

NEWSBRIEFS

Fans needed

Since the El Paso Fire Department and Extreme Weather Task Force kicked off it's Fan Drive on Wednesday May 2nd, 2007 at the Hilos de Plata center on Delta Drive, the demand for new fans for the elderly, disabled, and needy families throughout the El Paso area has been tremendous. Unfortunately the donation of fans has been very slow and the need for fans is very high. The Extreme Weather Task Force would like to remind the public, that even though the temperatures in the region had been in the 80's a few days ago, temperatures are expected to go back up to the high 90s and even triple digit temperatures in the next few days. Task Force members also remind the public that all fans collected, stay here in the city and county of El Paso and that new fans are badly needed and still being accepted at all city fire stations. Extreme Weather Task Force members are also asking the public to practice the Buddy System. A Buddy can be a relative, friend, or neighbor who checks up on an elderly or disabled person on a daily basis. Anyone wanting to recommend somebody for a fan or wants information on the fan drive can call Extreme Weather Hot Line 211.

Missing

The El Paso Police Department is assisting the Culberson County Sheriff's Office in attempting to locate a missing elderly man. The man, 71-year old Lauro Carreon Acosta was traveling to El Paso from Wichita Kansas with another relative. Acosta suffers from dementia and was last seen on Sunday June 17, 2007 in the area of I-10 West near Van Horn, Texas. Culberson authorities believe the man may be heading towards El Paso. Anyone that has any information on this man is asked to immediately call Police Communications at 832-4400.



Lauro Acosta

Crime Stoppers

Somebody set fire to a school, and you may have the tip that leads to solving this case of arson. On Thursday, May 29th, approximately 3:00 a.m., one or more subjects went on the roof of Coldwell Elementary School at 4101 Altura and took apart an air cooler. They then placed the cooler pads on a rooftop sky light and set them ablaze. The resulting fire caused damage to the roof and inside the campus. The subjects then fled, leaving behind several beer bottles. Officials from the Fire Marshal's Office and the El Paso Independent School District Police Department are asking for the public's help in identifying the

See BRIEFS, Page 8

There are no idle rumors. They are all busy.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

TEACHING FOR THE STARS — Shown in photo from left are Angel Olivas, Victoria Perea, Monica Crocker, and Veronica Valenzuela — all Canutillo Middle School teachers, who were recently selected by NASA as Middle School Aerospace Scholar (MAS) educators.

Canutillo Middle School teachers to learn new teaching skills at NASA

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has selected Monica Crocker, eighth grade Math teacher; Angel Olivas, eighth grade English teacher; Victoria Perea, Career & Technology Education teacher; and Veronica Valenzuela, sixth grade teacher from Canutillo Middle School (CMS) to be among the 80 Texas Middle School Aerospace Scholars (MAS) that will be trained as MAS educators.

The CMS teachers will each participate in one of three one-week summer sessions in June and July at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston. They will have access to NASA education specialists, flight directors,

scientists and engineers who will talk about the latest technology being used in the space program.

MAS is a one-year professional development program for teachers and includes an opportunity for their students to participate in a series of distance learning events in their own schools. During the summer workshop, teachers develop an "action plan" outlining various ways to integrate NASA resources into the middle school curriculum throughout the school year.

As part of Texas Aerospace Scholars (TAS), MAS was created through a joint venture between JSC and the state of Texas to inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The students of these teachers are also encouraged to participate in future educational opportunities such as High School Aerospace Scholars.

IRS offers summertime tax tips

By Lea Crusberg
Special to the Courier

HOUSTON — Summertime may be get-away time, but you can't get away from the tax implications that accompany most financial matters. So check out these tips for newlyweds, working students, parents with children at day camp, and moving... and have a great summer!

Advice for Newlyweds

It may not be high on the list of wedding planning activities, but there are a few, simple steps that can help keep tax issues from interrupting newly-wedded bliss. There are some practical things to attend to when the honeymoon's over and you get your feet back on the ground.

- Report any name change to the Social Security Administration, so your name and social security number will match when you file your next tax return.
- Report any address change to the U.S. Postal Service — they'll forward your mail and let IRS know. You may also notify the IRS directly by filing Form 8822, Change of Address.
- Report any name and address changes to your employer to ensure receipt of your paychecks and Form W-2 during tax season.
- Check your withholding status using the automated "IRS Withholding Calculator" available on the "Individuals" page at IRS.gov Web site.

- Consider whether you'll file joint or separate tax returns.

- If you're buying a home, find out which expenses may be deductible and which are not. Tips for Working Students

Every U.S. citizen or resident must file a U.S. income tax return if certain income levels are reached. There is no exemption from tax for full-time students. Factors that determine whether you have an income tax filing requirement include:

- The amount of your income (earned and unearned);
- Whether you are able to be claimed as a dependent;
- Your filing status; and
- Your age.

If your income is below the filing requirement for your age, filing status, and dependency status, you will not owe income tax on the income and will not have to file a tax return. You may choose to file if you have income tax withholding that you would like refunded to you. For more information on filing requirements refer to Publication 501, Exemption, Standard Deduction and Filing Information.

You may have given your employer a Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, claiming exemption from withholding. To claim exemption from withholding, you generally would have to have had no tax liability the previous year and expect none in

See IRS, Page 6



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

POWERFUL INFLUENCE — Rafael Gonzalez nominated Jan Kehoe for having been the teacher who had the most influence on his success. At the 2007 SHS graduation, Jan Kehoe and Nancy Sochat line up for their final graduation ceremony.

Twin educators leave their mark on Socorro HS students

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — For two decades, students in the Health Occupations program at Socorro High School relied on the skill and expertise of Nancy Sochat and Jan Kehoe. With 40 years of teaching experience, these twin sisters have introduced hundreds of students to rewarding careers in the health care field. On May 26, these sisters participated in their last graduation ceremony before heading into retirement.

Both sisters had careers in the health care field prior to joining the faculty at Socorro High School. Nancy was working in oncology nursing while her sister was in the dentistry field.

"I decided to become a school nurse and made an application to work at Socorro High School," recalls Nancy. "I was called back but it was to start the health science technology program."

Her sister remembers visiting El Paso when Nancy started working at the school.

"There were books everywhere on magnet programs and curriculum information. I thought, 'Who would want to do this?'" says Jan. "Then Nancy asked me join her. She said I wouldn't regret it. Never in the past 20 years of driving from West El Paso to Socorro High School did I not look forward to coming to school."

The two helped established a program that has created opportunities for Socorro students to learn about the medical field and helped launch their careers. Their impact can be seen in many of the school's graduates who are pursuing a career in the medical field or former graduates who are serving the El Paso community at area hospitals.

"We see kids who graduated 15 years ago and are working at local hospitals," says Nancy. "Plus we get to see these students start. I would get all the great students throughout the district."

The two were recognized for their impact as role models inspiring their students by receiving a School Bell Award. The School Bells are given to those teachers nominated by the top 10 seniors as the one individual during their high school years who had the most influence

See TWINS, Page 8



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Old dogs and long hair

My youngest daughter is among those wonderful young people who cut their hair off and send it to Locks of Love.

This organization fashions these contributions into wigs for cancer patients who have lost their own due to chemo treatments.

Her hair was hanging down to her waist when she cut it. Even braided, the hair she put into the sealed envelope and sent away was over a foot long. It felt unexpectedly heavy, like a snake — a coil of deep brown, burnished with natural reddish highlights.

She wasn't particularly sorry to lose it. She was just a little awed at the size of what had been hanging from her head for so many years.

I remember telling her once that her long hair was an accomplishment. I don't know if she really understood what I meant at the time.

There are some things in life we don't consider to be accomplishments because they happen so gradually, first in moments that turn into hours and finally days and years —

things we aren't really thinking about as we care for them but when considered overall at the end of their existence, we can see that time and effort have produced something really worthwhile.

It's like having an old dog.

We got our boxer when she was a pup just barely weaned. She was round and cute as a button. She was also extremely vivacious and as she grew in size, her vivacity began to intrude on our daily lives. She was clumsy and pushy. She slobbered all over everything and everyone. She knocked youngsters down and shoved people around.

She could also jump the fence like it wasn't even there and it was a constant struggle to keep her off the streets and out of the neighbors' trash.

Without our even noticing, however, she began to change and evolve into maturity. She was less aggressive in her affection, she only barked when there was a real reason, and she didn't knock the kids down anymore — this was also because, without my noticing, they had grown, too, so it was harder to make



them lose their balance.

A couple of years ago, it came as a shock to realize that our boxer was *old*. I noticed for the first time that she had gray in her muzzle. I saw that one of her toes was twisted. I could see that it was harder for her to get moving quickly when she stood up and it took a little more motivation to get her tearing around the yard.

She has lived well past the usual age for a boxer her size — she's almost 14 years old. She spends her nights in the garage now when it's cold or when we have a storm, because she's also become afraid of the lightening. She sleeps in the sun in the backyard in the morning and in the shade in the afternoon.

She's an accomplishment, a job begun and soon to be finished. She's a presence in our lives and memories that will remain with us as long as we live.

It isn't easy to keep a dog from near birth to death, endure their growing stages, overlook their flaws, put out the effort to care for them and watch them grow old and sweet.

It isn't easy to grow your hair long and healthy. It takes time and patience to keep it clean, braided, and untangled.

There are other things in life that are accomplishments and as we grow older — if we tend our lives and look to our responsibilities — we can see and enjoy.

Living in one place, having one job, keeping up with one friend, loving one child, driving one car — all are things that require a certain consistency of character, and they should be considered accomplishments.

After all it's much easier to drop what you have like yesterday's news and run after the latest and greatest. Oddly enough, you wind up with

little or nothing to show for it.

My parents still live in the house they built before I was born. They are nearing the sixty year mark of their marriage. They have certainly been fruitful and multiplied. When we have a family gathering we can't do it inside a regular house because their five kids have had kids who have also had kids that won't all fit. We spill out all over the yard so reunions are generally warm weather events.

They had two more great-grandbabies born into the family this summer within a space of a couple of weeks.

I was sitting with my mother one day at a family reunion and she was looking around at all the people. Suddenly she said, "You know, in the beginning it was just me and Daddy. Now just look at what did."

I think it was quite an accomplishment.

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Bill increases funds for veterans' care

On June 14, the U.S.

House of Representatives passed, with overwhelming bipartisan support, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Military Construction spending bill, which provides for the largest single increase in funding for the Veterans Administration in the 77 year history of the department. Nearly every major veterans organization, including the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, and the National Association for Uniformed Services, supported this legislation.

In passing this legislation, my hope is that we can begin to start repairing some of the damage done to our VA system by the current administration. The bill provides for \$3.8 billion more than what the Bush Administration requested in their budget proposal for this year, with a total of \$32 billion more over five years, and includes measures to hold the VA accountable for the service they provide

to veterans. Specifically, the bill will:

- Significantly reduce the 400,000 claims backlog for veterans waiting for disability and other benefits by adding more than 1,100 new claims processors.

- Support critical maintenance of VA health care facilities.

- Make five polytrauma centers and three Centers of Excellence for Mental Health and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) fully operational this year. The centers will care for those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

- Support the development and operation of a toll-free telephone and web-based hotline for veterans to report deficiencies in VA medical facilities and care.

It is imperative that we continue to provide care of our veterans and active duty military personnel, especially as the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan put an incredible amount of pressure on our system. In 2003, the Department of Veteran Affairs reported treating 13,822 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. By the end of this year,

it is estimated that the VA will have treated over 209,300 veterans of the two wars. These patients are only part of the estimated 5.8 million veterans the VA will treat in the coming year.

Our veterans are our heroes, and we must honor them with both our words and our deeds. Through this legislation, we will ensure our veterans have the resources and benefits they have earned and help expand and improve services. The El Paso region is home to about 60,000 veterans and they deserve the best we can offer them. I am also proud to work with my Veterans Citizens Advisory Panel or "VetCAP," which is a group of local veteran leaders who participate in this working group I created when first elected to office. They provide valuable insight and expertise on a variety of issues important to our veterans.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate as this bill moves to conference, and will do all I can to ensure our veterans receive these well-deserved and much-needed services and funding.

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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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"SOMEHOW, I THOUGHT MY LIFE WOULD IMPROVE WHEN PARIS HILTON WENT BACK TO JAIL."



The LION of IRAN



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Amendment protected water district, agriculture

Hola, mi gente, I know that many of you regularly read articles in the *El Paso Times* dealing with the legislature and I'm sure that you are aware of the article by Brandi Grissom setting forth an opinion by Paul Burka of the *Texas Monthly* magazine. Mr. Burka chose to group me with other legislators whom he felt behaved dishonorably during the session.

First, let me emphasize that this designation by Burka is only his opinion. As a journalist, he is entitled to that under the United States Constitution.

Second, however, let me share with you some background on the issue upon which Burka made his judgment. I amended a bill which contained language allowing a municipality the right to abolish a water district. The language of the bill was meant exclusively for a district in South Texas. However, El Paso County was not totally protected from being impacted by that bill. My amendment specifically excluded El Paso County from that language. This is the action which Burka considered dishonorable.

The water district in question, Water Improvement District #1, is very important to the agriculture in my district. Many El Pasoans do not realize that agriculture positively impacts the economy of the county by almost \$115 million. That is not an insignificant amount.

The management of the Water Improvement District #1 prevented potentially devastating

flooding last September by taking quick action. The canals were opened to allow the dangerously high water level of the Rio Grande to be reduced. The district did so at great expense and damage to the canals. Much work has followed to correct the damages by the storm waters, especially the excessive silt from the Rio Grande.

As the representative for the majority of people impacted positively by the district, it is my responsibility to prevent potentially harmful legislation from impacting the district or the agriculture industry it serves. If I fail to do that, farmers may decide to quit. That would hurt the businesses in the valley and also El Paso County commerce. I do not intend to let that happen.

Because the Water Improvement District #1 oversees the distribution of water, there are those who would benefit financially by taking control from the district. Some recent efforts were meant to benefit wealthy individuals in El Paso while hurting long time farmers, some of whom barely survive financially. The personal representative of one of those wealthy individuals actually scolded my chief of staff about my actions on behalf of farmers and the district. He was upset that his boss could not wrestle control from the district.

I cannot believe that Mr. Burka is against farmers or the water district which serves them. Perhaps he forgets where his meals come from.

Gracias, mi gente, and I remain your friend and public servant, Chente for la gente.

Socorro council receives city report

By Sergio Cox
Special to the Courier

Well we finally had our City of Socorro, "State of the City" presentation given to us by the City manager Carol Garcia and her staff. I will say that overall we are not as bad off as people believe us to be. There most definitely are issues that need to be addressed and handled. One of the issues is how understaffed we are. We have vacancies in vital areas of our administration staff that are in dire need of being filled. The girls that had been asked to fill-in have doubled and sometimes tripled their workload. I have to commend our office staff for this. I hope that we will be able to start filling these vacancies in the very near future.

Another issue that was discussed rather heavily is the condition of our city streets. As everyone knows our streets are also in a sad state, with potholes and large sections of asphalt missing on various streets. We are short

handed in the street department staff as well as with equipment. We have two crews of two city individuals combined with two Workforce people that are paid by FEMA funds, that are constantly working to patch up reported potholes. They are currently working in the Campestre area of the city.



Sergio Cox

When I get a request for street repair from the public, I will put in the request in writing to the City Manager and to the street department. There is currently a large list on record.

I recommended that additional people be hired and furnished with additional equipment, for the purpose of gaining ground on repairs. Two new employees have been hired that will

See REPORT, Page 4



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore June 18, 1971: Southwest Airlines begins with a flight out of Love Field in Dallas.

Jaquez sworn in to San Elizario ISD School Board

SAN ELIZARIO — Irene D. Jaquez was sworn in as a member of the San Elizario Independent School District Board of Trustees by Judge Ruben Lujan. Jaquez took the Oath of Office at the school district's regularly scheduled board meeting on June 13, 2007. She will serve her first full three-year term as a trustee after completing one year on the board when Jaquez was appointed to fill a vacancy. Roberto Garcia has also been re-elected for another term on the San Elizario ISD Board of Trustees. The board also voted to keep the same officers with Garcia serving as President, Ramon Holguin as Vice-President, and Armando Martinez as



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Secretary. Also serving on the San Elizario ISD Board are Trustees Antonio Araujo, Fernie Madrid, and Vicente Delgadillo.

Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice

Notice of Non-Discrimination in Career and Technology Programs

Canutillo Independent School District offers programs in Agriculture Science Technology, Business Education, Career Investigations, Diversified Career Preparation, Family and Consumer Science, Health Science Technology, Technology Education, and Trade and Industrial Education. Admission to Career and Technology Education programs is based on career counseling, interests and aptitudes, age appropriateness, eligibility, and class space availability.

It is the policy of Canutillo Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability, in its Career and Technology Education programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Canutillo Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Canutillo Independent School District will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all Career and Technology Education programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedure, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Renee O'Donnell, at P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, (915) 877-7423, rodonnell@canutillo-isd.org and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Karen Judd, at P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, (915) 877-7433, kjudd@canutillo-isd.org.

Aviso Publico

Notificación Publica Prohibiendo Discriminación en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnología

El Distrito Escolar de Canutillo ofrece programas en Tecnología en Ciencias de Agricultura, Negocios, Investigación de Profesiones, Consumo Familiar, Tecnología en Ciencia de la Salud, Educación de Mercadeo, Educación Tecnológica y Desarrollo de Oficios Industriales. El ingreso a estos programas se basa en recomendación de consejeros escolares, interés académico, aptitudes, edad apropiada, elegibilidad, y disponibilidad de lugares en las clases.

Es norma del Distrito Escolar de Canutillo el no discriminar la participación en estos programas por motivos de raza, color de piel, nacionalidad, sexo, incapacidad o edad. Lo anterior en base a lo requerido por las enmiendas a: el Capítulo VI del Decreto de Derechos Civiles de 1964, el Capítulo IX de Educación, y el Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973 Sección 504.

Es norma del Distrito Escolar de Canutillo el no discriminar por motivos de raza, color de piel, nacionalidad, sexo, incapacidad o edad la contratación de personal tal como lo requiere las enmiendas a: el Capítulo IX del Decreto de Derechos Civiles de 1964, el Capítulo IX de Educación de 1972, El Decreto de de No Discriminación de 1975 y la Sección 504 del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973.

El Distrito Escolar de Canutillo implantará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del idioma inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para obtener información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas comunicarse con Renee O'Donnell, Coordinadora del Capítulo IX, a la siguiente dirección: P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, TX 79835, teléfono (915) 877-7423, correo electrónico : rodonnell@canutillo-isd.org o con Karen Judd, Coordinadora de la Sección 504 a la siguiente dirección: P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, TX 79835, teléfono (915) 877-7433, correo electrónico; kjudd@canutillo-isd.org.

WTCC: 06/21/07

Report

From Page 3

start soon, but I am recommending yet two to three additional persons.

Currently we are conducting a feasibility study on the possibility of having a Bond Election for the purpose of finding the additional funds to pay for streets and sidewalks. This undertaking is going to be expensive and is going to require the support of the people. I don't know if the voting public would be receptive to this, as it would mean an increase in taxes. You the people must let your representatives know how you feel about a bond election and I urge you to contact them. I need to know your thoughts on this. I will say that I, at the present time, will wait on making my decision on this until I have heard from the public. There is no mistake that we need our streets repaired and overlaid as the streets are worn out. It is reported by our Street Dept. that the patching simply does not work anymore. I am not so worried about sidewalks and would prefer that we concentrated on our streets.

The talk of how to find additional revenue for the City was discussed also. Our Grant Department, which at this point consist of a director and an assistant, is working to locate grants that we can apply for and be able to work with, without having to match the funds at a high percentage rate. While we are talking about grants I recently had a slight setback on the grant that I found and had turned in for work up from our Grant Department. I had located the Baseball Tomorrow Fund grant on line and had asked the director of the Grant department to work it up for us and that if we qualified to apply for lights for our fields in the Rio Vista park area. I was informed that we had been awarded the Tomorrow Fund Grant, only to find out that the grant was for the fields only and did not include the lights that I had so desperately wanted and wished for. We did however receive a check for \$50,000 for the purpose of refurbishing the fields. We did try to correct the mistake of the lights but we were advised that we would have to refurbish the fields first and that we could reapply for the lights grant once we had the fields up to their standards. Who am I to look a gift horse in the mouth? We are currently starting to get price quotes from landscapers and fencing companies. If you want to get in on these jobs and you have a business that is licensed and bonded to do this type of work, contact me at 858-2915 or 588-0904 or Luz Cano at 872-9247. You are going to have to act quick as time is of the essence. We have very strict guidelines imposed on us by the BTF people.

Businesses

Business or businesses coming into Socorro was also discussed. We all agree, those of us that were present at the meeting, that there is a need for more businesses coming into the City. Where we differ in opinion is on tax abatement, meaning not charging taxes to a business that would come into Socorro. Walgreen's for example has been openly courted to come to Socorro and it was even prematurely announced through the media, that Walgreen's was coming

to Socorro and would set up at the southeast corner of Horizon and North loop. The sale of the land hasn't been completed at this time and negotiations are still taking place. The issue of a tax break was never asked for, that I am aware of, by the Walgreen's people. As a matter of fact, I contacted people from the City of El Paso and from Horizon City and was advised by them that Walgreen's has never asked them for a tax break. Yes, you heard right, if you don't already know by now, Walgreen's is planning a store in the Horizon city area maybe even two. I don't have a problem per say with a tax break. However, I don't want to hand them out just because.

An example of a business given a tax break was the Thompson Electrical warehouse that was located on Alameda just before Clint. It is my understanding that they were given a ten-year tax break or abatement, by the Council of that time and now that the tenth year is approaching, they are no longer in business. That I know of, there is no way to know how many of our citizen's they hired and what the economic gain for Socorro was during their time here. It is highly likely that because of the tax break, Socorro received little to no revenue from that business. I will continue to study the issue of tax abatement so that I can hopefully make the right decision when it comes time. I would welcome your input on this as well.

Residential developments

It was reported that there are currently 13 new developments in process with the Planning and Zoning Offices of Socorro. I have stated before that I am for development, but I want it to be controlled and in the best interest of Socorro. I want there to be adequate street lighting in these area's and not be scattered to the point where the city has to go in after the development has been finished and place additional lights and poles at the City's expense. Several developers have stated that they don't have a problem with this and would meet our requirements. There will be more information yet to come on this issue.

Police Department

With the continued growth of the city, our police department is understaffed and has outgrown their facilities. We are going to have to face the music on this and look into moving our Police Department. I am in favor of building a facility from the ground up that will adequately house all of the needs of that department. This means housing our dispatch office, holding cells, offices for all persons and those departments necessary to run a department. We are going to have to purchase land that is rapidly disappearing, before developers take it and we have to buy it at their prices. We have to address this now, as it cannot be put off any longer. These are some of the major issues that we are facing at this time. I will keep the public abreast as much as possible. It is my belief that there has to be transparency and the public has a right to know how their representative and administrative staff is handling the City's business.

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

First annual Forbes, Reinhardt scholarships awarded to four Socorro students

By Marie Cox
Special to the Courier

A short time back I reported that the City of Socorro would soon be awarding the four scholarships that were a result of the fund-raiser back in September. Well, that has been achieved. On Thursday, May 24 at the Socorro High School Senior Farewell and Award Ceremony, Socorro City Representative Sergio Cox and I presented the winners with their scholarships. It was a very meaningful and memorable event.

One of the things that made it even more meaningful, was the fact that the Socorro High School baseball

team was about to board the bus to leave for Midland to compete in the state sweet sixteen finals, but Coach Forbes agreed to wait long enough for us to be able to present the two City of Socorro, TX — Chris Forbes Baseball Scholarships. So once we announced the winners and presented them with their certificates and letters, the Class of 2007 sent the team off with loud cheers and best wishes. The winners of these two scholarships, in the amount of \$650.00 each are Gilbert Cruz and Felix Cardenas, both very deserving of the honor. Felix graduated with a 91 GPA (grade point average). He plans to attend either El Paso Community College or Western Texas College. His goal is

to play baseball at the college level and to major in Criminal Justice and eventually work for U.S Customs or the El Paso County Sheriff's Department. Felix Cardenas graduated with a 90 GPA. Along with baseball his extracurricular activities at Socorro included Security Services, Fire Tech and NJROTC. He is also interested in a criminal justice degree and plans to play college baseball adding that with hard work he hopes to make it on to the pros.

Toward the end of the Award Ceremony we were called back onto the stage to present the other two scholarships, the City of Socorro, TX — Sandra Reinhardt Math/Science

Scholarships. These two scholarships were for \$750.00 each, because a few of Mrs. Reinhardt's former students made personal contributions specifically for these. The winners of the Math/Science scholarships are Jose Raul Castellon and Alejandra Juarez. Graduating with a 97 GPA, Raul was involved in the COSMOS program at Socorro. His other activities included football, soccer, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, French Honor Society and UIL Calculator competition. Raul plans to attend the University of Colorado at Boulder and major in Aerospace Engineering. After receiving his bachelor degree, he hopes to go right on into a master's degree and maybe study abroad. Graduating with a GPA of 96, Alejandra was also a part of the COSMOS program. Among her other activities were Academic Decathlon, Library Club, French Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, and Science

UIL competition. She plans to attend UTEP and major in Pharmacology. Her dream it to remain in El Paso to show her dedication to this community. It was obvious that this scholarship meant a lot to her as she accepted it with a tear in her eye and excitement in her voice as she told us that she had actually had Mrs. Reinhardt for a teacher.

I would like to close by saying thank you to each individual and business that made these scholarships a reality by donating money, time, and services to make that fund-raiser back in September a success. A special thanks to Frank Arroyo of Carefree Homes and Eddie Valencia of Chacon Development who donated the El Campanario Ballroom and the catering or the food for that event at no expense. It is our hope that this is just the beginning of a yearly tradition to honor educators who have given much of their life to the children of the City of Socorro.

Two turn 4-H projects into college cash

By Maru Barúa
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Nicole Gonzales of Clint and Ashley Lieurance of El Paso were awarded scholarships at Texas 4-H Round-Up for their successful careers in 4-H.

Each year Texas 4-H Roundup brings together district contest winners from across the state for a culmination of years of hard work and dedication for youth throughout the State of Texas. Along with competitions, scholarships are awarded to those most deserving.



Nicole Gonzales

The Texas 4-H Foundation presented about 220 scholarships, totaling about \$2 million, said Jim Reeves, executive director of the foundation. "This is the most we have ever presented."

The Richard Wallrath Educational Foundation Scholarship will provide 71 scholarships of \$10,000 each, said Toby Lepley, Extension 4-H Specialist in College Station. The Houston Livestock Show provides 70 scholarships of \$12,000 each and the San Antonio Livestock Show provides four scholarships of \$15,000 each, nine scholarships of \$12,000 each and 12 scholarships of \$1,000 each.

We also have our "Courageous Heart" scholarships provided by the foundation for kids who have maintained an outstanding 4-H career while experiencing dire or extenuating circumstances in their lives," Reeves said. These circumstances can include "unexpected medical, health, family or educational challenges. These special scholarships will range from \$1,500 to \$10,000 depending on need and designated funds available."

Nicole Gonzales was awarded a baccalaureate scholarship for \$12,000 sponsored by the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Nicole has participated in many 4-H projects throughout her career, including swine, beef and meat goat showing and consumer science projects. She has been President of El Paso County 4-H Horse Club, a 4-H District Council Delegate for El Paso County and 4-H Teen council President, among

many other positions. She is an active volunteer in her community, holding leadership positions in school, sports and church. She will be attending Texas A&M to pursue her career in veterinary medicine.

Ashley Lieurance received the Courageous Heart Scholarship for an amount of \$5,000, sponsored by Bob and Vivian Smith Foundations and Tom and Mimi Dompier. Ashley has participated in different projects like the Dairy Heifer project, yearly horse futurity project and State Photography project. A unique situation occurred during the yearly horse futurity project. Ashley was bound to a wheel-chair for a year and a half after having two major hip surgeries. Ashley continued

with her project and she ended up showing the horse at State 4-H Horse show and placing in the top half of the class. She was the first person ever to show in a wheel-chair. Ashley wants to pursue a career as an Equine Orthoscopic Surgeon.

El Paso County also had two winners in competition. Christy Skipper received first place in the Fashion Show under the "Buying Specialty" category, while Samantha Johnson was awarded second place under the "Buying Casual" category.

For more information on results from the Texas 4-H Round Up, please contact El Paso County 4-H agent Jim Rodgers at (915) 851-2515 or by e-mail at j-rodgers@tamu.edu.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Village of Vinton, Texas Texas Community Development Program Projects

The Village of Vinton, Texas, will hold a public hearing to close out the Office of Rural Community Affairs Contract #725889, also known as the "Danny Boy/Holguin Water Project," funded by the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2007
Time: 6: 00 P.M.
Location: Vinton Village Hall
436 E. Vinton Rd.
Vinton, TX 79821

The purpose of this hearing is to allow citizens an opportunity to comment on the activities completed under this contract and the Performance Statement of the TCDP Contract. The Village of Vinton encourages its residents to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views to the Village Clerk at the Vinton Village Hall. Persons with disabilities who wish to attend this meeting should contact the Vinton Village Hall to arrange for assistance, (915) 886-5104.

El público en general está invitado a asistir a una audiencia sobre el programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad del Estado de Texas. La presentación y las discusiones sobre este programa se haran en español para aquellas personas que asi lo deseen.

Madeleine Praino, Mayor
Village of Vinton, Texas

Date Published:
June 21, 2007

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 the Town of Horizon City Council approved the following ordinance(s):

- 1) Ordinance 0161 — Rezoning from M-1 (Light Industrial) to C-1 (Light Commercial) approximately 7.648 acres consisting of Tract 1-A, Section 42, Block 78, Township 3, of Texas and Pacific Railroad Surveys, El Paso County, Texas.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 915-852-1046.

Fidel Morales
Interim City Clerk

WTCC: 06-21-07

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26, 2007** during the **Regular Council Meeting** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Amendment 018 to Ordinance 0102 to add a new Section 404.2, "Uses Permitted by Specific Use Permit," so as to provide a mechanism whereby a dwelling unit may be used, for a limited time, as a sales office for a new housing development.

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

Fidel Morales
Interim City Clerk

WTCC: 06-21-07

Unselfish teamwork is successful strategy for Spurs

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

With the sports headlines dominated by athletes who spend way too much of their time in a court of law rather than on the basketball court, it was great to see the San Antonio Spurs hoist the NBA title again last week.

It was great to see them win the championship, not so much because I have any allegiances to the city of San Antonio, but because I love what the team represents.

The Spurs are what every other professional team should strive to be — a team.

Watching Tim Duncan and Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili and Bruce Bowen and Michael Finley and Robert Horry and Brent Barry and Fabricio Oberto pass the ball to their open teammate and play defense as if their lives depended on it, was a pleasure.

And yet every media person within two or three feet of a working microphone couldn't wait to make the point that the Spurs were boring and unimaginative.

I wish the guys at ESPN and all the other

wannabes around the country would make up their minds. They chastise athletes that have this "me first" attitude, and then they put down the Spurs because they don't have any players who call attention to themselves.

I would think that the sports announcers around the nation would point out that the Spurs are just the kind of role models our kids need today. They play team defense, look for their teammates with the extra pass, they do not call attention to themselves and they stay off the police blotters.

I mean when was the last time you heard of a San Antonio Spur getting in trouble with the law or beating up his wife or girlfriend?

And it all starts with their head coach Gregg Popovich, who is the epitome of a man who stays out of the limelight.

"Pop", as he is known, treats all his players the same. He gets after his superstars as much as he does the last guys on the bench, and all the players have to appreciate that kind of integrity and sense of fair play.

I know the ESPN guys live for those one-man-team franchises who supply a bunch of high-flying dunk highlights for their

SportsCenter broadcasts. But everybody knows that tough hard-nosed defense and unselfishness wins championships.

And is it any surprise that the Spurs have won four in nine short years?

Athletes behavin' badly

This week's edition of athletic "bad boys, bad boys" takes a slight twist. Usually, we seek out athletes that do stupid things mainly because of their youth, their arrogance and the fact that they've got more money than they know what to do with.

But it's another thing entirely for a person, whose responsibility it is to put away bad guys, to abuse his authority for his own personal gain.

Of course, we're talking about the now famous prosecutor of the Duke lacrosse rape case, Mike Nifong, who has kind of established himself as the Richard Nixon of district attorneys.

It was rather apparent as long as a year ago that Nifong wanted nothing to do with the facts (or the lack of them) of the obviously bogus rape charges levied against the Duke lacrosse players.

And for his utter lack of ethics, Nifong, to the delight of millions around the country, has been disbarred. Things were so bad during his investigation that even he called the disbarment "appropriate."

Now I'm all for ambitious dudes who strive to be their best, but this guy didn't care at all about the lives of the three Duke players he charged with rape even though there wasn't a shred of evidence against them.

So last week it only took the discipline committee one hour to vote on disbarment. That's got to be a record.

I don't know if the three Duke players will ever get their lives back in order but I sure hope so. As for Nifong, it is especially disturbing when men in power misuse it to hurt individuals.

I don't care what he does the rest of his life, as long as it has nothing to do with the law.

Hey, maybe he should appear in one of those reality shows where a bunch of has-beens spend some time together in the same house, driving each other crazy.

Maybe he can spend a couple months in the same room with Rosie O'Donnell — that seems like punishment enough.

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IRS

From Page 1

the current year. An exemption certificate is good for the calendar year.

Summer Day Camp

Many working parents must arrange for care of their younger children under 13 years of age during the school vacation period. A popular solution — with favorable tax consequences — is a day camp program.

Unlike overnight camps, the cost of day camp counts as an expense towards the child and dependent care credit. Of course, even if your childcare provider is a sitter at your home, you'll get some tax benefit if you qualify for the credit.

Check-out IRS Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses.

Moving

Moving expenses may be deductible if your move is job-related and you meet certain tests. If your employer reimburses you for moving expenses,

that amount may be taxable income. Generally, up to \$250,000 of gain (\$500,000 filing jointly) from the sale of your home is not taxable. New homeowners, be aware that mortgage interest, points and real estate taxes may be deductible.

For more information see IRS Publication 523, Selling Your Home, and IRS Publication 521, Moving Expenses.

For more information and to access IRS forms and publications, go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-3676.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

CANUTILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Federal and State Regulation Materials Programs require that all students, staff, parents, and other interested parties be provided information on these mandated programs.

PEST CONTROL TREATMENT PROGRAM NOTICE

The Canutillo Independent School District manages a Pest Control Program in accordance with Integrated Pest Management procedures prescribed by the Texas Structural Pest Control Board.

The District pesticide applicator is licensed through the Texas Structural Pest Control Board. The applicator has been scheduled to perform indoor applications of pesticides on a monthly basis. On occasion, requests are made for indoor pesticide applications for special purposes.

Information on the times and types of pesticide applications is available at the request of the parents, guardians, or managing conservators. Information may be obtained by writing to:

Facilities and Transportation Division
Canutillo Independent School District
P.O. Box 100

Canutillo, Texas 79835

AVISO DEL PROGRAMA DE TRATAMIENTO PARA CONTROL DE PLAGAS

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo administra un programa de control de plagas en conformidad con los procedimientos prescritos por la junta del Control de Plagas Estructural de Texas. El Aplicador ha sido programado para que haga aplicaciones interiores de insecticidas una vez al mes. Hay ocasiones en que se hagan aplicaciones de insecticidas en el interior de edificios por razones especiales.

A petición de los padres, guardianes o conservadores dirigentes, esta información tocante a las horas y tipos de pesticidas que se usaran en las aplicaciones. Está información se puede obtener escribiendo al:

Facilities and Transportation Division
Canutillo

Independent School District
P.O. Box 100
Canutillo, Texas 79835

WTCC: 06/21/07

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2007

CATERING SERVICES CSP NO. 199-0629-7100 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-06/21/07

BUSINESS RENTAL

20 'X45' space for rent. \$250/month. 852-9371, Horizon Self Storage. 8/30

COUNSELING SERVICES

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.

GARAGE SALES

LARGE GARAGE SALE - 19005 Bremerton in Horizon City, Friday and Saturday, June 22-23.

JOBS

Immediate part-time opening for experienced small engine repair person. Applications available at Ace

Hardware located at 117 N. Fabens Street in Fabens, Texas. (915) 764-2239. 7/5

DOCUMENT ASSISTANCE

Divorce documents prepared, includes petition, waiver, final decree. Covers children and property. \$275. (915) 851-1425.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: Former Justice Court Building, 12708 Alameda Clint, TX. all Frank Macias, 851-2007/588-0968. 7/28

SELF-HELP

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

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

STORAGE

10 'X20' space for

rent. \$65/month. 852-9371, Horizon Self Storage.

SERVICES

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Divorce documents prepared, includes petition, waiver, final decree. Covers children and property. \$275. (915) 851-1425.

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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



Don't get cute with me

By Don Flood

With 2008 shaping up to be a watershed year for presidential politics, Americans will have to decide, as they sort through all the issues: Is either candidate cute?

This is extremely important because, as we all learned in ninth grade civics, American presidents are barred from being cute.

Not that they can be ugly either.

They must look "presidential," defined in the U.S. Constitution as someone "who would look good playing a president in a television movie, major motion picture or HBO special."

(Our Founding Fathers were amazingly forward looking, especially Ben Franklin, who insisted, over the objection of various boneheads, on the addition of "HBO special.")

John Edwards, in particular, has been rocked by repeated charges that he is "cute," even being called the "Breck girl" of American politics.

Among those attacking — I'm not making this up — was Sen. Barack Obama, who in a recent speech called fellow Democrat Edwards "kind of cute."

Obama may well have figured the best defense is a good offense because — and I'm still not making this up — he appeared bare-chested frolicking in the surf in a January People magazine feature titled "Beach Babes."

Beach Babe! As in President Babe. Babe in Chief. First president to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue. But so far, Beach Babe Obama has evaded the "cutie" label.

Republicans attacked too.

At a recent presidential debate, former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas received the biggest laugh of the night by saying that Con-

gress has been spending "money like John Edwards at a beauty shop."

HA HA HA HA HA! (OK, so the biggest laugh competition wasn't so stiff that night.)

On the Republican side, former Gov. Mitt Romney borders on being cute, but so far has been able to position himself as "presidential-looking."

Still, imagine a presidential debate if it comes down to these two:

ROMNEY: I think we all know this campaign is about one thing and one thing only: Which candidate is cute? My fellow Americans, the answer is clear. I am presidential looking; my opponent, on the other hand, is cute as a button.

EDWARDS: Since last year, Mr. Romney and the Republican attack machine have been trying to accuse me of being cute. In fact, I am not cute, and I have a poll that proves it. It shows that 33 percent of Americans consider me "handsome," with another 48 percent calling me "studly" — studly, now that's the kind of president America needs.

Furthermore, a whopping 78 percent referred to my opponent's "aw shucks" grin as being "very cute."

ROMNEY: I categorically deny that I am cute. As everyone can see, I am ruggedly handsome and I will be like having a Hollywood action star in the White House. When I hold a press conference you'll swear you're watching a movie, because I can both look and act like a president, unlike my opponent, who is so cute I just want to hug him.

It's going to be a long — and ugly — campaign.

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King Super Crossword

WHEREABOUTS

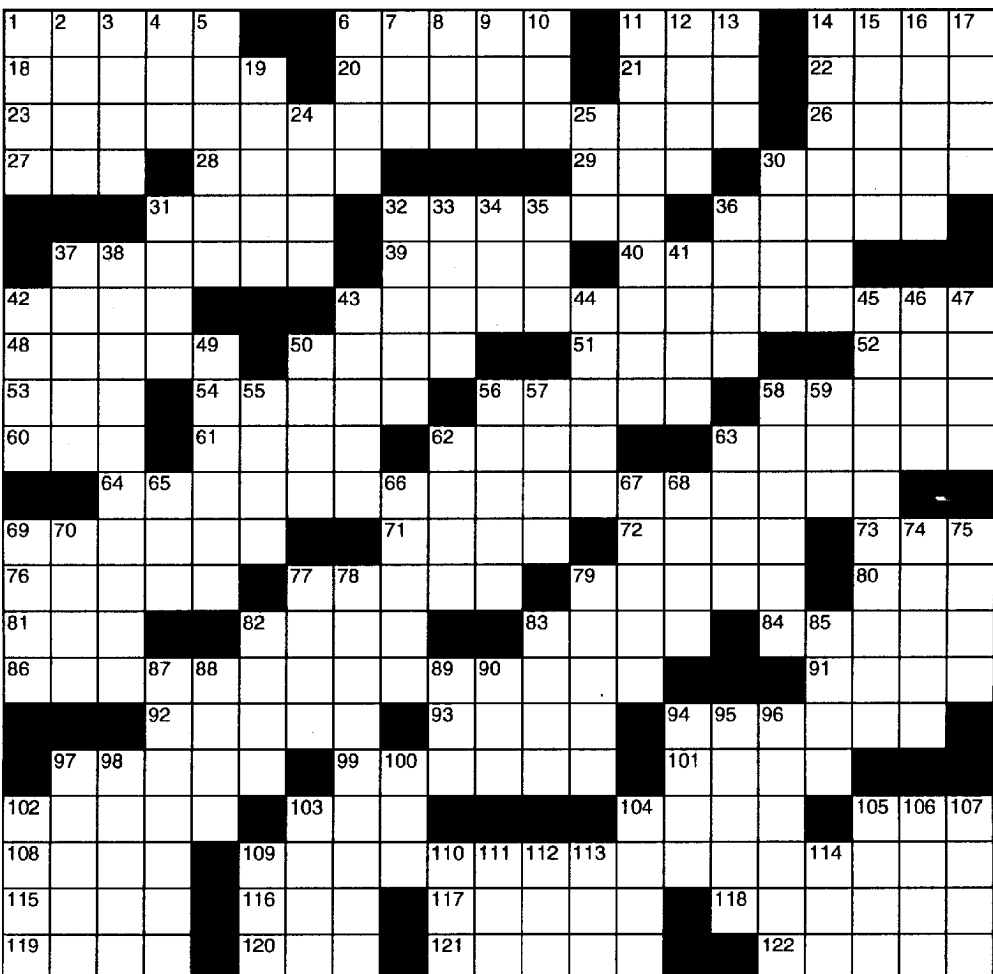
- ACROSS**
- 1 Winning
 - 6 In the know
 - 11 Ingot
 - 14 Nursery furniture
 - 18 Hook's mate
 - 20 Corday's prey
 - 21 Flamenco dancer's shout
 - 22 Mandlikova of tennis
 - 23 "Sunrise Sunset" musical
 - 26 Writer Hunter
 - 27 Southern constellation
 - 28 New Mexico resort
 - 29 Med. test
 - 30 Statistical focus
 - 31 Unruffle
 - 32 Reposes
 - 36 Michael of "Little Voice"
 - 37 Noxious atmosphere
 - 39 Dock
 - 40 Unburdens oneself
 - 42 Ostentation
 - 43 Alistair MacLean bestseller
 - 48 On the _ (defenseless)
 - 50 Soft cheese
 - 51 Schoenberg's "Moses und -"
 - 52 _Magnon

- 53 Benjamin of The Cars
- 54 "Salome" character
- 56 Elbows
- 58 Implied
- 60 Like a bairn
- 61 Persia, today
- 62 Augur
- 63 Stratas or Stich-Randall
- 64 Hitchcock opus
- 69 Newspaper circular
- 71 Deride
- 72 Starting at
- 73 Gumshoe
- 76 Dirtsies
- 77 Impose
- 79 Propeller part
- 80 Actress Thurman
- 81 Part of USNA
- 82 Small business-man?
- 83 Fluctuate
- 84 Dais covering
- 86 Kiddie-lit classic
- 91 Envelope abbr.
- 92 _ apso
- 93 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
- 94 Rubble or Fife
- 97 Bobbin
- 99 Kyoto companion
- 101 Jai _
- 102 Thought-provoking
- 103 Our omega

- DOWN**
- 1 - Romeo
 - 2 It grows on you
 - 3 Snorri's stories
 - 4 Count up
 - 5 Corinthian consonants
 - 6 _ & Andrew" ('93 film)
 - 7 Pallid
 - 8 Cunning
 - 9 Stadium shout
 - 10 Nice season
 - 11 Where to find romance
 - 12 Easy as falling off _
 - 13 Part pugilists
 - 14 '66 Association hit
 - 15 Glossy black
 - 16 Pointless
 - 17 Simple ring
 - 19 Domain
 - 24 Downey of

- "Touched by an Angel" 25 Agt.
- 30 Launder powder
- 31 Promontory
- 32 Cuttlefish kin
- 33 Velez of "Mexican Spitfire"
- 34 "Annabel Lee" monogram
- 35 Pupil's place
- 36 Tribe
- 37 Opera's Grace
- 38 Striking
- 41 Cain's nephew
- 42 Freightier front
- 43 Pitchfork part
- 44 Spoken for
- 45 Stress
- 46 Author Murdoch
- 47 "_ creature was stirring..."
- 49 Prepares eggs
- 50 Grain husk
- 55 Part of Q.E.D.
- 56 Emulated Elle
- 57 Scent
- 58 _ up (united)
- 59 "Exodus" protagonist
- 62 Submachine gun
- 63 Walked
- 65 _ Aviv
- 66 VCR button
- 67 Black piano key
- 68 Hors d'oeuvre holder
- 69 "It - Right" ('56 song)

- 70 First zookeeper?
- 74 TV's "_ Nest"
- 75 Columnist Herb
- 77 Geometry term
- 78 Williams' was glass
- 79 Botswana bigwig
- 82 List ender
- 83 Asian title
- 85 Asian title
- 87 Duds
- 88 Crow's-nest cry
- 89 _ polloi
- 90 Printer's measures
- 94 Cantata composer
- 95 Fugard's "A Lesson from -"
- 96 Liberation
- 97 Cold-war assn.
- 98 Ersatz emerald
- 100 Cartoon cry
- 102 Hoarse horse?
- 103 South African native
- 104 Craving
- 105 "Harper's Bazaar" artist
- 106 Brace
- 107 Blows away
- 109 Gob
- 110 Actress Taina
- 111 Chinese principle
- 112 Stevedores' grp.
- 113 Advisory org.
- 114 Go for it



Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: How many years do I need to work before I can qualify for Social Security disability benefits?

A: The number of work credits you need to qualify for disability benefits depends on your age when you become disabled. Also, the credits must have been earned recently. Generally, you need 20 credits earned in the last 10 years, ending with the year you become disabled. Younger workers, generally those under 31, who have not had the opportunity to work that long, may qualify with fewer credits, so if you become disabled and cannot work, you should still apply for benefits. To learn more, read a copy of our publication, Disability

Benefits. You can get a copy online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to have a free copy mailed to you.

Q: My neighbor recently retired, only to learn that some of her earnings hadn't been recorded properly. She eventually got everything straightened out, but what can I do now to make sure this doesn't happen to me when I'm ready to retire in ten years?

A: Make sure the name and Social Security number your employer is using matches up with the information on your Social Security card. Also, check your Social Security State-

ment, mailed to you each year about three months before your birthday. If your earnings are not reported to Social Security under your correct name and number, you may not get the credits you're due — and that could translate to lower benefit payments in your future. Such earnings discrepancies can be corrected, as was the case with your neighbor, but it can translate to an inconvenient delay when you apply for benefits. To learn more about Social Security benefits, visit Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: I look at my Social Security Statement each year to make sure my earnings are properly recorded. This year I became self-employed, but I didn't get credit for my full earnings. Why not?

A: The amount recorded is your net income. For people who are self-employed, we count net income, not gross income, when figuring your credits of coverage. Net earnings for Social Security are your gross earnings from your trade or business, minus your allowable business deductions and depreciation. If, in fact, your net earnings are not correctly reflected, you should let us know. Visit

our website to learn more about Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to my disability. If I die unexpectedly, will my minor children be able to get my SSI?

A: No survivors benefits are paid for SSI. SSI is a needs-based program intended to help people who have limited income and resources, and who are aged, blind or disabled. Some children qualify for SSI if they are disabled, but nobody can receive SSI benefits for themselves based on another person's record. To learn more about SSI and Social Security, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov. You also may call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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

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- 10-27 Houston
- 11-17 Southern Miss.

For more information please call 747-6150.

Twins

From Page 1

on their success. Alexandra Quintanilla selected Nancy and Rafael Gonzalez nominated Jan.

"She not only imparts wisdom about health sciences but about life in general. If there was anything we needed we could count on Mrs. Sochat's support," says Alexandra. "It had not been for Mrs. Sochat, my fellow classmates and I would not have discovered how to channel our passion and knowledge of the medical field into a practice."

Rafael describes Mrs. Kehoe as "one of those teachers who was capable of always bringing a smile to her students."

While Nancy was working with students at the school, Jan was guiding students through the hallways of local hospitals during clinical rotations. While both look forward to this next stage of their lives, they will always be rooting for the students.

"I am going to miss this school and the students terribly," says Nancy. "I bleed Socorro red."

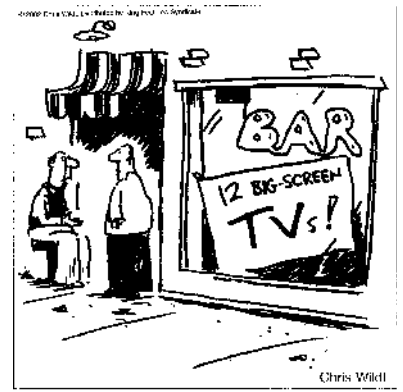
Briefs

From Page 1

individuals who are responsible for this crime. If you know anything about this case, call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You can remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

In other news

In the event of an emergency or disaster situation, is your family prepared? Lots of us aren't, but the Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit publication from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross can help. This publication provides all the necessary steps to assemble your own at-home kit. It lists, item by item, specifically what you will need in terms of water, food, first-aid supplies, tools, sanitation items and family documents. This publication costs 50¢. Get your copy and start preparing by sending your name, address, and a check or money order for 50¢ to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 323P, Pueblo, CO 81009. Or call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, and ask for Item 323P. Have your credit card handy. And visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov to read or print this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.



"You mind checking that universal TV remote you're packin' at the door?"