

NEWSBRIEFS

TXDoT road closures I-10 / HORIZON INTERCHANGE PROJECT:

The following closures will continue until further notice:

- Left lane on Gateway East, between Horizon Blvd. and Timothy Dr.;
- Right lane closure on Gateway East, between Eastlake Blvd. and Horizon Blvd.;
- Right lane on Gateway West, between Horizon Blvd. and Eastlake Blvd.; and
- Left lane on Gateway West, between Timothy Dr. and Horizon Blvd.

These closures are necessary for reconstruction of the frontage roads.

SPUR 601 PROJECT:

The east and westbound right lanes are closed on Walter Jones Blvd.

Detour — northbound, adjacent to the existing Walter Jones Blvd.

These closures and detours are necessary for the reconstruction and realignment of Walter Jones Blvd. in the area between Founders Blvd. and George Perry Blvd. and will continue through the month of June.

MONTANA AVE. (US 62/180):

The following closures will remain in place until further notice:

- Westbound, right shoulder closures on Montana Ave. from four miles west of Hueco Tanks;
- (FM 2775) to half a mile east of Tiffany Lane; and
- Charles Raymond Dr. will continue closed, between Montana Ave. and Patsy Place.

Detour — Westbound traffic on Montana Ave. will need to turn right on O'Leary Rd., right on Patsy Place, and back to Charles Raymond Dr.

These closures are necessary to place inlets for the storm sewage drainage system.

MIDDLE ISLAND ROAD (FM 76):

Middle Island Rd. will have a continuous closure until further notice, while crews resurface the highway.

Detour — Eastbound traffic on Middle Island Rd. will need to turn North on Island Guadalupe Rd., East on Island Tornillo, then South to Tornillo Guadalupe Rd. and back to Middle Island Rd.

Westbound traffic from the Middle Island / Tornillo Guadalupe Intersection will need to go North on Tornillo Guadalupe Rd., turn West on Island Tornillo, then South on Island Guadalupe Rd., and back to Middle Island Rd.

I-10:

I-10 from Van Horn to Kent will have alternate east and westbound lane closures this month through the end of October. Crews will be milling and overlaying the road.

Thief sought

The El Paso Police Department's Crimes Against Person's Unit is currently investigating an aggravated robbery that occurred at the McDonald's located at 5620

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Anybody who thinks he knows all the answers just isn't up to date on the questions.

— Quips & Quotes

Longtime Fabens ISD staffers to retire June 30

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

FABENS — It's just won't be the same in

the Fabens ISD.

After June 30, the halls will not echo to their footsteps.

They will not be sitting at their desks performing their daily duties.



— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

CALLING IT A CAREER — Armida Zavala, left, and Maureen Graham will both leave Fabens ISD at the end of June with a combined 64 years of service.

See FISSD, Page 6

Lobo's Band 'Plays It Forward'

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

BLOWIN' FOR A CAUSE — The Lobos horn section, with the rest of the band, played for the "Plays It Forward" project. They were helped by a Houston band this year and want to pass on the help to another band.

See FORWARD, Page 2

Lopez, Beirnacki are Canutillo ISD Teachers of the Year

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Carmela Lopez, Deanna Davenport Elementary School third grade dual language teacher, and Laura Biernacki, Canutillo Middle School visual arts/inclusion teacher, will represent Canutillo ISD in

the Region 19 2009 Teacher of the Year awards program.



Carmela Lopez

The District selection committee named Lopez as the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Biernacki as CISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2009.

Their respective campus faculty members nominated the two teachers.

Lopez, who has a master's degree specializing in Bilingual Education from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), began her teaching career at CISD 18 years ago and currently teaches the English portion to her third grade dual language program students.

Biernacki, who has a master's degree in school counseling from UTEP, has taught for 21 years and has been with CISD for nine years. She is currently teaching visual arts to grades sixth through eighth.

"The most gratifying experience for me as an educator is to run into former students who not only remember me, but particular lessons I taught them," said Lopez.



Laura Biernacki

"For me, the most challenging aspect of teaching young people today is to be able to guide them to the realization that what they think is valued, and they are very important people," said Biernacki.

Lopez and Biernacki will now compete with teachers from surrounding school districts for regional honors as part of the Texas Teacher of the Year Program. The winners, which will be announced in late August, will advance to the State Teacher of the Year program.

The Texas Teacher of the Year annual event is the highest honor that the state can bestow upon a teacher. The Texas Education Agency rewards and recognizes excellence in the teaching profession through the Texas Teacher of the Year Program.

Tomatoes found with Salmonella bacteria

By Joanne Bates
Special to the Courier

Federal, state and local authorities are investigating a multi-state outbreak of the Saintpaul strain of the Salmonella bacteria. Health officials have confirmed 21 cases in Texas since mid-April, including cases in Harris, Fort Bend, Dallas, Tarrant, Hays and Cameron counties. No deaths have been reported. No cases have been reported in El Paso County or Sunland Park, NM.

Health authorities say the investigation is in its early stages but that consumption of raw tomatoes

has been implicated as the likely source of infections. Specific types and source of tomatoes remain under investigation. Until the specific source of the illnesses is determined, health officials advise that people with increased risk of severe infection including infants, the elderly and those with impaired immune systems not eat any raw Roma or full-sized round tomatoes other than those sold attached to the vine or grown at home.

Other states including Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Indiana, and Illinois are investigating suspected

See TOMATOES, Page 5



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Firework safety is a must

Hola, mi gente. In just a little over two weeks, those famil-

iar stands that sell fireworks will open and we will be on the verge of our annual Fourth of July celebration. I know that this is a favorite for a lot of young people; and perhaps even more for some young and middle aged adults.

There is nothing wrong with celebrating the birth of our nation with fireworks. But to those of you who do, it is very important to act safely and to have consideration for the communities in which you visit to light up your fireworks.

It is amazing how the use of these low powered pyrotechnics is viewed by different people. There are basically three groups that are affected in some manner by them. There are the vendors, the users and the ones who are imposed upon by the celebrants.

The vendors range from family businesses to large corporate entities. The family businesses supplement their budgets during this short business period. The corporate monsters of course add to their bottom line and cut into the smaller business owners significantly. No one can deny that commerce in El Paso is benefited by the limited

period that fireworks are sold.

The users are regular every day El Pasoans. Residents in small unincorporated communities celebrate on the streets in front of their homes. Thousands of city residents (fireworks are prohibited in the municipalities) make their way to county roads to set up camp and fire away. Both groups cap the celebration with cookouts and libations. Be very careful when consuming alcohol and lighting fireworks.

The third group is composed of the residents in the communities where the throngs of outsiders visit for the evening, celebrate and leave. It is also composed of the first responders who must manage disorderly conduct, negligence and emergencies.

The residents in unincorporated areas watch as the thousands of inner city folks make the area into a quasi-war zone. The huge amount of fireworks places their communities in peril of spontaneous fires. The traffic that results seriously handicaps the ability of the residents to freely move about. An then, the morning after they wake up to see their neighborhood desecrated by thoughtless celebrants who fail to clean up after their visit.

The first responders are required to manage this mass of city residents camping in the county communities. Their Fourth of July celebration is

nothing more than several nights of stress. They put out fires, attend to injuries (both minor and serious), detain rowdy intoxicated individuals, and somehow do that within an area that is severely over capacitated with traffic. These public servants would rather see fireworks completely disappear; and who can blame them.

The vendors and celebrants who want the celebration to continue must voluntarily do several things. The first is to stay away from areas that are close to the unincorporated communities. Second, minimize the consumption of alcohol. Next, visit the area and light up your fireworks in as short a period as possible. Don't linger long into the night. Fourth, clean up afterwards.

My office is working with the County Commissioners to consider legislation to address the negative aspects of fireworks. Eventually, the entire county will have a fireworks ban simply because of the growth of the existing municipalities. Until then, those of you who enjoy and benefit from the sale of fireworks would be wise to avoid mandated restrictions by acting responsibly.

Next week I shall share with you the legislative part of fireworks and public safety.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE Village of Vinton, Texas Texas Community Development Block Grant Program

The Village of Vinton will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on June 17, 2008, at the Village of Vinton City Hall in regard to the submission to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the Citizen Participation Plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TxCDBG application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Jessica Garza, Village Clerk, at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Madeleine Praino, Mayor
Village of Vinton, Texas

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Combating drug cartels

Like all El Pasoans, I am concerned about the escalating violence

in Juárez and its affect on the safety of our community. The brutal mob-style killings by warring drug cartels have gripped the U.S.-Mexico border region, and El Pasoans are now fearful that the violence might spill into the U.S.

Fortunately, El Paso remains one of the safest cities in the country, due to the calibre and vigilance of our local law enforcement agencies. Although the killings have not spread to our side

of the border, it is unreasonable and even dangerous to assume that our community is immune from such violence. For this reason, it is imperative that the U.S. Congress quickly pass the Merida Initiative, a \$1.4 billion plan to assist President Calderón and the Mexican government's fight against the drug cartels.

The number of high-level assassinations against Mexican police officers is alarming. The brazen, and often indiscriminate, attacks against police officers and others reflect the ruthless nature of these cartels, who are struggling for control of the country's lucrative illegal drug trade. Over the past year, President Calderón and the Mexican government have taken significant steps to fight organized crime. It is vital that we take advantage of this historic opportunity to work with the Mexican government to further combat this threat.

Like many issues confronting our region, Mexico's problems, particularly those on its northern border, are invariably our problems too. We have a vested interest in working with Mexico to combat drug trafficking through the Merida Initiative. As the largest border community in the United States, we know that Mexico's social, economic, and environmental problems do not stop at the checkpoint — they transcend the border.

We frequently work with Mexico to address critical problems that affect both of our countries. We coordinate efforts in several areas where we have shared interests including transportation, water, border infra-

structure, law enforcement, and others. We know that the only effective way of solving our shared problems is through binational cooperation.

Similarly, the escalating violence in Mexico is an issue that requires our cooperation and assistance. The violence that is taking place does not exist in a vacuum. The drug traffickers who are battling for control of Mexico's narcotics industry are doing so because drug users in our country have made it a very profitable enterprise. As the largest consumer of illicit drugs, we have an obligation to protect our own citizens from the drug traffickers who are supplying and transporting these harmful and addictive narcotics to our country.

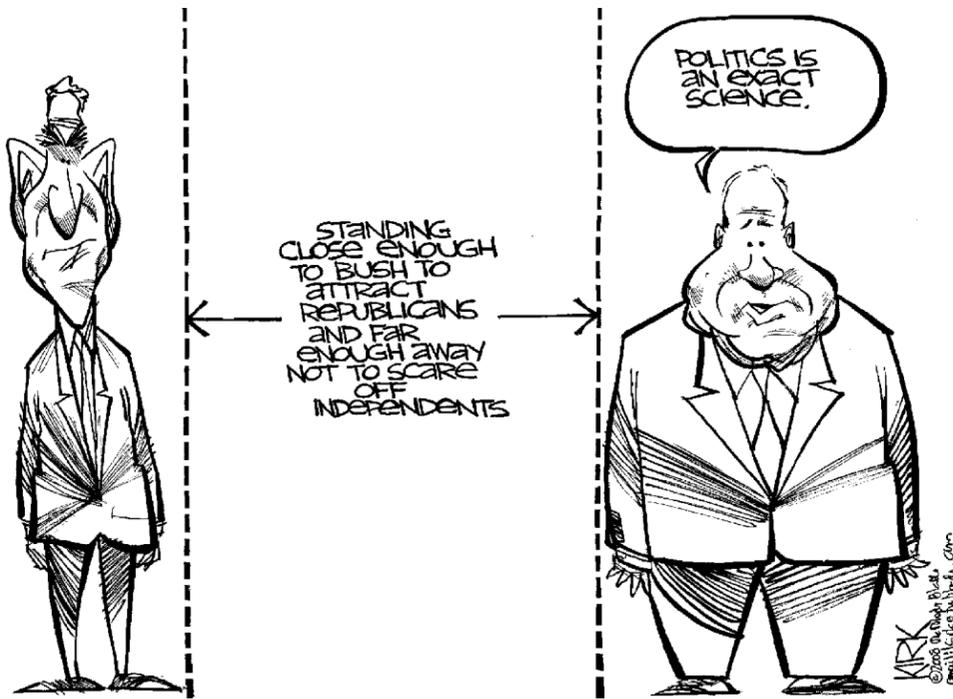
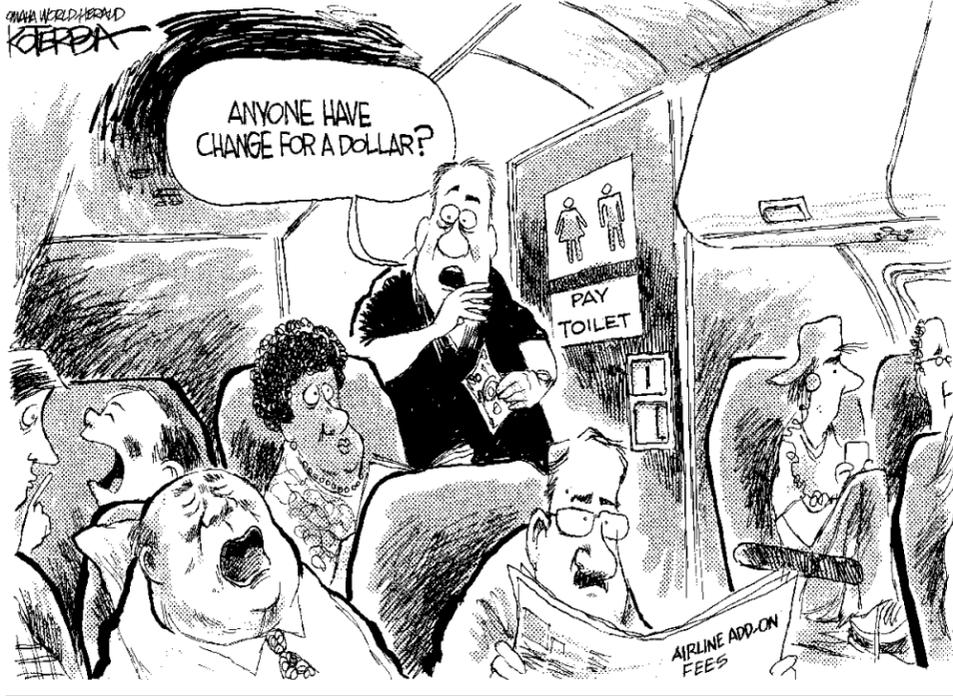
Under the Merida Initiative, the United States will provide training, technology, equipment, and intelligence to help Mexico combat the well-equipped drug cartels. These resources are vital to President Calderón's efforts to quell the escalating violence and to halt the flow of illegal narcotics that enter the United States.

There are countless examples of cooperative law enforcement efforts between the U.S. and Mexico, and officials on both sides of the border often work side-by-side to crack down on crime. Over the years, these efforts have led to the arrest and conviction of countless of individuals from both sides of the border who were involved in drug trafficking and organized crime. We must continue to work cooperatively, and the Merida Initiative is an historic opportunity to do just that.

Forward From Page 1

into a movie. The term is used, according to Wikipedia, to describe the concept of third party beneficiary in which a creditor who offers the debtor the option of "paying" the debt forward by lending it to a third person instead of paying it back to the original creditor. Debt and payments can be monetary or by good deeds.

Progress made from the 2006 bond election was also displayed in an information tent. Entertainment, food, and games drew a crowd of more than 500 attendees throughout the day long festival.



Senior citizens need to stay vigilant about scams

It's easy to spot a "too good to be true" get rich quick scheme. It's tougher to recognize an investment that sounds reasonable and legitimate but is actually a con. That's why the Federal Citizen Information Center and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission have put together Fraud Protection for Seniors, a free package of publications designed to help you make wise investments with the money that you've earned and saved over the years.

Fighting Fraud 101—Smart Tips for Older Investors, one of the brochures in the package, has smart tips for older investors. Protect your retirement and savings by reading their list of tactics commonly used by fraudsters. Don't be swayed by these masters of persuasion and their tales, which often seem like sound investments.

Not sure whether or not a marketer's pitch is legitimate? Use the package's tips on how to protect yourself: Ask questions, check out the investment, and talk to someone first. To help decrease the number of pitches, Fraud Protection for Seniors shows you how to take your name off solicitation lists and telemarketing rosters.

For additional advice on investing wisely, consult the package's other brochure, Questions You Should Ask About Your Investments. Get an outline of questions to pose broken down by investment type. Find out what you need to consider when choosing an investment advisor, questions to ask prospective investment brokers, and steps you can take to rectify broker-related problems.

Investing can be daunting. Let the Fraud Protection for Seniors package help ease some of your concerns. Ordering this free package of publications is easy. You can:

- Send your name and address to Fraud Protection for Seniors, Pueblo, Colorado 81009;
- Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n78fraudprotection.htm to place your order online or to read or print these and hundreds of other Federal publications for free; or
- Call (toll-free) 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time, and ask for the Fraud Protection for Seniors package.

Pet Care-A-Van schedule

The Pet Care-A-Van is a mobile van operated by the City of El Paso Department of Public Health's Animal Services that provides free spay and neuter surgeries.

Did you know that more than 18,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in El Paso each year due to irresponsible pet ownership and pet overpopulation? Animal Services is committed to promoting and protecting the health, safety and welfare of pets in El Paso, but we need the community's help to do it. By having your dog or cat sterilized, you will do your part to prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens. In addition, spaying or neutering does more than help solve the problem of overpopulation. It actually protects pets from many health problems and helps them live a longer, happier life.

Owners desiring to have their pet spayed or neutered must be present at the Pet Care-A-Van location at 7:00 a.m. We can accommodate a maximum of 25 pets each day on a first-come first-served basis.

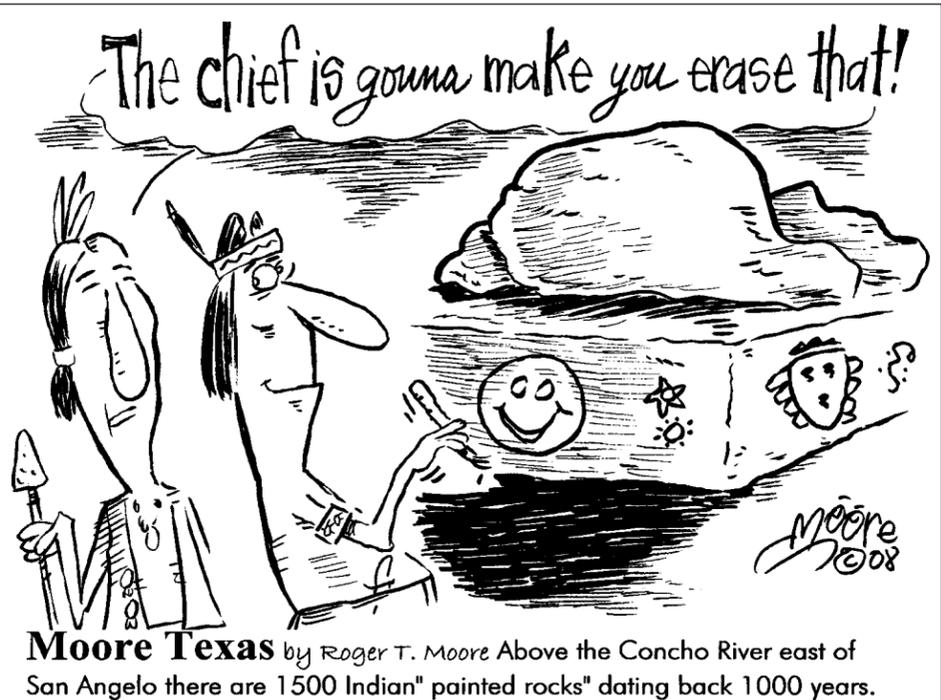
Pets may drink water up until the time of surgery, but should not have solid food after 8:00 p.m. the night before spaying/neutering.

Pets that are undergoing surgery must also receive rabies vaccinations (\$9.00), be registered/licensed (\$8.00), and be microchipped (\$15.00) as required by Animal Ordinances.

DATES	LOCATIONS
June 12	Clint, 200 N. San Elizario
June 13	Shawyer Park, 8100 Independence
June 16	Marty Robbins Park, 11600 Vista Del Sol
June 17	Marty Robbins Park, 11600 Vista Del Sol
June 18	Sue Young Park, 9730 Diana Dr
June 19	Sue Young Park, 9730 Diana Dr
June 21	El Paso Saddleblanket Co., 6926 Gateway East
June 23	Montana Vista, 14618 Greg Road
June 24	Montana Vista, 14618 Greg Road
June 25	White Spur Park, 4800 Love Rd.
June 26	Anthony, 401 Wildcat Dr.
June 27	Socorro, 910 Rio Vista
June 30	Pavo Real Park, 9301 Alameda

Citizens may call Animal Services for more information at 842-1000.

— Contributed by Joanne Bates



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Above the Concho River east of San Angelo there are 1500 Indian "painted rocks" dating back 1000 years.

Socorro High partners with EPCC to train EMTs

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — A wrecked car and teenagers might be a common sight but at El Paso Community College Mission Valley Campus, it was a training session for a group of Socorro High School seniors. The students are the first group to take part in the Emergency Medical Technician certification program offered by EPCC and Socorro Independent School District. The seniors have spent the past five months preparing to take the EMT certification test through a dual-credit class offered by El Paso Community College and held at Socorro High School.

"These students are very motivated and committed to this program and taking the certification exam after graduation. They are a very competitive group," said Sylvia Sustersick, Socorro High School Health Science Teacher and EMT student. "I will take the exam with them so next year

I will be teaching the course."

On a Saturday morning, following months of classroom work and clinical rotations, the students learned how to extricate victims from cars and trucks and into ambulances. This session is just one part of an extensive program that will have students doing ambulance runs and working alongside emergency personnel. In addition, students are learning how to use and maintain common emergency equipment, such as backboards, suction devices, splints, oxygen delivery systems, and stretchers.

"It's a dual credit course that meets the standard for state and national certification and at the end of the course they can take the exam. Once certified, they can work as EMT," said Robin Ariona, El Paso Community College instructor. "This program also prepares them for college courses. This is a good stepping stone for them. A lot of fired departments

See EMT, Page 5



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick / SISD

GET HIM OUT — Socorro seniors Robert Lopez and Naomi De La Torre work to extract an "accident victim" from a car during their EMT training exercises.

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Briefs

From Page 1

Montana. The investigation has revealed that at approximately 4:40 a.m., an unknown suspect confronted an employee, threatened him with a handgun then followed him inside the restaurant. The suspect threatened a second employee with the handgun and demanded money. The suspect fled the scene with an undetermined amount of US Currency. The suspect in this case is described as a White male, early 20s, last seen wearing a black ski mask, black trench coat, blue jeans, black boots, black gloves and armed with an unknown caliber handgun. Anyone with information on this case is encouraged to call Crime Stoppers at (915) 566-8477 (TIPS).

Thief sought II

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the Horizon Police Department in locating the offender responsible for burglary of as many as three businesses in Horizon City, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Tuesday, April 29, at 2:00 a.m., a lone male suspect broke through the roof of the Pee-Wee Mart located at 12600 Darrington in Horizon City. The suspect can be seen on surveillance video attempting to open the cash register, but he was unsuccessful and left the store with no money or merchandise. However, this same offender is also believed to have committed similar Burglary of Businesses at Pepperoni's Restaurant, 14010 Horizon Boulevard, and at Your Bar and Grill, 14020 Horizon Boulevard. Both of those burglaries took place on Wednesday, April 9. The suspect is difficult to see on the surveillance video. However, he is wearing what appears to be a jogging suit with the

word "Ingles," which is the Spanish word for English, on the chest, and a light blue baseball cap. If you have any information at all about the suspect involved in these crimes, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-8477 (TIPS) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward up to \$1,000.

Food scores

El Paso's Department of Public Health has launched its new food establishment score website. This exciting improvement will allow citizens access to information gathered by food inspectors including passing and failing scores of restaurants in El Paso County. The Food Establishment Inspections site can be found by logging on to <http://www.elpasotexas.gov>. To make the site more user friendly we welcome any citizen comments for the next 30 days. Please click on contact us to submit your comments and suggestions by email.

Safety Town

Safety Town is a program that has been facilitating a partnership between the El Paso Police Department, Bassett Place Mall and the El Paso community for 42 years. Safety Town is designed to teach children about personal safety, pedestrian safety, bicycles safety, electrical cord safety, school safety, 911 reporting, and stranger danger. Safety Town establishes trusting bonds between law enforcement officers and children which can last a lifetime. This eight week program is organized by the Central Regional Command Centers — Community Services unit, Bassett Place Mall, and this year, the El Paso Independent School District Police Officers. EPISD police will be assisting with instruction on safety techniques during this vital

program with our community children. The weekly program will run through July 25, 2008. Parents can register their children at the Courtesy Desk by the Café Court in Bassett Place Mall. The Media is invited to attend. Bassett Place Mall will be the location of each graduating class on Friday's at 11:00 a.m.

Reyes honored

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) has recognized Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) with the organization's 2008 Outstanding Legislator Award. AUSA honored Rep. Reyes, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for his long-time support of the United States Army and strong commitment to national defense issues. AUSA president, General Gordon R. Sullivan, presented the award to Rep. Reyes during a reception in Washington, D.C. "[Rep. Reyes] is a tireless advocate for increasing the quality of life of the men and women who serve in the military," Sullivan said. "He has moved legislation to boost the training capabilities, base facilities, and family housing of America's Armed Forces." Reyes served in the Army as a helicopter crew chief in Vietnam. He is one of only a few Members in Congress with experience in combat. Sullivan also commended Reyes for his commitment to veterans. Sullivan praised Reyes for having "worked to obtain funding to reduce the backlog of pending veterans benefit claims, and for the expansion and improvement of outpatient care for veterans." AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army — Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees and family members.

Public Notice

Fabens Independent School District

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at the Fabens ISD Administration Building, 821 NE "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas. The purpose of the public meeting is to allow any interested representative of a non-profit private school or non-profit home school operating in the Fabens Independent School District to appear and receive information regarding Schedule Five of Federal Grant Applications for their school. Representatives will need to provide their school's tax-exempt identification number to the District to confirm eligibility.

The Grant Applications are available through the "No Child Left Behind Act" and include the following:

- Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C - Education of Migratory Children
- Title II, Part A - Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting
- Title II, Part D - Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III Part A - English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement
- Title IV - Safe and Drug Free Schools.

Those that are unable to attend the public meeting may submit their questions, in writing, to the Fabens Independent School District or contact Mr. Neale Baker at (915) 765-2600. Accommodations for disabled individuals in need of any special accommodations or assistance for attending and participating in the meeting are encouraged to contact Neale Baker, twenty four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

WTCC: 06-12-08

CBP officers seize counterfeit handbags at the Port of El Paso

By Rick Lopez
Special to the Courier

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the El Paso port of entry seize 23 counterfeit handbags for violation of intellectual property rights (IPR). The appraised domestic forfeiture value of the handbags was set at \$13,573. This is the second IPR handbag seizure made at the Port of El Paso in the last 45 days.

On May 9, at 7:30 p.m., Ms. Sandra Pichardo arrived at the Ysleta border crossing. Ms. Pichardo stated that she had nothing to declare from Mexico. Ms. Pichardo was selected for examination and was ordered to secondary inspection. In secondary, CBP officers discovered 23 women handbags inside the vehicle. Ms.

Pichardo stated she had forgotten the purses were in the car. An inspection of the handbags by CBP officers revealed possible IPR violations. The registered trademark intellectual property managers were contacted to provide verification and authenticity of the handbags. Over 150 pictures of the handbags were taken and submitted to Coach, Dooney and Burke, Gucci, Dolce Gabbana, Guess, and ESQ IPR managers. The registered trademark owners confirmed the handbags to be counterfeit. The final disposition of the handbags will be determined at a later date.

On June 30, 2008, CBP officers working at the Ysleta border crossing intercepted 17 bogus handbags from a U.S. Citizen residing in Fabens, Texas. The Coach, Louis Vuitton, Burberry, and Gucci coun-

terfeit purses were seized for IPR violations.

"It is vital to our economy that we keep counterfeit merchandise from entering the United States," said Arthur Gonzales, Acting Port Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection in El Paso. "IPR seizures involve a lot of collaboration with stakeholders but at the end it all pays off."

The global economy for counterfeit or pirate goods is massive. Every year, American businesses lose billions of dollars from the importation and sale of counterfeit goods, and the infringement of copyrights, trademarks, and patents. These infringements include counterfeit computer software and games, movies, clothing, jewelry, handbags, shoes and perfumes, watches, and cigarettes.

EMT

From Page 4

around the country are requiring certifications."

By taking this certification exam in the summer, the Socorro seniors are preparing for their future careers while still in high school. Students will be learning about legal, moral

and ethical roles and responsibilities of an Emergency Medical Technician as well as performing scene assessment that provides for scene safety, emergency care, light extrication, and transportation.

"It's a lot of hands on because we are preparing for any kind of emergency or accident," said Socorro senior Osvaldo Realy Vasquez, who plans on becoming a neurosurgeon. "This is the first basic step in my ca-

reer. Because of this program, I will be able work as an EMT while going to school."

"The students are preparing to work in a demanding environment responding to incidents as varied as car accidents, heart attacks, and slips and falls. They will also be entering a career field that is projected to be one of the fastest growing fields in this decade. We are very proud of our students and our partnership with our

Tomatoes

From Page 2

links. Laboratory testing is ongoing in all areas.

People who want to reduce their risk of Salmonella infection avoid eating raw Roma or full-sized round tomatoes other than those sold attached to the vine or grown at home. Consumers also are advised to:

- Cook tomatoes at 145 degrees F. for at least 15 seconds to kill Salmonella.
- Avoid purchasing bruised or damaged tomatoes and discard any that appear spoiled.
- Thoroughly wash all tomatoes under running water.
- Refrigerate within two hours or discard cut, peeled or cooked tomatoes.
- Keep tomatoes that will be

eaten raw separate from raw meats, raw seafood and other raw produce items.

• Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils and counter tops with hot water and soap when switching between types of food products.

• Wash your hands thoroughly and often with soap and warm water especially after going to the restroom, before preparing or serving food and after changing a diaper.

Symptoms of Salmonella infection include headache, stomach pain, diarrhea, nausea and sometimes vomiting. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most people recover without treatment. In some cases, people with severe diarrhea may need to be hospitalized. People with symptoms should drink plenty of water, get extra rest and visit a doctor as soon as possible. Cases should be reported to the City of El Paso Department of Public Health Epidemiology at 771-5810.



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick / SISD

ON TO THE AMBULANCE — Members of the EPCC/Socorro EMT training program transport a "patient" during a mock emergency exercise at EPCC Mission Valley Campus.

Community College," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson.

Typically, a high school diploma is needed to enter a training program. By providing the training during senior year, students are able to become a

certified EMT shortly after graduation.

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Big Brown turns into a big disappointment at Belmont

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

When I was kid I remember watching the likes of Secretariat, Seattle Slew and Affirmed win the Triple Crown of horse racing.

Of course, by winning the crown it meant that the horses not only had to win the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, they had to win the longest race of them all — the Belmont Stakes.

And that's why no horse had won the Triple Crown in 25 years before Secretariat, or 30 years since Affirmed.

But 2008 would be different if you believed all the media types across the Nation, who also happen to know absolutely nothing about horse racing.

All they know is that they saw this big brown horse take the first two races of the series. And that's why Big Brown was the "can't miss" favorite.

Even the experts said it wasn't a case of whether he'd win, but more of a case of how many lengths he'd embarrass the field by.

As all of you know by now, Big Brown ended up being the first Triple Crown candidate to finish absolutely last in the Belmont.

I really felt bad for the winning horse, old what's his name? All the talk after the race was about the loser. What happened to Big Brown? Is Big Brown hurt? Was their any foul play?

The truth is, Big Brown turned into a Big Disappointment. The horse just ran out of gas going around the final turn.

Oh, I almost forgot about the winner of the race. Let's see — I'm looking it up. Just give me a second — his name is — oh, there it is — his name is Da' Tara.

And though nobody feels great about Big Brown losing, the one loser I didn't feel sorry for was the horse's trainer Rick Dutrow Jr.

Dutrow spent all his time leading to the Belmont race bragging about how no other horse had a chance to beat Big Brown. He said his horse winning was a foregone conclusion.

The bigger the mouth — the louder the sound it makes when it is shut up.

It just goes to show that there is a reason a horse hasn't won the Triple Crown in 30 years, and why only three horses have won it in the

last 55 years.

But people tend to forget that, especially the people who wagered over \$5-million on Big Brown to win.

Voice of greatness

In my earlier days I was introduced to some of the weirdest sporting events the world had to offer. I checked this stuff out every Saturday afternoon on the Wide World of Sports TV show.

You remember the show. We all tuned in to see the "thrill of victory and the agony of defeat." I still wince when I see that poor ski jumper take that tumble to the ground.

Though the events were as varied as the countries they were held in, the one constant on the show was Jim McKay.

McKay's voice made all the sports easy to understand and after he did a profile on any of the competitors, you really cared for that person.

McKay brought us to countries like China and the Soviet Union. These were places we'd never seen before. And if you listened to the nightly news, you'd think the people from these

Communist nations were monstrous aliens.

But they were people who laughed and cheered and booed and cried just like us Americans.

And it was because of Jim McKay's reporting that I began to see sports, and the rest of the world, in a different light.

McKay died over the weekend at age 86.

If you are old enough to remember, like I am, how could you forget the 1972 Olympics in Munich?

It was McKay who was given the job of telling the western world that 11 Israeli athletes were taken hostage by terrorists.

At the end of the horrible fiasco McKay ushered the famous line, "they're all gone."

Those three simple words said it all. He wasn't interested in becoming part of the story. He had way too much class for that.

McKay has been out of the spotlight for a while. But his down home voice will never be forgotten.

There are only a few voices that will never die; Keith Jackson, Howard Cosell, Harry Cary, Vin Scully, Al Michaels, Bob Costas, Brent Musburger and Dick Enberg.

Jim McKay may be the king of them all.

FISD

From Page 1

includes the word travel. Soon to be freed from the shackles of work, they will hit the road to visit family and friends in faraway places.

Graham, who has been secretary to the past six district superintendents, retires after 28 years of service. She first went to work for the district in 1980 as a correlated language arts aide at Fabens High School. She worked there for three years.

The rising price of gas hasn't impacted Graham in getting to work. It is only a "journey" of 30 steps from her house across the street to the administration building — 30 steps for 28 years. Take 60 steps a day times 180 days in a school year equals roughly 10,800 steps a school year. Multiply that by 28 and you have a total of 302,400 steps she has taken to and from work (approximately) in her work. Add to that, of course, the countless steps she has taken in and out of offices and back and forth in hallways and you have a much higher and incalculable number of steps.

Zavala, secretary for Richard Ortega, the director of special education, began her FISD career in 1972 when she went to work as secretary to the middle school principal. (Ortega was out of town and unavailable for comment about his secretary.)

A recent Funky Winkerbean comic strip affirms the saying that art imitates life, in this case, coincidentally, the life of Armida Zavala. The comic strip shows two men carrying out boxes of belongings for a school teacher who is ending "a 36-year career," the same number of years that Zavala worked in Fabens. Others most likely will be doing the very same thing for her in about two weeks.

"It will be hard to fill her (Graham's) shoes," says Poncho Garcia, superintendent of the Fabens ISD for six years. "She is one of a kind. She is a very special lady.

"You can't measure her commitment or her dedication; she makes such a difference."

Sandy Burr, the executive secretary to the superintendent of the Clint ISD, also is high in praise of a colleague. (Burr has been secretary to nine school district superintendents.)

"We are going to miss Maureen. She is extremely knowledgeable, very talented and very capable." Asked for one word that best describes Graham, Burr said "loving."

Margie Medina, who is the secretary for Dr. Mike Quatrini, superintendent of the San Elizario school district, also praises Graham as "a great person who is always willing to help—very dedicated and very knowledgeable."

"We will miss her," she adds, echoing Garcia's words.

Graham says she can't single out any particular highlights — "just too many to name." However she qualifies that by saying "most of the highlights are the successes in athletics and academics by my own kids and all Fabens students.

Married to Ted Graham for 42 years, they have four children, three of whom are now teachers. Her husband was head football coach and athletic director for 11 years. He teaches history at Fabens High.

The Grahams have four grandchildren, two of whom are attending Fabens Middle and Fabens High schools.

"We have some amazing kids in Fabens, and I have been blessed to be associated with them over the years."

While affirming she has loved her work and has enjoyed working with people of the district, she says she is now "ready to enjoy some free time to see my grandkids in their junior high and high school activities.

"I am very thankful for the wonderful years that the Fabens ISD has given me. I hope in some way that I have made a difference in the district," Graham concludes.

Zavala's feelings toward retirement are similar to those of Graham.

While I look forward to my retirement, I will also miss working for Fabens ISD which has become such a large part of my life. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here, and I am grateful for the opportunity that Fabens has provided me over the years."

As with Graham, the word travel plays a key role in future plans for Zavala.

"I like to travel with my husband Carlos. I am looking forward to traveling. I want to take a family vacation with my husband, my children and grandchildren.

The Zavalas have been married for

37 years.

Her daughter Melissa graduated from Fabens High this year. A son Steven lives in Phoenix.

"Now I will have time to do these things while I am able."

As she prepares to retire, she remembers special friends who helped her.

"I want to thank Fabens ISD for their support during my son's illness in 1987. I want to give special thanks to Mr. Higinio Peña, Mrs. Peggy Kemp, Mrs. Grete Bush, and Mr. Elmer Grounds.

"I will never forget the help you gave me in our time of need. We had the support of everybody during a tough time."

She refers to her son Charlie who contracted leukemia in 1987 and how the people of Fabens rallied around her and her family in that protracted "time of need." Her son lived to graduate from high school in 1989, but died six months later in December of 1989.

Graham shares difficult family times. Her daughter Heather was diagnosed with cancer of the eye. Through treatments at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, she survived and is now a school teacher in Bronte, TX.

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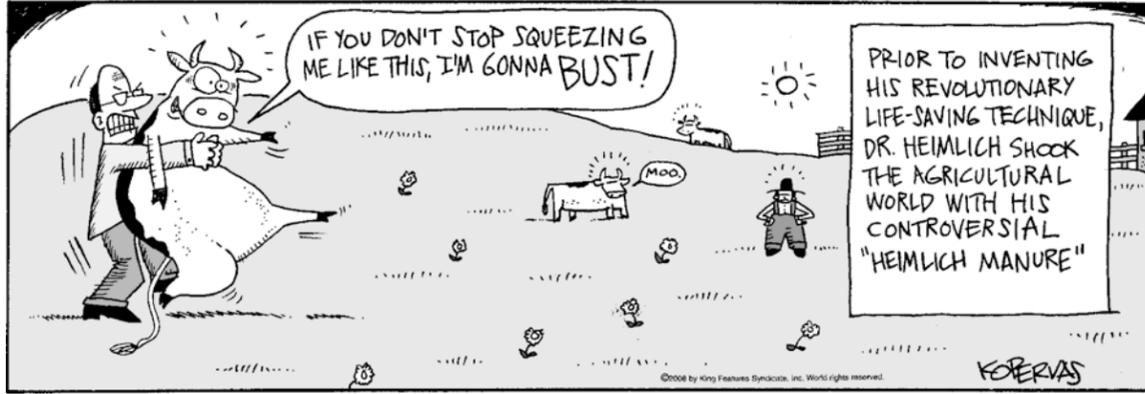
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New health fad: No, thanks

By Don Flood

The March of Science continues. Backward.

Case in point: blood-sucking leeches.

In one of the Sunday magazines, we had a smiling Demi Moore gushing about her latest health secret: leeches, placed in her belly button.

Said Moore, "I'm feeling very detoxified!"

Yes, I might soon be feeling a little detoxified myself, because I think I'm going to throw up.

The sheer grossness of leeches used to be something on which all Americans could agree.

Here's how a movie Web site describes the famous leech scene in "African Queen":

"Rose spots leeches on his back; she screams, and he rips off his shirt, frantic and disgusted."

This has always been the sensible approach to leeches: panic and disgust.

Katherine Hepburn played Rose as tower of strength, unafraid of Nazis, alligators, Nazi alligators and Humphrey Bogart's morning breath.

But the leeches totally freaked her out.

If they ever remake this movie — which they probably won't since it's not based on a comic book and it requires the sensibilities of someone over the age of 7 — they'll have to rewrite the leech scene for the modern — that is to say, insane — audience:

Hepburn: Hey, lucky you! You've got leeches!

Bogart: Yeah, but they're on my back and legs, not on my belly button, where I like to put them so I can be detoxified! Could you help me out?

Hepburn: Yes, but I need to be detoxified first.

Bogart: Why?

Hepburn: Because if the leeches detoxify you first, they'll be falling down drunk.

Bogart: How about I get some

more leeches so we can detoxify together?

Hepburn: Splendid!

The same article referred to them as "medicinal leeches."

Please. What do they do — put little laboratory coats on them and give them mini-clipboards so they look like health-care professionals?

But the question remains, will people actually fall for this health fad?

Of course they will. They're endorsed by Demi Moore, who's in her 40s and still poses in bikinis and who's married to younger man Ashton Kutcher, who just graduated from middle school.

Pretty soon leeches in the belly button will be as common as cell phones (which are placed in the ear, not the belly button).

And speaking of movies and comic books, British scientists are working to create a real-live Wolf Man.

That's not what they're saying, of course. It's generally frowned upon for scientists to announce, "We're creating strange, fantastic creatures that are designed to terrorize large urban areas."

(For a good treatment of this topic, please refer to "Werewolves of London" by Warren Zevon. According to this study, werewolves can be found even in the finer restaurants, as if we don't have enough problems already with screaming babies.)

What the scientists are saying is that they're creating half-human, half-animal embryos for research into various diseases.

Right. We've seen this movie before. The scientists come back to the lab and they're eaten by their creation.

I just hope they don't start with a half-human, half-leech, though I suppose they could find gainful employment with the Internal Revenue Service.

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King Super Crossword

SHOCK TREATMENT

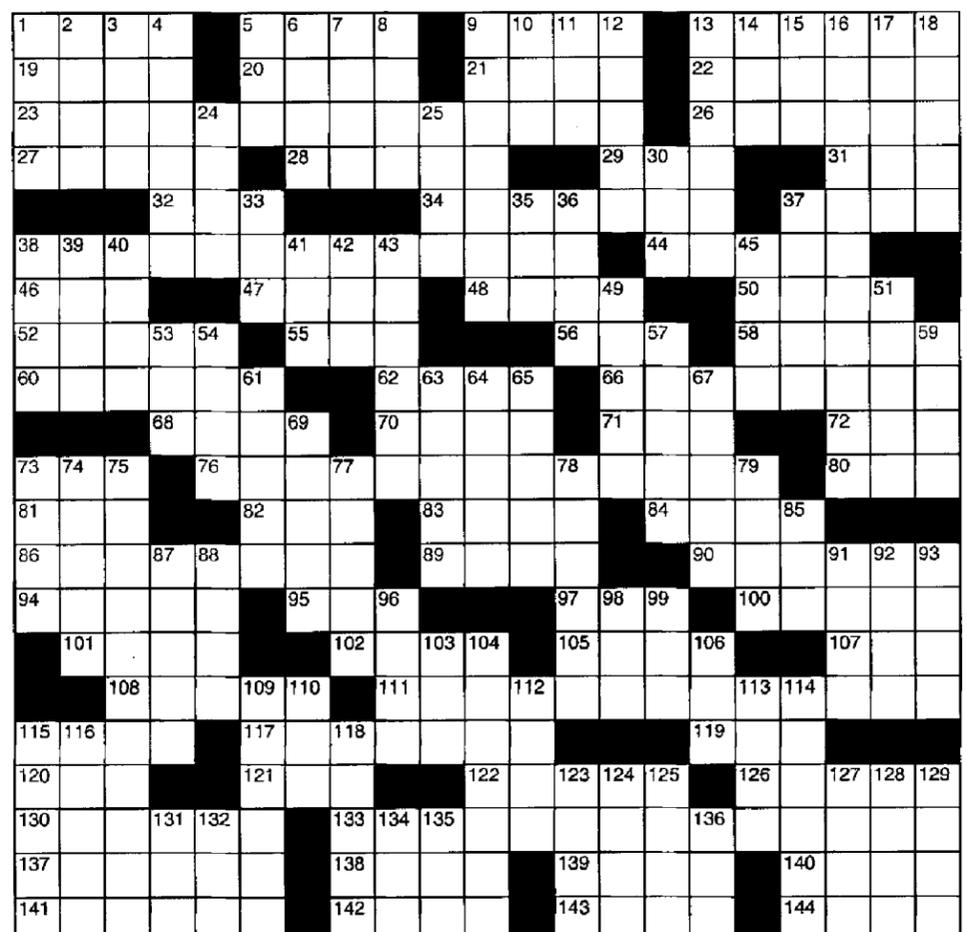
- ACROSS**
- 1 Not quite closed
 - 5 Doris Day refrain
 - 9 Junket
 - 13 Significance
 - 19 Prepare a pear
 - 20 Author Murdoch
 - 21 Run the show
 - 22 Five iron
 - 23 Electrician's favorite rockers?
 - 26 Shorthand inventor
 - 27 Periwinkle, e.g.
 - 28 Primeval upheaval
 - 29 See 14 Down
 - 31 Mil. policy
 - 32 Lassie's mother
 - 34 Puzzled
 - 37 Word with song or dive
 - 38 Question for a tardy electrician?
 - 44 Figure
 - 46 Nice time of year
 - 47 Genesis name
 - 48 Wordy Webster
 - 50 Eloquent equine
 - 52 Boa, but not cobra
 - 55 Raven maven?
 - 56 Dandy
 - 58 Quick snacks
 - 60 Roller-coaster feeling
 - 62 Apparel
 - 66 Alaric, for one
 - 68 Buddies

- 70 South Seas novel
- 71 _ Marie Saint
- 72 TV's " _ Haw"
- 73 Part of USSR
- 76 Electrician's theme song?
- 80 " _ Parkington" ('44 film)
- 81 Gl's address
- 82 _ down (destroy)
- 83 Melodious
- McEntire
- 84 Galba's garment
- 86 First state
- 89 Paradise
- 90 Sleeve type
- 94 _ nous
- 95 Cen. segments
- 97 " _ -Tiki"
- 100 Clear the windshield
- 101 Loretta of "M*A*S*H"
- 102 Cuban currency
- 105 Ladies of the lea
- 107 Hosp. areas
- 108 " _ luego"
- 111 Electrician's teatime treats?
- 115 Wading bird
- 117 '65 Righteous Brothers hit
- 119 Capote, on stage
- 120 "Unforgettable" name
- 121 Born
- 122 " _ Gay"
- 126 One of the Titans

- 130 Fleet
 - 133 Electrician's favorite history subject?
 - 137 Tidy up
 - 138 Relate
 - 139 "So _ You" ('77 song)
 - 140 _-friendly
 - 141 Borgnine or Gallo
 - 142 Award for 101
 - Across
 - 143 Chore
 - 144 Work in the lab
- DOWN**
- 1 Feigns
 - 2 Dear fellow?
 - 3 Surface measurement
 - 4 Dwell
 - 5 " _ vous plait"
 - 6 Skater Heiden
 - 7 Loaded
 - 8 Sailing
 - 9 Wagner hero
 - 10 Capek drama
 - 11 Unwell
 - 12 Italian specialty
 - 13 Mischievous
 - 14 With 29 Across, rum cocktail
 - 15 Washington hrs.
 - 16 Words on an electrician's sampler?
 - 17 Lasso
 - 18 Mortise's mate
 - 24 Wilde work

- 25 Aim
- 30 Burro
- 33 Herd word
- 35 From _ Z
- 36 Page
- 37 Bit of parsley
- 38 Singer Dottie
- 39 Craving
- 40 Parent
- 41 Diamond authority?
- 42 _ Paulo, Brazil
- 43 Sally Struthers' birthplace
- 45 Both: prefix
- 49 Humble house
- 51 Prevent
- 53 Torn or Taylor
- 54 Defect
- 57 Perform a pirouette
- 59 " _ a Lady" ('71 hit)
- 61 Andes animal
- 63 Donizetti's "L'elisir d' _"
- 64 Got a galley going
- 65 Fancy dessert
- 67 Relish
- 69 Bedtime reading
- 73 Mean Marquis
- 74 Removes the cork
- 75 Poet turned electrician?
- 77 Nebbish
- 78 Maris or Mattingly
- 79 "My word!"
- 85 Generation
- 87 La Scala songs

- 88 Moistens
- 91 Pride papa
- 92 Lot size
- 93 Stack role
- 96 Splinter group
- 98 Hold the deed
- 99 Safety _
- 103 " _ generis"
- 104 Hospital worker
- 106 Fast way to the UK
- 109 Lodger
- 110 Lincoln or Lyman
- 112 Betting setting
- 113 Learn fast?
- 114 End product
- 115 Cockamamie
- 116 Less adorned
- 118 Ms. Midler
- 123 Leave out
- 124 Turner of "Peyton Place"
- 125 Hill dwellers
- 127 _ majesty
- 128 Belligerent deity
- 129 Spanish artist
- 131 Enjoyed Thanksgiving
- 132 _ Plaines, IL
- 134 Clear one's throat
- 135 Common street name
- 136 NASA affirmative



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: Can I apply for retirement benefits online?

www.socialsecurity.gov/r&m2.htm. You also can calculate your estimated benefits by going to www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/calculators.htm. File online and save a trip to the office. For more infor-

A: Yes, you can and it is quick, convenient and secure. You'll find the application information at

mation, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: Are Social Security numbers re-assigned after a person dies?

A: No. We do not re-assign Social Security numbers. To date, we have

assigned more than 442 million Social Security numbers. And each year we assign about 5.5 million new numbers. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: Will Social Security beneficiaries receive a payment from the economic stimulus package approved by Congress?

A: Yes, but only if you filed a 2007 tax return. If you don't usually file a tax return, you need to do so in order to get your stimulus payment. There's still time to file, but you need to do so by October 15, 2008. In May, the Treasury began sending economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million households. To find out if you are eligible or if you have other questions about the stimulus bill, please go to the IRS website at www.irs.gov. If you prefer, you may call IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040. For more information about Social Security, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: If I go back to work, will I automatically lose my Social Security disability benefits?

A: No, Social Security has several work incentives to help you ease back into the workforce. You may be able to continue receiving benefits during a trial work period, and in most cases your medical coverage will continue for up to two years after you begin

working. We may be able to help you return to work without losing your benefits at all. For information about Social Security's work incentives, visit our online website, the Work Site, at www.socialsecurity.gov/work or read the online Red Book on Work Incentives at www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook. For additional information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: I receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Can my children receive dependent's benefits based on my record?

A: No. SSI benefits are based on the needs of the individual and are only paid to the qualifying person. Unlike Social Security, there are no SSI benefits payable to spouses, children or survivors. For more information, see www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html. You also may want to read the introductory material in our booklet, www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/text-understanding-ssi.htm. For even more information, visit our website at 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 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.

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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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