s
Albuquerque, NM	67	46	c	62	41	t	60	40	c	68	43	s
Amarillo, TX	63	47	c	67	46	t	63	42	c	73	43	s
Austin, TX	74	60	c	72	59	c	73	60	c	78	60	pc
Brownsville, TX	81	68	c	80	68	c	82	68	c	83	68	pc
Dodge City, KS	67	47	c	68	49	t	66	43	c	71	42	s
Jackson, MS	79	52	c	80	53	pc	80	57	pc	76	58	c
Laredo, TX	81	68	c	80	69	c	84	69	c	86	69	pc
Little Rock, AR	76	57	c	78	54	pc	76	57	pc	74	58	c
Lubbock, TX	65	54	t	67	51	t	70	43	t	77	46	s
Memphis, TN	79	59	c	77	57	pc	78	59	pc	75	60	c
Midland, TX	65	53	c	65	52	t	71	48	c	76	50	s
Pueblo, CO	64	36	pc	67	39	c	60	34	c	71	35	pc
Roswell, NM	69	51	c	65	43	t	69	43	c	77	45	s
St. Louis, MO	69	48	c	61	53	c	74	56	c	72	54	c
San Antonio, TX	72	62	c	73	62	c	74	64	c	79	62	pc
Texarkana, AR	74	58	c	75	57	c	75	58	c	74	59	c
Waco, TX	75	61	c	74	61	c	73	60	t	76	60	pc
Wichita, KS	63	52	c	69	52	t	68	48	c	69	46	pc

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

U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Atlanta	69	53	pc	77	55	pc	78	54	s	76	54	pc
Boston	59	43	c	56	37	pc	50	38	pc	52	37	pc
Chicago	65	34	t	54	40	pc	57	42	c	63	48	c
Denver	60	36	pc	64	35	c	58	35	c	65	37	pc
Detroit	61	36	t	54	35	pc	56	41	c	60	46	c
Houston	77	62	c	80	62	c	78	65	c	78	61	pc
Indianapolis	66	43	c	60	45	c	64	50	c	69	52	c
Kansas City	64	42	c	67	48	sh	69	48	c	67	45	c
Los Angeles	73	54	pc	71	55	pc	69	55	s	70	55	s
Miami	80	69	c	80	72	pc	83	72	s	84	70	pc
Minneapolis	45	30	c	49	34	c	56	37	pc	55	39	r
New Orleans	75	60	c	78	62	pc	80	64	pc	79	64	c
New York City	59	48	pc	56	41	pc	55	41	c	56	41	pc
Omaha	59	39	pc	63	45	sh	61	45	c	67	44	c
Phoenix	79	60	c	73	57	t	79	58	pc	82	60	s
San Francisco	67	49	s	65	51	s	65	50	pc	63	50	pc
Seattle	52	42	sh	53	44	r	54	40	r	52	38	r
Washington	68	50	pc	69	47	c	65	50	c	60	44	pc

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