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35  
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2008

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 35, No. 1

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

JANUARY 3, 2008

## NEWSBRIEFS

### SISD adult classes

Socorro ISD will hold adult classes free of charge beginning in January at the Community Learning Center, 313 S. Rio Vista in Socorro. The following classes will be offered:

- English as a Second Language (ESL) — Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.;
- Spanish GED and English GED Classes — Monday through Friday from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.; and
- Computer Classes (in English only) — Monday through Thursday from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Evening Classes in ESL and GED available at different locations throughout the District. For more information call: 915-937-1700.

### ASARCO permit

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has placed the ASARCO's air pollution permit #20345 on their agenda for February 13, 2008 in Austin. The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) is planning to have people travel to Austin to witness the TCEQ vote. "We expect them to make the right decision and deny that air pollution permit outright. It's what this entire border community has voted for and it's what the three commissioners should vote for," said Danny Arellano. Arellano worked at the Asarco smelter for 25 years. ACORN is encouraging anyone wanting to make the trip to Austin to call Jose Manuel Escobedo at 633-5412.

### Crime Stoppers

A young girl was shot at a party in the desert on Aug. 25, 2007, and no one seems to know who did the shooting. Fourteen-year-old Thelma Fierro of the 8500 block of Tigris died the following morning at Thomason Hospital. Crime Stoppers and the Sheriff's Office are asking for your help in locating the person or persons who did this. On Saturday night, Aug. 25, 2007, Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to 12700 Starduster in Far East El Paso County about a shooting. Before the deputies arrived they were told that the victim was being transported to the hospital by witnesses. The deputies then located the crime scene and began interviewing other witnesses. At that time, several shots were fired in the direction of the deputies. The deputies did not return fire and were not injured. After deputies executed an exhaustive search of approximately 4 square miles of desert, four individuals were found to have weapons but it is unknown at this time if they were involved in the shooting. If you have any information about this case, even if you don't think it's important, please call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or on-line at [www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org). You can remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

*Science is proving that man can live in outer space and at the bottom of the sea. It's the area in between that's causing all the trouble.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

**DISHING UP HEALTHY FOOD** — Canutillo Elementary School Salad Cook Anabel Mendoza and CISD Test Kitchen chef trainer Charlie Simpson show off their latest salad preparations.

## Canutillo ISD school cafeterias stay healthy with salads

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

Salads are taking on a new role in school cafeterias in the Canutillo Independent School District.

"We are introducing new types of salads to encourage students to not be afraid to try new recipes and to eat healthier," said Charlie Simpson, CISD Test Kitchen chef trainer.

The CISD Food Service department hired Simpson in May. Prior to joining the school district, he worked in resorts and fine dining restaurants in Arizona for the past 13 years. He is a graduate of the Scottsdale Culinary Institute in Arizona.

Every month, cafeteria workers from the school campuses attend training sessions conducted by the chef trainer at the District's test kitchen, which is located in the CISD administrative facilities on Arcraft Road.

A recent training session focused on salad recipes. Each of the district's school cafeterias has a salad cook on staff, and it is the salad cook's job to come up with salad preparations that will entice students to eat more fruits and vegetables.

During the session, Anabel Mendoza, Canutillo Elementary School salad cook, and Chef Charlie experimented with two new salad recipes. One salad recipe was a pesto, or pasta, salad with fresh herbs including cilantro, parsley, spinach, pureed, oil and seasoning.

"Usually, pesto is made with a lot of oil, but ever since I started working with schools I have learned that it is important to reduce fats and

## MLK Food Drive begins Saturday

On the third Monday in January, people across the country will pay homage to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by serving those in their communities who are less fortunate. In 1994, congress ratified the King Holiday and Service Act bringing King's vision of public service and non-violent social change once again to the forefront of the American conscience. Since then, the Corporation for National and Community Service in partnership with the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change, and communities across the country have worked to make the King Holiday a day on, instead of a day off. The idea is to encourage people to volunteer on the third Monday in January to help make their communities a better place to live by serving others much as Dr. King did throughout his life. Thousands of projects across America will be held to help make Dr. King's dream a reality.

In El Paso, thousands will participate by contributing to the 7th annual MLK Canned Food Drive, which will be held from Jan. 5 through Jan. 21. Since its inception, El Pasoans have donated over 100 tons of non-perishable canned or dried food to organizations in our community, which serve the less fortunate. Starting on Saturday, Jan. 5, there will be dozens of drop-off sites throughout the city where individuals can place their donations. On Jan. 21, the food will be collected

and sent to a warehouse where it will be sorted by hundreds of volunteers and distributed among several beneficiaries including the Salvation Army, the Opportunity Center for the Homeless, the El Paso Rescue Mission, the Center Against Family Violence and others.

How you can help:

- Make your place of business a collection site by asking your co-workers to donate;
- Encourage your school to hold a collection in conjunction with the MLK Food Drive;
- Civic groups can ask their members to donate or hold a collection of their own;
- Participate in the MLK Adult/Youth Olympics; and
- Donate wherever you see an official MLK Food Drive collection bin.

The MLK Canned Food Drive committee is asking for your help to make this year's food drive the most successful ever. Please give at any of the locations listed below or call 543-5468 for more information or visit [www.elpasolibrary.org](http://www.elpasolibrary.org).

Drop Off Locations:

- Public Libraries;
- Lowe's Big 8/Supersave;
- Albertson's;
- Food Basket Grocery Store; and
- Walmart Neighborhood Markets.

— Contributed by Jack Galindo

See CAFETERIAS, Page 8

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## WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

### Something new

I sit down here to write and because it's the first day of a so-called new year according to the way we artificially catalogue the passing of time, I have to wonder — is there really anything new?

After living as long as I have, things start to look pretty much the same, like reading the same book with a different cover. Our lives are made up of navigating all the attendant events that happen between birth and death. Work, learning, love, children, illness, death, all happen to most of us.

Individually, these events are new. On a human collective level, there ain't much new happening out there.

I recently bought the new Eagles CD, *Long Road Out of Eden*, and listened with considerable interest to what has evolved in the artistry of this band of musicians who have strummed, pounded and harmonized their way into American history.

The West Coast rock group was formed in the early 1970s, riding high on the tide of youthful emancipation from accepted social standards of personal behavior. Their music was so prolific and popular that they hold high standings among many official listings of the greatest artists of all time. Their album, *Eagles: Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975* is the best selling album in the U.S. to date.

They are also noted for longevity. They broke up in 1980, reunited in 1994, were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998 and

released a whole new two-CD album in 2007. I was, therefore, interested — I grew up with refrains from various Eagles songs echoing around me.

Aging rockers have a peculiar kind of cachet. If they survive — and a great many of them don't — they have a perspective on life that those of us who walked a less rocky path, no pun intended, never see.

So I wondered how the Eagles' musical message had aged. I found these guys, purveyors of the new, bold and brash back in the 70s, were now putting to music the pathos that most about our age can identify with — lost loves, the facing up to mortality, lamenting the shallow state of our politics and society, the hypocrisy and fallacy of war.

One song, *Business as Usual*, voices the surprise that somehow we figured we'd be past all this pettiness by now but here we are, perpetuating the age-old system of graft, corruption, selfishness and ego. The sweetness comes through, though, the Eagles aren't a bitter bunch.

So I shared it with my kids. Are you kidding? The teenagers asked me to put something else on. My 20-something listened to the whole thing, and said she could identify me in the music, but found little that echoed with her personally because she is "of a different generation."

Just wait, I thought, you time will come. There is nothing really new, we just keep repeating what our parents knew back when we weren't listening, either.

George Carlin isn't a rocker but he might as well have been. He has been

providing entertainment for those with calloused ears for a very long time. He was foul-mouthed, rude and had long hair — oh, wait, he still does. Anyway, this guy actually makes a lot of sense now and then because he simply says what many of us are thinking but lack either the forum or the guts to say out loud.

A friend of mine recently sent me a list of Carlin's rules for the new year which includes the simple statement that if you tattoo and pierce every viable part of your body, you may as well plan your life around minimum wage and repeating the phrase: "Do you want fries with that?"

Try telling that to a young person bent on getting a tattoo. They think it's new and exciting. They don't understand that tattoos have been around longer than most of civilization and that there's nothing attractive about the aging female with a scorpion crawling up her lower back has looks like it has been swatted and is beginning to slide back down into her underwear.

Carlin also has a comment on the lack of creativity in the entertainment industry, which insists on making movies based on "crappy old television shows." He wonders why they don't remember that the reason it was a television show in the first place is because it wasn't good enough to make into a movie.

They say that those who fail to learn from the past are destined to repeat it. I wonder if maybe we choose to forget the lessons of the past on purpose. The unpleasant aspects of human nature that keep undermining one civilization after another are troublesome to think about and harder yet to overcome, so we don't want to think about them at all.

And if we don't think about it, we can convince ourselves that our same old mistakes are really something new.

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

### Small business energy aid



As the price of energy has skyrocketed over the past few years, making life and business difficult for consumers and American companies alike, it has become clear that a critical driver of economic growth and job creation is particularly vulnerable to increased input costs — our nation's small businesses.

Of course one business's problem is another's blessing. In addition to helping companies reduce energy costs, the energy bill helps small firms look at the energy costs crisis as a business opportunity.

Included in the legislation is creation of the Renewable Fuel Capital Investment (RFCI) program, an initiative designed to help small firms develop renewable energy sources and new technologies. These measures benefit consumers and producers, reducing costs and increasing competition in the market for energy efficient goods and services. In addition, the bill spurs investment in the production of alternative energy sources, such as biofuels, and the development of energy efficient technology by expanding the Small Business Investment Corporation (SBIC), increasing investment in small producers.

To help small businesses cope with climbing energy prices, the House of Representatives recently passed landmark energy legislation containing small business energy assistance. The bill modifies existing Small Business Administration (SBA) programs to better assist small companies with adapting to today's changing energy environment through loans, education, and added investment. The changes would give small firms that are acquiring or developing energy

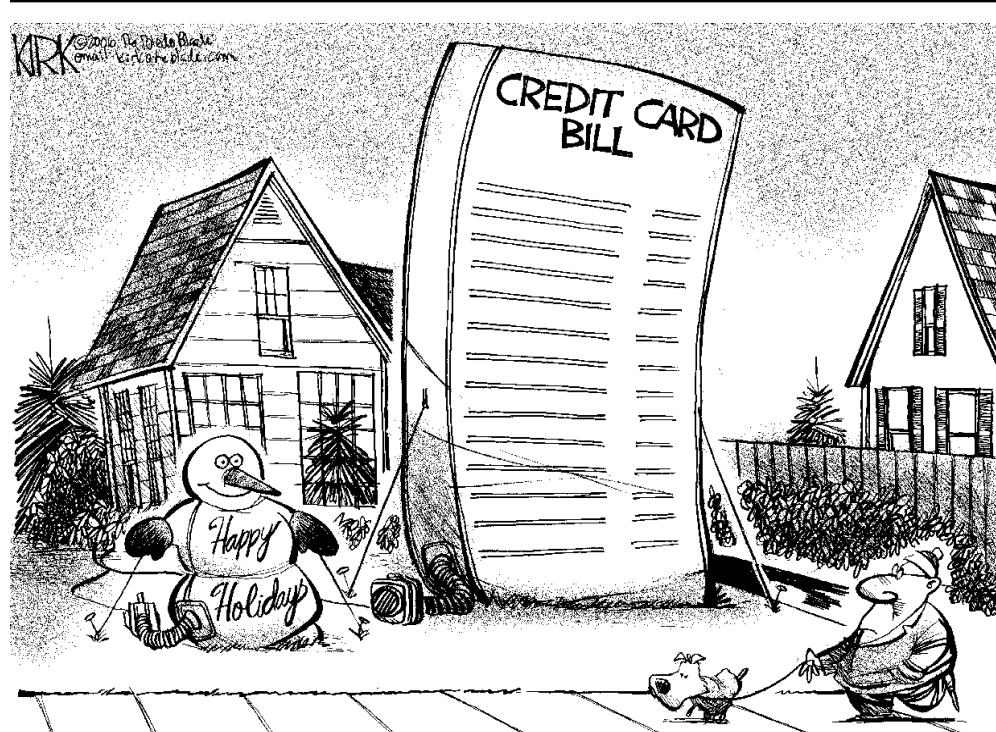
energy efficiency, energy independence, and energy security.

As consumption grows an anticipated one percent annually over the next 25 years, costs for traditional energy sources will continue to increase. This bill will provide technical assistance to help small business owners implement strategies to mitigate energy costs. It also launches a comprehensive plan to disseminate energy efficiency information through programs that are already positioned around the country. By passing this legislation, we recognize the leadership of entrepreneurs in the alternative energy sector. This bill provides both business development resources and injections of capital that will contribute to creating the next generation of technologies.

While the size of small businesses make them vulnerable to higher energy costs, it also makes them efficient and innovative market players — adapting to new market conditions quickly, pivoting to profit from new needs. This bill helps protect small business from rising energy prices while giving firms new tools to capitalize on new opportunity. The bill will soon head to the President's desk, where I hope it will be signed into law.



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**What's up, doc?** By Albert Balesh, M.D.

## Daycare nightmare

It's a good thing Old Santa is ageless. Otherwise, his halls might be decked with holiday fear, not cheer, as his "little helpers" left St. Nick and Holly to wander aimlessly about lonely corridors, spotted by time's accumulation of dust, mildew, cracked paint, and squashed *Periplaneta americana*, commonly known as the American cockroach. Such is the state of adult daycare today, where the best of intentions often cedes the playing field to profit margins and the attempted meeting of frazzled ends. We are an aging population with diminishing buying power, and we all desire some punch for our pound of flesh. Unfortunately, years of hard work, investments, and savings accounts are no match for the soaring costs of assisted-living facilities in the U.S.

So, what is one to do? Paying the Piper guarantees neither necessities nor creature comforts, as many hapless baby boomers have learned from their rides on the U.S. health care juggernaut. As millions reach retirement age, solutions are not readily forthcoming. The cost of the average nursing home in the U.S. can reach \$5,200 a month, chump change for a Trump, an impossible dream for us mere mortals. For that handsome sum, one is guaranteed only impersonal care, at best, which has prompted an estimated 40,000 to 80,000 of our finest American retirees to seek greener pastures in Pancho Villa's stomping grounds. After all, we as a nation have not only learned to do without, but also to seek suitable substitutes elsewhere, when "Made in the U.S.A." just doesn't cut it anymore.

One does not have to reach for the stars, but only for \$1,300 a month to guarantee a studio apartment, three square meals a day, laundry and cleaning service, 24-hour medical care, and a potpourri of extracurricular activities, sightseeing, and adventure south of the border. An aging Indiana Jones would love it! Aging baby boomers may have to tolerate it, as many can barely afford to live in the U.S. anymore. While quality of care varies greatly in Mexico, after all, assisted-living facilities are the new kids on the block down in Margaritaville, there is something to be said for a poor country that can provide a first-rate service to foreigners whose own nation bartered away their well-being in exchange for monuments constructed to the Almighty Dollar.

There is no denying it. The soul of our nation has been soiled, and we have left dry cleaning services to a country whose immigrants we badger with high walls, electronic listening posts, and pilotless drones. The U.S. can no longer minister to the health care needs of its aging population, and American academics, government officials, and developers are slowly but surely coming to this realization. Precedents are being set, and questions are being asked. Why, for example, should one pay in the area of \$5,500 a month for comparable care in the U.S., when a cottage, regular meals, and 24-hour nursing care can be had for the modest price of \$550 in Mexico? Add an additional \$140 a year, and an American expatriate can get his or her proverbial hands on full medical coverage from the Mexican government, including surgery, all medicines, insulin, and a battery of medical supplies for chronic illnesses. The Mexican Social Security Institute, or IMSS, which directs clinics and hospitals nationwide, allows Americans living in Mexico to enroll in its program, even if they have never worked south of the Rio Grande or paid taxes there. As we search for a universal health insurance model here in the U.S., perhaps our hearts, minds, eyes, and pocketbooks should be trained on our "poor cousins" down south, who appear to have solved the problem.

Some U.S. companies have begun to invest in assisted-living facilities in such romantic areas of Mexico as San Miguel de Allende, Chapala, Monterrey, and Guadalajara. That trend is destined to continue, and even increase exponentially, as CEOs mandate bottom lines and increased corporate profits. Let the buyer beware, however! The silver cloud may hide telltale signs of an impending storm. Mexican officials inspect assisted-living facilities but once a year, in best-case scenarios. If that were not enough, Medicare, Medicaid, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and most U.S. insurance companies will not pay for care or medicine as long as patients live outside the U.S.

So, one might say that you're damned if you do, and damned if you don't. Nonetheless, waking from a nightmare is more palatable in an idyllic cottage than in the poorhouse.

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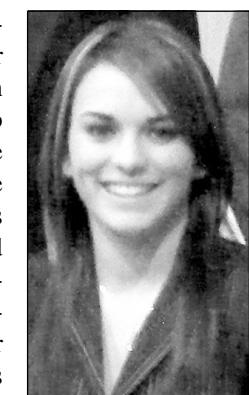
## Clint High School selected Outstanding Senior Girl

By Laura Cade  
*Special to the Courier*

The Optimist Clubs of the Greater El Paso Area selected Clint High School Senior, Marisa Godoy, for the Outstanding Senior Girl award as part of Optimist International Youth Appreciation Week. Godoy was recognized during the 50th Annual Youth Appreciation Week banquet on

Nov. 13, 2007 where she was presented with a plaque and delivered a speech to banquet guests. Godoy will also receive a \$500 Scholarship upon entering college.

Godoy was chosen for the top honor by a special committee who reviewed resumes of El Paso County seniors chosen to represent their school. Each year to celebrate Youth Appreciation Week the Optimist clubs in the area honor outstanding



**Marisa Godoy**

students chosen by their school. Each optimist club sponsors one boy and one girl in grades eleven and twelve. Students are selected for their efforts in arts, athletics, academics, and community service work. The following students were chosen to represent Clint High School and sponsored by the Cielo Vista Optimist Club: Eduardo Soto (12th), Marisa Godoy (12th), Adam Black (11th), and Jessie Cline (11th). Each was presented with a certificate by Clint High School Principal Mark Ayala.

"We would like to congratulate all of our students who represented Clint High School. We are very proud of each and every one of them," said Felipe Cobos, Clint High School Counselor.

## Canutillo ISD grad, Ramirez, returns to head department

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*



**Pablo Ramirez**

Pablo Ramirez was promoted recently to Facilities Coordinator for Canutillo Independent School District's Facilities & Transportation division. Ramirez will supervise the 14-person maintenance staff that addresses facilities maintenance needs throughout the district.

He joined the CISD maintenance department in June.

Ramirez is a 1991 graduate of Canutillo High School. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Yvonne Carrillo. They have four children with another one due in January. He and his family returned to Canutillo, after living 10 years in Phoenix, AZ where he was general manager for a restaurant franchise.

"I will do my best to help Canutillo schools have an excellent environment that will be conducive to student learning," said Ramirez, "I grew up in this community; I graduated from high school here, and now my children attend school in Canutillo. I want to thank God for this opportunity."

Ramirez will oversee maintenance of all facilities needs including general maintenance, grounds keeping, heating and cooling systems, and energy conservation management. CISD consists of eight school campuses and three administrative facilities.

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4  
P.O. Box 3880  
Fabens, TX 79838-3880  
(915) 764-2212

December 18, 2007

### TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS:

The USDA Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4. The proposed project consists of:

#### DESCRIPTION OF OWNER'S PROJECT (Water System)

##### WELL NO. 4:

The project for Well #4 consists of furnishing and installing equipment to pump water from Well No. 4 including pump, shaft, column piping, discharge head base, pump appurtenances and the motor for the well. The obligations under this contract shall consist of delivery, furnishing and installing the well equipment, materials, manufacturer's shop drawings, submittals, articles, mechanical completion, training, delivery, and other appurtenances and items for complete and functional system of the Well, cement-lined ductile iron piping, controls, valves and related appurtenances; construct retention pond; construct a Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) building to house all electrical and miscellaneous equipment, AC unit, a steel structural steel canopy, gravel driveway with header curb, furnish and install 12-inch ductile iron well collector line and connect to the existing well transmission main inside the fenced area, all associated above ground yard piping and appurtenances, trench safety system, all labor and materials necessary for an operational well site.

##### 10th STREET BOOSTER STATION SITE:

The booster station water system improvements consist of furnishing and installing filter treatment unit including backwash, inline booster, and reclaim pumps, reclaim tank, pre-fabricated metal building including ventilation, lighting, architectural fascia, controls and all related appurtenances; construct retention pond; provide and install centrifugal booster pumps, valves, cement-lined ductile iron piping, meter, related appurtenances, CMU building expansion attached to existing booster station; furnish and install 0.5 MG steel reservoir, and all associated above ground yard piping and appurtenances; construct site improvements including site grading, retention pond and gravel driveway with header curb, trench safety system, and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, all labor and materials necessary for an operational site.

The work covered under this contract will be performed at Well No. 4 site located at 1220 Camp Northeast; the 10th Street Booster Station site is located at 990 Walker Ave.

#### DESCRIPTION OF OWNER'S PROJECT (Wastewater Treatment Plant)

The overall project will consist of the following improvements to the wastewater plant: The construction of a new 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd) pre-engineered extended aeration wastewater treatment plant located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the intersection of State Highway 20 (Alameda) and Fabens Road adjacent to the existing wastewater treatment plant. The site is located at 17154 Alameda Avenue. The existing wastewater treatment plant will be abandoned in place.

The new plant will be located adjacent and east of the existing Fabens Wastewater Treatment Plant. Work shall include, but not be limited to, all equipment and installation, complete in place, 10 feet beyond the existing limits of the existing fence, according to the plans and specifications as follows: site work, grading, and site finish work; chain link fence; controls, valves and related appurtenances; architectural fascia and noise attenuation blankets, controls and related appurtenances; plant water booster station including pumps, controls, valves, stainless steel piping and all related appurtenances, headworks system including controls, valves and all related appurtenances; extended aeration system including controls, valves, PVC piping, stainless steel piping, slide gates, blowers, silencers, filters, and all related appurtenances; belt press system including controls, sludge pump, polymer feed system, piping and all related appurtenances; chlorine disinfection system including controls, valves, chlorine equipment, stainless steel weir, jib crane and all related appurtenances; plant drain station including controls, pumps, PVC piping, and all related appurtenances; Plant water station including controls, pumps, and all related appurtenances; effluent flow meter, controls and all related appurtenances.

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Rural Utilities Service has assessed the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and has determined that the proposal will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an Environment Impact Statement will not be prepared. The basis of this determination is that the original Environmental Information Document (EID) that was conducted in January 2001 for the specific upgrades and expansions to improve the water and wastewater infrastructure within the current District boundaries has not changed. Therefore, no changes to the EID are required. A Supplemental Information Record was conducted on September 2007 to address any changes on the existing environment based on the proposed improvements. No environmental impacts were found to affect the environment receptors in the study area.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment can be reviewed or obtained at the USDA-Rural Development Office, 11930 Vista Del Sol, Suite C, El Paso, Texas 79935, (915) 855-1229. For further information, please contact Anita Sprinkle, Rural Development Manager at (915) 855-1229.

Geri de la Torre  
Interim General Manager

West Texas County Courier  
January 3, 2008



Rodney Snyder



Jacob Villarreal



Gama Mendez



Elizabeth Beltran



Sarah Lopez

## Socorro ISD cross country runners named to All-City Team

**By Irma Flores**  
Special to the Courier

Seven Socorro Independent School District cross country runners have been named to the All City Cross Country team. Students from Socorro, El Dorado and Americas were all selected to receive honors.

"Being named to the all-city team is no small feat," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "It requires discipline, focus and dedication. It's wonderful to see these students recognized."

Socorro High School Senior Rodney Snyder and Americas High School Junior Jacob Villarreal made the Boys First Team. Making the Boys Second Team is Socorro Senior

Gama Mendez. Fellow Bulldog teammates Chris Gonzalez and Josue Nunez received Honorable Mentions. El Dorado Sophomore Sarah Lopez was selected for the Girls Second Team while Americas High School Junior Elizabeth Beltran received an honorable mention. In addition, area coaches also selected Socorro High School Coach, Jeff Barros, as Boys Coach of the Year.

Cross country running takes strength, endurance and mental toughness," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. "I'm proud that our high schools are so well represented on the all-city team."

This is the second time Snyder has been named to the All-City team. He also won the District 1-5A District Championship for the second time, a three-time regional qualifier and a two-time state qualifier. Ranked 22

in Region 1-5A, Snyder has been a member of the Socorro High School Cross Country team for four years and has been running for six years. The 17-year-old plans to attend University of Texas at Austin to study mechanical engineering. Socorro High Senior Gama Mendez was stunned by the honor. "I was surprised when I found out about being named to the Second team," said the 18-year-old.

Americas Junior Jacob Villarreal, a two time regional qualifier, makes his first appearance on the All City Boys First Team.

"This season was perfect, it was fun," said the 16-year-old who marks his second year on the Americas team. "I can't wait for next year."

Trailblazer Elizabeth Beltran agrees and adds "it was a very hard and challenging season but we all put a lot of effort into it."

The Americas students are coached by Ben Corral and Raquel Puertas. El Dorado Sophomore, Sarah Lopez, the youngest member of the SISD contingent on the All City list is coached by Macka Jones. Lopez also placed at the Irvin/Chapin Invitational.

EDHS Cross countryjpg-El Dorado Sophomore Sarah Lopez was selected for the Girls Second Team.

— Photos by Stacy Hendrick/SISD

## Business.gov website expands with new features

**By Dennis Byrne**  
Special to the Courier

WASHINGTON — Business.gov continues to expand its offerings of resources and tools to help small businesses comply with federal government regulations.

Responding to feedback from its business community users, Business.gov has developed a tool that helps businesses determine their license and permit requirements. The site, at [www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov), also has expanded the content and context of the information contained in its Compliance Guides and developed relationships with other government and non-governmental organizations to provide more in-depth compliance resources.

Business.gov's new "Permit Me" feature provides a single source for obtaining federal, state, and local permits and professional licenses for businesses. While every business in the United States is required to obtain a permit, professional license, or identification number to operate, finding the right license can be a major challenge for potential business owners. Although some states offer assistance to help individuals understand their local permit and license requirements, not all provide federal information.

This information gap results in an additional burden to business owners as they must locate, research and understand federal, state, and local government resources separately and then compile the information to gain a comprehensive understanding of their regulatory requirements. "Permit Me" allows businesses to navigate to a single destination and presents a list of licensing and permit resources across all the federal, state and local domains.

Business.gov has also added "Feature Topics" that focus on common business concerns and that will be continually updated on a timely basis. Featured Topics provide context

to the compliance information provided on the site and help business owners understand in plain language the regulatory requirements their businesses face. Regulatory information is typically written from the individual agency's perspective and can fail to adequately explain the impact of the requirement on business operations or the steps required to comply. The failure to develop compliance assistance information that addresses the practical concerns of the business community

See WEBSITE, Page 8

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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|   | 4 | 1 |   | 9 |   | 2 |   |   |
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| 9 |   | 8 |   | 1 |   | 7 |   |   |
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|   | 5 | 7 |   | 3 |   | 6 |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   | 6 | 5 |   |   | 1 |
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| 8 |   |   |   | 5 | 4 |   | 9 |   |
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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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Answer Page 6

## Anthony Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

### AEIS Report

Anthony Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2007 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at the Anthony ISD Board Room, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, TX.

The public is invited to attend. The AEIS report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Anthony ISD campuses, central office, and the district website.

For more information, call 886-6506.

### Junta Pública

### Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony

### El reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica"

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar del reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica" (AEIS) del año escolar 2007. El reporte será parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el 2008 el Martes 15 de enero a las 6:30 p.m. en el auditorio de la escuela preparatoria en la calle Sixth Street #813, Anthony, TX.

Todos los individuos interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte AEIS estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas, e internet del distrito.

Para mayor información, favor de llamar al 886-6506.

WTCC: 01-03-08

# Yelling insults about a sports legend backfires for student

**By Steve Escajeda**  
Special to the Courier

The world of sports hasn't exactly lived up to the standards it set for itself many years ago. You know, standards like decency, sportsmanship, fair play and humility.

But even today, there are people in sports that have earned the respect of all the people who enjoy it.

Some of the sports personalities who have lived respectful lives and earned that kind of respect are John Wooden, Derek Jeter, Cal Ripkin Jr., Tony Dungy, Hank Aaron, Nolan Ryan, Emmitt Smith, Tim Duncan and Joe Torre.

This is only a smattering of the sports icons who have earned the respect of all the fans and their peers.

Another sports figure who deserves that kind

of respect is long-time Penn State head coach Joe Paterno.

But some of the younger guys of today just don't get it. They can't respect very much in their life if they can't respect a man like Joe Paterno.

And that brings us to one of the dumbest students who has ever stepped foot on the Texas A&M campus.

I don't know if he was trying to be funny, or edgy, or whether he was just showing his true intellect. Seems one of the A&M yell leaders, who lead the fans in cheers during the game, made some stupid comments about the 81-year old Penn State coach during a pre-game rally.

The student, whose name has not been released (probably to save his family the embarrassment), said that Paterno was "on his death bed" and that "someone needs to find him a casket."

In a great showing of respect and decency, the Texas A&M fans booed the moron.

respect or not, but his comments were about as inexcusable as any I've ever heard.

Naturally, Paterno had the maturity to play down the incident by saying that "maybe he's accurate, I don't know."

Paterno, who has been the head coach at Penn State for 41 years, also added "sticks and stones will break your bones but words will never hurt you."

Texas A&M officials quickly apologized to Paterno and promptly sent the young dummy home. Maybe he can spend the rest of the holiday season thinking about the words he used to disrespect one of the most beloved men in sports.

Then the young man can think about what he has contributed to society.

My guess is that it will be an awfully short list.

## NFL Network takes hit

It's no secret that most NFL fans are upset with the NFL's reluctance to make its network available on cable TV.

Fans used to watch all NFL games for free on one of the four major networks, CBS, NBC, ABC or FOX. Then fans decided to say okay, we'll pay a little extra to watch games on cable.

And now that the NFL wants fans to pay a little more again to go to (or switch to) the satellite to get the NFL Network, fans have said no more.

The NFL got a lot of heat for airing the Dallas Cowboys-Green Bay Packers game to the 40-some million households with the NFL Network. That means 70 percent of the households in the United States couldn't get the game on cable.

This time around, the New England Patriots were going for a perfect 16-0 season on the NFL Network. The NFL finally caved in and made the game available to everyone on CBS and NBC, both of which are on the cable.

I mean the NFL had to do it. It's their product and to keep it away from the majority of its customers is just not very good business.

The result was a fantastic game that all football fans got to see. It was a great night for the NFL, sports history, and the fans.

When you've got a product like the NFL does, the last thing you want to do is make your fan base angry. And at least for this week, their fan base is happy.

Now if the NFL wants to make us down right ecstatic — make the NFL Network available on cable.

## Classified Ads

### COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N M A U R E I R A , LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE SCALE ACCEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

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### STORAGE

National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS

What in the world was this stupid young man thinking? I don't know if his parents ever taught him about

It's no secret that most NFL fans are upset with the NFL's reluctance to make its network available on cable TV.

Fans used to watch all NFL games for free on one of the four major networks, CBS, NBC, ABC or FOX. Then fans decided to say okay, we'll pay a little extra to watch games on cable.



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick/SISD

TALENTED AND SMART — Teri Juarez, Jessica Wooten and Kristy Candelaria have been named to the 2007 Academic All-State Volleyball team for 1-5A conference.

## Four Socorro ISD volleyball players named to Academic All-State team

**By Irma Flores**  
Special to the Courier

Four Socorro Independent School District students are honored by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. The four are volleyball players selected to the 2007 Academic All-State Volleyball team for 1-5A conference. El Dorado High School Seniors Kristy Candelaria, Theresa Juarez and Jessica Wooten join Americas High School Senior Charlene Zubiate to receive the honor.

"These students have demonstrated excellence on the court and in the classroom," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "It's great to have these students as role models in our schools."

Nominated by their coaches Frank Ayala from El Dorado and Alicia Gomez from Americas, the girls join 21 other student athletes from across Texas.

"This is a great honor and I know our students have worked hard for it," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. "Being named to the Academic All-State team is also a credit to their parents and their coaches."

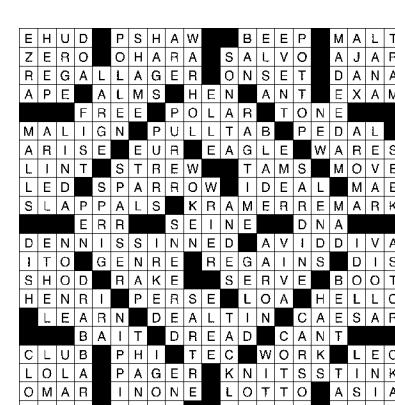
As member coaches, Ayala and Gomez nominate players they feel are outstanding. Ayala who has been at El Dorado for five years knows all the girls since their first year at the school.

"I know they all had high GPA's since their freshman year, but I was surprised because the association is very strict about their choices," said Ayala.

Candelaria is planning to attend the University of Arizona to study Bio-Medical Engineering. Wooten is looking to pursue the same degree at either Washington University in St. Louis, Tulane University in New Orleans or Rice University in Houston. Juarez is planning to study aeronautics at the California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech).

"It's a nice honor to add especially in my senior year," said Juarez who is also a National Hispanic Scholar. "It was great being here for five years since I was in 8th grade and being able to build up this program."

Zubiate, a senior at Americas who played middle blocker for the Trailblazer (23-13, 11-5 District) team, was also selected to the All-City Volleyball Second Team.



## Comix

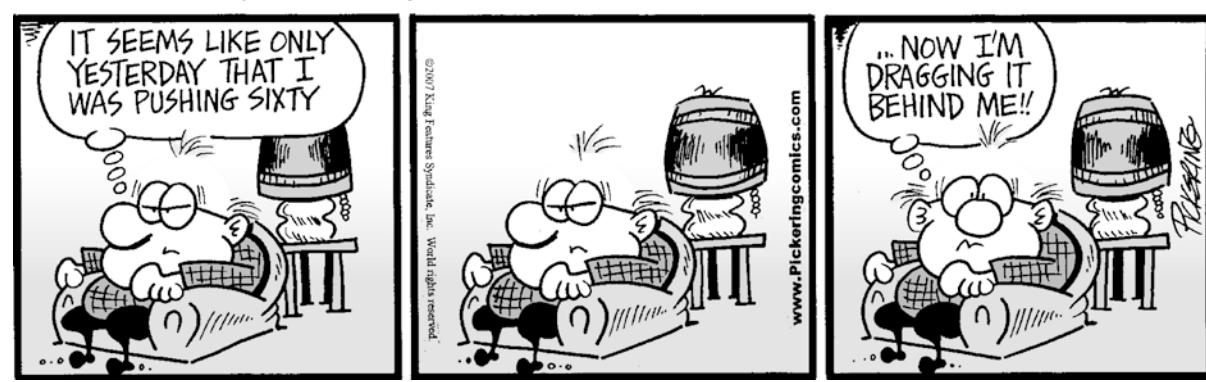
**OUT ON A LIMB** By Gary Kopervas



**AMBER WAVES** By Dave T. Phipps



**THE SPATS** By Jeff Pickering



**R.F.D.** By Mike Marland



## Put it on and stay strong

**By Don Flood**

In an age filled with anxiety and uncertainty, we can be thankful that at least one person has stepped forward with a simple but inspiring message of hope.

Recently, TV star Jennifer Love Hewitt came out with this ringing declaration: "Put on a bikini — put it on and stay strong."

Wow, that just says it all. I don't own a bikini, but I briefly considered wearing my underwear outside my pants just to show solidarity with my sisters.

Hewitt, who stars in "The Ghost Whisperer," has what might be called "the hips that launched a million kajillion Internet postings."

Hewitt recently traveled to Hawaii and did something that became one of the Most Extraordinary Events in Human History: She went to the beach wearing a two-piece swimsuit.

Unlike most stars, who look like they've just successfully emerged from the Celebrity Death Camp Diet Program, Hewitt appears to be a real-live adult human female. No wonder people were stunned.

But there are things in the world that merit our attention other than Hewitt's bathing attire. (Really!)

Sen. Harry Reid, the Democrat from Nevada, recently proposed drawing attention to Republican efforts to block legislation by — this is according to The New York Times — "doing cartwheels down the center aisle of the Senate chamber."

Ultimately, Reid performed neither cartwheels nor gymnastics of any kind, but the mere mention of the dreaded "cartwheel threat" touched off a firestorm of protest, especially from members of Congress who have a hard enough time touching their toes.

Longtime observers said the last

time that senators followed through on the cartwheels-down-the-center-aisle threat was during the National Pickle Week controversy of 1937. (Roosevelt backed down as soon as the cartwheels began, though most of the senators actually performed somersaults and one briefly stood on his head.)

Elsewhere in the political world comes word that Hillary Clinton's coronation may be in trouble because of a celebrity's endorsement for rival Barack Obama.

Not just any star, of course, but Oprah Winfrey, who is unique among celebrities for having the power to appoint whomever she chooses as the nation's chief executive. According to Constitutional scholars, Oprah's powers trump even Hillary's claims of royal bloodlines.

In other celebrity endorsement news, actor Sean Penn has announced his support for Dennis Kucinich, a move expected to influence an outpouring of as many as two votes nationwide, one if you don't count Penn himself.

(In Kucinich's favor, however, is the fact he is gaining traction as the candidate with the "hot wife," hence his new slogan: "If he managed to land this babe, maybe he CAN be president.")

Unfortunately for Penn, his announcement was overshadowed by the burgeoning bikini controversy, which leaves that other vote still in play. (This, of course, is assuming that Oprah allows an election to be held.)

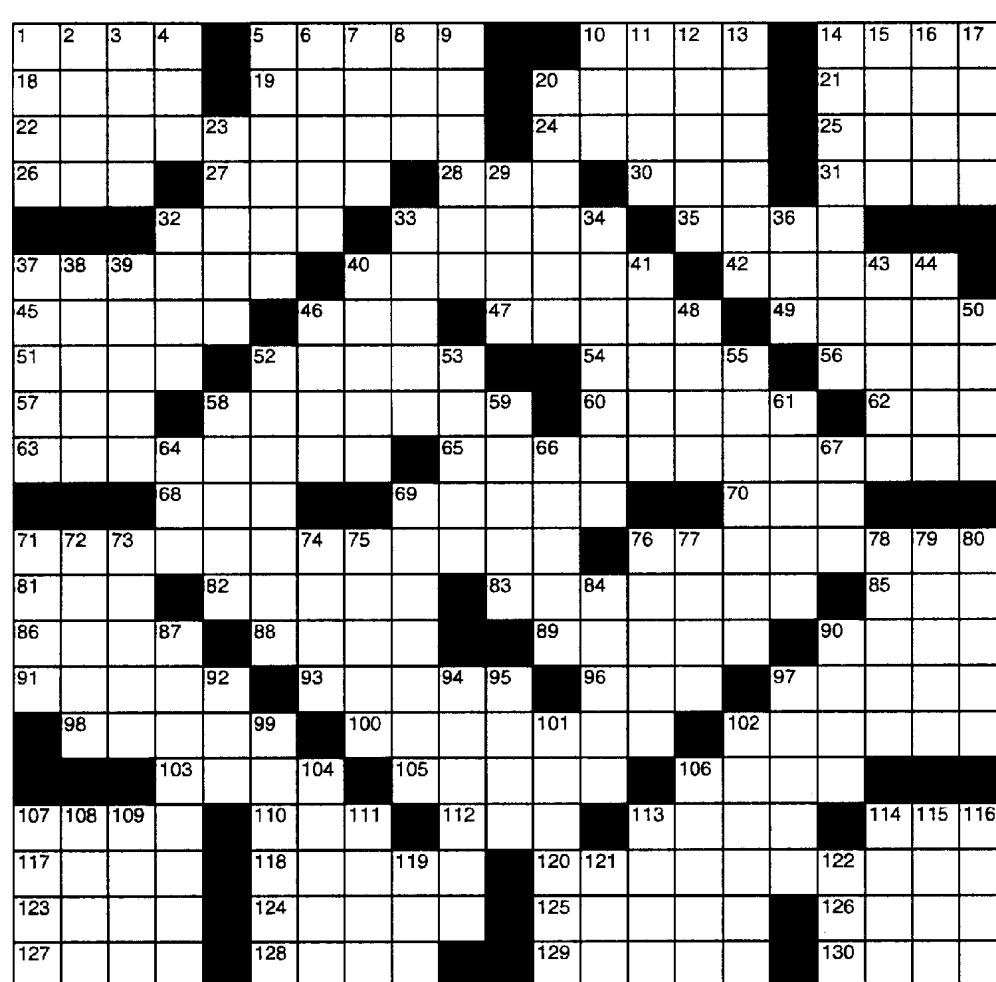
But celebrities shouldn't get too depressed if no one listens. Just remember the words of Jennifer Love Hewitt: "Put on a bikini — put it on and stay strong."

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dflood287@comcast.net

## King Super Crossword

| IN REVERSE ACROSS |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1                 | Israel's Barak            |
| 5                 | "Fie!"                    |
| 10                | Traffic sound             |
| 14                | Beer ingredient           |
| 18                | It's nothing              |
| 19                | "From the Terrace" author |
| 20                | Fusillade                 |
| 21                | Not quite closed          |
| 22                | KINGLY BREW               |
| 24                | Start                     |
| 25                | Actor Andrews             |
| 26                | Parrot                    |
| 27                | Charity                   |
| 28                | Party animal?             |
| 30                | Formicary denizen         |
| 31                | Final                     |
| 32                | Loose                     |
| 33                | Like opposites            |
| 35                | Pitch                     |
| 37                | Dump on                   |
| 40                | Can opener                |
| 42                | Harp part                 |
| 45                | Crop up                   |
| 46                | Part of EEC               |
| 47                | Golden _                  |
| 49                | Merchandise               |
| 51                | Navel store?              |
| 52                | Disseminate               |
| 54                | Flat hats                 |
| 56                | Relocate                  |
| 57                | Rock's _ Zeppelin         |
| 58                | Ubiquitous songbird       |
| 60                | Faultless                 |
| 62                | Clarke or Questel         |

| ACROSS |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 63     | HURT FRIENDS                  |
| 65     | "GIDDYUP!" OR "HOOCHIE MAMA!" |
| 68     | Fumble                        |
| 69     | Net type                      |
| 70     | "Jurassic Park" stuff         |
| 71     | RODMAN FELL FROM GRACE        |
| 72     | ENTHUSIASTIC SINGER           |
| 73     | Japanese statesman            |
| 74     | Category                      |
| 75     | Gets back                     |
| 76     | Relative of un_               |
| 77     | Sporting saddles              |
| 78     | Autumn implement              |
| 79     | Distribute the donuts         |
| 80     | Word with camp or tree        |
| 81     | Artist Rousseau               |
| 82     | Intrinsically                 |
| 83     | Mauna _                       |
| 84     | "Greetings!"                  |
| 85     | Find out                      |
| 86     | Did business                  |
| 87     | He had a lot of Gaul          |
| 88     | Angler's danglers             |
| 89     | Fear                          |
| 90     | You _ Hurry Love" ('66 hit)   |
| 91     | Society                       |
| 92     | Sweater letter                |
| 93     | Gumshoe                       |
| 94     | Toil                          |
| 95     | Held                          |
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| 130    | Wife                          |



Answer Page 6

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

*Q: My 88-year-old father is terminally ill and is not expected to live much more than another year or so. Will my 86-year-old mother have to apply for widow's benefits after his death, or is that an automatic process?*

A: When your father passes away, your mother should notify Social Security. She can do so by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). If your mother is receiving spouse's benefits based on your father's work record, and if they were living at the same address, we should be able to switch her to widow's benefits automatically, and also pay the one-time death benefit. Otherwise, she may have to complete a few forms before receiving benefits. Learn more by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

*Q: My granddaughter is 18 years old. In her junior year of high school, she had an accident that paralyzed her right side. It doesn't look like she'll be able to work in the near future. Because she did not work long enough under Social Security to qualify for benefits, is there any other*

*program that could help her?*

A: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a needs-based program paid for by general tax revenue and run by the Social Security Administration. It can help people like your granddaughter who are disabled and who have not paid enough in Social Security taxes to qualify for regular Social Security disability benefits. To qualify for SSI, a person must be disabled, and have limited resources and income. You should know also that if the child's parents are receiving Social Security benefits or they are deceased, she may be eligible for Disabled Adult Child (DAC) benefits under Social Security. You can learn more about Social Security and SSI by visiting our website 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 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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.*

## Canutillo ISD teacher participates in Family and Consumer Science Conference

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

Angelina Bencomo, a member of the Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers Association of Texas (FCSTAT) and a family and consumer sciences teacher at Canutillo High School, was elected to the Board of Directors for FCSTAT during a recent state conference where she joined a registration in excess of 1,500 teachers at the 2007 State Professional Development Tri-Cluster Conference for Education and Training, Hospitality & Tourism and Human Services Career Clusters.

Texas Tech University's Curriculum Center for Family and



Angelina Bencomo

Consumer Sciences, in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency, planned and coordinated the conference. The conference, titled Achieve Texas in Action, showcased the recently adopted career clusters initiative. This year's meeting also focused on technology training, effective teaching strategies for diverse student populations, and maximizing career preparation opportunities.

Bencomo has been a family and consumer sciences teacher at Canutillo High School for the past 15 years. She is also sponsor of the CHS chapter of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), a student leadership organization open to current and former students of family and consumer sciences courses.

## Cafeterias

From Page 1

"oils in our preparations," said Simpson. "This pesto salad was strained through a China cap to eliminate at least 70 percent of the oil. We used whole wheat pasta and mixed it with pieces of broccoli, cauliflower, zucchini, and carrots, then sprinkled it with Parmesan cheese," he said.

The other recipe, which is one that already has been introduced into the school cafeterias, called for grilled chicken breast strips, diced apples, celery, grapes, low-fat mayonnaise and orange juice. "All the ingredients are fresh," commented Mendoza.

According to Chef Charlie, the idea is to try new recipes and test them in the test kitchen first, then send the new recipe to the campuses by bringing in cafeteria personnel to train.

"Elementary school students can be difficult to please, especially when they see something new; they are reluctant to try it sometimes," said Mendoza, "but we encourage them to try it. We tell them to try it and to tell us if they like. So, they try it, and most of the time they like it."

Mendoza related that a Caesar salad recipe is one they introduced recently, and the students liked it.

"We want to be more creative with recipes in order to entice students to try new healthy foods," said the chef trainer.

The test kitchen and chef trainer concepts were implemented about three years ago by CISD Food Services Director Adele Balesh to help address the new federal regulations established through the U.S. Child Nutrition Program. "We teach food science in all of our training sessions, and we also want to be creative in complying with the federal guidelines," said Balesh.

## Website

From Page 5

adds to business' owners compliance problems.

The Content Partners Program has been established to formalize relationships with government agencies, trade associations and professional organizations to develop compliance assistance tools and resources for small and medium-sized businesses. Content Partners will provide domain specific compliance information to Business.gov ultimately to develop compliance resources that will be featured on the site's Featured Topics and Compliance Guides pages.

Business.gov is managed by the U.S. Small Business Administration in partnership with 21 other federal agencies and is part of the President's Management Agenda. Originally launched in 2004, the Web site provided information on starting, growing, and managing a small business. The re-launched compliance site is designed to better meet the needs of the business community, based on feedback from test groups.



# UTEP vs. SMU Basketball

Men's

Wednesday, January 9, 2008  
Don Haskins Center @ 7:05 PM

# Get Your Orange On!

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Saturday, January 12, 2008  
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