

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 28, No. 34

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

AUGUST 23, 2001

NEWSBRIEFS

SISD still tops

For the third year in a row, the Socorro ISD has been designated as a "Recognized" district by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and for the first time, all three high schools — Socorro High, Americas High and Montwood High — have been given that designation individually. Meanwhile, two campuses, Benito Martinez Elementary and Myrtle Cooper Elementary, have earned "Exemplary" status with the TEA. The ratings are based on Texas achievement testing and dropout rates. To become "Recognized," at least 80 percent of students must pass the TAAS test in each subject area and the school must have a dropout rate of three percent or less. "Exemplary" requires that 90 percent or more pass the TAAS and the dropout rate is one percent or less. The number of Socorro ISD campuses to earn "Recognized" status jumped from nine last year to 14 this year. All others, besides the two "Exemplary" campuses, were rated "Acceptable."

Fabens Park money

El Paso County has received two grants that will benefit the Fabens area when it comes to parks and recreation. A \$320,000 grant has been awarded by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to convert the San Felipe Park into an ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) track. A county spokesman said the state plans to use San Felipe Park as a model ATV park for other locations. The county will need to come up with a \$100,000 match to initiate phase one of the project. O'Donnell Park in Fabens will receive \$100,000 in TPWD money under a grant program known as Small Communities Small Grants. The grants have changed the face of the County's master plan for parks, and the updated version will be presented in public hearings before being finalized.

Youth radio

KXCR 89.5 FM and Youth Impact are seeking youth ages 13-18 to form a team for a weekly radio talk show, focusing on current issues and the way they affect today's young people. The program will be entirely produced by youth in all areas — production, directing, writing and announcing. Applications will be accepted from Aug. 15-24 with final deadline Aug. 27. Training begins in early September. Drop by 2023 Myrtle in El Paso weekdays, log on to website www.kxcr.org, or call Rick Scott or Paul Castro at 542-2900. Support for the program comes from the Open Society Institute.

CORRECTION: It has come to our attention that the *Courier* incorrectly identified Bertha Brew as Bertha Bean in a recent article that mentioned school attendance in the Tornillo school district. Some anonymous community members have also objected that we identified her as an "attendance officer" rather than "attendance clerk." Whatever her title, Ms. Brew is clearly doing her job well, based on improved attendance figures, which have gone up an additional point to 98 percent since the article was published.

Be kind. Every person you meet is fighting a difficult battle.

— Quips and Quotes

Canutillo ISD has memorable month Hart finalist for Texas Superintendent of the year

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — August has been a memorable month for the Canutillo Independent School District.

• Aug. 13: The district receives notification that it has been approved by the state for IFA (Instructional Facilities Allotment) funding.

• Aug. 16: Texas Education Agency designates Canutillo ISD a "Recognized" school district.

• Aug. 20: Superintendent Charles Hart is notified that he is one of five finalists for Texas Superintendent of the Year.

Persistence has paid off for Canutillo. Last year the district had applied for, but was denied IFA funding. It tried again this year and was approved, ranking 77th of the 153 school districts statewide that were approved.

Approval means that the state will pay approximately 71 percent (\$16.3 million) of the cost of the \$23 million bond referendum that was overwhelmingly approved by Canutillo taxpayers two years ago for the construction of a new high school.

The district's board of trustees had approved an alternative course of financial action in the event the district would again be denied IFA funding. At a special July board meeting, trustees approved the issuance and sale of the \$23 million in bonds to finance construction. This course of action had qualified the district for EDA (Existing Debt Allotment) funding.

The district is exercising the option of switching from EDA to take the IFA funding route. Dr. John Kessinger, assistant superintendent for planning and operations, said it would be nine to 12 months before there could be a groundbreaking.

In the interim, there will be an appraisal of the school site located adjacent to the Northwest campus of El Paso Community College after which there will be negotiations with landowners on the final purchase price. Also, architects will be coming up with a conceptual

drawing of the new facility.

Alfredo Vasquez, public information officer for Canutillo ISD, said that a tax increase is not anticipated to cover the cost of construction.

Designation as a "Recognized" district comes following the announcement in June by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that four of the six campuses had excelled academically. Strong preliminary test scores in reading, math and writing indicated that the district could be "Recognized." However, final determination would come in August with final refining of scores.

The "cliffhanger" test area was writing with an average score of 80.7 percent. A drop of less than a percentage point would have kept the district from "Recognized" status.

Leading the way academically for the district was Damian Elementary which was "Exemplary," 90 percent or above in test scores. Canutillo and Davenport Elementary schools and Canutillo Middle were "Recognized,"

With all of the other good things happening in the district, Hart said he hadn't anticipated that there would be one more — his selection as one of the five finalists statewide. He links any honor he is receiving to the community and the board of trustees.

"If I get recognized, the community is recognized."

Hart has been with the district for six years, and was recently selected as the Region 19 Superintendent of the Year. He was first interviewed along with 17 other superintendent finalists for state honors last Saturday. He will return for his second interview on Sept. 20 in Dallas prior to the TASA/TASB (Texas Assn. of School Administrators/Texas Assn. of School Boards) convention. The winner will be announced Sept. 22.

The candidates, according to information from TASB, "are chosen for their dedication to improving educational quality, board-superintendent relations, student achievement and commitment to public support and involvement in education."



Charles Hart

Selecting printer for Socorro City Charter leads to scheduling of special meeting

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — In an effort to meet the printing deadline, and to make the best selection for the printer of the Charter, the Socorro Town Council elected to schedule a special Council meeting for Monday, Aug. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

During the regularly scheduled Council meeting, Attorney Richard Contreras opened bids for the printing of the Charter project. There were eight vendors who submitted bids for consideration. Due to the variations in service and prices, Council decided to table the decision in selecting a printer until each supplied bid was thoroughly researched.

In recognition of the urgency in meeting the time table, City Representative Jesus Hernandez motioned to call a special meeting for Monday, Aug. 20. Council unanimously approved the special meeting.

Reyes Mata of Bosque Enterprises, made a special presentation regarding the printing of the Charter project. Before his presentation, Hernandez noted that in fairness to all bidders, Mata's presentation would have no bearing on their selection of the printer, due to all other bidders not having the opportunity to make a presentation.

In other business, Council approved forming a committee to plan the April 27 City of Socorro Festival.

Gilbert Lujan, of Lujan Trucking, approached Council regarding the awarding of a contract for base and screening material to the lowest responsible bidder.

He agrees he was not the lowest bidder, but he informed Council he was under the understanding, according to a flier sent to registered Socorro suppliers, that this bid was for vendors registered to do business in the City of Socorro only. He said the lowest bidder was not registered in Socorro.

After lengthy discussion, Council unanimously awarded the bid to Lujan Trucking.

Council decided to table and action on an item regarding clean-up and fencing of the property at 10945 Socorro Rd. by the public works department. The action is in response to Case #00-08042-OR of the Agreed Judgment: The State of Texas vs Trinidad Lopez.

Council agreed to research the matter thoroughly before acting on it.

In other business, Council unanimously renewed the Interlocal Agreement by and between the City of Socorro, Texas and the Colonias Program of the Center for Housing and Urban Development.

Horizon Council informed about Clint bond, honors Morales with special day

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — Community service is considered a commodity and people who are regular contributors of community service should be recognized for their efforts, according to Horizon City Mayor Pat Randleel and members of Town Council, who chose to recognize the contributions of Alderman Robert Morales during the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting on August 14.

Morales is a member of the military reserves for the Texas National Guard and recently received a distinguished award from that organization for his unselfish efforts and contributions.

In his honor, Council proclaimed Aug. 14, 2001 as Alderman Morales Day.

In other business, Clint ISD Superintendent Sylvester Perez made a factual presentation to the Horizon Town Council regarding the future growth of the district.

It is estimated that most of the growth for Clint ISD will be in the Horizon City area with about 6,000 homes expected to be built within the next six years. This would bring an approximate extra 19,200 students to Clint ISD.

After the new middle school being built near Horizon City opens, there will be three distinct feeder patterns, including the East Montana area, the Town of Clint area and Horizon.

The school district is currently operating their Central Administration Office in the Town of Clint. It was originally built to house five employees but currently accommodates 55 employees. The district has an additional administration building in the East Montana area.

It is the hope of the school district to build a centralized Administration Office in Horizon City. Clint ISD is asking for \$67 million in bond monies, set for election on Oct. 6. The monies would be used for new construction, to refinance old debt and to finance much-needed renovation and additions to existing facilities. There will be several Town Hall meetings beginning Aug. 21 through Aug. 23, in order to answer any question and to inform the public in detail on how the monies would be spent.

Early voting will be from Sept. 19 through Oct. 2, 2001. There will be branch voting at all campuses on Sept. 27, 2001.

The Horizon Council is currently trying to establish an Animal Housing Ordinance. City Attorney Duran was asked to prepare the first reading and he has researched various cities who have ordinances for Animal Nuisances. He made a preliminary model after the San Antonio, Texas ordinance. Town Council approved the first reading on Establishing Animal Nuisance-Ordinance No. 15. Details of the first reading are available at the Horizon Town Hall.

During executive session, Town Council discussed Alderman Morales' leave of absence.

Town Council also created the position for Director of Public Works.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

All powerful water

HORIZON — Recent changes in water law make me uncomfortable. Maybe you should read it for yourself. It's published here straight off a legislative web site by the Association of Water Board Directors (AWBD).

Last week we indicated there had been some changes in water law that placed water providers beyond the scope of public accountability in publishing tax and budget information required of every other taxing entity under "Truth in Taxation" — yet you will still see the taxes they levy right there on your bill, right along with the school districts, the county, and Thomason Hospital.

Water is the most powerful force in our society, is fast becoming one of our most expensive tax bills, yet, at the same time, the entities that manage it are increasingly being given authority to govern themselves outside of the ordinary sphere of public influence.

The AWBD is a powerful lobbying force — it has been for years. Lobbying is an expensive activity. As you read the opening paragraph, note the self-congratulatory note of their "success." Yet thorough reading of the provisions of these "successes" does not reveal a responsible nature toward the water customer or the taxpayer — who must foot the bill — but are rather directed toward eliminating the messy inconvenience of public accountability.

I've sat through more hours of water board meetings and written more inches of news copy about water issues that I care to remember, and I've seen some incredible examples of lack of concern for — even ridicule of — the public's interest or input.

I've seen some conscientious men stand up and resign during meetings where the law was being skirted so closely it resembled a Madonna costume.

The real capper came when a major engineering firm responsible to design a multi-thousand dollar project did so without knowing whether the project was inside or outside of city limits. They refused to accept responsibility for it and, worse yet, accountability was not demanded by the sitting board of directors.

I finally quit going.

There was a time when most water board directors understood that they were elected to protect the public interest as they made decisions involving development, taxing, construction contracts, etc. They understood that the relationship between themselves and big money was, by necessity, adversarial in nature. I'm afraid it isn't that way anymore — with a few, highly notable exceptions, where public accountability still maintains a fragile existence.

The foxes have been given watch over the hen house because the roosters believe the fox is motivated by public benevolence.

That is my perspective. Read on and make up your own mind.

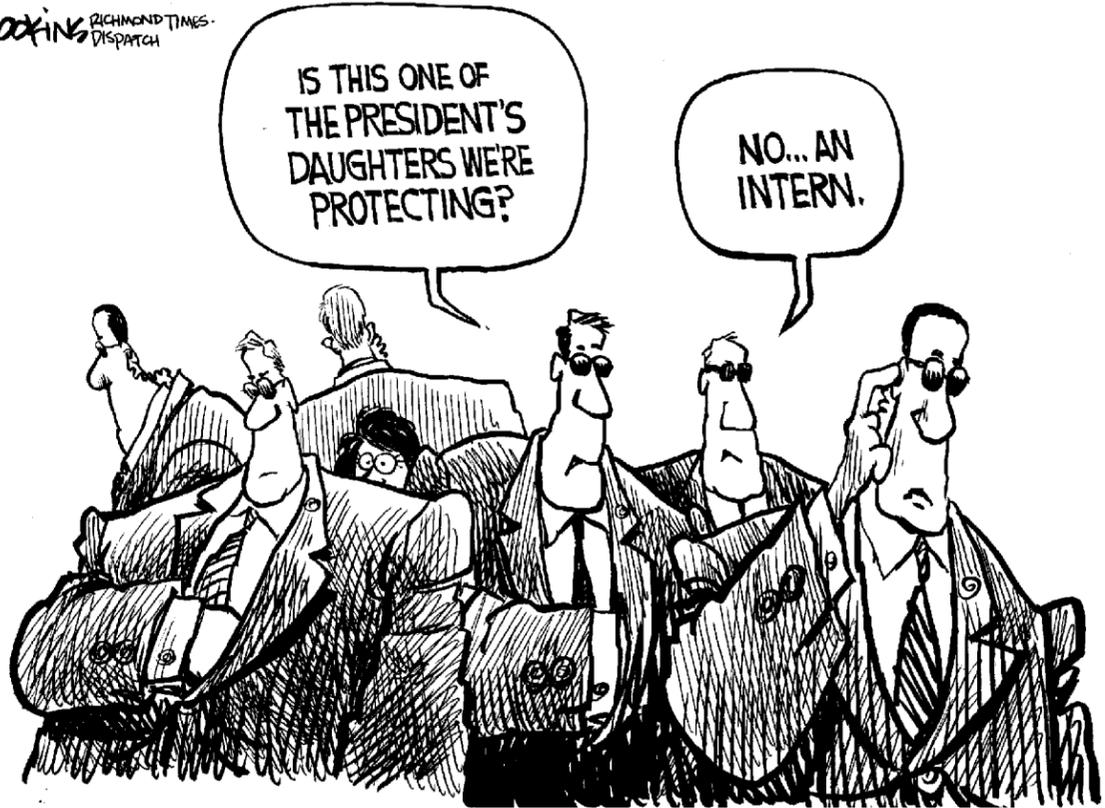
AWBD LEGISLATIVE UPDATE The 77th Texas Legislature (2001)

Major Bills of Interest to Water Districts Presented at the 2001 AWBD Annual Conference by the AWBD Legislative Committee Gordon Landwermeyer, Chair; Joe B. Allen, Robin S. Bobbitt, Jim Burke, Phil Haag, Thomas V. Jenkins, Ph.D., Owen Parker and Donald Roseman, members. Assisted by Trey Lary, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.

AWBD Omnibus Bill – Senate Bill 1444

AWBD worked closely with Senator J. E. "Buster" Brown and Representative Gary Walker to draft and lobby for the passage of Senate Bill 1444.

BRACKINS RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH



Many thanks are owed to Senator Brown and Representative Walker and their fine staffs for their strong and persistent leadership. The AWBD effort was led by Chairman Gordon Landwermeyer and Joe B. Allen and Trey Lary of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Provisions from the previous session's omnibus bill, which did not pass, formed the core of SB 1444. To round out the bill, district directors and consultants from around the state contributed new provisions. Late in the Session, it was apparent that SB 1444 was one of the few viable pieces of legislation amending the Water Code and the bill became a vehicle

for other groups concerned with water resources and water districts. We are pleased to report that AWBD accomplished its entire legislative agenda.

Public Funds Investment Act

Clarifies that a treasurer is not subject to the training requirements of the Public Funds Investment Act unless the treasurer is also the investment officer. The bill further clarifies that the board may appoint one of its consultants to serve as the investment officer of the district.

Director Per Diems

Increases the maximum director per diem (the daily fees of office allowed) from \$100 to \$150. The annual cap of \$6,000 did not change.

Fire Plan

Streamlines the process required to adopt a plan for the provision of fire protection services to district residents. SB 1444 repeals the prior law requiring public hearings on the fire plan to be held by the district board of directors and the TNRC. SB 1444 also allows a fire plan elec-

See WATER, Page 4



Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

New beginnings

Well, it's that time of year again — our kids are heading back to school. It's a time for new beginnings, a new school year, new grade levels, new teachers and new classrooms. Fresh from the

long summer break, students all over Texas are trotting off to school once again to begin a new year of homework, studying and tests.

But students aren't the only ones marking a new beginning this school year. Parents, teachers and local communities all over the country are marking a new beginning as well. It's the beginning of the end of the federal one-size-fits-all approach to education.

Earlier this year, Congress passed the president's education plan. The "No Child Left Behind Act" is going to change the education of our children. By cutting the bureaucratic red tape, we're putting our nation's education system in the hands of educators, not political leaders in Washington, D.C.

Our new approach is going to cut down on federal

requirements and give schools more of the flexibility they need and deserve. First things first, we're making it possible for schools to reduce class size by hiring more teachers. This is simple math. The smaller the classroom, the more attention students receive and the better they do in school. And we're not just hiring more teachers, we're also giving schools the freedom to provide more professional development for teachers. The more knowledge our teachers possess, the more our children will receive.

The No Child Left Behind Act is going to promote early reading skills and increase the focus on math and science education. Funds will be allocated for better math and science programs. We're also going to encourage schools to make their programs more rigorous to help children reach higher education goals. The new plan includes a performance-based grant program. This program is going to supply more funding to schools to increase literacy in technology. In other words, schools that need the most help will get the most help.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this legislation

is that we're putting discretion in the hands of the schools. We're giving the schools the decision of how to spend federal funding. They can choose to spend more on development or they can make reducing class size a priority. Schools will make the decisions, not bureaucrats.

This plan is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Of course, we're looking at our public education system, but we're also including programs that will protect home schooling and make schools safer from gun violence. This is a comprehensive plan that is going to give the power to the schools, because as we all know, that's where it belongs.

In the spirit of the season, of a new school year and of new beginnings, I'm proud that our new education initiative will begin the process of removing Washington from the education equation. Local control of education will provide our students with the best education possible. Class dismissed.

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

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

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

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

DISPLAY RATES:
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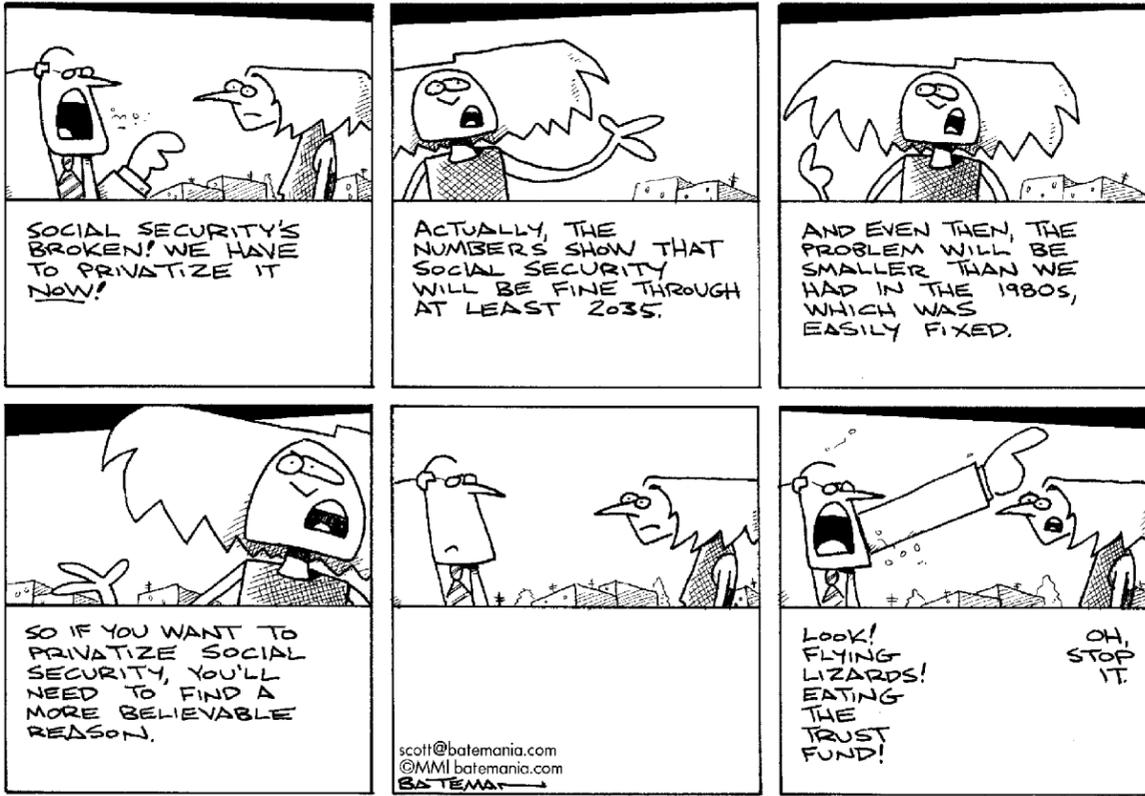
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Border transportation committee to examine international traffic impact

EL PASO COUNTY — A state advisory committee to focus on transportation challenges along the Texas-Mexico border is being created as a result of recent legislation and action by state transportation officials.

The seven-member Border Trade Advisory Committee was given preliminary approval by the Texas Transportation Commission to identify and make recommendations on how to address mobility needs along the border as a result of growing international trade.

In determining its recommendations, the committee will consider the importance of international trade between the U.S. and Mexico, the amount of trade activity along the Texas-Mexico border and potential funding for border infrastructure.

The committee is a result of Senate Bill 195, sponsored by State Rep-

resentative Joe C. Pickett, who is also a member of the House Transportation Committee.

"The establishment of a permanent Border Trade Advisory Committee solidifies a budget-related item I introduced last session when a temporary border trade task force was first created," Pickett said. "I look forward to working with TxDOT to help establish this historic entity."

International trade has significant impacts on the state's infrastructure system, according to state transportation officials. Texas' ports-of-entry are used by 79 percent of all US-Mexico truck traffic and approximately 16 percent of all truck travel in the state is NAFTA-related.

The committee members, to be appointed by the commission at a later date, will each serve three-year staggered terms.

Horizon church to welcome new minister

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is inviting the public to a service of celebration to honor the retiring Rev. Dr. A. Philip Pamham, and the installation of Rev. Kathleene K. McNellis as Vicar, conducted by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Terence Kelshaw, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. The service will be Sunday, Aug. 26, at 3 p.m. followed by a reception at the Church of the Incarnation, 14999 Darrington Rd. in Horizon City.

City of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28, 2001 during a Special City 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 ordinances:

- 1) Proposed Ordinance No. 0096 Adopting a Budget for FY 2001-2002, commencing October 1, 2001 and ending on September 30, 2002 for the Town of Horizon City, Texas.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address.

Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

WTCC: 08/23/01

View from the porch By Linda Mussehl

Renovation innovation

Well, one of the longest-running construction jobs in these parts is almost through. It's probably something of a record. We've proven that private individuals, voluntarily taking on a

home handyman project, actually can work slower than contractors on a state highway job.

to the job — that we decided we would have been time, effort and money ahead if we would have burned down the darned trailer and just built a new little guesthouse from scratch. Instead, we were putting brand-new floors and walls under an old and leaky roof.

Because none of the old stuff was plumb, level, straight or true, our paltry skills improved quickly. Pardner never stopped talking though about how much easier thus-and-so would be to do if he could just weld it.

Most problems were fixed as we found them, but some were pushed through to the next phase. When a window didn't sit quite right, "Well, we can cover that when we do the interior paneling." Then, problems with the paneling (why, oh why, weren't the old studs on 16-inch centers?) were pushed through too. "The trim will cover that, won't it?"

Our most ingenious and successful "fix" was the decision to use 1x4s for interior trim because the wider boards cover bigger boo-boos than do the sissy little millwork that real carpenters use for trim. After all, we were going for the rustic look. Weren't we?

Now, I'm on my second jar of wood filler, concealing all the little "oops!" and improvisations in the interior trim. We've managed to push last year's problems with the studs clear on through the project and out the other side of the job. Almost.

The window trim still looks a little funny. I'm calculating how to camouflage it. Maybe if I make some big curtain valences, it will look okay. And then if we hang a lot of stuff on the walls to draw the eye away from the goofs in the curtains...



Our informal construction company — Ramshackle and Slipshod, unincorporated and 'purt near incompetent — had only a crew of two, not enough money or time, and a sad lack of basic carpentry skills. After a while we were broke and out of enthusiasm too.

The construction phases sounded so simple when we started. Strip off the metal outside skin and replace it with wood siding, installing new windows as we go along. Then remove the flimsy paneling inside, insulate, and repanel the walls. Nothing to it. Right?

Our first derailment was when we discovered that under the metal exterior were very few studs. The ones that were there were twisted 2x2s. And evidently there once had been a little fire — some of the studs were charred and partially burned through. We found ourselves cutting out whole eight-foot sections of the walls and reframing it completely.

It was at the point — well after we were committed

Duck Race

Thursday - Sunday, August 23-26
Luna County Courthouse Park
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22nd Annual Great American

Water

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tion to be held in conjunction with a confirmation election.

Staleness of Bond Authorizations
Provides that the doctrine of "staleness" (bond authorizations becoming invalid by the simple passage of time) should not apply to district bond authorizations.

Taxation Procedures

Provides that Sections 26.04, 26.05, and 26.07, Tax Code, do not apply to maintenance, debt service, or contract taxes levied and collected by districts. (These sections of the Tax Code require: (i) calculation of effective tax rates and rollback tax rates, (ii) direct mailing or newspaper publication of notices regarding effective and rollback tax rates, (iii) public hearings (and newspaper notices thereof) if a district adopts a tax rate that exceeds the lower of the rollback tax rate or 103 percent of the effective tax rate, and (iv) adoption of the tax

rate before the later of September 30 or the 60th day after the date the certified appraisal roll is received by the taxing unit. Section 26.07, Tax Code, provides for rollback tax elections.)

Disbursements of District Money
Clarifies that a board of directors may adopt procedures for the wire transfer of district funds.

Payment of Expenses
Removes the three-year limitation relating to the use of bond proceeds for the payment of interest during construction.

Bond Sales
Allows a district to advertise for a bond sale prior to the final approval of the bond issue by the Commission. The bonds may not actually be sold prior to final approval by the Commission.

Ownership of Property for District Creations and Annexations
Provides that the central appraisal district is the appropriate entity to certify property ownership information for landowners signing petitions to create a district or to add land to a

district. Prior law required the county tax assessor collector to certify as to the ownership of landowners who sign petitions to create a district or to add land to a district. Since the advent of the central appraisal district, the county tax assessor collector is no longer the custodian of property ownership information.

Tap or Connection Fees
Clarifies that a district may pledge tap fees to the payment of revenue

See WATER, Page 5

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 27, 2001 in the Tornillo High School Library, 300 Oil Mill Road, Tornillo, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.** Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.386724	\$ 0.111311*	\$ 1.498035	\$ 534	\$ 5,633
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.385101	\$ 0.215345*	\$ 1.600446	\$ 547	\$ 5,941
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.384601	\$ 0.215345*	\$ 1.599946	\$ 547	\$ 5,941

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 28,800	\$ 29,887
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 13,683	\$ 14,696
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.498035	\$ 1.599946
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 204.97	\$ 235.12
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 30.15

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.660446. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.660446.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,218,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ -0-

PUBLIC MEETING

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a **PUBLIC MEETING on FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2001, at 9:00 A.M., at The El Paso MPO Office, c/o The Gateway Business Center, 10767 Gateway Blvd. West, Suite 605, El Paso, Texas 79935**, to discuss the following agenda:

- Discussion and Action to Approve the Transit Corridor Feasibility Study.
- Discussion and Action on Amending the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2000-2004:
 - Darrington Road - Project ID# A403X: modify cost estimates;
 - Ashford/Ryderwood - Project ID# R009X: transfer \$488K to fund Darrington Road project and change funding status to Priority 2; and
 - Ashford/Ryderwood - Project ID# R009X: change limits on project and submit as Priority 2;
- Discussion and Action to Approve Revisions to Funding Categories:
 - Lee Trevino Turnarounds & X-Ramps — Project ID# 1014X-051— CMAQ Funds;
 - Median Improvements City-wide — Phase 1 — Project ID# L003X — STP 4C Funds;
 - Lee Trevino Northern Terminus of I-10 — 100 linear feet north of the intersection with Rojas — Project ID# R009X — STP 4C Funds;
- Discussion and Action to Approve a Letter of Support to the El Paso Empowerment Zone.
- Discussion and Action to Authorize the Chair to Negotiate and Sign an Interlocal Agreement Between the MPO and UTEP for use of Transportation Planning Funds.
- Discussion and Action to Approve the Conformity Document for the 2002-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Status Report on Adopting Performance Measures and an Evaluation Process for the Executive Director of the MPO.
- Report on the Texas Department of Transportation's draft Unified Transportation Program FY 2002.
- Status Report on the Environmental Protection Agency Grants:
 - Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT); and
 - Personal Rapid Transit Grant

Under federal legislation, the MPO, through the TPB has an expanded role in transportation project selection and programming in El Paso County and the City of Sunland Park, New Mexico. For more information call the MPO Office at (915) 591-9735.

WTCC: 08/23/01

Classified Ads

LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA FURNITURE CSP NO. 199-0904-1094

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2001, 9 A.M.

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

HELP WANTED

JOB OPENING: The Ft. Hancock Water Control

and Improvement District is currently accepting applications for full-time water operator. Applicants must have good communication skills, be bilingual, use computer, have Class C. certificate in ground water distribution and sewer system maintenance. Salary is negotiable. Information may be obtained at the Ft. Hancock WCID office, 801 N. Knox Ave., Ft. Hancock, Texas 79839, (915) 769-3931. WTCC-8/23/01

Hair Slingers in Horizon City is seeking experienced cosmetologist. Apply in person after 2 p.m. at 13899 Horizon Blvd., Ste. 4, Horizon City. TFN

OFFICE SPACE

Office for lease in Horizon City. Corner of Darrington and Horizon Blvd. \$350/month. Call Horizon Properties, 852-3331.

SELF-HELP

OPPORTUNITIES

Alcoholics Anonymous Group Paso Del Norte meets at 8501 Kingsway in Westway, Monday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Call 886-4948 for information. *Alcohólicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sábado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-4948 para informacion.*

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous Group 8 de

Enero meets at 15360 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call 859-0484 for information. *Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Visitemos. Alcohólicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizo Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.*

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" **JIFFY GLASS**

REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow,
Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
• Heating/cooling

- Electric roter service for sewers and drains
- Appliance installation
- Many other plumbing services
- 24-hour service
- Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

AL'S PLACE
Warehouse Space
900 sq ft-\$200
Yard Storage \$20 and Up
Horizon Industrial Park,
418 Kenazo,
Horizon City
852-3949

Water

From Page 4

bonds.

Granting Easements

Amends Section 49.218, Water Code, by providing that a district or water supply corporation may require, as a condition for service, that an applicant for service grant a permanent recorded easement to allow the district to serve the applicant as well as the district's purposes in providing system-wide services. Additionally, as a condition of service to a new subdivision, a district or water supply corporation may require a developer to provide permanent recorded easements to and throughout the subdivision adequate for service for the subdivision's anticipated service demands when the subdivision is fully occupied. (See also HB 924.)

Sale of District Property

Clarifies that a board of directors, in its discretion, may sell property of the district. If the district has outstanding tax bonds, the proceeds of the sale shall be applied to retire outstanding bonds of the district. The bill eliminates potential conflicts between Chapter 272, Local Government Code, and the Water Code.

Prohibition of Septic Systems

Provides that a district may prohibit the installation of new private on-site wastewater holding or treatment facilities. A district that prohibits such installation shall agree to pay the owner of the tract the costs of connection if the distance along a public right-of-way or utility easement from the nearest point of the district's system to the boundary line of the tract is 300 feet or more.

Contracts

Clarifies that competitive bidding requirements only apply to construction (and not to procurement and service contracts). The bill also clarifies that payment and performance bonding requirements apply only to construction contracts.

The bill also provides that Subchapter I of Chapter 49, Water Code (relating to Construction, Equipment, Materials, and Machinery Contracts), does not apply to contracts for services or property for which there is only one source or for which it is otherwise impracticable to obtain competition.

Change Orders in Construction Contracts

Provides that a board of directors may authorize a change order to a construction contract as long as all change orders to the contract do not increase the price of the contract by more than 10 percent of the original contract price. Additional change orders may be issued only as a result of unanticipated conditions encountered during construction, repair, or renovation or changes in regulatory criteria or to facilitate project coordination with other political entities.

Repairs

Provides that a board of directors is not required to advertise or seek competitive bids for the repair of district facilities if the scope or extent of the repair work cannot be readily ascertained or if the nature of the repair work does not lend itself to competitive bidding.

Prevailing Wage Rates

Provides that a district located wholly or partially within the corporate limits or ETJ of one or more municipalities may adopt the prevailing wage rate of the municipality or the county in which it is located. A district not located within the ETJ of a municipality may adopt the prevailing wage rate of the county in which it is located. If the county in which a district is located has not adopted a prevailing wage rate, then the district may adopt the prevailing wage rate of an adjacent county.

Adding and Excluding Land Before

Confirmation

Allows the adjustment of boundaries after creation by the Commission but prior to the confirmation of the district by the voters. If land is added or excluded prior to the confirmation election, the election to confirm the district shall be to confirm the district as modified.

Voluntary Collections for Fire-Fighting and EMS Organizations

Clarifies that districts may collect voluntary contributions to volunteer fire departments and EMS groups. The district must notify customers that the contributions are voluntary and a district may not discontinue water and sewer service for failure to contribute.

Recreational Facilities / Street Lighting

Grants to all districts governed by Chapter 49, Water Code, the recreational facility powers previously

granted only to municipal utility districts. Levee improvement districts, water control and improvement districts and others now have the ability to provide recreational facilities. The bill also authorizes districts to purchase, install, operate and maintain street and security lighting. Previous law granted this power only to municipal utility districts that were required by the City to provide lighting. The definition of "recreational facilities" is expanded to include "landscaping, parkways, greenbelts, sidewalks, trails, and public right-of-way beautification projects."

The bill reiterates that districts may not issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to finance recreational facilities.

Rules and Regulations

Grants water control and improvement districts and levee improvement districts the ability to adopt and en-

force rules and regulations relating to their facilities and services.

Penalty for Violation

Provides for a criminal penalty for violation of the regulations of a water control and improvement district.

Election of Tax Assessor/Collectors in Fresh Water Supply Districts

Repeals the requirement that the tax assessor/collector of a fresh water supply district be elected.

Services Outside a Levee Improvement District

Clarifies a potential conflict between Chapter 57 and Chapter 49, Water Code, by providing that a levee improvement district may provide services and improvements inside and outside the district.

No Liability for Joint Enterprises

Provides that the common law doctrine of vicarious liability because of participation in a joint enterprise does not impose liability on a water district.

Contracts with Cities

Provides that bonds issued by a city secured by contract tax payments of a district are not subject to Commission review and approval.

The bill also provides that if a district contracts with a municipality to provide all or part of the water or wastewater services to the municipality, the municipality may issue bonds payable from the revenues of its water and wastewater system to provide funds to make payments owed by the municipality to the district under the contract.

Municipal Water Systems

Allows a municipality, without an

See WATER, Page 8

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2001 Property Tax Rates in Town of Anthony

This notice concerns 2001 property tax rates for the **Town of Anthony**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$155,773
Last year's debt taxes	62,975
Last year's total taxes	218,748
Last year's tax base	79,957,015
Last year's total tax rate	.273582/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$218,731
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	80,723,893
=This year's effective tax rate	.270961/\$100
x1.03 = maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings	.279090/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$155,761
+This year's adjusted tax base	80,723,893
=This year's effective operating rate	.192955/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	.208391/\$100
+This year's debt rate	.090381/\$100
=This year's rollback rate	.298772/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Anthony** adopts a 2001 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.270961** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2000 taxes by **\$12,754**.

SCHEDULE A: Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$300,000.00
Debt Service (I&S)	10,000.00

SCHEDULE B: 2001 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
'74 GOB	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,320.00	\$-0-	\$10,320.00
'87 GOB	30,000.00	19,698.00	-0-	49,698.00
SIB	15,291.87	1,909.40	-0-	17,201.27

Total required for 2001 debt service	\$77,219.27
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2001	77,219.27
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2001	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	77,219.27

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: August 20, 2001

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2001 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District

This notice concerns 2001 property tax rates for the **El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$25,469
Last year's debt taxes	-0-
Last year's total taxes	25,469
Last year's tax base	40,620,415
Last year's total tax rate	.062700/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$25,469
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	38,801,982
=This year's effective tax rate	.065639/\$100
x1.03 = maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings	.067608/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$25,469
+This year's adjusted tax base	38,801,982
=This year's effective operating rate	.065639/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	.070890/\$100
+This year's debt rate	-.0/\$100
=This year's rollback rate	.070890/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District** adopts a 2001 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.065639** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2000 taxes by **\$747**.

SCHEDULE A: Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$-0-
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

SCHEDULE B: 2001 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
NONE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Total required for 2001 debt service	\$-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2001	-0-
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2001	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	-0-

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: August 17, 2001

El Paso's big three to make for some exciting football this season

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We are closely approaching the 2001 El Paso high school football season and though no one is exactly sure which teams will win in respective districts, everyone is positive about "the big three."

The big three are the three seniors who will battle for Player of the Year honors in the city.

El Paso has three can't-miss Division-I college prospects that will provide the city with a ton of thrills this fall.

The first of the three goes to Andress High. Quarterback Jamar Ransom is finally a senior and is

scheduled to have a monster season. A punishing runner with speed, Ransom is also a terror on the defensive end of the ball as linebacker.

Not a true passer, Ransom can drop back, look survey the field, tuck the ball under his arm and score from anywhere using his legs.

The second standout is running back Irving Campbell. Campbell almost single-handedly put the Austin Panthers back on the El Paso football map last season. The Panthers were a pain in the side of many perennial 1-5A powers last year.

Campbell has the kind of speed rarely seen in El Paso area football and is a threat to score any time his touches the football.

The third member is Parkland's

Mike Jefferson. Remember Harold Carmichael? OK, for those of you who were born in the 80's, you've seen Randy Moss, right? Well, that's who Jefferson will remind you of when he goes after the football.

The wide receiver has been contacted by dozens of big name colleges begging for his services after high school. Look for Jefferson to catch a number of touchdown passes, return a number of punts and kickoffs for touchdowns and return an interception or two for touchdowns.

It would be nice if UTEP could keep at least one of these players home to play for the Miners but chances are these guys will put together fantastic high school seasons and then be off for the big time.

If you get a chance, do yourself a favor and catch one of these guys in action this year — the season is fast

approaching!

A bad influence, wanna bet

The UTEP basketball team was recently told that they wouldn't play their Las Vegas pre-season basketball tournament in any Las Vegas casinos. But they would still play in Las Vegas and even stay at a Las Vegas hotel.

What am I missing?

The NCAA says you can't play college basketball in a casino because of the gambling element but you can still play at a high school located in the gambling mecca of the world and even stay in the casino where you can't swing a basketball bag without hitting a slot machine or a craps table.

What is the point, guys?

How is playing its games at a nearby high school instead of the casino going to keep any players from

making a side trip to the roulette wheel or putting a ten down on the fourth race at Belmont?

The NCAA has a habit of making decisions that leave you scratching your head. Don't play in the casino, do play near the casino, do stay in the casino.

If you don't want college teams near the gambling element then don't allow any games to be played in Las Vegas at all...oops, sorry UNLV.

What to do, what to do...

All we want is some consistency from the NCAA.

I guess the only time the Miners have ever seen the NCAA make a consistent decision is when they impose heavy rules violation against UTEP.

Good guy...Knott

How about that Michigan State football team.

The Spartans are hoping to improve on last season's disappointing 5-6 record and with the acquisition of their newest player, they might just get what they asked for.

Seems the Spartans have a soft spot in their hearts for tight end Eric Knott. Knott received his scholarship just in time for the upcoming season.

Not bad for a guy who just concluded his 30-day stint in jail — he pleaded guilty to criminal sexual conduct with a 13-year old.

Thirty days, not a bad slap on the wrist if you ask me.

Michigan State coach Bobby Williams said he was excited about Knott rejoining the team and said that Knott had paid his debt to society.

Hmmm — I wonder if Williams has any young daughters?

City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 5:30 p.m. during a Special Council Meeting of Tuesday, September 4, 2001 at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) An Ordinance authorizing the assessment and collection of property taxes within the City of Socorro, Texas and further authorizing the El Paso Tax Office to perform the actual assessment and collection for said property taxes on behalf of the City of Socorro, Texas for the fiscal year of October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002.

Those that are unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Secretary (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Copies of ordinances are posted in City Hall and are available upon request.

TERE RODRIGUEZ
City Secretary

WTCC: 08/23/01

City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. during the City Council Meeting of Thursday, September 6, 2001 at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) An ordinance ordering an election of the qualified voters of the City of Socorro, Texas, on the 6TH day of November, 2001, for the purpose of adopting a Charter for the City of Socorro, Texas.

Those that are unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Secretary (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Copies of ordinances are posted in City Hall and are available upon request.

TERE RODRIGUEZ
City Secretary

WTCC: 08/23/01

Phamfilar phrases

"on the ball"

To say a baseball pitcher has "nothing on the ball" is to say he has no speed or control of the pitch. One who has great skill and speed is "on the ball." The phrase has come to mean anyone who is doing a great job, and handling things well.

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King Super Crossword

- SIX-FOOTERS**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Kite or coot
- 5 Chihuahua snack
- 9 "Goodbye, Columbus" author
- 13 Egyptian Nobelist
- 18 Sore
- 19 Addis _
- 21 Merrill melody
- 22 Menander's marketplace
- 23 6' actress
- 25 6' comedian
- 27 Cook clams
- 28 Trickles
- 30 Clean-air org.
- 31 Cartoon cry
- 32 Wool gatherer?
- 34 Not _ many words
- 37 "Animal Farm" author
- 40 6' actor
- 44 Garfield's pal
- 45 Tie the knot
- 46 38 Down, for one
- 47 _ impasse
- 49 Sour sort
- 53 Swallow up
- 56 Undergoes
- 59 Make a pile?
- 60 Pool person
- 61 Puzzling problem
- 62 Scarlett's sweetheart
- 64 Actress Hagen
- 65 Potter's need
- 67 Browning's
- bedtime?
- 68 Diva Marton
- 69 Young or King
- 70 6' designer
- 73 6' author
- 76 Art deco figure
- 77 Marsh
- 78 Parenthesis shape
- 79 Melodious
- McEntire
- 80 Deli loaf
- 81 Robert of "The Citadel"
- 83 Feline, familiarly
- 85 Force
- 89 '66 Michael Caine movie
- 91 Supervise
- 93 Take for granted
- 94 Attack
- 95 They may get cold
- 96 Ring out
- 98 Fix a fight
- 99 And others
- 101 6' singer
- 106 Paraguayan title
- 108 Mediocre
- 109 When pigs whistle, to Tennyson
- 110 Mongrel
- 111 Address abbr.
- 113 Actress Hedren
- 116 Gettysburg commander
- 120 6' trumpeter
- 125 6' anthropologist
- 127 Doll up
- 128 Ireland
- 129 County in 128
- Across
- 130 Scorch
- 131 Pass on
- 132 Crowdburst?
- 133 Part of a threat
- 134 Connecticut campus
- DOWN**
- 1 Supermarket supplies
- 2 "New Jack City" actor
- 3 Korean statesman
- 4 Go-getter
- 5 Lincoln son
- 6 Disconcerts
- 7 Spelunker's spot
- 8 Tony's cousin
- 9 Scott's "The - Quartet"
- 10 Mispickel, e.g.
- 11 Become winded
- 12 Queequeg's weapon
- 13 Mr. Mineo
- 14 Season firewood
- 15 Peg
- 16 Shakespearean sprite
- 17 Chore
- 20 Chuck jelly
- 24 Love, to Livy
- 26 Grounds
- 29 _ _ Cat (winter transport)
- 33 Relief initials?
- 35 Constellation component
- 36 Furry fisherman
- 38 Cowes' locale
- 39 First name in architecture
- 40 Fellow
- 41 Brink
- 42 Role for Liz
- 43 Has a hunch
- 45 Craven or Unsold
- 48 Peter of Peter and Gordon
- 50 It's down in the mouth
- 51 Copper or cobalt
- 52 Mastermind
- 54 Quitter's cry
- 55 Vegetate
- 57 "Disco Duck" singer
- 58 Keatsian crock
- 59 Barrel part
- 61 Tower
- 63 Each's partner
- 66 Head monk
- 69 See 70 Down
- 70 With 69 Down, "Heaven" singer
- 71 Stuff
- 72 Dumbstruck
- 73 "True _ " ('69 film)
- 74 Arm-y types?
- 75 Wading bird
- 76 Therefore
- 78 Canine grp.
- 81 "Same here!"
- 82 Lock
- 84 "Lemon _ " ('65 hit)
- 86 Immaculate
- 87 Kuwaiti kingpin
- 88 Turkey serving
- 90 "I've _ had!"
- 92 Conductor
- Klemperer
- 93 _ vera
- 95 Roaring Twenties figure
- 97 Canvas shades
- 100 Inland sea
- 102 Superlative suffix
- 103 Nullifies
- 104 "Nautilus" captain
- 105 Formal
- 106 Kid stuff?
- 107 Comic Leon
- 110 Canterbury cleaner
- 112 Austin or Copley
- 114 Velvet feature
- 115 Bucket
- 117 On the briny
- 118 Distribute the deck
- 119 Rochester's missus
- 121 It may be strapless
- 122 Whichever
- 123 Carnival site
- 124 Big bang letters
- 126 Adversary

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Double duty

By Don Flood

It seemed to have everything going for it: a bizarre title — "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" — good buzz and a real looker for the lead.

And yet...it bombed.

The problem? Animated characters.

Sure, we've had cartoons, but these movie characters were so realistic they didn't look animated. They were so realistic they might actually replace actors!

But here's the problem. These animated characters had no life off the set — none of the drunken debaucheries, humiliating break-ups and public spectacles that let people know they're dealing with a major talent.

I mean, how seriously can you take an actor who hasn't spent time in rehab?

The fact is, animated characters can't cut it in the movie business by themselves.

They need what I call a "human double," someone acting in the character's name who will take care of the grunt work of punching out photographers and partying at trendy nightclubs.

That's why I plan to launch the first talent agency for people who have no talent.

Like a lot of people, I always thought being a movie star was a pretty good deal.

And if it hadn't been for some minor factors — lack of looks, talent, charm, dedication, ambition, ability to act, remember lines, etc., plus dandruff — I might well have become one.

Not that I'm bitter.

But here's my chance to get a piece of the Hollywood action.

My agency — Creative Services for Animated Tal-

ent — would be willing to offer the following services:

- Dumping assistance — No male action star can be taken seriously unless he regularly dumps high-profile actresses. The fact that he's animated is no excuse.

As a human double, my first move would be to announce I had just dumped Julia Roberts. Not everybody would buy it, but I think "Animated Star Dumps Pretty Woman" makes a pretty good angle.

- Causing conflicts — One unforeseen difficulty with animated figures is that they never create "trouble on the set."

This means big headaches for Hollywood publicity departments, who depend on "trouble on the set" releases to generate buzz for a movie.

As human double, I'd simply walk into the studio and start screaming at the director that: 1) my part was too small, 2) my character lacked motivation, and 3) that my idiot co-star was a drunken no-talent imbecile who was doing everything in his or her power to destroy me!

I would then storm off to my well-stocked luxury trailer to pout for as long as necessary.

- Making talk-show rounds — Can we talk? Not if you're an animated character. Publicists know even a bad appearance is better than nothing.

Farrah Fawcett once made an appearance so incoherent that it generated more news than anything she'd done in 20 years.

While I might have a hard time being witty and charming, I figure I can be as incoherent as the next guy. Maybe more so.

- Trashing hotel rooms — This is a service that might appeal more to animated rock stars, but I'm the type willing to do anything to help his client.

I could even dump Jennifer Lopez.

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Pepperoni's Pizza & Deli

852-2544

Limited Delivery Area

Chinese Food
Burgers & Subs



NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2001 Property Tax Rates in
Homestead Municipal Utility District

This notice concerns 2001 property tax rates for the **Homestead Municipal Utility District**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$107,084
Last year's debt taxes	191,243
Last year's total taxes	298,327
Last year's tax base	55,245,741
Last year's total tax rate	.540000/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$298,237
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	54,093,536
=This year's effective tax rate	.551336/\$100
x1.03 = maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings	.544771/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$107,052
+This year's adjusted tax base	54,093,536
=This year's effective operating rate	.197901/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	.213733/\$100
+This year's debt rate	.331038/\$100
=This year's rollback rate	.544771/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Homestead Municipal Utility District** adopts a 2001 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.551336** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2000 taxes by **\$15,191**.

SCHEDULE A: Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$294,285
Debt Service (I&S)	172,723

SCHEDULE B: 2001 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

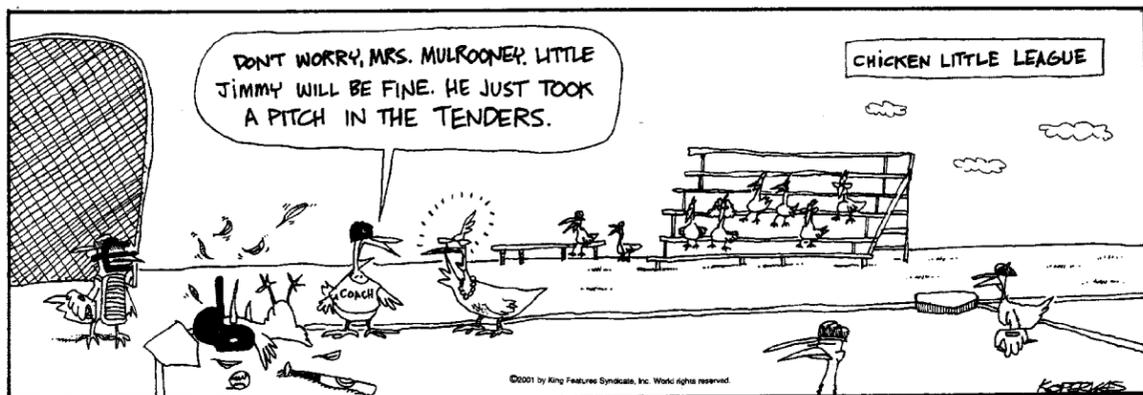
Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Series 1995 Tax Refunding Bonds	\$70,000	\$ 86,993	\$-0-	\$156,993
Series 1995-A Tax & Rev. Bonds	5,000	22,181	-0-	27,181
Series 1995-B Tax & Rev. Bonds	1,000	3,071	-0-	4,071

Total required for 2001 debt service	\$188,245
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2001	188,245
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2001	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	188,245

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.
Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: August 16, 2001

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



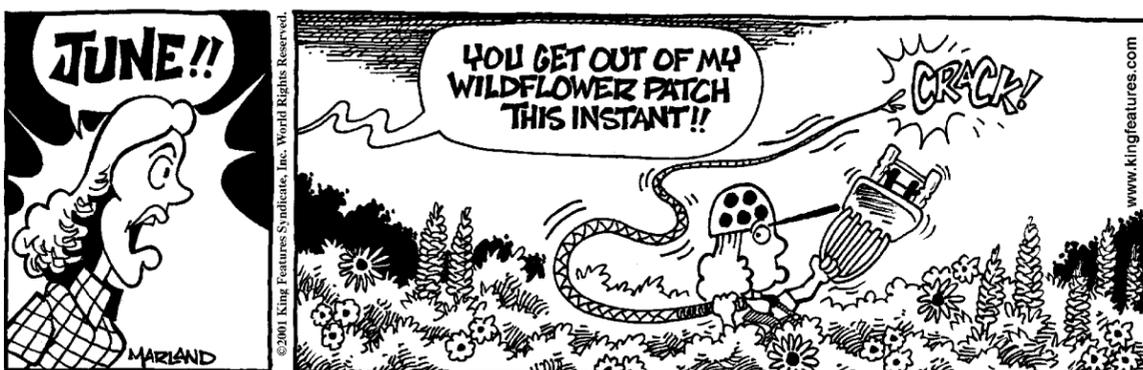
GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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Water

From Page 5

election, to sell to a water district a water or sewer system owned by the municipality.

If a municipality creates a board of trustees to manage a municipal water, wastewater or drainage system, that board may not employ or contract with an individual who was a member of the board within the previous two years.

North Harris County Regional Water Authority

Makes minor amendments to the act creating the North Harris County Regional Water Authority.

Repeal of Conflicting LID Statutes
Repeals Sections 57.512 and 57.153, Water Code (relating to the right of a levee improvement district to enter land within the district), which were in conflict with Section 49.221, Water Code.

Validation

Validates certain acts of a district taken two years or more prior to the effective date of the bill.

(Senate Bill 1444 became effective June 17, 2001.)

http://www.awbd-tx.org/2001_legislative_update.html

(Publisher's note: It is not often that this publication dedicates this amount of

space to one issue. It should be noted that at least two water districts in El Paso County — Homestead MUD and Tornillo WCID — have the integrity to inform their constituents of their district's expenditures and taxing information. It is my concern that the potential for abuse in certain portions of this legislation run against the public interest. While trying to streamline a very complicated code the door has been cracked for those who like to spend tax dollars without accountability. How much bonding capacity should a district be able to stockpile before actually issuing bonds? There is considerable latitude given as to when competitive bids are required. Where are the safeguards or guidelines to prevent abuse, especially by private management com-

panies, in deciding whether repairs do or don't lend themselves to competitive bidding? Some of the contracts that water districts sign run into the millions of dollars. Why wouldn't something that big not go out for bid? Will water districts soon begin to compete with municipalities to provide parks and recreation facilities, etc. as this legislation appears to allow, or spend water dollars to co-fund these types of projects? There are probably parts of Texas that need their water districts to do this. There are many that do not. One item that stands out is the directors' per diem. Not because of the cost but rather the time. If you knock out a third of the reimbursable time a director needs to contribute to his elected office, who's watching the shop?)

Water meeting set

The Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group will sponsor a public meeting in Alpine, Texas on Aug. 24, 2001 at 1 p.m. in Room 309 of Lawrence Hall on the campus of Sul Ross State University to inform residents of Brewster, Jeff Davis, and Presidio counties of progress made on the Igneous Aquifer data-gathering project and to solicit local groundwater knowledge in the area. The regional Igneous Aquifer system provides groundwater to wells in the Davis Mountains and surrounding area including public-supply wells serving Alpine, Fort Davis, and Marfa.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Some sun, a t-shower possible later; hot.	Patchy clouds.	Partly sunny and hot.	Hot with some sun; it may t-storm in the afternoon.	Partial sun and hot; a stray t-storm later.	Hot with partial sun; a stray t-storm later.	Plenty of sunshine; hot.	Sunny and very hot.
▲ 92°	▼ 68°	▲ 92° ▼ 69°	▲ 91° ▼ 68°	▲ 91° ▼ 68°	▲ 90° ▼ 64°	▲ 97° ▼ 65°	▲ 100° ▼ 65°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	8	High
Friday	8	High
Saturday	8	High
Sunday	8	High
Monday	8	High
Tuesday	9	Very High
Wednesday	9	Very High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

A composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	91°
Friday	93°
Saturday	90°
Sunday	88°
Monday	93°
Tuesday	94°
Wednesday	96°

AGRICULTURE

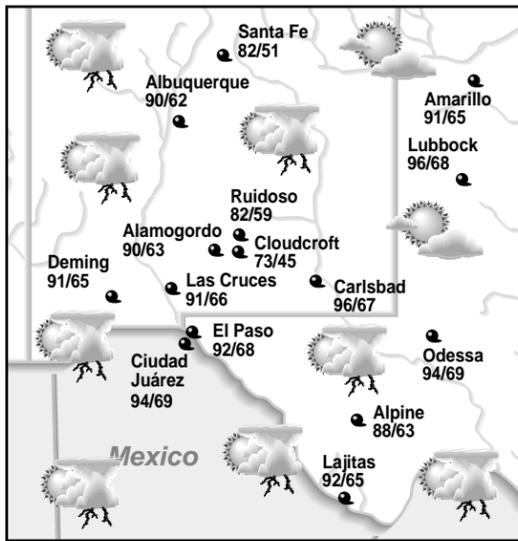
Expect plenty of sunshine and hot temperatures Thursday. There can be a shower or thunderstorm in the area, but many parts of the area are expected to stay dry. This will be the case Friday as well with plenty of sun, hot temperatures and isolated thunderstorms.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2001

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	92	68
Canutillo	93	69
Clint	92	69
E. Montana	92	68
Fabens	92	68
Horizon	93	69
San Elizario	89	66
Socorro	91	67
Tornillo	92	69
Vinton	93	69

Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	90/62/s	90/62/pc	86/62/pc	86/62/pc	84/60/pc
Atlanta	92/70/s	90/72/pc	90/72/t	90/70/t	88/70/t
Atlantic City	82/70/pc	82/68/pc	82/65/s	84/68/pc	82/65/pc
Austin/San Antonio	98/74/s	97/74/s	95/74/pc	94/73/s	95/71/s
Baltimore	88/70/pc	86/66/s	86/66/s	88/68/pc	86/64/pc
Boston	86/64/pc	80/64/pc	80/65/pc	84/64/pc	77/64/c
Chicago	82/64/pc	82/64/pc	84/64/t	82/62/pc	78/60/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	100/77/s	98/76/pc	98/75/pc	98/75/s	97/71/s
Denver	88/56/pc	90/54/s	80/54/pc	80/56/pc	82/56/pc
Flagstaff	74/41/s	75/47/s	75/49/pc	74/48/c	73/42/c
Houston	96/74/s	96/74/s	94/74/s	95/72/pc	93/71/pc
Kansas City	88/68/t	88/70/t	84/66/t	84/64/pc	84/64/pc
Las Vegas	98/72/s	100/74/s	102/76/s	100/78/s	100/66/s
Miami	92/78/pc	92/78/pc	92/78/c	90/78/c	91/75/t
Minneapolis	84/64/pc	82/64/t	80/60/sh	78/58/s	76/56/pc
New Orleans	93/76/s	93/76/s	91/74/s	91/72/s	89/70/t
New York City	86/72/pc	84/68/s	84/70/s	86/70/pc	82/66/pc
Philadelphia	88/70/pc	86/66/s	86/68/s	88/70/pc	84/64/pc
Phoenix	108/80/s	108/82/s	106/80/s	106/82/s	104/82/pc
Portland	68/56/sh	74/56/pc	80/56/pc	82/56/s	82/56/s
San Francisco	64/54/pc	68/56/pc	68/56/pc	70/56/pc	72/56/pc
Seattle	64/56/sh	70/54/pc	74/56/pc	78/56/s	80/56/s
Tucson	100/72/s	102/72/s	98/74/pc	96/74/pc	96/74/pc
Washington, DC	88/72/pc	86/68/s	86/70/s	88/72/pc	86/68/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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- Seven cutting heights

LT133 Lawn Tractor

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- 5-speed shift-on-the-go transmission

SST18 Lawn Tractor

- 18-hp, V-Twin engine
- Two-pedal automatic transmission
- 48-inch mower deck
- Zero-turn radius with power steering

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