

1973
35
YEARS
2008

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

JULY 17, 2008

NEWSBRIEFS

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is helping the El Paso County Sheriff's Office locate an offender who entered a bar in Socorro and shot a man several times, making this the "Crime of the Week." On Wednesday, January 16 of this year, at approximately 10:40 p.m., a lone male walked into the Champs Sports Bar in the 10400 block of North Loop in Socorro, and fired several rounds at another man at the bar. The bullets struck the victim's upper body, and he was transported to Thomason Hospital. The name of the person shot and his condition has not been revealed. The suspect who fired the gun reportedly fled on foot, and entered a dark minivan, possibly blue in color. The van was last seen traveling west on North Loop. If you saw the van leaving the Champs Sports Bar parking lot, or if you can identify the bar patrons shown in the surveillance video, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will be anonymous and you may earn a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

In the Navy

Navy Seaman Dwayne J. Shepard, son of Letty and Dwayne Shepard of El Paso, Texas, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Shepard completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. Shepard is a 2001 graduate of Clint High School of El Paso, Texas.

Solar summit

The County of El Paso, along with the University of Texas at El Paso and Border Fair Housing are hosting Solar Summit El Paso. This event begins Friday, July 25 at 5:00 p.m. with a welcoming reception and continues Saturday, July 26 at 8:00 a.m., at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center, on the UTEP Campus. The public is welcome to attend. For registration materials or information about the summit, visit www.solarsummitelpaso.com. People may also contact Carlos Chavez at the Office of the County Judge, 546-2098, if you have further questions.

Longhorn golf

The El Paso Texas Exes are sponsoring a Texas Longhorns Golf Tournament on September 5, 2008 (the Friday before the UTEP-Texas football game.) Proceeds will benefit El Paso Texas Exes and scholarship fund for El Paso County high school graduates who attend the University of Texas. For more information please contact Steve Raney 838-6855 or Armida Martinez at ArmidaMartinez@alumni.utexas.net. All Longhorn fans are welcome.

Next to debt, the hardest thing to get out of is a warm bed on a cold morning.

— Quips & Quotes

County to purchase new voting machines

Commissioners deny rate increase for county trash service

By Aracely Lazcano
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — On Monday Commissioners Court unanimously approved a request from the Elections Department to buy 300 new voting machines, among other equipment like computer servers and security key cards, which are necessary for the upcoming Presidential election.

Before the approval was final, the members of Commissioners Court were urged by the executive Director of Voter Education Project Inc., Paul De La Peña, to consider the acquisition of other electoral voting equipment. "These are the same machines that caused problems in 17 states during the past 2004 Presidential election cycle, and the cause of much concern during the 2000 Presidential election cycle," he said while addressing the court.

Meanwhile, Javier Chacon, Director of the Elections Department explained to the court that although the use of existing electronic voting machines in El Paso County has been in place since 1999, there has never been a problem and "the system has worked fine in the county and the rest of Texas."

Chacon added that the Secretary of the State has a really strong hold about the equipment used in the electoral process, and that "everything has to be approved before the county can consider buying it," he stated. With the pur-

chase of these new machines, the Elections Department will have 1,335 voting machines in place for the November election.

The Elections Department predicts at least 375,000 registered voters will participate in the upcoming presidential electoral process. The estimated cost of the new equipment is \$445,000 dollars.

At the same meeting request from El Paso Disposal to increase the service fee for trash-pick up to residents of Canutillo, Fabens, Tornillo and Montana Vista was denied by the Commissioners.

Officials from the disposal said this morning a 6.5 percent cost increase for the provision of service was necessary to cover their fuel cost, which nearly double in recent weeks. County Judge Anthony Cobos said he did not think it was fair for county residents to pay more money for the service. "They have already been hit hard by soaring gasoline prices," Cobos said before voting against the increase.

Commissioners Teran, Sariñana, Escobar and Haggerty were also not in favor of the request. El Paso Disposal contract with the county gives them the right to request changes in service fees but the Commissioners Court has the authority to approve or deny their request.

If approved, each resident from Canutillo, Fabens, and Tornillo would have paid 85 cents more each month. The actual cost of trash pick up services for those areas will remain at \$13.04 a month.

The contract for services provided on the east side of the county will expire next November and if county wants to continue the service, it will need to go through a bidding process.

Heavy rains bring water hazards

Emergency officials urge caution around moving water

By Lt. Mario E. Hernandez
Special to the Courier

Perhaps the biggest cause of flood-related deaths and injuries is the lack of respect for the severity and danger associated with floods and flash floods. El Paso Fire Department officials are reminding residents not to make some of the common mistakes that result in injury or death during flooding caused by the recent heavy rains.

Many people are killed while trying to drive or walk on roads and bridges covered by water. Though the water may look only inches deep, the pool could be far deeper and have very strong currents. It only takes two feet of water to carry away many cars and only six inches of swiftly moving (6 mph) water can sweep a person off their feet.

Trucks, two wheel- as well as four-wheel-drive and sports utility vehicles, are also susceptible to the dangers of pooled water. Such vehicles often give motorists a false sense of security, believing the vehicles are safe under all hazardous conditions. This is simply not true. For instance, large tires add to the

vehicle's buoyancy and can cause it to lose traction sooner. Simply put, do not allow overconfidence in your vehicle to cost you your life.

Consequently, if you are approaching a flooded roadway, turn around and take an alternate route. Though vehicles in front of you may have passed through the high water, you may not be as lucky.

If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

Never let children play near storm drains when the water is rising or is high. Every year, deaths or injuries occur as a result of people being swept away. Sadly, the most frequent victims are children.

If you live in a low-lying area, pay close attention to water levels during heavy rain events. Water levels rise rapidly during flash floods often surprising victims. Be prepared to move quickly to higher ground if water levels begin rising. Sandbags are available at all city fire stations and are free to the public. The personnel at the Storm Water Utilities are in the process of delivering double the normal order of sandbags to all fire stations in the city with Westside and northeast fire stations as priorities.

Many scams, scammers still posing as IRS

By Lea Crusberg
Special to the Courier

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service cautions taxpayers to be on the lookout for a new wave of scams using the IRS name in identity theft e-mails, or phishing, that have circulated during the last two months.

In May and June alone, taxpayers reported almost 700 separate phishing incidents to the IRS. In 2008 so far, taxpayers have reported about 1,600 phishing incidents to the IRS.

"Taxpayers should take steps to keep their personal information out of the hands of identity thieves," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "That includes not falling for any of the phony e-mails or faxes now in circulation pretending to come from the IRS."

The most common scams involve tax refunds and, this year, economic stimulus payments.

Although most of these scams consist of e-mails requesting detailed personal information, the IRS generally does not send e-mails to taxpayers, does not discuss tax account matters with taxpayers in e-mails, and does not request security-related personal information, such as PIN numbers, from taxpayers.

Refund e-mail

There are several variations of the refund scam, in which an e-mail claiming to come from the IRS falsely informs the recipient that he or she is eligible for a tax refund for a specific amount. The bogus e-mail instructs the recipient to click on a link to access a refund claim form. The form requests personal information that the scammers can use to access the e-mail recipient's bank or credit card account.

This notification is phony. The IRS does not send unsolicited e-mail about tax account matters to taxpayers.

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

Economic stimulus

In this scam, a taxpayer receives an e-mail pretending to come from the IRS which tells the recipient he or she is eligible for an economic stimulus payment. The message recommends direct deposit into the taxpayer's checking or savings account. To receive the payment, recipients must click on a link to complete and submit an online form by a certain date; otherwise, the e-mail warns, payment may be delayed. The form requests personal and financial data, including checking or savings account numbers that the scammers can use to gain access to the accounts.

In reality, the way members of the

See SCAMS, Page 8

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

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9-1-1

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SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CASITILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLAY, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

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

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

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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Breaking oil's grip



Hola mi gente. Recently, T. Boone Pickens, an extraordinarily wealthy Texan, announced that he was prepared to invest tens of millions of dollars in order to develop a wind farm in the Texas panhandle. This wind farm is projected to produce 4,000 megawatts of electricity. To help you understand that amount of electricity, the El Paso Electric Company website states that its Rio Grande plant generates 246 megawatts from three units. It would take 16 Rio Grande plants to equal Pickens' wind farm capacity. When you consider that a nuclear electric generating plant produces only about 1,000 megawatts, it is clear that his project will be a major source of electric power without the use of petroleum and a very clean plant for the environment (windmills produce no pollution). It also takes our energy production/consumption in a direction that will reduce our dependence on imported fuels (especially from areas in the world that are chronically unstable).

As if his investment was not enough, Pickens plans to use his own bully pulpit (that of a multimillionaire) to force the presidential candidates to confront the absence of a responsible energy plan. Unfortunately, the leadership of our nation decided that our energy policy was to focus on fossil fuel importation and consumption. We are about eight years behind where we might have been had the leadership in 2001 pursued a different direction. On many occasions, I have discussed energy and the potential for innovation here in the U.S. with my staff. Nina, Robert and I agreed that we, as the most powerful nation in the world, could have changed energy consumption forever if we had applied ourselves. We still can, but at this moment we are suffering the results of undisciplined energy consumption. My staff and I are just as guilty as the rest of America. Just this past week, a science channel on the cable provided an excellent feature about the development and production of the lunar vehicle (a two seat convertible that transported the astronauts dozens of miles over several days without recharging). The project to develop the module was completed in less than 18 months. The moon convertible was initially folded into a rather small compartment on the lunar lander. It was easily unfolded and used for transportation in a small amount of time. It not only used power for moving, it also powered a TV camera, communications, telemetry, and steering (they had no need for air conditioning). With all of that, the vehicle never needed recharging. I relate to that story because, again, it is my belief that we can reduce our crippling dependence on fossil fuels if we dedicate our energy policy to the future instead of benefiting the profits of oil companies. Those massive companies have made hundreds of billions of dollars in profits since 2001. Had they invested some of that into alternative energy programs in a manner similar to T. Boone Pickens, then the pain that I, and no doubt all of you readers, feel at the gas pump may have been easier to take. Gracias, mi gente, and I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Homes for Heroes



On July 9, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Homes for Heroes Act (H.R. 3329), a bill that would expand housing assistance and supportive services for homeless veterans. It is unacceptable that hundreds of thousands of the brave men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces have no place to call home. The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) estimates that more than 400,000 veterans will experience homelessness at some point during the year, while nearly 200,000 veterans are homeless on any given night. H.R. 3329 would authorize \$200 million in FY 2008 to establish an assistance program at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing assistance and supportive services for low-income veterans. Specifically, the bill would authorize grants to nonprofit organizations to expand the supply of permanent housing for low-income veterans and their families and provide additional services to support their needs. This legislation would also require HUD to provide at least 20,000 rental vouchers a year for homeless veterans through the highly successful Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program under HUD (HUD-VASH). In the event of the veteran's death, family members who have benefited from this program would be allowed to continue receiving benefits. This legislation also makes this program a permanent fixture under HUD. It is imperative that both the DVA and HUD work closely to address this problem. For this reason, the Homes for Heroes Act would require HUD to create a position within the department to serve as the liaison to the DVA. This new position, Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs, would ensure that the owners of housing projects assisted under the bill have the managerial capacity to assess on an ongoing basis the service needs of residents, coordinate the provision of supportive services, and tailor such services to the individual needs of residents. This measure would also require an annual comprehensive report to the U.S. Congress on homeless veterans. HUD would be required to analyze the needs of homeless veterans in the United States and provide concrete steps regarding the agency's plan to provide housing for homeless vets under this program. The Democrat-led Congress has demonstrated its commitment to veterans. In addition to providing the DVA with the largest single-year budget increase in the agency's 77-year history, the U.S. Congress advanced legislation (that the President signed into law) that expands educational benefits for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Under the new GI Bill, servicemembers returning from Iraq or Afghanistan, who have served three years on active duty since September 11, will receive benefits to cover the costs of a four-year education up to the level of the most expensive in-state public school, along with a stipend for housing, books and other expenses. The bill also extends educational benefits to the National Guard and Reserve, and allows unused benefits to be transferred to veterans' families. Our veterans are our heroes, and we must honor them with both our words and our deeds. I was proud to support all of these measures for our veterans, who have made many sacrifices in service to our nation.

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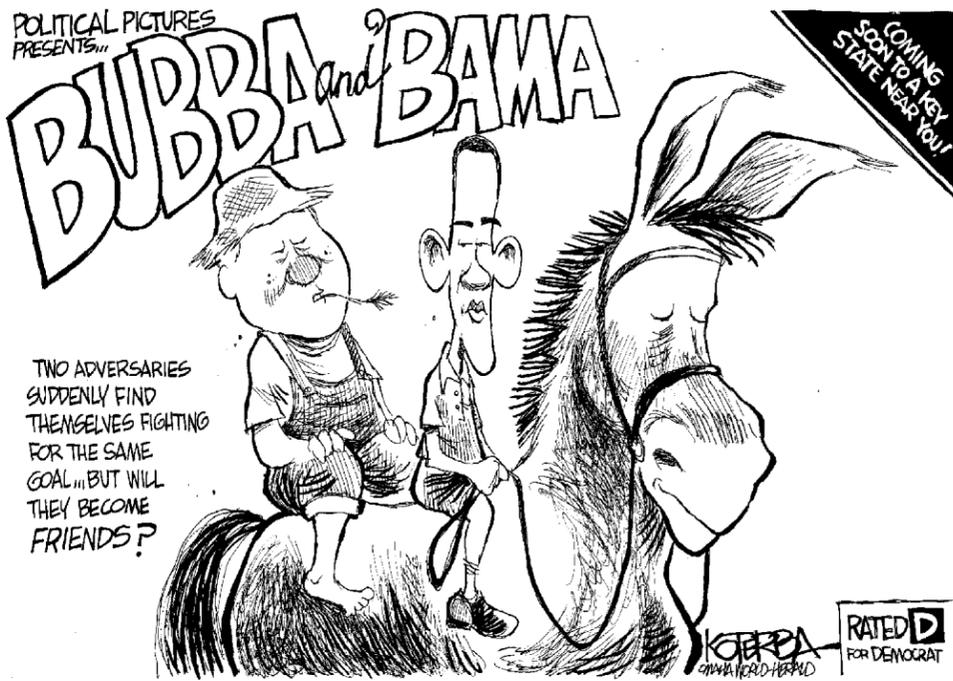
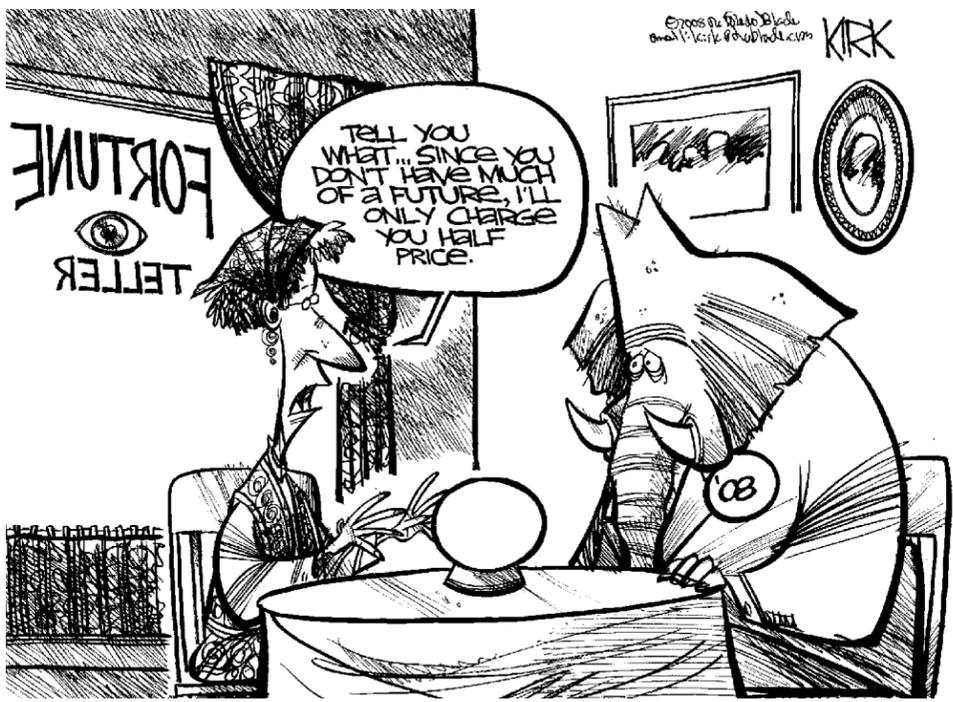
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View from here By Sally C. Pipes

Avoiding Britain's example

A British court just ruled that the U.K. government unfairly denied anti-dementia drugs to Alzheimer's patients. The government's reason for refusing to cover the drugs? Money. Government scrooges didn't want to foot the bill.

This kind of penny-pinching happens all too often in Britain, thanks to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Effectiveness (NICE), the agency that determines which treatments get covered by the British healthcare system.

If some congressional lawmakers get their way, the United States soon will have a similar agency. And it too will deny vital treatment options.

The U.S. Senate is currently considering legislation to create a Comparative Effectiveness Research Institute under Medicare. Like NICE, the new agency would conduct studies on the relative effectiveness of various medical treatments, analyzing how different options stack up against one another.

In theory, this research could provide doctors with more complete information when deciding which treatment to recommend. But in practice, the agency's findings would likely be used by Congress to lower the government's healthcare spending. By generating studies that show that older, cheaper drugs are just as effective as newer cures, cost-conscious lawmakers could rationalize not covering expensive cutting-edge medicines under Medicare, Medicaid, and other publicly-funded programs.

Sound far-fetched? This is precisely what happens time and again in the U.K.

Earlier this year, for example, NICE failed to approve the arthritis drug abatacept. Even though it is one of the only drugs clinically proven to improve severe rheumatoid arthritis, NICE decided that "abatacept would not be a cost-effective use of NHS [National Health Service] resources."

Just one month before that ruling, NICE made a similar decision about the lung cancer drug Tarceva. Despite numerous studies showing that the drug significantly prolongs the life

of cancer patients — and the unanimous endorsement of lung cancer specialists throughout the U.K. — NICE determined that the drug was too expensive to cover. England is currently one of only three countries in Western Europe to deny citizens access to Tarceva.

Comparative effectiveness research is so easily misused because it looks only at the "average" patient. By focusing on which drugs, on average, are cheapest and most effective, comparative effectiveness research can overlook important factors like age, race, gender, and lifestyle.

So even though a patient's doctor might decide that a drug like Tarceva is the best treatment given the particular needs of his patient, the government could refuse to cover the drug simply because it isn't cost-effective for the "average" patient.

It's exactly these kinds of tactics that Britain's Court of Appeal recently judged to be "procedurally unfair" when ruling on NICE's decision to deny Alzheimer's patients access to several anti-dementia drugs.

The legislation currently under consideration in Congress could help American doctors and patients make informed healthcare decisions. Toward that end, it's crucial that any American agency conducting comparative effectiveness research consider what's best for individual patients instead of looking for cheap, one-size-fits-all cures.

The agency should also be free from political influence. Just as importantly, its recommendations should be nonbinding. In other words, the research should be used to empower doctors and patients — not politicians, bureaucrats, and budget analysts.

Otherwise, the poor, the elderly, and others receiving government medical care would be subjected to the same kind of treatment we've seen in the U.K.

Sally C. Pipes is President & CEO of the Pacific Research Institute and author of "Miracle Cure: How to Solve America's Health-Care Crisis and Why Canada Isn't the Answer."

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Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore July 21, 1865: Very soon after the Civil War, German immigrant August Thielepape raises the U.S. flag over the Alamo. Later he would become the Mayor of San Antonio.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Homepage has a new look

Social Security's homepage has a brand new look. In June, we launched a new home page at www.socialsecurity.gov.

The new look is more welcoming and user-friendly; it follows the standard for design principles in the industry by reducing clutter, improving navigation, making better use of graphics, reducing the need to scroll down and prioritizing items on the page.

The new page focuses on the primary reasons people contact Social Security. We put those items front and center. The three main topics that take up the prime real estate are:

- Filing for retirement benefits;
- Applying for disability benefits; and
- Requesting a Social Security card.

Meanwhile, major program topics run along the top of the page — Retirement, Survivors, Disability, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicare. The left side of the home page answers "What you can do online." And that's where you're also linked to Your Social Security Earnings Statement, forms and publications, and more.

On the right side of the page, you'll be able to search the site, get answers to frequently asked questions and find information for spe-

cific groups or organizations on the web site. Social Security news rounds out the page.

For the first time, people also can watch a brief video greeting on the site delivered by one of our agency employees.

While the look of our home page has changed, the web addresses have not. Favorite sites that you and other frequent visitors have bookmarked will not change.

If you haven't recently been to www.socialsecurity.gov, you'll be pleased and surprised at all the things you can do. There's something there for everyone. You can save yourself a trip to an office by using the website. There you can apply for retirement or disability benefits. You also can find out the exact documents you need to bring into our offices if you need a replacement card.

Check out our new home page now and see how easy it is to use at www.socialsecurity.gov.

For information on the article above, call us at 1-800-772-1213.

If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

Canutillo sophomore, Jensen, goes to Governor's School

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Sam Jensen, Canutillo High School sophomore, was the only student from the Region 19 ESC area to attend the Texas Governor's School (TGS). The event was held from June 8-28 at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton.

The TGS was established by the 2003 Texas Legislature to provide a rich and challenging academic experience in Science and Technology for exceptional Texas high school sophomore students. Just 150 participants were selected from across the state to attend the three-week, residential summer program in Denton. The focus of the 2008 Texas Governor's

School was on advances in scientific and technology and how they currently will affect our society.

Courses offered to participants in the program included Biological and Medical Science in the 21st Century; Physical Science-Frontiers of the Very Small; Chemical Science-Making new Materials and Medicines; Technology and Engineering of the Future; Science and Technology in the Arts; History of Science and its Role in Civilization; Ethics in Science and Future Technologies; Technical Writing; and College preparation-developing an academic goals and plans. Participants enjoyed a variety of

evening and weekend activities, including field trips to Dallas museums, musical performances, environ-



Sam Jensen

mental science centers, astronomical observatories, sporting events, and social events. Students also participated in debates and panel discussions concerning technology and society.

"The program is focused on enriching and developing a student's abilities in science and technology as well as exploring the impacts of these fields on past, present, and future societies including ethics, history and the arts," said Nancy Hoover, CISD Advanced Academics Coordinator.

Officials stop illegal border crossers at rate of almost one per hour for seven days

By Roger Maier
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers performing anti-terror exams at ports of entry in El Paso, West Texas and New Mexico were kept busy from July 3-9 with dozens of immigration violations, drug seizures

and agriculture violations.

Area CBP officers recorded 161 immigration violations at area ports, an average of 23 per day. CBP officers working at El Paso area ports of entry typically record between 100-125 such violations weekly.

Intended immigrants made up the largest group of immigration violators. A total of 87 were identified through thorough document exams. In these cases, individuals will use a legally issued border-crossing card (laser visa) to live or work in the U.S., which is not authorized. CBP officers this week also identified 49 imposters. Imposters generally will use a legitimate entry document assigned to another person and present it as their own. Violators generally lose their documents and are returned

to Mexico. CBP officers also recorded 25 cases of people making false claims to U.S. citizenship, people attempting to enter with counterfeit or altered documents, and people attempting to enter without inspection.

CBP officers working at area ports recorded a total of 16 agriculture violations this week, resulting in \$3,800 in penalties being assessed. Prohibited agricultural items seized this week included pork, pork skins, bologna, raw chicken, mangoes, avocados, pears, apples, grapefruit, oranges, pomegranates, guavas and live plants.

Border crossers should declare all food items they have acquired abroad

See CBP, Page 5

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PUBLIC NOTICE Village of Vinton, Texas

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. during a Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2008 at the Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed item(s):

- 1) Consider and take action on request for a variance on tracts 17G of the Aurelio Delgado Survey no. 173, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas (also known as 7866 Kiely Road).

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Ivana Renteria, Village Deputy Clerk at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915)886-5104 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.

Jessica Garza
Village Clerk

Americas HS senior receives full scholarship award to Drexel

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Americas High School senior Cesar Torres is among eight students nationwide to receive a full tuition scholarship to Drexel University. The 17-year-old was awarded the scholarship during this year's International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) held in Atlanta Georgia. Drexel University, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, selected eight students for their projects in the categories of Computer Science, Engineering, Medicine and Health and Physics or projects aligned with Drexel's curriculum. Cesar's project "Cavemen and Fire: A Probability Simulation on the Impact of Human-induced Factors on Global Warming" is a three part series that he began as a freshman at Americas High School. Cesar's scholarship is the latest science recognition for Americas High School.

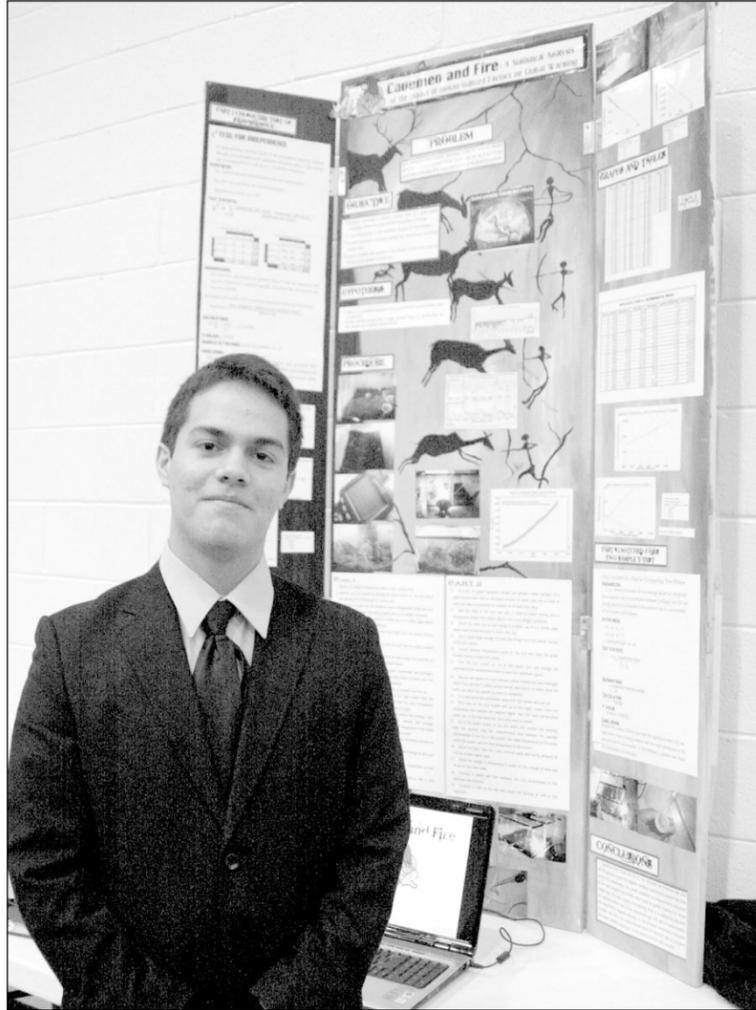
"For the past 11 years, Americas High School students have participated in the ISEF. Cesar's award is the biggest so far," said Johnny Gonzalez, Americas High School science teacher. "I was elated that he won. It shows that science pays off."

The scholarships are renewable for up to 5 years pending maintenance of a 3.0 GPA and full-time status. Each scholarship is valued at \$120,000. Scholarships will go into

effect upon admission to the University.

"We were with the Texas delegation when the award was announced, but our (El Paso) group thought that it was for another school. It was a surprise," said Torres who is planning on studying computer science. "It was a great experience to work at an international level."

For his senior year project, Cesar will go into a new direction and work on a computer science project. Cesar was among the 1,500 9th through 12th grade students from around the world who were selected to participate at the ISEF after placing at regional and state science fairs. Through their independent research projects, student finalists competed for over \$4 million in scholarships, internships and other awards offered in 18 different mathematic, sciences, and engineering judging categories as well as a Team category. Intel ISEF 08 student finalists represented nearly every US state and 45 countries and territories. The International Science and Engineering Fair is sponsored by Intel and has been administered by the Society for Science & the Public (SSP) since its inception in 1950. SSP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the public engagement in scientific research and education. The ISEF, in its 59th year in 2008, is the only international science project competition for students in the 9th through 12th grades.



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick / SISD

TUTION PAID — Cesar Torres with his award winning science project.

Each finalist's project is judged at least four times, with category awards given in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. Awards by place are \$3,000, \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 respectively in each judging category.

CBP

From Page 4

to avoid penalties and to help reduce the potential for the introduction of harmful pests and disease. Failure to declare prohibited items can result in a \$300 penalty for an initial offense. If properly declared, prohibited food items can generally be abandoned at the port of entry without consequence.

In addition to the agriculture and immigration violations, CBP officers working at El Paso area ports made 22 drug seizures. CBP officers confiscated 2,180 pounds of marijuana in those busts.

CBP officers this week also confiscated prohibited medications, a live bird, prohibited fireworks, and assessed \$7,500 in penalties in association with 14 export violations. While anti-terrorism is the primary mission of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the inspection process at the ports of entry associated with this mission results in impressive numbers of enforcement actions in all categories.

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Department of
Public Health



All the drama of football is just three Sundays away

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Have you noticed that food taste a little bit better lately, that music sounds a little sweeter, and that gas is a little bit cheaper — well, two out of three ain't bad.

The reason for this euphoric bliss is because of what happens during the last week in July. And what does the final week in July always signify? The start of NFL training camps, of course — duh!

In just about a week all the NFL teams will report to camp to begin practice for the upcoming season. And I'll bet some of you thought it

would never get here.

The first team to hit the practice field will be the Washington Redskins, who take the field this Sunday. They are followed by the Philadelphia Eagles and the Baltimore Ravens, who each get started on July 22.

The defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants get going on July 25, the New England Patriots start on July 24 and the Dallas Cowboys get things going on July 25.

I know we just had a great NBA season with the return of the Boston Celtics. And I know that we're just at the All-Star break of the Major League Baseball season. But this is football!

With the start of NFL training camp, there are many questions to be answered about the season to come.

Questions like: Is Brett Favre going to play football this year? Is Brett Favre going to play with the Green Bay Packers this year? Is Brett Favre going to play with another team this year? And if the answer to any of these questions is yes, does that mean John Madden can stop holding his breath?

Of course there are other questions, will Mr. Ocho Cinco, Chad Johnson, play the entire year with Carson Palmer and the Bengals? Can Eli Manning put consecutive seasons together for the first time in his ca-

reer? Will Pacman, uh, I mean, will Adam Jones stay out of trouble for the Dallas Cowboys? Will Brian Urlacher play the entire year for the Chicago Bears?

Oh, another question: How many players will NFL tough guy, Commissioner Roger Goodell, suspend for bad behavior this year?

And one more: When will we get the first glimpse of some NFL action? The answer is in a few weeks when the Indianapolis Colts take on the Washington Redskins in the first pre-season game on Aug. 3.

Did you hear that, guys? We're going to get to watch NFL football in just two weeks.

And other than Mom's meatloaf, what can be better?

134 calls to NBA referee Scott Foster right before and right after games that he bet on during the 2006-07 season.

When asked whether he was under investigation, Foster said not to his knowledge.

Not to his knowledge!

If I were asked the question, and I wasn't guilty, I would be saying that there is absolutely no reason for an investigation because I wasn't guilty of anything. And I would be saying it loudly.

And how about David Stern? Instead of having his usual smug attitude, he's been noticeably quiet after this latest revelation.

The really bad news for Stern and his league is that I don't think we've even scratched the surface yet.

Officially sad

Remember a few weeks ago when NBA commissioner David Stern stated emphatically that the despicable actions of former referee Tim Donaghy was that of a rogue ref. He said that there was no real problem with the referees; he said Donaghy was the only guy involved in the game-fixing scandal.

I, along with about 73-bazillion other thinking fans, thought Stern was either incredibly naive, or lying through his pearly whites.

Well, now it appears there is indisputable proof that Donaghy had a partner in crime. And yes Mr. Commissioner, he is another referee.

Investigators found out through phone records that Donaghy made

Going, going, gone

I can't finish this column without mentioning the best show on TV last week. Of course I'm speaking of the show Texas Rangers Josh Hamilton put on during the All-Star home run derby.

Not since Mike McGwire, have I seen a guy put a charge into the event like Hamilton did.

Hamilton's troubles with drugs and alcohol have been well documented and while his home run exhibition will be remembered for years to come, the real accomplishment is that he was still alive to be able to have that unforgettable night.

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SALE REAL ESTATE

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will sell Lot 2, save and except the Southerly 83.34 feet thereof, Block 6, Desert Meadows Estate in El Paso County at a Trustee's Foreclosure Sale to the highest bidder or bidders, for cash, at the foot of the steps inside the San Antonio entrance to the City/County Building located at 500 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. The minimum FSA bid will be \$35,680. For specific information, contact the Farm Service Agency, 2306 W. Dickinson, Suite 1, Fort Stockton, Texas, phone number (432) 336-5206, extension 2, or visit the website: <http://www.resales.usda.gov/>

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

Town of Horizon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 during the Regular Council Meeting at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s)/ amendment(s):

1) Ordinance No. 0169 — 2nd reading — Repeal Ordinance No. 0080 Designating McMahon Street as a One-way between the Intersections of Biglow Street and Crocker Street within the Municipal Limits of Horizon City.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Accommodations for handi-

capped persons will be available and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915-852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address or call 915-852-1046, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
WTCC: 07-17-08

Town of Horizon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 the Town of Horizon City Council approved the following ordinance(s):

1) Amendment No. 025, to the Zoning Ordinance (Ord. 0102) to Amend the Land development Standards of Chap-

ter 13, Section 1310.1.3.5 Regarding the Maximum Distance Between lots in Mixed Use Residential areas and required Open Space in a Planned Unit Development.

2) Amendment No. 009 to Ordinance No. 0163 (Budget Ordinance) to transfer \$2,720.00 from Budget Item # 500818 (Contingency Fund) to Budget Item # 506716 (Maintenance — Computer) to purchase ODBC connectivity product from Tyler Technologies. This is necessary to complete the Scofflaw programing.

3) Amendment No. 010 to Ordinance No. 0163 (Budget Ordinance) to transfer \$ 32,190.002 from Budget Item # 500818 (Contingency Fund) to pay-off existing capital lease obligations related to two (2) vehicles in the Police Department and equipment in Public Works Department.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 915-852-1046.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk

WTCC: 07-17-08

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SELF-HELP

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

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

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Horizon City, TX 79928
Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Phone: _____

Scams

From Page 1

public receive their economic stimulus payment is to file a tax return with the IRS, not a special form. Additionally, the IRS does not request personal or financial information via e-mail.

Information on how to obtain an economic

stimulus payment may be found in the Economic Stimulus Payment Information Center on the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov). For more information on stimulus-related scams, see IR-2008-11.

Substitute 1040 fax

This scam consists of a cover letter and form that are faxed, rather than e-mailed. The cover letter is addressed "Dear Valued Tax Payer (sic)" and appears to be signed by an IRS em-

ployee. The letter says that the IRS is updating its files and that recipients who supply the requested information will receive a nominal tax refund. It also states that those who fail to immediately return the completed form risk additional tax and withholding. The attached form is labeled a *substitute* Form 1040 and is titled "Certificate of Current Status of Beneficial Owner For United States Tax Recertification & Withholding." It requests a large amount of detailed personal and financial information, such as mother's maiden name (often used in security screening), bank account numbers, estimated assets and more. It asks the recipient to sign and fax back the completed form, as well as a copy of the recipient's driver's license and passport.

The letter, signature and form are all fraudulent. Moreover, the IRS does not send unsolicited faxes to taxpayers and does not request such detailed personal and financial information.

This is a variant of earlier scams. For more information, see news releases IR-2004-104 and IR-2004-75.

Company report

This e-mail appears to come from an IRS.gov e-mail address, addresses recipients by name and references the company the recipient works for. These personalized details may convince the recipient that the e-mail is legitimate. The e-mail says that the IRS has a report on the company and asks the recipient to review a copy by clicking on a link to download the report. However, when the link is clicked, malware is downloaded to the recipient's computer.

There are various types of malware, which can hijack a victim's computer hard drive to give someone remote access to the computer, search for passwords and other information and send them to the scammer, or cause other types of identity theft or damage.

The IRS does not compile reports on companies or send e-mails to company staff asking them to review a report. Generally, the IRS does not send unsolicited e-mails to taxpayers.

Tax court

In this scam, an e-mail that appears to come from the U.S. Tax Court contains a petition involving a court case between the IRS and the recipient. The document instructs the recipient to download other files. The downloads transfer malware, or malicious code, to the recipient's computer.

There are various types of malware, which, for example, can hijack a victim's computer hard drive to give someone remote access to the computer, or can search for passwords and other information and send them to the scammer.

The truth is that the Tax Court is not e-mailing notices to anyone who currently has a case before the court. Visit the court's Web site at <http://www.ustaxcourt.gov/> for more information. Recipients are advised to avoid

clicking on any links in the e-mail and to delete the e-mail.

How scams work

To lure their victims, phishing scams use the name of a known institution, such as the IRS, to either offer a reward for taking a simple action, such as providing information, or threaten or imply an unpleasant consequence, such as losing a refund, for failing to take the requested action.

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

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

People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years — and their hard-earned money — cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their reputations and credit records. In the meantime, victims may lose job opportunities or may be refused loans, education, housing or cars.

What to do

Anyone wishing to access the IRS Web site should type www.irs.gov into their Internet address window, rather than clicking on a link in an e-mail or opening an attachment, either of which may download malicious code or send the recipient to a phony Web site.

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

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 6

★★★ HOO BOY!

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