

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

JANUARY 31, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Journalism Hall of Famer

Former Socorro High School journalism teacher, the late Jane Anne McCoy Hambrick, will be inducted into the Journalism and Mass Communication Hall of Fame at Marshall University on May 11. Hambrick, in whose honor a Socorro ISD Pre-K-8th grade campus is named, spent more than 14 years teaching in the district. She died in 1997, leaving her students a legacy of selfless service and the knowledge that it is a civic duty to stay informed.



Border safety

For the third consecutive year the U.S. Border Patrol and the Immigration and Naturalization Service are sponsoring the Border Safety Initiative which seeks to warn would-be illegal immigrants about the potentially deadly consequences of illegal methods of border crossings — while providing Border Patrol agents with emergency training and equipment to help save the lives of those who do not heed the warning. "Every year we see cases where migrants trust their lives to coyotes (smugglers), only to discover the harsh reality that their welfare is of no concern to those who smuggle them," El Paso Sector Chief Patrol Agent Luis Barker said. Water-rescue training is offered to the Border Patrol counterparts in Mexico. Public service announcements in Spanish are aired on radio and television, and posters and other materials are distributed in the border region to educate the public on the dangers of illegal crossings. In the El Paso area, only 11 deaths were recorded in 2001 as compared with 27 in 2000, and Border Patrol agents rescued 37 immigrants in distress, mostly drowning in irrigation canals.

In other news

■ A public forum to provide an update regarding progress of the redesign of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Services Redesign Project in El Paso County will be held at the Center for Workforce Preparedness, Gecko Room, 1359 Lomaland on Feb. 12, from 10-12 a.m. and from 6-8 p.m. Each session will be followed by an open forum for public comment/suggestions. For any further information or questions call Douglas Barker, Project Manager, at 782-6396 or Maria Renteria, 782-6446.

■ Texas Land Commissioner David Dewhurst today announced more than \$4.8 million was paid by oil and gas firms at the Jan. 15 lease sale for 24,574 acres of Permanent School Fund (PSF) lands dedicated to help fund public education. Dewhurst said royalties from oil and gas produced on state lands are deposited into

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If you lend someone \$20 and never see them again, it was probably worth it.

— Quips and Quotes

Canutillo school board struggles to find consensus on high school project

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — "I was very disappointed." That was all Superintendent Charles Hart would say last Jan. 23 as he left the second of two special meetings by members of the board of trustees of the Canutillo Independent School District.

The meetings generated one consensus agreement and six motions regarding the new high school and its location. However, reflecting a school board divided, the first four motions were defeated, three by identical votes of 4-3. Sometimes acrimonious in its discussion, the board ultimately could only agree to hold a town hall meeting within a month to get more input from community residents on the high school's location.

This action came at the second of two meetings held that night in the central administration building. In the first, a special committee of three board members met. It was formed by board President Jose Villarreal to review proposals on the educational specifications for the proposed high school submitted by two archi-

tectural firms, Dimensions in Architecture and CF Associates.

Forming the committee was necessitated by the surprise actions of the two companies that had withdrawn their bids at the regular school board meeting on Jan. 15. Following discussion, it was the consensus and recommendation of the committee, comprised of Villarreal, Margarito Arellano and Linda Samples, to accept the resubmitted bid of Dimensions.

The recommendation of the committee was later approved unanimously by the full board at the special board meeting that followed. It was the final and only unanimous vote by the board at the second meeting.

After convening at 6:30, the board immediately went into executive session with its attorney, Larry Baskind, to discuss acquiring a school site and consider possible alternatives. Previous negotiations with the two owners for the sale of their 50 acres of land adjacent to the Northwest campus of El Paso Community College had reached an impasse. The district and the owners couldn't agree on a price after five months of talks. The district's appraised value was \$2.18 million. The owners had countered with an appraised

price of \$2.20 million.

After an hour and 45 minutes of deliberation, the board returned to open session to take action.

The subsequent board events occurred as follows:

- Carl Fietze made the first motion. It called for the board to authorize Baskind to send a legal document to the two owners of site one of CISD's offer to purchase the land at the appraised value. They were to respond within seven days or negotiations would cease. It was defeated by a vote of 6-1.

- The second motion, made by Villarreal, raised the issue of eminent domain proceedings. It called for legal counsel to initiate eminent domain proceedings the following day, Jan. 24, for site one. It was narrowly defeated by the first of the 4-3 votes.

Opposed to eminent domain action was Susie Jensen, mother of a Damian Elementary student. She occasionally flashed a small sign that said "No to Eminent Domain Yes to Integrity." "It is unethical to take people's land when other land is available," she said. "I don't want my taxpayer's money going to eminent domain."

"Canutillo High School should be in Canutillo," she added, pointing out that the new high school, if located at the EPCC site, would fall within the El Paso city limits.

At one point Villarreal threatened to clear the boardroom because of what he considered undue noise among some of the spectators. The action was never taken.

- Arellano made the third motion. It stipulated that the district remove itself from all proceedings/negotiations as soon as possible on this particular site, the one adjacent to the Community College campus. It too failed by the 4-3 vote.

- Motion number four came from Laure Searls. It called for ceasing negotiations for site one and begin new negotiations to purchase land for site two, off I-10 between Vinton Ave. and Transmountain Road. It also suffered the same 4-3 fate.

- Then came the first positive vote of the evening, 5-2 in support of Yvonne Sanchez' motion, number five, for the town hall meeting.

- The sixth motion, made by Arellano, resulted in the 7-0 approval of the committee's recommendation in the first meeting on the educational specifications.

Hart, however, later interjected a possible scheduling problem in regard to the town hall meeting. The superintendent pointed out that town meetings were also a part of Dimensions' educational specifications proposal and would need to be taken into account.



Charles Hart

It may sound confusing but...

DPS detectors to detect radar detectors in big rigs

AUSTIN — The Department of Public Safety is stepping up efforts to get big rigs to slow down.

Supplemented by federal grant money, the DPS has purchased 101 radar detector detectors for use by License and Weight troopers. Another 43 could be purchased by June.

Federal law forbids commercial vehicles from using radar detectors and they can be pulled over and ticketed for simply operating a radar detector during travel.

"The combination of size and speed can make large trucks a lethal combination," said DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr. "Because of their vehicle's sheer mass, truck drivers have a special responsibility to drive safely. Hopefully, this additional enforcement tool

will make them think twice about violating the speed limit."

Some License and Weight troopers have been using radar detector detectors for several years now, but the new and future purchases will eventually equip nearly every License and Weight patrol vehicle in the state with the technology to spot active radar detector devices in commercial vehicles.

The units cost about \$1,500 a piece and were purchased with the help of grant money from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

"It's important for the public to remember that truck drivers often are not the culprits when it comes to dangerous driving habits," said Davis. "Driving with big rigs presents special challenges for everyday motorists."



Texas DPS officers aim to slow down big rigs with radar detecting units like this one.

Remarkable cooperation by animal groups help dog fly from El Paso to Florida

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Representatives from a slew of local animal help groups spent weeks working to fly an elderly man's displaced companion home for the New Year — and he finally made it.

Thanks to the efforts of El Paso Animal Health and Regulation — more commonly known as Animal Control — the El Paso Humane Society and El Paso City/County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee (ASAC), Shadow is safe at home in Miami, Florida, after a "near-death" experience in El Paso.

Ronald Payne, Shadow's 70-something hu-

man companion, was traveling cross-country in his old van last month. Payne became ill and broke while staying at an El Paso trailer park. When he didn't have the money to pay for his stay, the park confiscated his van and all his belongings and called the police.

Payne went to the hospital. Shadow went to Animal Control, also known as "the pound" where animals can only be kept a few days before being euthanized.

Following his hospital release, Payne could not afford to "bail out" Shadow and was forced to walk and hitchhike heartbroken back home.

A neighbor wrote a letter to the *Miami Herald* Help Action Line, explaining the situation and how desperate Payne was to get Shadow back.

The *Herald* contacted Patricia Palafox of

ASAC, who got them in direct contact with Humane Society of El Paso volunteer Sue Loessberg and director Barbara Snow, who was vacationing in north Florida. Immediately the Humane Society duo called Lorenzo Hinojos, Animal Control director, who waived all fees and released Shadow to the Humane Society.

Knowing Shadow was saved from imminent destruction, the *Herald* called American Airlines, which told them that for the price of a ticket, Shadow could fly to Miami from El Paso through Dallas.

However, it had to be at least 45 degrees in each city. The Humane Society housed Shadow while Loessberg went to the airport everyday

See FLIGHT, Page 4



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

El Paso should cowboy up

I enjoy a good rodeo.

As the 73rd Annual County Livestock Show and Rodeo kicks off this week El Paso is struggling to maintain its longtime cowboy image.

The big steer may still grace the roof of the Cowtown Boot building but other big boot rodeo sponsors — Justin and Tony Lama — have pulled out, seeking greener pastures in other metropolitan areas of Texas. Animal-rights activists have taken a bite out of Coca-Cola's sponsorship of rodeos. Add to that the politically motivated Texas Attorney General who scalped the Tigua's gambling establishment and, as a result, rodeo organizers have watched their support dollars ride off into the sunset.

The rodeo apparently isn't the biggest event in El Paso anymore, though no one seems to know exactly what is.

El Paso's Mayor Ray Caballero and the County Commissioners aren't too dedicated to helping — they have donned their usual "we have so much *else* to worry about" attitude as El Paso seeks to shed its status as 41st among the nation's rodeos and return to the Top 15 ranking it enjoyed in the 1970's and 80's.

Some have suggested that turning it into a "festival" might help.

Whatever El Paso's rodeo woes may be, rodeo itself has shown an amazing ability to survive, to grip the interest of Americans who have never enjoyed the dubious privilege of stepping in a cow pie or getting stepped on by a horse.

It's one of the few sports these days that still has its bare-knuckle moments of truth, no matter how buffed up the athlete is or how much his equipment costs. And it does cost a lot.

No more is the rodeo cowboy somebody mothers warned their

daughters about. Nowadays the top guys are earning six-digit incomes and look like Mr. Universe in Cinch jeans and cowboy hat.

Many of them are savvy businessmen, family men, have a good education and substantial property. Some don't even come from a rural background.

A few have forsaken their cowboy hats for crash helmets when they ride bulls. Since the untimely death of bullrider Lane Frost, practically all of them wear upper-body protection.

But the guts-and-glory of rodeo has somehow survived. You can tell it in the post-event interviews. The fellow they are interviewing hasn't been coached by his team or sponsor to sound like a politician.

I hate post-game interviews with football and basketball stars — they all say the exact same thing. Nothing.

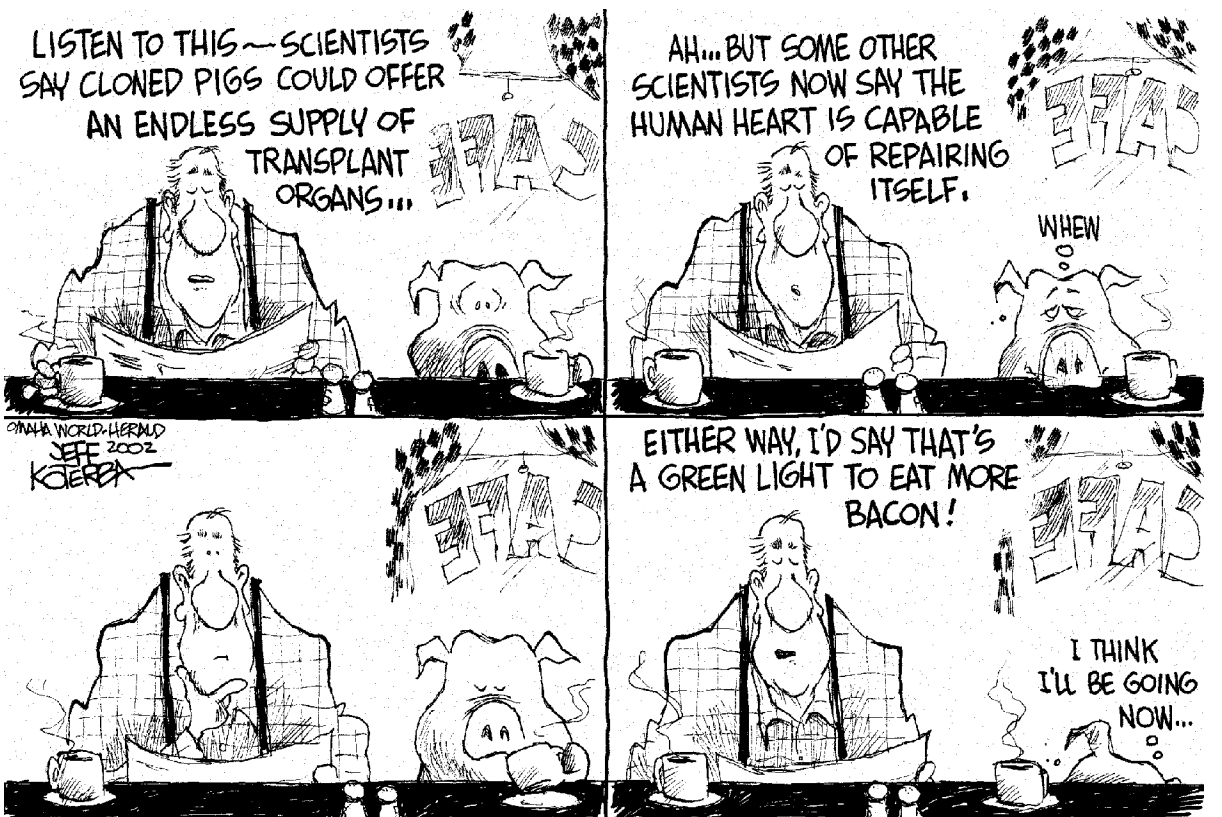
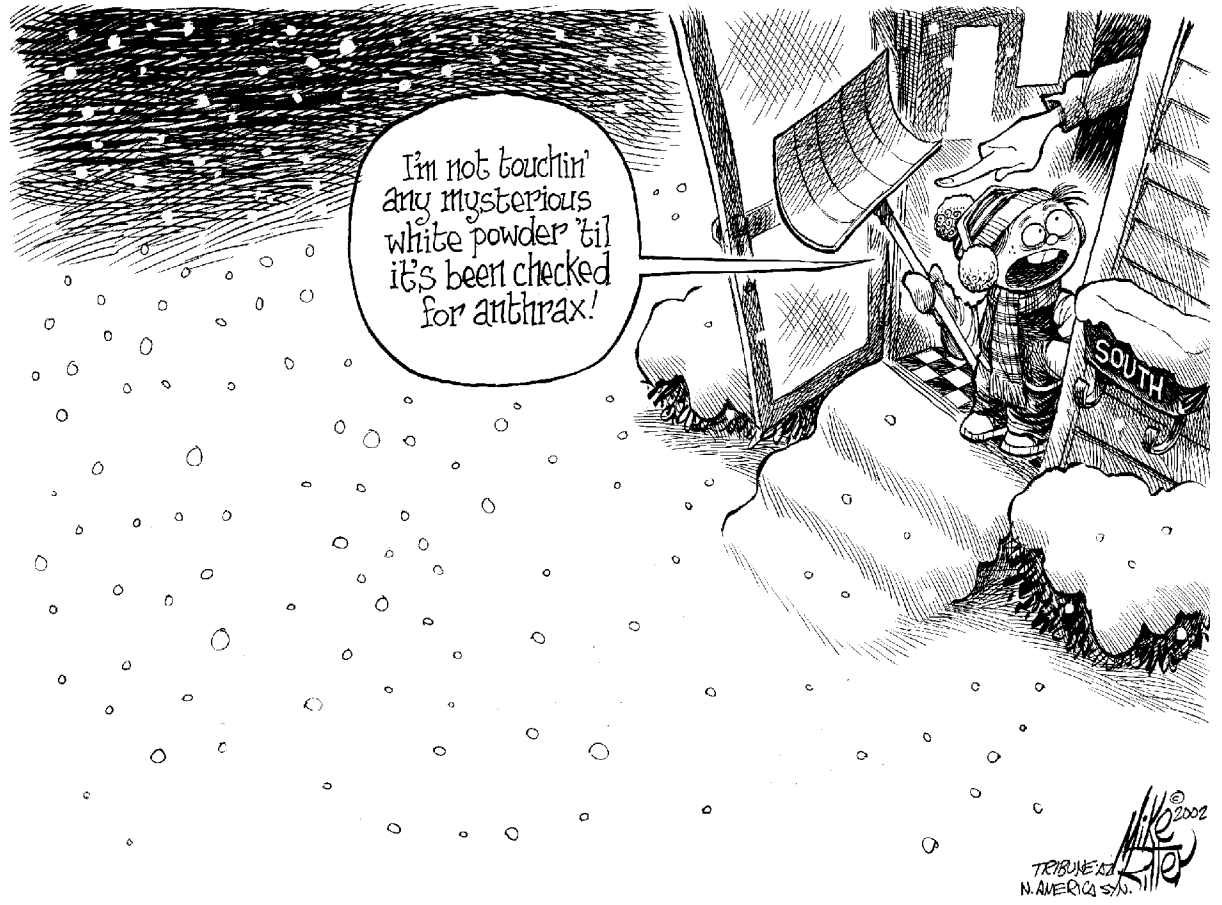
Not so with rodeo interviews. Nine times out of 10 it comes out honest and heart-felt: "I'm riding with a broken pelvis and several cracked ribs but with that stuff they got me on, I don't hardly feel nothin'." That ol' bull was pulling hard to one side but I stayed with 'em and made it to the buzzer."

Even the top hands still have that go-for-it attitude.

We hooped and hollered watching Cody Ohl roping a calf during the National Finals in Las Vegas. He took two ropes and half the arena to wrestle the hardy bovine to a standstill in an exciting match that brought the crowd to its feet — and to a deathly silence when he collapsed in pain from a severe leg injury he sustained dismounting to tie the calf.

He'd struggled all over in the dirt of the arena floor with a tremendously painful injury knowing that

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

New beginnings

During elementary school, I found recess to be the most enjoyable part of my day. I always wished that my time outside could be extended into the after-

noon. Today, I still enjoy recess, but it's taken on an entirely different meaning. My recess is now filled with travel to the 29 counties that make up the 23rd district. I spend quality time with my district staff and educate myself on the issues affecting our part of the state. It's a great way to get in touch with the people who matter the most: my constituents.

As we start fresh with a new year, I think now is an important time to focus on ways we can work together and strengthen our republic. We are a nation at war, and we must continue to support our troops and our President. We must also address the important issues facing America. There are several legislative priorities this Congress must address.

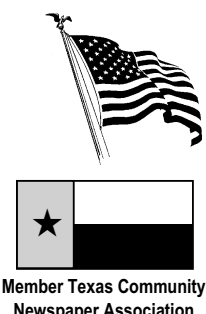
As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am dedicated to rebuilding our national defense. We must continue to support our men and women in uniform who have taken an oath to defend and protect our nation. As our troops face new challenges, we must demonstrate the true commitment for our armed services.

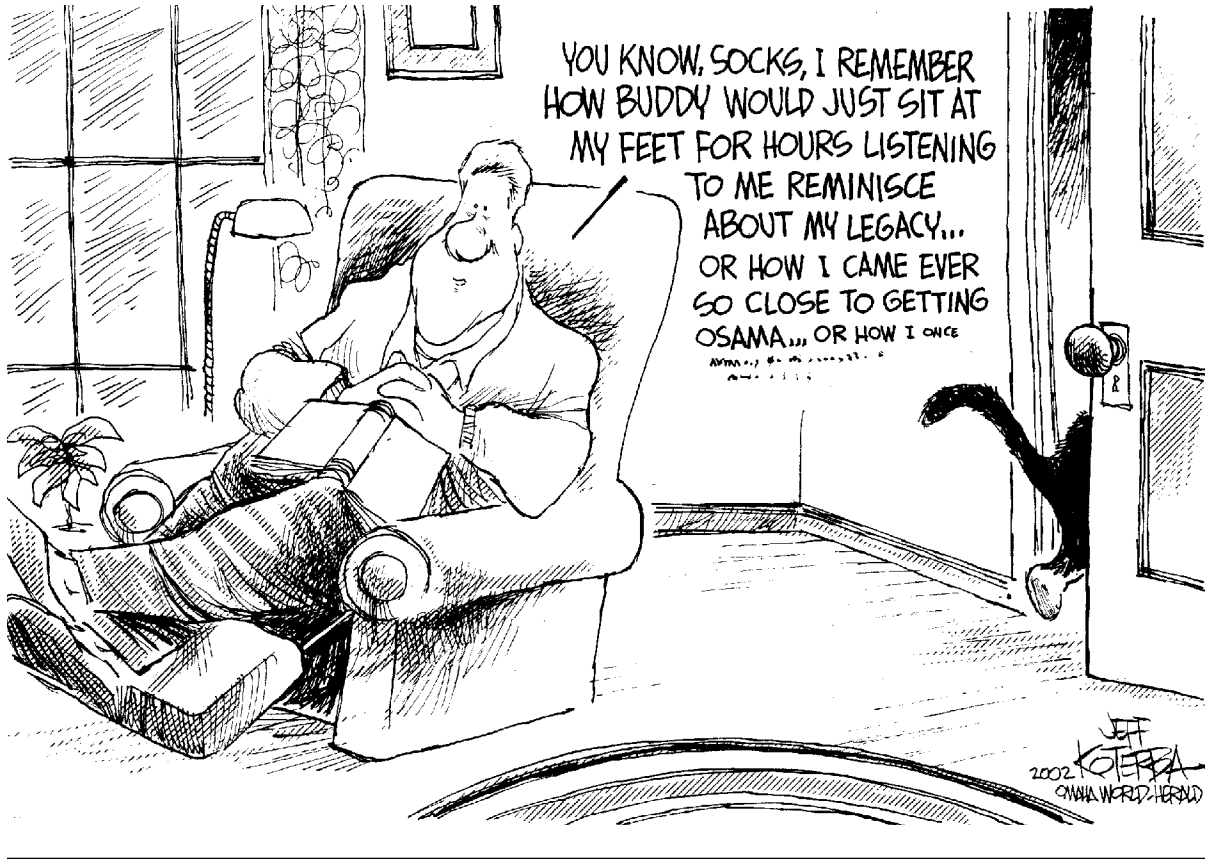
I was honored last year to have been appointed Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. As Chairman, I oversee hundreds of state and national agriculture programs. Last year's spending bill was great for Texas agriculture producers. Many of the programs funded will directly impact farmers and ranchers in the 23rd district and throughout our great state, as well as our nation. I remain dedicated to keeping the agriculture industry strong and healthy.

Beyond my subcommittee positions in the House of Representatives, I want each of you to know that I will not back down on the issues I have fought for since my first days in Congress. We must continue to provide meaningful tax relief to the people of America — especially considering our current economic conditions. Now more than ever, we also need to look out for the small businesses of America. They are the back-bone of our country. Small businesses should be protected so they have the opportunity to grow and flourish. I'll also continue my work on the Texas/Mexico border; I'll aim for better health research funding; and of course, I'll shoot for the stars when it comes to educating our nation's children. After almost a decade of commitment to these issues, we've seen remarkable results. But we're not finished. This year will bring us one step closer to accomplishing our goals and making the 23rd district better than ever.

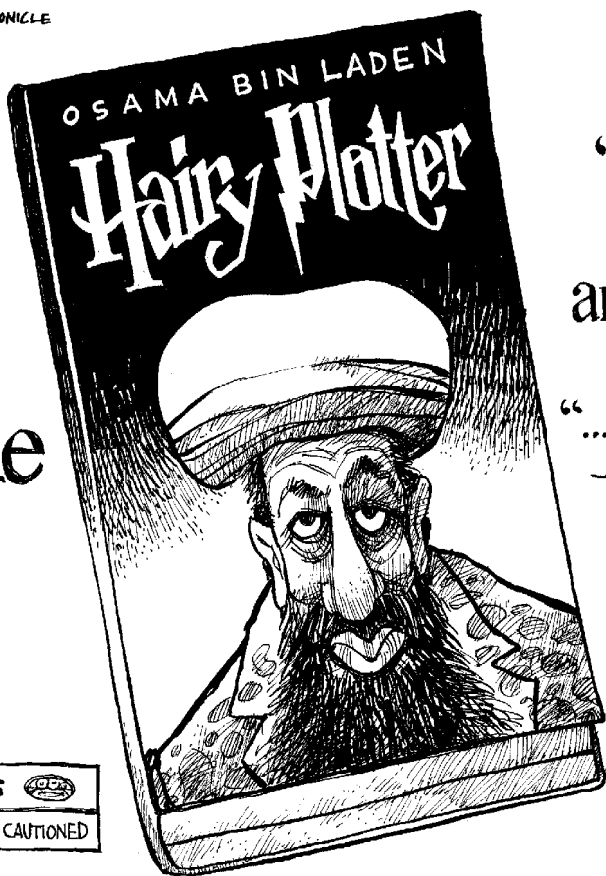
It goes without saying that America forever changed on September 11th. With these tragic events come important, new goals that we must attend to. Stabilizing the economy is at the top of many lists. We must help those hit the hardest by the terrorist attacks. This means working in a bi-partisan fashion to support economic policies that allow businesses to flourish. We must also provide adequate funding for our nation's military and work to improve airport security. Most importantly, we must show terrorists that our nation will not be torn apart by this tragedy. We will stand together and fight the evil forces that wreaked havoc on our home.

The bell has rung and recess is over. We have significant issues on our horizon. By implementing common-sense conservatism, we can reach solutions that will help both Texas and America. Now is the time for Congress to come together and serve the needs of our county.





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CRITICS AGREE:

“...he has no conscience and no soul.”

— President George W. Bush

“...a smoking gun!”

— U.S. Senator Bob Graham (D-Fla.)

“...a damnable piece of evidence!”

— U.S. Senator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.)

“Disgusting!”

— Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz



Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Better education key for success

El Paso's border location adds to the challenge of finding meaningful ways to better educate our children with usable skills in today's world. As Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), I hold education as our top priority so that every student in El Paso gets the opportunity to excel and succeed.

Last month, the US House of Representatives passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Authorization (ESEA) Act by an overwhelming majority and it was signed by the President. This bill overhauls the federal government's involvement in education from kindergarten to the 12th grade. The work of my fellow CHC members and I paid off handsomely. On every issue of concern to the CHC, we either won or reached an acceptable compromise.

Our main goal is to narrow the education gap between poor and rich students and to benefit minority and non-minority students. Also, the ESEA confronts the unacceptable dropout rates of Hispanic students with an innovative dropout prevention program, while expanding educational services for migrant students by increasing the funding for migrant education. About 740 migrant students are enrolled in Socorro Independent School District alone, and will greatly benefit from these services.

I am particularly pleased with the

provisions relating to bilingual education. Students will not be forced out of bilingual classes before they are ready for full English immersion. There will be no artificial barriers to prevent students from receiving bilingual education, while also giving parents the flexibility to remove their children from such programs. The quality of bilingual education will also be improved by a program to train and recruit more teachers. And for the first time, funds for bilingual education will be distributed to schools based on the size of their limited English proficient student population, thereby reaching more students than ever.

While President Bush made education a priority at the beginning of this year, his proposed three percent increase fell short of supporting his broad outline for reform. Congress has stepped in to provide the needed increase in funding — an additional \$4 billion, nearly a 20 percent increase.

The ESEA is a historic bill that will raise student achievement levels through a combination of higher standards, stronger accountability, and increased resources. For the first time in federal law, there is a clear goal to eliminate the achievement gap plaguing our education system.

This is a solid, positive step to achieve our local educational goals and to maintain our commitment to improve the education of our public school students.

Canutillo Independent School District Public Hearing

Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees has scheduled a Special Board meeting to hold a public hearing on the site for the new high school. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 6, at the CISD Administration Building, 7965 Artcraft Road. For more information, call 877-7444.

WTCC: 01/31/02

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore January 28, 1861, Texas voted to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy.



View from the porch By Linda Mussehl



Snake!

Well, it finally happened. I got popped by a scorpion. It was my fault; I was overly secure and was wandering the house in the dark in my bare feet. It's no big deal, but it reminded me of my previous lapses in vigilance.

Like the time we had a rattlesnake in the house. It came at a bad time. Come to think of it, though, is there a good time?

It wasn't a very big one: no bigger around than a pencil and about a foot long (my very, very rough estimate), but that's not straightening out any of his busy little sidewinds. It probably could feed on grasshoppers and those little toads I keep finding around the place, but a mouse would gag it.

There had been rattlesnakes in the house before. After all, this is an old house and had set empty at different times in its history. I hear that sometime back in the 1970s it was vacant for more than six months. When it was reoccupied, the commode wouldn't work. An investigation showed that the tank was filled with a ball of rattlesnakes. (The story doesn't continue and say who had the pleasure of dealing with that little problem.)

Ever since I moved in here, however, I've been constantly cleaning, patching and caulking the place to the point I was confident we were critter free.

I guess I had become overconfident. Bold, even. I had taken to walking around the house in the dark, barefooted. Snakes never even crossed my mind.

Snakes certainly weren't on my mind late that evening when I was getting ready for bed. I walked through the short, dark hallway to the bathroom. Look-

ing back down the hall, I saw a little rattler slither out from behind the hall's open door.

I reckon I must have scared it when I set my bare foot down within six inches of it, because it was pretty agitated. I couldn't get out of the bathroom without stepping over it, so I hollered for Pardner. He grabbed a stock cane and tried — unsuccessfully — to pin it in a corner.

Pardner said, "This is really stupid, chasing a rattlesnake in my bare feet." Still trapped in the bathroom, I granted him time to put his boots on, if he hurried.

By this time our little snake had moved around the corner (into my office!), so I got myself untrapped and join the fray.

I put boots on too. Then there were two of us, dressed in our underwear and boots, trying our best to kill the snake. I ran to the porch to get the shovel, but by that time our friend had disappeared. It vanished behind a line of file cabinets in the office.

We haven't seen hide nor scale of it since. Pardner keeps trying to reassure me: "It's long gone, probably still running back to where it came from."

Pardner does have an evil streak though. A month or so after we saw the snake, we had an incredible amount of rain — 17 inches in three days. Pardner commented, "If we do have a regular den of rattlers around or in the house someplace, this rain really ought to flush them out."

I thought about that as I was falling asleep. My arm was hanging over the side of the bed, so I pulled it back and tucked the covers up real tight.

(It is with regret that the Courier says hasta la vista to Linda Mussehl's column with sincere hopes that it will not be a long separation. Due to a family health situation, View from the Porch is on hiatus.)

View from here by Chris Patterson

Only Gov. Rick Perry can prevent bad test from taking effect

In the next few weeks, Gov. Rick Perry will make a decision that will drastically affect the quality of education in Texas for the next decade or longer. It is a decision that affects you whether you are a student, parent, teacher or simply a taxpayer.

The governor's action — or inaction — will determine if Texas has an effective public school accountability system as new state tests replace the current TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills). It is up to the Governor whether the new tests take us where we want to go, or leave us where we have been.

The new TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) tests will be administered to all Texas students next school year. Although the development of the TAKS is almost complete, the Texas Education Agency has kept the new tests under wraps, allowing only hand-picked people

outside the agency to have any voice in what will be tested or how challenging the tests will be. The blueprint for the TAKS shares many of the flaws of the TAAS.

This raises concern not just because of repeating the flaws of the TAAS but because the TAKS is going to serve an even more important role in our schools than its predecessor. TAKS will be the primary tool to raise standards enough to close the gap between students in Texas and other states, to close the gap between high school graduation and college readiness, and to determine grade-level promotion of students in elementary and middle school.

Unfortunately, the TAKS is not designed to meet these goals. The Texas Education Agency spokeswoman recently announced, "you're not going to see a huge difference" between the TAAS and TAKS. If this holds true, then Texas will have missed its best opportunity to improve public schools.

Dozens of studies by the TEA, Texas school districts, and independent researchers have documented

severe problems with the TAAS test: it only measures a small part of the required curriculum thereby limiting classroom instruction as teachers are required to "teach to the test"; a majority of questions are below grade level; it is less rigorous than tests found in most other states; almost half the questions do not even test academic knowledge; and it is a statistically inaccurate measure of actual student knowledge.

However, TEA documents make it clear TAKS will repeat the mistakes of the TAAS. Worse, our children will have to live with these mistakes for a decade or more.

The TEA dismisses criticisms of their test design, even though criticisms stem from their own expert reviewers and by examining the TAKS test objectives (available on the TEA website).

An analysis conducted by a national panel of experts, working under a \$162,200 contract with the TEA itself, found that the new TAKS test would not meet national and international standards as required by law, cover important state curriculum standards, or even be in line with those standards.

The Governor and other state leaders should heed the advice these experts have offered. They recommended that TAKS be more academically rigorous and grade-specific, measure more academic knowledge

and less classroom skills, and better reflect the state curriculum standards.

After all, why have curriculum standards if our state test doesn't measure student mastery of them? Yet the TEA has dismissed the reasonable suggestion that it test all the core standards at random over several years so that no important subject matter is ignored.

But won't a more rigorous state test lead to a much higher failure rate among students? Absolutely not. The failure rate on the test is determined by the passing standard, the number of correct answers required to pass the test. Setting this standard is the statutory responsibility of the State Board of Education and has been adjusted for the TAAS and prior tests.

The bureaucrats at the TEA were called to task in 1997 when Governor Bush called the new draft curriculum standards "mush" and then took control over the process. Gov. Perry must assert himself in the same way to save our children from the same mushy TEA philosophy that will retard the academic achievement of millions of Texas children in the years to come.

And the governor must do it before it is too late.

(Mrs. Chris Patterson is director of education research for the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Her detailed study of the TAKS tests is available at <http://www.tppf.org/>.)



Brashears to bring gospel concert to Horizon City

HORIZON CITY — Janice and Jerrel Brashear have been providing gospel concerts since 1972, and through those years the group expanded to include their three children. Now a duo, they still perform about 270 concerts a year, and thanks to quality recording equipment, are backed up with a full band/full group sound. One of their concerts will be at the First Baptist Church in Horizon City, 17018 Darrington Rd., on Friday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. The Brashears present an entertaining performance, but they hope the audience truly hears the words of their songs. Though there is no admission price for the concert, an offering will be accepted.

Flight

From Page 1

to check on temperatures. The Society also provided a veterinary checkup, a carrier for the flight and a ride to the airport. It even fronted the money for the flight. *Miami Herald* staffers chipped in to reimburse the Humane Society for the airfare.

Once the temperature cooperated, Shadow boarded Flight 434 for Dallas and headed home. Payne's daughter met him at the airport and Payne and Shadow are a family once again.

"This is a terrific example of what can be achieved when organizations work together on common goals," said Palafox, chairperson of ASAC. "Together caring entities like these can develop solutions for virtually any problem, even one as initially complicated as Shadow's."

Formed in 1999, ASAC leads an on-going effort to reduce the pet overpopulation problem in El Paso, by increasing Animal Control adoptions and the number of city and countywide spays/neuters. Their goal is to help Animal Control reach the point of operating a "no kill of adoptable animals" shelter.

For more information about ASAC, the Humane Society or their joint animal welfare efforts, call Patricia Palafox at (915) 833-9430 or Jennie Van Cleef at (915) 833-6769.

Phamiliar phrases

"dyed-in-the-wool"

Meaning "completely," "thoroughly" or "uncompromising" (as in "dyed-in-the-wool conservative"), the phrase may have originally meant "unchanging from the beginning," referring to the colors being dyed into the fibers before it is even made into a garment.



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Lower Valley Water District Notice of Public Meeting

The Lower Valley Water District will conduct a public meeting to solicit comments regarding a Conservation & Drought Contingency Plan.

A public meeting will be held February 04, 2002 at the Lower Valley Water District Office, 1557 F.M. RD 1110 at 5:00 pm. Draft copies of the Conservation & Drought Contingency Plan are available for a fee at the Engineering Dept. If you require additional information contact Fernando Sanchez, Water Superintendent: (915) 852-0046.

WTCC: 01/31/02

El Paso County Housing Authority Public Hearing

Date: March 20, 2002
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: El Paso County Housing Authority
650 East G Ave.
Fabens, Texas 79838

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain input from the city residents in reference to the Five-Year Agency Plan and Annual Plan Submission to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 2002. Total funds being allocated for this year are estimated at \$121,066 for Operating Funds and \$179,685 for Capital Funds. All residents are encouraged to attend this hearing. A copy of the Five-Year Agency Plan and Annual Plan will be available for review from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. prior to public hearing at the address below. Persons can also submit written comments prior to public hearing to:

Housing Authority of the County of El Paso
650 East G Ave.
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For further information please call Tomas Rodriguez, Executive Director, at (915) 764-3559.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND CONTRACT #721221, MORNING GLORY & SUNSHINE ACRES

Notice is hereby given of a scheduled public hearing to be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 5, at the new Lower Valley Water District office located at 1557 Farm Road 1110, Clint, Texas 79836. Purpose of the meeting is to hold a final hearing and receive comments on the completion of the Community Development Fund Water Distribution Project. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the County. Interested persons who cannot attend or require special assistance are asked to contact Rodrigo Mercado, El Paso County Community Development Department, El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313, El Paso, Texas 79901, (915) 543-3845.

WTCC-01/31/02

The Austin settlement is threatened by unexpected Mexican opposition

History of Texas Public Lands - Part Three

TEXAS — In our continuing historical saga of Texas land settlement, the Austin settlement project finds unexpected opposition from Mexico that threatens to shut it down entirely.

Foreign settlers in Mexican Texas

The overthrow of the Spanish colonial order in 1821 left independent Mexico with the immediate challenge of adopting and instituting a new system of government, organizing and funding some semblance of public administration, rebuilding a shattered economy, reestablishing order and reordering the social structure—all with a depleted treasury and mounting debt.

The young nation needed skilled and industrious workers and individuals with capital and managerial skills to promote economic growth and replace the Spaniards who had left or been expelled. The less populous northern frontier, in particular, needed settlers for development and defense against incursions from foreign powers and Indian raids.

Maintaining the reversal of Spain's ages-long policy of excluding foreigners in the case of the Austins, Mexico devised a colonization plan that welcomed immigrants and offered them the incentive of large tracts of government land at cheap prices.

This policy held hope but also brought risk. Settlers, many of them fleeing creditors, responded to the generous terms and Mexico benefited from their industry.

But assimilating the influx of foreigners became a problem, especially in Texas where new legalized colonists from the United States were added to the hundreds of illegal immigrants already squatting on Texas lands — and they made little effort to integrate. The local population was soon overwhelmed.

Mexican officials who saw firsthand the effects of the colonization policy in Texas, like Col. José Piedras and Gen. Manuel de Mier y Terán, foresaw its consequences and despaired of their government's ineffectual efforts to stem the tide. Mexican hopes of offsetting American immigration by European and Mexican settlers proved ill-founded; and the hopes of gaining the new settlers' loyalty by making them landowners with a stake in the nation were diminished by, among other factors, Mexico's unsettled internal affairs.

But in August of 1821, Gov. Antonio Martínez approved foreign colonization plans by Moses and Stephen Austin, and, with no doubt that the higher levels of government would agree, told Austin to proceed. Believing he had all necessary approvals, Austin began arranging for a large number of settlers, mostly from Louisiana and Missouri, to immigrate to Texas and settle in an area along the coast between the Lavaca and San Jacinto Rivers and northwest to the San Antonio Road. Today, this stretch of 17 counties reaches from Austin almost to Houston.

On Oct. 20, 1821, the *Mississippi State Gazette* carried an article by Austin describing Texas, and urging interested parties to arrive by February so they could get their crops planted in time for spring.

But not long after this he learned that Gov. Martínez' approval had been overruled and his plan for a colony had been rejected by the Commandant General of the Eastern Interior Provinces.

Gov. Martínez suggested Austin go to Mexico City in person, rather than rely on a letter, to try and persuade the central government to confirm his contract and Austin reluctantly agreed to go.

Before Austin left for Mexico City,

about 150 people had already come to the colony. Conditions that first year were rough and unstable, and the settlers were adjusting not just to a new land but to a new way of life. Austin's long absence in Mexico City only added anxiety about the security of their land titles to their larger worries: floods, mosquitoes, and violent encounters with Indians. Many settlers changed locations more than once in an effort to find a tenable place to begin their new lives.

In 1822, José Félix Trespalcios, the new governor, sent the Baron de Bastrop to the colony to organize the settlers and reassure them that they were indeed under the watchful eye of the Mexican government and that issuance of land titles awaited only the completion of a colonization law. Bastrop was also instructed to have the settlers take an oath of allegiance to Mexico and elect an *alcalde* — an administrative and judicial officer, similar to a mayor — and a military *commandant*. For judicial purposes, Trespalcios ordered the area divided into the Brazos District and the Colorado District, creating the forerunners of what would later become counties.

Although Bastrop found the settlers, according to his report to the governor, "...preparing to abandon [the settlement] and return to the United States, which some families had already done," his assurances eventually convinced them to remain. "Great was the joy" of the settlers, he wrote, to learn of the government's protection. Bastrop's report to the governor can be found in the Archives of the Texas General Land Office.

(Part IV will continue next week. The information contained in this historical series can be accessed at www.glo.state.tx.us, and is reprinted with permission of the Texas General Land Office.)

Rodeo

From Page 2

his score would be the rough equivalent of a "no time" but was still determined to get the job done.

Ohl, of Stephenville, Texas earned \$222,026 on the circuit last year, and is number one on the Jack Daniel's World Standings.

Another roper, Brent Lewis of Pilon, New Mexico, is 6th on the roster, earning a mere \$146,625. Lewis made headlines recently defending the honor of his prize roping horse, Grumpy.

Grumpy was selected as AQHA Roping Horse of the Year and somebody disagreed with his qualifications.

So Lewis entered a major roping event and won it — riding Grumpy without a bridle.

He was quoted as saying something to the effect that you could say whatever you wanted to about his roping skills, but you'd better not bad-mouth his horse.

The El Paso Livestock Show and Rodeo is a major supporter of area youth who are up and coming in the agricultural field, paying out a reported \$130,000 for exhibitions and \$30,000 in scholarships.

That's worthwhile. Who knows what sprout they are watering.

Maybe El Paso should support the rodeo a little better — even if this town isn't made up of cowboys anymore. You don't have wear boots to enjoy a good rodeo.

City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. during the City Council Meeting of Thursday, February 7, 2002 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) Ordinance No. 222, Amendment 1, an ordinance creating an on-call tow truck services provider list and establishing rules and regulations thereto within the City of Socorro, Texas;
- 2) Ordinance No. 228, an ordinance ordering an election of the qualified voters of the City of Socorro, Texas on the first Saturday in May being the 4th day of May, 2002, for the purpose of electing a Mayor and five Council persons 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: 01/31/02

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Check out the annual swimsuit column!

By Don Flood

Recently, CNN ran promos for newscaster Paula Zahn, describing her as "brilliant, super smart — and sexy."

Journalists were horrified, including Zahn herself.

Said Zahn in a statement, "I was offended."

Fortunately for the future of serious journalism, I'm made of sterner stuff.

If you want to call me "brilliant, super smart — and sexy," you go right ahead. I can take it.

Of course, some — including my wife — might ask if I'm able to live up to the image of sexy journalist. (They might also question the "brilliant" and "super smart" part.)

But as luck would have it, this week features my Annual Swimsuit Column — starring me!

(Have you noticed how every publication, including the Congressional Record and Stamp News Illustrated, includes a swimsuit issue this time of year?)

Since there is no photo of me frolicking on the beach, just imagine me as Brad Pitt as I skillfully segue into the meat of my column — the Rite of the Polar Bear.

To "polar bear" means to jump into the freezing waters of the ocean, usually on New Year's Day.

Your only protection is a bathing suit — no wet suits allowed.

(Interactive Column Note: For my role, start imagining Brad Pitt ... now. Guys may prefer imagining Paula Zahn, but don't tell her, because she'll be offended.)

This year my son will turn 12. It was time for him to plunge into manhood.

New Year's Day at the beach was 30 degrees and breezy; the water a refreshing 36.

The activity itself, I have to admit, is easily mastered.

It requires, mostly, a willingness to get cold and wet, and a fierce desire to do something stupid.

There's no dramatic "Gladiator"-style declaration such as, "We who are about to freeze our (insert body part of choice here) off, salute you."

You jump in the ocean, you jump out — but your head must go under water.

Diving in is the easy part. The hard part is drying off.

The feel of cold, wet sand sticking all over your feet and legs is — I think I'm allowed to say this under the Polar Bear Code of Conduct —

not especially pleasant.

But my question that day was, would my son succeed?

Two years ago he attempted his first polar bear.

He looked like one of those little shorebirds that scamper back and forth with the waves.

His time had not yet come.

I blamed myself. Had I, without realizing it, pushed him to polar bear too soon?

But I didn't have time to worry, as the crowd was already surging forward into the ocean. (People don't tend to spend a lot of time standing around in their bathing suits when it's 30 degrees outside.)

I looked back. I saw my son splash into the water and — more importantly — dive under the waves.

He had done it!

"You have joined the Sacred Band of Polar Bear Brothers," I proudly told my son.

He seemed less than impressed. "It involved a lot more pain than I thought."

Oh yeah, he'll be back next year.

Maybe I can get Brad and Paula to join us.

(c) 2002 King Features Synd., Inc.

New officers installed for San Elizario Historical Society

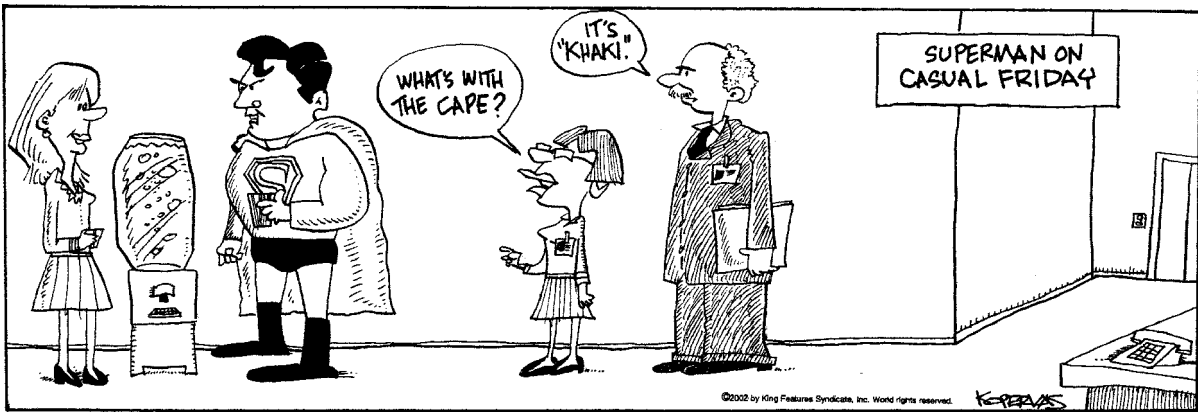
SAN ELIZARIO — The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society held its installation of new officers for the year 2002 on Jan. 28, with Honorable Judge Patricia Macias administering the oath of office at Gabriel Restaurant. Shown from left, Bernidad Lopez



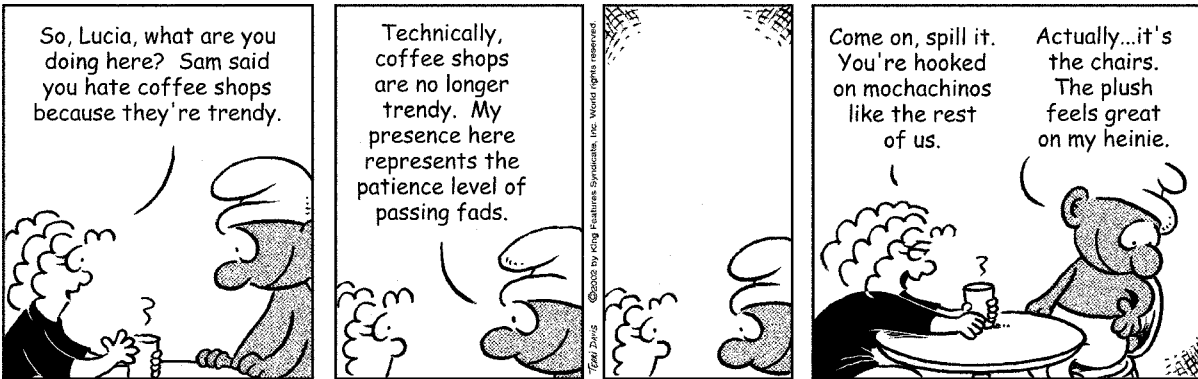
was installed as the new treasurer; Dan Cedillos as secretary; Rudy Martinez as vice-president; and Sam Sanchez as the new president. Outgoing President Transito Macias thanked everyone, including the 50 people in attendance, for the support and growth of the Society over the past nine years. The group has maintained an active role in preserving an accurate historical record of San Elizario's colorful past, and participates in numerous community events.

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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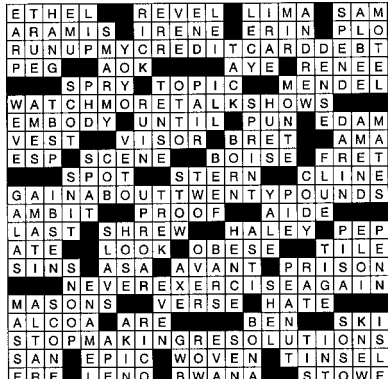
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 WEST TEXAS COUNTY
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Briefs

From Page 1

the PSF, which earns money for Texas public school students from kindergarten through the 12th grade. The PSF has about \$20 billion in assets, and about \$700 million of income generated by the PSF went to Texas public schools last year.

■ The Americas Cup 2002 Cheer and Dance Competition will kick off at Americas High School on Friday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, Feb. 23, in the Blazer Gym. Dance competition will be Friday at 6:30 and the cheer competition will be on Saturday, at 1 p.m. Deadline to submit entry forms is Friday, Feb. 15. The Dance competition will have nine divisions, based on grade level and style of dance. The Cheer competition will have seven divisions each for the non-mount and mount categories, based on grade levels. Contact Miyesser K. Collins, Americas Student Activities Director for further information.

■ The Clint High School Band will host an Enchilada Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 2, 5-7:30 p.m. in the

Clint High School cafeteria. Price is \$5 per plate, to be eaten in or taken out. Tickets can be bought from any band student or at the door.

■ The place is going to the dogs — a private park of 8,000 square feet, fenced with grass, trees, canine agility equipment, shade and sunshine. It's open to the public and their pets at no cost. The Valley Feed Pet's Barn Dog Park is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Periodic weekend agility demonstrations are slated — call

849-0653 and ask for Steve Vandagriff for information on the next planned event. The park is at 1790 Zaragosa, just south of the Wal-Mart SuperCenter. Leashes are optional depending on individual pet's behavior and "ability to get along with others" — and owners are asked to "please pickup after their pets."

■ The Trans-Pecos Counseling Association will meet at the Rancher's Grill, 7597 N. Mesa, on Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is open to all school counselors, mental health professionals and graduate-level counseling stu-

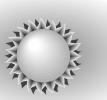
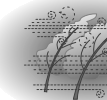
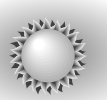
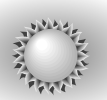
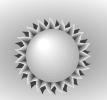
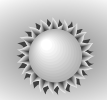
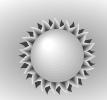
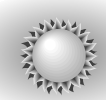
dents. Annalee Frizell will be guest speaker. For information call Charlie Guerra, TPCA president, at 872-3904.

■ The International Coin Club of El Paso will present the 39th Annual Coin Show on Feb. 15-17 at the Vista Del Sol Conference Center, 11189 Rojas, with over 50 coin and stamp dealers expected from eight states. The event runs 1-7 p.m. on the 15th; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the 16th; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the 17th. Admission is free. For information on local twice monthly meetings of the Club call 533-6001.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Bright sunshine, but cold.	Clear and very cold.	Bright sunshine, but cold.	Bright and sunny.	Sunny.	Brilliant sunshine.	Sunny.	Brilliant sunshine.
▲ 44°	▼ 20°	▲ 48° ▼ 26°	▲ 54° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 34°	▲ 62° ▼ 28°	▲ 60° ▼ 26°	▲ 62° ▼ 32°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	5	Moderate
Friday	5	Moderate
Saturday	5	Moderate
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	5	Moderate
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	6	Moderate

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	46°
Friday	38°
Saturday	56°
Sunday	60°
Monday	58°
Tuesday	54°
Wednesday	60°

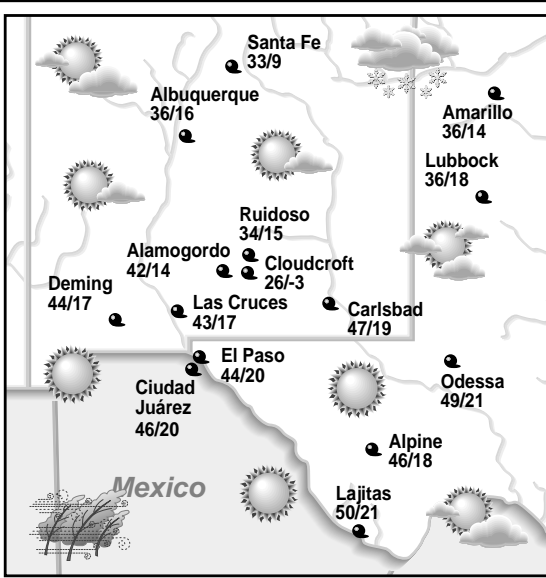
AGRICULTURE

Dry weather is expected through the period beginning Thursday. It will start rather cold as chilly high pressure remains over the region but milder weather quickly returns. There will be between 6 and 9 hours of sunshine daily with good drying conditions.

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	44	20
Canutillo	45	21
Clint	43	21
E. Montana	44	20
Fabens	43	21
Horizon	45	21
San Elizario	42	18
Socorro	43	19
Tornillo	43	21
Vinton	45	21

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	36/16/pc	42/18/s	48/24/pc	52/26/s	54/26/pc
Atlanta	70/50/pc	56/36/c	52/34/s	52/32/pc	54/34/s
Atlantic City	44/44/c	58/30/r	42/24/s	42/24/s	40/22/c
Austin/San Antonio	58/30/pc	54/34/s	50/34/c	58/38/c	60/40/c
Baltimore	49/46/c	56/26/r	42/24/s	42/22/s	42/20/c
Boston	34/32/sn	44/28/r	35/22/s	32/21/s	34/20/c
Chicago	34/22/sn	28/16/pc	34/22/pc	28/16/c	28/20/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	48/24/pc	50/30/s	54/34/pc	52/38/pc	56/32/pc
Denver	24/9/pc	40/13/pc	46/19/s	52/21/s	48/19/pc
Flagstaff	30/5/s	38/11/s	41/13/pc	43/16/s	45/11/pc
Houston	64/32/r	58/34/c	58/44/c	58/44/c	62/42/c
Kansas City	26/14/sn	28/18/pc	38/20/s	40/22/pc	40/16/pc
Las Vegas	48/29/s	54/29/pc	56/32/pc	59/39/s	62/31/pc
Miami	82/70/s	82/68/s	78/64/sh	78/62/c	76/62/c
Minneapolis	16/8/c	20/8/pc	25/12/c	27/16/pc	26/10/pc
New Orleans	72/48/r	58/40/c	56/40/pc	60/44/s	60/44/s
New York City	38/38/c	54/26/r	38/26/s	40/26/s	38/22/c
Philadelphia	44/44/c	56/26/r	40/24/s	42/24/s	40/20/c
Phoenix	56/36/s	62/40/s	68/42/s	68/44/s	70/46/s
Portland	46/36/r	48/36/pc	48/38/sh	47/36/c	47/40/r
San Francisco	54/40/s	56/42/c	55/43/c	55/44/c	56/40/c
Seattle	44/36/r	46/36/pc	48/38/sh	47/37/c	47/43/r
Tucson	50/28/s	62/34/s	66/36/s	66/36/s	68/38/s
Washington, DC	50/46/c	58/30/r	42/26/s	44/26/s	44/24/c

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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