

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Med school funding

A long-awaited four-year Texas Tech University medical school for El Paso is expected to become a reality, accepting students as early as 2009, following the approval this week of \$48 million in start-up funds by both the House and Senate in the closing days of the 2007 Texas State Legislative session. Final approval awaits only the signature of Gov. Rick Perry, who has long been a supporter of the school. The uneven ratio of doctors per residents — 26 to every 100,000 — is one of the factors that convinced legislators that El Paso actually needed a medical school, an agreement that was anything but certain when the school was originally proposed in the 1990s. In 2001, El Pasoan J.O. Stewart donated 10 acres near Thomason Hospital as a location for the proposed school, and the Texas legislature approved \$40 million to build a research center. However, in 2005, about \$60 million needed to hire the necessary faculty to ensure accreditation was not approved. School officials said they have been waiting almost three years for this funding, but are now anticipating a scheduled opening for 2009.

### Graduations

Numerous East El Paso County high schools will be holding graduation ceremonies this week. Clint High School will graduate its 2007 class at 7 p.m. Wednesday; Mountain View High School at 7 p.m. Thursday; Fabens High School at 7 p.m. Thursday; Horizon High School at 7 p.m. Friday; and Tornillo High School at 7 p.m. Saturday. All will hold their ceremonies at their individual campuses.

### In other news

■ Construction will close some lanes along James Watt and Lee Trevino throughout the next three months beginning May 30. The closures will allow a \$435,040.34 project to provide improved streets, utilities and drainage on James Watt and Lee Trevino Drive. New sidewalks with ADA compliant ramps will be installed. The project is part of the critical capital repair and reconstruction priorities as a result of the 2006 storms. The expected completion is in early September.

■ The Main location of the El Paso Library, 501 N. Oregon, will host the Concordia Heritage Association presentation of historian Leon Metz from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, June 3 in the Maud Sullivan Room. For information call 534-3858.

■ The El Paso Chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association is seeking new members to join them for dinner meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at Buck's BBQ Restaurant, 9496 Dyer. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12. For more information call 778-9669, log on at [www.cmaelpaso.com](http://www.cmaelpaso.com) or e-mail [wmerriman@elp.rr.com](mailto:wmerriman@elp.rr.com).

*Think what others ought to be like, then start being like that yourself.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Americas student caps senior year with international science awards

By Irma Flores  
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Americas High School student Gabriel Mendoza is once again in the international spotlight for his talent in science. Mendoza is just back from Albuquerque where he took a number of honors at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest pre-college celebration of science.

Held in Albuquerque May 13-19, the Intel ISEF brought together nearly 1,500 students from more than 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips and the grand prize: a \$50,000 college scholarship. Mendoza was the

only student from the El Paso area to stand in the ring of World Champions in Science. His project: "Quantum Cluster Algorithms: Unsorted Database Search and Modular Exponentiation" won him the United Technologies Corporation Special Award of \$2,000, the Office of Naval Research Special Award of \$8,000 and a Grand Prize Award of \$1,500.

"I conducted a different research project for the ISEF fairs," says Mendoza. "This project involves creating efficient quantum algorithms to solve classically unsolvable math problems."

Earlier this spring, Mendoza competed in the Intel Science Talent Search in Washington, D.C. where he met with national leaders and legislators such as Vice President Dick Cheney, and U.S. Rep.

See MENDOZA, Page 8



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

**QUANTUM LEAPS — Valedictorian Gabriel Mendoza is leaving El Paso for the California Institute of Technology with a full-ride academic scholarship.**



— Photo courtesy CBP/Roger Maier

**CBP officers confiscated 418 bundles of marijuana found in several hidden compartments of a 1997 Ford Econoline van.**

## Immigration violations top list at ports of entry

By Roger Maier  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — It was another busy week (May 19 through May 25) for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the international ports of entry in El Paso, West Texas and New Mexico. Area CBP officers discovered more than 300 violations while supporting their principal anti-terror mission.

These included numerous illegal immigration attempts, drug smuggling schemes, agriculture violations, fugitive apprehensions, and violations in other areas.

The enforcement category with the greatest number of violations this week was immigration. CBP officers working at area border ports recorded 151 immigration violations during the last seven days. CBP officers identified a total of 50 intended immigrant cases (people with legitimate entry documents intending to live/work illegally in the U.S.), 36 imposters (people using a legitimate document not assigned to the person) 28 false claims for U.S. citizenship by non U.S. citizens, 10 people attempting to enter the U.S. with counterfeit, fraudulent, or altered entry documents, and 27 people who entered the U.S. without inspection.

"Thorough and exhaustive inspections are the primary reason for this activity," said Luis Garcia, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Director of Field Operations in El Paso. "CBP officers are doing their job to make sure that people who are not authorized to be in the United States are not allowed entry. They are also finding people who should not be traveling freely within the community. Their inspections also generated 84 fugitive apprehensions this week."

CBP officers working at all ports of entry in El Paso, West Texas and New Mexico seized 5,323 pounds of marijuana in 46 seizures and small quantities of heroin and cocaine in three additional busts. The largest seizure of the week occurred Tuesday afternoon at the Antelope Wells crossing when CBP officers seized 436 pounds of marijuana. CBP officers located several hidden compartments in a 1997 Ford Econoline van containing 418 marijuana-filled bundles. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested the driver of the van in connection with the failed

See VIOLATIONS, Page 8

## Ford honors San Elizario students and teachers

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

SANELIZARIO — Four students and two teachers from San Elizario High School were honored with the Ford Excellence in Education award on May 3. Students were selected for their outstanding performance in different academic subjects after submitting a scholarship application. The students were then able to nominate teachers that inspired their educational achievements.

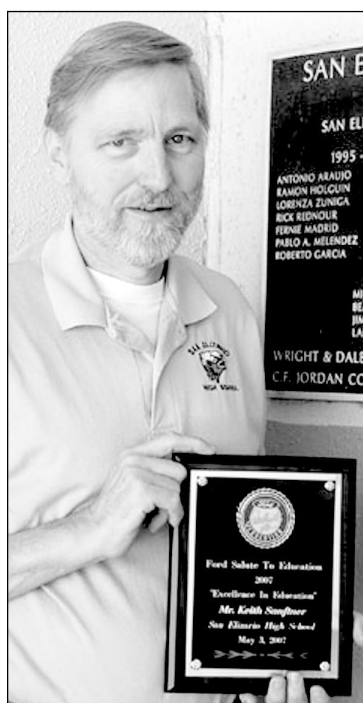
Students receiving a \$1,000 scholarship from Ford are Eric C. Rodriguez in the Arts Category, Rosa G. Soriano in the General Category, Corina Gonzalez in the Medical Category, and Keila Acosta in the Vocational/Technical Category.

Keith Sanftner was one of the five teachers receiving a plaque and \$1,000 award from Ford as a result of a recommendation to the program by one of his past students, Eric Rodriguez. Sanftner has been teaching science and physics classes at San Elizario High School for ten years. "I was deeply touched by the generosity of Eric for recommending me and his insightful comments," Sanftner said. Veronika Hernandez who teaches A+ and Cisco courses was nominated by Keila Acosta and was surprised to learn about her nomination and selection for the Ford award. Hernandez has been teaching at the high school for the past three years.

The event was held at UTEP's Magoffin Auditorium. It is an annual event organized by the El Paso Ford Dealers who award thousands of dollars in scholarships to students in Region 19. At the ceremony, each student was also presented with a key that unlocked a brand new Ford vehicle which one student won that evening.

The caliber of San Elizario teachers and students was demonstrated by their selection for numerous Excellence in Education awards.

"I am very proud of our district for being able to be represented at this ceremony," Sanftner added.



— Photos courtesy San Elizario ISD

Keith Sanftner



Veronika Hernandez



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# Stupid naked people

Spring weather always brings a variety of unsightly pests out of the woodwork — spiders, snakes and the like. Few areas of the country, however, are suffering the kind of pests that have started emerging in a little town in Vermont.

They are being afflicted with stupid naked people.

We live in a world where people increasingly want to do what they want to do, when they want to do it, no matter how extreme or offensive — and have the rest of us accept it.

The liberal prevailing winds that are blowing through our country are demanding that you should not be offended by what somebody else is doing.

In other words, it is their constitutional right to do almost anything unless there is a specific law against it.

If there isn't such a law, and you don't like it, you better just keep your mouth shut. Otherwise, you will be labeled as a narrow-

minded, bigoted, do-gooder.

Labels don't frighten me much and I beg to differ.

There are some places where public nudity isn't prohibited by law. But just because you may like to run around with everything showing — and I do mean everything — that doesn't mean I have to like it.

The little berg of Brattleboro, Vermont doesn't have an ordinance against public nudity. Therefore, a bunch of people too stupid to get dressed before they go out in public have begun wandering the streets when the spring thaw hits.

Public nudity is a truly incomprehensible phenomenon. I mean, it can't even be comfortable out in the cruel wilderness of uncertain seating surfaces and unexpected changes in the weather.

I remember the first time I heard about somebody "streaking," as in running through a public place after stripping down to the bare nothings

except — sometimes — a pair of sneakers, which is a study in contradictions all on its own, since streakers are doing anything but sneaking.

I thought it was a little funny, since most streakers were trying to remain anonymous and were generally in a hurry to leave the scene. Even when I heard about private places like nude beaches, where people lounge around unclothed, I figured that if they were willing to suffer the landscaping, it was their own choice.

However, the sheer "cheekiness" — pardon the pun — of what some folks are doing in this little town in Vermont is calling for a whole new definition of criminal behavior.

My suggestion is, "Public nudity: Assault with a disgusting weapon, i.e. the way you look with your clothes off."

What is even more incomprehensible, however, is the lack of action by local authorities to just do something about it. Apparently, this isn't the first spring that the stupid naked people have come out of the woods.

There is a woman who lives in Brattleboro who is taking this matter to the city council, trying to get something done since a bunch of young people began baring their essentials last year.

This spring, she says she personally saw a man in his 60s strolling along a downtown street totally naked, and has heard reports of other stupid naked people sightings.

Makes you wonder why she even had to go council at all. Are we so immersed in I-can-do-anything-I-want-ism that we don't even have the guts to put a stop to something like this the first time it crops up?

There's a lot of talk nowadays about passing laws to protect people with "special needs." I don't disagree. Some special groups, like the handicapped, elderly and children, need protecting. I just wish somebody would start talking about the "special needs" of the rest of us.

Consider this contradiction: If a person chooses to violate the public decency of an ordinary community

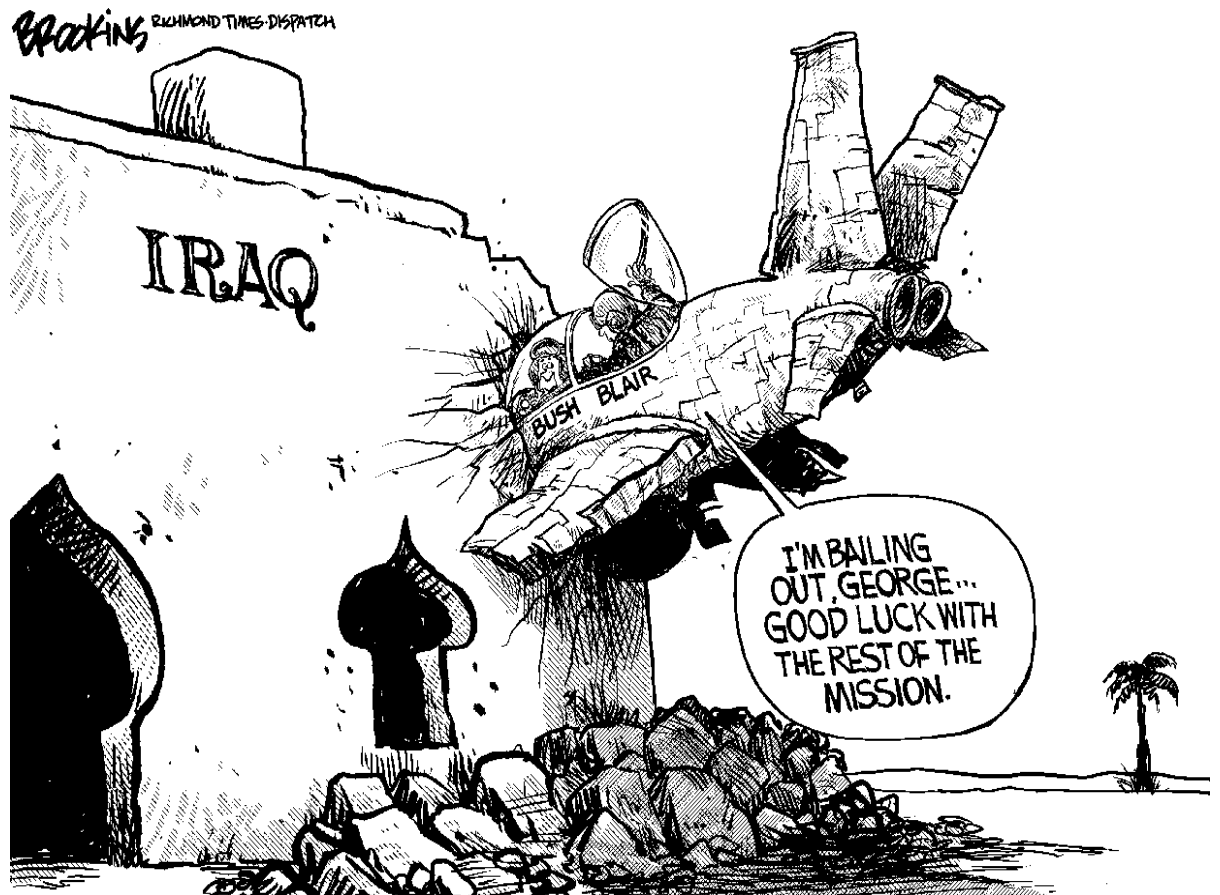
by walking around naked, we have almost unlimited tolerance in dealing with them. However, if someone were to unroll the water hose and douse the offender with a little cold water to wake him or her up to the offensiveness of their behavior, they would likely be arrested for assault.

How confusing is this?

All the Brattleboro town authorities have agreed to do is "compile a log of complaints" to see how many people are concerned about how this "issue" is affecting the town's image. Hey, if the response has any positive aspects, I expect these forward-thinking folks might even start promoting it as a tourist attraction.

If that's the reaction this lady got from her town government, I'd suggest she either get herself elected or find a new place to live. These town authorities are missing something a lot more important than their clothes.

They are devoid of the character necessary to deal with something as blatantly offensive as a bunch of stupid naked people.



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## View from here

By Marc A. Levin, Esq.

### Texas should streamline work restrictions for ex-offenders

Earlier this year, Marc Hoskins was denied his seat on the Galveston City Council because of a cocaine offense committed when he was 20. Last year, Hoskins was elected with 80 percent of the vote after speaking openly about his conviction. Regardless of the merits of the lawsuit Hoskins has filed to vindicate his election, his case illustrates the need to reexamine state laws that bar ex-offenders from occupations ranging from hair stylist to auto inspector.

There are 168 occupations from which ex-offenders are barred by either a specific Texas statute or rule. Many include misdemeanors as well as felonies. All disregard how long it has been since the offense occurred.

Among the licensed occupations from which many ex-offenders are excluded: plumber, boiler inspector, athletic trainer, air conditioning and refrigeration contractor, asbestos remediation, contact lens dispenser, electrician, fire extinguisher technician, dietician, dog trainer, manicurist, port worker, interpreter, pesticide applicator, truck driver, water well driller and pump installer, hearing aid filter dispenser, insurance agent and adjustor,

landscape irrigator and installer, occupational therapist, embalmer, dental hygienist, and bingo usher. Perhaps the most obscure is backflow prevention assembly tester. About the only work left for ex-offenders is another con job.

Many of these 168 specific prohibitions are unnecessary because of a catch-all statute that allows any state licensing authority to deny the application, or revoke the license, of any person convicted of a misdemeanor or felony that relates to the occupation. This is reasonable; no one wants child predators working at day care centers. The specific blanket exclusions only serve to keep out ex-offenders whose offense is totally unrelated to their fitness for the occupation.

Many of the 168 prohibitions were never voted on by a single elected official. Instead, they are bureaucratic regulations found in the Texas Administrative Code. In many instances, these rules were promulgated by boards controlled by members of the occupation who have a financial interest in keeping out competition.

In his 2004 State of the Union address, President Bush declared, "We

know from long experience that if [former prisoners] can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit more crimes and return to prison. America is the land of the second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life."

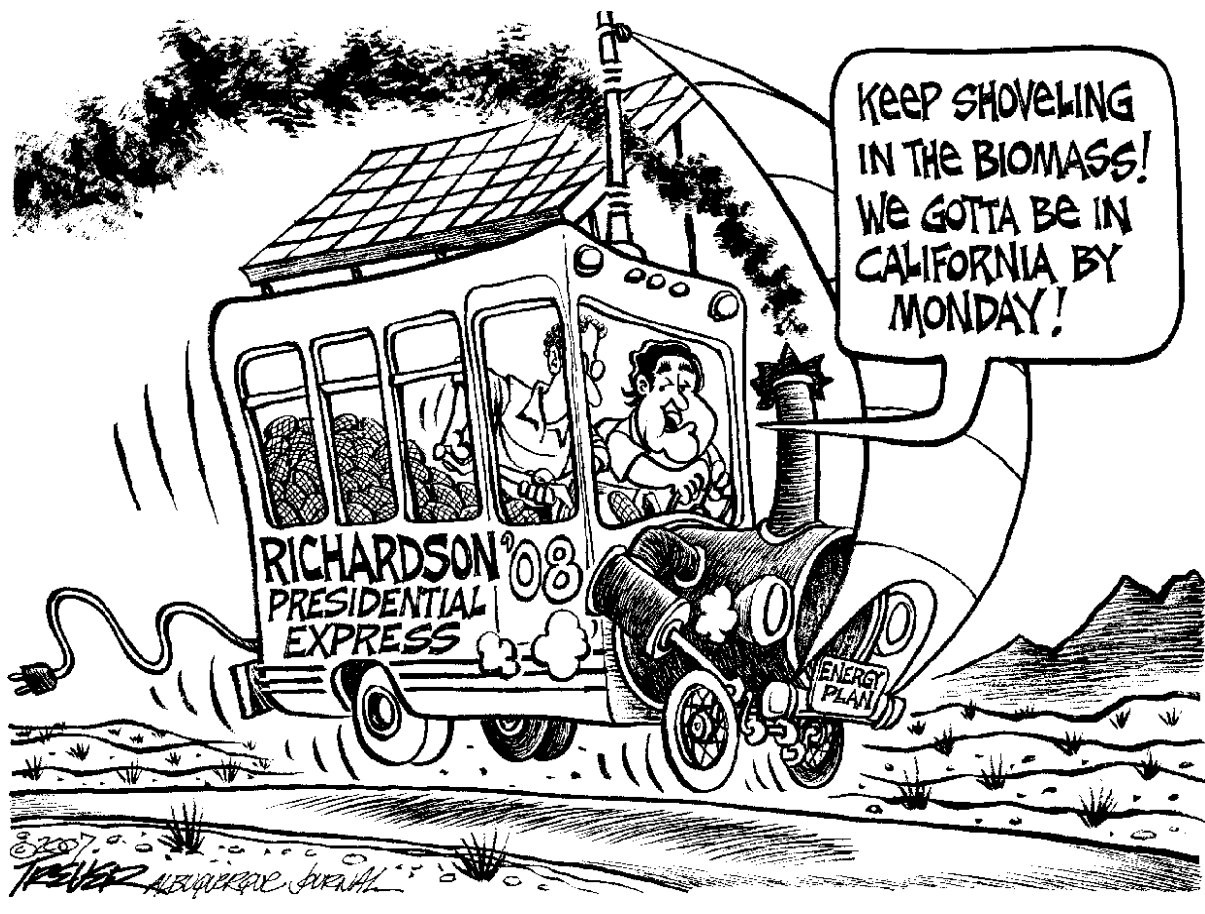
Texas is blocking that path for its two million ex-offenders, most of whom have not been to prison but paid a fine or took probation for a less severe offense. In so doing, we are not only being unfair to ex-offenders, but to their victims owed restitution and their children owed child support. Texas prisoners owe \$2.5 billion of child support, and probationers likely owe billions more. Texas ex-offenders owe hundreds of millions — if not billions — in restitution, primarily for property crimes. Ex-offenders cannot make good on these important obligations unless they are gainfully employed.

Moreover, these anti-work regulations constrain workforce productivity, create more victims, and burden taxpayers. Jobless ex-offenders are more likely

See RESTRICTIONS, Page 8



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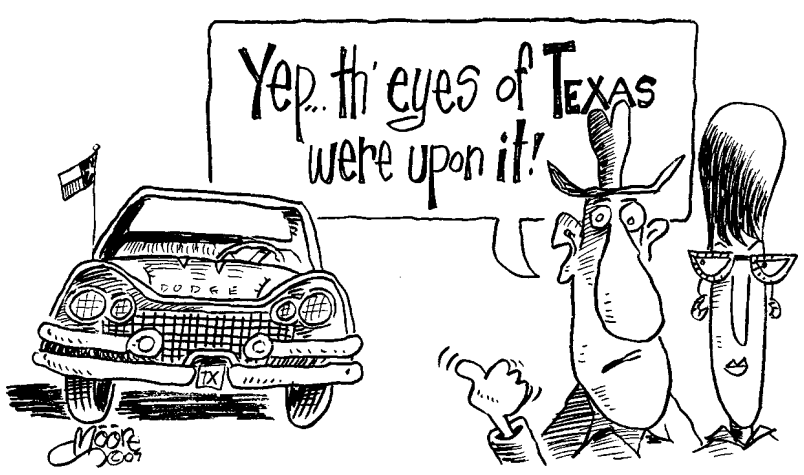
### Anthony ISD Offers Summer Food Program

The Anthony Independent School District in Anthony, Texas announces the sponsorship of The Summer Food Service Program. The program is open to any child from 1 to 18 years older. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided at the Anthony Elementary School Cafeteria four days per week **except Fridays when the district will be closed.** From June 4 to August 2, 2007 breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **The school will be closed from July 2-6, 2007.** People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against. In accordance with the Federal law and US Department of Agriculture policy this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights Office 1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington, D.C. 20250 9410, or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### El Distrito de Anthony Ofrece Comida en el Verano

El Distrito Independiente de Anthony en Anthony, Texas, anuncia que va ha ofrecer El Programa de Comida en el Verano. El programa es para los niños de la edad de 1 a 18 años de edad. El desayuno y comida seran servidos en la Cafeteria de la Escuela Primaria del Distrito de Anthony, **cuatro dias por semana los viernes la escuela va estar cerrada**, el programa empieza el 4 de junio hasta el 2 de agosto, 2007. El desayuno se va ha servir de 7:30 a.m. a 8:30 a.m. y la comida se va a servir de 11:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. **Los dias 2-6 de Julio la escuela va a estar cerrada.** Las personas que tienen derecho a prticipar en el programa, no se deben discriminar por raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, incapacidad, religion ni creencia politica. Cualquier persona que crea que lo han discriminado debe escribir inmediatamente al Director, USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington, D.C. 20250- 9410, o llame a este numero (800) 795-3272 or (202)720-6382 (TTY). USDA tiene igualdad de oportunidad para proveedores y empleados.

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**Moore Texas** by Roger T. Moore In 1956, Chrysler creates the Dodge TEXAN complete with crossed Texas flags on the body. State officials ruled the flags could NOT be used as advertisement so they were removed.



## Bill Childress Elementary School students explore careers during Fair

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Students at Bill Childress Elementary School, in the Canutillo Independent School District, had an opportunity to explore various career fields during the school's recent Career Day Fair.

Texas Department of Transportation, West Valley Fire Department, Dr. Andres Enriquez of Franklin Medical Center, Scott Jenson of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and Thomas Prezioso of the Boeing Company were among the representatives who participated in the presentations.

"Students viewed displays and asked questions to help enrich their knowledge about different professions and to help set high expectations for themselves," stated Michelle Escobedo, Bill Childress Elementary School counselor and Career Fair coordinator.

Other presentations included: Chiropractor Dr. Mario Ruja, Life Ambulance, Del Sol Medical Center, El Paso Sheriff's Office, El Paso Community College, El Paso Police Department, Thomason Hospital, Greater El Paso Credit Union (GECU), U. S. Customs, El Paso Museum of Art, La Tuna Federal Correctional Institution, and the Border Patrol.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD  
**REALLY BIG JOB** — Tony Barron, TXDOT heavy equipment operator, explains the operation and safety features of the Gradall machinery during Bill Childress Elementary School's Career Day.

## Canutillo ISD teacher selected SWABE 2007 Teacher of the Year

CANUTILLO — Connie Trujillo, 16 years, serving 504 reading teacher at Jose J. Alderete Middle School, has been selected the 2007 South West Association for Bilingual Educators (SWABE) Teacher of the Year. This award qualifies her as a nominee for the Texas Association for Bilingual Educators (TABE) 2008 Teacher of the Year program along with sixteen other affiliate nominees.

SWABE is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote academic success for second language learners; to promote the affective, linguistic and cognitive needs of all second language learners; and to advocate multilingual/bicultural education.

Trujillo has been in the education field for 44 years, teaching in both New Mexico and Texas. She has been a teacher at Canutillo ISD for the past

16 years, serving both as a classroom teacher and district lead teacher for the two-way dual language program.

"I feel that I must do the best I can to guide and prepare students to meet life's challenges and be successful during the short time I have them. I am just one, but I can make a difference," said Trujillo.

Trujillo earned a Master of Arts in Education at New Mexico State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Education at New Mexico Highlands University.

— Contributed by Kim Guzman



Connie Trujillo

## Educators try to convince Hispanics that college loans are a good investment

By Ray Perez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — As the financial aid director for the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), Raul Lerma is devoted to bridging the gap between Hispanics and other groups to provide more access to higher education.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics nationwide are three times less likely to have a bachelor's degree. Only 9.5 percent of Hispanics ages 25-29 have a bachelor's degree or higher as opposed to 28.4 percent of all people in the same age group nationwide.

Lerma and other experts attribute the disparity to a lack of awareness of financial aid opportunities in the Hispanic community, and an unwillingness to borrow money to pay for college.

"Many Hispanic students come from families where college has never been an option because, among other things, it is too expensive," he says. "They don't realize that financial aid including scholarships, grants, and loans are available to help them pay for a college education."

National surveys show that Hispanics are less likely to borrow than other ethnic groups. At UTEP, where four-fifths of the enrollment is Hispanic, students graduate with the lowest average indebtedness among public research institutions nationwide.

Reasons behind the loan phobia include not only a lack of knowledge about financial aid, but also a fear of debt and mistrust of lenders. "Many students come from families that believe that debt of any kind is bad," says Lerma.

A 2004 study by the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, a Hispanic non-profit research organization, found that 80 percent of Hispanic parents and 74 percent of college-age Hispanics did not recognize loans as a form of financial aid. Likewise, according to the U.S. Department of Education, in the 2003-2004 school year, 30 percent of Hispanic undergraduates nationwide had student loans as opposed to 35 percent of all undergraduates. In Texas, only 26 percent of Hispanic undergraduates borrow to pay for college.

College financial aid administra-

tors are making efforts to convince Hispanics that school loans, if used wisely, are a good investment because they can lead to higher paying jobs upon graduation.

To spread awareness about financial aid, schools like UTEP and the University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) in Edinburg, where about 88 percent of the student body is Hispanic, host bilingual financial aid nights at high schools across their regions.

To promote higher education and financial aid awareness at an early age, UTPA's Gear-Up program sends representatives from the financial aid office to area middle schools. The university also plans to extend the program to elementary schools in the near future.

Bill Morley, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at UTPA, realizes the importance of reaching students in the Hispanic community at an early age. "Many of the students we see will be the first in their family to attend college, so they don't have a frame of reference like more traditional students," says Morley. "They can't go ask their parents, brother, or sister for college advice. That's where we step in."

Another common trend that impedes college graduation success among Hispanics is that many try to work their way through college. This "pay-as-you-go" method works for some students, but many become what experts call "stop outs." When they have run out of money, these students halt their studies prolonging graduation for years, or simply drop out completely.

"The message does seem to be getting across to the younger generation," says Lerma. "More and more Hispanics understand that college is necessary and that there are many financial aid options out there to help them pay for it."

For tips on how to establish high expectations for students as early as middle school and for assistance in planning for higher education academically and financially, visit [www.AIE.org](http://www.AIE.org). TG provides this Web site has a public service to help all families and students achieve their educational goals and career dreams.

TG is a public, nonprofit corporation that administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FEELP).

### Public Notice

#### Canutillo ISD Announces Summer Meal Program

Canutillo Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the summer food service program. Meals will be provided at all campuses/locations as listed below.

The campus cafeterias will offer breakfast from 7-8:30 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Mid morning snacks will be offered from 9-10 a.m. and mid afternoon snacks between 1:30-2:30 p.m. Meals are free to all participants, ages one to eighteen years of age. Participants with a handicap may receive free meals up to age twenty-one. Adults may purchase meals ala carte.

CAMPUS	ADDRESS	DATES
• Canutillo High School	6675 South Desert Blvd.	June 4-August 3, 2007
• Jose Alderete MS	801 Talbot	June 4-June 29, 2007
• Canutillo MS	7311 Bosque Rd.	June 4-June 29, 2007
• Bill Childress ES	7700 Cap Carter Rd.	June 4-June 29, 2007
• Canutillo ES	651 Canutillo Ave.	June 4-August 3, 2007
• Deanna Davenport ES	8401 Remington Rd.	June 4-August 3, 2007
• Jose Damian ES	6300 Strahan Rd.	June 4-June 29, 2007
• Central Office Kitchen	7965 Artcraft Rd.	June 4-August 3, 2007

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, DIRECTOR, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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## Socorro ISD schools host summer camps

By Irma Flores  
Special to the Courier

**EAST EL PASO COUNTY** — Whether it's improving skills on the court or spending summer with friends, schools in the Socorro Independent School District offer various camps to keep students active during the summer intersession.

• From May 29 through June 1, Montwood High School will host its 15th Annual Volleyball Camp. The cost is \$40 per person. The first session will be for 3rd through 6th graders from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The following session from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is geared for 7th through 9th graders. Bonnie Avila-Uranga, the new head volleyball coach, will be in attendance. Due to gym renovations and limited space, the first 30 campers will be accepted in each session. For more information call Montwood High School at 937-2544 and ask for either Reyna Montano or Sylvia Montano.

• From June 4 through June 8, Lujan Chavez Elementary will host a five-day art camp for students from 1st through 5th grade. The cost is \$50 per students which includes lunch and a camp T-shirt. Space is limited to 50 students per session. There will be a morning session from 8:30 a.m. to noon and a second session begins at 11:30 and runs until 3 p.m. For more information, call Lisa Lopez or Carolyn Del Rio at 937-8700.

• From June 4 through June 7, Montwood High School Emerald Dancers will host the Charm and Dance Camp. The four day camp will be held in the school's Commons Area from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The camp is open to children from 5-years-old to 11-years-old. Children will learn basic social, table, and phone etiquette. Cost of the camp is \$15 a day or \$50 for four days. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks served daily. Make checks payable to Montwood HS. See any Emerald Dancer or contact Margie Dykes at

mdykes@sisd.net or 937-2569 for registration forms. Forms can also be printed from the MHS main page <http://schools.sisd.net/moh/>.

• From June 14 through June 16, Americas High School Flags "I Train with the Best" Fun Camp will be hosting its annual camp for girls ranging in ages 5-years-old to 8th grade. The camp will be teaching dance skills and flag skills to popular music, as well as poise, character, and performance. Americas HS Flags is a national award-winning program and is the top flag team in the state of Texas. The camp runs on June 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on June 16 from 9 a.m. to noon also at the Americas High School gym. Cost per student is \$50 and comes with complimentary Fun Camp T-Shirt. (money orders or cash only). Snacks are provided at no additional cost to the campers. For more information, contact Cecil Crabtree at 915-937-3044.

• From June 20 through June 23, Americas High School is hosting the annual National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) and Nation Dance Alliance (NDA) Summer Commuter Camp. The camp begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Americas' Blazers Gym. The cost is \$108 for Cheer, Dance and Mascot and advisors cost is \$61. For more information and details contact NCA State Director, Amy Miller, at 1-800-527-4422 ext. 4089 or the El Paso representative, Rose Delgado, at (915) 760-6670. Information is also available at [www.varsity.com/](http://www.varsity.com/)

• From July 9 through July 13, Americas High School will host the Blazer Basketball Camp. The camp will focus on basic skills and fundamentals. The cost is \$50 per student. The camp runs from 9 to 11 a.m. and will be held at the big gym at Americas High School. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on July 9. Clinicians will be Head Coach Mike Brooks, Assistant Coaches Matt Larson and Robert Morales. For more information, contact Mike Brooks at 240-9536.

## Flooding in the desert can cost you your life

By Lt. Mario E. Hernandez  
Special to the Courier

**EL PASO COUNTY** — Perhaps the biggest cause of flood-related deaths and injuries is the lack of respect for the severity and danger associated with floods and flash floods. El Paso Fire Department officials offer the following tips that can help protect El Paso residents during flood events.

Many people are killed while trying to drive or walk on roads and bridges covered by water. Though the water may look only inches deep, the pool could be far deeper and have very strong currents. It only takes two feet of water to carry away many cars and only six inches of swiftly moving water, as little as six mph, can sweep a person off their feet.

Trucks, two wheel- as well as four-wheel-drive and sports utility vehicles, are also susceptible to the dangers of pooled water. Such vehicles often give motorists a false sense of security, believing the vehicles are safe under all hazardous conditions. This is simply not true. For instance,

large tires add to the vehicle's buoyancy and can cause it to lose traction sooner. Simply put, do not allow overconfidence in your vehicle to cost you your life.

Consequently, if you are approaching a flooded roadway, turn around and take an alternate route. Though vehicles in front of you may have passed through the high water, you may not be as lucky.

If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

Never let children play near storm drains when the water is rising or is high. Every year, deaths or injuries occur as a result of people being swept away. Sadly, the most frequent victims are children.

If you live in a low-lying area, pay close attention to water levels during heavy rain events. Water levels rise rapidly during flash floods, often surprising victims. Be prepared to move quickly to higher ground if water levels begin rising. Sandbags are available at all city fire stations and are free to the public.

## Save your skin — cover up in the sun now

By Linda Anderson  
Special to the Courier

**COLLEGE STATION** — That tan may look healthy — those freckles may be cute — but in reality both are skin damage caused by the sun, said a Texas Cooperative Extension expert.

"Excessive and unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation, or UV light, is the primary risk factor for skin cancer," said Courtney Schoessow, Texas Cooperative Extension program specialist for health education and development.

The sun gives off two kinds of ultraviolet radiation, she said: UVA, which can penetrate deeply into the skin and cause serious damage, including cancer, and UVB, which damages the top layers of the skin, causing burns, wrinkles and freckles.

Protect your skin when you go outside to help prevent this kind of damage, she said. That includes wearing a hat, sunglasses and clothing with long sleeves, and applying sunscreen before going outside.

That's especially important for babies and children "because if you get even one major sunburn as a child, that doubles your chances of getting melanoma (later in life)," she said.

Melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, will cause close to an estimated 60,000 new cases this

year and more than 8,000 deaths, according to figures from the American Cancer Society.

Many cases of skin cancer can be prevented, Schoessow said, especially if steps are started when the children are still little.

"Start at birth," she said. "Don't put sunscreen on babies under 6 months old; keep them out of the sun all together."

For babies and children older than 6 months — and for adults of all ages too, she added — apply sunscreen all over the body, but especially on skin that will be exposed to the sun. This application should be done at least 30 minutes before going outside to allow the sunscreen lotion to be absorbed into the skin.

Use a sunscreen with at least a 15 SPF, or sun protective factor, Schoessow said.

"Use waterproof sunscreens that will not be washed off through perspiration, and — to be sure you're protected — reapply sunscreen every two hours if you are swimming or sweating," she said.

Wearing protective clothing made of some kind of tightly woven fabric is "just as important" as wearing sunscreen, Schoessow said. "You put on clothing every day, and you might not put on sunscreen every day."

Choose clothing that covers the arms and legs, she advised, and preferably darker colors. Even

though lighter-colored fabrics may be cooler, darker colors provide more protection. Wear hats with wide brims to provide some protection for the face and neck, and wear sunglasses that have UV protection for the eyes, Schoessow said.

For children, buy large-framed, wraparound sunglasses that will provide protection from the sun's rays from every angle, she added.

Try to stay out of the sun when UV radiation is most intense, she said. That means between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in summer; 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in cooler weather. People who live in warmer climates — including Texas — are exposed to more intense UV rays for a longer portion of the year and need to be especially vigilant about using sunscreen, she added.

"Even darker-skinned people need to take precautions against skin cancer," she said. "It doesn't matter who you are, you need to use sunscreen and cover up."

And starting young is the best skin cancer prevention, she said.

"Every parent needs to be hyper-sensitive about protecting their children," Schoessow said. "Teach them early. Teach them: 'We wear sunglasses and hats with brims and sunscreen every time we go outside.'"

Make these protective steps a habit when children are young, and they will continue to follow them when they are older, she said. That will make skin protection a life-long habit.

For more information on this and other health issues, visit Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences Web site at <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> and click on the link to "Health."

**"... if you get even one major sunburn as a child, that doubles your chances of getting melanoma..."**

## 2ND ANNUAL UTEP COACHES CARAVAN SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD SANTA TERESA COUNTRY CLUB

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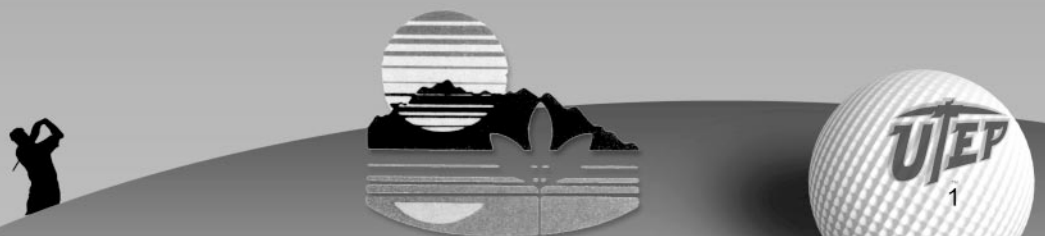
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**SANTA TERESA COUNTRY CLUB**

**All proceeds to benefit The First Tee junior golf program**

# Wie needs to beat the big girls before taking on the big boys

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Please say it isn't so.

The world of golf has enjoyed the resurgence of the Tiger Woods-Phil Mickelson rivalry in recent weeks. The golf world has embraced the new kids on the block, Zack Johnson and Lorena Ochoa.

But there's only one thing, or one person, that could zap the momentum right out of all this good news — Michelle Wie.

Yes, you remember Michelle Wie, the teenage sensation who was way too good to ever compete with the girls, feeling her only real competition would come from the men.

Yes, the same Michelle Wie who has never won a women's professional tournament and has never even made the cut against the dudes.

Her play has been so bad the last year that she's almost completely fallen from the nation's consciousness.

You would think that whoever is calling the shots for her would have suggested she stop making a fool of herself trying to compete with the men, and concentrate on beating the women — at least once.

But noooo, it turns out that Wie, while doing absolutely nothing to earn it, will receive another sponsor's exemption to play in the men's John Deer Classic in July.

For those of you who have forgotten, this is the same John Deer Classic in which Wie shot an opening round 77 a year ago and then quit midway through the second round because of heat exhaustion.

In a recent article, John Deer tournament director Clair Peterson was quoted as saying, "She is a wonderful talent who attracts a tremendous amount of interest among traditional and nontraditional golf fans, which helps broaden the game's appeal, especially among young people."

Two years ago I would have agreed, but sports fans and professional commentators everywhere are begging Wie to stop embarrassing herself. What is she proving by going out and not only losing tournaments, but missing the cut by 10 strokes or more?

Because of her idiotic decision to totally skip her own competition and go against the men, her game has not only suffered — it's bottomed out.

In her last few tournaments she finished dead last in consecutive weeks on the European Tour and the PGA Tour and was next to last at the Casio World Open in Japan. In fact, she has failed to break 70 in her last 16 rounds, including two tournaments against the ladies.

In case you think I'm being too harsh and you think it's great that she's taking on the men, think about this: How many of you think it's a good idea for a 16-year-old boy to stop facing guys his own age and be shipped straight to the professionals to take on men?

That's what I thought, too. Of course it would ruin him — and it's ruining her. If Wie wants to know what the right thing to do is, she should just follow Tiger Woods. He played against guys his own age and then went off to college at Stanford to perfect his game — and his mind.

Lewis made the insinuation that police were profiling his wide receiver Chris Henry unfairly after stopping him for making an incorrect turn while driving.

Excuse me? This coach has absolutely no control of his team and he blames the police? I wonder whether the police planted the drugs and guns on his other players.

Lewis came to his senses a day later and apologized to the police for his thoughtless comments saying the police do not profile his players.

Okay, coach, how about implementing some tough team rules instead of soft excuses.

If nothing else, youngsters have to mature mentally as much as physically before they go against 25- to 40-year-old veterans who have acquired all the experience and knowledge that Michelle Wie unfortunately never will.

It's all too bad. People who enjoy spending her money have given this young lady tons of bad advice, but to them it really doesn't matter in the long run. Wie was making boatloads of cash because of what she was supposed to be — a winner.

Now, she's making boatloads of cash because of what she has become — an oddity.

## Athletes behavin' badly

Today's focus on dumb sports personalities targets a coach who didn't actually break the law, but he attracts law breakers like a magnet.

I don't know what Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis ever did to surround himself with such thugs, but his team has quickly become synonymous for everything bad and criminal in today's society.

And while nine of his players have had run-ins with the police in the last nine months, it was Lewis who had the utter audacity to try and blame the police for the most recent incident.

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## Classified Ads

**LEGAL**

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Invitation to Bid/Respond:**

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP/RFP to furnish the District with the following

**FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2007**

**CURRICULUM MODULES FOR OPTIONS HIGH SCHOOL CSP NO. 199-0608-7117**

products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

**ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 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-05/31/07

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

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

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**STORAGE**

10'X20' space for rent. \$65/month. 852-9371, Horizon Self Storage. 8/30

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FATS EDGE IRA NOL  
FOOTBALLGAMESINAROW  
CAN ABU ELAN DEMO  
BUTTERUP IDI MEARA  
SNOOP INVALID LOGJAM  
APSE KNEAD VISA ARI  
HESHOULD BEDECLARED  
RBI SEA TEST NEER  
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LEGALLY DEAD CLUB MERE  
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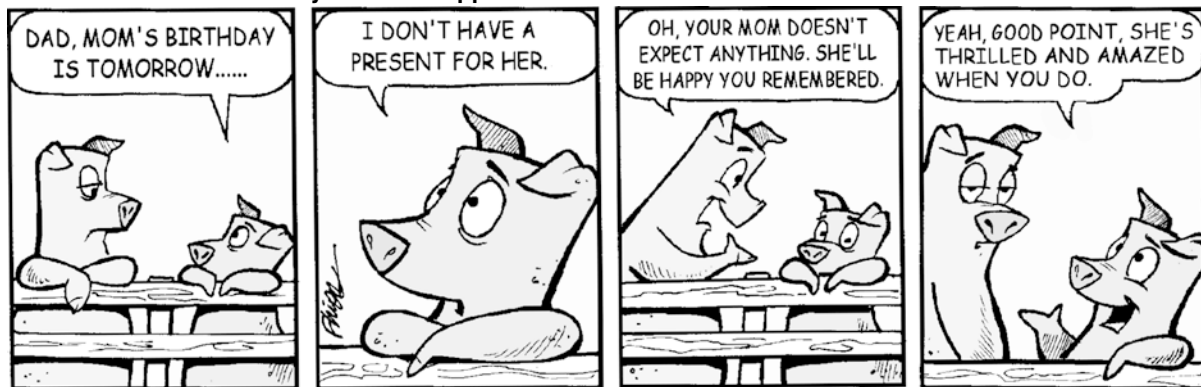


# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# Stars keep exploding

By Don Flood

Astronomers recently discovered what they describe as the brightest exploded star ever seen, releasing 100 times more energy than your run-of-the-mill supernova. To help humans imagine an explosion that cataclysmic, scientists compared it to the sudden flame-out of Britney Spears' career, only not so massive and embarrassing. (This new super-duper nova at least had the sense not to do something rash with its hair.)

The announcement also makes you wonder why all those pathetic loser novas are called "super" at all. Fair's fair. It's time for a downgrade, just like they did with Pluto. (Bonus scientific review: For years Pluto was considered a planet in good standing. Then one day they decided it wasn't, and now it's just a dark, cold and lonely place.)

Even before this star, sadly named SN 2006gy, exploded, it was so bright that, if seen from the same distance, it would be 5 million times brighter than our sun.

(I say "our" sun, referring of course to the United States, which owns the sun but lets other nations use its energy free of charge. But do they give us free oil? No, of course not.)

Scientists speculate that at that level brightness, even SPF 45 would be "ineffective."

"You wouldn't want to skimp on the sunscreen. I'd recommend at least SPF 60," said one scientist who asked to remain anonymous because he was imaginary. "And you shouldn't forget to re-apply after coming out of the water, which unfortunately would be boiling."

Closer to Earth, at least somewhat, we have a star named Paris Hilton, who recently decided to

follow a "simple life" in the slammer. Her new slogan: "Jail — it's hot!"

Naturally there's some question of whether Paris should be sent to jail, where she would be free to corrupt hundreds of women hoping to turn their life around.

But jail time could be a good career move for Hilton. As Michael Levine, a longtime Hollywood publicist, said, "It will actually increase her star appeal."

He continued, "There's a segment of our society that's somehow engaged in the soap opera that is Paris Hilton, and this is a very compelling plot line in the soap opera."

And that's why people are jealous of Hilton. They don't have a plotline compelling enough to employ a publicist. Many, unfortunately, are stuck living normal lives.

Someone who could have used the services of a publicist recently was Randall Tobias, who resigned as Deputy Secretary of State after it was revealed he had used an "escort service" that provided massages.

After his resignation, Tobias told ABC News that using the escort service was just like "ordering pizza."

Good point. But despite the many similarities I can discern two key differences. In the former transaction: 1) there is no pizza, and 2) there is a massage.

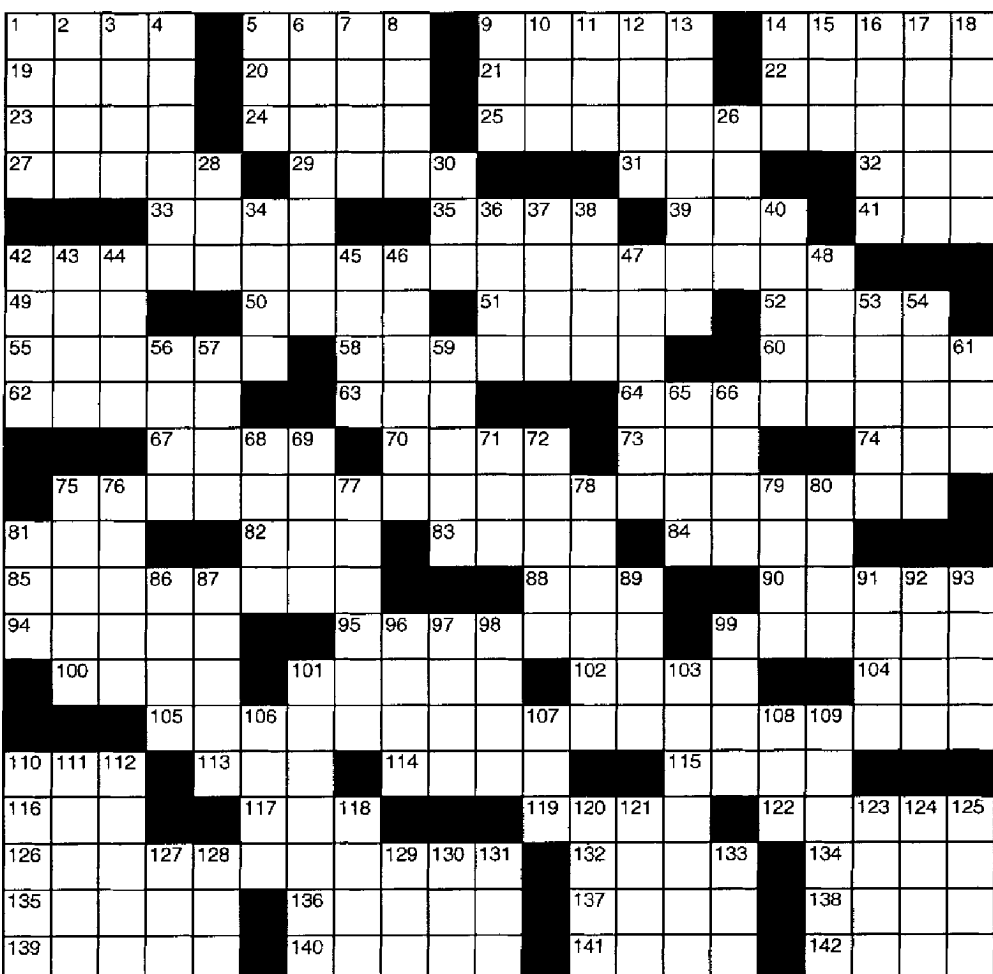
I know what I'm talking about. I've ordered pizza before, often with extra toppings. You don't get that kind of service even when ordering a "party pizza."

Tobias will now be seeking new employment. Perhaps there's an opening on Pluto.

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

# King Super Crossword

- END ZONE ACROSS**
- 1 Trails
  - 5 Strikebreaker
  - 9 Burst of energy
  - 14 "Lonesome George"
  - 19 Gulf country
  - 20 Unwind a rind
  - 21 Actress Shire
  - 22 Nose
  - 23 Vittle statistics?
  - 24 Movie mutt
  - 25 Speaker of remark starting at 42 Across
  - 27 Alarm
  - 29 Mrs. Zeus
  - 31 XXVII x II
  - 32 Sleep stage
  - 33 Contralto Stevens
  - 35 Rampur royalty
  - 39 Soho snack
  - 41 Diocese
  - 42 Start of a remark
  - 49 Hair ball?
  - 50 Former nation: abbr.
  - 51 D-Day code name
  - 52 Gilbert of "Roseanne"
  - 55 Game division
  - 58 Massachusetts city
  - 60 Paint pigment
  - 62 Author Irving
  - 63 Fluffy female
  - 64 September birthstone
  - 67 They may be saturated
  - 70 Add fringe
  - 73 Remsen or Flatow
  - 74 Cambodia's Lon \_
  - 75 Part 2 of remark
  - 81 Fire
  - 82 \_ Dhabi
  - 83 Oomph
  - 84 Floor model
  - 85 Flatter
  - 88 A mean Amin
  - 90 Stiller's partner
  - 94 Be nosy
  - 95 Null and void
  - 99 Impasse
  - 100 Basilica area
  - 101 Make some dough
  - 102 Jet-setter's need
  - 104 Onassis' nickname
  - 105 Part 3 of remark
  - 110 Sosa stat
  - 113 Swell place?
  - 114 Moment of truth
  - 115 \_do-well
  - 116 Browning's bedtime?
  - 117 Pipe cleaner?
  - 119 Manipulates
  - 122 In shock
  - 126 End of remark
  - 132 Word with steak or soda
  - 134 Marseilles mother
  - 135 Adhesive ingredient
  - 136 Viewpoint
  - 137 Hunky-dory
  - 138 Key
  - 139 Rob of "Silk Stalkings"
  - 140 Sorcery
  - 141 Lacquered metalware
  - 142 Footfall
- DOWN**
- 1 Like a wet noodle
  - 2 Section
  - 3 "The Journey of Natty ..." ('85 film)
  - 4 Apt rhyme for worm
  - 5 Bath, e.g.
  - 6 They're nuts
  - 7 Commedia dell'\_
  - 8 Den denizen
  - 9 Fr. holy woman
  - 10 Norm
  - 11 Einstein's birthplace
  - 12 100 dinars
  - 13 "Bewitched" kid
  - 14 Actress Rita
  - 15 Planet, for one
  - 16 Transvaal residents
  - 17 Roast host
  - 18 Delibes opera
  - 26 Done
  - 28 Org. founded in 1947
  - 30 Eyebrow shape
  - 34 Cozy
  - 36 Sailor's shout
  - 37 "Nautilus" captain
  - 38 Author Dinesen
  - 40 Moral man?
  - 42 Wading bird
  - 43 "Candid Camera" creator
  - 44 \_ Domini
  - 45 '68 US Open winner
  - 46 Mason's tool
  - 47 Proposition
  - 48 Apiece
  - 53 Endangered animal
  - 54 TV's "Broken \_"
  - 56 Facts, for short
  - 57 Spruce
  - 59 Sill
  - 61 Sniggler's quarry
  - 65 Parched
  - 66 Sheet of stamps
  - 68 It'll give you a lift
  - 69 "Elephant Boy" actor
  - 71 Guy's counterpart
  - 72 Monitor message
  - 75 Animals
  - 76 Successful
  - 77 "High Sierra" actress
  - 78 Salad veggie
  - 79 Bullets, briefly
  - 80 Director Nicolas
  - 81 "Nash Bridges" network
  - 86 Reggae's Peter
  - 87 Duel-use items?
  - 89 "What \_ for Love" ('75 song)
  - 91 Slightly open
  - 92 Exceptional
  - 93 Surrounded by
  - 96 Neither masc. nor fem.
  - 97 Crooner Jerry
  - 98 Slaps on
  - 99 Shoestring
  - 101 Persian poet
  - 103 Fleshly
  - 106 Push a product
  - 107 A/C measure
  - 108 Spearheaded
  - 109 Porthos' pal
  - 110 Appomattox signature
  - 111 Freeway sounds
  - 112 Gold brick?
  - 118 Author Ferber
  - 120 "Braveheart" extra
  - 121 Nevada city
  - 123 Gusto
  - 124 \_ Stanley Gardner
  - 125 Profound
  - 127 Viking weapon
  - 128 Fleur-de- \_
  - 129 Souffle ingredient
  - 130 Actress MacGraw
  - 131 Cal. page
  - 133 "Toodle-oo!"



Answer Page 6

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

### Call toll-free for answers

Millions of Americans know how easy it is to use Social Security's website to obtain services online. But did you know that you don't need a computer or Internet access to get the

ease and convenience of Social Security's automated services? There are a number of things you can do right from the convenience of your home — over the telephone — at

Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213.

Social Security's automated telephone services allow you to take care of your Social Security business quickly, efficiently, easily and whenever it is convenient for you. The automated telephone services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Using our automated system, you can request Social Security booklets, pamphlets, publications and informational material, ask for a Social Security card application (SS-5) to be mailed to you, request an Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement (SSA-7004) or even have a replace-

ment Medicare card mailed to your address on record.

If you are already receiving benefits, you also can change your personal information over the phone using our automated services, such as your mailing address or direct deposit information. And if you plan to visit Social Security, you can ask for the location of the closest office using our automated phone service.

Although these automated services are easy to use and can be accessed around the clock, you still have the option to ask for a customer service representative during our normal business hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.,

Monday through Friday.

Take advantage of Social Security's automated services now by calling 1-800-772-1213. For more information about Social Security, you may call the number above, or visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

For information on this topic, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://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.

### Public Notice

#### Fabens Independent School District

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at the Fabens ISD Administration Building, 821 NE G Avenue, Fabens, Texas. The purpose of the public meeting is to allow any interested representative of a non-profit private school or non-profit home school operating in the Fabens Independent School District to appear and receive information regarding Title IV, Part A - Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities. Representatives will need to provide their school's tax-exempt identification number to the District to confirm eligibility. The Grant Application is available through the "No Child Left Behind Act".

Those that are unable to attend the public meeting may submit their questions in writing to the Fabens Independent School District or contact Pedro Gonzalez (915)764-3711. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the meeting are encouraged to contact Pedro Gonzalez, twenty four (24) hours prior to this meeting.

WTCC: 05-31-07

### Public Notice

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The Grant Applications are available through the "No Child Left Behind Act" and include the following:

- Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C - Education of Migratory Children
- Title II, Part A - Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting
- Title II, Part D - Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III Part A - English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement
- Title V, Part A - Innovative Programs.

Those that are unable to attend the public meeting may submit their questions in writing to the Fabens Independent School District or contact Neale Baker (915) 764-2025. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the meeting are encouraged to contact Neale Baker, twenty four (24) hours prior to this meeting.

WTCC: 05-31-07

### Mendoza

From Page 1

Silvestre Reyes. Mendoza and his project on transmission of West Nile Virus, which he started years ago with his sister Priscilla, so impressed directors with the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health that both have been asked to apply for summer internships. Gabriel was one of two Texas finalists in the competition and received a \$6,000 scholarship, an Intel Centrino TM mobile technology-based notebook computer and \$1,000 for his school.

"We are very proud of Gabriel Mendoza and his accomplishments," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "He has worked very hard to distinguish himself among student scientists across the United States. It's not surprising that Gabriel would add the International Science and Engineering Fair to his list of credits. He has been an outstanding student at Americas High School and we wish him the best of luck as he graduates this week."

Gabriel has officially been named a National Merit Scholar and gradu-

ated as Valedictorian from Americas High School. He was accepted to MIT, Caltech (California Institute of Technology), Princeton, and Stanford. He has decided to attend Caltech on a full academic merit scholarship and will begin his research work at Caltech this summer.

"Gabriel is a credit to his school, a credit to his teachers and a credit to his parents," said SISD Board President Craig A. Patton. "I am confident his success will continue at the university and that he will prove to be a role model for students who follow him at Americas High School."

"In college I hope to double major in physics and computer science, so I can study quantum computing and quantum physics in graduate school," said Mendoza. Eventually, I hope to help engineer the computers of the future."

Mendoza's mother, Merced Mendoza, says Socorro schools have played a big role in her son's life and she thanks all of his teachers and administrators from Horizon Heights and Ensor Middle School as well as Americas High School. She particularly credits the Americas High School COSMOS program with nurturing her son's and daughter's love of math and science.

### Violations

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smuggling attempt. He is identified as a 54-year-old David John Cameron of Lubbock, Texas.

Area CBP officers made 13 agricultural seizures during the week, resulting in \$3,175 in penalties being assessed. Prohibited items seized this week included raw pork, avocados, mangos, oranges, apples, grapefruit, sapotes, citrus flowers, and live plants. CBP officers also discovered a live fruit fly in a mango. The interception of these prohibited items are important in preventing the introduction of pests and disease that pose a risk to the U.S. agriculture industry. CBP officers this week also assessed \$2,000 in penalties for four export violations, confiscated two bottles of Cuban rum, seized 13 pairs of prohibited cockfighting spurs, intercepted 35 counterfeit DVD movies and seized steroids.

### Restrictions

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to commit another crime or be revoked from probation or parole for "technical violations." Ironically enough, such violations include not holding a job and failure to pay restitution or fees. Revocations for probation technical violations alone impose \$757 million in incarceration costs every year on Texas taxpayers.

Many of these prohibitions should be repealed. Others should be modified to exclude nonviolent drug offenders. Since this Byzantine web of laws is not easily unraveled, an interim legislative committee to study and recommend an overhaul is needed. We could also empower probation and parole officers to issue a certificate of rehabilitation and fitness for work that would trump most occupational prohibitions. The pursuit of this certificate would provide a positive incentive for probationers and parolees to comply with the terms of their supervision.

The indiscriminate nature and sheer breadth of these legal barriers to work result from an unhealthy obsession with endless punishment and the cronyism inherent in occupational regulations often imposed by foxes guarding henhouses.

Millions of Texans have served their time. They should be able to punch the clock.

Marc A. Levin, Esq. is Director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin.

### Fabens Independent School District Public Notice

This summer the Fabens Independent School District will be participating in the Summer Feeding Service Program (SFSP) through the Health and Human Service Commission. We will be providing a **free breakfast and lunch** to all children age 1 year to age 18. Meals will be served at the **Isaac Camacho Cafeteria**, located at 600 NE 4th St. Rear in Fabens, Texas. Some meals will also be offered at Fabens High School, 601 NE "G" St. and Risinger Primary School, 600 NE Camp St. The program dates will be June 4, 2007 through June 28, 2007, Monday through Thursday.

#### TIME

Breakfast 7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### ADULT PRICES

Breakfast \$2.00  
Lunch \$3.00

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WTCC: 05/10/07