



NEWSBRIEFS

Candidates forum

American Legion Post 598 of Horizon City (13000 Horizon Blvd.) will hold an El Paso County Sheriff candidates forum on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m. Organizers are encouraging people to attend and bring their friends and neighbors. They point out that the office of El Paso County Sheriff impacts the whole county which makes this election very important. A question and answer period is scheduled.

Flu vaccine

With flu classified as widespread in the state for the last two weeks, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) officials are reminding people to take precautions to reduce the risk of getting and spreading the viral illness. According to health officials, getting a flu vaccination is one of the best ways to prevent getting and spreading the illness. Vaccination is recommended for people ages 6 months and older. Flu vaccines are available in shot and nasal spray forms. Only healthy people ages 2 through 49 years who are not pregnant may receive the spray form. DSHS health officials offer the following additional precautions:

- Wash your hands frequently with either soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Cover your coughs and sneezes; and
- Stay home if you're sick.

The Texas flu season typically runs October through March. The flu vaccine, which takes about two weeks to become fully effective, can be given at any time during this period. People wanting the flu vaccine should call their health care provider, local public health department, 2-1-1 or check online at www.211Texas.org about availability.

Donations welcome

On Saturday morning, Jan. 26, Gerardo Alvarez, 43, of Northeast El Paso, was injured when his car caught fire. Gerardo suffered severe burns to his head and shoulders. He also suffered severe injury to his lungs as a result of the smoke inhalation. He was taken in critical condition to the Timothy J. Hamar Burn Center in Lubbock. A donation account has been set up at the El Paso Teachers Federal Credit Union to assist his family. The account number is 153465. The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and assistance during this difficult time.

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the El Paso Police Department in locating an offender who pulled a knife and robbed a restaurant, causing people to fear for their lives and making this the "Crime of the Week." About 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12, the suspect entered Arby's restaurant at 1330 George Dieter and stood in line,

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Don't advertise your troubles — people are already oversupplied.

— Quips & Quotes

Socorro ISD coordinator named Texas Special Educator of the Year

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Tom Laign, Coordinator for Transition Services at the Socorro Independent School District has been named the Texas Special Educator of the Year by the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE). In the fall, Laign was among two from SISD selected for regional honors. Laign was honored by the State organization at the Mid-Winter TCASE conference in Austin last week.

"It's gratifying to see someone like Tom receive the statewide recognition he deserves," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "Socorro is fortunate to have him as an advocate for our special needs students."

Each year, TCASE reviews nominations for special educators in every district across the state in an effort to recognize those individuals who devote extra time and energy to serving students with disabilities. For Laign, helping transition students into the work force and into the community is a top priority.

"The greatest accomplishment for students is being able to use their knowledge to make dreams come true. We live in a society that does not readily see the abilities of individuals with disabilities, and expects less from them," said Laign.

To help students access services they need or require, Laign developed the Community Access Program. This program, which is the first of its kind in this region, works to move students from the high school setting to the community setting. Students who have already earned the credits necessary for graduation and are age 18 and older receive instruction solely in a community setting that focuses on inde-



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick / SISD

Tom Laign

pendently accessing the community for employment, recreational and independent living purposes. Students enrolled in the program benefit from an employment rate that is more than doubled the employment rate of adults with similar disabilities.

"You have to have a special talent to do what this man does every day," said SISD Board

See LAIGN, Page 8

Driver pleads guilty to illegal dumping

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez has announced the sentencing in the case of a truck driver who pleaded guilty of illegal dumping for transporting and illegally disposing of construction debris.

34-year-old George Espinoza was sentenced today to 12 months probation and a \$3,500 fine after pleading guilty to two counts of illegal dumping, one for transporting the debris, and another for disposing of it illegally.

According to the offense report, on or about Apr. 16, 2007, at approximately 3:15 p.m., an El Paso County Sheriff's deputy arrested Espinoza after discovering him dumping large pieces of concrete and dirt mixed with paper, in the desert area near the 3500 block of Rene, in far East El Paso County.

Deputy Raúl Galván obtained the necessary evidence to file the criminal charges, and the case was presented to the County Criminal Court at Law #1, the environmental court in El Paso County.

This week George Espinoza admitted that the day of the offense he was driving a large dump truck belonging to the family business, Espinoza Grading, and then plead guilty to two charges of illegal dumping before visiting Judge Dick Alcalá, who sentenced him to 12

months probation, and to pay a \$3,500 fine, along with court costs.

Rodríguez explained that illegal dumping is a serious on-going problem in the county of El Paso, and he stressed that the County Attorney's Office will continue to prosecute offenders to the fullest extent of the law.

"The illegal dumping of construction debris is pervasive throughout our community. It is an eyesore and it is bad for the environment because it contaminates the land and breeds pests," said Rodríguez.

"Illegal dumping of trash and construction debris is also dangerous when used as fill because if a structure is erected on top of it, years later the foundation of the building could shift due to the pockets of air forming underneath. Illegal dumping is also unfair to the victim who might have to pay for the expensive legal disposal of unscrupulous dumpers, looking to save a buck by illegally disposing of their waste."

The penalty for illegal dumping ranges from a fine up to \$10,000 for an individual, or up to two years in jail, or both fine and incarceration. For an association or corporation, the fine is up to \$10,000.

To report illegal dumping or other environmental crime, call your local law enforcement agency: 911 if you see it happening; the Environmental Hotline at 1-888-6EL-PASO (635-7276), El Paso Police Dept. at 832-4400, or El Paso Sheriff's Dept. at 546-2280.

Trash leads to cash in new scholarship for graduating high school seniors

By Brenda Flores-Dollar
Special to the Courier

TEXAS — The Texas Department of Transportation has upped the ante for college-bound students by introducing a new scholarship award to their existing Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship program.

For this new Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship, TxDOT wants students to write an essay about how to get a litterbag in every car. The essay should focus on a creative and sustainable solution that would encourage Texans to use litterbags and get them in their hands. The winner earns a \$1,000 scholarship.

TxDOT will also continue its traditional scholarship, which consists of a \$3,000 grand prize scholarship and a \$1,000 second-prize scholarship. To qualify for that scholarship money, students must write an essay identifying a specific litter problem at their own school or in their community and the action they took to address it.

As sponsor, Raytheon has provided the funds for this year's scholarship program.

The scholarships are intended for high-school seniors planning to pursue a two- or four-year degree at a Texas university or college. Essays must be 300 to 350 words. Along with their essay(s), students are required to submit a completed application and two letters of recommendation. Students may apply for both the traditional scholarship and the litterbag scholarship, but must complete two separate essays.

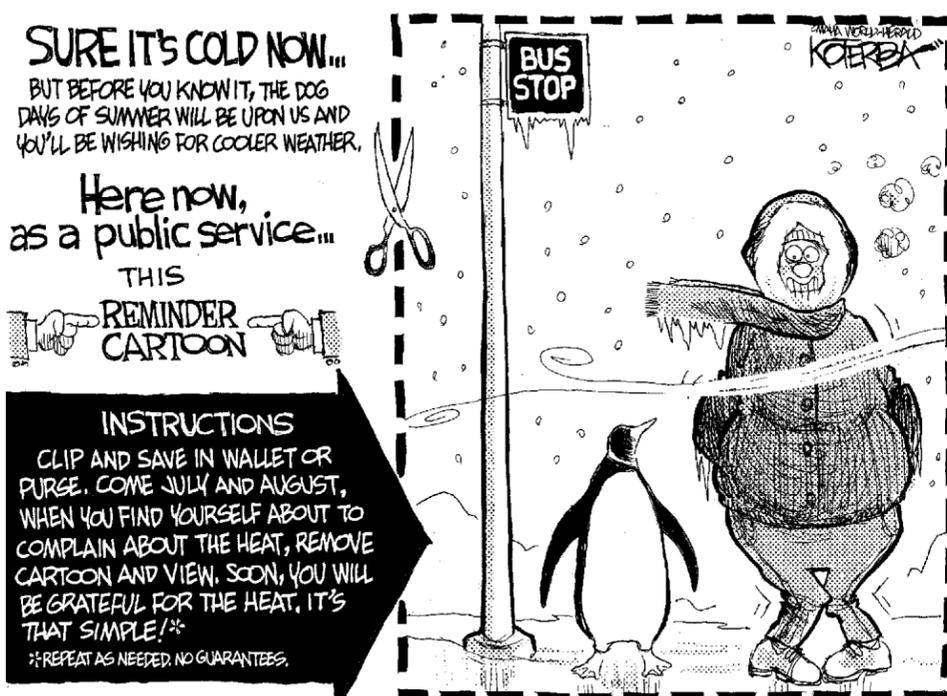
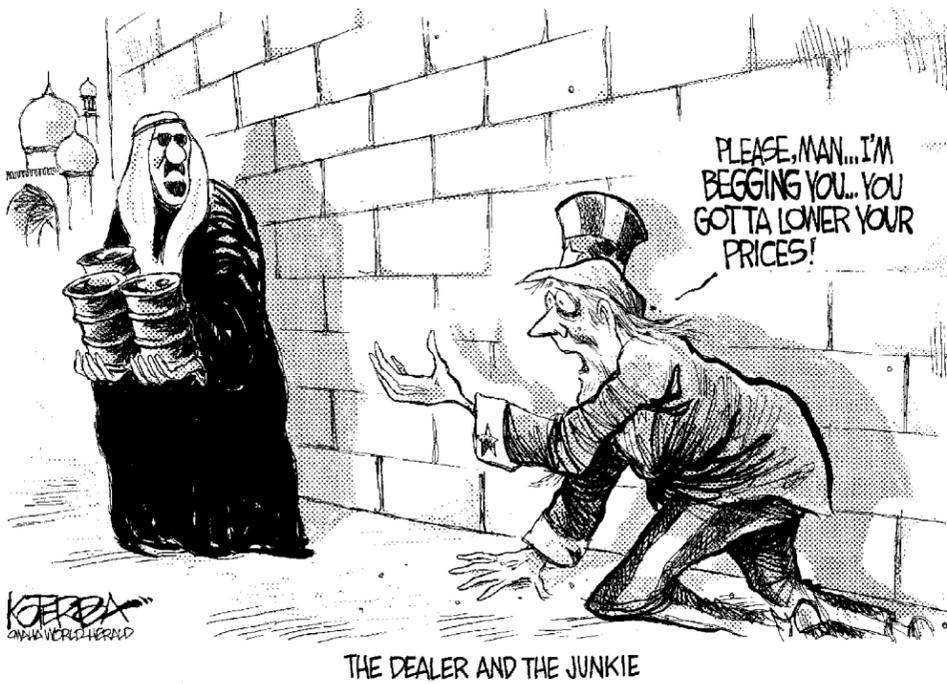
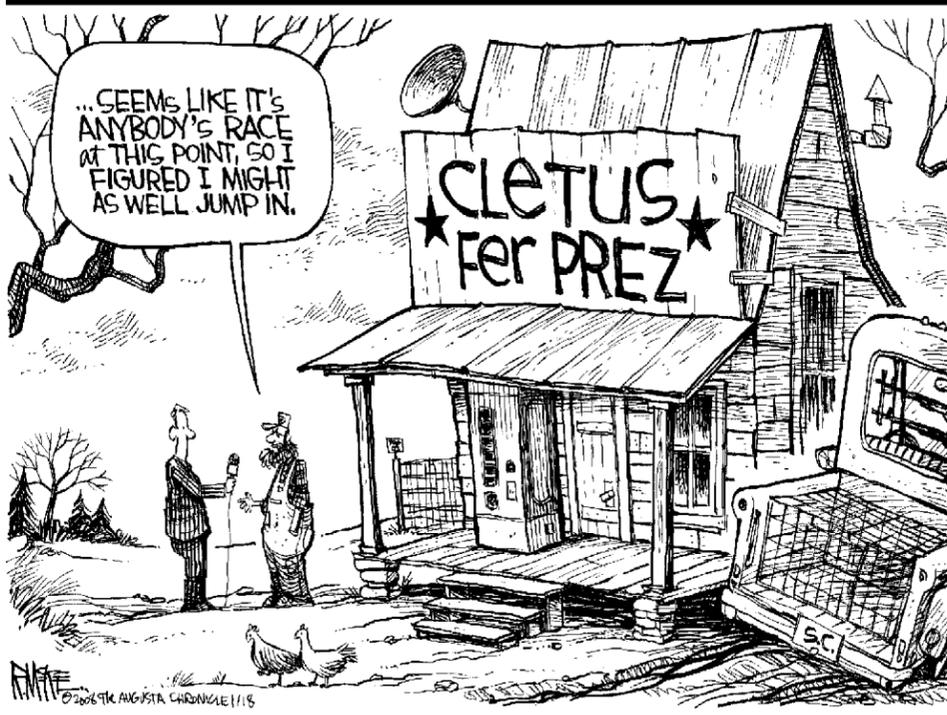
To download an application and for complete rules, visit www.DontMessWithTexas.org.

A completed application, letters and essays must be addressed as follows and post-marked by April 4, 2008: Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship Program; c/o EnviroMedia Social Marketing; 1717 West 6th Street, Suite 400; Austin, TX 78703.

The Texas Department of Transportation established the Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship program in 2003 to reward high-school seniors who have worked to improve litter problems in their communities.

Research shows Texans ages 16 to 24 are the most likely to litter, and the scholarship is designed to help motivate and raise awareness among this peer group.

Don't Mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. TxDOT's litter prevention program includes Adopt-a-Highway and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful. Don't Mess with Texas activities also include a spring "Trash-Off," community outreach and a corporate partner program. For more information, visit www.DontMessWithTexas.org. TxDOT's goals are to reduce congestion, enhance safety, expand economic opportunity, improve air quality and increase the value of transportation assets. For more information, visit www.dot.gov.



DSHS registry helps reunite adult adoptees with birth parents, siblings

By Emily Palmer
Special to the Courier

For some, it is a medical need to know. For others, it is the desire to put life's jigsaw puzzle pieces together. For these and other reasons, adoption information provides answers to long-held questions about lives and families.

In Texas, adoption records are confidential and court records sealed. People usually have little or no information about their birth parents, siblings or children placed for adoption.

But for those looking for information, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) offers a chance to be matched with birth family members. The Texas Vital Statistics Central Adoption Registry can reunite adult adoptees with birth parents or siblings who sign up looking for each other.

"The registry is unique in that we have the authority, without a court order, to view a sealed file and confidential record," said Patricia Molina, DSHS program administrator for the registry. "This ability allows us to match two biologically related people. A match occurs only when an adopted person and the birth parent or a biological sibling voluntarily register."

Once a match is made, a letter is sent to each person with the results. But before information is exchanged, everyone is required to complete a one-hour counseling session that educates and prepares them for the reunion. DSHS will help people find a counselor.

"The counseling will help identify a support system as the reunion progresses, whether the husband, wife or other children will be supportive, what they see as the best and worst outcome from a reunion and what they want the outcome to be," Molina said.

After the counseling session, each person prepares a personal history with photographs such as baby pictures, school and family pho-

tos. The biographies are then shared with each participant at the same time that the identifying information is exchanged.

"These biographies establish a foundation for the reunion," said Molina. "People may see that they look like their birth mother or have the same nose or chin as a sibling."

Molina said that there are stages to a reunion, often beginning with a honeymoon phase. She said that people may need to set boundaries and outline how far they want the relationship to go. Some people, she said, may decide at some point to end the relationship.

"Adoption is a life-long process," Molina said. "Some people may want to know more as they grow older, often starting with wanting to know only medical history but later wanting contact."

Although the adoptive parents are not a part of the registry, adoptees are encouraged to share information with their adoptive families.

The DSHS registry, which began in 1984, has registered more than 8,100 people looking for one another, including adult adoptees, birth mothers, adult siblings and birth fathers. About three times as many adoptees are registered as are birth mothers. "We make about 20 to 30 matches a year," Molina said.

For a person to become a part of the Central Adoption Registry they must:

- Have been adopted in Texas or have been born in Texas and adopted in another state or
- Be the birth parent or sibling of an adoptee
- Be 18 years old or older and
- Provide proof of age and identity with a copy of a birth certificate and a valid government-issued photo ID.

To get an application, write the Central Adoption Registry (MC 1966), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347; call (512) 458-7388 or toll free (888) 963-7111, ext. 7388; or download an application online at www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/reqproc/adoptionregistry.shtm. Cost to be in the registry is \$30 but may be waived or reduced.

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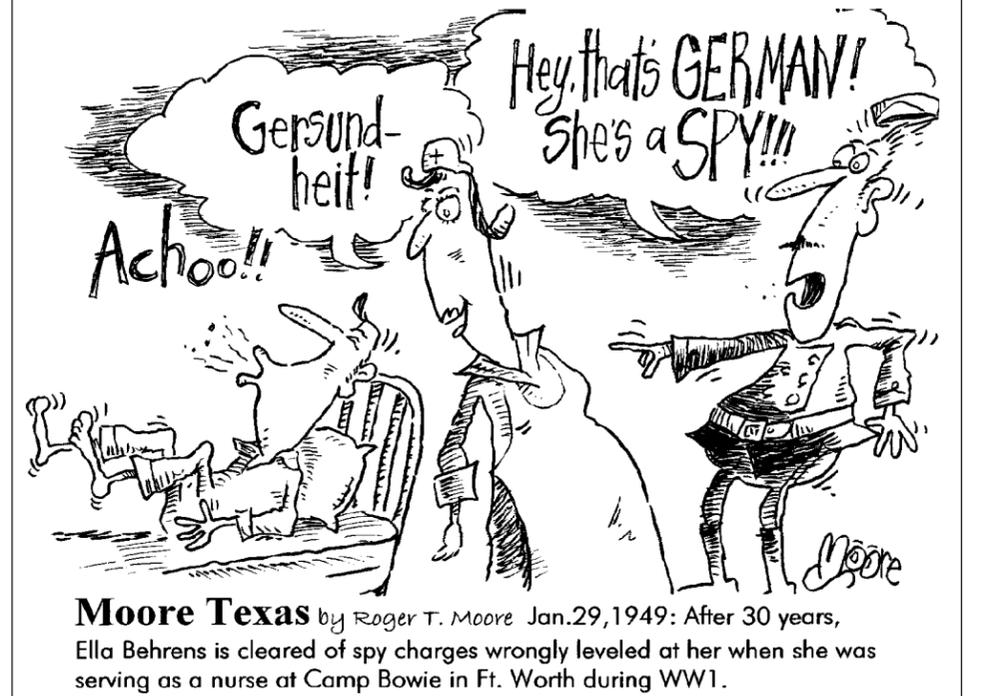
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Briefs

From Page 1

before asking for an apple turnover. As the suspect was paying for it, he jumped over the counter and pointed a knife with a silver grip at the employee. With his other hand, the suspect grabbed bills from the cash register, then jumped back over the counter and fled out the south exit door, running on foot behind the Lowe's parking lot. The suspect had a very distinctive appearance. He is described as an Hispanic male, approxi-

mately 20 years of age, 5-foot 10-inches tall, with a medium build. He was wearing a Pittsburgh Steelers beanie, with what appeared to be a hand-stenciled logo on the front. The suspect also had hand-drawn red and blue stars on his right cheek, perhaps intended to be the Pittsburgh Steelers logo. He spoke clear English. If you have any information at all about this case, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will be anonymous and you may earn a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

El Paso receives substance abuse grant

By Guadalupe Silva
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso's Adult Probation Department was advised this month that it was awarded an \$83,590 grant from Gov. Rick Perry's office to help fund its Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program.

The money is part of a \$1.6 million federal fund distributed through grants to eight substance abuse rehabilitation programs statewide. El Paso's program provides individual and group substance abuse treatment to adults in the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department system, also known as Adult Probation.

"These grants fund important programs that help those caught in a cycle of self-destructive substance abuse return to a path of leading healthy, productive lives," Gov. Perry said, in a press release from his Criminal Justice Division Office.

Stephen L. Enders, West Texas Community Supervision and Correc-

tions Department Director, described the grants as a source of funds to provide comprehensive drug rehabilitation to high-risk offenders. The residential treatment programs work to develop offenders' cognitive, behavioral, social and vocational skills to promote a stable livelihood and reduce recidivism.

"Texas has the largest prison system in the world," Enders said. "It also has a large population. There was a time when state officials believed the best way to control crime was through law-enforcement and a punitive solution. That came back to bite them, since most felons came out of jail and committed even more crimes because they became hardened to criminal activity."

It is better now, he said, adding that the state has realized that most crimes are committed directly or indirectly because of drugs or alcohol. It now has been proven that by providing these offenders with substance abuse treatment, rehabilitation services and residential centers if needed for months at a time, recidivism can be diminished.

The grant awarded by the Governor, however, is only a small part of the money now being allocated by the state to help the RSAT and other similar programs for adult offenders, Enders said. Adult Probation received an estimated \$5.7 million last year in grants for specialized programs designed to keep offenders out of jail and contributing to their community.

"More money, however, is needed to expand these programs," Enders said. "These programs have proven their effectiveness in getting these offenders off the recidivism lists and at a cost saving to taxpayers."

The West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department has several residential programs for the treatment of substance abuse, including the Community Intervention Center, Court Residential Treatment Center, Intermediate Sanction Facility and the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Center. These programs provide addiction education and counseling, cognitive and behavioral courses, parenting and other skills classes.

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Clint Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2007

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 10,976,162	\$ 2,211,225	\$ 1,836,997	\$ 332,054	\$ 15,356,438
5800 State Program Revenues	57,182,747	7,353,871	—	1,770,036	66,306,654
5900 Federal Program Revenues	4,321,059	—	—	6,515,788	10,836,847
5020 Total Revenues	72,479,968	9,565,096	1,836,997	8,617,878	92,499,939
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	36,164,464	—	29,304	6,575,602	42,769,370
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	1,052,427	—	—	57,625	1,110,052
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	263,119	—	—	308,133	571,252
0021 Instructional Leadership	1,085,982	—	—	753,080	1,839,062
0023 School Leadership	4,708,175	—	—	34,104	4,742,279
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,359,589	—	—	484,856	1,844,445
0032 Social Work Services	135,152	—	—	—	135,152
0033 Health Services	649,373	—	—	5,805	655,178
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	3,670,240	—	—	—	3,670,240
0035 Food Services	3,717,739	—	—	72,274	3,790,013
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	2,038,486	—	—	—	2,038,486
0041 General Administration	2,751,319	—	—	15,356	2,766,675
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	8,248,021	—	—	8,481	8,256,502
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	2,310,956	—	—	6,413	2,317,369
0053 Data Processing Services	1,327,213	—	—	—	1,327,213
0061 Community Services	110,662	—	—	87,643	198,305
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	—	5,225,000	—	—	5,225,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	—	4,227,528	—	—	4,227,528
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	346,607	804,506	—	1,151,113
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	358,658	—	2,634,429	—	2,993,087
6030 Total Expenditures	69,951,575	9,799,135	3,468,239	8,409,372	91,628,321
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,528,393	(234,039)	(1,631,242)	208,506	871,618
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7901 Refunding Bonds Issued	—	21,274,982	—	—	21,274,982
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	—	58,755,000	—	58,775,000
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	—	1,974,266	1,917,316	—	3,891,582
8949 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	—	(22,911,283)	—	—	(22,911,283)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	—	337,965	60,672,316	—	61,010,281
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	2,528,393	103,926	59,041,074	208,506	61,881,899
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	15,536,667	535,568	932,040	449,962	17,454,237
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 18,065,060	\$ 639,494	\$59,973,114	\$ 658,468	\$ 79,336,136

Canutillo ISD names ALS lead teacher

Magdalena Valdez, a third grade teacher in the two-way bilingual education program at Bill Childress Elementary School, has been named the Bilingual Education Title III lead teacher for the Academic Language Services (ALS)



M. Valdez

Department in the Canutillo Independent School District. As ALS lead teacher, Valdez will assist the ALS director with record keeping of federal funds under the NCLB Title III grant and will provide training for bilingual education teachers at all grade levels.

"I want to help instill hope not only in second language learners but also in teachers, so that they may have the courage and assertiveness to do the right thing for English Language learners, as well as all students," said Valdez.

Valdez has been a bilingual education teacher for 18 years; the past ten years have been with Canutillo ISD. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of New Mexico, and she has earned two masters' degrees- one in Bilingual Special Education from New Mexico State University (NMSU) and the other in Curriculum and Instruction in Bilingual Education from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

In 2006, Valdez was named the El Paso area Bilingual Teacher of the Year by the BEEMS (Bilingual Education with Emphasis in Math & Science) conference and by the Southwest Association of Bilingual Educators (SWABE). She was also the runner-up in the Texas Association of Bilingual Educators (TABE) Teacher of the Year program.

"Bilingual educators can make a positive impact on immigrant children who come to this country and are at an academic disadvantage at times because of the gaps in the formative learning experiences of these children," Valdez added.

Canutillo teacher advocates educational technologies

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Judith Valle, advanced academics teacher at Canutillo Elementary School (CES), is helping improve student achievement through the integration of educational technologies statewide as a member of the Texas Discovery Educator Network Leadership Council.

Discovery Educator Network Leadership Councils support teachers integrating educational technologies into instruction with training events, webinars, and regular communications on emerging technologies and education innovations.

“Discovery Education appreciates Judith for her leadership and hard work on the Texas Discovery Educator Network Leadership Council,” said Scott Kinney, Discovery Education Vice President of Outreach and Professional Development. “In schools across the state, pressure is building for educators to grow the critical thinking and problem solving skills today’s students need to compete in a 21st century global workforce. Judith recognizes this trend and encourages teachers as they use educational technologies to improve student achievement.”

Valle has attended several technology training events including two regional institutes and one national institute in Maryland. She will be presenting at two upcoming state conferences, including the Texas Computer Education Association’s Annual Convention and the Texas Assistive Technology Network’s Regional Conference.

Valle delivers instruction based on the Gifted and Talented Performance Standards for students in grades K-5 at CES. Students who participate in this program demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication, and receive one hour of advanced instruction each day with Valle. She also helps teachers with technology, especially in the area of video production.

“In the digital world we live in, students need to learn to use the tools that are essential to everyday life and workplace productivity,” said Valle. “We need our students to be proficient in information and communication technologies so they will be successful in the 21st century.”

The Discovery Educator Network is a global community of educators who are excited by the power of digital media and want to collaborate and share resources with other educators. There are more than 26,000 active Discovery Educators across the world providing professional development to over 400,000 teachers.

To learn more about the Discovery Educator Network, visit <http://community.discoveryeducation.com>.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD
Judith Valle

Enders picked to head probation committee

By Guadalupe Silva
Special to the Courier

El Paso’s Adult Probation Department, has nearly 18,000 direct and indirect cases under its supervision. Statewide Texas has 503,145 offenders on probation.

At the state level, the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation), is represented by the Probation Advisory Committee (PAC), a 12-member organization that is an arm of the Texas Judicial Advisory Council (JAC). Both agencies respond directly to the state governing agency dealing with corrections, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The Probation Advisory Committee has elected El Paso’s Adult Probation Director Stephen L. Enders, a 35-year-veteran in the field, as chairman of the organization that represents 122 probation departments in the state. He was selected by his peers, all probation directors in their regions. The PAC serves as a forum for information and communication between the adult probation system

and the state agency related to the supervision of offenders.

Enders, who will serve a two-year-term as chairman, explained that the committee meets quarterly to discuss solutions to problems that affect all probation departments in the state and to develop ideas to improve services. These are the ideas and input the Texas Department of Criminal Justice will take next year to the Legislature, he said.

“Our goal as probation departments is to protect the safety and security of our communities, realizing that the best way to achieve this is by rehabilitating the offenders so they can become productive citizens,” Enders said. He described El Paso’s adult probation department as the second largest geographically in Texas — it includes Hudspeth and Culberson Counties — and is the sixth largest in offender population.

The West Texas CSCD has about 135 Community Supervision Officers.

“At this time, our big issue is the recruitment of qualified staff,” he said, explaining that it is critical to improve the salaries and benefits received by department personnel. “They have a difficult job, with each officer more often than not carrying case loads of more than 100 offenders. Officer salaries around the state are below the norm for the rest of the country.”

Another issue that was discussed during this month’s meeting, Enders said was the development of better programs to help in the rehabilitation of probationers. The programs that exist are good but more still needs to be done to assure public safety.

Enders, who has been a member of the PAC four years, the first two as its vice-chair, said the committee is a major contributor to the improvement of the state’s judicial system.



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Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,475,130	\$ 194,324	\$ 461,836	\$ 11	\$ 3,131,301
5800 State Program Revenues	16,176,574	1,112,948	—	734,292	18,023,814
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,637,870	—	—	3,553,658	5,191,528
5020 Total Revenues	20,289,574	1,307,272	461,836	4,287,961	26,346,643
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	10,861,102	—	—	3,336,286	14,197,388
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	320,573	—	—	7,378	327,951
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	66,471	—	—	88,103	154,574
0021 Instructional Leadership	283,816	—	—	319,050	602,866
0023 School Leadership	1,200,143	—	—	133,887	1,334,030
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	415,989	—	—	74,274	490,263
0032 Social Work Services	53,863	—	—	108,345	162,208
0033 Health Services	290,185	—	—	70,108	360,293
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	425,454	—	—	—	425,454
0035 Food Services	1,507,327	—	—	26,214	1,533,541
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	622,766	—	—	812	623,578
0041 General Administration	944,044	—	—	73,614	1,017,658
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	2,510,107	—	—	4,023	2,514,130
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	286,317	—	—	—	286,317
0053 Data Processing Services	137,741	—	—	1,014	138,755
0061 Community Services	64,420	—	—	44,842	109,262
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	—	475,000	—	—	475,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	—	737,020	—	—	737,020
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	139,110	130,500	—	269,610
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	104,717	—	2,316,140	—	2,420,857
6030 Total Expenditures	20,095,035	1,351,130	2,446,640	4,287,950	28,180,755
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	194,539	(43,858)	(1,984,804)	11	(1,834,112)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7901 Refunding Bonds Issued	—	8,030,000	—	—	8,030,000
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	—	10,000,000	—	10,000,000
7915 Transfers In	—	—	1,344,627	—	1,344,627
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	—	69,893	—	—	69,893
8911 Transfers Out	(1,344,627)	—	—	—	(1,344,627)
8949 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	—	(8,321,083)	—	—	(8,321,083)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(1,344,627)	(221,190)	11,344,627	—	9,778,810
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,150,088)	(265,048)	9,359,823	11	7,944,698
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	8,090,147	274,379	—	16,556	8,381,082
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 6,940,059	\$ 9,331	\$ 9,359,823	\$ 16,567	\$ 16,325,780

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



King of the road no more

By Don Flood

Recently, General Motors announced it is developing a "driverless" car, which it hopes to put on the road in 10 years.

(Unfortunately, since the car is driverless, GM has no idea where it will be going or if it will ever come back.)

I'm looking forward to it. Ten years from now, during Michelle Obama's first term as president, I'll be able to write a column saying what a terrible idea this is.

But why wait? First, we already have "driverless" cars. You take the people who are yakking on the cell phone, applying makeup, shaving, reading, doing their taxes, watching TV, whatever, and it's clear these cars are pretty much driving themselves.

Second, there's no need. Computers couldn't possibly drive as well as people because we are all incredibly skilled drivers.

Polls prove it. Virtually everybody believes they're a "better than average," with most men figuring they could show up Jeff Gordon while using only their feet.

Driverless cars will also have some unintended results:

- They'll cut way down on family communication: One of the joys of vacations is determining who got the family lost.

Is it the driver, who's trying his best to watch the cars on the road, or the person riding shotgun, who should have more time to watch for signs?

With computers in charge — and presumably perfect — this special opportunity for spousal communication will become nothing more than a fond memory.

- On a long drive, whose job is it going to be to turn around and shout, "If I have to stop this

car, you're all going to be spanked?"

The computer? I don't think so, unless GM is successful at developing a robot that tenses up during long drives and is capable of delivering corporal punishment.

- Men will also lose their chief icebreaker at weddings and family gatherings, what route they took to get there:

"I came down the Outer Wazoo Turnpike to the Monkey Junction Bypass, took a short cut up the Atlantic City boardwalk for 17 blocks, and then headed west on Route 66 out to the Tallahassee Bridge, where I took the first exit for Space Mountain. Took about three and a half hours."

Not that anybody's listening — they're waiting for a break in the conversation so they can get their drink "refreshed" — but it allows men to open up for deeper, more personal conversations about their fantasy football team.

And if computer-programmed cars don't tailgate and cut off other cars, what's going to happen to the proud tradition of cursing and making rude hand gestures at other drivers?

It'll become just another lost American art, a likely subject for a Ken Burns PBS special.

Also at risk for obsolescence are the many highly skilled backseat drivers, who have played such a crucial role in our transportation system.

Finally, men will also lose the sense of power and authority that comes with being the driver.

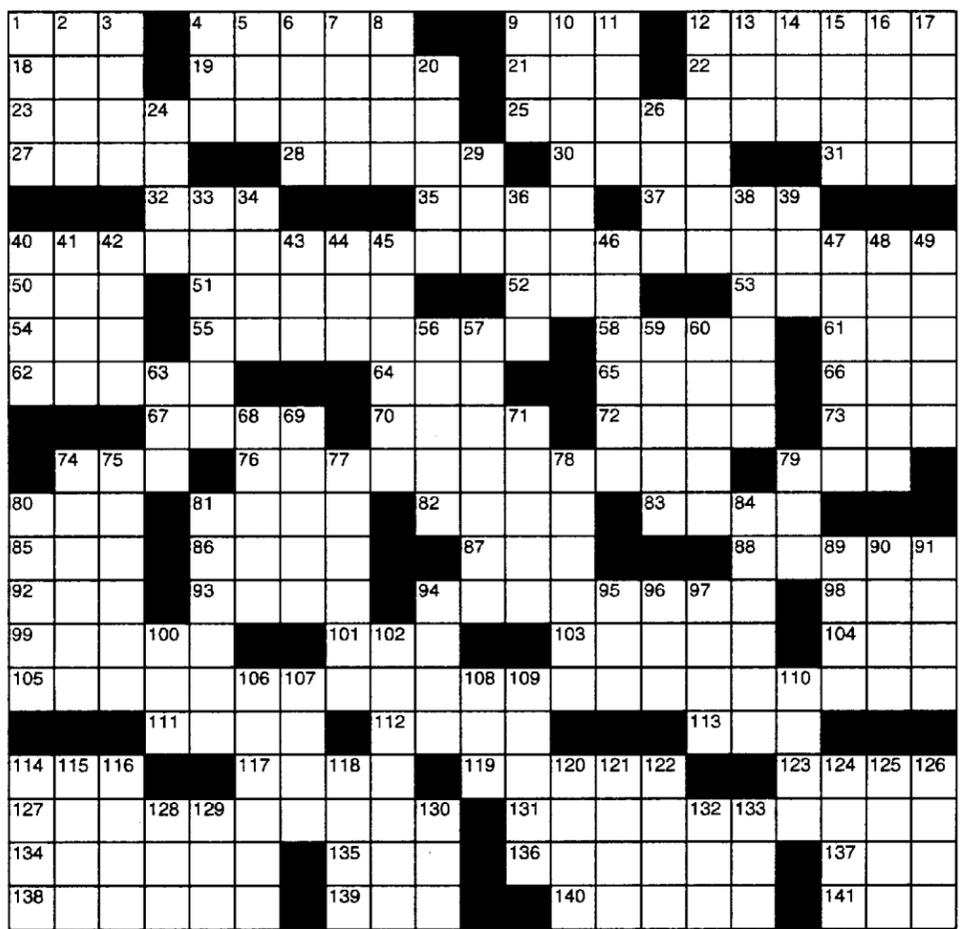
When I'm driving, I always get to choose which radio station we listen to. Well, at least some of the time.

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King Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| STEP SAVER | 65 Gen. Robt. _ | 127 Simple, to | 29 Eggy beverage | 89 Cry of surprise |
| ACROSS | 66 Skater Midori | Sherlock | 33 One of the | 90 Self starter? |
| 1 Costa del _ | 67 Exchange | 131 Speaker of the | Jacksons | 91 Around the corner |
| 4 Shed | 70 Camping | remark | 34 Apollo's | 94 "Martha the |
| 9 Giant legend | equipment | 134 Acid neutralizer | instrument | Mouth" |
| 12 European capital | 72 A bad figure? | 135 Tell it like it isn't | 36 In the thick of | 95 _ Gatos, CA |
| 18 Important numero | 73 Fabric suffix | 136 Provokes | 38 TV's "The | 96 Catchall abbr. |
| 19 First name in | 74 Mayberry aunt | 137 A mean Amin | Courtship of _ Father" | 97 Forest father |
| aviation | 76 Part 3 of remark | 138 Micawber | 39 Nutritional abbr. | 100 Designer Lapidus |
| 21 Word with jacket | 79 Misjudge | portrayer | 40 Gravy vessel | 102 "Alice's |
| or soup | 80 Rocky hill | 139 Author Wallace | 41 Forearm bone | Restaurant" star |
| 22 January stoat | 81 Pianist Templeton | 140 Indian state | 42 Itches | 106 Court sport |
| 23 Start of a remark | 82 Swing around | 141 Damone or Dana | 43 Middle of a game? | 107 Leave out |
| by 131 Across | 83 Periodic table info | | 44 Hasten | 108 Is for two |
| 25 Jurassic giant | 85 "My _ True Love" | DOWN | 45 Entomologist's | 109 Sapporo spy |
| 27 Powerful beasts | (54 song) | 1 Rotund wrestling? | concern | 110 "Time's Arrow" |
| 28 Fancy fabric | 86 Tabula - | 2 Black | 46 Defies a dictator | author |
| 30 Goes downhill | 87 D-Day craft | 3 Chris of The Pet | 47 More obsequious | 114 Table extender |
| fast? | 88 Herbert Hoover, | Shop Boys | 48 Susann or | 115 "_ Need" ('67 |
| 31 Summer hrs. | for one | 4 Brit. fliers | Steinbeck | song) |
| 32 Neighbor of Nev. | 92 Cookbook phrase | 5 Rob Roy's uncle | 49 Cordage material | 116 Pedigreed pooch |
| 35 Barnyard butter | 93 "Suspect" star | 6 Basilica features | 56 Deceives | 118 Vex |
| 37 When pigs fly, to | 94 Agitated | 7 Director Kazan | 57 Actress Parsons | 120 Geraldine |
| Tennyson | 98 Cry's partner | 8 Cheerful song | 59 "Hi, Ho!" | Chaplin's mom |
| 40 Part 2 of remark | 99 Actress Berger | 9 _ -Locka, FL | 60 Adjust a timer | 121 Mr. Diamond |
| 50 Flamenco | 101 Palindromic title | 10 '62 Tornadoes hit | 63 Poetic monogram | 122 Affirmative votes |
| dancer's shout | 103 Lenya or Lehmann | 11 It may be small | 68 Islamic deity | 124 Hood's weapon |
| 51 Use a colander | 104 _ premium | 12 Tenant | 69 Bel _ | 125 City near Stockton |
| 52 Rage | 105 End of remark | 13 Lyricist Gershwin | 71 Cubbins' creator | 126 Really big |
| 53 Supermarket | 111 Judge | 14 Dallas coll. | 74 Alley cat? | 128 Bad beginning |
| section | 112 Copley or Hatcher | 15 Roc or robin | 75 Verdi hero | 129 Antiquity, in |
| 54 Novelist Radcliffe | 113 Room for | 16 Burden | 77 Amulet motif | antiquity |
| 55 Like some light | improvement? | 17 Heron's home | 78 Fish container? | 130 Evergreen tree |
| fixtures | 114 Drink like a | 20 Do a mechanic's | 79 WWII area | 132 Lingerie item |
| 58 Adriatic seaport | dachshund | job | 80 It may be eaten or | 133 The end? |
| 61 Capp's "_ Abner" | 117 Imminent | 24 Machu Picchu | drunk | |
| 62 Sample the souffle | 119 "_ Gay" | native | 81 Penny _ | |
| 64 Minnesota twins? | 123 Presque _ ME | 26 Sty cry | 84 With prudence | |

Answer Page 6



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: My wife worked for a number of years, but became a full-time homemaker after our children were born. We noticed in her most recent Social Security Statement that she is only three work credits shy of qualifying for Social Security retirement benefits. Can we voluntarily contribute money directly to Social Security so that she will have retirement benefits coverage?

A: No. People cannot get additional Social Security credits by voluntarily contributing money directly to Social Security. They can earn credits only by working in a job or business covered under Social Security. However, even if your wife does not have her own Social Security coverage she may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits based on your work record. For more information, visit the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement. Or call Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the publication, Retirement Benefits.

Q: What is the absolute earliest age that a person can retire under Social Security?

A: An eligible worker may start receiving Social Security retirement benefits as early as age 62. However, if you start your benefits early, they are permanently reduced for each month before your full retirement age. For example, if your full retirement age is 66 and you sign up for Social Security when you're age 62, you will only receive 75 percent of your full retirement benefit. For more information about the relationship between age and benefit

payment amounts, you can visit the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement. Or you can call Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the publication, Retirement Benefits.

Q: My brother has become very ill and I am helping him get the information and documents needed to apply for Social Security disability benefits. Will Social Security accept photocopies instead of original documents as evidence when he applies for benefits?

A: Social Security will accept photocopies of W-2 forms, self-employment tax returns or medical documents, but must see the originals of almost all other documents. If all needed documents are not available, do not delay filing for benefits. Social Security will work with your brother to help get them. For more information, visit the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability. Check out the Disability Starter Kit — the perfect place to start getting ready to apply. Or call Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the publication, Disability Benefits as well as our Disability Starter Kit.

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

Government offers helpful moving package

New year, new home? You're not alone. More than 40 million Americans move each year for personal reasons and career opportunities.

Although exciting, moving to a new location can be stressful, especially when you're up to your elbows in cardboard and you can't find the coffee pot. That's why the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and MetLife Consumer Education Center have put together the free Moving 101 package. It's filled with helpful hints on how to find and choose the right mover.

Start by organizing and paring down your possessions as soon as you can. Careful organization can help keep your costs and stress level down. Next, decide if you want to handle your own move or hire a moving company. This decision will most likely be based on cost, how much "stuff" you have, and how far you have to move it.

If you decide to hire professionals, it's a good idea to shop around and ask relatives, neighbors, and friends for recommendations. During your search, make sure you're on the lookout for rogue movers. Use the "red flags" list in the Moving 101 package for tips on how to spot them. After you've found at least three possible movers, get written estimates from each about eight weeks before your move. The estimate should clearly state all charges for services the mover will perform, including how much it will cost to pack and move your belongings.

Once you choose a mover, check their registration at www.protectyourmove.gov, along with their complaint history at your local Better Business Bureau. Your mover should provide you with an

order for service, bill of lading, and inventory list. But before you sign any documents, make sure you understand what is and isn't insured by your mover. Learn about the different liability options (also known as valuation coverage) in this informative package. And don't forget your homeowners' insurance policy may already cover your possessions, or you can always opt to purchase third-party insurance.

Don't let movin' out stress you out. Send for your free package

of publications today. There are three ways to get your Moving 101 package:

- Send your name and address to Moving 101, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.
- Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n73moving101.htm to place your order online or to read or print these and hundreds of other Federal publications for free.
- Call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time, and ask for Moving 101.

Laign

From Page 1

President Charles E. Garcia. "SISD's Special Education Department has produced incredible results with these students thanks to Tom Laign's dedication."

Susan Kelch, Director of Special Education for Socorro ISD, nominated Laign because of his work on expanding the opportunities available to students with disabilities.

"He has brought many great and novel ideas to the department such as developing the Achievement Scholarship which is given annually to a student with disabilities who will attend college or technical school. He also designed the MAGIC program that is used in our district and other neighboring districts to write individual plans for students," said Kelch. "With Mr. Laign's guidance, our district has continued to lead the way in an effort to ensure that our students become useful citizens upon graduation."

Cheerleaders

From Page 6

criteria. "They worked very hard and learned a whole new routine before going to San Antonio to meet up with the other cheerleaders. It was a great opportunity to show the talent we have at Clint Junior High and Clint ISD," said

Nikki Boutwell, Clint Junior High Cheer Coach.

"It was a dream come true to be lucky enough to be chosen from this area to perform for this NBA team and knowing it was televised thrills me more," said Addy Garcia. Garcia is also a member of the Volleyball and Softball teams at Clint Junior High. Armstrong is a member of the Basketball team at Clint Junior High.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

Answer Page 6
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UTEP vs. Tulane Basketball

Men's

Wednesday, February 6, 2008
 Don Haskins Center @ 7:05 PM

Get Your Orange On!



for more info 747.6065