

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

MARCH 21, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Principals named

Two new school principals have been selected by the Clint school district but both are not new to the district itself. Jesse Herrera, former assistant principal of Clint High School, was officially selected as principal at the new Horizon Middle School on Feb. 25. Josie Perez, who was named as new principal at Carroll T. Welch Middle School also on Feb. 25, is a former assistant principal at Clint Jr. High. and counselor at Mountain View High.

Excellence noted

Jose H. Damian Elementary School, in Canutillo Independent School District, was recognized recently by Texas Education Agency (TEA) for outstanding academic performance. The school earned an Honored School rating for meeting the Exemplary standards in 2000-2001 school year and Recognized standards the previous school year. Each year TEA recognizes schools that are designated as Title I campuses and have received Exemplary and/or Recognized accountability ratings for two consecutive years. Title I schools have at least a 35 percent economically-disadvantaged student population. Principal of Damian ES is Max Padilla. Assistant Principal is David Parker.

In other news

■ The community wide Easter celebration in Horizon City is now in its 27th year, sponsored by the Horizon City Kiwanis Club. About 200 people attend the event yearly at the Emerald Springs Golf Club. The event is at 7 a.m. on Sunday, March 31. Pastors and priests from Horizon's four churches will participate, and special music will be presented. The Club will serve an Easter buffet for which reservations are required at 852-9550. Information: 852-2841.

■ State Rep. Joe C. Pickett has hundreds of campaign signs posted throughout El Paso's northeast and eastside areas, and is asking citizens for help. He pledges to donate one dollar for each sign picked up to the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso. The drop-off sites are in Northeast at Safari Homes, 10100 Dyer or Eastside at 3606 Wooster, which intersects Montana Ave. between Lee Trevino and George Dieter. This is the eighth time Pickett has held a "campaign sign collection for a donation" drive.

■ State Rep. Manny Najera said this week that two teams of students from Tornillo and Fabens High Schools have now been trained by the El Paso Police Dept. and are ready to help educate younger students on how to avoid encounters with sex offenders and what to do if it happens. Information: 592-7757.

■ Borrego Elementary School in San Elizario will host a Diabetes Walk-a-Thon and a Healthy Snack Fair on March 26 and 27. For more information, contact Laura Rodriguez, Borrego Elementary Nurse, at 872-3910.

See BRIEFS, Page 4

We shouldn't judge a modern girl by her clothes; there really isn't enough evidence.

— Quips and Quotes

Horizon council approves timeline to draft new Charter Voters will be asked to approve process and select commissioners on Nov. 12

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — The City Council of Horizon City is moving forward to frame a new charter for the Town of Horizon City.

City Attorney Robert A. Duran presented a letter to Council with a recommendation on the necessary steps to do so at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 12.

His recommendation calls for the adoption of an ordinance to call for an election. Voters are to be asked the question: "Shall a commission be chosen to frame a new charter?"

Council instructed Duran to begin constructing an election ordinance, with the intent to approve first reading at the regularly scheduled meeting of April 9.

Duran's letter included a timeline to be followed. The timeline is as follows:

April 9, 2002 - First Reading of Election

Ordinance.

May 14, 2002 - Public Hearing and Second Reading of Ordinance.

Sept. 27, 2002 - Filing deadline for candidates to serve on Charter Commission.

Nov. 12, 2002 - Election Day to elect Charter Commission members.

Other details of his letter state the ballot which is presented to the public "shall also provide for the election from the municipality at large of a charter commission to draft a charter if a majority of the qualified voters voting on the question of choosing a charter commission approve the question. The charter commission for the Town of Horizon City must consist of at least 15 members.

Once the new charter is formulated by the commission, it also must be submitted to the qualified voters of the municipality for their approval.

In other business, City Council considered and took action on seeking professional ser-

vices of a lobbyist. Alderman Walter Miller explained to City Council that there is great potential for funding for street development through the federal government.

Miller said it would be advantageous for City Council to pursue a direct appropriation and to contract with a lobbyist to attract federal funds. Council approved the recommendation.

Mayor Pat Randleel announced details about the Freedom Flag memorial being created by the Socorro Independent School District to recognize our veterans and all those who were lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy.

The Socorro ISD is asking for contributions and donors names will be placed on a brick. The memorial is to be constructed at the Student Activities Center located on Joe Battle Blvd.

The approval of a new contract with the Oz Glaze Senior Association to manage the Oz Glaze Senior Center was tabled in order to make amendments to the contract as provided by City Attorney Duran.

Second public meeting held on specs for new Canutillo High School

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — The vision for the new Canutillo High School became clearer last Thursday at the second of two open meetings to get input from community members as to what they want in the new facility.

Attendance — as at the first meeting — was light. Only about half a dozen residents came out for the meeting held at Jose Damian Elementary. Also attending and entering into the discussion were members of the school board as well as members of the district administration.

Leading the discussion was Sergio Martinez, principal in Dimensions Architects International. His firm is drawing up the educational specifications for the high school based on ideas from the community as well as district staff and teachers. The latter group, in the third and final meeting, meets with the architectural firm on April 13 to let them know what their needs are.

With this feedback, Martinez sees the public meetings as enabling his firm to better provide "architecture for learning."

"We want to address your issues. We want to capture all of

your ideas. Your ideas are important," Martinez said.

In his vision, Martinez suggests building a two-story high school — offering a savings of 10 percent — that slopes from east to west following the contour of the land. It would be a "landmark that we can be proud of...pleasing to the eye and pleasing to the community." In going with a two-story structure rather than one story, he points out the district would be saving other land for possible expansion to handle projected enrollment growth.

At the first meeting, Dr. John Kessinger, assistant superintendent for operations and planning, recommended building the new high school have a capacity of 2,200. There are 1,200 high school students now. It is estimated that enrollment will jump to as much as 1,400 before the building is completed in 2005.

Sketching quickly on an easel, Martinez blocked in the new school south of the Northwest Branch of El Paso Community College. He emphasized a "beautiful" facade on the building that will give it appeal and draw the attention of motorists on I-10.

So as not to detract from the school itself, he envisions the

See CANUTILLO, Page 3

Belt-tightening budget in San Eli ISD draws questions from board

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Fiscal issues dominated the March 13 meeting of the board of trustees



Mike Quatrini

questioned a proposed belt-tightening budget amendment by the administration.

Board members also questioned district purchase orders they felt lacked the necessary information for them to make an informed vote.

The budget amendment finally passed, but only after close scrutiny.

Pointing out that children generate revenue, finance director Larry Worrell and Superintendent Mike Quatrini explained that a 100-student decline in enrollment

meant a corresponding decline in funding to the district. The district budget was originally based on anticipated enrollment.

A savings of approximately \$300,000 was made in proposed departmental budget cuts, but it

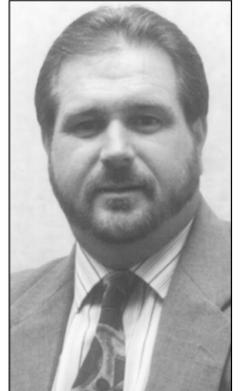
was emphasized by the administration that academic needs of the students were not being sacrificed in the process.

"We want expenditures focused on the kids," Quatrini assured the trustees. "We are not taking away from kids. We are not losing anything we could live without. The campuses will not be deprived."

Added Assistant Superintendent Maria Niestas, "If the need arises, the money is still there. We don't feel it is lost."

Board vice president Rick Rednour said the board was concerned that teachers and

See SEISD, Page 3



Rick Rednour

Primary elections clear the field, set up general elections with few runoffs

The primary elections last week cleared the field considerably, leaving El Paso County with the answer as to who would be filling many elected offices.

A heated race for the Texas gubernatorial Democratic nominee slot and several high-interest races closer to home brought a higher than normal number of El Paso County residents to the polls, about 50,000 voters.

Tony Sanchez won 59 percent of the statewide vote to become the Democratic nominee

for governor over Dan Morales who took 33.5 percent. Other challengers were John WorldPeace, with 2.1 percent and Bill Lyon, who received 4.7.

Sanchez will face incumbent Gov. Rick Perry, who ran unopposed on the Republican ticket, in the general election.

The U.S. Senate race will head for a runoff on the Democratic slate between Victor Morales, who won 33.3 percent of the vote statewide, and Ron Kirk who was narrowly behind

with 32.3 percent. The winner of that run-off will face Republican nominee John Cornyn who swept the statewide vote of his party with 76.9 percent and no close challengers.

Two State Representative seats were decided, with District 75 incumbent Manny Najera losing his bid to challenger "Chente" Quintanilla, 54 percent to 46. Quintanilla is expected to step down in January from his seat

See ELECTIONS, Page 7



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Here's your sign

Not too long ago there was a country song entitled "Here's Your Sign."

The general premise of the song is that when people do something really dumb they are handed a sign that confirms it in writing. I've been humming this tune recently.

The city of El Paso is in the throes of deciding how to regulate billboards and otherwise modify their sign ordinance. The rest of the County has a similar problem. We seem to have a split personality when it comes to the placement, removal and general regulation of signage along our roadways.

Everybody knows they are messy, ugly and a dangerous distraction. Nobody wants to say no.

Some signs are necessary. We need to know how fast we may go, which road we're on, how far it is to the next town and where the hospital is.

We don't need the neck-breaking distraction of some really astonishing female images in a larger-than-life depiction of the good times going on down at old Club So-and-So.

Frankly, some billboards show things I'd just as soon my kids never knew about, let alone at a tender, curious age.

I once had a conversation with my littlest daughter that went something like this.

"Mama, why does that word on that sign with the lady have an owl on it?"

"That's no lady, dear, and the sign is there to tell you that this is an establishment where you will never be employed."

El Paso proper has about 2,000 authorized billboards which feature everything from a plea to not beat your children to the rotating faces of local news people. I don't know about you, but I don't think a billboard is going to teach people how to raise kids and I don't pick my evening news channel based on how many times I saw the anchor leering

at me over the freeway.

Advertising is an elusive and inexact science so this society, as a proponent of free enterprise, simply allows businesses to do anything and everything to get their message out, no matter how intrusive, inappropriate or downright stupid that form of advertising may be.

The proliferation of signs along roadways, particularly in heavily populated areas, defeats the purpose of the sign in the first place. Even if you are trying to find a particular sign it is hard to distinguish one from another in the mass of color and print swimming before your eyes. I've come close to being involved in an accident attempting to locate a directional sign lost among a sea of advertisements.

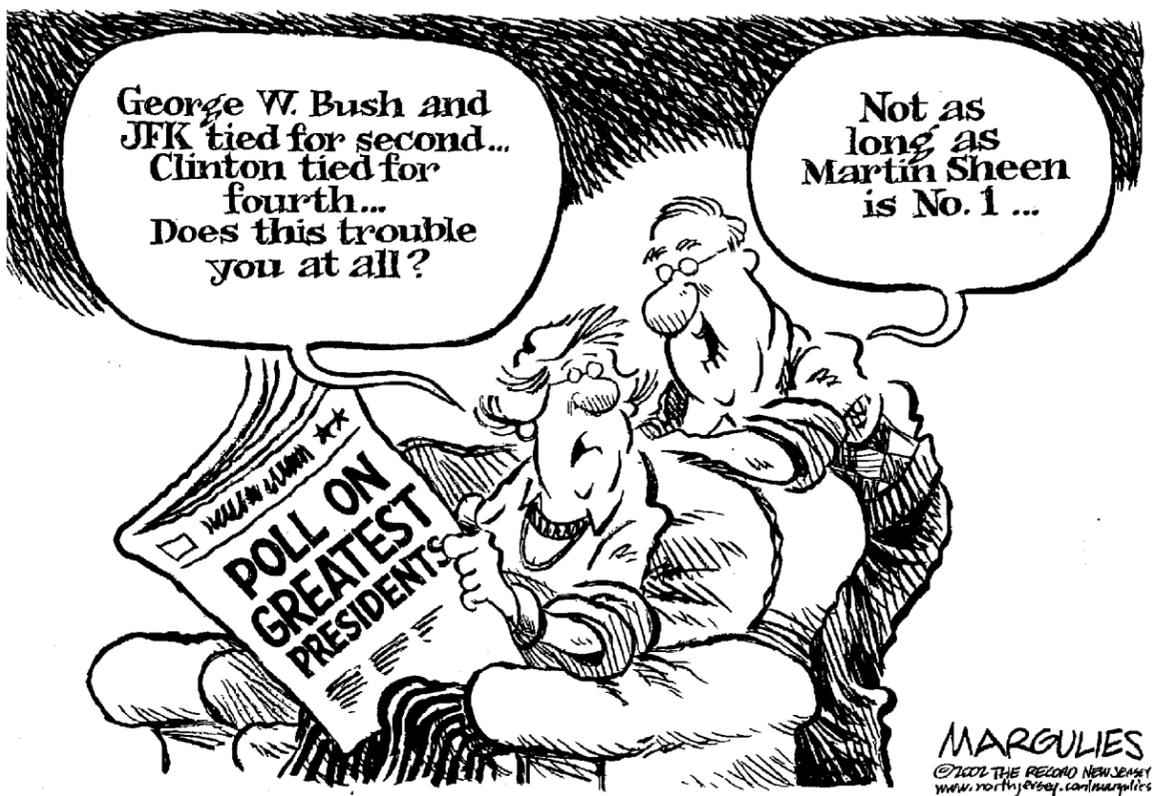
Even when a community has an ordinance to regulate signage, we don't enforce it. I live in Horizon City. I know.

We don't do anything as sensible as actually holding people responsible for the signs they left behind, no matter how long ago that may have been. And it isn't a question of not knowing whose sign that is leaning pitifully into the wind or lying face down on the street corner. The owner's name is emblazoned across it in huge letters.

I've heard many an elected official shrug off the need to enforce ordinances, saying they don't want to antagonize the public. The Horizon and Socorro Police Departments don't want to issue too many "nuisance" tickets and the Sheriff's Department sure doesn't intend to step in.

El Paso's city council hopes to find middle ground with half-way measures like reducing the size of the signs and enlarging the number of feet between them.

So we wishy-wash along our littered roadways cluttered with inappropriate advertising and abandoned signage and all I can think is: "Here's your sign!"



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

September 11 remembered

As you are reading this column, March 11 will have already passed but its

significance is not forgotten. This date is the six month anniversary of the treacherous attacks on our native soil. Of all the traumatic events in the history of the United States of America, none may be remembered so vividly as those that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001.

On that dreadful day, we witnessed a remarkable display of courage. The rescue workers who saved thousands of lives set an example for heroism. Our nation was inspired by the heroic passengers on Flight 93. And today, we praise and support the brave men and women of our military as they defend the very freedoms that were attacked last September.

As we move ahead past the dark times of Sept. 11, we will remember our fallen. We will continue the spirit of unity that was born out of this tragedy. And we will continue to honor the heroes of our nation as we fight the War on Terror.

I'd like to leave you with a message given to the crew of the USS John F. Kennedy. This announcement was given by Captain Ron Howard,

shortly before the USS Kennedy launched her first strikes on Afghanistan on March 10. This message is an important reminder to those of us at home. It speaks to the amazing sacrifices that members of our Armed Forces make on a daily basis to preserve our freedom. May God bless and protect them, and may God continue to bless America!

Good evening onboard John F. Kennedy and Carrier Air Wing Seven.

We are currently preceding at best speed to our launch point for tonight's...first blows of Operation Enduring Freedom, the war on terrorism. For us this is a culminating point in space, a culminating point in time, and a culminating point in history.

Our enemy is a group of religious fanatics, who pervert the peace of Islam and twist its meaning to justify the murder of thousands of innocents at the Twin Towers of New York, at the Pentagon, and in a field in Pennsylvania.

They hate us and attack us because they oppose all that is good about America. They hate us because we are prosperous. They hate us because we are tolerant. They hate us because we are happy. Mostly, they hate us because we are free and because we

will "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend or oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty."

...Millions of Americans wish they could be here tonight with us. They saw the Twin Towers fall, and watched helplessly, wanting to do something to defend America and our way of life. For us tonight, that wait and that helplessness are over. We have reached the point where we are all part of something so much greater than ourselves. For the rest of our lives, no matter whether we stay in the Navy or move on to civilian life, no matter what we do or where we go, we will remember that on 10 March 2002, we came together and struck a blow for freedom.

...Tonight and in the nights to follow we are given the opportunity of a lifetime, a chance to truly make a difference in the world. Our namesake, John F. Kennedy, wrote that "a single person can make a difference, and every person should try." Tonight, we can make a difference!

We represent America in all its power and diversity. We are men and women, rich and poor, black and white, and all colors of the human rainbow. We are Christian, Jew, and



Funeral services set for three killed in accident

EL PASO COUNTY — Funeral services have been scheduled for Thelma Mendoza, Andrea Hernandez and Alexis Garcia. They died as a result of a tragic one-car accident on Interstate 10 near Tornillo on Monday.

Andrea Hernandez was an employee at the Escontrias Early Childhood Center and Alexis went to school there.

Family visitation will be 4-9 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 21 at the Mt. Carmel Funeral Home at 1755 N. Zaragosa.

Thelma Mendoza, 48; her daughter Andrea Hernandez, 31; and her grandson, Alexis Garcia, 7, were killed when their vehicle left the roadway and rolled in the early morning hours as the family returned from a spring-break trip to Oklahoma.

Funeral services will be Friday, March 22 at 2 p.m. in St. Rafael's Parish, 2301 Zanzibar, followed by burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, 401 S. Zaragosa.

School districts to share data

UPPER VALLEY — The board of trustees of the Canutillo ISD has approved sharing of its student data system with two Lower Valley school districts.

dard construction method for new construction/and or renovations of more than \$500,000.

At its March 12 meeting, the Canutillo ISD board gave the go-ahead for legal counsel to enter into an interlocal agreement with the San Elizario and Fabens school districts for use of the system developed by the Student Services Department.

• It also approved advertising RFPs (Request for Proposals) for construction manager at risk as the construction delivery method for the new high school.

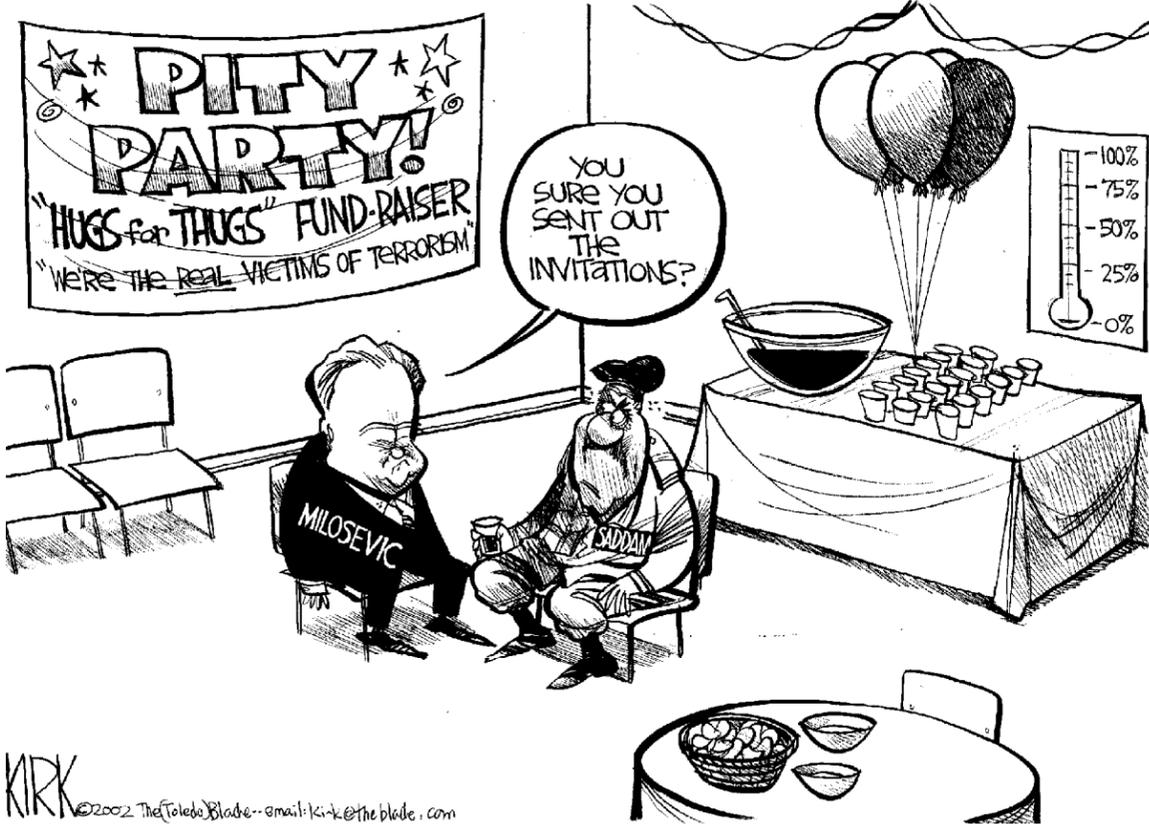
• It approved a shift of surplus funds from Phase 2 Canutillo Elementary construction for use in five-year plan projects.

In other board actions:

• It also approved the 180-day 2002-03 school calendar.

• It approved a request for construction manager at risk as the stan-

— By Don Woodyard




Judge Ruben Lujan
Thank You!

I will keep working hard on behalf of the citizens I am honored to serve. School truancies and environmental issues will continue to be top priorities for my Court. I will continue these much needed programs — they are already having a positive impact on our communities. Thank you for keeping me as Justice of the Peace, Precinct #6, in Clint, TX.

Political advertising paid for by Ruben Lujan, Treasurer. Campaign to Elect Ruben Lujan for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 6.

Canutillo

From Page 1

parking lot behind the main building with various athletic fields beyond that toward the back of the 50-acre parcel of land on which it will be built. The planned extension of Loop 375, he said, will swing west and south from Talbot behind the community college and the high school, intersecting with Doniphan.

Superintendent Charles Hart suggested that non-core — and perhaps noisier — classes like band, speech and agriculture, in which students are up and around much of the time, should be in a separate area from core classes like math, English and sci-

ence where students might be studying for TAAS.

Adding to what Hart said, audience members felt it was important to have sufficient space for all programs, such as rooms for wrestling and practice areas for ROTC marksmen.

As in the first public meeting, Martinez emphasized the need to provide a proper "learning environment," a high school that not only meets the academic needs of the students but where parents can come as well for various activities and events after school hours.



Charles Hart

This would mean that the community would, for instance, have access to the school library and computers.

The definition of a proper learning environment would include one that is "comfortable" for students and would incorporate outdoor courtyard spaces to "change the mood and atmosphere for students."

According to Martinez' plan, the upcoming design phase, would take 12-14 months. Actual construction of the high school is expected to begin around mid-year 2003. He estimates a construction time of 18-20 months.

SEISD

From Page 1

administrators can live with the proposed cutbacks. He added that he was worried the matter may come back to the board from the community if it resulted in students losing out academically.

At one point, after lengthy discussion, no motion was made and it appeared that the future of budget amendment six was in jeopardy and would die for lack of board action.

Quatrini then asked if there were some concerns the board had that he was not aware of. Armando Martinez then made the motion and it was seconded by Robert Garcia. Motion passed.

"We want to know what we are voting on," said Martinez in reference to the second fiscal issue. Board members objected to a lack of completeness in financial reports routinely approved. Rednour was concerned about not knowing what exactly was being purchased. The lengthy purchase order, he pointed out, showed amounts spent, but not what they were spent for.

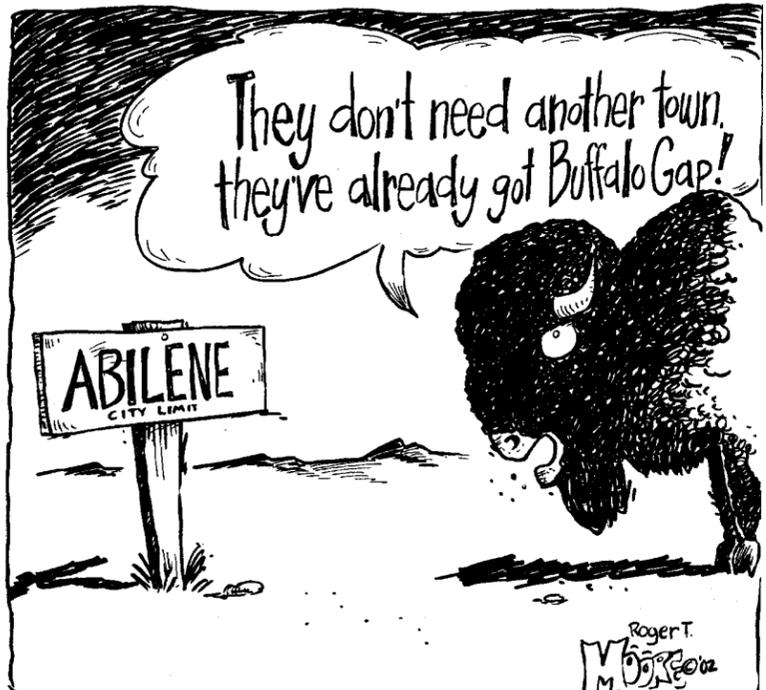
Worrell assured Rednour he would provide him and other board members with the requested detailed information on the purchase order in question.

In other action:
• Landscaping, furniture and audio-visual materials bids were approved for the new administration building.

• Board approved adoption of textbooks as recommended by the administration.

• The district school calendar was approved for 2002-03. There will be 180 days with Aug. 19 as the first day of school.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore March 15, 1881, Abilene is born with the completion of the Texas & Pacific RR.



Briefs

From Page 1

■ Star Fireworks, Inc. announces its second-annual essay contest for graduating seniors at Clint, Fabens, San Elizario and Socorro high schools. One finalist will be chosen from each school, and the winning student will receive a \$500 scholarship to a four-year university. Each finalist will receive a \$25 gift certificate. Star Fireworks awarded the first scholarship to Hugo Cordova from San Elizario last year. He is currently majoring in Mechanical Engineering at UT-El Paso. The essays may cover any subject and must be 500 words or less, and typed. Officials at Star Fireworks will judge the works based upon their thoughtfulness and creativity. Deadline for submissions is April 15. The winner will be announced May 1. Star Fireworks, Inc. was founded in 1995 by Navin and

Wes Navidomskis and Ray Sanchez, all graduates of Clint High School. It operates fireworks stands in the Mission Valley area. For more information, contact Navin Navidomskis at 857-1095.

■ More than 20 individuals from L.G. Alarcón Elementary 5th grade will be going to Washington, D.C. to study the workings of the U.S. government. Magnolia Coca-Cola, a Partner in Education with the San Elizario ISD, has teamed up to help these students sell cases of their product for \$10 in a fund-raiser on March 27 in the school's parking lot from 3-6 p.m. For more information contact Rudy Valdez at 872-3930.

■ The El Paso Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. at Ysleta ISD Cultural Arts Center, 9600 Sims in the Mission Room. Information: 887-3410.

Bonilla

From Page 2

yes, Muslim. *We are America.*

This war will not be short, pleasant, or easy. It has already required the sacrifice of our firefighters, our policemen, our soldiers, our Sailors, our airmen, and our Marines. More sacrifices will be made. In the end we will win, precisely because we are those things that the terrorists

hate — prosperous, happy, tolerant, and most of all, free.

Those Americans who wish they could be here with us are, in fact, here with us in spirit...We will not let them down. We are, and will be, men and women of honor, courage, and commitment...

...Stay sharp. Stay focused. Stay safe. Use the training that has made you the best Sailors in the world. Trust in your faith, and in your shipmates. God bless us all, and God bless America.

Texas stands to lose TB-free status after infected cattle found in Fayette and Pecos counties

New regulations to restrict imports of Mexican cattle

AUSTIN — The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expected to cancel Texas' "free" status for cattle tuberculosis eradication next month because two of the state's estimated 153,000 cattle herds have been diagnosed with the disease since summer 2001.

Texas had gained TB-free status in November 2000, with the exception of portions of El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, which had been "zoned out," due to recurring infection cases of the bacterial infection that can cause cattle to develop internal lesions.

"Our first infected beef cattle herd was found and depopulated in Fayette County this past summer," said Dr. Linda Logan, Texas' state veterinarian and executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). "We have just completed depopulating an infected beef and dairy operation headquartered in Pecos County.

"According to the USDA's Code of Federal Regulations for tuberculosis, any state will lose its 'free' status when two infected herds are detected within a 48-month period."

TAHC and USDA staff tested more than 60 herds and traced five years of cattle movement into and out of the Fayette County herd in their effort to pinpoint the origin of the TB infection. Epidemiology tracing and testing is still underway for the Pecos County herd.

"We anticipate that the USDA rule to downgrade Texas' TB

status...sometime in April," said Dr. Richard Ferris, area veterinarian-in-charge for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS) in Texas.

He noted that the specific regulation changes will affect all of Texas, except El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, which will remain separate, due to high-risk herds awaiting federal depopulation.

"Upon publication of the rule, Texas breeding cattle that are being moved out of state will have to be tested for TB and be identified with an official ear tag," said Dr. Ferris.

Imports from Mexico risky

"We know Texas has been at particular risk for TB, because Texas livestock brokers import nearly a million Mexican feeder cattle each year. Cattle TB continues to be a problem in many Mexican states. Many of these Mexican feeder animals are placed on pastures across the state until they're heavy enough for the feedyard. Potential exposure between these cattle and domestic cow-calf operations spreads our risk across the state," said Dr. Logan.

She noted that, in fiscal year 2001, 64 TB-positive cases were detected in U.S. slaughter plants. Of the 50

cases investigations that have been completed, 48 involved Mexican-origin cattle.

Since October 2001, Mexican-origin cattle have been involved in seven of nine TB cases in feedlot animals.

"We've worked closely with Mexico on TB eradication since 1988, when the USDA began offering training and technical support," she said. "Since 1994, Mexican cattle have been imported under a 'consensus agreement.' New federal regulations will be implemented for Mexican imports this April, which

will provide more disease protection not only for Texas, but also for the other states that receive Mexican-origin feeder animals."

Mexican-origin roping steers also may place domestic cattle at risk, said Dr. Logan, pointing out that two TB-infected Mexican roping steers were detected in fiscal year 2001.

"We will be checking these animals at events and practice pens to ensure that these animals have had their required post-entry TB tests," she said. "The TAHC requires that these animals be tested every 12 months for TB. We can't have infected imported stock mixing with valuable animals at events. We urge Texas producers to do their part by making sure these roping steers are tested on an annual basis."



Linda Logan

New regulations on imports

Beginning April 1, 2002, feeder cattle from Mexico — steers and spayed heifers — will enter the U.S. under health regulations published more than a year ago in the Federal Code of Regulations by the USDA's Veterinary Services.

By 2003, the USDA will tighten regulations again, when international rules will require exporting countries to fully meet US-equivalent standards for cattle TB eradication.

Dr. Logan pointed out that in April 2001, the USDA's Veterinary Services published an interim rule requiring Mexican feeder steers to originate from herds that had recently been tested for TB. The USDA then agreed to grant waivers to the whole-herd test, if Mexican states could demonstrate sufficient progress in eradicating TB prior to April 2002.

During the past five months, USDA-sponsored teams have conducted in-depth TB status reviews in 16 Mexican states with active TB eradication programs.

The teams, comprised by state and federal regulatory veterinarians, trade association representatives and laboratory specialists, determined that only one Mexican state and portions of five other states could be granted a waiver of the whole-herd test requirement.

Feeder cattle from most other Mexican states will have to originate from tested herds and then also undergo an individual animal test. Some states will be prohibited from shipping feeder cattle to the U.S. due to inadequate TB eradication programs.

"Feeder cattle from some Mexican states or portions of states will be allowed to enter the U.S. only directly to slaughter. These animals are from areas that have not made sufficient TB eradication progress or met program review criteria for inspection, testing, or surveillance," said Dr. Ferris. "Prior to entry for slaughter, the animals must have a negative TB test and must be accompanied by the proper paperwork, including an import permit and official ear tags."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF EL PASO TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS PROGRAM — #719205 SAN ELIZARIO

The County of El Paso is considering a proposed amendment to its approved 2000 Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) contract with the Office of Rural Community Affairs/Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to extend the contract period for six months to construct additional water and sewer connections. These improvements will be in the Canutillo area where similar improvements were constructed under a previous TCDP contract.

A public hearing concerning the proposed amendment is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2002, at the El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite 303, El Paso, Texas. The purpose of this public hearing will be to discuss the proposed amendment and solicit citizen input on the proposed change.

All citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the County. The County Courthouse is accessible to the disabled; individuals should contact Rodrigo Mercado to arrange for special assistance or a translator. If you cannot attend in person, written comments may be submitted and will be accepted by the County until this public hearing is concluded.

A copy of the proposed amendment is available for review during normal business hours at the El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite 313, El Paso, Texas 79901. For further information concerning the County's TCDP project and/or this proposed contract amendment, please contact Rodrigo Mercado at (915) 543-3845.

WTCC: 03/21/02

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF EL PASO TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SMALL TOWNS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM — #720016 PANORAMA

The County of El Paso is considering a proposed amendment to its approved 2001 Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) contract with the Office of Rural Community Affairs/Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to extend additional self-help water construction activities on Gallo, Cruz and Robin Road in the San Elizario Grant area.

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WTCC: 03/21/02

The Texas Republic replaces empresarios with the GLO

History of Texas Public Lands - Part Ten

TEXAS — As this historical series on Texas public lands continue, the curtain closes on Mexican rule and the new Republic had to figure out how to govern itself. With no money in the treasury, land became Texas' greatest asset.

In 1835, a provisional government set up by the Anglo inhabitants of Texas ordered all the land offices within Texas closed, and all land commissioners, *empresarios* and surveyors to cease operations. Land titles issued after Nov. 13, 1835 would be invalid; there would be no more Mexican land grants in Texas. The Convention of 1836 met in March to declare Texas independence and write a constitution for the Republic of Texas. The Constitution suspended the land grant system until soldiers could have an equal chance to locate their homes. It also called for the creation of a general land office to collect all land records and determine which lands were vacant and had valid titles issued by Spain and Mexico.

After Texas gained independence, the first Congress of the Republic met at Columbia and, in December 1836, passed an act defining the boundaries of the Republic. With this act, Texas claimed 216,000,000 acres (about 350,000 square miles) of unappropriated land—much of which was actually part of Mexico. The western boundary of the claim followed the Rio Grande to its source and due north to the 42nd parallel, so that it included eastern New Mexico and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Although neither Spain nor Mexico had considered any land below the Nueces River as part of Texas, the Republic claimed its southern boundary extended to the Rio Grande.

On Dec. 22, 1836, the Congress of the Republic passed an act establishing a general land office under the direction of a land commissioner who was to take charge of all land records. In June 1837, the Congress passed an act consolidating previous land legislation. It called for the first General Land Office to open on Oct. 1,

All vacant land was the property of the Republic, and all land titles, surveys and documents were now public property and were to be given to the Land Commissioner.

The Republic of Texas had neither money nor population enough to defend itself against the Mexicans and the Indians. When the government was organized in 1836, it had only \$55.68 in the treasury. Land was the only resource Texas had, and it was used to reward soldiers, to promote settlement and to finance the operation of the government.

Following the example of other countries such as the United States, the Republic encouraged and rewarded military service. However, because Texas lacked the funds to provide pensions, it resorted to its public land.

Bounty grants were issued to soldiers according to the length of their service in the Army of the Republic. The first bounty act was passed by the provisional government of Texas in November 1835; it promised 640 acres to those who served in the regular army for two years or throughout the war. In December the amount was

increased by 160 acres, for a total of 800 acres. A volunteer corps was also organized in December, and 640 acres was promised to men who served for the course of the war, and 320 acres to those who served only three months. If the volunteer died in service, the land would be given to his heirs, as would an additional 640 acres. In December 1837, Congress passed a new bounty act providing soldiers with 320 acres for every three months of service (up to one year), for a limit of 1,280 acres per person.

After winning independence, Texas still needed defense against Indians. A bounty act was passed in 1840 to give men who served in a frontier regiment 160 acres of land to be located near military posts on the frontier. Because there wasn't enough vacant land available near the forts, the men were instead granted 240 acres of vacant public domain anywhere within the Republic.

While a bounty as a recruiting device promised land as compensation for service, granting land to veterans as a reward for military service rendered was a donation. In

1837, donation grants of 640 acres were issued to soldiers (or their heirs) who had fought at the Alamo, Goliad, San Jacinto or the Siege of Bexar, or who had guarded the baggage train at Harrisburg. Men who participated in more than one of these engagements were entitled to only one allotment of 640 acres. Recipients of the donations were prohibited from selling the land (a provision which was later repealed).

Bounty warrants and donation certificates were issued by the Secretary of War. Fraudulent grants were not uncommon under this system. Sometimes, after receiving one bounty warrant, individuals applied for and were given another one. Duplicate certificates were occasionally issued for "lost" warrants; then, both originals and duplicates were used to obtain patents.

(Part XI 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.)

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PUBLIC MEETING

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a **PUBLIC MEETING on FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2002, 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:

1. Approval of Minutes.
2. Discussion and Action to Amend the FY 2002 Unified Planning Work Program:
 - a. Subtask 5.6 Camino Real Corridor — Border Improvement Plan by Adding the Rail Alternative Analysis and Identifying Local Matching Funds.
3. Discussion to Amend the 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the FY 2002-2006 Transportation Improvement Program with the following items:
 - a. Add to FY 2002, Zaragoza Temporary Border Safety Inspection Facility (BSIF);
 - b. Add to FY 2004, Bridge of the Americas (BOTA) Interim Border Safety Inspection Facility (BSIF);
 - c. Move to FY 2004, Zaragoza Permanent Border Safety Inspection Facility (BSIF), MPO Project ID #C008X.
4. Discussion and Action to Amend the Transportation Improvement Program 2002-2006:
 - a. Add \$25,000 of New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Planning Funds;
 - b. Change Funding Amounts to Project No. C007X Border Improvement Plan as follows BORCOR Funding \$449,519; Local Match \$112,370 Total \$561,898;
 - c. To Use \$27,000 of Surface Transportation Program 4C funds (Texas) from Project No. M0266X (Supplemental Funding for the MPO Office) for the Camino Real Corridor — Border Improvement Plan.
5. Request Authorization to Spend Approximately \$30,000 of Transportation Planning Funds to Purchase Software, Servers, Cables, and Firewall to Expand the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Computer Network and Enhance the MPO's Web Page.
6. Status Report on the Northeast Parkway.
7. Status Report on the I-10 East Corridor Study.
8. Status Report on the Regional Mobility Authorities.

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: 03/21/02

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

County of El Paso
500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313
El Paso, Texas 79901

West Texas County Courier
March 21, 2002

TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

Nine (9) days after this publication, the County of El Paso, Texas intends to request the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), formerly the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for Contract No.720215

<u>Exempt Activities</u>	<u>Categorically Excluded Activities</u>	<u>Description/Location</u>
Administration	Housing Rehabilitation	Countywide

An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by the County of El Paso, which documents the environmental review of the project. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the Office of Community Development, El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313, El Paso, Texas 79901, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the County to the address as set forth above. Such written comments must be received at the address specified within eight (8) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and the County will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Release of Funds

The County of El Paso will undertake the activities described above with Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I from its Program Year 2001 under grant numbered 720215 from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The County of El Paso is certifying to ORCA that The Honorable Dolores Briones, in her official capacity as County Judge, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the County of El Paso may use the Block Grant funds and it will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. ORCA will accept an objection to its approval only on one or more of the bases and the procedures described in 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections are to be addressed to the Office of Rural Community Affairs/Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, P. O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the ORCA. No objections received later than twenty-five (25) days after this publication will be considered by ORCA.

Honestly, officer, there was no money involved...none...ever

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

What the heck is all this talk about college basketball office pools? I've heard that they are illegal, no...stop laughing...I'm serious, it's actually illegal to have an office pool.



"So what are the odds of me beating this?"

That's hilarious! Let's be honest for just a second, please. The way that basketball fans pass those brackets around the office you would almost think that it's illegal not to have them.

By the way how are you doing on yours so far? Oh, come on, you can tell me...don't worry, I won't rat on you. Hmmm, that bad, huh? Me too.

Let's take a look at my bracket. Wow...what the heck was I thinking? Mississippi over UCLA, Miami over Missouri, Hawaii over Xavier, Murray St. over Georgia, Western Kentucky over Stanford, Pepperdine over Wake Forest and Gonzaga over Wyoming.

I must have under a lot of stress or didn't have my bran or was out of touch with my inner Chi when I made those picks.

Let's see, there are 16 teams left to go at it this weekend and I still have nine teams alive. Not too bad and not too good. How does that compare to what you prognosticated?

I still have Duke of course, and Pitt and Oklahoma and Maryland and U. Conn and Kansas and Illinois and Oregon. Pretty standard picks but here's my upset special, I still have Southern Illinois. Everybody has to have an upset

special — you just have to be a little lucky.

So the obvious question now is who is going to win this weekend and go on to the final four? Well, let's just take a look at my bracket.

In the South I've got Duke advancing with a win over Pitt. In the East, Maryland's athleticism will be too much for U. Conn. In the Midwest region I have Illinois advancing to the final four while the West will be represented by the Oklahoma Sooners.

Hey, at least I still have the last four teams in my bracket. How many of you picked Cincinnati in the final four? Sorry.

Yes, I admit it. I have completed an NCAA Tournament bracket. Is it really illegal? Are there undercover cops walking around businesses all over the country just waiting to pounce on some poor dude downloading a copy of a bracket?

Again, I admit it...I completed an NCAA Tournament bracket — but strictly for entertainment purposes, of course.

Unhappy Hardaway

I've seen many crazy things happen on a basketball court.

I've seen a guy break a backboard on a dunk, I've seen a cheerleader take a tumble from about 20 feet above the ground — why, I even once saw a coach throw a chair across the court. But I'd never seen what I saw last week.

And the weirdest thing about it is that he was one of ours. Did you catch Tim Hardaway the other night?

In a game against the Orlando Magic,

Hardaway got tossed after receiving his second technical foul. Hardaway was a bit upset to put it mildly.

In fact, he was so upset that on his way out he stopped to pick up one of the TV monitors at courtside and threw it on the court.

Bobby Knight must have been proud.

Hardaway was fined \$10,000 and suspended for two games without pay for his tantrum.

I don't know why Tim chose to do that but it now puts him in the same company with some of the other mental infants in the world of sports.

Too bad, Tim, you were once seen with respect around the country. Now you are becoming just another basketball bonehead and that's too bad.

We play who?

I know the Miners had a tough football season last year but is this really the way to put fans back in the stands?

UTEP released its new schedule recently and the Miners have a home opener that dulls the senses.

Who do we pack the Sun Bowl for in the big game? Sacramento State. Ouch, it hurts just saying it. Sacramento State, Sacramento State, Sac...

Did it hurt hearing it as much as it hurt saying it? UTEP has a total of just five home games next year. Well, four, if you don't count Sacramento State, Sacramento State...no better this time around either.

There's only one thing worse than playing Sacramento State — that's losing to Sacramento State.

Drugs kids take to improve sex appeal may have opposite effect

AUSTIN — Young people taking performance-enhancing drugs may get stronger and faster, but they may also kill themselves, Texas Medicine magazine reports in its February issue.

Adolescent athletes, often those participating in power sports such as football and wrestling, are most likely to experiment with performance-enhancing drugs. Young athletes are not the only kids being lured, however. Adolescents who never "pump iron" or run wind sprints turn to drugs like anabolic steroids, creatine, and androstenedione, Texas Medicine reports.

Why?

Sex appeal. As many as one-third of teenage steroid users in one study turned to drugs to artificially bulk up to be more physically attractive. The price of sex appeal, speed, and strength in a pill can be quite high, however: How sexy are

increased acne, depression, rage, or diarrhea? These are known side effects of steroids and creatine, as are liver failure and heart disease, which could lead to premature death.

According to Texas Medicine, a monthly publication of Texas Medical Association, kids who take these drugs put themselves at risk of maladies ranging from shrinking sex organs to sudden weight gain, all in the name of making the team or making out on a date. Moreover, researchers question whether educating young people about the risks of taking performance-enhancing drugs would make them think twice about popping the pills.

(Texas Medicine is the official news magazine of the Texas Medical Association, the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 37,000 physician and medical student members.)

Classified Ads

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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.

Alcoholicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sabado, 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 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

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King Super Crossword

PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA ACROSS

- 1 Ruth's husband
- 5 Approximately
- 9 Analyze a sentence
- 14 Postal abbr.
- 17 Tennis pro Nastase
- 18 Sri _
- 20 Humpback's home
- 21 Geometric figure
- 22 President who was a male model
- 24 Electrical inventor
- 25 Shortly
- 26 European capital
- 27 Part of Indonesia
- 29 Flat hat
- 30 It's good in a pinch
- 31 Adequate
- 34 "Picnic" playwright
- 37 '68 Tom Jones hit
- 39 President whose first language wasn't English
- 45 Alight
- 46 Out _ limb
- 47 Debut recording
- 48 Shake _ (hurry)
- 50 Trunk
- 53 Black and white delight
- 56 Petrarch product
- 59 Cleanse
- 61 Musical sensitivity
- 62 Inventor Whitney
- 64 Climb
- 65 Art deco designer

- 66 Writer Rand
- 67 Bug barriers
- 71 Vein contents
- 72 TV's " _ Search"
- 73 Actress Scala
- 74 Couple
- 75 First president born in a hospital
- 79 Gasp
- 80 Business abbr.
- 81 Crooner Vallee
- 82 Adjust an ascot
- 83 Settle a score
- 85 Super Bowl sound
- 86 "Mila 18" author
- 87 Biblical city
- 89 Aachen article
- 90 Drillers' org.
- 91 Conveyed
- 92 Machine tool
- 94 Annual award
- 98 Coniferous tree
- 100 "Bhagavad _"
- 102 Aphrodite's son
- 104 Mellow
- 105 Comic Carey
- 107 President born on July 4th
- 112 Apple variety
- 115 Smile
- 116 "Entre _"
- 117 In the thick of
- 118 Insert dialogue
- 120 "Shane" star
- 123 Binchy's " _ Road"
- 126 Prepare to fly
- 127 Sheer fear
- 130 President who was

- a fighter pilot
 - 134 Jogger's gait
 - 135 Rent
 - 136 Tropical tree
 - 137 Singer Brickell
 - 138 Offense
 - 139 A la King?
 - 140 Soho streetcar
 - 141 " _ on Me" ('72 hit)
- DOWN**
- 1 Giant
 - 2 Bread spread
 - 3 Pretension
 - 4 Fanatic
 - 5 Word with hat or hand
 - 6 Brit. fliers
 - 7 Social climber
 - 8 Creole veggie
 - 9 Ample abdomen
 - 10 "Stroker _" ('83 film)
 - 11 Take five
 - 12 Tuna concoction
 - 13 Pottery protection
 - 14 President who worked as a lifeguard
 - 15 " _ Gay"
 - 16 Fractional amount
 - 19 Improvise
 - 21 Vegas place
 - 23 Valhalla villain
 - 28 Shiba _ (Japanese dog)
 - 32 Link letters?
 - 33 Monsieur Montand
 - 35 Prepare the
 - Parmesan

- 36 Sushi candidate
- 38 Foam
- 39 Lave the linoleum
- 40 Santa _ CA
- 41 Hightailed it
- 42 Grandpa McCoy
- 43 Sarge, e.g.
- 44 Most recent
- 49 Elastic band
- 51 Adage
- 52 Elaborate
- 54 Forest beauty
- 55 Kensington quaff
- 57 Not any
- 58 College member
- 60 Rubbernecked
- 63 Harm
- 67 Pasta shape
- 68 London's location
- 69 President portrayed in an opera
- 70 It's on the house
- 76 Occult
- 77 _ -de-camp
- 78 Start again
- 79 Uruguayan currency
- 81 Running plays
- 84 Delivery truck
- 87 Trite
- 88 Artist Chagall
- 93 High time?
- 95 Spoiled
- 96 Quiche ingredient
- 97 Poe's "Annabel -"
- 99 Recognition
- 101 Zipper part
- 103 Jack of "Barney

- Miller"
- 106 Act like a duck
- 108 Kilmer or Bisoglio
- 109 Persona
- 110 Serenade accompaniment
- 111 Actress Sanford
- 112 The Rolling Stones' Charlie
- 113 Japanese porcelain
- 114 Blender setting
- 119 Grumpy guy
- 121 Obligation
- 122 "Stage _" ('37 film)
- 124 Impolite
- 125 Kuwait's continent
- 128 " _ live and breathe!"
- 129 Singer Joey
- 131 Genetic letters
- 132 Room for improvement?
- 133 Female fowl

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40-something skier on the downward slope

By Don Flood

At age 44, I'm on the downward slope, as it were, when it comes to skiing.

Generally, my goal for my once-a-year ski trip is quite modest: I hope to ski better than the year before.

But this year — no doubt inspired by the Olympian dudes (and dudettes) with all their twisting, turning, somersaulting, etc. — I declared another goal: not to break any bones.

Yeah, that's how it is when you get ready to ski down the south side of 40-something.

It was a small mountain, a baby mountain, the kind of mountain that almost anyone, even a beginner, could go out and break a few legs on.

(Maybe I watched too much of the Olympics, but remember that skier in the commercial who taunted the mountain? Talked about how this mountain he was about to ski down got pushed around by other mountains when it was in mountain school? What was that about? Should we have more extensive drug testing?)

One trail, though, was a little more challenging. It had something called "terrain" skiing, which I hadn't heard of.

But what it really meant was that this trail had obstacles, a special "value-added" service that made falling down easier.

For my part, I've always been pretty well satisfied with the service I received in that regard from gravity, which has helped make it possible for me to fall everywhere from the chairlift to the cafeteria line.

But my 12-year-old son wanted to try terrain skiing, and I had said I would ski with him, and so ... yes, I'm writing this from a hospital bed.

Just kidding!

Really, I caught some "big air."

OK, I didn't exactly catch "big air" — maybe "little air" — but I did catch some "big ground" and later some "big soreness" and a "big bruise."

(Finally, I was living large!)

Fortunately, you can ease the pain in the taproom, where you can catch "big beer" at "big prices."

Also, there's a big window where you can watch the other skiers wipe out.

First up on the terrain trail was a big jump, though in my case it might be more accurately called a big kerflop.

I'll admit it wasn't graceful, and the judges seemed to agree. (It's supposed to be shown on ESPN85 at 3 a.m. on July 12. Check it out.)

Next there was a smaller jump, which I made without wiping out!

It wasn't exactly "big air," but there was definitely air. At least a little. I'm sure of it.

I was all ready to get on the podium and accept my medal, but apparently the judges weren't as impressed.

Then it was time for that favorite destination of ski and snowboard dudes: the half pipe.

It looked a little forbidding, but as ski poet Dylan Thomas said,

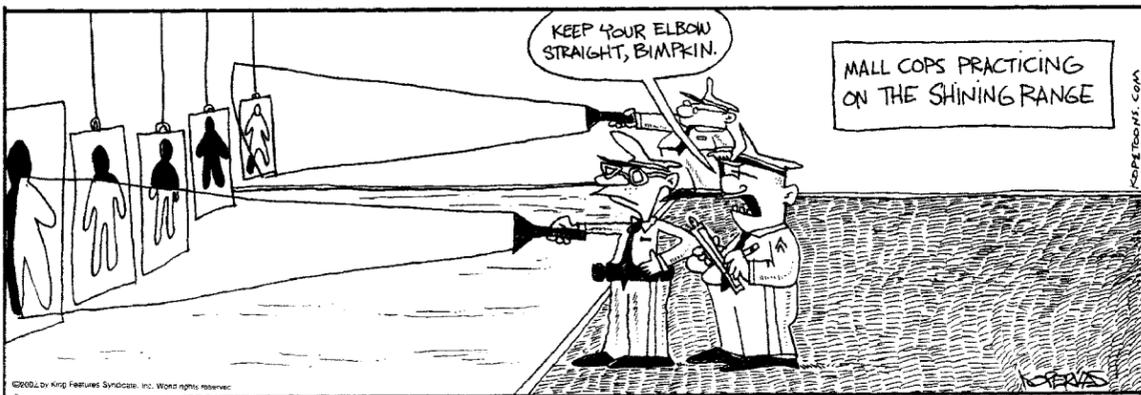
*Do not ski gentle into that good night
Even if it means wiping out in the half pipe.
(Or something like that.)*

I was so successful in the half pipe that next year I'm setting a new goal: a week in Florida.

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Comix

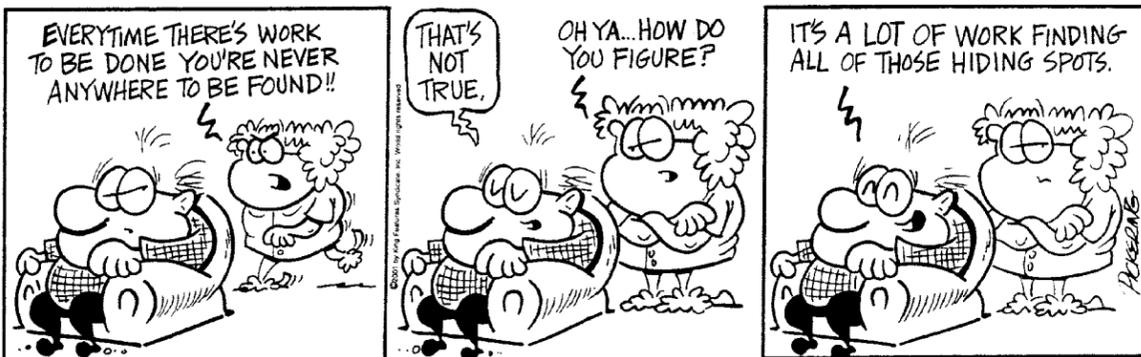
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Elections

From Page 1

on the El Paso Community College Board of Trustees, and resign as an employee of the Socorro school district where he has been a longtime administrator.

Longtime legislator Paul Moreno retained his seat with 70 percent of the vote over challenger Tony San Roman's 30 percent.

District 79 incumbent Joe Pickett, however, topped challenger Dan Chavez with 66 percent of the vote over 34 percent, despite significant bad-mouthing from fellow legislators State Rep. 76 Norma Chavez and State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh. Many observers agree the mud-slinging backfired. Chavez and Shapleigh both ran unopposed, as did State Rep. for District 78, Republican

County Judge Dolores Briones easily topped the field of three challengers and faces no GOP opponent in the general election. She took 62 percent of the vote over Jerome Tilghman and Ray Gilbert Jr. who both garnered 16 percent each, and Anita Blair who won six percent though she dropped out prior to the election.

Results were not so clear, however, for County Commissioner Carlos Aguilar III, who faces a run-off with challenger Betti Flores. Aguilar won 45 percent over Flores' 36 percent, not enough to avoid a run-off. Third contender was Richard Telles Sr. who won 20 percent.

In an even more startling upset in a high-profile contest, lawyer and former prosecutor Luis Aguilar topped longtime Judge Robert Dinsmoor to claim the 120th District Court bench. Aguilar won 53 percent of the vote over Dinsmoor's 47 percent, even though he was under felony indictment for allegedly accepting a \$150 illegal campaign contribution. He reportedly sent the donation back as soon as he became aware, but he was indicted after his opponent, Dinsmoor, turned him in. The matter is set for hearing July 5.

The office of County Clerk will see a run-off between Waldo Alarcon, who garnered 38 percent and Patricia

Siqueiros, who won 34. A third challenger, Robbie Myrick Villalobos took 27 percent.

Filling the job for district clerk will also see a run off between Gilbert Sanchez who won 26 percent of the vote out of a field of six, and his nearest challenger Sara Garcia.

The 210 District Court bench will be filled by Gonsalo Garcia, who won 51 percent of the vote over Richard Contreras who won 49 percent.

The contest for 327th District Court Judge was won easily by Linda Yee Chew with 74 percent over challenger Mario Gonzalez, 26 percent.

County Criminal Court contests were as follows: Court 1, Alma Trejo over Joe Edd Boaz, 70 percent to 30; Court 6, Sue Kurita over James D. Lucas, 71 percent to 29; and in Court 7 there will be a run-off between top vote-getters Jose Jesus Baca, 48 percent, and Antonio Franco Jr. who had 32 percent — third contender Luis Cesar Labrado received 20 percent.

Max Higgs will continue as County Probate Judge, topping challenger Jesus Manuel Olivas, 51 percent to 49.

Several County Justice of the Peace offices were contested. In Pct. 1, Steven E. Anderson won 66 percent over Jerry Jarvis, 34; Pct. 3, Lupe Aponte with 73 percent over George Ruiz, 27; Pct. 5, Fred Chavez over Alex Hernandez, 59 percent to 41; in Pct. 6, appointed incumbent Ruben Lujan maintained his office with 60 percent over his former Constable Dora Aguirre, who garnered 28 percent; and Paul Lettunich who won 12 percent; in Pct. 7 Tony Kosturakis Oaxaca won 55 percent over Dion Dorado, 45 percent.

Phamiliar phrases a "fifth wheel"

The spare wheel was a cumbersome attachment to horse-drawn carriages. It had to be taken down and then relashed at each stop requiring luggage from the rear storage space. The term today denotes feeling unwanted in a group.

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Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

Q. In light of the recent events, I'm concerned about our national mailing system. Will my check arrive on time and be safe?

A. If you are concerned about getting your check in the mail, the best thing to do is sign up for direct deposit. Your payment is deposited directly into your account. If you can't get an account, you can open an Electronic Transfer Account.

Q. I'm retired and the only income I have is a monthly withdrawal from

an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). I pay income tax on the amount I withdraw. I plan to apply for Social Security benefits in the future. Will the money I've withdrawn from my IRA reduce my monthly Social Security benefits?

A. No. In calculating your retirement benefits, we count only the wages you earn from a job, or your net profit if you're self-employed. Non-work income such as pensions, annuities, investment income, interest and capital gains are

not counted and will not affect your Social Security benefits.

Q. I am 53 and had a stroke recently. I applied for Social Security disability benefits. How much will I receive monthly?

A. If you are eligible for disability benefits, they will be based on your average earnings. Although we cannot tell you the exact amount without knowing your earnings history, the average monthly disability benefit in 2002 is \$815. If you have a spouse and one or more children, the average family benefit is \$1,360.

Q. Do you automatically get Medi-

care benefits if you're eligible for Social Security disability benefits?

A. If you receive Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, you automatically will be eligible for Medicare benefits.

Q. Is it possible to receive both Social Security and SSI? Which is better? Can you be selective about SSI and Social Security?

Social Security is a retirement, disability and survivor insurance program financed from social security taxes withheld from an individual's earnings. These benefits are based on the average lifetime earnings on

which taxes were paid. Supplemental Security Income is a need base program for individuals 65 years of age or older and blind or disabled individuals with limited income and resources. The maximum SSI benefit for an individual is \$545 and for a couple \$817. If their income were above the SSI level, individuals would not qualify for SSI.

For more information visit your local Security office, see <http://www.ssa.gov>, or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
▲ 76°	▼ 42°	▲ 78° ▼ 46°	▲ 80° ▼ 50°	▲ 76° ▼ 46°	▲ 72° ▼ 42°	▲ 66° ▼ 36°	▲ 70° ▼ 40°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	9	Very High
Friday	8	High
Saturday	7	High
Sunday	6	Moderate
Monday	7	High
Tuesday	7	High
Wednesday	8	High

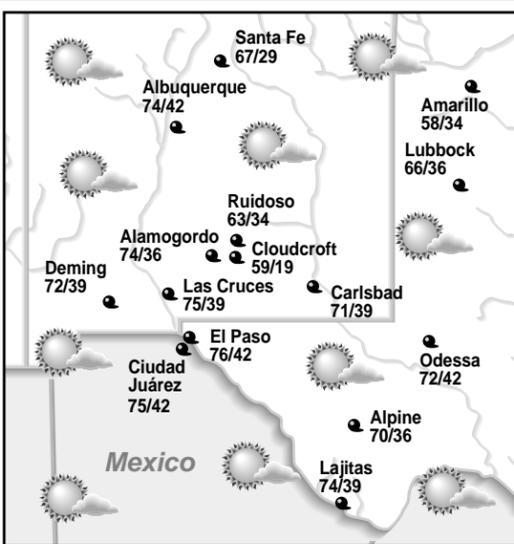
REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	79°
Friday	69°
Saturday	73°
Sunday	72°
Monday	67°
Tuesday	60°
Wednesday	61°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	76	42
Canutillo	77	43
Clint	74	43
E. Montana	76	42
Fabens	74	43
Horizon	77	43
San Elizario	73	40
Socorro	75	41
Tornillo	74	43
Vinton	77	43



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	74/42/s	74/42/s	72/40/s	68/38/pc	64/34/c
Atlanta	66/40/c	56/36/s	58/40/s	64/48/s	67/48/c
Atlantic City	58/28/pc	40/25/pc	44/32/s	52/36/s	56/42/pc
Austin/San Antonio	70/42/s	64/44/s	70/54/pc	76/60/pc	72/54/t
Baltimore	60/28/pc	40/22/s	46/26/s	54/36/s	60/42/pc
Boston	52/27/pc	38/24/s	40/28/pc	46/36/s	50/45/c
Chicago	32/14/sf	36/22/pc	46/34/pc	52/40/c	48/40/r
Dallas/Ft. Worth	66/40/s	60/44/s	68/54/pc	74/56/pc	70/52/t
Denver	52/27/pc	68/35/s	68/35/s	58/31/pc	46/25/pc
Flagstaff	65/26/s	60/27/s	51/26/pc	48/26/pc	52/13/s
Houston	72/44/s	66/44/s	72/56/pc	78/60/pc	79/58/r
Kansas City	38/18/s	36/30/s	52/40/s	58/38/sh	48/42/sh
Las Vegas	80/54/s	78/54/pc	74/48/pc	70/50/s	72/36/s
Miami	84/66/pc	78/62/pc	78/64/s	80/68/s	82/66/s
Minneapolis	24/8/c	30/14/pc	38/22/pc	40/26/sn	42/24/c
New Orleans	68/48/pc	62/44/s	66/50/s	73/58/pc	76/60/pc
New York City	58/32/pc	40/26/pc	42/30/s	50/36/s	54/44/pc
Philadelphia	58/28/pc	40/24/pc	44/30/s	52/36/s	56/42/pc
Phoenix	92/62/s	92/62/s	85/57/s	80/53/pc	76/51/c
Portland	60/42/c	60/42/sh	58/40/c	56/42/pc	56/42/pc
San Francisco	66/48/pc	60/50/c	58/48/sh	58/44/pc	62/46/s
Seattle	56/40/c	56/40/sh	54/40/c	54/40/c	56/42/pc
Tucson	86/52/s	88/52/s	84/50/s	80/46/s	74/44/pc
Washington, DC	60/30/pc	42/28/s	46/30/s	54/38/s	62/46/pc

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

AGRICULTURE

Sunshine will be featured the entire day Thursday with breezy conditions and an upper-level ridge over the area. It may be quite windy Thursday night and Friday due to a large area of high pressure moving southward and slightly east from Montana Thursday morning to Kansas Friday morning.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2002



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