

NEWSBRIEFS

Closed

The West Texas County Courier is closed. It will open again on Monday, Oct. 8, 2007.

New club

An Optimist Club is being organized in Clint. More members are needed to meet chartering requirements. There are presently 18 Optimist clubs in the El Paso area. They are affiliated with Optimist International. These clubs have as their motto: "friend of youth." Optimist clubs provide youth-oriented activities such as oratorical and essay contests, baseball, football and basketball leagues as well as a Respect for Law program. If you are interested in working with youth in the new Clint Optimist Club, contact Police Chief Alex Sanchez at 637-4020 or town clerk Fabiola Ochoa at 851-3146.

Honor a Vet

Their goal: 2,500 live wreaths. Their purpose: To honor veterans by placing a wreath on their grave at Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Time is short and they would like your help. The El Paso Composite Squadron, part of the Civil Air Patrol is asking El Pasoans to donate \$15 per wreath — for as many as they care to sponsor — by Nov. 1. The wreaths will be placed on the graves in December but orders must be in by Nov. 1 to allow time for production and delivery. All donations are tax deductible. El Paso's Composite Squadron is also seeking volunteers to help distribute the wreaths on Dec. 14. A formal ceremony will take place Dec. 15 at 10 a.m., coinciding with the national ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. For more information contact elpasowreaths@yahoo.com or call 595-1946 — press 1 at the prompt — and leave your contact information. For information on the Civil Air Patrol you can visit www.cap.com on the web.

Defensive driving

AARP will be offering a defensive driving course at the Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City. The class will be held on Monday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 and the class can be used for an insurance discount. Info: 852-0062.

Accelerated MBA

UTEP's College of Business Administration is kicking off two new Accelerated MBA cohorts of classes this month, and officials are encouraging interested students to begin preparing for spring classes. The accelerated MBA classes comprise working professionals from El Paso, Juárez and Southern New Mexico whose professional backgrounds include finance, marketing, engineering, computer network administration, health care administration, education,

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A man never gets so rich that he can afford to lose a friend.

— Quips & Quotes

Canutillo student recognized by Congressman Reyes

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

"It was awesome; I didn't want to leave Washington D.C.," said Miriam Garcia, Canutillo High School senior, about her experience as a Page in the U.S. House of Representatives during a special reception attended by family, friends, CISD teachers and administrators, Superintendent Dr. Pam Padilla, and Congressman Silvestre Reyes.

Garcia worked with a team of high school students selected from throughout the country in the House of Representatives this summer. Her duties consisted primarily of delivering correspondence, legislative material, and small packages within the Congressional complex. She also answered phones and took messages for Members, called them to the phone



Miriam Garcia

if they were in the House Chamber, and prepared the House Floor for sessions.

During the reception, Congressman Reyes, whose office nominated Garcia for the summer program, said that the Canutillo legacy continues through the efforts and accomplishments of students such as Miriam. "It is a thrill seeing our young people go out into the world and be able to compete with the best and brightest this country has to offer," said the Congressman, who is a 1964 graduate of Canutillo High School.

Garcia currently is ranked second in her class with a 98.6 grade point average. She is a member of CHS's Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) and has competed at the HOSA state and national levels. She is a member of Future Business Leaders of America,

See HONOR, Page 6

Montwood student's mural on display

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Through Ernesto Grado's eyes, his future depends on finishing high school and going on to college. Now, everyone who passes by the murals that run along I-10 East will also see his dedication to school. The 17-year-old was one of several local artists selected to paint one of the pillars that support US Highway 54. Over the course of two weeks, Ernesto worked alongside other artists to complete the artwork that was part of Centro De Salud Familiar Career and Technology's competition called "El Paso Through My Eyes."

In a three week period, Grado's "Through My Eyes" submission went from art concept to reality. His depiction of UTEP shows the how higher education leads to success. Being selected was a great accomplishment for someone who has been studying art for less than two years.

"I just discovered art about a year ago when

I started taking classes," says Grado. "I want to go to college and study art. I would like to be an art teacher."

This mural will be his first public art project, which measures more than six feet high, and it will be his first using a different medium.

"I've just done drawings, and I'm not experienced using spray cans on a project this big," says the high school junior from Montwood High School.

His graffiti style mural, which shows UTEP buildings wrapped around the pillar, has special meaning for him.

"It shows that even if you started from the bottom, you can make your way to college. The mural shows the mistakes we make, but that we have to recover from them to move up," says Grado.

"He's a really good student and artist. His level of appreciation of art is at a college level," says Grado's art instructor, Ivan Hernandez. "I had him last year and started an advanced class this year for him and other students who were interested."



— Photo By Stacy Kendrick/SISD

BRUSHING UP — Ernesto Grado puts the finishing touches on his mural featuring UTEP.

Top 10 Auto Accident Tips

What every driver should know in the event of a car crash

According to the National Safety Council approximately one in eight drivers will be in an auto accident this year. Insurance officials offer the following suggestions to help prevent injury, save time and money and minimize the stress involved in a car crash:

- Stay calm. Avoid tendencies toward "road rage" and stay calm if you encounter another driver who is behaving irrationally. When these situations escalate, they can often lead to dangerous driving and crashes. There is no slight, vulgar gesture or foolish behavior that is worth endangering your life, your car and the lives of others.

- Protect yourself. Be alert to traffic scams that seem like "accidents," such as when driving on a lightly traveled road, particularly at night, and being tapped from behind. Predatory criminals do this to get the driver to exit the car and then either rob the driver or steal the car. If you are suspicious of the circumstances, stay in your vehicle and drive to a police station or heavily populated area for assistance.

- STOP! If you are in a crash do not leave the scene until you have spoken with the other driver or the police.

- Take steps to prevent further accidents. If practical, move the car and all passengers safely to the side of the road — preferably to the right shoulder and turn off the engine. If functioning, turn your emergency flashing lights on and, if available, set out reflective triangles or a flare.

- Call the police from the scene or ask someone to call for you. It is usually best to have the police address any traffic infractions, assist with injuries and memorialize the occurrence for the record.

- Request medical assistance if needed. If you or others are bleeding, feel light-headed or are suffering any physical injury, always err on the side of calling for assistance. Unless trained in emergency medical assistance, do not attempt to move injured persons or perform medical procedures yourself.

- Do not admit fault or discuss the accident with anyone except for the police or your auto insurance company. And, remember to call your insurance company as soon as practicable.

- Make a diagram of the crash, including the location of each occupant or pedestrian. Write down pertinent information such as the other driver's name, addresses, telephone number, license plate and driver's license number and the time of the accident. Note the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses, the badge number of any police officers and where to obtain a copy of a police report and any other pertinent information about the scene, such as exact location, the issuance of any tickets by the police, and any recollections about your vehicle's handling or mechanical functioning just prior to the accident.

- Carry an emergency kit in your car that should minimally include: a road flare or traffic triangle, brightly colored cloth to tie to your radio antenna and driver side door handle, a flash light, with fully charged batteries, a first aid kit, a basic tool kit with duct tape and a pen and paper. Always have a copy

See CRASH, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Life imitates e-mail

A n y o n e who has an e-mail address and one friend gets e-mail, and these snippets of electronic transmissions range from downright x-rated raunchy, to worthwhile, to inspiration, to hilarious. If you have more than one friend you often get repeats.

The story I'm about to tell has probably been read by many who have e-mail. However, the thing they may not know is that, for once, life actually did imitate e-mail — with a slight variation, of course.

The e-mail goes like this:

"One day a farmer's donkey fell down a well. It cried piteously for hours but the farmer decided the ani-

mal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway.

"He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey cried horribly. Then, suddenly, he quieted down.

"The men kept shoveling until finally the farmer decided to look down the well to measure their progress. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

"So the farmer's neighbors kept shoveling and pretty soon the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!"

Now, the real-life story I'm about to tell is not made up. It is an actual news story from the Associated Press.

In a farming community in Minnesota, a donkey wandered away from his owner's farm and fell through some boards covering an old well on a neighboring farm.

The creature was hopelessly trapped and the fire chief who was handling rescue efforts soon realized that the animal wasn't going to be easily drawn out of the well. It was going to take more drastic measures.

Unlike the farmer in the story, however, the man who owned the well was greatly concerned about the welfare of the donkey so he gave permission for the rescuers to dismantle his well.

They took a tractor and tore it apart block by block until they could finally lead the donkey out.

"Whatever it takes," the farmer is quoted as saying as he watched his well come down. "I love animals, and I'm just glad it's OK."

The donkey's owner is quoted as telling the donkey: "I bet you'll think

twice about doing that again. If you would have stayed home you wouldn't be in this trouble."

Now, it seems to me that these fellows involved in this real-life drama must have been reading their e-mails because this story, as far as we know, has a better ending than the fable.

Consider that the man who owned the well might have deeply resented it being contaminated by a donkey. Suppose he wasn't willing to take the loss and insisted the donkey be removed without consideration as to whether it survived the rescue. Maybe he could have told the donkey's owner how irresponsible he was for not keeping track of his animal.

Suppose the donkey's owner deeply resented the fact that the well-owner hadn't taken proper precautions to cover what was clearly a hazard to man and beast. He could have rationalized that next time it might be a child that fell down that infernal hole.

They might have wound up in court, suing and counter-suing, until some irritated judge finally gave

them a scolding and sent them to bed without supper.

Now, let's revisit the inspirational e-mail where the donkey shook it off and rose above. The moral of the story is that life dumps all kinds of dirt on us but we have to face our troubles as if they are a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest hole by shaking it off and stepping up.

On that bright and cheerful note, you'd think the folk story would end but it doesn't. The author of the donkey-in-the-well fable was a little more realistic than that. After giving the inspirational version, it continues:

"Now, enough of that baloney. The donkey later came back, and bit the farmer who had tried to bury him. The gash from the bite got infected and the farmer eventually died in agony from septic shock. They buried him in the well, because, you see, when you do something wrong, and try to cover your ass, it always comes back to bite you."

That's probably a more likely scenario of life imitating e-mail.

Back-to-school tax breaks help teachers, parents and students

By Lea C. Crusberg
Special to the Courier

WASHINGTON DC — With the new school year now under way, the Internal Revenue Service is reminding teachers, parents and students that saving receipts and keeping good records can help them take advantage of various education-related deductions and credits on their 2007 federal income tax return.

"The start of the school year is a good time to remind parents, students and teachers to save all receipts related to tax-advantaged education expenses," said IRS Acting Commissioner Linda Stiff. "Good recordkeeping makes sense because it can help avoid missing a deduction or credit at tax time."

Deductions reduce the income on which tax is figured. Credits reduce

the overall tax. Though both can lower a person's year-end tax bill or increase their refund, credits normally result in greater tax savings.

The educator expense deduction allows teachers and other educators to deduct the cost of books, supplies, equipment and software used in the classroom. Eligible educators include those who work at least 900 hours during a school year as a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or aide in a public or private elementary or secondary school.

Worth up to \$250, the educator expense deduction is available, whether or not the educator itemizes their deductions on Schedule A. In tax-year 2005, teachers and educators deducted just over \$893 million of these out-of-pocket classroom expenses. Under current law, this deduction is scheduled to expire at the end of this year.

Three key tax breaks—the tuition and fees deduction, the Hope credit and the lifetime learning credit—help parents and students pay for the cost of post-secondary education. All three are available, regardless of whether an eligible taxpayer itemizes their deductions. Under current law, the tuition and fees deduction is scheduled to expire at the end of this year, but the two credits remain in effect. In tax-year 2005, taxpayers claimed tuition and fees deductions totaling nearly \$11 billion and education

credits of almost \$6.2 billion.

Normally, a taxpayer can claim tuition and required enrollment fees paid for their own and their dependent's college education. A taxpayer cannot take both an education credit and the tuition and fees deduction for the same student in the same year. Income limits and other special rules apply to each of these provisions. Education credits are claimed on Form 8863, and the tuition and fees deduction for 2007 will be claimed on new Form 8917.

IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits

for Education, can help eligible parents and students understand the special rules that apply and decide which tax break to claim. The publication also describes other education-related tax benefits, including qualified tuition programs (also known as 529 plans), the student loan interest deduction, Coverdell education savings accounts and the education savings bond program.

Publication 970 is posted on IRS.gov or can be obtained, without charge, by calling the IRS toll-free at 1-800-TAX-FORM (829-3676).

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Property appraisal on ballot

Hola, mi gente,

If you are a property owner, then I know that you have experienced frustration from the annual increases in your property appraisals. It is not so much that the value of the property is appreciating, all of you realize that a higher appraisal value means more property taxes are going to be due. The House Committee on Local Government Ways and Means, of which I am a member, oversees the

appraisal process. On every vote in that committee dealing with appraisals, I have considered how the annual increases hit you in the pocket book. It was my vote that blocked a bill from passing out of the committee that allowed the appraisal districts to increase property values based on the sales prices of certain individual properties.

During the past session, we passed a resolution that amends the constitution to limit property appraisal increases to ten percent in any given year. Since this provision is already in the

property code, the approval of Proposition 3 in the Nov. 11 election will only align the constitution with current law. However, the cap will be much harder to increase if it is in the constitution.

According to the House Research Organization, those who support the proposition agree that the amendment would eliminate sticker shock in counties where appraisals are done every three years. Also, the proposition will make it constitutionally more difficult to return to the days when taxing entities increased tax revenues (by higher property appraisals) without "increasing taxes" (using the same tax rate).

Some opponents feel that the proposition is unnecessary because most districts perform annual appraisals; which is the case in El Paso County. They see this as perhaps a burden on districts with smaller populations. The appraisal districts in those districts would incur higher costs because of the more frequent appraisals and the needed increase in staff. Also, in a slumping market the effects of depressed property values will be felt immediately as opposed to perhaps two or three years later if appraisals are done every three years.

Other opponents feel that the measure does not go far enough. They feel that the annual increase should be as little as 3 percent. They also argue that the local communities should have the

Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore 1932, Big Spring: A California tourist is cited by local police for "indecent exposure" for wearing shorts.



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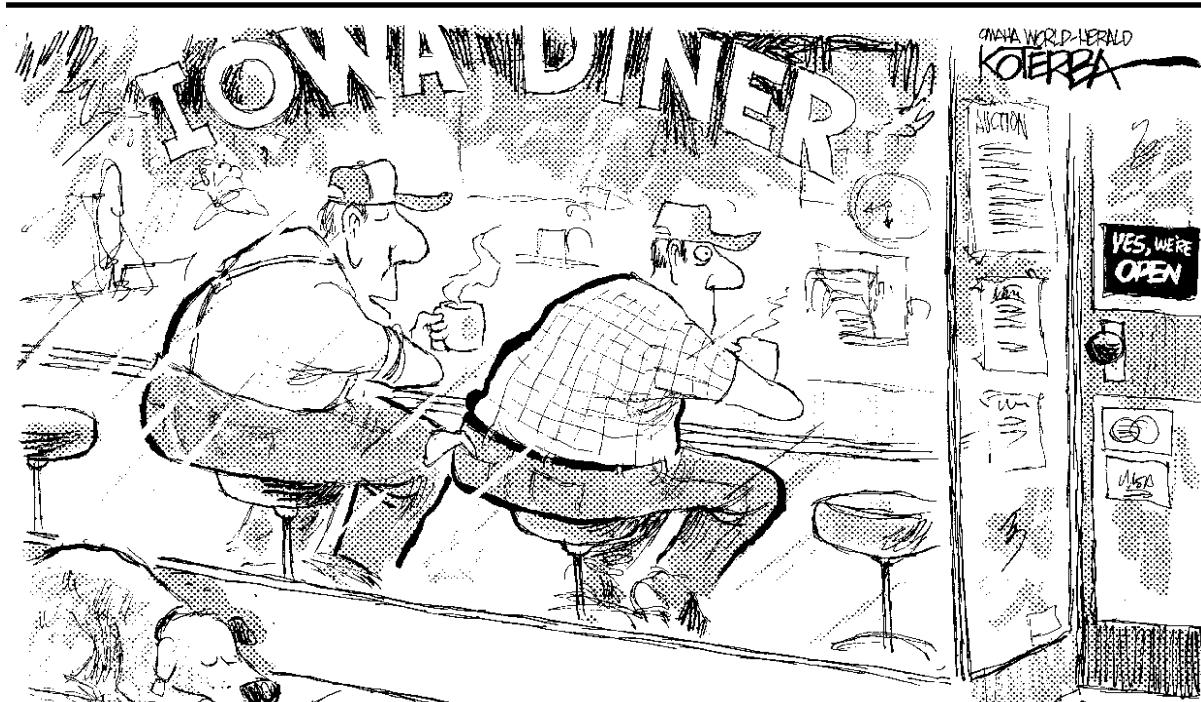
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Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Clint Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

Clint Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, Wednesday, October 17, 2007, in the Board Room of the Clint Central Administration Building, 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, Texas 79928.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Clint Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 09/27/07 & 10/04/07

Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss San Elizario Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 10, 2007 in the boardroom of the San Elizario ISD Administration Building, 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, San Elizario, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss San Elizario Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 09/20/07 & 09/27/07

September 30th
Hammer the
Hurricanes Day

All Ysleta
Independent
School District
Employees
and Students
get in free

Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss Fabens Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 17, 2007 in the boardroom of the Fabens ISD Administration Building, 821 NE "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Fabens Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 09/27/07 & 10/04/07

View from here By Bill Peacock

Time to bring consumer regulation into the 21st century

"Many people want the government to protect the consumer," said the late economist Milton Friedman. "A much more urgent problem is to protect the consumer from the government."

Friedman's words particularly ring true regarding the Texas insurance industry.

Since World War II, regulation of insurance has been justified in the name of ensuring "affordable" prices. Experience, however, shows that regulation has led to wild swings in prices and availability.

States like Illinois and South Carolina have proven that a modernized regulatory approach focusing on fairness (ensuring that the cost to a policyholder reflects his level of risk) and

solvency (ensuring that companies have the financial resources to pay claims) in lines such as auto and homeowners' insurance creates a more stable and healthier industry. Since their reforms, both states have seen more companies enter the market, stable rates, and smaller residual markets.

A study that compared Illinois' auto insurance market to other comparable states found Illinois to have more predictable "rate levels, lower consumer prices, the highest number of insurance carriers in the nation, and a low number of uninsured drivers."

Texas insurance regulators, however, operate as though none of this has taken place.

This summer, the Texas Department of Insurance rejected or threatened to reject three rate filings by two different insurers. And this week, they are preparing to "crack down" on affiliated business arrangements where one company owns or controls another and is in a position to refer business to the controlled business in title insurance, ignoring the obvious efficiencies gained by such arrangements.

This approach to regulation turns on the notion that without government oversight, insurance companies will take advantage of consumers. They make this assumption based on the fact that a few insurers tend to serve the majority of the homeowners' market, and thus can exercise "market power" over consumers.

If competition was working in the homeowners' market, critics contend, more people would have left the larger providers and chosen providers that offered lower prices. They claim the existence of consumers

sticking with higher prices is proof that consumer choice is not readily available; thus consumers need protection from the larger companies who are profiting at their expense. Of course, no standard is ever offered for how much business the large firms should lose before competition is considered optimal.

This was the same rationale that drove the debate on electric re-regulation during the last legislative session. Market opponents said the market share of TXU in conjunction with higher prices was proof of their anti-competitive behavior.

But it has only been recently that the attempts of a company to take market share from its competitors have been deemed anti-competitive. In more lucid times, companies increasing their market share were seen as being aggressive, and consumers who stuck with such companies were given credit for being sophisticated buyers.

Research examining online "consumer stickiness" shows consumers

sticking with one provider in the presence of lower prices elsewhere can be an indicator of a healthy, highly-competitive marketplace. While the Internet allows consumers to search and frequently switch to alternative providers, "branding, awareness, and trust" make consumers willing to pay higher prices to retailers that they have previously dealt with.

Consumers reign supreme in the marketplace. Nobody forces consumers to buy electricity, insurance, or cell phones from a particular provider unless it's the government restricting availability via regulation, as it has done with telephone and electric service in recent times.

Every time consumers buy insurance or pay their electric bill, they signal that they have made an affirmative choice that satisfies their individual preferences. If the price and product is good enough for consumers, it ought to be good enough for the government as well.

Bill Peacock is Director for the Center for Economic Freedom with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin. His e-mail is bpeacock@texaspolicy.com.

Horizon City Health Fair

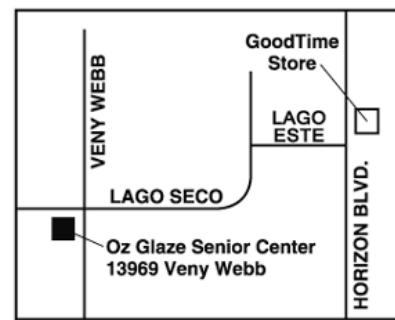
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- Women's Services
- Weight loss surgery
- Alzheimer's
- Horizon City Fire Dept
- Lions Disabled Children's camp
- Rehabilitation services
- Hip, Knee, and Shoulder pain
- Children's Health Insurance (CHIP)
- Medical Assistant Training

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When it comes to Medicare, the term "donut hole" doesn't refer to one of your favorite breakfast sweets. It refers to the coverage gap that occurs when Medicare temporarily stops paying for your prescriptions and you have to pay the entire cost yourself. Learn how this gap may affect you and your loved ones with the free Medicare Resources package of publications from the National Pharmaceutical Council and the Federal Citizen Information Center.

Start by reviewing your Medicare drug plan and its coverage gap policy. For most standard plans, you enter the gap after your total covered drug costs reach \$2,400. Covered drugs include any medicines for which your plan pays at least part of the cost. You may be able to delay reaching the gap by using lower-cost drugs. Check with your health care provider to find out if other medicines would work for you.

After you enter the coverage gap, you must pay all of your prescription drug costs until the total amount reaches the out-of-pocket limit. This limit marks the end of the coverage gap and includes the \$2,400 you paid prior to entering the gap. For 2007, the out-of-pocket limit for most plans is \$3,850. The Medicare Resources package explains what types of expenses count toward the limit and what happens after you exit the gap.

You can track your monthly spending to see when you're coming close to entering and exiting the coverage gap. Use the sample expense log in the Medicare Resources package as a helpful guide. It's also a good idea to save all your pharmacy receipts and to read and keep all monthly statements from your plan.

If you have high total drug costs

Keeping a healthy home means keeping out unwanted guests

By Samantha Donaldson
Special to the Courier

You may have some unwelcome guests creeping around your home, and they're not your relatives. They're allergens — dust mites, animal dander, and molds that reduce the quality of the air in your home and can harm your family's health.

Find out how to protect your home from these unwanted visitors with the new Healthy Home package. This free package is filled with helpful publications from the Environmental Protection Agency, the FDA Office of Women's Health, and The Soap and Detergent Association.

Start by conducting a room-by-room assessment of your home using the handy checklist in this package. Be on the look out for unusual and noticeable odors, excessive moisture or condensation, vapors that could be harmful, and dust that could be from asbestos or lead. These signs are good indicators that the air in your home may be unhealthy. Moisture in your kitchen, bathrooms, and laundry room, for instance, encourages

the growth of mold and mildew and attracts cockroaches and dust mites.

And for millions of Americans, exposure to these household irritants triggers their allergies. An allergy is your body's adverse reaction to a substance that doesn't bother other people. Symptoms include watery eyes, runny nose, sneezing, nasal congestion, and coughing. Indoor allergens also play a significant role in causing asthma attacks. Learn more

about asthma, including how to keep it under control, with this informative package.

Although indoor allergens are a common problem, there are things you can do to keep your home healthy. One of the most effective and least expensive ways is to clean as often as possible. Wash bedding, such as sheets, bedcovers, and blankets, once a week in hot water. Fix water problems and leaks and regularly

clean humidifiers and air conditioners. Store food in tightly sealed containers. And clean up spills and crumbs on kitchen counter-tops and floors immediately.

Get rid of unwanted, pesky visitors by ordering the Healthy Home package today. There are three easy ways to get your free publications: Send your name and address to Healthy Home, Pueblo, Colorado 81009 or you can visit

www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n65healthyhome.htm to place your order online or to read or print these and hundreds of other Federal publications for free. Or you can call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time and ask for the Healthy Home package. Get even more information and take advantage of online government services resources at www.FirstGov.gov and www.Espanol.gov.

GAP

From Page 4

and don't have extra help during the coverage gap, you may want to consider switching to a plan that provides additional coverage during the gap. Get helpful hints for choosing a plan that's right for you in the Medicare Resources package. And keep in mind you can only change plans between November 15, 2007 and December 31, 2007 for coverage beginning in 2008.

To learn more about the prescription coverage gap, order the free Medicare Resources package. There are three easy ways to get your publications:

- Send your name and address to Medicare Resources, Pueblo, CO 81009.

- Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n65medicareressources.htm to place your order online or to read or print these and hundreds of other Federal publications for free.

- Call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET) and ask for the Medicare Resources package.

Get even more information and take advantage of online government services resources at www.USA.gov and www.GobiernoUSA.gov.

Crash

From Page 1

of your Insurance Company ID Card in your glove compartment and have with you, your driver's license and car registration.

Assist others. If you come upon an auto accident that you are not a party to and wish to offer assistance, pull your car off the road ahead of the accident scene. Do not park in back of the crash, which will only make your vehicle vulnerable to oncoming traffic and block the view of emergency or police vehicles looking for the scene. When arriving at the scene of an accident, first determine if there are any injuries. If there are, immediately call for medical assistance.

Native American Arts and Crafts

Festival and Overnight Campout

PLACE
Cougar Park, 10664 Socorro Rd, Socorro, Texas

DATE
October 6-7, 2007 (Saturday & Sunday)

TIME
Saturday 10:00 am - 10:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Despicable deeds in the history of modern sports

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

With all the negative news coming from the world of sports on a daily basis, I sat down the other day and I tried to figure out who the worst person in the history of sports was.

Of the hundreds of names of scoundrels and scoundrelles, some of the worst sports villains I thought of were Ty Cobb, for his naughty nature. People said he played the game of baseball with two things in mind, to beat and or injury his opponent.

Pete Rose came to mind for his gambling problems. He also had trouble with lying about the gambling and paying his taxes.

An obvious contender for worst sports villain was Mike Tyson. Where do I start with Iron Mike? He hit women, raped women, cheated on his taxes, bit off an ear, abused drugs, drove drunk and squandered over \$300-million and filed for bankruptcy.

We can't forget the women in sports. And one of the first I thought of was former Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott. What can I

say about Marge Schott that Adolph Hitler hasn't already said. Schott was an obvious racist who once said she admired Hitler.

Another sports racist was former Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker. Rocker was an equal-opportunity racist, he hated blacks, Hispanics, gays, Orientals and New Yorkers. He also gets notoriety for being one of the dumbest guys on the planet.

Speaking of dumb, the second female I considered was Tonya Harding. Remember Harding, she went by that old sports adage, "if you can't beat 'em, beat their knees with a metal pipe until they can't compete anymore."

Rae Carruth made my list as one of the most despicable persons around. He's the former Carolina Panther football player who didn't like the fact that his girlfriend was going to have his baby. So he did what any other American father-to-be would do and hired a buddy to shoot her four times while she was driving her car. Oh, she was seven months pregnant at the time. Fortunately, mom and baby survived.

Tennessee Titans defensive back Pacman Jones has... well... what hasn't he done. Jones has spent his entire short NFL career talking

to police officers. He's had at least 10 run-ins with the law, most involving strip clubs and handguns. In one incident, a member of his entourage fired shots that paralyzed a man for life.

Latrell Sprewell came to fame as a member of the Golden State Warriors and the New York Knicks. One day Sprewell, upset with his coach, tried to chock him to death at a practice session. The guy was so out of touch that he once complained about the meager \$30-million salary and was quoted as saying, "I've got a family to feed."

Barry Bonds will always be known more for his cheating than his homerun record. Long known for being a lousy teammate and terrible with the fans and the media, Bonds has continuously lied about taking steroids and human growth hormones. For those who say he hasn't been proven guilty, a book was written saying he used the stuff and the usually aggressive Bonds has never sued the authors — that says a lot.

Once though of as the future face of the league, Michael Vick's face will soon be seen at a Georgia prison. Giving the middle finger to the fans and alleged drug use are the least of

his worries. Of course, Vick has admitted holding and bankrolling illegal dog fights on his property. What makes this guy really sick was the way he killed dogs that didn't perform well. He beat, drown, electrocuted and hung them.

But of all these loathsome individuals, the one guy who I think is the worst athlete to roam the Earth is O.J. Simpson. We all know about O.J.'s story, about how he killed his ex-wife and another young man one night at her home. Although he was acquitted in a zoo of a trial, Simpson was found guilty of murder in a civil suit.

Simpson poured fuel on the fire a year ago when he wrote a book claiming he didn't kill his wife, but if he was going to kill her, this is how he'd do it. What kind of an innocent man does that? I know what kind — the guilty kind.

Now O.J. finds himself in trouble again after being arrested on two counts of robbery with a deadly weapon, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, conspiracy to commit burglary and burglary with a firearm.

If convicted, Simpson could spent the rest of his life in prison. Now wouldn't that be poetic justice — or in Simpson's case, any kind of justice.

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U.S. General Services Administration

Honor

From Page 1

National Honor Society, and FFA. Garcia has also been a mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program for the past three years.

Garcia said that without the support of her family, friends, CHS teachers and district administration, and businesspersons her participation in the Page program would not have been possible.

Garcia is the daughter of Martha and Ruben Garcia of Westway. "It is an honor watching my daughter get this recognition and seeing her grow up to be such a fine young lady," said her mother.



SUPPORT SYSTEM — Miriam Garcia receives support from Canutillo High School teachers (from left) Carmen Guzman, Julie Vinikoff, Miriam Garcia, Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Teresita Ballard, Ron Gil, and Jan Massie.

— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

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Briefs

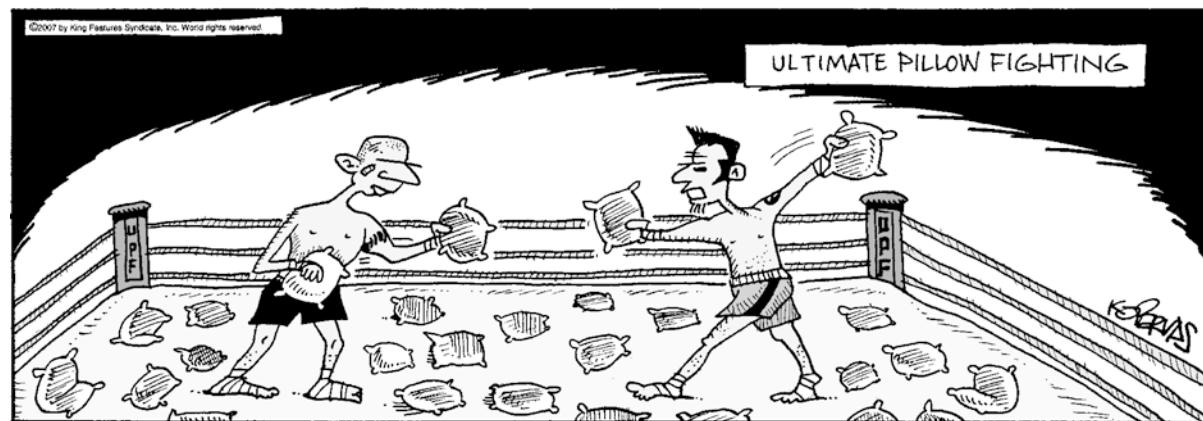
From Page 1

veterinary medicine, pharmacy and military leadership. Under the accelerated program, students complete their MBA degrees within 24 months. To be considered for admission into the program, students must take the GMAT exam and submit a completed application to the MBA Program. Application requirements can be found at <http://mba.utep.edu>. In preparation of spring classes, interested students are encouraged to take the GMAT and apply to the MBA program this fall. To help applicants prepare for the required GMAT exam, the MBA program is offering a GMAT weekend workshop Oct. 5-7 at the College of Business Administration. Class is from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6; and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7. Cost is \$250 and includes course materials and meals. To sign up for the GMAT, visit www.mba.com. For more information on the Accelerated MBA and the GMAT workshop, contact Laura Uriarri at 915-747-5379, via e-mail at lmuriarri@utep.edu or online at <http://mba.utep.edu>.

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Retirement can be doggone expensive

By Don Flood

The big question on everybody's mind lately is: How many millions of dollars would my dog need to retire?

Leona Helmsley, the recently deceased hotel magnate fondly recalled as the "Queen of Mean," answered that question with a bequest to her beloved Maltese — named Trouble — of \$12 million. (Two of her grandchildren received nothing. Perhaps they barked too much.)

While Trouble has expensive tastes — according to the New York Times, a hotel chef cooks her meals and a housekeeper hand-feeds her — most financial experts feel \$12 million should be sufficient to maintain her current lifestyle.

But whether your dog could survive on \$12 million depends on your answers to these questions:

- Is your dog a paws-on investor that enjoys sniffing out business trends?

- Is your dog a risk-taker? Research shows that dogs that chase cars often chase the riskiest investments.

- Does your dog have expensive hobbies or is it — be honest — a dumb animal happy chasing its own tail?

Speaking of chasing (editor's note: Just watch how smooth this transition is) — elsewhere in the news we have the report that Discovery Canyon Campus School in Colorado finally has banned one of the worst examples of our barbaric past: the game of tag.

"It causes a lot of conflict on the playground," said Cindy Fesgen, assistant principal.

But, she said, running games are still allowed as long as students don't chase each other.

So they can have "running

games" but not chase each other.

KID: Hey, I've got an idea. Let's run around aimlessly in circles!

KID 2: That's a great idea, though we must be careful to avoid chasing each other as that could result in unnecessary conflict.

KID: Right-O!

This represents a sea change from when I was kid. The idea then seemed to be to create conflict. The theory, I believe, was that if we were encouraged to commit assault and battery in gym we'd be less likely to cause trouble in other classes.

Dodge ball, for example, is more violent than tag, but it wasn't deadly enough for our gym teacher.

We played in a small circle using a medicine ball, with the victim in the middle. He didn't stand a chance.

If, by some misfortune, he had survived more than 15 seconds without being knocked senseless, the gym teacher introduced a second medicine ball.

The highlight came when players on opposite sides simultaneously hit the victim in the feet and on the head — resulting in an instant collapse to the floor and cheers all around, except for the stunned guy in the middle.

Nowadays, of course, such a gym instructor would be publicly recognized for his teaching practices — most likely as the lead story on the 11 o'clock news as he was led away in handcuffs.

I think our gym teacher would have used balls with metal spikes if he thought he could get away with it.

It could have been worse, though. Our gym teacher could have been Leona Helmsley.

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King Super Crossword

ANIMAL ANATOMY

ACROSS

1 Tiller

5 Grandpa McCoy

9 Michelangelo

masterpiece

14 Ward of "Sisters"

18 "Typee" sequel

19 Callas or Caballe

20 Confess

21 Roman fountain

23 Stubborn

25 Courageous

27 Fantastic bargain

28 Envelop

30 "Xanadu" rock

group

31 Trams transport it

32 "Red Red" ("88

smash)

34 Girl Scout unit

38 Diplomacy term

41 Winked or waved

45 Journalist

Buchanan

46 Former autocrat

47 Actress Massen

48 Scrape by, with

"out"

49 Light weight

51 Reformer Lucretia

54 Montessori or

Muldaur

57 Less plentiful

60 Van Dyke role

62 Powerfully built

65 Tractable

67 Wooden strip

68 Flight maneuver

71 "Days" ('75 tune)

72 Hypocrisy

73 Bikini half

76 Foolhardy

79 Pigment

80 Masterson

82 Ginger -

83 Haven, CT

84 Job opening

87 Ceylon, today

89 Coarse-featured

94 Tahini base

95 TV's "Three's "

99 Loudly, to Liszt

100 Betting setting

101 Shallow area

102 Spring mo.

105 "Sat_tuffet ..."

106 Humorist

Bombeck

108 Illinois city

110 Maritime

113 Nutritional need

116 "Frasier" pooh

118 "my lips!"

119 Loser to DDE

120 Vitamin bottle

abrv.

122 Tony winner

Robert

124 Young cadet

128 Very slender

134 Sharp-sighted

136 Malice

137 Practice piece

138 Cut short

139 Mle., farther south

140 Pants part

141 Inflexibility

142 Some bills

143 Jets, Mets, or Nets

41 Fiasco

42 Genesis redhead

43 Wilson or

Weathers

44 "Set" ('57 film)

45 Vocalize like

Vallee

52 Riser's relative

53 Metallic

55 Unwell

56 Literary collection

58 Soccer superstar

59 Hacienda material

60 Hawk

61 Diminutive suffix

63 Natural gas

component

64 talk

66 Sanctify

69 ... man

mouse?"

70 Turkish title

73 Myerson or

Truman

74 Not as common

75 Originate

77 Arrive at

78 Blame _ the

Bossa Nova" ('63 hit)

81 Telescope sighting

85 Oven setting

86 Eastern "Way"

88 Donizetti's "L'elisir

d_

90 Jeri of "Star Trek:

Voyager"

91 Gator's cousin

Williams

40 Amatory

93 Distribute the deck

96 Trickle

97 A sweeping

success?

98 Soldier on

101 More granular

103 Ideal

104 Woody herb

107 Director Nair

109 Long or Peoples

111 Surveyor's need

112 Most indolent

113 Cat's dogs

114 Harvests

115 Davis of "Evening

Shade"

117 Vote in

121 Spumante

123 Challenge

125 Fontaine role

126

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Texas Gas Service Company (the "Company") hereby gives notice that on August 31, 2007 it filed a Statement of Intent to Increase Rates in the Cities of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, which together with the environs areas comprise the Company's El Paso Service Area ("EPSA"). The Company seeks to implement a new schedule of natural gas service rates and terms and conditions of service for all classes of customers. If approved, the proposed changes will affect approximately 183,494 residential, 11,872 commercial, 47 industrial, 764 public authority, 34 transportation and 2 stand by customers within these Cities.

The Company's proposed rate schedules will increase base rate revenues by \$4,724,571 for the EPSA. Additionally, the Company requests recovery of revenue-related taxes as a line-item on the bill rather than recovering these taxes as part of base rates as previously done. This change will produce additional revenue of \$725,689, for a total annual revenue increase for the entire EPSA of \$5,450,250. The proposed change in rates does not constitute a "major change" as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. In addition, the Company requests reimbursement of all Company and City rate case expenses as allowed by law. The exact amount will not be known until the case is completed.

Based on the proposed rate design, the system-wide average monthly bill for each customer class will increase by the amount and percent shown in the table below:

Customer Class	Amount	Percent
Residential	\$1.49 to \$1.62	3.6% to 3.9%
Commercial	(\$5.13) to (\$4.84)	-2.5% to -2.4%
Commercial A/C	\$9.56	10.2% to 10.3%
Industrial	\$140 to \$145	4.5% to 4.8%
Public Authority	(\$15) to (\$5)	-1.8% to -0.6%
Public Authority A/C	(\$13)	-1.2%
Municipal Water Pumping	\$21	0.3%
Standard Transport – Commercial	(\$48) to (\$39)	-1.8% to -1.9%
Standard Transport – Industrial	(\$12) to (\$2)	-0.3% to -0.1%
Standard Transport – Public Authority	(\$87) to (\$79)	-5.7% to -6.4%
Standard Transport – Cogeneration	0	0
Stand By	\$100	6.3%

Note: Bill impact ranges are due to varying tax rates among the Cities in EPSA.

The following tables show the number of customers by class located within each of the Cities and the environs that together comprise the EPSA, along with each City's allocated portion of the requested revenue increase (allocation based on bills).

Jurisdiction	Revenue Increase \$	Rev. Incr. %	Res. Custs	Comm. Custs	Pub. Auth. Custs	Ind. Custs	Stand By Custs	Transp. Custs
El Paso	4,773,855	16.2%	171,463	11,362	711	42	2	31
Anthony	25,053	18.4%	745	91	10	1	0	2
Clint	7,339	16.5%	257	14	5	1	0	0
Horizon City	117,021	17.4%	4,038	122	13	1	0	1
Socorro	202,184	18.4%	6,573	247	24	0	0	0
Vinton	14,223	19.3%	418	36	1	2	0	1
Environs	310,585	14.0%	13,245	447	89	10	0	2

Other proposed tariff changes include revisions to the Rules of Service, including new or increased service charges. Also, the Company proposes changes to the Cost of Gas Clause to provide for recovery of uncollectible gas costs through the Cost of Gas rather than through base rates. The Company also proposes a new Transportation Schedule, T-1, and revisions to the Transportation General Charges and Provisions. This change addresses commodity imbalance provisions and upstream pipeline balancing service costs. In addition, the Company proposes a new Cost of Service adjustment clause, Rate Schedule COSA, to provide for an annual review by the Cities of the Company's expenses, revenues and plant investment and a corresponding adjustment to the Company's rates to reflect annual changes (increases or decreases) in these categories. Finally, TGS proposes a gas conservation program and tariff to authorize the program.

Complete copies of the filed Statement of Intent, including all proposed rates and schedule changes, are available for inspection at the Company's business office located at 4600 Pollard Street, El Paso, Texas, 79930. Persons with specific questions or desiring additional information about this filing may contact the Company at 915-680-7204.

Appraisal

From Page 2

authority to set a cap after district wide elections.

If you have ever complained about the runaway appraisals, or if you are happy with the current process, you now have the opportunity to put your vote where your opinion is.

Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 6. This is an issue that calls for all of the voters in El Paso County to consider. I strongly encourage all of you to vote.

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

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

File your disability reports online

Applying for disability benefits from Social Security is easier than it's ever been before. Until recently, the disability report had to be completed manually. Now, you can save time by completing it online and sending it to us electronically.

An important part of applying for disability benefits for adults is completing the adult disability report, or form 3368. The report asks important questions about your disabling condition, medical records, health care provider contact information, and information about your educational and work history. This information is important to help us determine your disability.

We use your disability report and information to help us answer these five questions:

- Are you working?
- Is your disabling condition severe enough to limit your ability to do work?

- Is your condition on our list of impairments, and is it expected to last for at least a year or end in death?
- Can you do the work now that you did in the past?

- Can you do any other work?

There are two versions of the adult disability report that can be completed online, depending on whether

you are the person applying for benefits, or a professional representative.

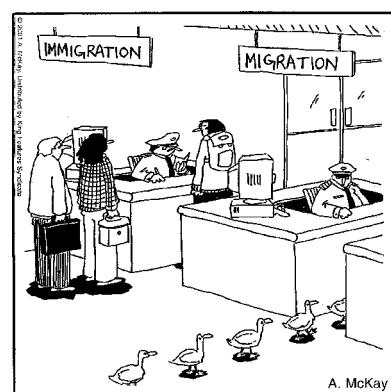
If you are applying for disability benefits on your own behalf, you can go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityreport and complete the online disability report.

If you are representing a disabled person, you can complete our professional version of the disability report. Examples of representatives include attorneys and non-attorney representatives, employees of government agencies, social agencies, hospitals, nursing care facilities, homeless shelters, or non-profit agencies, and anyone else who assists applicants in applying for disability benefits.

If you are representing someone and want to apply for benefits on their behalf, you can go to www.socialsecurity.gov/i3368prohelp/ and complete their adult disability report.

Keep in mind that in addition to the disability report, we will also need a completed application for disability benefits. The application can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability/ online.

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



Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss Canutillo Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, October 9, 2007 in the boardroom of the Canutillo ISD Administration Facility, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Canutillo Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 09/27/07 & 10/04/07

Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Anthony Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 in the Board Room, Anthony Middle School Cafeteria, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and distribute a financial management report that explains the district's performance under each of the 21 indicators and the resultant District's Financial Accountability Rating.

WTCC: 09/27/07 and 10/04/07