



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Fast track claims

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced that the Social Security Administration has implemented its new quick disability determination (QDD) process in the Texas Disability Determination Services effective November 19, 2007. Under QDD, a predictive model analyzes specific elements of data within the electronic claims file to identify claims where there is a high potential that the claimant is disabled and where evidence of the person's allegations can be quickly and easily obtained. "The quick disability determination process has been very successful and efficient. I am happy to say it will now help people filing for disability benefits in Texas," Commissioner Astrue said. "This is a very important step we are taking at Social Security to improve our disability programs."

### Wanted

Two suspects wanted in connection with the City's latest bank robbery. El Paso Police Detectives from the Crimes Against Persons Unit and Special Agents from the F.B.I. are investigating the City's 13th bank robbery. Just before 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect walked into the Chase Bank located at 5209 Wren. Once inside the suspect produced a handgun and threatened the bank employees while demanding money. The suspect fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 19 to 23 years of age, 5'9" in height, thin build, athletic, and was last seen wearing a baseball cap, a white bandana over his face, sunglasses, grey jacket with black stripes on the sleeves, a black shirt, and black pants. The suspect is believed to have left in a 1989 or 1990's Chevrolet 1500 fullsize pickup truck, with a single cab and long bed. The truck is described as a dark blue truck, with the paint fading on the hood and the also peeling. The truck appeared to have fading purple tint and may have had Texas plates. The truck may have been driven by a second suspect described as a Hispanic male, 18 to 21 years of age, 5'7" in height and 120 pounds. No injuries were reported in the incident. Investigators need the public's assistance in finding this suspect or suspects. Anyone with any information on this case should immediately call Crime Stoppers at 566-8477(TIPS).

### In other news

Twelve Socorro ISD students receive awards for their art during the 6th Annual El Paso Community College Art Show. The students' work will be on display through November 30th at the College's Administration Building at 9050 Viscount. EPCC President Dr. Richard Rhodes awarded the "President's Longhorn Awards" to Flavio Salcido from Jane A.

See BRIEFS, Page 8

*Education is what you get from reading the small print in a contract. Experience is what you get from not reading it.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Travis Hernandez

**BOOM BABY** — The snow last weekend in East El Paso County didn't dampen the enthusiasm of a young musician in Horizon City who created a snowman version of himself complete with wooden drum set. Residents in Horizon City received four plus inches of snow between Friday night and Sunday morning.



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

**MILK BREAK** — Students from Montana Vista Elementary learn about dairy products from The Mobile Dairy Classroom's instructor Cody Lightfoot and dairy cow Grace.

## Clint ISD students learn importance of dairy products

By Laura Cade  
Special to the Courier

Texas Cooperative Extension, and the Southwest Dairy Farmers partnered together to bring the Mobile Dairy Classroom to all elementary

The Clint ISD Child Nutrition Program, the

See DAIRY, Page 4

## Enforcement of in-state dairy cattle movement rule delayed through March 31, 2008

By Carla Everett  
Special to the Courier

Livestock health officials have delayed enforcement through March 31, 2008, for a new in-state movement requirement for Texas dairy breed cattle. The cattle tuberculosis regulation, adopted in September by commissioners for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), requires Texas dairy cattle to be identified prior to movement within the state. Because they are managed in close confinement, dairy animals can be at a greater risk for disease exposure if an infected animal is in the herd.

"Texas regained cattle tuberculosis (TB)-free status in 2006, and we need every tool available to assist in tracing disease, if it is introduced into the state," said TAHC's Dr. Dee Ellis, assistant state veterinarian. "Months of work can be expended tracing the movement of cattle infected or exposed to TB. Even knowing that the animal originated in Texas can assist epidemiologists in the search for the origin and spread of disease."

Dr. Ellis noted that cattle TB has been detected recently in two New Mexico dairies, a beef herd in Oklahoma, and in a rodeo bull herd in Colorado. Furthermore, eight infected herds have been found in Minnesota, and Michigan has had a long-standing battle against the disease in cattle and free-ranging deer. He stressed that new sections of Texas, TB regulations applicable to cattle entering the state went into effect October 13.

"The delayed implementation of the in-state movement regulation for Texas dairy breed cattle will provide owners adequate time to select and acquire their identification tags," said Dr. Ellis. Through March 31, the TAHC will encourage voluntary compliance. Texas dairy cattle, regardless of age or sex, are to be identified prior to in-state movement, and owners should keep a record of the cattle they identify. The tags should remain on the animal for life.

Dr. Ellis said a several types of identification are acceptable for Texas dairy breed cattle:

- USDA alphanumeric test tags (USDA silver ear tags).
- USDA alphanumeric brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags (USDA orange ear tags).
- Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) tags.
- Official breed registry tattoos or firebrand.
- USDA approved Animal Identification Number (AIN) tags for official identification of individual animals. Three forms of official AIN tags, differentiated by the first three digits of the fifteen digit number, are available:
  - Manufacturer code "900" series RFID tags, available from many feed or supply stores;
  - USA prefix RFID tags; and
  - Country code "840" series RFID tags. (Producers who use the "840" series must

See CATTLE, Page 5



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# Cyber

The word doesn't mean anything by itself but as a

prefix it has changed the world.

Cyber Monday, Cyber Sunday, cyberlink, cyberhome, cyberpower, cyberchase, even something called cyberduck.

Hmmm.

Like I said, cyber doesn't have a meaning alone unless you use it as a noun, denoting a subculture — maybe not so much a subculture anymore as a major culture, affecting virtually every area of our lives.

Cyber, as a prefix, pretty much indicates anything involving the interaction of humans with computers. Cybernetics is the study of the replacing humans with computers and other related machinations in the performance of activities associated with living.

Welcome to the world our kids are inheriting. I don't know how well we've prepared them for it — I certainly know there are areas they aren't handling well.

It's a fact, though, that our kids are way ahead of us in using computers and related electronic gadgetry to do their dirty work for them. And I do mean dirty work.

It's called cyberbullying.

There have always been those among us who, to one degree or another, seek to prey on others weaker or with vulnerabilities, with evil intent and by utilizing whatever means is at hand. Cain used a rudimentary weapon to assault his brother Abel. The less savory among our kids are using their cell phones, instant messaging, e-mail and the internet to damage their peers.

The big difference between being bullied on the playground and being bullied on the internet, say the vic-

tims, is that you can leave the playground and go home.

Gives the name cyberpunk a whole new meaning.

It's a worldwide problem, according to Internet Safety News (ISN), sponsored by the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one of many groups and organizations dedicated to helping parents fight an enemy they can't see or touch.

Cyberbullying involves the use of information and technology to publish defamatory personal web sites, on-line personal polling web sites and utilize other electronic media to support conscious, deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior toward others.

In 2001, a reported one in four kids had suffered some form of cyber bullying in the UK. In the good old USA, a popular site called [www.schoolrumors.com](http://www.schoolrumors.com) was technically shut down after being flooded with 70,000 visits in only a matter of weeks. The site encouraged visitors to "click on a particular high school and post their own insults of real students using a false name."

Young girls are, of course, primary among those targeted. Parents may feel safe because their daughter is safely closeted from harm in her own bedroom. Don't bet on it.

According to a survey by Girls Scouts USA of 1,000 girls, ages 13 to 18, 30 percent said they've been approached sexually in an on-line chat room — and I don't mean innocent flirtation. I'm talking really dirty behavior from outright solicitation to sexual insults.

Of those girls, only seven percent said they told their parents and 30 percent said they didn't tell anyone.

More than 80 percent said they felt safe, though, because "what happens on-line isn't really real," and a whop-

ping 84 percent said they depended on their own common sense to decide what was safe or unsafe on the net — not a very comforting idea, looking back at how unwise I was at that age.

Recently, *Business Week* took an indepth look at the dark side of the internet, according to ISN's Anne Collier. Five BN reporters spent four months visiting seedier sites and found that "the Underground Web is bigger, broader, scarier and more damaging than most people realize."

The cyberwaves are awash with gambling, drugs, child porn and predators, money scams and identity thieves.

Though the internet has much of value to offer, navigating these enticing yet dangerous by-ways requires more than a little street-smarts, they concluded.

Like all other dangers in life, avoiding them requires making right and wise choices. Not surprisingly, researchers say the best way to deal with this sort of thing is simply get-

ting away and *staying away* from sources of cyberbullying. Just hang up. Don't respond to harassing e-mails, messages and postings. Close your account and get a new one, and be careful about who you give your address to. As for damaging web sites, notify your ISP and law enforcement.

When it comes to cyberabuse, the best way to shut it down is to shut it off. Maybe we could produce a vaccine to help our kids develop a little healthy cyberphobia.

## Write stuff

Editor:

Many of our citizens believe that we cannot get rid of the millions of illegal immigrants we now have in our country and eliminate the cost and problems they cause. Fortunately, President Eisenhower showed us how to do it in 1954 and it worked for many years.

Eisenhower appointed retired General Joseph Swing to head the program called Operation Wetback. Because some immigration officials had political connections with special interest groups, Swing transferred them away from the border. Then officials conducted sweeps that rounded up many illegals. This caused many more illegals to leave our country voluntarily.

Illegals that were rounded up were not released at our border where they could quickly re-enter our country. They were put on buses and trains and released many miles into Mexico. Many others were put on ships and released at a Mexican port more than 500 miles south of our border.

All we need is the political will

to do the same thing today. This means that we must get congress to repeat what Eisenhower and Swing did. This includes enforced penalties for those who hire illegals. Without jobs, illegals won't enter. It can be done!

Larry William Bradbury  
Reseda, CA

Editor:

On November 15, 2007, U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced the arrest of Osvaldo Aldrete-Davila on drug smuggling charges. Osvaldo Aldrete-Davila, the drug smuggler that testified against Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean, was finally arrested for smuggling drugs at a U.S. port of entry. It's Aldrete-Davila's third arrest.

After appearing in federal court in El Paso on Friday afternoon, Aldrete-Davila now faces two counts of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, one count of conspiracy to import a controlled substance and one

count of conspiracy to possess a controlled substance with intent to distribute. The alleged offenses happened between June 1, and November 30, 2005. Aldrete-Davila could be jailed or heavily fined or both for his latest smuggling attempts. Unfortunately, Johnny Sutton will be the prosecutor, which certainly seems like a conflict of interest in this case.

Incredibly, in the press release concerning Aldrete-Davila's arrest, Sutton points to the supposed "crimes" of Ramos and Compean with this statement: "Just as Aldrete's alleged illegal conduct did not excuse the crimes committed by Compean and Ramos, likewise, their crimes will not excuse his."

I am sickened by the hypocritical attitude of Johnny Sutton for prosecuting the law enforcement agents that tried to arrest the same criminal that he is prosecuting now. I am going to write my congressman about this.

Frank M. Pelteson  
Las Vegas, NV

## Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

# Safeguarding kids toys



Black Friday, the Friday after Thanksgiving, marks

the traditional start to the annual holiday shopping season, which means many parents are braving the crowds at toy stores across El Paso to try to find just the right gift for their kids. This year, though, is complicated by several recent recalls of popular Chinese-made children's toys, many due to dangerous amounts of lead, and in one case, a date rape drug. As a parent and grandparent, I am appalled by these recalls and the dangers these toys pose to our children.

Serious questions have risen about the leadership and staffing of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the federal agency responsible for protecting the public from risk of injury or death from consumer products, such as the fact that there is only one inspector at CPSC charged with testing toys to make sure that they are safe for our children.

A subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the committee in the U.S. House of Representatives charged with oversight of the CPSC, is taking important steps forward to protect our consumers, children and adults alike. The subcommittee just recently marked up comprehensive consumer protection legislation, H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act of 2007, which I co-sponsor and which establishes an outline for improving and reforming the nation's consumer product safety system. The bill's provisions include:

- Increased funds and staffing for the CPSC;
- A nationwide ban on products containing lead beyond specified minute amounts;
- Third-party testing and certification for children's products; and
- Mandatory tracking labels for children's products.

The Energy and Commerce Subcommittee held numerous hearings to gather input about H.R. 4040, including CPSC Commissioners, in-

dustry representatives, consumer safety advocates and health care professionals. At one hearing, a physician testified on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics about the dangers of ingesting lead, saying that "the Academy commends the bill's authors for establishing a single standard for lead in all children's products, rather than attempting to establish different classes of products with varying standards. It is critically important that all children's products be held to the same aggressive standards to protect children's health and assure parents that all children's products are safe."

Kids should be able to play with their favorite toys without risk of danger or disease, and parents should not have to worry about lead contamination when shopping this holiday season. The federal government has an important role to play in this, and I am proud of the steps the U.S. House has already taken. In the meantime, the CPSC is also publicizing its toll-free hotline for the latest information: 1-800-638-2772.

## WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

**PUBLISHED:**  
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

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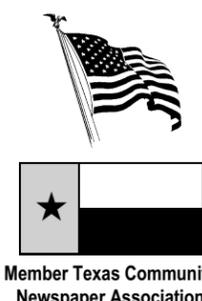
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— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Gloria Guerrero, paraprofessional at Canutillo Elementary School, displays the Discovery Education software, which CES received after Guerrero entered a single entry among a total of 170,500 entries in the CDW-G and Discovery Education "Win a Wireless Lab" sweepstakes.



### Canutillo Elementary School receives wireless lab

By Kim Guzman  
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Elementary School (CES) in the Canutillo Independent School District, recently received its grand prize from the "2007 Win a Wireless Lab" sweepstakes, a \$50,000 state-of-the-art wireless computer lab. CES was one of five grand prize winners in the fifth annual program sponsored by CDW Government, Inc. (CDW-G), a leading source of Information Technology to governments and educators, and Discovery Education, the leader in digital video and multimedia-based learning.

less lab and conduct training for faculty and students. The lab will be available to teachers and students to use daily.

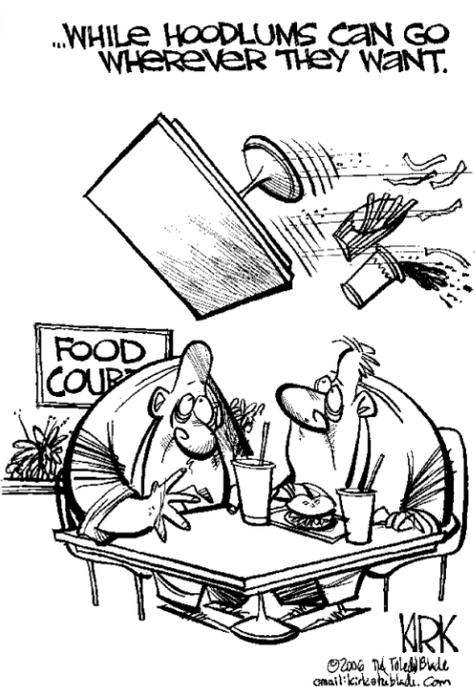
"Technology is a vital teaching tool in our schools," said Bob Kirby, CDW-G senior director K-12. "By infusing technology such as tablet PCs, software and interactive whiteboards into the classroom, educators are better able to prepare students for an increasingly technology-centric world."

Canutillo Elementary School's Wireless Lab includes: 20 HP notebook computers; 3 D-Link wireless access points; 1 Bretford mobile cart; Computrace security software; 1 NEC Solutions video projector; 1 HP laser printer; APC power supply; and 1 networked collection of Discovery School CD-ROMs, and on site training from CDW-G and Discovery Education.

"The lab will provide opportunities for students to have technology available on demand," said Gloria Guerrero, who entered the sweepstakes on behalf of CES. "Our fourth-graders publish the school newspaper. They will be able to use these computers to research, take notes, format the newspaper and publish it," she added.

Representatives from CDW-G and Discovery Education were on site to install the wire-

"We are excited to start using the new technology. We currently have a technology training program in place, which we will build upon with the implementation of the wireless lab to ensure seamless integration of technology into the curriculum," said Monica Garcia, CES Principal.



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**Moore Texas** by Roger T. Moore Nov.25,1919,College Station: First play by play football coverage-Aggies and Longhorns-sent by Morse Code and translated to fans around Texas by Ham Radio operators.

# Fabens High School students learn to lead

By **Lauren Lettunich**  
Special to the Courier

FABENS — Two juniors from Fabens High School have been se-

lected to participate in the 2007 Junior Leadership of El Paso program. The purpose of the leadership program, which is sponsored by the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, is to help produce well rounded leaders for tomorrow. Amanda Salgado and Jacob Martinez will be given the opportunity to take trips all over El Paso to various locations such as, art museums, hospitals, and military bases.

The purpose of these trips is to open up their minds to new things, meet other students involved in the program, and to learn the qualities it takes to be a leader. The program provides different activities to help its participants grasp these concepts. "It helps me mentally to overcome obstacles by having my peers there. They help by showing support. They help me become a better leader and follower at the same time. It also opens my eyes to more things in El Paso as far as the impact on my community," said Martinez. Salgado also feels that the program has an impact on her life. "It gives you a lot more experience, and that's



— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD  
**Jacob Martinez and Amanda Salgado.**

good because you can't just become a leader without any leadership experience," said Salgado. Even in its first year at Fabens High School, the leadership program seems to promise a great outcome for future leaders at there. If any students are interested in applying for the Junior Leadership program, they can visit their school counselor for further assistance.

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## Dairy

From Page 1

campuses in the district.

The Mobile Dairy Classroom, sponsored by the Southwest Dairy Farmers, was brought to the campuses complete with an instructor, Cody Lightfoot, a dairy cow, Grace, and a fully operational dairy parlor.

"This program is a great opportunity for our students to expand their

educational experience by learning about nutrition, where it comes from and why it is important," says Julie Delgado, Clint ISD Food Services Coordinator.

During the presentation, students were taught the importance of dairy foods in a healthy diet, modern environmental and food safety practices on the dairy farm, and the modern milking process. With Grace the dairy cow present, students were also given a lesson on the characteristics and anatomy of the dairy cows.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate    ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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# School board notes By Don Woodyard

## November 13 Canutillo ISD

Dr. Pam Padilla, CISD superintendent, reported on the impact of the recent tax rate rollback election. She said the district lost \$2 million for the current school year and another \$2 million in matching funds for the next school year.

She said that, regardless of how anyone feels about it, the economic reality is that we will have to look at every possible area to save the district money.

In other action, the board approved:

Tuition waiver requests for families displaced by Storm 2006

District/Campus Improvement Plan goals and objectives

Charley Hecker to be its representative on the El Paso Central Appraisal District

District participation in El Paso Electric's Texas Schools and Cities Conserving Resource (SCORE) program

Acceptance of a \$1,500 donation from Bobby Perel for a commemorative plaque for Gonzalo Garcia baseball complex.

## November 14 San Elizario ISD

(Board meeting information is provided by SEISD administrative staff.)

George Luevano, director of support services, reported on two meetings held recently regarding the proposed Pemex pipeline. "Both meetings," according to a draft of board minutes, "were attended to support opposition to on the proposed pipeline until more information is available on the proposed location and the safety of high school students."

Subsequently the board approved Superintendent Dr. Mike Quatrini drafting a resolution to disallow the pipeline in the area and move it further east. Quatrini would present the proposed resolution at the next board meeting.

The board received a check for \$10,000 from Junta Municipal Agua Sanamiento de Juarez for purchase of the unused water treatment plant. It would be dismantled and transported to interior of Mexico where it would be used by a community. The board had approved the sale at its July

meeting.

Luevano reported that the county has completed the Alexandra Flores Park monument. Dedication is planned for December.

The board approved revisions to the 2007-08 district calendar because of changes to TAKS testing by the Texas Education Agency. Last instructional day is now June 6 instead of June 5, 2008.

District and campus improvement plans were approved.

Sports achievements were reported by athletic director Bernie Del Hierro.

Coach Pete Vasquez and his tennis team were honored by the board for having won the District 2-4A championship for the second straight year.

The SEISD high school volleyball team, coached by David Desrosiers, won the District 2-4A championship.

## November 19 Anthony ISD

(Meeting information is provided by AISD superintendent Ron Haugen.)

The cafeteria staff made a presentation in which it proposed the possibility of closing the high school during the lunch hour. The reason for the proposal is to increase the number of nutritional meals served to high school students and alleviate potential problem areas for students.

"The administration," Haugen says, "will continue looking into this by communicating with students staff and parents for input."

The district vision statement, first presented last month, was approved by the board.

Revised district improvement goals were also approved by trustees.

Bids are out for the re-roofing and air conditioning renovation at the elementary school. Work is expected to be completed during the Christmas holidays. The school is converting from evaporative cooling to refrigerated air.

The board approved Charley Hecker as its representative for the Central Appraisal District board.

The board honored teachers for being selected Teachers of the Quarter on their campuses:

- Gary Rundell, high school;
- Susan Brannan, middle school; and

Support staff honorees were:

- Ernesto Camacho, high school custodian for September;
- Maria Munoz, middle school custodian, for October; and
- Margarita Morales, elementary custodian, for November.

## November 20 Tornillo ISD

There was more than food for thought at the Tornillo ISD meeting. There was also a buffet of food for eating for those attending the Nov. 20 meeting.

Trustees officially approved the results of the tax rollback election in which voters approved a new property tax rate that enables TISD to give pay raises to all employees.

The board also approved a required resolution that says it didn't expect there would be a significant impact on the Tornillo school system from a proposed charter school that might be built in the area.

The board accepted the resignation of trustee Letty Trejo. Superintendent Paul Vranish pointed out that she lives in the Dallas area and hadn't attended a meeting since September of 2006. He emphasized that he isn't contesting where she is living, but rather that she hasn't attended board meetings for more than a year.

Trustees agreed to advertise for candidates to fill the position. The vacancy would be filled in January.

Vranish explained problems with the small Bronte ISD which was hurt when the Texas Youth Commission closed a correctional facility in the area. Tornillo will send an appropriate gift to the school district which lost some positions and students because of the closure.

In other action, the board gave the superintendent temporary authority to create, in effect, one-half of a position to meet certain personnel needs in security, maintenance and cafeteria areas. The board also approved pro-rated bonuses based on number of days worked. Ninety days would be the baseline number for making the determination.



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## San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of AEIS Meeting

The community is invited to attend a public hearing of the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) annual report to be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the San Elizario ISD Board Room, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

### Junta del AEIS

*Se invita a la comunidad entera a que asistan a una audiencia publica del reporte anual del Sistema Indicador de Excelencia Academica (AEIS) que se llevara acabo el miercoles 12 de diciembre del 2007 a las 4:00 p.m. en la Sala de Juntas de San Elizario ISD, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.*

WTCC: 11/29/07

# Maybe It Wasn't That Heavy Shopping Bag.

## Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain

but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

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



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke



## HEART ATTACK & STROKE

Read the signs. Raise a flag.

## Cattle

From Page 1

have their premises registered.)

• A commercially produced cattle-style clip, flap or button tag that identifies the dairy or owner and includes a unique animal number in the herd.

• The TAHC also is considering approval for other types of identification.

fication.

Dr. Ellis said TAHC regulations already are in effect to reduce the risk for introducing cattle TB into the state. All dairy breed cattle must be identified prior to entering the state. Sexually intact dairy cattle older than two months of age must have a negative TB test within 60 days prior to entering Texas. These animals also must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection.

Sexually intact dairy cattle younger than two months of age entering the state must have a Texas entry permit and a certificate of veterinary inspection. The animals must go to a premises to be held until they are tested negative for TB at the age of two months.

Dairy cattle entering Texas are exempt from the TB test requirement only if they are transported directly to slaughter or to an approved feedlot, then slaughter. These animals must be identified, and have a Texas entry permit and a certificate of veterinary inspection.

Mexican-origin ("M"-branded) steers recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock, and entering Texas from other states must have had a negative TB test within the previous 12 months. These animals also must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection, issued within the previous 30 days.



6	5	9	4	8	1	3	2	7
7	8	2	6	9	3	4	5	1
3	1	4	2	7	5	9	8	6
9	6	3	8	5	7	1	4	2
5	4	8	3	1	2	6	7	9
2	7	1	9	6	4	8	3	5
1	3	7	5	4	6	2	9	8
4	9	6	7	2	8	5	1	3
8	2	5	1	3	9	7	6	4

# National championships should be decided on the field

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

After this wacky college football season, is there anyone out there who still believes the game doesn't need a playoff system?

If this season doesn't convince everyone that the only way to decide a national champion is on the field with a playoff, then nothing will.

Some bowl system diehards will say that the championship game is decided on the field when the two BCS title game teams are chosen.

My question is; which two teams do you choose?

The way this amazing season has gone, how in the world do you select two teams from the many one- and two-loss teams totally capable of winning a title game?

Who are the best two teams in the United States? Is it Missouri (11-1), West Virginia (10-1), Ohio State (11-1), Georgia (10-2), LSU (10-2), Virginia Tech (10-2), Kansas (11-1), Southern Cal (9-2), Oklahoma (10-2), Boston College (10-2) or Hawaii (11-0)?

Isn't it true that any one of these teams can beat the other? So how do a bunch of guys in a room with a computer narrow it down to two teams? It's impossible.

Wouldn't it be easier to pick eight out of the 11 listed above and put them in a playoff?

Have the teams decide a champion on the field. Every other team sport in the country decides their champion with a playoff.

Even the lower level college football divisions decide their champions through a playoff.

The NCAA and the university presidents all say a playoff would disrupt the bowl games. I've got a question for these pinheads, have you all seen the abysmal TV ratings and empty seats in the stadiums of these so-called bowl games?

It's horrible. When's the last time you sat and enjoyed the "Tofu Bowl" featuring a 7-5 team and a 6-6 squad?

When will they get it? Think of all the great playoff games we could have enjoyed over the years.

Remember last year's great Boise State-Oklahoma game, that's the kind of match-up

you'd get in a playoff. It was the Fiesta Bowl game last year. Boise State won and was undefeated at 13-0, where'd they finish — fifth in the nation.

What good did the win do them? None, but in a playoff they would have played the following week and who knows how far they would have gone.

The way the current system is set up, no one will take the championship game seriously. It will truly be a game between two teams that were hand-picked to meet in the most important college football game of the year — and yet, we all know it really isn't.

It doesn't get much worse than that.

## A forgettable finish

The fourth installment of the Mike Price football Miners just completed the season in very forgettable fashion. And I believe I see a pattern here.

What is it about the Mike Price-led Miners? In each of the coach's four years they've started their seasons 8-1, 8-2, 4-2 and 4-2. They've finished those four seasons 0-3, 0-2, 1-5 and 0-6.

This year the Miners were surprising on offense, doing a much better job than anyone anticipated. On defense however, UTEP did exactly what it did last year — it couldn't make a tackle to save its football life.

So what does this mean for the UTEP coaching staff? I hate to say it because he's been so loyal to Mike Price and the Miners, but I don't see how they can possibly keep defensive coordinator Tim Hundley.

For the last two seasons, UTEP's defense wasn't just among the worst in C-USA, it was among the worst in the nation. Want proof? There are 119 division-1 teams in the United States. The Miners have the 117th-rated defense.

In 2006, the Miners defense was ranked 105th. Things just continue to get worse.

Last year, UTEP allowed an average of 394.9 yards per game. That is way too much. This year, the Miners allowed an unheard of 504.8 yards.

How did they win a single game? How are they going to win a game next year?

I'm afraid it's going to have to happen with a coaching personnel change or two.

## Classified Ads

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#### LEGAL NOTICE

On October 19, 2007, Open Arms Community of El Paso filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission requesting authority to construct a new noncommercial educational FM radio station to serve Horizon City and surrounding areas. The application proposes a Class A FM station operating at 91 meters with ERP: 0 kW(H) 1.18kW(V) from Horizon City. A copy of the application is available for inspection during business hours in the proposed main studio at 8210 N. Loop, El Paso, TX. 79907  
WTCC-11/29/07

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IHGCB7546MA206730, 1991 HONDA ACCORD, white, no license plate.  
WTXCC-11/15/07

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— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**WINNERS** — Standing, from left, are Coach of the Year Pete Vasquez, Abraham Cardona, Claudia Sanchez, Adrian Solis, Raquel Guzman, Jesus Ibarra, Beatriz Guzman, Jorge Peña, Itzel Murrillo, Alberto Sepúlveda, Arely Barroso, Lorenzo Luevano, Jose Luis Rodríguez. Sitting down, from left, are Jessica Perez and Hugo Melendez.

## Coach of the Year leads San Elizario District 2-4A tennis champs

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

The San Elizario High School Tennis Team proved they are not District 2-4A Champions by a fluke. Instead this talented group of athletes has demonstrated their staying power and has been making news all over town along with their determined coach, Pete Vasquez.

Both the team and their coach have recently earned recognition for their skills and accomplishments. The Eagles earned their second District 2-4A Fall Team Championship title on October 19 after beating Mountain View 10-2. Meanwhile, Coach Vasquez was named the 2007 Coach of the Year by the Greater El Paso Tennis Association (GEPTA) and will be honored at the association's annual celebration on December 1.

The win against Mountain View was the team's crowning achievement after a great fall season. The Eagles then traveled to Wichita Falls, Texas to compete in regionals from October 25-27. The team lost to Wichita Falls Rider High School 12-0 which is ranked fourth in the state in district 4-A. Although, the Eagles did not advance past regionals, they showed a remarkable perseverance and confidence playing with other strong tennis teams from around

the state.

"This is the second consecutive year we have won the Fall Team District title and gone to regionals, and it's only our third year of existence, so it is quite an accomplishment," Coach Vasquez said.

The Eagle's solid performance during the fall tennis season caught the eye of the local media and two players in particular, Varsity Tennis Team Captains Jessica Perez and Hugo Melendez, were interviewed on Time Warner Cable's MetroSports program.

San Elizario High School's success in tennis is a direct result of the dedication that Coach Vasquez has shown to the program and the tennis community has noticed his efforts. The Greater El Paso Tennis Association selected Coach Vasquez as the 2007 Coach of the Year to represent the area through the southwest section of the United States Tennis Association. Coach Vasquez will be recognized at GEPTA's annual meeting for working "diligently to promote and teach the game of tennis" according to Debbie Carlsen, GEPTA VP of Junior Tennis.

As the holiday season approaches, Coach Vasquez and the San Elizario High School Tennis Team will take a short break before returning to competition in the spring to continue acquiring wins, titles, and most importantly, respect.



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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



# Flying on most of a wing and a prayer

By Don Flood

I saw a disturbing headline the other day: "Passengers Revolt After Being Told to Fly on Jet with its Wing Tip Missing."

Look, people: If you're going to fly off the handle (Ha!) about every little plane problem that crops up, maybe you should be traveling by train — or ox cart.

What happened — and this is a true story — is that the wing of a SriLankan Airlines plane ripped through the wing of a stationary British Airways 747 at London's Heathrow Airport, slicing 5 feet off the tip off the SriLankan plane and a huge chunk off the 747, which the namby-pamby British Airlines then grounded.

The next day, passengers boarding the damaged Sri Lankan plane expressed alarm. As the story says, "When cabin crew then admitted there was still a 5-foot wing tip missing, there was a 'minor revolt' as seven passengers demanded to be let off the aircraft."

I find a few interesting things about this sentence:

1) The crew "admitted" wing tip was missing. I wonder how long this took:

Passenger: Excuse me, but there seems to be a piece of the wing missing.

Crew: No, it's all there, all right. Passenger: Not that wing, the other one.

Crew: Looks good to me. Passenger: The tip is missing!

Crew: Well, I think that's a matter of opinion. Besides, it's time for me to conduct the safety instructions. I'll take up your concerns with the captain once we're in the air.

Passenger 2: He's right. The tip is missing!

Crew: OK, OK, Mr. Chicken Little here is correct. The wing tip is missing. But it's only 5 feet or so, and the entire engine appears

to be in place. OK, let's move on to the oxygen masks ...

2) There was a "minor revolt"? The only explanation I can imagine here is that it occurred in England. In America, people would have gone berserk.

3) "Seven passengers demanded to be let off." So some passengers stayed on? Were they depressed? On their way to the Manly Skydivers Without Parachutes and Helmets Convention?

The story ended with a statement from SriLankan Airlines: "They [the wing tips] are purely for aerodynamics and to keep fuel costs to a minimum. There is no impact on safety at all."

See, it's only a question of aerodynamics.

Still, I think all airlines should use this incident as a lesson in keeping customers happy.

First, whenever possible airlines should fly with two complete wings, even if the aerodynamics make that totally and completely unnecessary.

Second, if in the interest of maintaining "on-time" schedules — in others words, five, six, seven hours or days behind schedule — airlines are forced to fly planes that are not completely assembled, passengers should receive free upgrades. I propose the following additions to the Travelers Bill of Rights:

One wing tip missing — Everybody, including customers in coach, gets a free bag of peanuts.

Two wing tips missing — Free bag of peanuts plus one free drink, including call brands.

Two wing tips, some windows missing — Same deal but more.

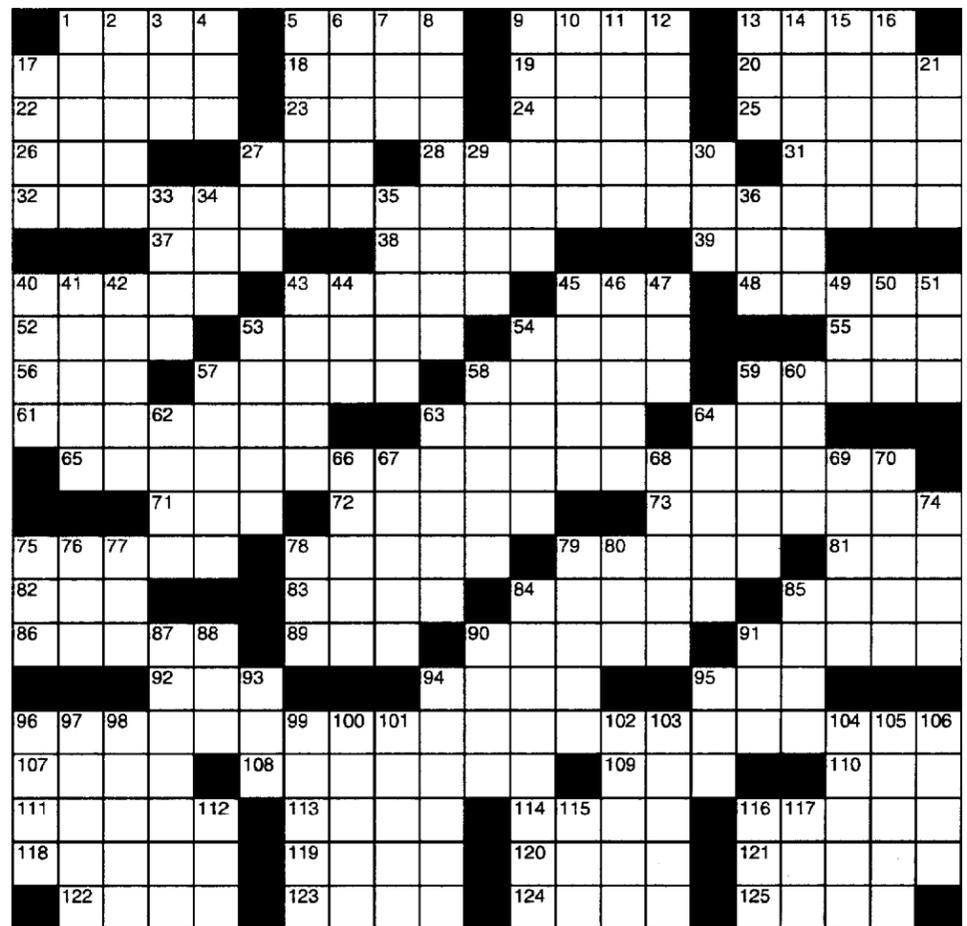
If the airline isn't willing to do that, then get off and take the next available ox cart.

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# King Super Crossword

- |  |                             |                                     |                               |                                 |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>LIFE LINE</b>                               | one                         | 116 "What _ Bob?" ('91 film)        | 35 Senator Hatch              | 87 Stretchy                     |
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                  | 58 African capital          | 118 Poet Sanchez                    | 36 Spearheaded                | 88 Gun the engine               |
| 1 Interrogate                                  | 59 Mansfield or Meadows     | 119 Level                           | 40 Mama's boy?                | 90 Mirror image?                |
| 5 Took a dip                                   | 61 Author France            | 120 Mall event                      | 41 Muscat native              | 91 Crafty                       |
| 9 Engineering course                           | 63 It comes from the heart  | 121 Quiet partner?                  | 42 Marner or Lapham           | 93 Contemporary                 |
| 13 Theater collection                          | 64 Weep                     | 122 Singer Lonnie                   | 43 Diverse                    | 94 Hold out                     |
| 17 Government group                            | 65 Middle of remark         | 123 Start a crop                    | 44 Khan opener?               | 95 Word with good or bad        |
| 18 The Fates, e.g.                             | 71 "Make _ double!"         | 124 Blabbed                         | 45 Actress Ekland             | 96 Clears one's throat          |
| 19 Akbar's city                                | 72 Crack up                 | 125 Conductor Jeffrey               | 46 Broadcast in July          | 97 Forster's " _ With a View"   |
| 20 Madonna role                                | 73 "Evil Ways" group        |                                     | 47 Bustle                     | 98 Singer Summer                |
| 22 Moral man?                                  | 75 _ salad                  |                                     | 49 One of the Marches         | 99 Parts                        |
| 23 Pianist Lupu                                | 78 Pennsylvania sect        | <b>DOWN</b>                         | 50 Finished first             | 100 " _ Got a Friend" ('71 hit) |
| 24 Unwelcome visit?                            | 79 Rock's Tears for -       | 1 Chess piece                       | 51 Born                       | 101 Cosmetician                 |
| 25 Plot  | 81 Squash shot              | 2 Retract                           | 53 Perry's secretary          | Lauder                          |
| 26 Narcs' org.                                 | 82 Garage supply            | 3 Skater Midori                     | 54 Swamp                      | 102 Everything considered       |
| 27 Roberts or Robertson                        | 83 _ in (yield)             | 4 Use a phaser                      | 57 Reggae's _ and the Maytals | 103 Bare                        |
| 28 Took in                                     | 84 Beetle Bailey's boss     | 5 Scarecrow stuffing                | 58 Cold sound                 | 104 Kapitan's command           |
| 31 Dress size                                  | 85 1,760 yards              | 6 Ire                               | 59 Pop Art pioneer            | 105 Armistice                   |
| 32 Start of a remark by Marguerite Whitely May | 86 Put on hold              | 7 Pitch in                          | 60 Blind as _                 | 106 Table d'-                   |
| 37 Malamute medic                              | 89 Vane letters             | 8 Peak                              | 62 Relief initials?           | 112 Flap one's gums             |
| 38 Eaves dropper?                              | 90 Composer Gabriel         | 9 Kind of swallow                   | 63 Tickle                     | 115 _ Tome                      |
| 39 " _ whiz!"                                  | 91 '78 Peace Nobelist       | 10 Once more                        | 64 Gawck                      | 116 Prone                       |
| 40 Assumption                                  | 92 Actor Cariou             | 11 Treat alternative                | 66 Violinist Mischa           | 117 Arthur or Benaderet         |
| 43 "Tosca" tenor                               | 94 Downs a donut            | 12 Hot spot?                        | 67 Inexperienced              |                                 |
| 45 "Veronica's Closet" item                    | 95 Antlered animal          | 13 Mo                               | 68 Inedible fruit             |                                 |
| 48 Haggard                                     | 96 End of remark            | 14 First name in boxing             | 69 Sound                      |                                 |
| 52 Surrounded by                               | 107 Aphrodite's son         | 15 Shinbone                         | 70 " _ Gay"                   |                                 |
| 53 Cook's cry                                  | 108 Jeeves' master          | 16 Berle sidekick                   | 74 Facilitate a felony        |                                 |
| 54 Wilbur Post's confidant                     | 109 Say please too often?   | 17 Pinkett of "The Nutty Professor" | 75 Fare for a fry             |                                 |
| 55 Curly poker?                                | 110 Buddy                   | 21 Nautical adverb                  | 76 Hurry                      |                                 |
| 56 Crony                                       | 111 "The Full _" ('96 film) | 27 Favorite                         | 77 Sprite                     |                                 |
| 57 Eisenhower, for                             | 113 Guitar kin              | 29 Kentucky neighbor                | 78 Mr. Lucky's card           |                                 |
|  | 114 Author Dinesen          | 30 Westminster winner               | 79 Gounod opera               |                                 |
|  |                             | 33 Roman poet                       | 80 Drop a brick               |                                 |
|  |                             | 34 Aerialist's fallback             | 84 Juvenal or Swift           |                                 |
|  |                             |                                     | 85 Certain shark              |                                 |

Answer Page 5



# Alderete Middle School Student Health Fair shines with team work

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

Alderete Middle School's (AMS) first annual children's health fair was a big success thanks to the efforts of faculty, staff, and students. About 20 presenters were on-hand to provide information, free screenings, and exhibits regarding social and medical services available to them and their families.

"This fair was made possible because of the teamwork among school personnel including custodians, food service workers, office staff, counselors, and parent liaison Estella Rodriguez, who was instrumental in securing the various presenters," said Rosa Salgado, AMS Skills For Living teacher.

Among the presenters were El Paso Community College students in the Dental, Medical Lab, Physical and Occupational Therapy programs. EPCC students provided demonstrations and free screenings to more than 600 AMS students.

Also participating were agencies including Operation West Valley Clinic, No Gang, La Fe Clinic, West Valley Fire Department, El Paso County Sheriff Amber Alert, YMCA, Texas 211, El Paso First, City of El Paso, Sleep Center, Family Service Center, Adel, and Vector Control.

The Paso Del Norte Health Foundation funded the health fair through a health literacy grant. The grant was awarded to AMS Health Literacy Committee in collaboration with El Paso Community College.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

**PUMPED UP — Alderete Middle School Seventh Grade Student Luis Urbina (right) has his blood pressure checked by West Valley Clinic Medical Assistant Patricia Medina.**

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** When I showed my Social Security card as a form of identification recently, I was told I shouldn't be carrying it around in my purse. Is that true?

**A:** We encourage you to keep your Social Security card at home in a safe place. Do not carry it with you unless you are taking it to a job interview or to someone who requires to see it. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, and the best way to avoid becoming a victim is to safeguard your card and number. To learn more, visit our Social Security number and card page at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/>.

**Q:** Retirement's the furthest thing from my mind. I just started my first job. But my paycheck is less than I expected. Why am I paying for retirement benefits when I have a lifetime to live before retirement?

**A:** By paying Social Security and Medicare taxes, you are securing your own financial future. The taxes you pay now translates to a lifetime of protection, whether you retire or become disabled. And in the event that you die, your family (or future family) may be able to receive survivors benefits based on your work as well. Aside from all the benefits in your own future, your Social Security and Medicare payments also help today's retirees. To learn more, visit our [website](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Q:** My father receives Social Security retirement benefits, and I'm in charge of his estate in the event that he dies. Do I need to report his death to Social Security?

**A:** Yes. Please notify Social Security as soon as possible by calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Another person, such as a spouse, may be eligible for sur-

vivors benefits based on his record. Also, we might be able to pay a one-time payment of \$255 to help with funeral expenses. It sounds like you like to be prepared, so we suggest reading a copy of our online publication, How Social Security Can Help You When A Family Member Dies, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10008.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10008.html), or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to ask for a copy to be mailed to you.

**Q:** I have been getting Social Security disability benefits for many years. I'm about to hit my full retirement age. What will happen to my disability benefits?

**A:** When you reach "full retirement age" we will switch you from disability to retirement benefits. But you probably won't even notice the change because your benefit amount will stay the same. It's just that when you reach retirement age, we start thinking of you as a "retiree" and not as a disability beneficiary. To learn more, visit

our [website](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Q:** My 15-year-old sister has been blind since she was born. I think she should apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), but my parents think because she's a minor, they're responsible for her and she won't qualify. Is that right?

**A:** Not entirely. To qualify for SSI, you must meet certain income and resource limits. Some of your parents' income and resources count as your sister's in deciding whether she meets the limits. Once your sister turns 18, their income and resources won't be considered when deciding her eligibility and payment amount. Tell your parents they can check at any Social Security office to see if your sister qualifies. For more information, visit our [website](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Q:** I'm on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and live with my two

brothers in an apartment. My SSI payment is cut by one-third because the Social Security office says I don't pay enough of the household expenses. How much of the expenses must I pay in order to get the full SSI rate?

**A:** Under the rules of the program, you must be paying your fair share of the expenses. Because there are three of you in the household, you must pay one-third of the expenses. If you are not paying your share of the rent, utilities, groceries, and other household expenses, your SSI payment must be reduced. To learn more, visit our [website](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our [website](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

## Briefs

From Page 1

Hambic, Deanna Solis and Luis Ochoa from Socorro Middle. Each year, Dr. Rhodes selects one piece from all entries submitted to the EPCC K-12 Art Competition to receive the Longhorn Award. This year, he selected two pieces submitted by Socorro ISD students. "We have a lot of talented students here in Socorro," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "This is the second year in a row that Luis Ochoa will receive the President's Longhorn award. I'm proud of all of these students for excelling in the arts." "The El Paso Community College Art show is the hardest art show of the year. This show only gives out one 1st place, one 2nd place, one 3rd place, 2 honorable mentions, and special award per division," said Socorro Middle Art Instructor Jan Deragisch whose student Luis Ochoa won 1st place and the Presidents' Longhorn Award for his wood

carving "The Birth of Cooper."

■ Navy Seaman Recruit Adrienne M. Acosta, daughter of Ernestina Acosta of Clint, Texas and Guillermo Acosta of El Paso, Texas, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Acosta completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. Acosta is a 2007 graduate of Clint High School of Clint, Texas.

■ The Socorro Independent School District is meeting and exceeding the standards for "highly qualified" teachers set by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). In a report to SISD's Board of Trustees this month, SISD's human resources department reported 2,034 teachers assigned to core areas are all considered "highly qualified" under the federal standards and all SISD core subjects are being taught by "highly qualified"

teachers. A highly qualified teacher is one who:

- Has obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher;
  - Has obtained full State certification; and
  - Has demonstrated competency in the core academic subject area(s) that he/she teaches. The No Child Left Behind Act gives parents the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct their children. Parents can request the following additional information concerning their child's teacher(s):
- Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects he or she teaches; and
  - The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

Parents who would like to receive this information should contact their child's campus principal. "Our community can be proud of the hard work our teachers are doing here in Socorro," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. "These highly qualified professionals are making a difference every day in the lives of children."

■ Two men were arrested after a theft at an east El Paso Wal-Mart turned into a robbery on Monday, Nov. 26. At approximately 6:15 p.m., 18-year old Eleazar Melendez took several DVDs and CDs and began to remove the security devices on them and concealed them on his person. Melendez then walked out of the store without making any attempt for paying for the property. Melendez was outside the store when two theft prevention employees of the store walked out and approached him and identified themselves. Melendez then began to walk back into the store with the two when he began to strike one of the employees in the head with a closed fist. The second employee began to assist and take control of Melendez. At that time, 20-year old Ramiro Melendez approached them and began assaulting them in an attempt to help Eleazar Melendez. Several citizens assisted the employees in holding the pair until police officers arrived. Both were arrested and charged with Robbery and booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility. No serious injuries were reported in the incident.