



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Ribbon cutting

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a dedication/ribbon cutting ceremony from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, to commemorate the opening of the district's new elementary school, Gonzalo & Sofia Garcia Elementary School, 6550 Westside Drive, (near the intersection of Borderland Road and Westside Drive). The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting celebration. Members from the Garcia family, government dignitaries, and CISD School Board members and administrators will be on hand for the dedication and reception. The program will include campus tours, dedication ceremony with guest speakers, and a reception. The 75,000 square-foot campus was designed by Mijares Mora Architects, and built by VEMAC Construction Company. The construction was funded through the bond issue passed by CISD voters in February 2006.

### Socorro ISD meetings

The Socorro ISD Curriculum Department and the Educators' Professional Advisory Council (EPAC), will be holding cluster meetings to discuss the current district goals in preparation for the coming year. The meetings will be held at the respective campuses listed below. The District encourages the participation of parents in this important process towards ensuring student excellence. Please call the C & I Department at 937-0308 if you have any questions.

- El Dorado Cluster: April 1, 6:00 p.m., Chester Jordan School Cafeteria, 3451 Rich Beem;
- Americas Cluster: April 2, 6:00 p.m., Sue Shook School Cafeteria, 13777 Paseo Del Este;
- Montwood Cluster: April 3, 6:00 p.m. at Benito Martinez School Cafeteria, 2640 Robert Wynn; and
- Socorro Cluster: April 4, 6:00 p.m., Ernesto Serna School Cafeteria, 11471 Alameda Ave.

### Cheer contest

Socorro High School is hosting the Lower Valley Junior Cheerleading Competition. All Junior Cheerleading Teams with members between the ages of 6-13 are encouraged to register. The event will also accept Elementary School, Middle School, and City Teams. Registration forms are available at the Socorro High School Student Activities Department. All forms and fees are due by April 4, 2008 to the SHS Student Activities Director's Office. Admission at the door is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students ages 5-18 and children under 5 years get in free. For more information, please call 937-2134.

### Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is continuing

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*Give a boy a rope and he'll tie a stray dog to it.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo illustration by Courier staff

**SET HER FREE** — On April 17 Bianca Garcia will join other prisoners for the annual MDA Lock-Up fundraiser. Garcia would like to raise at least \$2,000 for MDA. People can pre-pledge her bail or wait and bail her out on April 17. The donations are tax-deductible and contribute to the research of neuromuscular diseases. Locally the funds also help the MDA provide services to around 400 families including orthopedic equipment, clinic visits and summer camp. People wanting to make a pledge before the event can call 852-8300. Garcia manages the National Self Storage located in Horizon City. The prisoners will be held at Jaxson's Restaurant.

## Garcia going to jail for MDA

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

HORIZON CITY — Attention, residents of Horizon City!

An energetic "jailbird" is on the loose and at work in the area this week and may be knocking on your door soon — if she hasn't already done so.

If she knocks at your door, please open it for her and welcome her in. It's all for a very worthy cause.

Most likely you will recognize this woman who is active in community affairs. Her name is Blanca Garcia, and she operates the National Self Storage facility on North Kenazo. And when she is not serving a storage unit customer, she may be selling someone else some stamps in her dual capacity as the Horizon City postmaster.

"I love my work; I love what I do."

Garcia explained her "jailbird" status Monday. She said she is going behind bars, along with many others, on April 17th in a fund-raising event for the Muscular Dystrophy Assn. On that day, beginning at 4 p.m., she will be in jail at Jaxson's Restaurant on Airway Boulevard.

However, the focus there will be on finding funds, not feeding on food.

The purpose is to raise money to fight muscular dystrophy by calling and asking friends to contribute money to pay her "bail" which she says has been set at \$1,200. Garcia says her sojourn through town will be to get a head start on raising that bail. Her goal, she says, is not \$1,200. Rather she is out to raise \$2,000.

She is already one-fourth of her way toward that goal. Her parent company is contributing \$500. A plaque from National Self Storage and hangs on her office wall. It is the company's community involvement which honors her "for outstanding community contributions and dedication."

That support of the community goes beyond MDA to helping Horizon City directly.

Along with the city code enforcement officer April Garcia (no relation), she is working with city government in a city-wide cleanup on Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5. In addition to working herself, she will be providing water and candy for participants.

The following Monday, on April 7, she says she'll be taking training through the El Paso

See GARCIA, Page 8

## Socorro ISD, Red Cross, help family recover from fire

By Irma Flores  
Special to the Courier

What took the Arenas family 10 years to build in a span of few hours on Sunday afternoon was destroyed by a brush fire behind their home on Socorro Road. What is left are charred remains of the home Marta and Jose built for their family including two children who graduated from Socorro High School. At least 14 people, including three SISD students, were displaced after the weekend fire hit homes along Socorro Road by Bovee. To help the Arenas families and five others who also lost their homes and belongings, Socorro ISD is partnering with the American Red Cross and the City of Socorro to provide some relief.

"The community outpouring has surprised me. It unfortunate but its true that when something like this happens the community comes forward to help," said Mrs. Arenas. "A lot of people have stopped by to offer their help and I want to thank them all for helping all of us."

"Socorro ISD is community of students, parents, educators and staff and we want to provide support to the families who have always supported us," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson.

Socorro ISD is working with Socorro City officials and the local chapter of the Red Cross to collect and store donated items at the District Warehouse located at 201 Tanton Road. Warehouse hours are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Anyone who would like to donate can do so at any Wells Fargo Bank location in the name of the Arenas Family.

"When such a devastating event hits families it affects the entire community. Being a part of Socorro, the District and its employees want to help these families and get them back on their feet," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia who met with the Arenas family at their home and offered assistance.

The American Red Cross will help provide money for clothing, shelter, food and temporary lodging, including an allowance for the first month's rent, if needed. Other donations such as non-perishable food items, household goods and clothing are being collected to help the families. Needed clothing items include:

- Baby items for a 7 month old male — size 12 months;
- Baby items for a baby girl — size 6 to 9 months;
- Two girls sizes 6 to 7 and shoe size 12 or 13;
- One girl clothing size 8 and shoe size 1;
- One boy clothing size 16 and shoe size 6;
- Mother — blouse size medium, pant size 7-8, shoe size 7;
- Mother — blouse size large, pant size 13-14, shoe size 7-1/2;
- Father — shirt size large, pant size 32x33, shoe size 9-1/2;
- 27 yr. old son — shirt size large, pant size 34x30, shoe size 9; and
- 24 yr. old son — shirt size extra large, pant size 38x32, shoe size 11.

For more information, please contact either Vicki Icard, Director of Student Services, at 937-0090 or Irma Flores, PR Specialist, at 937-0282.

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# Maybe It Wasn't That Heavy Shopping Bag.

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

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

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 Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

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## Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

# Light makes road safer



Hola, mi gente. Most of you who keep abreast of current events are informed more about city and county government actions. State agencies generally do not receive as much press but they do impact our lives tremendously.

One of my priorities as your state representative has been to provide a conduit to those agencies for the constituents in District 75. As the elected state official, I get the ear of the agency directors who in turn help me assist you.

There is one common attribute to the roads in El Paso County: once the sun goes down they all get very dark. That is, unless we put street lighting alongside the roads. Many of you reading this may have noticed the recent installation of lights along North Loop, Alameda, and Horizon Blvd.

Horizon Blvd. is a winding road that connects I-10 with Horizon City. Up until a few weeks ago, the road was very dark after sunset. That was

especially dangerous because in some spots, the shoulder drops significantly creating a potential accident from a simple failure to navigate the curves efficiently. This risk was exacerbated on cloudy or moonless nights. The lights which have been installed reduced the safety hazards tremendously.

Although North Loop and Alameda are both less winding, the speed at which vehicles travel make the infrequent curves dangerous under dark conditions. The installation of street lights along those two roads make the roads much safer and allow the drivers a better vision of the roads under after sunset.

It may seem common sense to install the lights. However, there are many variables which affect the actual installation. We must understand that the monies which are used to pay for those lights are sought by communities throughout Texas. Ours are not the only dark rural roads that can be made safer with streetlights. I have never pressured the El Paso TxDOT Chief Engineer to install the lights

because of the needs throughout the state. But I have never hesitated in reminding him about our needs. I appreciate the efforts of Mr. Berry at TxDOT El Paso to address our needs.

Although lighting is the best solution to dark roads, the reality is that funding is not available in all situations. When my office is called by residents who live on winding roads where darkness creates a greater danger, I have contacted TxDOT and requested consideration for solutions. In the past, engineers from TxDOT have been very quick to meet with me or my staff to discuss problem areas on state roads. They have offered to reduce the potential hazards on dark curving state roads with either a guard rail or, most commonly, with directional posts which are illuminated by head lamps and inform the driver of the curve.

I shall continue to convey your concerns about state roadways whenever I am informed of them.

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

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



Last Thursday, I held a forum at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) entitled "Surveillance and Liberty in the 21st Century." I hosted this event to have an opportunity to sit down with the El Paso community and explain my recent legislation on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which the U.S. House of Representatives passed on Friday, March 14. With this legislation, which I introduced with House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers, I worked hard to find an effective solution that gives the intelligence community all the tools it needs to conduct surveillance on terrorists and protects our civil liberties.

I invited four panelists to El Paso to present their perspective on the different sides in this challenging debate: Wyndee Parker, Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel of my committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; Chris Thuma, Deputy General Counsel of the Office of the U.S. Director of National Intelligence; Mike German, National Security Policy Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union; and Dr. Gregory Rocha of the Political Science Department at UTEP. Broadly, we discussed the following topics:

**What is FISA?**  
 In 1978, the U.S. Congress passed and President Jimmy Carter signed into law the Foreign Intelligence Sur-

# Safety, liberty considered

veillance Act (FISA), which provides a special court order procedure to authorize electronic surveillance for national security purposes. FISA resulted from a 1978 Congressional investigation into Executive Branch abuses of federal resources for electronic surveillance, known as the Church Committee.

**Why is FISA legislation being considered now?**

FISA has been amended more than 30 times since 1978 to address changing circumstances. The updates currently under consideration stem from changes in the communications industry and are in reaction to the Bush Administration's warrantless wiretapping program.

**Why is the role of telecommunications companies at issue in this debate?**

This stems from the Bush Administration's warrantless wiretapping program created after the September 11 attacks and brought to light by media accounts in the New York Times in December 2005. As a part of this program, the Bush Administration asked telecommunications companies to assist them by providing access to their customers' communications information. Through this assistance, the government was able to act without a warrant to access information protected by the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution — which guards against unreasonable searches and seizures. Telecommunications companies

have been sued for their alleged role in this program and say they cannot defend themselves in court because the Bush Administration has blocked further proceedings by invoking the "state secrets privilege." This prevents the companies from responding to the allegations made. The Administration is now pushing for legislation that would completely dismiss all such lawsuits without allowing a full judicial assessment as to the lawfulness of the companies' conduct. In the legislation passed on March 14, I advanced a legal process through which Federal District Courts can resolve the suits by providing these companies with a means of defending themselves in secure proceedings, obviating the need for the "state secrets privilege."

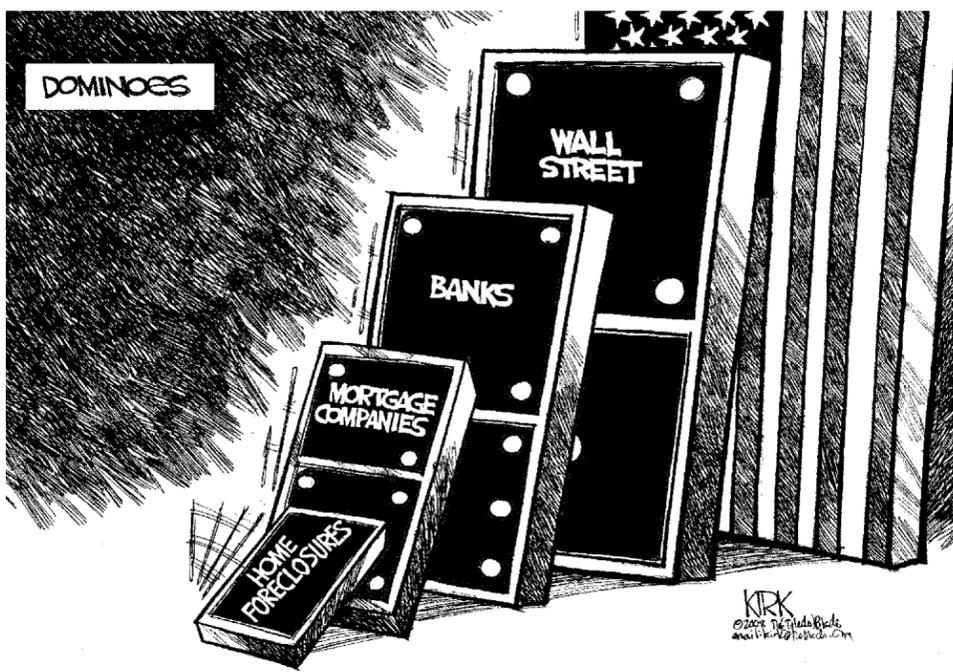
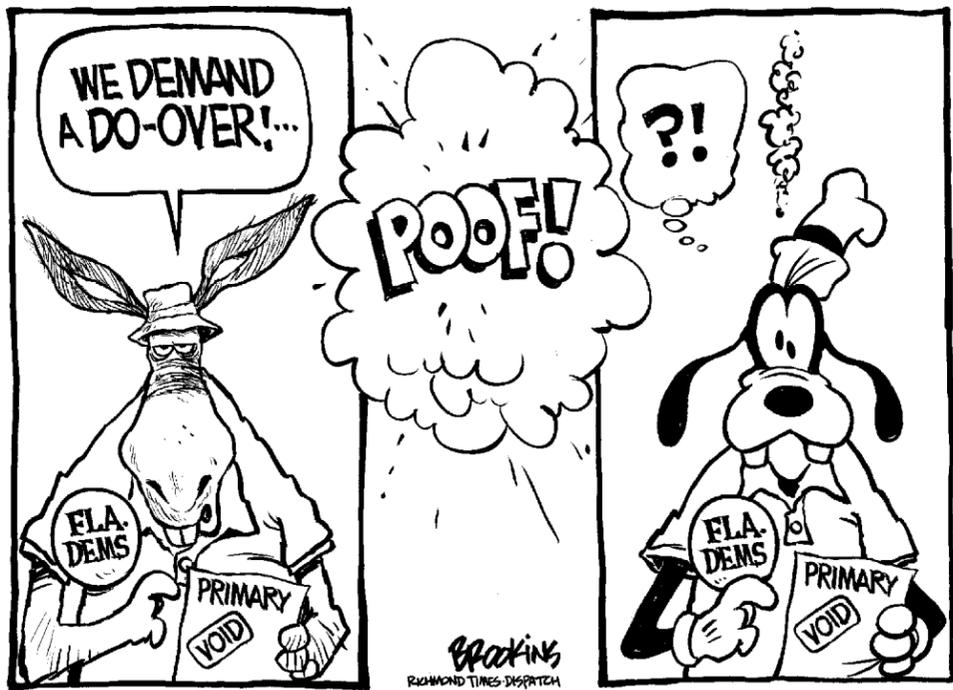
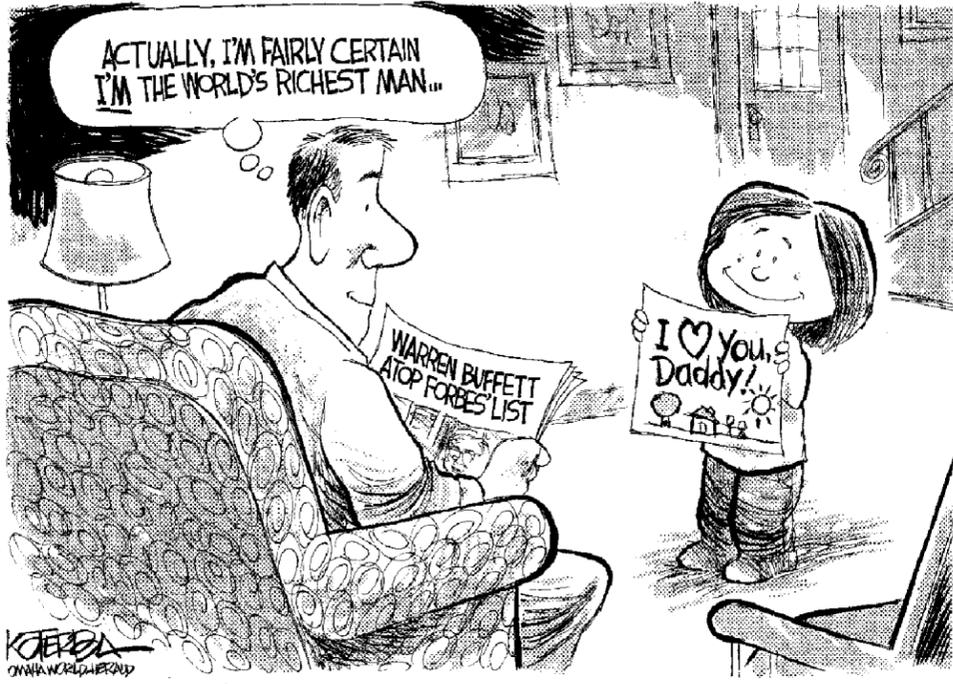
**What is the state of federal legislation to modernize FISA?**

On Friday, March 14, 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives passed my legislation, which provides the intelligence community with powerful new tools to track and identify terrorist targets outside the United States and restores essential constitutional protections for Americans. This legislation must be worked out with the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

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"My boss wants us to appeal to a younger and hipper crowd. So I'd like to get a tattoo that says 'Accounting Rules!'"



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

*Modern day slave trade*

The modern-day slave trade is alive, well, and thriving in Juárez, Mexico and other urban areas just south of the U.S.-Mexico border. Abraham Lincoln is turning in his grave, as the U.S., Japan, and other so-called industrial giants of the world exploit the poor to give to the rich, a reversal of the Robin Hood philosophy. With employment in the south of Mexico at a premium, and the few jobs available going to younger workers, an older, migrant Mexican workforce has been lured to Northern Mexico with the promise of a salary, any salary, and food on the table. At what is comparable to \$4.00 U.S. dollars a day, this highly unskilled workforce has sold its soul, its health, and its self-esteem to the new robber barons of the industrialized world and their henchmen, the low-paying factories known as *maquilas*.

While the latter were originally conceived as a symbiotic boon to all parties involved, providing jobs to the poor on the one hand and increasing profit margins on the other, beware of what you wish for! They have turned into a proverbial nightmare, being directly or indirectly responsible for overpopulation of Mexico's northern cities, for an upswing in their crime rates, and for the creation of *colonias*, a romantic-sounding term for none other than slums. The "carrot" held out to the poor of Mexico by the industrialized nations, to entice them to travel to Northern Mexico to work at low-paying *maquila* jobs, has been transformed into a pike on which to impale them.

With hardly enough money to pay for life's essentials, let alone adequate health care, those poor factory workers, living in overcrowded *colonias* with no running water, sanitation at a minimum, domestic heating in the form of combustible automobile tires, and diarrhea, dehydration, infectious diseases, chronic debilitating illnesses, and lack of childhood immunizations bred on a daily basis, have traded the dignity of poverty in their hometowns for the promise of full stomachs in faraway places, sanctioned by the thirty pieces of silver paid to faceless intermediaries. Yes, the modern-day slave trade is alive and well, and Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, and Hugo Chavez have looked up from their card game in the netherworld to take notice.

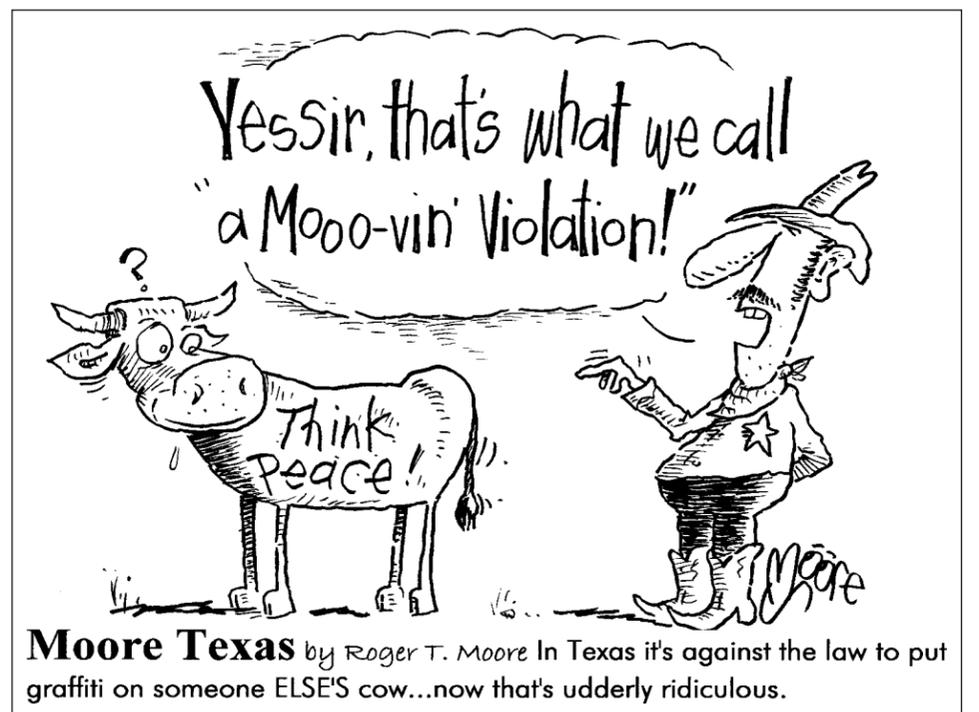
With the governments of the U.S. and Mexico often up in arms with one another in regard to drug trafficking and transport of illegal aliens across international borders, it is amazing that the two crybabies reached an

agreement in 1985 to permit the operation of *maquila* plants on Mexican soil. Mexican workers, predominantly from the country's interior, were hired to work in the *maquilas* for the pittance of the Mexican minimum wage, which in 1988 amounted to less than \$4.00 U.S. dollars per day. Meanwhile public health experts, researchers, and health care professionals began to see cracks in the pavement on the road to hell originally paved with good intentions. Garbage dumps sprang up in the midst of grocery stores and playgrounds, as children walked hand-in-hand along byways strewn with litter, human waste, and non-biodegradables. What had started out as a multinational experiment to elevate the human socioeconomic condition had degenerated into a public health nightmare and a pitched battle with hepatitis A, streptococcal infection, amebiasis, scabies, dehydration, diarrhea, contaminated water, and the fleeting hallucinations of a health education infrastructure.

That was then and this is now. What has changed? Not much. Inadequate resources, low socioeconomic status, and utter lack of education still run rampant in many indigent communities south of the border. Those communities, for better or worse, and with the intervention of outside experts when needed, must find ways to educate and financially remunerate community health promoters. They must also establish connections with governmental agencies, in Mexico, the U.S., and perhaps even in the "Land of the Rising Sun," in order to secure much-needed financial backing and educational tools directed at enhancement of social reinforcement. Social planning and action phases are certain to follow community-wide raising of awareness. With communities themselves at the vanguard of their manifest destiny via a linkage approach between big business, health and innovation resources, health promoters, and community members themselves, development and implementation of health-related interventions stand a relatively good, though not certain, chance of success. At that point, immunizations can be administered, medicines can be dispensed, sewers and stagnant pools can be drained, and I can shut up.

Only when healthy minds and bodies become a reality on both sides of the border, can all eyes be turned to our next formidable adversary, the "modern-day slave trade!"

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**Moore Texas** by Roger T. Moore In Texas it's against the law to put graffiti on someone ELSE'S cow...now that's udderly ridiculous.

# MY SOCIAL SECURITY # IS 457-55-5462

I'm Todd Davis, CEO of LifeLock, and this really is my social security number.\* I'm here just to prove how safe your identity can be with LifeLock. All of us, no matter how careful, can become victims of identity theft. In fact, every three seconds another identity is stolen.

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## Horizon's Farley, 66, dies

Carole Ann Wilson Farley, 66, of Horizon City, Texas, passed away on March 18, 2008. Carole Ann was born to Milo E. and Mariann G. Wilson on Dec. 5, 1941 in Alamosa, Colorado. Carole Ann attended Colorado State University and Adams State University majoring in biochemistry. Carole Ann moved to the El Paso area in the early 1970s and co-owned Farley Construction and owned Carole Ann Farley Accounting and Bookkeeping Services.

Carole Ann also worked for the Town of Horizon City from its inception. She dedicated her time in the

growing community of Horizon City by donating time to the Town of Horizon City, the Horizon City Fire Department, the Church of the Incarnation, and various other organizations and associations.

Carole Ann Farley is survived by her brother, David Wilson of Burlington, Colorado; children, Matthew D. Farley (JoAnne) of El Paso, Texas and Michelle A. Farley of Sanger, Texas; grandchildren, Annie Irwin of Sanger, Texas, and Patrick and Samuel Farley of El Paso, Texas. In addition, Carole Ann is survived by nieces, nephews, extended family, as well as those friends that she chose to call family. Carole Ann was preceded in death by her parents, Mariann and Milo Wilson of Monte Vista, Colorado.

The Farley family would like to thank everyone for their support, concern and prayers.



## Rahnefeld, 87, led full life

Max Rahnefeld died at age 87. He was born on January 22, 1921 in Baltimore, Maryland and died on March 6, 2008 in El Paso. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was stationed in Texas.

Max taught electrical trades in the Ysleta School District for 25 years. He also taught the Electrical Apprenticeship Course at El Paso Tech.

He was active in Boy Scouts and the Senior Center in Horizon City. He was also an active member of Celebration Christian

Church, serving on the Leadership Ministry Team.

Max is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Mary Rahnefeld; son Al Rahnefeld and wife Dee; daughters, Linda Compton and husband Damon; Joyce Slaton and husband Mike. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren as well as many other loving relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers the family encourages that memorials be made to Hospice or the charity of your choice.

## Briefs

### From Page 1

to assist investigators from the F.B.I. in locating an offender who committed a bank robbery in Socorro, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Saturday, Feb. 23, at approximately 10:00 a.m., a lone man walked into the Big 8 store at 10720 North Loop in Socorro and jumped over the counter of the Wells Fargo branch in the store. He brandished a gun and demanded money. After receiving an undisclosed amount of funds, he fled the scene out the back door of the store. The suspect was described as an Hispanic male in his early 20s, 5-foot 9-inches tall, with a slim build, and wearing a black baseball cap with white front, black zip-up sweater over a black t-shirt, dark sunglasses and a white bandana over his face. He was also wearing black tennis shoes, possibly the PUMA brand. The suspect spoke both English and Spanish. He displayed a black medium-size handgun, possibly semi-automatic. If you have any information about this case, even if you don't think it's important, please call Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (8477) or online at [www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org). You can remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

### Zoo fun

This Saturday, March 29, it's "all about the kids" with half price admission all day for all El Paso

Zoo visitors. We're inviting the youngest members of El Paso to celebrate themselves in advance of April's "Month of the Child." There will be different educational booths presented by local daycares, along with the Zoo Discovery Stations. Safe Communities will offer children's car safety seat inspections 10:00 a.m. to 1:00. (915) 521-1850. Admission: Adults — \$2.50 (ages 13-61); Kids — \$1.50 (3-12 years); Seniors (62+) and Active Duty Military (with ID) — \$2.00, ages 2 and under and Zoo Members Free. The zoo will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Spy class

The UTEP Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence will be hosting its 2nd annual Spy Museum Workshop, April 11-12, 2008. The free workshop is instructed by the International Spy Museum of Washington, D.C. The workshop will be held in Quinn Hall, Room 212, located on the UTEP campus. There is no cost to attend the workshop. Participants will receive eight hours of continuing education credit for their attendance. Both days activities will last between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The International Spy Museum Workshop will show educators how to use intelligence studies to teach decision-making, conflict-resolution and information-analysis skills. The workshop is geared for high school teachers, as well as faculty in our community colleges and here at UTEP. Teachers can register online on our website at <http://organizations.utep.edu/iped>.

# Socorro senior named as Gates Millennium Finalist

By Irma Flores  
Special to the Courier

Socorro High School Senior Robert Lopez is named as a Gates Millennium Scholarship Finalist. The 18-year-old was selected in March 2008 to advance to the second phase of the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) screening and selection process. The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS), funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to reward scholarships to outstanding, low income African American, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students. If selected as a Gates Millennium Scholar, Lopez will have the opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline he chooses at no cost to him or his family.

"The first thing my mother said when I was notified was we have to pray," said Lopez who

has been accepted to Texas Tech University. "If I am selected as a recipient, they basically pay for my university of choice."

"Robert Lopez is an outstanding student who not only excels academically but in extracurricular activities as well. Robert is always lending a helping hand to anyone that needs help at Socorro High School. As a member of the Health Professions Academy, Robert has represented Socorro High School and El Paso well. I am very proud of all of his accomplishments. He is a well deserving finalist of the Gates Millennium Scholarship," said Socorro High School Principal Miguel Serrano.

Lopez who is in the Health Professions Academy at Socorro High School and taking part in the school's EMT certification program in part-



Robert Lopez

nership with El Paso Community College plans on studying physical therapy.

"I love working with patients and help them get motivated," said Lopez who was an athletic trainer for the Socorro since his freshman year. Lopez, whose older sister is in the Pre-Med program at the University of New Mexico and his younger sister is also involved in HPA, added that he owes everything to his parents who have supported him what he wanted to do.

"It's a great honor for Robert to be selected among some of the most promising students nationwide," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "This program will help him reach his full potential."

In addition to his responsibilities in HPA

and the EMT program, Lopez is also the Senior Class Secretary, President of the Key Club, reporter for the National Technical Honor Society, Community Services Chairman for Student Council and works part-time at Bounce U.

"It's apparent how important education is to Robert and his family. It's rewarding to see that a program like the Gates Millennium Scholarship recognizes his effort and helps students like Robert find success," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia.

In addition, Robert can apply as a Continuing Gates Scholars who may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of the following discipline areas: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence by providing thousands of outstanding students, who have significant financial need, the opportunity to reach their full potential.

## San Elizario High School career fair is window to students' future

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

San Elizario High School hosted its Annual Career Fair on Friday, March 7. The event was geared towards providing juniors and seniors information about higher education and career choices after high school graduation. Approximately 424 students in grades 11th and 12th visited with close to 45 exhibitors including local dignitaries, military recruiters, college representatives, and career professionals. Also addressing the students and providing motivational advice were speakers such as San Elizario Independent School District Board President, Ramon Holguin, and Pedro Villagrana, a reporter with Univision 26 KINT-TV.

The career fair is organized each year by the counseling department at the high school. Counselors encourage students to stop at all the booths and obtain as much information as possible from the participating exhibitors.

"The main purpose of the career fair is to offer our kids opportunities beyond high school. Whether they are going straight to work, college or the military, we want students to be exposed to the different options available

to them after graduation," Counselor Jesse Cobos said. Cobos also believes that career fairs may introduce students to other career possibilities that they would have otherwise not considered but maybe peaked their interest at that time.

Although, the San Elizario High School's Annual Career Fair took place at the tail end of TAKS March testing, the event was still a success with participation from many organizations, schools and business. Some of the participating exhibitors included: Anamarc Educational Institute, Computer Career Center, El Paso Community College, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, El Paso Electricians Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC), El Paso Police Department, Home Depot, New Mexico State University, Texas Department of Transportation, U.S. Army, U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy, University of Phoenix, University of Texas at El Paso, Univision KINT-TV, Upper Rio Grande College Tech-Prep.

Cobos expressed his gratitude to the many organizations that attended the career fair providing the students at San Elizario High School a variety of post-secondary prospects and a meaningful experience.

## Clint ISD students take on the TAKS

By Laura Cade  
Special to the Courier

Along with other students throughout Texas, Clint Independent School District students are ready to take on the challenge of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test. This week and in the coming months students in third through eleventh grade will be tested to determine if they have met the standards of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills which is the curriculum mandated by the Texas Education Agency.

"With the help of their teachers and support of their parents, our students have been working hard since August to meet the state standards. We are confident that each student will give their best effort on testing day to show what they have learned this school year," says Ricardo Estrada, Clint ISD Superintendent.

The Clint Independent School District has been rated "Academically Acceptable" by the Texas Education Agency for 2007 and "Meets"

Adequate yearly Progress for the federal No Child Left Behind standards. Two Campuses, Frank Macias Elementary and Desert Hills Elementary received a "Recognized" rating. All other campuses in the district are "Academically Acceptable".

Because of the gains and improvement shown on the TAKS test in 2007, Clint ISD campuses have been acknowledged for their success. Seven campuses have been awarded the Texas Educator Excellence Grant. Frank Macias Elementary was named

a "No Child Left Behind Outstanding School". Clint Junior High was named one the "Best Public Schools" in Texas by Texas Monthly magazine in December of 2007.

Clint ISD from 2006 to 2007 increased averages scores in all subjects tested by 2 to 5 points. The district has made great gains in math and science over the last several years showing increased scores of up to 5 points. To continue to show marked improvement, Clint ISD has adopted an instructional focus of eliminating

the gaps between the general student populations and second language learners and special needs students, and increasing the average scale score in all four core areas, especially in math and science, to surpass the state and federal standards.

"We are proud of the hard work our teachers, administrators and staff have done in preparing our students to meet the standards and to take on the TAKS. Without their dedication our students would not be successful. Because of their commitment, Clint ISD students will continue to improve" said Ricardo Estrada.



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

READY TO TEST — First grade students, from left, are Jazmyne Briones, Elysia Nunez, Liza De La Rosa, Lourdes Gomar with their teacher, Deborah Turner.

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# Picking the perfect bracket in the 'Big Dance' is no easy task

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

It never fails to amaze me how quickly a field of 64 teams can be whittled down to 16.

It's also very startling how much I don't know about college basketball at this time of the year. How about you, how are you doing on your brackets?

Being in the sports media for over 15 years now, I consider myself somewhat of an expert in the field of college basketball. Well, let's just say I once considered myself an expert.

If you look at my bracket (and I'm one of those guys who feel real men should only fill out one bracket) it's rather apparent that I'm just guessing at this point.

You think it's easy to pick these games?

Well listen to this, ESPN has a national contest where people can submit their brackets. We're only two rounds into the tournament and of the over 3.5 million brackets that were submitted, only two are still perfect.

Two!

I don't feel as dumb now as I did over the weekend.

Let's examine the tournament so far. The biggest shocker of the first round was (13) San

Diego's 70-69 upset of (4) UConn. Then there was (12) Villanova's 75-69 win over (5) Clemson, and (12) Western Kentucky's 101-99 last-second win over (5) Drake, and (13) Siena's 83-62 trouncing of (4) Vanderbilt.

The second round had its share of head scratchers as well.

There was (7) West Virginia's 73-67 win over (2) Duke, and (10) Davidson's 74-70 stunner over (2) Georgetown.

So what does this weekend's Sweet 16 look like?

All four top seeds are still alive. North Carolina, UCLA, Memphis and Kansas are still kicking though Memphis and UCLA were pushed to the limit.

Two of the second seeds are gone but two remain in Tennessee and Texas, both of which hung on for dear life in the second round.

What is messing everyone up are the teams still playing that most of us "experts" know shouldn't be there, teams like (12) Western Kentucky, (12) Villanova and (10) Davidson.

But who will you be cheering for when Western Kentucky takes on (1) UCLA, or when Villanova plays (1) Kansas or when Davidson challenges (3) Wisconsin? Of course, we're going to root for the underdogs. Everybody loves

a great David vs. Goliath story.

What does it matter now, our brackets are worthless now any way.

By the way, for the record, I still have nine of the 16 teams alive in my bracket and three of my final four picks are still alive. I picked UCLA, North Carolina, Kansas and Pitt in my final four. Yes — I picked the Pitt Panthers — okay.

I have UCLA beating North Carolina in the championship game. By the way my picks have gone so far, I'd be very afraid if I were either UCLA or North Carolina.

## The Wacky West

The NBA is approaching the home stretch of its regular season and teams are vying for playoff positions.

That in itself isn't unusual at all but something is happening in the Western Conference that has never happened before and frankly, no one knows quite what to do about it.

In Major League Baseball, if you win 90 games you are almost assured a playoff spot. In the NFL, a 10-win season almost certainly means you are playoff bound. And in the NBA, 50 wins means you're in the postseason.

Or does it?

No team in NBA history has ever won as

many as 50 games and failed to make the playoffs.

Eight teams go to the playoffs from the East and from the West. And while only five teams in the Eastern Conference have winning records, 10 teams in the West enjoy winning marks.

That means that two teams with winning records will have to stay home from the West. Even more unfair is the fact that possibly as many as three teams from the East will make the playoffs with losing records.

I haven't seen things this messed up since the Michigan and Florida primaries.

The biggest losers in this sordid scenario could be the Denver Nuggets. Denver currently has a record of 42-28 with 12 games left in the season. That means if the Nuggets go 8-4 the rest of the way they'll finish with a 50-32 regular-season record.

Not bad, but Golden State currently holds the final playoff spot at 43-26. If the Warriors finish their last 13 games with an 8-5 record, they'll end up at 51-31.

That means Denver would be a 50-game winner and out of the playoffs.

I guess this would make the Nuggets the Al Gore of the NBA. Now that's what I call an inconvenient truth.

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** I got Social Security benefits last year and wasn't planning to file a tax return. But I heard that I may want to file a tax return to get the "stimulus payment" offered by the government. Should I?

**A:** Yes. If you received Social Security benefits last year, you may be entitled to an economic stimulus payment, or tax rebate, from the federal government — even if you otherwise wouldn't plan on filing a tax return. The IRS will begin sending stimulus payments to more than 130 million taxpayers in May. If you have filed or plan to file a 2007 tax return, no other action is necessary. If you receive Social Security and did not file a 2006 tax return, the IRS will send you a package over the next couple of months,

which includes everything you need to file a 2007 return and receive a stimulus payment. In this situation, if you no longer have your form 1099, you do not need a replacement form. Instead, simply estimate your total annual benefit on your 2007 tax return. For more information go to the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**Q:** What should I do if my Social Security card is lost or stolen?

**A:** The best solution to prevent that from happening is to keep your Social Security card in a safe place. Never carry it with you unless you know it will be required, such as at a job interview. If you want to safeguard your Social Security card and number, you can take

these steps:

- Visit the Federal Trade Commission's identity theft page at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft);
- Educate yourself about identity theft;
- Monitor your credit reports; and
- Read Identity Theft And Your Social Security Number at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html).

For more information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Q:** How does Social Security calculate how much I get every month?

**A:** In short, we use your average lifetime earnings, not just several years of earnings, to determine your benefit amount. The benefit formula is complex and there are no simple tables we can present that will tell you exactly how much

you will receive. However, we can give you a fairly accurate idea — and we do, each year. Your Social Security Statement is automatically mailed to you about three months before your birthday. If you can't find your last one and you need one now for planning purposes, you can request it online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement). Your Statement provides a detailed report of your lifetime earnings and an estimate of retirement, disability and dependent benefits. For more information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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

## Classified Ads

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**Invitation to Bid/Respond:**

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

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**NON-FOOD ITEMS BID NO. 042308-035 ACCEPTED UNTIL 11:00 A.M.**

Proposals will be received at Fabens Independent School District, 821 NE "G" Avenue or P O Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mon-

days through Fridays. WTCC-03/27/08 04/03/08

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El Paso County ESD #1 (Horizon Fire Dept.) is now accepting resumes for the position of Administrative Assistant. The position will be part to full time. Applicants must have good communication skills, clerical and computer skills. Send resumes to:

El Paso County ESD #1 PMB 103 125 N. Kenazo Horizon City, TX 79928

For more information contact: Ron

Larson, 852-3204 or 820-8640.

### HOUSES

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

### PUPPIES

Puppies for sale. Border Collie/Akita mix, \$20. German Shepherd/Akita mix, \$30. 858-4481 or 851-6827.

### 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 solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

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32	33	34	35

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# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# Know thyself (or at least pretend to)

By Don Flood

Greek thinker Socrates, most famous for being named Sexiest Philosopher of the Year in the March 17, 435 B.C. issue of People magazine, exhorted his followers to "know thyself."

For all his supposed wisdom, there's no record of him ever telling his students to simply Google themselves, which makes you wonder if Socrates, despite his renowned abs, wasn't just another celebrity windbag like Dr. Phil.

But despite this lack of guidance, we have learned to look ourselves up. According to a recent survey, 47 percent of Americans have already Googled ourselves, which means, sadly, that roughly 47 percent of us are disappointed.

I recently Googled "Don Flood" and — this is absolutely true — here's exactly what came up: Don Flood Photographer — a New York and Los Angeles-based photographer "specializing in beauty, fashion and celebrity portraits."

What's more, there were links to photo shoots of stars like Anne Hathaway, Mischa Barton and Eva Mendes, who I couldn't help but notice appeared to be wearing invisible clothing.

Wow! Until I Googled myself, I had no idea I was a bicoastal Beautiful Person whom movie babes visited so they could disrobe and be photographed.

If only my friends could see me now! Heck, if I could only see myself now.

Unfortunately, though I don't like to disappoint people — especially myself — I realized there was a slight problem. After carefully sifting through my memory, calendars, appointment books, etc., I was able to conclude that I had neither met nor photographed Eva Mendes, either with clothes or without. I suspected the same was true of the others.

Obviously, I had become the victim of identity theft, only my situation was far worse. This guy hadn't merely assumed my iden-

tity. He had somehow hacked into my brain and stolen my fantasy life and, worse, he was living it!

Clearly, this Don Flood was an imposter. Or maybe I was the imposter.

On the other hand, it wasn't all bad. At the next high-school reunion, I would be able to tell classmates they could keep up with me by Googling "Don Flood" and checking out the portfolios. (It wouldn't exactly be lying.)

Another way of getting to "know thyself" is to write a memoir, which is similar to an autobiography, except you get to make up way more stuff.

One recent example is Margaret Seltzer, who under the name Margaret B. Jones wrote "Love and Consequences," a riveting memoir of a half white, half Native American girl who bounced around foster homes and began running drugs for the Bloods street gang of Los Angeles at age 13.

Her actual life, as opposed to her memoir life, was somewhat different. According to the New York Times, she was a white girl who had grown up with her birth family and graduated "from the Campbell Hall School, a private Episcopal day school in the North Hollywood neighborhood."

Notice the difference in tone? That's the secret to a best-selling memoir.

Let's say you recall your mother baking holiday cookies. That may be a pleasant memory, but it won't sell books. But adjust it slightly — write that your earliest childhood memory was of your mother strung out on heroin in front of the Christmas tree — and you've got yourself a solid chapter.

Now I'm thinking about writing my own memoir. It would be about all movie stars I've photographed. I think it could work if I can get that other Don Flood to supply the photos. It's the least he could do.

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# King Super Crossword

- HORSE SCENTS ACROSS**
- 1 Stromboli spew
  - 5 "Waterloo" rockers
  - 9 Envelops
  - 14 Gaiters
  - 19 Mideastern muck-
  - a-muck
  - 20 Spooky Stoker
  - 21 Disprove
  - 22 Let
  - 23 General Bradley
  - 24 Rustic tower
  - 25 Start of a remark
  - by
  - 126 Across
  - 27 Athenian sage
  - 29 Indian sectarian
  - 31 Airport abbr.
  - 32 Good-sized
  - 33 Author Jessamyn
  - 35 With 81 Down, '44
  - chemistry Nobelist
  - 39 Hatch's home
  - 41 Part 2 of remark
  - 47 TV's "The Love \_"
  - 50 Santa \_, CA
  - 51 "Oh, woe!"
  - 52 TV exec Arledge
  - 53 Citified
  - 55 Like a dachshund
  - 58 Cozy cloth
  - 60 Marten
  - 61 \_ bear
  - 62 Asian holiday
  - 63 Skilled
  - 66 Scottsboro's st.
  - 67 Rubberneck
  - 70 Morlocks' prey
  - 73 Mexican Mrs.
  - 74 Point
  - 75 Part 3 of remark
  - 81 Crone
  - 82 R-V hookup
  - 83 Head for the
  - clouds
  - 84 Actress Purviance
  - 85 Khan opener?
  - 86 ER exclamation
  - 87 Minify a midi,
  - maybe?
  - 89 Top-drawer
  - 93 Feeling
  - 95 Like a gymnast
  - 99 5 Across' home
  - 100 Michael of
  - "Dynasty"
  - 101 Schell or Shriver
  - 102 European capital
  - 104 Foster's "\_ Dog
  - Tray"
  - 105 Half-baked?
  - 106 End of remark
  - 110 McGregor of
  - "Trainspotting"
  - 112 Creme \_ creme
  - 113 Bathday cake?
  - 114 \_ League
  - 117 Fond du \_, WI
  - 119 Metric measure
  - 122 Pulsate
  - 126 Speaker of remark
  - 131 Writer Rendell
  - 133 Autumn implement
  - 134 Boredom
  - 135 Draw forth
  - 136 Exercise aftermath
  - 137 Brute
  - 138 Prepares cherries
  - 139 Hazardous gas
  - 140 \_ tetra
  - 141 Tide type
- DOWN**
- 1 Composer
  - Janacek
  - 2 Bullets, briefly
  - 3 Lab vessel
  - 4 Cupid's missiles
  - 5 Pecs' partners
  - 6 "The \_ Stomp" ('61
  - hit)
  - 7 Part of Indonesia
  - 8 Out of control
  - 9 Twisted
  - 10 Rock's \_
  - Speedwagon
  - 11 - Dhabi
  - 12 Purple hue
  - 13 Lawyer's concern
  - 14 Bando of baseball
  - 15 Excess
  - 16 Jai \_
  - 17 Haynes or
  - Rundgren
  - 18 Fluctuate
  - 26 "Unforgettable"
  - name
  - 28 Born
  - 30 Torrid
  - 34 Corset part
  - 36 Aquatic bird
  - 37 '82 Jeff Bridges
  - film
  - 46 Loosen the ropes
  - 48 Conductor Claudio
  - 49 Fat stuff
  - 54 Shipshape
  - 56 Unfashionable
  - eyewear?
  - 57 Wild child
  - 59 Reference volume
  - 64 Soft cheese
  - 65 Arrive at Kennedy
  - 68 "Yo!" at the library
  - 69 Singer James
  - 71 Lennon's lady
  - 72 "My Own Private
  - \_" ('91 film)
  - 75 Endangered feline
  - 76 Kampala's country
  - 77 Sheriff's quarry
  - 78 Aftershock
  - 79 Had no doubts
  - 80 Patriot Nathan
  - 81 See 35 Across
  - 86 Creature for
  - taming?
  - 88 Kid's creation?
  - 90 Matinee \_
  - 91 Reveal
  - 92 They may be split
  - 94 It's all in your head
  - 96 Angered
  - 97 Location
  - 98 Comic Mort
  - 99 Mediocre
  - 101 Superintendent
  - 103 Basutoland, today
  - 107 Acom, eventually
  - 108 Welcome item?
  - 109 "Silkwood"
  - screenwriter
  - 111 Flagon filler
  - 114 Very long time
  - 115 Flat rate
  - 116 Excellent
  - 118 Musical finale
  - 120 Where to speak
  - Farsi
  - 121 Last name in
  - publishing
  - 123 Frenzy
  - 124 Creole veggie
  - 125 Freeway sound
  - 127 "Platoon" extras
  - 128 "Father Knows
  - Best" kid
  - 129 Author Umberto
  - 130 Actor Cariou
  - 132 Lady lobster

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Answer Page 6

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate    ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 6

★★★ HOO BOY!

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— Photo by Courier staff

**DROP BY FOR SOME STAMPS** — Most days people can find Garcia in her office which houses both National Self Storage and the contract Post Office.

**Garcia**

From Page 1

Police Department. She will be learning to be a liaison — a link between victims of crimes and the police. She will offer counseling and comfort to those who have been victimized — to guide them through the difficult times following a crime.

Later on this year she will also be involved with the Horizon City Police in the National Night Out, a fair in which the police highlight their efforts in safeguarding the community. In particular they will be offering fingerprinting to children to protect them in the event they are victims of a crime.

Garcia points out that she has a special and very personal reason to help others through the police liaison project. She was a victim of abuse as a child. And there was drug abuse in her family as well.

Speaking of that past, Garcia adds, “God pulled me out of the hole I was in. She says that in that abusive and traumatic experience, she found God’s love.

“There is love, and I chose love.” In choosing love, she points out that “you can’t go around with hate.”

“I get a thrill from helping people,” she says. “It is a reward far greater than money.

“I have a passion for people; I relate to people.

“If I were a philanthropist, I would use my money to help people,” she adds.

In her free time, when she is not helping others, Garcia relaxes. She likes to read, listen to music and putter around in her garden. And she loves to dance.

Horizon City resident Dick Harshberger speaks highly of Garcia. She knows her through Lions Club work where she is active. “If you have a problem with a project, she’ll help you. She’s that kind of person.

“She is an involved person, and we need more people like her.”

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