



NEWSBRIEFS

Braceros exhibit

The life experiences of millions of Mexican migrant workers who participated in the Bracero Program from 1942 to 1964 will be on display Jan. 24 through Apr. 12 at the Centennial Museum. The opening reception will be on Thursday, Feb. 7, from 5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. The exhibit, 'Braceros Memories,' will feature more than 30 photographs with remarks from the Mexican agricultural workers about becoming braceros and the hardships they endured. The public can also listen to audio recordings of interviews with several former braceros. The exhibit is part of the Bracero History Archive, a collection of oral histories and artifacts, to support researchers, students, and others interested in the Bracero Program learn more about the guest worker initiative. The archive is a partnership between UTEP, George Mason University's Center for History and New Media, the National Museum of American History, and Brown University. In 2010, the exhibit will be part of a traveling exhibit for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. For more information about the Bracero History Archive, visit www.braceroarchive.org.

UTEP climbs poll

After securing two more wins this past weekend, the UTEP women's basketball team has climbed to a tie for 26th in the Associated Press top-25 poll released on Monday. The Miners, who were 29th last week with 33 points, more than doubled that total by registering 80 points to elevate three spots. A first-place vote in the poll awards a team 25 points, which gives points all the way down to one point for a 25th-place vote. The poll is comprised of AP writers from across the country. The Miners are 17-2 on the year, including a perfect 8-0 in Conference USA play. UTEP has won a school-record-setting 13 straight games. It marks the third straight week that the Orange and Blue has garnered recognition in the AP poll, and it is the fourth time overall in program history that UTEP has achieved the feat. The Miners picked up three points during the week of Jan. 8, 2007.

Osteoarthritis

The idea of making funeral arrangements in advance is most likely something you don't want to think about. But with the costs of a traditional funeral, including a casket and vault, running more than \$6,000, you may want to consider pre-need planning. It allows you not only to designate your funeral preferences but also to compare the prices offered by several funeral providers. Find out more with *Funerals: A Consumer Guide* from the Federal Trade Commission. This informative publication costs \$1.00. For your copy, send your name, address, and a check or money order for \$1.00 to the Federal

See BRIEFS, Page 5

One thing you can still get for a quarter is five nickels.

— Quips & Quotes

Franco stays busy guiding fast paced Anthony growth

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — Anthony regards itself as the "Gateway to Texas." As its durable mayor since 1993, Art Franco is therefore its gatekeeper for this far west portal into the Lone Star state.

The "G" word comes up frequently on a sometimes bumpy ride as Franco wends his way throughout his gateway town, slipping in and out of Anthony, N.M., on paved and unpaved roads.

That "G" word is growth," a dynamic, ongoing growth that isn't finished, the mayor points out. Franco proudly points out new commercial construction off of Doniphan Drive and residential developments that are sprouting up along both sides of Wildcat Drive/Spur 6 east of the Town Hall and Anthony High School.



Art Franco

Foxworth-Galbraith has a major manufacturing complex under construction. It will be manufacturing commercial trusses and other building-related supplies. It is located off Doniphan on Rainbow Lakes Road. Franco says it is a \$9 million investment in the community that will bring in "150 well-paying jobs to the community."

Franco noted, during the Jan. 21 town tour, that the company hoped to start training new employees soon.

Desert Oaks subdivision under development with \$200,000 homes. The Anthony Town Council gave approval to the subdivision at its Jan. 8 meeting. However, its approval is tied to approval of the final construction plat.

Wildcat subdivision with homes in the \$140,000 range.

In addition to the present commercial

See ANTHONY, Page 4

Serna counselor named National Counselor of the Year

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Ernesto Serna School Counselor Tammi Mackeben has been named the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) 2008 School Counselor of the Year. Mackeben had been selected as one of 10 national finalists for the award in Fall of 2007. She was selected based on the comprehensive school counseling program at Serna which is a Pre-K-8 school with more than 600 students. Mackeben will be recognized at a black-tie award ceremony in Washington, DC on February 1.

"We are extremely lucky to have Tammi in Socorro ISD. To achieve national recognition is big honor for her, our community and for our District," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "She is extremely passionate about what she does and you can see that reflected in our students at Serna, with their parents and in this community."

American School Counselor Association Executive Director surprised Mackeben with the award during school presentation in December which was videotaped to show during the Washington ceremony. Students, staff and administrators were asked to keep the award under wraps until the national organization made the official announcement.

"Our goal is to select someone who embodies all the principals of a comprehensive school counseling program and who is an advocate for children," said Wong. "She stood out for the exemplary program that helps every child at Serna. She is preparing these students for a successful life after school."

"I'm shocked and speechless," said Mackeben after receiving the award. "I could not have this honor without having the best students and the best teachers in the world."

"It's an awesome recognition for her, our school and the Socorro Independent School

District," said Serna Principal Ricardo Damian. "She is a well-deserving of this award. We are very proud of all her efforts."

The School Counselor of the Year contest was open to all 100,000 members of the school counseling profession. The top 10 school counselors were nominated by their peers and administrators and judged by a select panel of industry experts. The candidates were judged on several criteria including: creative school counseling innovations, effective counseling programs, leadership skills and their contribution to student advancement.

"This is the second year in a row we have a counselor from Socorro ISD receiving a national award from ASCA," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. "This is another example of the high caliber of our Guidance and Counseling Programs District wide. Our counselors and schools have received several awards."

"This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Tammi, what she is doing at Serna and the counseling program at Socorro ISD," said Hilda Lopez, Socorro ISD Director of Counseling and Guidance. "She is a role model for our district."

Tammi is also a recipient of the CREST award which stands for Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas and designed to recognize outstanding school



Tammi Mackeben

See COUNSELOR, Page 4

IRS warns of new scams

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service is warning taxpayers to beware of several current e-mail and telephone scams that use the IRS name as a lure. The IRS expects such scams to continue through the end of tax return filing season and beyond.

The IRS cautions taxpayers to be on the lookout for scams involving proposed advance payment checks. Although the government has not yet enacted an economic stimulus package in which the IRS would provide advance payments, known informally as rebates to many Americans, a scam which uses the proposed rebates as bait has already cropped up.

The goal of the scams is to trick people into revealing personal and financial information, such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers, which the scammers can use to commit identity theft.

Typically, identity thieves use a victim's personal and financial data to empty the victim's financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name, file fraudulent tax returns or even commit crimes. Most of these fraudulent activities can be committed electronically from a remote location, including overseas. Committing these activities in cyberspace allows scamsters to act quickly and cover their tracks before the victim becomes aware of the theft.

People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years — and their hard-earned money — cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their reputations and credit records. In the meantime, victims may lose job opportunities, may be refused loans, education, housing or cars, or even get arrested for crimes they didn't commit.

The most recent scams brought to IRS attention are described below.

Rebate phone call

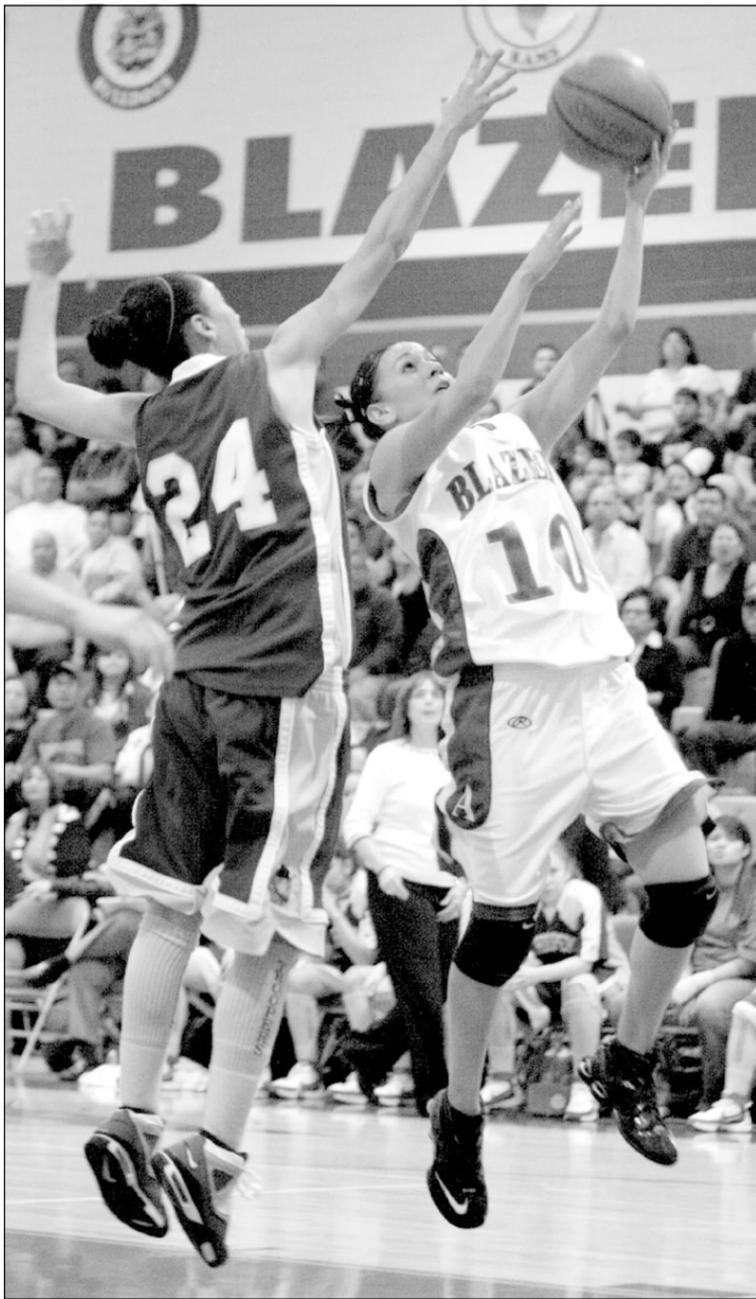
At least one scheme using the word "rebate" as part of the lure has been identified. In that scam, consumers receive a phone call from someone identifying himself as an IRS employee. The caller tells the targeted victim that he is eligible for a sizable rebate for filing his taxes early. The caller then states that he needs the target's bank account information for the direct deposit of the rebate. If the target refuses, he is told that he cannot receive the rebate.

This phone call is a scam. No legislation has yet been enacted that would allow the IRS to provide advance payments to taxpayers or that determines the details of those payments. Moreover, the IRS does not force taxpayers to use direct deposit. Those who opt for direct deposit do so by completing the appropriate section of their tax return, with bank routing and account information, when they file; the IRS does not gather the information by telephone.

Refund e-mail

The IRS has seen several variations of a refund-related bogus e-mail which falsely claims to come from the IRS, tells the recipient that he or she is eligible for a tax refund for a specific amount, and instructs the

See SCAMS, Page 4



— Photos by Stacy Kendrick / SISD

Americas guard Tammy Acosta goes for the hoop against Eastwood.

Lady Trailblazers notch fourth straight basketball title

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

For the past four years, the District 1-5A Girls Basketball title has had one home, Americas High School. In addition to racking up their fourth consecutive title, the Americas Trailblazer Girls Basketball Team has posted an impressive record of 27-1 overall and has gone undefeated in district play. Coached by Paul Baca, the 10-member team knows what it takes to win.

“We have good chemistry. We work well with each other and get along. It’s like having another family,” said Americas senior and four-

year starter Melody Borjas.

“Off the court, they are good friends and it reflects on the court,” said Coach Baca who is in his sixth year of coaching the Varsity team.

“It’s a great accomplishment for Coach Baca, the team and Americas High School,” said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. “Their hard work in the classroom and on the court is inspiration for all our students.”

The 17-year-old Borjas has been playing with the Americas team since her freshman year and credits her brothers for instilling her passion for the game. Joining Borjas as a four-year Varsity team member is Tammy Acosta who began playing when she was 6 years old.

“This is a dream come true for me,” said Acosta who plays guard. “This was our goal since our freshman year. It’s very satisfying to get that fourth title.”

The Trailblazers locked in an unprecedented fourth title after beating Eastwood High School 62 to 43. A game in which Coach Baca felt the team showed their drive and talent.

“I think that game was the best complete game we played. The girls were very motivated and inspired. For us, the game was fun but it was intense,” said Baca

Coming up for the Trailblazers is making the bi-district, area

See TRAILBLAZERS, Page 5



COMING THROUGH — Americas player, #12, Teisha King slices through Eastwood defenders for a lay-up.

One perspective

By Francis Shrum



One perspective will return next week.



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

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2008 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

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

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$20 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$35. Delivery via 1st class mail.

MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

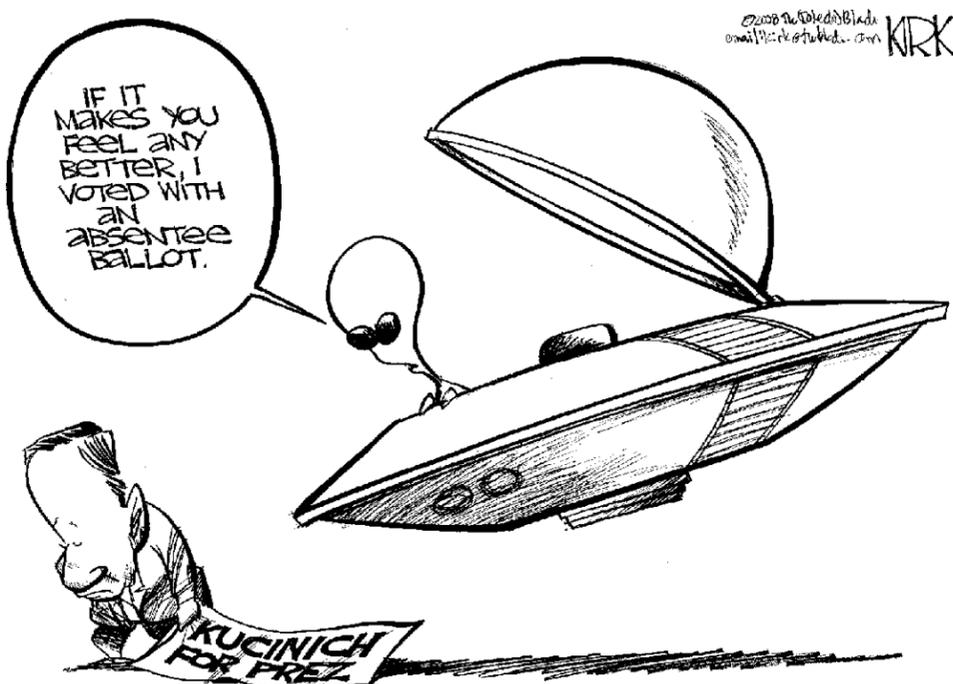
Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtcc@wtccourier.com
Website: wtccourier.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum
Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Jan Engels

Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.



Member Texas Community Newspaper Association



Low-income families should dig for bigger tax refund

By Kathleen Phillips
Special to the Courier

COLLEGE STATION — A check for almost \$5,000 could be coming to certain low-income families this tax season, but many eligible people may never realize this opportunity, financial experts say.

“People who didn’t earn enough to owe any taxes may choose not to file,” said Dr. Joyce Cavanagh, Texas AgriLife Extension Service family economics specialist. “But if these people file anyway, they may be eligible for an Earned Income Tax Credit of up to \$4,716.”

Likewise, some people just scratch the surface of a tax return when doing their own calculations, not realizing that higher refunds are possible for those who dig deep into the oft-confusing tax code, she said.

The Earned Income Tax Credit was created by Congress in 1975 to help reduce poverty, and currently is available for households with incomes up to \$38,000, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Cavanagh said in Texas last tax year, about \$4.8 billion in Earned Income Tax Credit went to more than 2 million families. The total nationwide was more than \$40 billion.

“Still, there are about 15 percent of the eligible families who don’t receive this credit because they don’t file a tax return,” she said. “For a lot of them, the tax system is intimidating, and people just don’t know how to figure it out.”

But free help is available in many communities through April 15 — the tax filing deadline, according to Nancy Granovsky, AgriLife Extension family economist and financial plan-

ner. She noted programs such as VITA — the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance — and AARP Tax-Aide programs, both of which use trained, certified tax preparers to help people file.

“These free programs can help put significant incomes back into the household,” Granovsky said. “They are worthy efforts that put money back into pockets and help state and national economies.”

In addition to preparing a tax return, volunteers may be able to help most people by filing electronically — a method both Granovsky and Cavanagh recommend.

“People who are expecting a big refund may rush to file because they need the money,” Cavanagh said. “By filing electronically through these volunteer programs, a person with a checking or savings account can have the refund deposited directly into their bank account and have it in less than two weeks.”

Granovsky cautioned that some businesses offering advances on refunds are actually making loans with high interest rates. It may make more sense to simply wait for money to be put into one’s bank account and not be faced with owing interest or paying fees, she explained.

She said splitting one’s refund — spending part and saving the rest — could be a big boost for personal finances.

To locate free tax preparation assistance, call 800-829-1040 to find out about VITA; and 800-829-1040

for Tax Counseling for the Elderly. The AARP Tax-Aide website, with a locator link, is <http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide/>. Go to <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html> for the IRS website about free preparation.

The Internal Revenue Service reminds all who seek free tax-preparation assistance to bring the following items to a meeting with volunteer preparers:

- Proof of identification;
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration;
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents;
- Current year’s tax package, if you received one;
- Wage and earning statements, forms W-2, W-2G and 1099-R, from all employers;
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (1099);
- A copy of last year’s federal and state returns, if available;
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit;
- Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider’s tax identifying number, the provider’s Social Security number or the provider’s business Employer Identification Number; and
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

**To Advertise
Call 852-3235**

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



To Advertise, Call 852-3235

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



Anthony

From Page 1

development near the interstate, Franco expects a new KFC and Taco Bell. Also, a Walgreens will be going in near the Big 8 supermarket.

The elevated Anthony Heights subdivision with substantial development located east of I-10 and north of the Flying J complex. Many homes are completed and occupied in Anthony Heights. "It's a whole new little city," he adds.

"It (the growth) is kind of scary," admits Franco who sees 600-700 new homes in the next five years.

Confidently, he adds, "I think we can handle it. I'm real happy with things."

Franco does not overlook expansion of infrastructure to support the commercial and residential growth spurt. He has a \$1 million grant from the Texas Capital Fund for infrastructure development. It would provide for future expansion of water and sewer facilities.

According to the agenda for the Jan. 8 meeting, the town is asking the council to consider adding more lanes to Antonio and Franklin streets "to eliminate traffic congestion."

Echoing the growth in Anthony is David Etzold, an El Paso commercial real estate developer who spoke at a Jan. 8 Town Council meeting regarding a proposed land with the town.

"You are on the verge of remark-

able growth in the next two or three years," Etzold said.

At its Jan. 8 meeting, the Town Council approved a preliminary plat of a W.D. Marash survey (Schier property). This paves the way for the property exchange in which Anthony will receive 6.59 acres of land from the developer for 1.8 acres presently owned by the town.

Representing the developer of a proposed Fern Glade subdivision, Etzold emphasized that the apartment complex that would be going up on the 1.8 acres would not be subsidized housing, but rather at market rate. (The mayor terms them "nice" apartments.)

Franco plans call for development of the 6.59 acres north of Franklin near the state line as part of a 43-acre municipal park. It would be a greenbelt area, comprised of open spaces and walking trails and rest areas that would include solar lighting. It will be developed with a \$800,000 grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The mayor hopes to open the park in 2009.

In that same area, the mayor has other plans for the construction of a new town hall on three-quarters of an acre of land across the street from the Miramontes Memorial Park. It would be a \$750,000-\$1 million complex that would include police and administrative offices. The proposed size is 8,000-8,500 square feet. He is talking with the fire department chief in Vinton at the possibility of

also providing fire station facilities in conjunction with the new town hall

"It would be a building that is practical and provides a good atmosphere for its employees," he said. He hopes to have things in place by end of this year.

Funding would be coming through the Rural Development Housing and Community Facilities program.

Counselor

From Page 1

counseling programs throughout the state. With her direction, Serna also received the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counselor Association. This designation shows the school's commitment to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program.

"Whether it's in social development or taking on bullying issues, I'm here to help each and every student," said Mackeben.

ASCA supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, personal/social and career development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

LOW INCOME Houses For Sale

Carlos E. Aguilar
Broker
(915) 269-1251

- No Down
- Low Interest
- Financing Available

Houses available in Horizon, San Elizario and Fabens



NATIONAL SELF STORAGE

MONTHLY SPECIALS POST OFFICE INSIDE

Call Blanca or Gina

490 N. Kenazo (915) 852-8300
Horizon City, TX (Fax) 852-8150

Hours: Mon. to Fri., 9AM - 6PM • Sat., 9AM - 4PM

- Master Licensed Plumber #M18624
- Sewer and Drain Cleaning
- Bonded and Insured
- Faucet and Sprinkler Repair
- Senior Citizens Discount
- Appliance Installation
- Evaporative Cooler Service

Horizon Plumbing
852-1079



Open 7AM - 8PM Daily

Low Prices and Daily Specials

1330 Fabens St. • Fabens, TX • 764-2215 or 851-3149

"Family Owned and Operated"



Scams

From Page 1

recipient to click on a link in the e-mail to access a refund claim form. The form asks the recipient to enter personal information that the scamsters can then use to access the e-mail recipient's bank or credit card account.

In a new wrinkle, the current version of the refund scam includes two paragraphs that appear to be directed toward tax-exempt organizations that distribute funds to other organizations or individuals. The e-mail contains the name and supposed signature of the Director of the IRS's Exempt Organizations business division.

This e-mail is a phony. The IRS does not send unsolicited e-mail about tax account matters to individual, business, tax-exempt or other taxpayers.

Filing a tax return is the only way to apply for a tax refund; there is no separate application form. Taxpayers who wish to find out if they are due a refund from their last annual tax return filing may use the "Where's My Refund?" interactive application on the IRS Web site at IRS.gov. The only official IRS Web site is located at www.irs.gov.

Audit e-mail

Another new scam brought to IRS attention contains features not seen before by the IRS. Using a technique calculated to get almost anyone's attention, the e-mail notifies the recipient that his or her tax return will be audited. This is the first scam of which the IRS is aware that uses this to get the victim to respond.

Unusual for a scam e-mail, it may contain a salutation in the body addressed to the specific recipient by name. Most scam e-mails seen by the IRS are sent using the same technique used by spammers, in which hundreds

of thousands of messages are sent to potential victims based on Internet address. Because of the volume, the typical scam e-mail is not personalized.

This e-mail instructs the recipient to click on links to complete forms with personal and account information, which the scammers will use to commit identity theft.

This e-mail is a phony. The IRS does not send unsolicited, tax-account related e-mails to taxpayers.

Tax law e-mail

This bogus e-mail is addressed to businesses, accountants and "Treasury" managers. It instructs them to download information on tax law changes by clicking on a series of links to publications on businesses, estate taxes, excise taxes, exempt organizations and IRAs and other retirement plans. The IRS believes that clicking on a link downloads malware onto the recipient's computer. Malware is malicious code that can take over the victim's computer hard drive, giving someone remote access to the computer, or it could look for passwords and other information and send them to the scamster. There are other types of malware, as well.

The urls contained in the link are not legitimate IRS Web addresses. All IRS.gov Web page addresses begin with http://www.irs.gov/

Paper check call

In a current telephone scam, a caller claims to be an IRS employee who is calling because the IRS sent a check to the individual being called. The caller states that because the check has not been cashed, the IRS wants to verify the individual's bank account number. The caller may have a foreign accent.

In reality, the IRS leaves it entirely up to the individual to choose to cash or not cash a paper check. The IRS has no business need to know, and does not ask for, bank account or

similar information, except when taxpayers indicate on their tax return that they are opting for the direct electronic deposit of their refund. In that case, however, it is the individual's responsibility to provide the IRS with the correct bank routing and account numbers on the tax return; the IRS does not contact taxpayers to verify the information.

What to do

Anyone wishing to access the IRS Web site should initiate contact by typing the IRS.gov address into their Internet address window, rather than clicking on a link in an e-mail or opening an attachment.

Those who have received a questionable e-mail claiming to come from the IRS may forward it to a mailbox the IRS has established to receive such e-mails, phishing@irs.gov, using instructions contained in an article on IRS.gov titled "How to Protect Yourself from Suspicious E-Mails or Phishing Schemes." Following the instructions will help the IRS track the suspicious e-mail to its origins and shut down the scam. Find the article by visiting IRS.gov and entering the words "suspicious e-mails" into the search box in the upper right corner of the front page.

Those who have received a questionable telephone call that claims to come from the IRS may also use the phishing@irs.gov mailbox to notify the IRS of the scam.

The IRS has issued previous warnings on scams that use the IRS to lure victims into believing the scam is legitimate. More information on identity theft, phishing and telephone scams using the IRS name, logo or spoofed (copied) Web site is available on the IRS Web site at IRS.gov. Enter the terms "phishing," "identity theft" or "e-mail scams" into the search box in the upper right corner of the front page.

We make loving your neighbor easy.

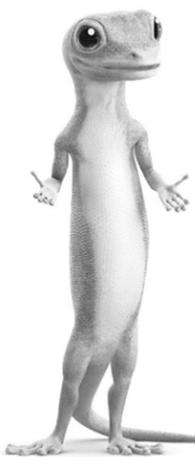
- Convenient local office
- Money-saving discounts
- Low down payments
- Monthly payment plans
- 24-hour service and claims
- Coverage available by phone



CALL FOR A FREE RATE QUOTE.

6560 Montana Ave., Suite 6. El Paso 915-779-2489

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. Government Employees Insurance Co. GEICO General Insurance Co. GEICO Indemnity Co. GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO auto insurance is not available in MA. GEICO: Washington, DC 20076. © 2007 GEICO. The GEICO gecko image © GEICO 1999-2007



FULL COVERAGE MEXICO INSURANCE
6560 Montana Ave. Suite 6. El Paso. Ph (915) 779-2489

Briefs

From Page 1

Citizen Information Center, Dept. 321R, Pueblo, CO 81009. Or call toll-free 1-888-878-3256, and ask for Item 321R. Have your credit card handy. And visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov to read or print this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.

Brucellosis free

Texas beef and dairy cattle producers, cattle feeders and markets operators achieved a long-sought victory Friday, Feb. 1, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that Texas has achieved cattle brucellosis-free status. For nearly 50 years, Texas cattle producers battled brucellosis, or "Bangs Disease," the bacterial disease that is caused by *Brucella abortus*. The disease can cause cows to abort, deliver weak calves or produce less milk. Cattle brucellosis is a zoonotic disease (can be spread from animals to man) that caused significant human disease incidence until the eradication program reduced the incidence of the disease in cattle, and, sanitary practices and pasteurization procedures for milk were implemented to reduce transmission to humans. All other states in the United States are classified brucellosis-free, some for more than 25 years. "Texas was the last state to achieve the brucellosis free, status. We have more herds and more cattle than any other state—14 million at last count. We also had more brucellosis infection to fight. In 1959, when Texas officially joined the national eradication program, we had more than 20,000 of the country's 100,000 infected herds," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas, state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "This victory for the cattle industry did not come easily or without hardship."



— Photo courtesy Lower Valley Water District / Lupe R. Schulte

PARTNERS — The Lower Valley Water District (LVWD) has entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo to upgrade the lift station at El Gran Valle. The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo contributed \$100,000 toward the project during the LVWD's board meeting on Jan. 24. Representing the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo are (left to right) Al Joseph, Linda Austin, Johnny Lopez. Representing the LVWD are Alicia Fresquez, Rosalinda Vigil, David G. Carrasco, Henry Trujillo, Gerald

Grijalva, and Phil Bowen. The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo has plans to extend their residential development with help from different funding agencies. Part of the funding is dependent on completion of upgrades to the El Gran Valle lift station. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has approved the Feasibility Report of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (which includes El Gran Valle) and engineers are currently designing the infrastructure.

**Tornillo 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 | 60 Capital Projects | Other Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| REVENUES: | | | | |
| 5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources | \$ 1,132,568 | \$ 253,992 | \$ 165,257 | \$ 1,551,817 |
| 5800 State Program Revenues | 7,990,037 | — | 1,204,804 | 9,194,841 |
| 5900 Federal Program Revenues | 617,873 | — | 1,435,378 | 2,053,251 |
| 5020 Total Revenues | 9,740,478 | 253,992 | 2,805,439 | 12,799,909 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| 0011 Instruction | 4,605,553 | — | 1,315,100 | 5,920,653 |
| 0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services | 41,373 | — | 92,265 | 133,638 |
| 0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development | 32,880 | — | 59,586 | 92,466 |
| 0021 Instructional Leadership | 220,388 | — | — | 220,388 |
| 0023 School Leadership | 434,937 | — | — | 434,937 |
| 0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services | 30,224 | — | 20,387 | 50,611 |
| 0033 Health Services | 5,238 | — | 82,941 | 88,179 |
| 0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation | 348,850 | — | — | 348,850 |
| 0035 Food Services | 577,132 | — | 19,702 | 596,834 |
| 0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities | 268,754 | — | — | 268,754 |
| 0041 General Administration | 557,444 | — | 2,294 | 559,738 |
| 0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations | 1,041,490 | — | — | 1,041,490 |
| 0052 Security and Monitoring Services | 134,945 | — | — | 134,945 |
| 0053 Data Processing Services | 215,119 | — | 38,810 | 253,929 |
| 0061 Community Services | 23,804 | — | 48,007 | 71,811 |
| Debt Service: | | | | |
| 0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt | — | — | 521,000 | 521,000 |
| 0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt | — | — | 554,937 | 554,937 |
| 0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees | — | 55,788 | 1,131 | 56,919 |
| Capital Outlay: | | | | |
| 0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction | 85,036 | 166,953 | — | 251,989 |
| Intergovernmental: | | | | |
| 0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA | — | — | 22,677 | 22,677 |
| 6030 Total Expenditures | 8,623,167 | 222,741 | 2,778,837 | 11,624,745 |
| 1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | 1,117,311 | 31,251 | 26,602 | 1,175,164 |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES): | | | | |
| 7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds) | — | 5,000,000 | — | 5,000,000 |
| 7915 Transfers In | 265,232 | — | 39,674 | 304,906 |
| 7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds | — | 15,788 | — | 15,788 |
| 8911 Transfers Out (Use) | (304,906) | — | — | (304,906) |
| 7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses) | (39,674) | 5,015,788 | 36,674 | 5,015,788 |
| 1200 Net Change in Fund Balances | 1,077,637 | 5,047,039 | 66,276 | 6,190,952 |
| 0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning) | 6,574,724 | 2,295 | 14,149 | 6,591,168 |
| 3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending) | \$ 7,652,361 | \$ 5,049,334 | \$ 80,425 | \$ 12,782,120 |

Trailblazers

From Page 2

and regional quarterfinals and semifinals.

"These girls have made their mark at Americas and have become leaders and role models," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia. "They have played every game with a lot of heart and have shown us true sportsmanship."

"Our goal is to make a dent in the playoffs and go as far as we can," said Coach Baca who marks his 6th year coaching the Varsity team at Americas. "We were taking this season game by game, but our ultimate goal was to win district."

Bi-district play begins February 11 and 12. The team had reached the Sweet 16 round two years ago. As of January 22, the Texas Girls Coaches Association had Americas ranked 9th in Conference 5A.

Giants take down Patriots, Belichick

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Over the last year or so, something has changed in the world of sports. I don't know if fans are just getting sick and tired of watching bad guys succeed, but people are becoming less tolerant of the jerks in professional sports.

During last summer, you could count on one hand the number of people who were rooting for Barry Bonds to break Hank Aaron's career home run record.

Usually, the whole world waits in anticipation for a record like that to fall. But in Barry's case, fans across the country acted accordingly and refused to give this guy the respect he wanted, but obviously did not deserve.

Last Sunday, in their attempt to attain total perfection, the New England Patriots took on the New York Giants in the Super Bowl. It was supposed to be the final victory that would catapult the 19-0 Patriots to the very top of the "greatest teams ever" debate.

But in the end it was the Giants who did that "David vs. Goliath" thing and blocked the Patriots from their assumed throne.

And there was almost unanimous agreement that the person most despised in this game was Patriots' coach Bill Belichick.

Belichick, who would be hard-pressed to find a former assistant that doesn't find him surly, has long been known as a hard-headed, self-indulgent, curmudgeon who makes it very hard for any fan to like or even tolerate him.

And that's just his demeanor. Belichick is also hated for his smug role and defiant response in the spygate scandal. That's where he had people shoot video of his opponents in order to gain an illegal competitive edge — which his teams have surely enjoyed the last few years.

If his attitude and arrogance and cheating weren't enough, his conduct at the very end of his team's 17-14 super loss was the last straw on the Patriot's back.

With one second left on the Super Bowl clock, many Patriots players and coaches thought the time had run out and they high-tailed it toward the locker room.

But the referees stopped the players and coaches and informed them that they had to remain on the sidelines for the final New York Giants snap.

All the Patriots' players and coaches remained for the snap — except one.

Bill Belichick, in a sprint that would make Carl Lewis proud, never stopped his gallop off the field even though he was informed of the time left on the clock.

One of the toughest things for a losing team to do is watch the opposing team make that final snap, take a knee, and raise their hands in victory.

Coaches and players with dignity and class sit there, take it, and then congratulate their opponent.

But I guess a coach with a lack of respect and a growing reputation as a sore-loser, chooses not to stick around.

It was obvious that Belichick was not about to stay and give the Giants the respect they deserved. He was not about to stand there and watch Eli Manning raise his hands in victory.

Did Belichick's actions surprise me? Not one bit. It was a chance for the much-maligned coach to prove his critics wrong. But all he did was confirm the loathing.

I do tip my hat to the New England Patriot players, who all showed the class of a champion and had nothing but praise for the Giants.

They made no excuses and they didn't blame the officiating. They didn't blame the loss on anything they did. They all said the Giants just beat them on Sunday.

It's too bad the leader of the Patriots doesn't have the integrity of the followers.

By the same token, all the Giants players showed their respect for what the Patriots had accomplished this season. They all said the Pats were a great team.

Despite the devastating defeat, are the Patriots of 2007 still one of the greatest of all time? You bet they are.

But they will always be remembered the same way the Baltimore Colts who lost to Joe Namath and the Jets in Super Bowl III are remembered, as a great team who couldn't finish the deal.

I'll always remember this Super Bowl as the game where Bill Belichick got what he deserved.

Texas top ten vehicles stolen in 2007

By Michelle Lanham
Special to the Courier

TEXAS — Pickups are not only popular among Texas drivers, they are also top targets for Texas vehicle thieves. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has released its final Motor Vehicle Theft Report (MVT19 report) for the top vehicles reported stolen in Texas during 2007. The MVT19 report is compiled monthly by DPS and represents vehicle theft data entered into the Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) by all Texas law enforcement agencies. An error margin of plus or minus five percent is assumed for incorrect entries by agencies. Based on the reports, as has been the case for many years, pickup trucks top the list of thieves' most common targets for the year.

The complete top ten list, in order, of most stolen passenger vehicles includes:

1 - Ford Pickup; 2 - Chevrolet Pickup; 3 - Dodge Pickup; 4 - Honda Accord; 5 - Honda Civic; 6 - Chevrolet Tahoe; 7 - GMC Pickup; 8 - Ford Taurus; 9 - Toyota Camry; and 10 - Ford Mustang.

If motorcycle theft totals were included, the Honda and Yamaha motorcycles would rank No. 9 and No. 10 respectively in the overall list.

Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons, and contrary to popular belief, the most stolen vehicles are several years old. Some are

stolen and stripped for parts. Others are stolen and resold by thieves to unsuspecting buyers. Many vehicles are stolen for joyriding, for use in committing other crimes, to perpetrate insurance fraud, or for other illegitimate purposes. And vehicle theft costs Texans more money than any other crime — over \$900 million in 2006.

Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) personnel strongly encourage Texas drivers to practice vehicle crimes prevention. According to ABTPA Director Susan Sampson, "Auto thieves are looking for 'the easy take.' So it is more important than ever that drivers practice common sense and utilize practical prevention methods such as locking doors, taking keys, and hiding all items that may be desirable to a thief."

The Texas ABTPA, an office of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT), has funded law enforcement programs specializing in vehicle crimes investigation, recovery, prevention and prosecution since 1991. Since then, Texas has realized a 42% reduction in the vehicle theft total and a 59% reduction in the vehicle theft rate based on the number of registered vehicles in the state. Throughout the years, ABTPA has worked closely with local, state, and national agencies to reduce auto theft and burglary. Currently, ABTPA funds 30 grant programs, allowing over 150 law enforcement officers throughout Texas to focus exclusively on the resolution of vehicle crimes cases.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - 2CIMR529IV6743309, 1997 GEO Metro (2-door), maroon, Chihuahua license plate EAX 3839. WTCC- 02/07/08

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008

SOUND SYSTEM FOR SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL
CSP NO. 199-0213-8048
ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:00 A.M.

CHESTER JORDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PACKAGED CENTRAL PLANT EQUIPMENT
CSP NO. 199-0213-8047
ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:30 A.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Proposals are also available at the District's website: www.sisd.net WTCC-02/07/08

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

SOCIAL STUDIES MATERIALS
CSP NO. 199-0214-8042
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

SCIENCE AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT
CSP NO. 199-0214-8043
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Proposals are also available at the District's website: www.sisd.net WTCC-02/07/08

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2008

EMPLOYEE UNIFORMS FOR TRANSPORTATION



CLASSIFIED AD FORM

15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

| | | | |
|----|----|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | (STOP HERE FOR \$5 AD.) |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 |

Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928
Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Phone: _____

CSP NO. 199-0215-8046 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Proposals are also available at the District's website: www.sisd.net WTCC-02/07/08

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2008

MECHANICAL INSULATION SERVICES
CSP NO. 199-0215-8049
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

PUMP AND MOTOR SERVICES AND REPAIRS
CSP NO. 199-0215-8023
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

DIGITAL SPORTS VIDEO SOLUTION

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Proposals are also available at the District's website: www.sisd.net WTCC-02/07/08

COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, 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.

HOUSES

Houses for sale. No down, low interest, financing available. Carlos Aguilar, Broker, Realtor. 857-3374 or 269-1251.

PECANS

Pecan House. Bring your pecans. Cracking and shell-ing service. 85¢ to

\$1 per pound. (915) 383-5474.

SELF-HELP

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

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

STORAGE

National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS
10'x20' - Special \$85/mth for 3 months. Call Blanca or Gina. 852-8300.

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring"

JIFFY GLASS REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick Harshberger
915-203-7005

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

- Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
- Appliance installation
- Many other plumbing services

Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

DO THE LOCOMOTION — Tornillo ISD students and sponsors pose for a photo in Royal Gorge, Colorado during their TAKS reward train trip.

Tornillo ISD students train through Colorado as reward for TAKS scores

By Angelica Apodaca,
Liz Delgado and
Yuriko Barrera
Special to the Courier

On Jan. 19, more than 30 students from Tornillo ISD boarded the district's activity bus for a five day trip to Colorado. As part of the district's travel incentive for students to do well on TAKS, the Colorado trip is one of several that students who pass all sections of TAKS may participate in.

The trip began at 8 a.m. The students departed from the Tornillo main office and arrived at Raton, New Mexico, where

they spent the night. The next morning, the group headed to the Pikes Peak Cog Railway, in Pike's Peak Colorado. Students and sponsors road the railway toward the top. During the ride they learned important facts about the mountain. For example, the mountain is around 14,000 feet tall. It took the students approximately 50 minutes to reach the top of the peak.

On the Jan. 21, the group went to the Royal Gorge Bridge, in Canyon City, Colorado, where the students had the chance to explore the park and the petting zoo. One of the famous attractions is the Aerial Tram, which extends across the canyon and over the Arkansas River. The most thrilling and exciting ride was the 'Royal Rush Skycoaster', which none of the students had the courage to ride. There were able to ride the 'Incline

Railway' which goes down to the bottom of the canyon.

The last day before heading home, the students and chaperones had the chance to ride snowmobiles up some trails in the mountains in a remote, woodsy area. Before the end of the day the sponsors made a fire in the snow. Everyone used wooden sticks to cook hotdogs over the blaze. After an amazing day in the snow it was time to head back home.

"It was very nice to see you guys out of your element. It's not every day you get the opportunity to ride a snowmobile in El Paso." said sponsor Alejandro Macias, a Tornillo High School English teacher. Many students are looking forward to passing their TAKS test this spring, so that they can go on the Colorado trip next year.

ORANGE
FEVER
CATCH IT

UTEP
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ON ESPN UTEP VS. ECU

Sunday, February 10th @ Noon
Don Haskins Center

WIN A FREE DIAMOND!
THE FIRST 2,500 LADIES WILL RECEIVE
A FREE CUBIC ZIRCONIUM.
Sponsored by Cleopatra Perfumes



Arrive early for a **FREE UTEP Fan Scroll** courtesy of
While supplies last
**FREE TICKETS AT ALL
PAYLESS SHOE STORES**



For more info 747-5234

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.