

NEWSBRIEFS

West Nile Virus

The City of El Paso, Department of Public Health has confirmed the diagnosis of the first case of West Nile Virus in El Paso County. The case involves a 65 year old male that lives in the 79935 zip code. He is out of the hospital and recovering at home. The Vector Control Program in the City of El Paso Environmental Services has reported no mosquitoes positive for West Nile Virus. The amount of mosquitoes trapped has been minimal this year because trapping is difficult when there are high winds and rain. However, Vector Control has done other mosquito control measures such as putting minnow in standing water. They plan to set traps on the Eastside and will fog when weather permits. Trapped mosquitoes are sent to the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin for testing. All residents of the region need to take extra caution to protect themselves from mosquitoes. The elderly and very young are usually the ones most susceptible, but anyone of any age can be infected. Follow the 4 D's to prevent mosquito bites and mosquito breeding:

- Dusk and dawn are when mosquitoes are most active. Avoid outdoor activities during these times.
 - Dress in pants, long sleeve shirts, shoes and socks when going outside.
 - Drain any standing water on the ground, or water in tires, plastic containers, cans, kiddie pools or in any other type of container that can hold water. Mosquitoes can breed in very little water.
 - DEET (N, N-Diethyl-m-toluamide) based mosquito repellent is the best. Be sure to follow the instructions for use on the container.
- Other tips:
- Check window and door screens and repair holes. Make sure door seals are secure.
 - Do not over-irrigate your farmland or property as this allows water to stagnate and mosquitoes to breed.

Bowling tourney

Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc. is hosting its 3rd Annual Bowling Tournament on Saturday, July 12, at Bowl El Paso, 11144 Pellicano Drive. Sign-up starts at 12:30 p.m. and the tournament gets underway at 1:00 p.m. The entry fee for a 5-person team is \$100. A total of three games will be played on the same pair of lanes. Teams will be non-handicapped, and play will be on a "scratch" basis. Entry is open to all men, women, and children (capable of throwing a bowling ball). This is a "fun" tournament with all fees (other than lineage and administrative costs) donated directly to Crime Stoppers of El Paso. Sponsorships are also available for \$100, which entitles the sponsoring company to a 3' x 5' banner which will be displayed over two adjoining lanes for one week

See BRIEFS, Page 8

As a man gets older he suspects that nature is plotting against him for the benefit of doctors and dentists.

— Quips & Quotes

Marion named Region 19 President for TEPSEA

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Chelaine Marion, Assistant Principal at Robert R. Rojas Elementary in Socorro ISD, was

named Region 19 President for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA). Marion has been an assistant principal since 2003 and has been in the Socorro Independent School District for 10 years. She was also a Curriculum Coordinator and Science teacher at Ernesto Serna Dual Language PK-8 School. She is also an instructor at the College of Education at University of Texas at El Paso and El Paso Community College. Last year, Marion was recognized by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association as Assistant Principal of the Year for Region 19 which includes the El Paso, Ysleta, Socorro, Clint, San Elizario, Canutillo, and Fort Hancock school districts.

"One of my goals as the new Region 19 TEPSEA President for the next two years is to increase the positive publicity and participation of Socorro ISD's administrators at the state



Chelaine Marion

level. So often El Paso is forgotten and over-ridden by larger districts in Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston, and I know we have a lot to share and offer," said Marion. "There is a lot of talent in our district and in our neighboring districts as well. It is a tremendous honor for me to serve in this capacity."

"TEPSA's leaders are committed to Texas children and educators. They represent their communities and state with pride," said Executive Director Sandi Borden.

Marion has worked on improving the connection between parents of At-Risk students and staff by dedicating an instructional aide who assists teachers with small group intensive instruction. She also developed a new plan regarding the school's safety program that couple be implemented with ease but would keep students and staff safe.

Since 1917, TEPSEA has served Texas principals and supervisors. TEPSEA has more than 5,300 members. These administrators supervise more than 150,000 teachers who direct the activities of more than 2.5 million PreK-8

See MARION, Page 4

Canutillo and San Eli students are finalists in national 'Do The Write Thing Challenge'

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Bianca Sienna Licerio, eighth grade student at Canutillo Middle School, in the Canutillo ISD, and Aaron Miguel Morales, Garcia-Enriquez Middle School, from San Elizario

ISD, were honored as national finalists during the "Do The Write Thing Texas Challenge Leadership Summit," held in Austin, Texas recently.

Licerio and Morales were first recognized as state finalists in the El Paso area during a

See WRITE, Page 4



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

DOING THE WRITE THING — From left are Manuel Aldaco, teacher San Elizario ISD; Aaron Morales, eighth grade student at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School; Judge Patricia Macias, Bianca Licerio, eighth grade student at Canutillo Middle School, and Patricia Gallardo, teacher Canutillo ISD.

Jim Fry named new principal of Canutillo High School

Max Padilla retires after 37 years

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier



Jim Fry

Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved Jim Fry as the new principal of Canutillo High School (CHS) during a special board meeting held Wednesday (July 2). Fry, who has been assistant principal at CHS for the past two

years, will now lead the school of nearly 1,600 students and over 150 faculty and staff members. His appointment becomes effective immediately.

Fry replaces Max Padilla, who announced his retirement during the special board meeting. Padilla is retiring after 37 years in education; twelve of those years at Canutillo ISD as principal of Jose Damian Elementary School and the past three years as the CHS principal.

"I want to thank everyone I have worked with, especially the faculties at both Jose Damian Elementary School and Canutillo High School, for the privilege of working with them to create the best places for students to learn and grow," Padilla stated.



Max Padilla

Fry has eleven years of experience in the education field. Prior to his arrival at CHS, he served as assistant principal for five years at John R. Rogers High School, in Spokane, Washington. He earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in elementary education and English at the secondary level and a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration from Washington State University.

"I'm honored to serve the Canutillo community in this very exciting time of growth. We will continue to build on the outstanding work that has already begun, and we will ensure that every student is given the opportunity to succeed," Fry said. "I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with parents, students, and staff to make Canutillo High School a model for all schools in Texas," he added.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

State tax audit needed

Hola mi gente. Last week, I touched upon the process within the appraisal system that strongly tends to shift property values upward. The increasing appraisals have the impact of reducing state subsidies to school districts and subsequently requiring an increase in local monies to fund education. This process caused almost every school district in the state to reach the maximum \$1.50 per hundred dollar tax rate resulting in a court mandated change in the law.

One of the proposed solutions to reducing the property tax rates has been increasing the sales tax. For most El Pasoans, this would mean another hit to their pocketbook while residents in wealthier communities would not.

Some of the testimony that we heard in the Select Committee on Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform reputed the need for increasing the sales tax. I am convinced that the state fails to collect all of the sales taxes that are collected by businesses. Before we increase the sales tax, we need to do a better job of collecting what is paid today.

Our system actually invites the withholding of sales tax. There is no means by which cash sales can be adequately audited by the comptroller. While it is not my intention to pick on small businesses, testimony strongly suggested that cash sales, as opposed to checks or credit cards, can easily be underreported.

All sales taxes are paid to the comptroller's office. That office then

sends part of the taxes back to the county and city. If every penny that you paid for sales taxes was paid to the comptroller, then the county and the city could be in a position to set a lower property tax rate on your home. The state would also have more money to fund school districts which would also mean lower school property taxes.

In 2007, the state listed that taxable revenues reported by 766,500 businesses totaled \$283,290,037,793. If there is just a five percent difference in what is actually collected and paid, that could result in about \$932 million dollars more for the state. More importantly, about \$298 million could possibly be available for the cities as part of their reimbursement from the state.

I hope that other members of the

select committee will join me in calling for an audit statewide, or a sample audit of both large and not so large communities, in order to try and determine how much money is collected and not paid to the state.

Before we take another penny out of your pocket for every purchase you make, I prefer to be certain that the comptroller is collecting every penny you pay now. If you know of a business that fails to pay all of their taxes, tell that business owner to be a good Texan and to pay the state all of the taxes collected. We are all in this together and anyone who fails to do their part places a greater burden on the rest of us.

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



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

College money available

More affordable for students and families. The first rate cut occurred on July 1, reducing the rate from 6.8 percent to 6 percent.

In recent months, turmoil in the U.S. credit markets have made it harder for some lenders to secure the funding needed to make new federal student loans. It is important for families to know that, so far, no student or parent has been denied a federal student loan for which they are eligible, and Congress is working to ensure that eligible students will be able to obtain affordable loans, re-

gardless of what happens in the nation's credit markets.

The CCRAA provides more than \$20 billion in federal student aid over the next five years, and reduces the financing cost of student loans. In June, all federal student loans carried a fixed interest rate of 6.8 percent. Thanks to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, this month the interest rate on subsidized (need-based) federal student loans dropped to 6 percent. This rate will continue to decrease until it reaches 3.4 percent in 2011. Millions of low- and middle-income students will be eligible to receive the CCRAA's benefits, which will make the cost of student loans more affordable.

The CCRAA also increases the Pell Grant scholarship by \$490 (raising the maximum award to \$4,731), and provides \$4000 in up-front tuition assistance for students who commit to teaching high-need subjects in high-need public schools.

Congress also recently passed the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (H.R. 5715), which provides the Secretary of Education with additional tools to protect federal student loan access. It also gives struggling families more flexibility to repay federal student loans.

There are thousands of lenders participating in the federal student loan programs. While some lenders have announced plans to scale back their lending activity in the federally guaranteed student loan program, many others have announced plans to increase their participation in the program. Sallie Mae, the nation's largest lender, recently announced that it

will continue to provide federal student loans for the coming year.

It is important to distinguish between private loans, which tend to be costlier for students and parents, and federally guaranteed loans. Federal loans carry a fixed interest rate, while private loans carry much higher interest rates with terms and conditions that are usually less flexible. Unfortunately, many students are unaware of all of their federal financing options, and do not take full advantage of all the resources available to them before turning to private loans.

Regardless of the current economic environment, students and parents should learn about federal loan programs and consider federal college loans before taking out more expensive private college loans. For more information about federal financial aid options, visit the Department of Education's student financial aid website at www.studentaid.ed.gov.

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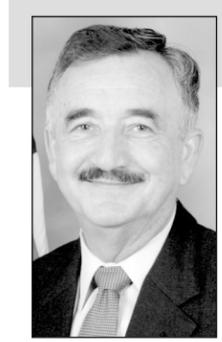
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From D.C. By U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez

Rebates going unclaimed

According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), 400,000 eli-

gible Texans have not filed the paperwork they need to receive their Recovery Rebates. Since many retirees and veterans don't normally file a tax return because their benefits aren't taxable, an estimated 400,000 have not filed this year, which is required to receive an economic stimulus payment. Those eligible must file by October 15, 2008, in order to receive the stimulus payment.

The recovery rebate I supported in Congress is important to getting our economy back on track and helping many seniors, veterans and families with necessities like food, gas and prescriptions. I am urging everyone who is eligible to file so they may receive this important stimulus check.

The IRS has identified 5.2 million

retirees and veterans' beneficiaries nationwide who potentially are eligible for the stimulus payments but haven't filed to claim it. To be eligible for the minimum payment, you must have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income including any combination of earned income, nontaxable combat pay and certain benefit payments from Social Security, Veterans Affairs and Railroad Retirement.

The types of Social Security benefits that are considered as qualifying income include retirement, disability and survivor payments. The types of Veterans Affairs benefits considered qualifying income include disability compensation, disability pension and survivor payments. Railroad Retirement payments considered as qualifying income include the Social Security-equivalent portion of Tier 1 benefits.

In April those eligible who filed their taxes began receiving Recovery

Rebates as a result of the bipartisan Economic Stimulus package passed by Congress. The package became law in February and provides rebate checks of \$300 or \$600 per individual and \$1,200 per married couple, plus an additional \$300 per child. These recovery rebates for 130 million families are helping families afford the high costs of gas, health care and groceries, and jumpstarting the slowing economy. The rebate is in addition to any refund eligible taxpayers have received.

I will continue working to help keep families in their homes and aid to families who are struggling with rising gas and grocery prices. I look forward to a continued dialogue with people about our need for an economic recovery.

For more information about the stimulus payments, go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or call the toll-free Rebate Hotline at 1-866-234-2942.

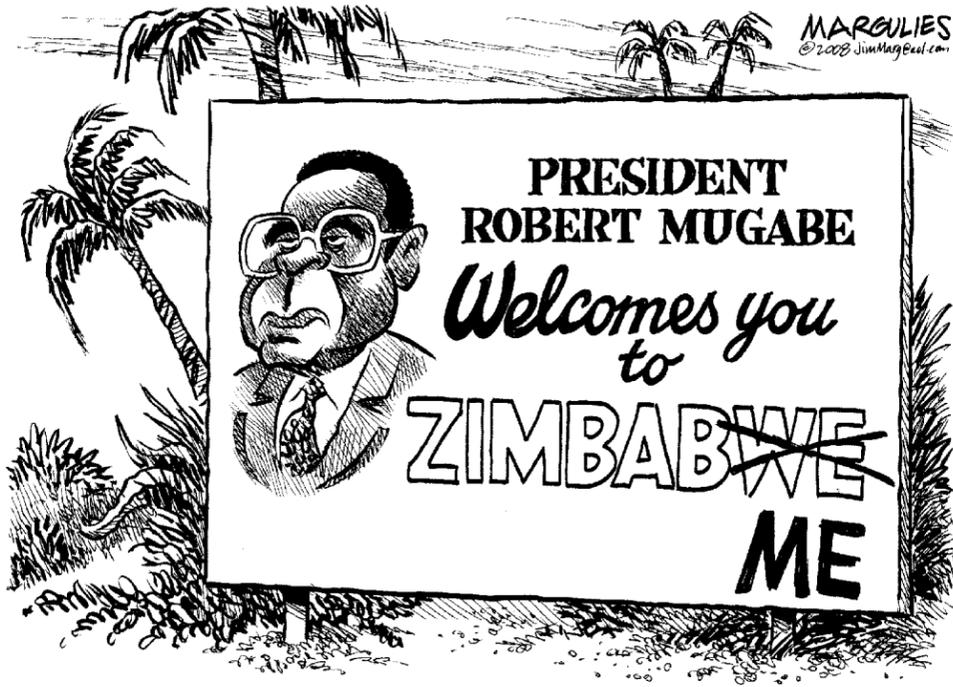
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View from here By James Terry

In taking aim at credit-card fees, Congress shoots consumers in the foot

Americans hold nearly \$1 trillion in credit-card debt, according to data just released by the Federal Reserve. Now Congress wants to make that burden even heavier. Some misguided lawmakers are pushing legislation that would saddle consumers with fees that retailers don't want to pay.

Under the deceptively named "Credit Card Fair Fee Act," Congress would effectively fix the rates that merchants pay to accept credit cards. That'd be good news for retailers. But it would be disastrous for consumers, who could see the fees on everything from their credit cards to their checking accounts rise.

To see why congressional intervention would harm consumers, it's important to understand how credit- and debit-card transactions work.

When you swipe a card at the local store, the storeowner typically keeps just over 98 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 2 percent goes from the retailer's bank to the bank that issued your card, or perhaps your local bank or credit union. It's called an "interchange fee."

Why do retailers accept this cost?

For starters, credit card transactions are guaranteed and secure. Storeowners don't have to worry about a consumer's check bouncing, extending credit, or having huge sums of cash on hand.

Credit cards also reduce labor costs. Clerks don't have to waste time counting change or tabulating receipts. Transaction records are automatically stored on a computer system, making accounting a breeze.

And credit cards are popular with consumers. About 40 percent of all transactions are conducted using plastic.

Despite all the advantages of credit cards, storeowners would obviously prefer to avoid that 2 percent fee. So they've decided to put pressure on Congress to lower their costs.

Specifically, they've lobbied the government to give them a special anti-trust exemption. If such a law were passed, all the retailers could form a massive cartel.

Payment systems and retailers would be forced to negotiate for 90 days over interchange fees. If they did not come to an agreement, retailers could then collectively boycott an entire credit card network. In other words, consumers would be denied the ability to pay with their preferred method.

Retailers claim such "negotiation" is necessary to lower prices for shoppers, who supposedly pay higher prices at the checkout counter to offset interchange fees.

But that's a misleading argument. In truth, if retailers collude to negotiate lower interchange fees, consumers won't see any savings. Instead, retailers will simply pocket the difference.

Just look at what's happened in other countries. Australia recently capped interchange fees, just as the current congressional proposal would effectively do. The cap had no discernible impact on prices paid by consumers.

Not only would shoppers miss any savings, they could also be saddled with higher fees and lose some great perks.

With retailers getting a free ride courtesy of Uncle Sam, card-issuing banks would need to recoup their losses elsewhere — by either raising fees on credit-card owners or ditching carrots like frequent-flyer rewards. Shoppers could say goodbye to no-annual-fee cards.

That's exactly what happened in Australia. Consumers there now pay extra fees at the register when they use a card.

Ordinary banking customers would also suffer. Do you have a free checking account? If so, there's a good chance that it's partly subsidized by interchange fees on debit cards.

Banks make money on free checking accounts by pairing them with debit cards. If politicians render that arrangement unprofitable, banks will simply stop offering free checking. And you'd have to pay the bank to maintain an account.

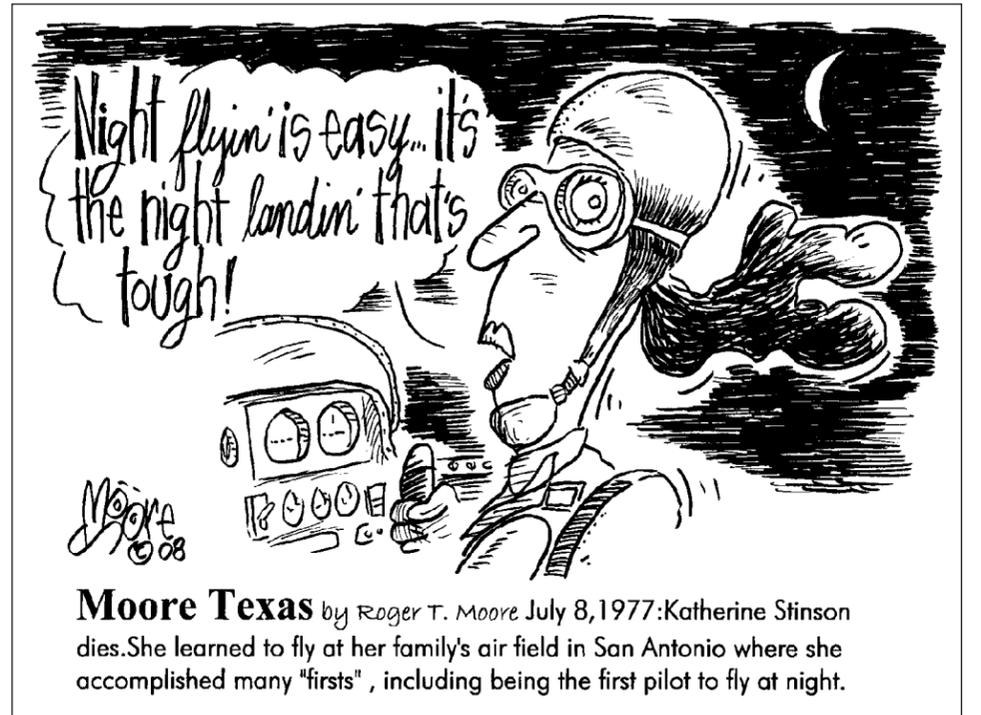
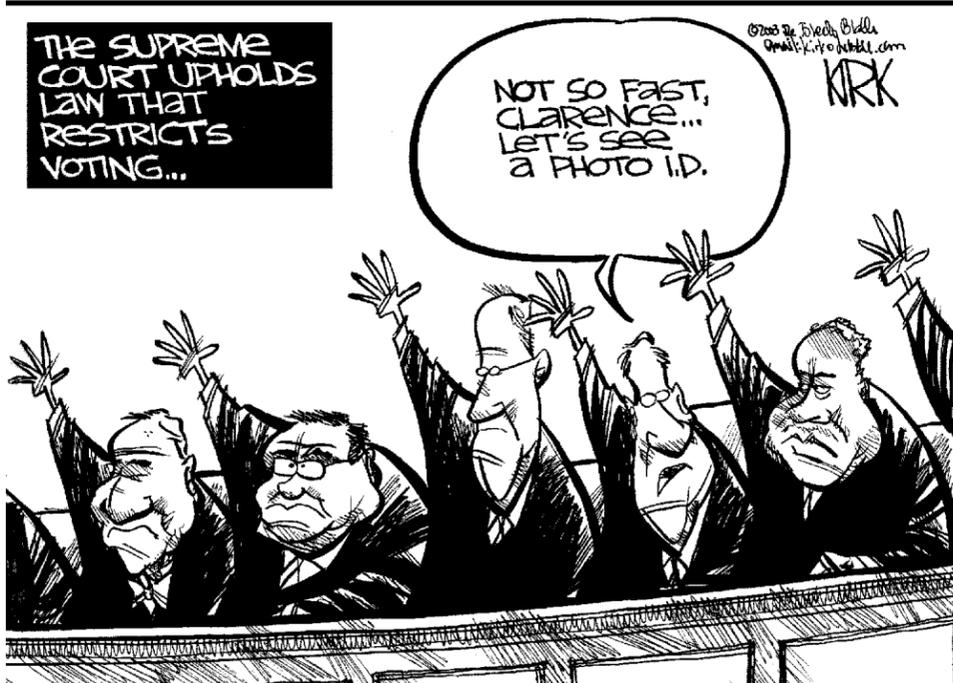
Seniors and others who receive state benefits would suffer at the hands of this proposal too. More than a million people nationwide receive their Social Security and other benefits on prepaid cards. If retailers decide to boycott plastic, these vulnerable consumers would be unable to purchase necessary items like groceries or medication.

This measure would also hurt those without bank accounts. At low-wage jobs, it's increasingly popular for employers to issue paychecks on pre-paid debit cards. These "payroll cards" provide enormous benefits. They eliminate hefty check-cashing fees, reduce the need to carry cash, and offer employees the ability to make purchases just about anywhere.

It's understandable that Congress wants to help Americans in debt. But our politicians have completely misdiagnosed the problem — which isn't credit card companies, but people living beyond their means. Giving retailers more money through regulation of interchange fees won't solve this.

Allowing retailers to form a cartel is special-interest politics at its worst. And shifting fees from merchants to consumers will do nothing but drive shoppers further into debt. Simply put, there's nothing fair about the Credit Card Fair Fee Act.

James Terry is the Chief Public Advocate of the Consumers Rights League, a non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization dedicated to preserving consumer choice in the marketplace.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore July 8, 1977: Katherine Stinson dies. She learned to fly at her family's air field in San Antonio where she accomplished many "firsts", including being the first pilot to fly at night.

Write

From Page 1

banquet held in May. They were selected as the local "Do The Write Thing Challenge" finalists from almost 2,400 students in El Paso County who entered essays, poems, songs, and plays about how violence has affected their lives.

"Do the Write Thing Challenge" is an initiative of the National Campaign to Stop Violence to reduce youth violence in schools and communities across the United States. Middle School students are given the opportunity to examine the impact of violence on their lives and in their communities and to voice their observations, identify the problems, the causes, and their ideas for solutions.

The local coalition is chaired by Judge Patricia Macias, 388th Judicial District Court. El Paso Coordinators are Helen Rojas, Clint ISD counse-

lor, and Veronica Herrera, court coordinator 388th Judicial District Court.

"This program gives middle school students an opportunity to examine the impact of violence on their lives and what they think should be done to change things, with an emphasis on personal responsibility," said Patricia Gallardo, CMS teacher, who assigns the essay contest as a class project for her English classes every year.

Licerio, Gallardo, and Cynthia Manquero, Bianca's mother; Morales, Maria Morales, his mother; and Manuel Aldaco, his teacher, will all travel to Washington, D. C. in July for an all expense paid trip. Licerio and Morales will be honored along with the other national finalists during a five day trip, which includes visiting historical landmarks, meeting personally with their respective Members of Congress on Capitol Hill, and having their writings presented and published in the Library of Congress.

Marion

From Page 1

school children. The organization is a diverse, supportive community of professional leaders, learning with and from each other, committed to

providing quality education for all Texas elementary and middle school students. TEPSA provides leadership training, networking opportunities, information and support for principals and supervisors as they strive to continually improve the education of Texas school children and the working conditions of our members.

Socorro ISD job coach honored by local association

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

The Transition Association of El Paso named Esther Trillo, Job Coach at Socorro High School, as its 2008 Job Coach of the Year. Trillo, who started as a teacher's aide, currently works with high school students with disabilities, preparing them for employment after graduation. Trillo has been with Socorro ISD for 12 years with the past two as the job coach at Socorro High School.

"I'm flattered that they considered me for this award. I am just trying to get our students to become productive members of our community," said Trillo. "I help students learn how to do their job and be-

come more independent."

"She is a dynamic, student focused and extremely positive person. Her biggest asset is that she is able to come with solutions and opportunities that will allow our students to show their potential," said Susan Kelch, Director of Special Education.



Esther Trillo

According to Tom Laign, Transition Services Coordinator for Socorro ISD, students who previously did not have paid employment, are now able to hold employment because of the cooperative efforts between the Job Coach and VAC Teacher. The expectation at Socorro High School is that students who train for employment are employed before they graduate.

"Ms. Trillo takes into account the preferences and strengths of individual students, and when a student

is matched to a location, she is able to task analyze the student's work responsibilities so the student is successful with employment," said Laign.

"Esther has gone far beyond the call of duty when it comes to helping our students feel successful in transition. She's always seeking new techniques and methods needed to work with individuals with disabilities. She has a way of approaching employers to be more willing of working with our students and give them a chance to prove themselves," said Mary Carrillo, VAC Teacher at Socorro High School. "She is very caring, loving and believes deeply that every student can and should be given an honest opportunity to prove themselves on any job. She has taken students with very challenging needs and worked on strategies that work best for them. She has demonstrated that when it gets difficult instead of giving up she manages to come up with new ideas, ask for advice and leads the way."

The Transition Association of El Paso is the local affiliate of the Texas Association of Vocational Adjustment Coordinators, a statewide organization that improves transition results for students who receive special education services.

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School board notes By Don Woodyard

EL PASO COUNTY — June school board meetings in the Tornillo and Anthony school districts are highlighted in this roundup.

Tornillo ISD June 17

The board of trustees took action to support construction of the new high school. The board unanimously approved the issuance and sale of the district's maintenance tax note. In a telephone interview Monday from New Hampshire where he and his wife are vacationing, TISD superintendent Paul Vranish points out how this all ties in with the start of construction July 7 on the new \$12.4 million high school.

He likens the district's issuance and sale of the maintenance tax note to a homeowner taking out a loan to meet certain needs. The action was taken as a safeguard because it is

"spending every dollar in the savings account" and earmarking that money for construction costs. The tax note, he further explains, is like a financial safety net to protect the district until its savings account is replenished through future property tax receipts.

"It will take every dollar," he emphasizes.

The superintendent adds that some of the savings account money also went to pay off an old loan incurred by a past district administration.

Vranish says the new high school is expected to be completed by September of 2009.

The school board also saw the results of a survey of the district's 54 seniors. In the survey, conducted Life Track Services, students answered a series of questions in which they evaluated their experiences during their high school years.

Vranish praised the students for

their assessments, saying they were right on the mark in explaining what they felt were good and bad points in the academic instruction process.

"The kids were positive about their school experiences," Vranish says. "The kids were basically complimentary."

In other action:

No vote was taken, but the consensus of the board was to authorize Vranish "to actively pursue expanding the district's clinic operation to include offering health care for adults."

The board also adopted a local policy on student drug testing. It is aimed at student athletes, but parents of students who are not athletes can opt into the program.

Anthony ISD June 17

A new running/walking track may be in the future for Anthony High School.

Superintendent Ron Haugen said that replacing the old asphalt track

with a rubberized, all-weather track has been referred to the Facilities Committee.

"I think it will be good," Haugen says of the action taken by the board of trustees. It's a doable priority."

The board also approved the district improvement plan which provides a new and improved curriculum format. It allows for horizontal and vertical academic alignment that provides for continuity of instruction between grade levels.

"It organizes instruction," Haugen explains.

Impacting students significantly

was the approval of the student code of conduct which calls for the confiscation of student cell phones in operation during school hours. They are considered a distraction to the students' learning process.

The board also approved a \$2,000 signing bonus for new teachers.

Haugen says the school district and the town of Anthony are working together to buy a roadside electronic message board which would be placed on Wildcat Drive near the high school. Informative messages would benefit both the town and the school district.

Socorro ISD schedules low cost sports physicals

Col. John O. Ensor Middle School will be having school sports physicals on Saturday July 12, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the school gymnasium. The cost for the physical will be \$20 and no checks will be accepted. All Socorro ISD athletes, grades seven through 12, are welcome to come. Students must bring district physical forms from their respective campuses. For more information contact Armando Sanchez at 937-6000.

Hurshel Antwine School will be having sports physicals on Friday, July 18, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., after school in the gymnasium. The cost is \$20 — no checks accepted — and all forms must be completed at that time. Please contact Raul Morales, 915-307-3511 or 443-1618 for more information.

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Tampa Bay Rays bedevil the American League East

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Through the years we've all learned to expect certain things; the Los Angeles Clippers will be participating in the NBA lottery, Tiger Woods will win at least one major tournament every year, and the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox will battle for the American League East title.

But every now and then the world of sports throws us a curve ball. No, not Tiger Woods, he'd already won a major before getting injured. I'm talking about the Yankees and the Red Sox.

Seems the office clerk forgot to give the Tampa Bay (don't call us Devil anymore) Rays the memo.

The perennial American League losers are not only proving they can play with the big boys, they have a healthy lead over both Boston and New York in what has to be the story of the 2008 baseball season.

While everyone knows about Big Papi and Derek Jeter and Manny Ramirez and Alex Rodriguez and Josh Beckett and Mariano Rivera and so on and so forth; how many of you out there can name the manager or any Tampa Bay player?

That's exactly what I thought. And that's what makes this story so intriguing. The Rays keep winning without any star players. They just have a knack for making the right play at exactly the right time.

Major League Baseball just passed the halfway mark of the season and there're plenty of games remaining, and it'll be interesting to see

whether Tampa can stay in it for the long haul.

Oh, by the way, the Rays' manager is Joe Maddon.

Yeah, I hadn't heard of him before this season either.

Some of the big players for Tampa Bay are Evan Longoria, Carlos Pena, Matt Garza, Diner Navarro, Carl Crawford, B.J. Upton, Cliff Floyd, Scott Kasmir and Troy Percival. Not exactly a who's who in the "I've heard of that guy" department.

And yet they continue to pull out game after game.

Does anybody know what the Rays did last year? They finished with a dismal 66-96 record and 30 games behind the Red Sox. In 2006, Tampa Bay was 61-101, in 2005 the Rays were 67-95, and it goes on and on and on.

So when you see that Tampa Bay is sporting a 55-33 record and are four games up on Boston and eight games ahead of the Yankees — it has to boggle the mind.

I don't know if they'll keep it up, common sense and tradition leads me to believe they won't. But wouldn't it be fun for these guys to shock the Red Sox and Yankees.

Besides, who ever said three was a crowd?

Is he, or isn't he

When I was young and in love I remember picking a flower off the ground and plucking the petals; she loves me, she loves me not.

I'm not so young any more but being a sentimental guy, I picked up a flower yesterday and it was like I was a teenager again.

And I pulled off one petal, and then another. "Brett Favre will stay retired, Brett Favre will not, Brett Favre will stay retired, Brett Favre

will not..."

What is the deal with the "kind of" former quarterback of the Green Bay Packers? It seems like he plays this game every off season. First he gives his tearful good-byes and then he decides he wants to play again after all.

Well last year I thought for sure Favre had played the last game of his career. He said there was no way he'd ever play football again.

I can respect a guy who knows when to call it quits. But there's been talk about Favre making a possible return. But if he does so, it might have to be with another team.

Seems the Packers are ready to go forward

with long-time backup Aaron Rodgers.

There's no doubt that Favre put the Packers back on the map and he's definitely considered one of the best quarterbacks to ever play the game, but it isn't fair to Rodgers. The poor guy was finally given the keys to the team this season and it appears Favre wants to take the wheel again.

Like that annoying uncle who drinks too much and talks too loud at the family get-together, Favre doesn't know when it's time to leave.

It's time Brett, it's time to do the classy thing and move on. Even that bum uncle eventually gets the hint.



Clint grad, Burr, heads cattle operation

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CLINT — Sandy Burr, secretary to the superintendent of the Clint ISD, is bursting with pride these days.

She says that her son, Ed "Bubba" Burr, has been promoted to general manager at Cimarron Feeders with Five Rivers Ranch Cattle Feeding, LLC, in Cimarron, OK.

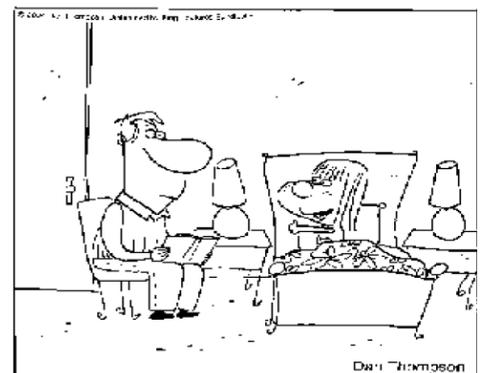
A 1989 graduate of Clint High School, he went on to earn his bachelor's degree in meat industry management at Sul Ross State University and also an associate's degree in agriculture business. He began his work at Cimarron Feeders in April of 1994 as a management trainee and worked his way up through the ranks. He was promoted to assistant general manager in 2005. His new promotion is effective Aug. 1.

"I'm very proud of his success," his mother

says. Bubba, wife Christy and their three children live in Stratford, TX. He commutes 21 miles to his work in Cimarron.

"Cimarron Feed Lot houses 66,000 head of cattle, a rather 'stinky' place, but it smells like money to Bubba," his mother adds.

"He's done very well, and I'm so surprised that he and his loving wife Christy really do like the flat plains in the panhandle of Texas — with the exception of a few tornados and some snow and ice in the winters."



"Bravo, Daddy! Bravo! What can I say. I laughed, I cried, it was the feel-good bedtime story of the year!"

Classified Ads

LEGALS

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

Horizon City Parks Department

Invitation to Bid

Bid Number: 2007-008

Date Issued: July 3, 2008

Bid Opening Date: July 21, 2008

The Town of Horizon City is seeking rock wall construction and playground fill material for two

Municipal parks. Sealed bids will be received at the Town of Horizon City, 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX 79928 until 2:00 pm July 21, 2008. Bids will be opened on July 21, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Town of Horizon City Hall. All bids must be sealed. Specifications may be obtained at the City Clerk's office at 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX or by calling (915) 852-1046.

WTCC: 07-10-08

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A&M AWARDS

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 - Plaques
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 - Any Special Award
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www.aandmawards.com
M-F/9 AM-5:30 PM 12/04

EDUCATION

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CERTIFIED TEACHERS for tutoring. Call Eddie, 526-1739, or Maribel, 525-9656.

HOUSES

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

HORSE PROPERTY for sale. 12222 Mankato Rd., Clint, TX. 2.1 acres, 2,160 sq.ft. class A2 home. \$140,000/OBO. Call Brian, (310)

850-0033. City water, sewer and garbage. Propane gas. Annual taxes \$1,043.

SELF-HELP

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

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

STORAGE

National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS Summer Specials - Climate Control Units! 5x5 and

5x10. Call Blanca - 852-8300.

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger 915-203-7005

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079 • Electric roofer service for sewers and drains • Appliance installation • Many other plumbing services Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

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Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:

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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



Our destiny: More car gadgets

By Don Flood

Leonard Nimoy, the man who in a future life will become Mr. Spock, once narrated a documentary called "Destiny in Space."

Mr. Spock made some good points in favor of space travel, but oddly enough left off one hugely negative consideration: the near total lack of space plumbers.

ASTRONAUT: Can you come out and fix our toilet?

PLUMBER: Sure, where are you?

ASTRONAUT: In orbit around the Earth.

PLUMBER: That's gonna cost you.

This nightmare scenario became all too real recently when the space station's toilet broke, resulting in the most Unnecessary Headline of the Year from MSNBC.com, which said, "It's no joke: Astronauts may have to make do until fix is found."

You don't have to tell me it's not a joke. I can get antsy if the sign says, "Next rest area 23 miles." I don't want to think about a sign that says, "Next rest area: maybe never."

So, until they greatly improve the space bathroom situation, most of us will seek travel adventure on Earth, where we can drive cars with nice cup holders.

It's true. The main reason women choose a car, according to some highly accurate research I'm not going to bother looking up, are the cup holders — which is pretty pathetic.

Men, on the other hand, are rational creatures who buy vehicles that will help them deal with real-life driving situations, such as the alarming and increasing number of middle-aged nude male balloonists coming down smack dab in the middle of the road and needing a ride, hence the bumper sticker: "I brake for nude balloonists," and its

opposite number, "Nuke the Nude Balloonists."

(As a knee-jerk moderate, I fall in the middle of this screeching debate, believing they should be run over.)

The ballooning nude-balloonists crisis — which neither presidential candidate has addressed — lies behind the current advertisement for Honda Pilot, which features a rear-view camera.

In a realistic scene, a man is out driving with his son when he sees a hot-air balloon blocking his path. As so often happens, especially if you live in California, it is filled with middle-aged male nudists, which, in addition to high gas prices, is a major reason why more people are staying home.

Because this roadway is located in Commercialville, Calif., he tells the guys to hop in anyway.

But the next scene shows what the man has gotten himself into, and it's a lesson we can all learn from. Glancing over his shoulder to back up, he catches sight of his nude passengers and shudders violently.

But, fortunately — and this is why men should buy this vehicle — his SUV comes equipped with a rear-view camera. He doesn't have to look over his shoulder. Crisis averted.

It's interesting to think how this ad might be changed if they were selling beer, in which case a man would be out driving with his buddies and the gondola would be filled with members of the Swedish Bikini Team. They would have plenty of beer and would be on the hunt for fat guys to drink with.

And come to think of it, the lack of an orbiting Swedish Bikini Team is something else Mr. Spock forgot to mention.

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King Super Crossword

- GIFT RAP ACROSS**
- 1 Forum wear
- 5 Wolf gang?
- 9 Drive the getaway car
- 13 Positive thinker
- 18 Lipinski leap
- 19 Deejay Freed
- 20 Interoffice communique
- 21 Hickman or Strawberry
- 22 Canadian coin
- 23 Ordinary
- 24 "Trinity" author
- 25 Kind of paint
- 26 Start of a remark by Don Marquis
- 30 Narcs' org.
- 31 "Agnus _"
- 32 Cinema sled
- 36 Lineman's tool
- 40 Seville shout
- 42 Renown
- 45 Debut recording
- 46 Atmosphere
- 47 Discontinue
- 49 Sharpens a skill
- 51 Choose, with "for"
- 52 Part 2 of remark
- 57 Cartoon canine
- 58 Part 3 of remark
- 59 Delany and Wynter
- 60 Time of your life
- 63 Head line?
- 65 Susann or Shakespeare
- 69 Entreaty
- 70 Mrs. Eddie Cantor
- 73 Prom date
- 76 Gulliver's first name
- 78 Portly
- 79 Wattle's partner
- 81 Speculation
- 83 Conductor Klemperer
- 84 Gold brick?
- 86 Pageant prop
- 89 Part 4 of remark
- 90 Sixth sense
- 93 Part 5 of remark
- 99 Mellow
- 101 Studio sign
- 102 "_ Breath You Take" ('83 smash)
- 103 Computer image
- 104 Man the bar
- 106 Belarusian city
- 108 Cote cutie
- 109 Bantered
- 111 November 11th honoree
- 113 Stirrup site
- 115 Create a chemise
- 116 End of remark
- 125 Monastery bigwigs
- 128 Tivoli's Villa d'_
- 129 Neighbor of Can.
- 130 Concept
- 131 He had things done by Friday
- 132 _ breve
- 133 Unusual
- DOWN**
- 1 Baja bite
- 2 The yoke's on them
- 3 Passed-on item
- 4 Choir member
- 5 Whales
- 6 Maui greeting
- 7 Poirot's concern
- 8 Handle
- 9 Tickle
- 10 Wodehouse's Wooster
- 11 Send out
- 12 Peter of reggae
- 13 Dieter's discomfort
- 14 Cleared the slate
- 15 Cardigan part
- 16 Pipe cleaner?
- 17 Building wing
- 21 Signifies
- 27 HST's predecessor
- 28 Crusader kingdom
- 29 Persian, presently
- 33 Early epic
- 34 Ref
- 35 Speck
- 36 Talk-show pioneer
- 37 Mechanic's offering
- 38 Pressing need
- 39 _ de Cologne
- 40 Above, to Arnold
- 41 Installed tile
- 43 Unsullied
- 44 _ Gatos, CA
- 47 Basilica
- 48 Italian rumbler
- 50 Diffident
- 53 Kind
- 54 Use a toboggan
- 55 Handle harshly
- 56 "Alley _"
- 61 Indian export
- 62 Toque or topee
- 64 Piggy
- 66 Medical grp.
- 67 Uproar
- 68 Price twice
- 70 Infamous Amin
- 71 Singer Seals
- 72 Enhance
- 74 Generator parts
- 75 Stumble
- 77 Isolated
- 80 Tropical snake
- 82 Connecticut campus
- 85 Spinks stat
- 87 Go back
- 88 "_ Good Men" ('92 film)
- 90 Decorate glass
- 91 Oxford, e.g.
- 92 Await judgment
- 94 As a group
- 95 Canvas cover?
- 96 Nuremberg numeral
- 97 Cinnabar, for instance
- 98 "_ the season..."
- 99 Wilderness trans.
- 100 "Holy smoke!"
- 105 Unseat
- 107 Pot
- 109 Dairy cow
- 110 Be obligated
- 112 Boca _, FL
- 114 Winning
- 115 Burning bit
- 117 Have on
- 118 Presque _, ME
- 119 Mata _
- 120 Dash
- 121 _ up (evaluate)
- 122 Actress Barbara
- 123 Sleuth Wolfe
- 124 New Mexico resort
- 125 Parker of football
- 126 It may be padded
- 127 Except

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Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Replacing Medicare card is easy

If you depend on Medicare for your regular medical services, you might need that card this summer. But what if you can't find your card? What if it's been lost or damaged and you need a new one?

The solution is simple: simply request a replacement Medicare card. And doing it is even simpler — you can request it online.

Our online Medicare card replacement page is a fast, easy and secure way to get your new

Medicare card sent to your home. Just go to our website at www.socialsecurity.gov and select "Replace your lost, stolen or damaged Medicare card." The link is on the left side of the page, under "What you can do online." Simply fill out the requested information and you'll get your new Medicare card within 30 days; it will be mailed to your address on record. If you need immediate proof of your Medicare coverage, visit your local Social Security office.

If you recently changed your mailing address and haven't notified Social Security of the change, you need to change your address before requesting your replacement Medicare card.

You can report your change of address by using our online services as well. Simply go to www.socialsecurity.gov/coa to report a change. You'll need to provide your old address and new address, including ZIP codes. You also need to provide a phone number in case we need to contact you about the change. You'll receive a con-

firmation notice on your computer screen telling you the effective date of the address change. Be sure to wait until the effective date to request your replacement Medicare card.

You can always rest assured that doing business with Social Security online is easy, fast and secure. To learn more about other things you can do on our website, visit www.socialsecurity.gov. You're also welcome to call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit your local Social Security office.

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
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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Briefs

From Page 1

prior to and one week after the tournament. Checks for teams and sponsors should be made payable to Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc., P.O. Box 33, El Paso, TX 79940. Questions about the tournament should be directed to tournament chairs Rosanne Allen, 566-5973, or Gene Calabro, 525-7673. Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization managed by a board of directors who volunteer their time and rely on private donations for the rewards paid by Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc.

Zoo Camp

Kids between the ages of 6-10 can explore the wide world of mammoths, mastodons and elephants at this year's Zoo Camp 2008. The week-long classes are from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday at the El Paso Zoo, 4001 E. Paisano. The sessions are July 14-18, 21-25, July 28-August 1, August 4-8 and 11-15. Children will learn about the habitat, diet and intelligence of the popular pachyderms and will have the opportunity to visit behind the scenes, work on crafts, games, participate in live animal encounters and much more. Cost is \$85 for non-members and \$75 for Zoo members which includes official Zoo Camp 2008 T-shirt and healthy snacks. Advance reservations required and fee must be paid before campers are registered. Please call the El Paso Zoological Society at 915-532-8156 for information.

Bad hoax

Early Monday morning, June 7, 2008 at about 6:30 a.m., Sheriff Deputies arrested and charged Juan Carlos Rivas (31) with False Alarm or Report. He was arrested at his home located at the 2600 block of Lake Spier El Paso, TX 79936. On June 3 at about 9:00 a.m., dispatch operators received an emergency phone call from Rivas' wife stating she received a frantic call from from Rivas himself stating he had been kidnapped the night before somewhere in the area of Canutillo, TX. She told dispatch operators that Rivas had told her he was kidnapped by three men and placed in the trunk of a car. A short time later, dispatch operators were able to make contact with Rivas on his cell phone where he again claimed he was beaten, abducted, placed in

the trunk of a car. He said he knew his whereabouts were somewhere in Canutillo, TX. Sheriff's Office dispatchers immediately sent several patrol units to Canutillo. The units checked numerous business parking lots and several vehicles. At 12:12 p.m., the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department reported they had located Rivas in their jurisdiction. Rivas told Dona Ana authorities he was tied up and left in the trunk of his car underneath a river levee bridge off New Mexico 192, near San Miguel. After a brief investigation by Dona Ana officials, Rivas admitted to authorities he had fabricated the story to keep his wife from knowing he was out the previous evening with other women. Rivas was arrested and charged by the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department with one count of Making a False Report. Because the call originated in Texas and Rivas fabricated his story which caused a disruption in service to area residents and caused several sections/agencies to respond and assist in the initial call, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office filed additional charges against him. Rivas was arrested and charged with False Alarm or Report. He was booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility where he remains under a \$5,000 bond.

— Contributed by Deputy Jesse Tovar

Suspect caught

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the Paso del Norte international border crossing in El Paso apprehended a 26-year-old male being sought by law enforcement officers in Yakima, Washington on an outstanding first degree murder warrant. The apprehension was made early Sunday morning as the suspect entered the U.S. from Mexico. CBP officers nabbed Salvador Nava Alvarez at approximately 4:00 a.m. after he entered the pedestrian inspection area at the downtown port. The apprehension was made after Nava Alvarez declared his U.S. citizenship to CBP officers and then presented identification documents required under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) to support his claim. CBP officers queried the subject and discovered that he was wanted by the Yakima Police Department on an outstanding first degree murder warrant. CBP officers at the port of entry confirmed the warrant with authorities in Washington. Nava Alvarez was taken into custody without incident and turned over to the El Paso Police Department before being booked into the El Paso county jail to await extradition.

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