

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 27

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

JULY 4, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Pets on the 4th

Seeking to stem an annual 4th of July surge of animal pick-ups and euthanasias, the El Paso City/County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee (ASAC) has issued its Third Annual Independence Day Advisory, reminding pet owners that the booming fireworks that make the 4th of July holiday fun for people can terrorize unsecured pets. More than 100 pets were picked up citywide by El Paso Animal Control after July 4th 2001, according to Lorenzo Hinojos, director of El Paso Animal Regulation and Disease Control. Only 20 percent of the animals were claimed while the rest were destroyed. The vast majority were not wearing collars or any type of identification. Patricia Palafox, ASAC chairperson, said fireworks or thunderstorms can put some dogs and cats into a state of pure panic. "Pets that are normally well-behaved may become aggressive, destructive and unpredictable," she said. Local animal authorities note that many pets run away from fear and can travel miles in a very short period. Pet owners are advised to have current, legible identification on all pets. For more information about 4th of July pet safety or ASAC, call Michelle Brown at (915) 593-1245 or Janice Nutt at (915) 855-7273.

Vets encouraged

Texas Land Commissioner David Dewhurst today announced the Texas residency requirement for participation in Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) loan programs has been reduced to one year as opposed to the previous two-year residency requirement. Dewhurst said the VLB already had a one-year residency requirement for admission to Texas State Veterans Homes, and lowering the residency requirement for VLB loan participation provides more consistency among the various programs. Dewhurst said additional information on VLB loans for homes, land and home improvements, as well as Texas State Veterans Homes for veterans and their spouses who need nursing home care, is available on the VLB Web site at www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb, or by calling (800) 252-VETS.

In other news

■ The Clint High School JROTC spent June 2-8 in the mountains of southern New Mexico at the Aspendale Baptist encampment. Over 100 cadets from El Paso County, Odessa and Deming participated in events under the direction of Clint's Senior Army Instructor LTC Kenneth Osmond and 1st Sgt. G. Kelly. Land navigation, cadet challenge, ropes course and survival skills were all part of the event which brought welcome relief from the hot desert temperatures, according to Clint JROTC spokesmen Miguel Beltran and Israel Del Toro.

■ The Socorro ISD board of trustees approved new attendance boundaries for its two newest schools during its last meeting. The Bill Sybert School, at 1530 Edgemere Blvd., will host Pre-K-8th grade students

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When patriotism becomes a dirty word, a nation is ready to be taken to the cleaners.

— Quips and Quotes



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE — Henry Bonilla leads the Pledge of Allegiance on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Pictured with him are Texas staff members from Bonilla's office. A California court ruled last week that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. Bonilla has co-sponsored legislation calling for the court to reverse their decision.

Bonilla calls California pledge of allegiance ruling 'outrageous'

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Moments after a California court ruled the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional, Henry Bonilla rounded up colleagues and headed to the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Standing close to House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Bonilla and his colleagues joined together and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

"Gathering at the Capitol steps was a sign of solidarity. It was an opportunity for every member of Congress to say before God and our country that we adamantly disagree with this ruling. In fact, we find it outrageous. We will not step aside and allow this injustice to take place," said Bonilla.

In the hours that followed the court ruling, Bonilla became an original co-sponsor of legislation that urges the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to re-hear the case and reverse their ruling. The legislation calls the ruling inconsistent with the first amendment and advises that the phrase "One Nation, under God" remain in the pledge.

"I cannot imagine what the court was thinking. We all recognize the separation of church and state, but this takes litigation to an incon-

ceivable level. The court's decision tells students and teachers across America that they cannot display their patriotism. Now, more than ever, our country needs outlets and opportunities to honor our nation's traditions and history," said Bonilla.

The California court case was brought by an atheist, who objected that the school district in which his second-grade daughter was enrolled encouraged students to recite the pledge. If the ruling is allowed to stand, school children will be prohibited from reciting the pledge.

"This decision lacks common sense. A simple two-word reference to God does not eliminate the separation of church and state. Students are not required or forced to recite the words 'under God' or for that matter the entire pledge," said Bonilla. "I strongly urge the court to reverse their earlier decision. One way or another, we will fix this damage." The Court is now reviewing the decision after issuing a stay.

Bonilla authored legislation in 1999 to allow students and supporters to pray before sporting events. His resolution was overwhelmingly approved by the House of Representatives.

Fabens appoints interim superintendent

FABENS — The Fabens ISD school board appointed Poncho Garcia as interim superintendent following their acceptance of the resignation of Dr. Lu Stephens on June 20. Dr. Stephens will remain with the district until Aug. 31, but Garcia assumed his duties on July 1.

Garcia updated the board on the reconfiguration of the elementary schools which is in Phase 4. Furniture and materials

have been moved, as have portables as needed at Risinger Elementary, however schedules and class rolls are being finalized.

Summer School Principal Ruben Carrillo said about 350 students attended summer classes at the Fabens Middle School campus.

Two track coaches who had resigned during track season were reinstated for next year by the board.

Socorro's police department lost grant money because it failed to meet guidelines

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — Many concerned citizens of Socorro and media representatives attended the regularly scheduled City Council meeting to witness a decision by City Council that some said could have a negative impact on the safety of the citizens of Socorro.

Mayor Irma Sanchez explained to the audience that due to budget constraints Council had no choice but to put a freeze on the hiring of any additional police officers.

This is partly due to having to return some grant monies, about \$39,000, because the grant guidelines were not adhered to.

Currently, Socorro has 21 officers for a population of over 27,000 citizens.

Several weeks ago one officer had to be let go due to the Police Department not following proper procedures when the officer was hired. Mayor Sanchez said the position left vacant because of his release would be filled because it had already been budgeted for, but that additional officers will not be hired.

Officer Richard Weist, President of the Policeman's Association, expressed concern because the Police Department he said the department is already severely understaffed. He said there have been many occasions where the Police Department has had a bad response time due to being shorthanded. He acknowledged that the El Paso County Sheriff's Department is available to them, but said they are also understaffed, causing them to not be able to assist the City of Socorro.

Sanchez said the city will reapply for the police grant, but she could not guarantee that Socorro would receive it, especially since they did not adhere to the guideline of the previous grant. City Council voted to freeze the hiring of police officers 3-2.

Another agenda item that brought out public concern was that of the appointment of a Municipal Court Judge.

Many audience members expressed concern that Council was not following the guidelines of the City Charter where it indicates the individual appointed to that office must reside in the City of Socorro.

However, Mayor Sanchez explained that the Charter also reads the individual must be qualified before being considered and she asked the applicants who were present at the meeting to come up to the podium and inform Council of their qualifications.

Council subsequently voted to table the item, allowing more time to investigate the qualifications.

In other business, City Council approved a resolution approving the application of Chapter 394 of the Texas Local Government Code to make property located within the City of Socorro eligible for single family housing for persons of low and moderate income financed by loans made from the proceeds of the County of El Paso Housing Finance Corporation Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds.



Irma Sanchez



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Make an appointment

Ring.
Ring, ring, ring.
"Hello, this is Dr. Hotstuff's office, can you hold please?" Click.
They know I will. I need them more than they need me.
"Thank you for holding. Is this the first time you've seen the doctor?"
Well, no, I've seen oodles of doctors, but I don't say that. I admit to being a first-time patient in his office.
"Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to fill out the appropriate paperwork. Thank you." Click.
Chickens in a coop, cattle in a pen, rats in a maze.

There are no seats empty. The place is packed but thankfully some of them are children who are chasing one another around the room, so I get a chair pretty soon.

There's a big sign on the wall that says that good doctoring takes time and I need to be patient because I'm going to get the same good doctoring when my turn comes.

Another sign warns me that if I don't give Dr. HS's office 24 hours advance notice that I can't make my appointment I'll be charged anyway. Same goes if I'm more than 15 minutes late — I'll be charged and rescheduled.

This is clearly a very important doctor and I try to feel honored that he agreed to see me.

After a half-hour wait, I am ushered into a holding cell where they take my fingerprints — oops, I mean my vital signs — and I wait another 30 minutes before Dr. Hotstuff arrives.

He's tall, good-looking, dresses extraordinarily well, and already knows what is wrong with me. During our five minutes he says he will

confirm his diagnosis by sending me to at least two other places for tests.

Thanks, doc.
His secretary is only there for half a day today, and she's in a snit because she's backed up on her scheduling but she finally gets me set up with the testing centers.

I arrive for testing but find that the MRI facility is under construction. The portable unit is in a trailer out back in the parking lot. So my attendant, Julio (hu-lee-o), and I march out the back door, past the construction zone, me resplendent in my hospital gown. Enough said.

My second test is the same day but in another building. I only wait two hours this time before they call me in for torture.

At my second appointment with Dr. Hotstuff he looks at my films and refers me to Dr. Hotterstuff, whom, he says, is such an esteemed physician that he would never see me except that Dr. Hotstuff has personal connections. Miss Snit out front makes the appointment for two weeks hence, but she gives me the wrong address.

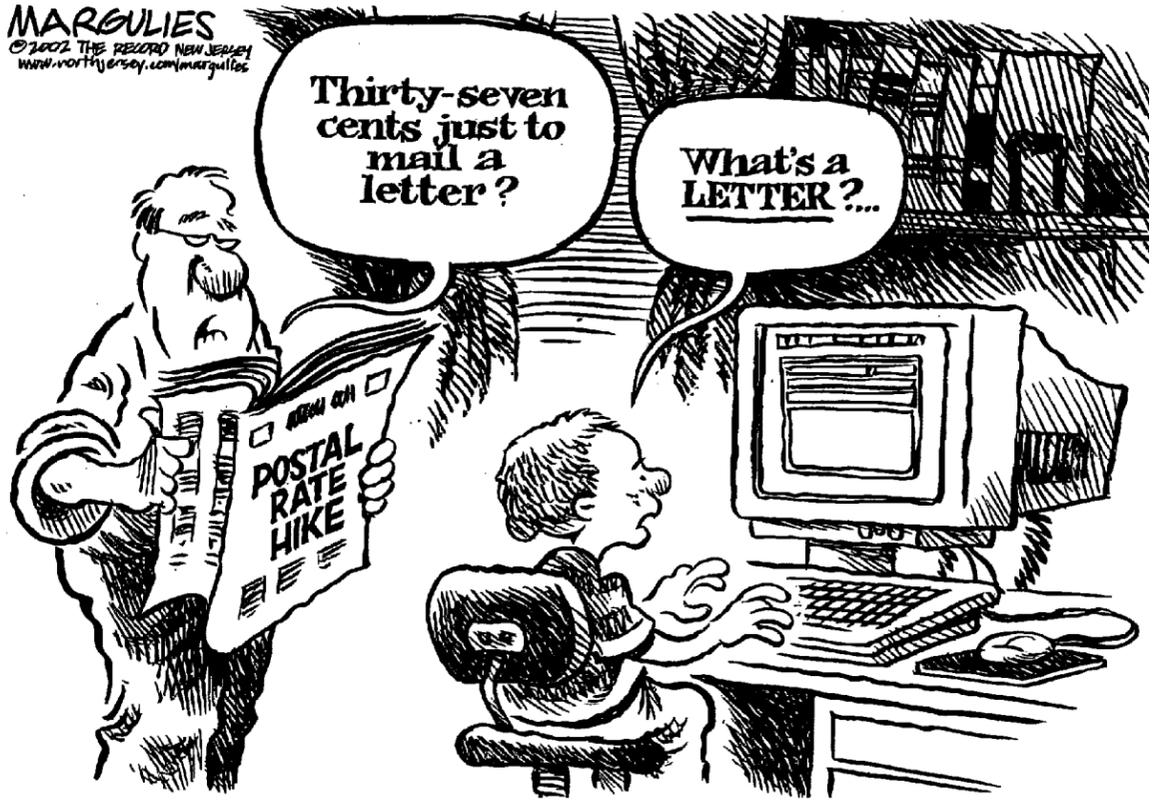
After I find the right address I have arrived at my appointment with Dr. Hotterstuff within the sacred 15-minute limit. But Dr. Hotterstuff's receptionist says he won't see me because Miss Snit didn't fax over the authorization and didn't she give me a copy? No, but I heard her make arrangements over the phone.

"Well, ma'am, we'll have to reschedule."

No, ma'am. We'll do it today.
Lucky I have my cell phone. I break all the waiting room rules and call Miss Snit. I get Miss Cool instead.

"I'm sorry that your authorization didn't go through but the reception-

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SPEAKING OF PROFILING...

ist that made your appointment (Miss Snit) is no longer with us. And besides, ma'am, we're in the Ritz office today and all your records are over at the Glitz office."

Like this is supposed to make me feel better.

Well, Miss Cool, why don't you see what you can do?

I wait another hour before they confirm that my insurance will cover the referral, and I spend still another hour in the holding tank before Dr. Hotterstuff's assistant arrives. It has

been a very stressful day for the doc, he says, but he'll be right along — half a hour later.

During my five minutes with Dr. Hotterstuff he OK's what his assistant has already said — I need such-and-such treatment, to be administered by Dr. Elite. He uses part of my five minutes to tell me how fortunate I am to have Dr. Hotstuff as my doctor — a most excellent physician, he says.

Clearly, he and Dr. Hotstuff have a mutual admiration thing going.

Over a week later — a few days before destiny with Dr. Elite — I get a call from Dr. Elite's secretary, Miss On-The-Ball. She needs personal information from me, and mentions that she's having trouble getting referral specifics from Drs. Hotstuff's and Hotterstuff's offices. I tell her that they've had a recent change in clerical help.

"Perhaps I'll need to be a little more aggressive then?" she asks.

Yes, ma'am, maybe you'd better. But sounds like you can handle it.

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

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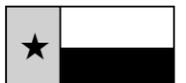
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Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Celebrate freedom

This July fourth we will commemorate the birthday of our great nation. The Fourth of July is a day of celebration. It is a red-white-and-blue day of barbecues

and fireworks. It is also a day of family reunions and loving tributes to the men and women who have created and defended our liberties.

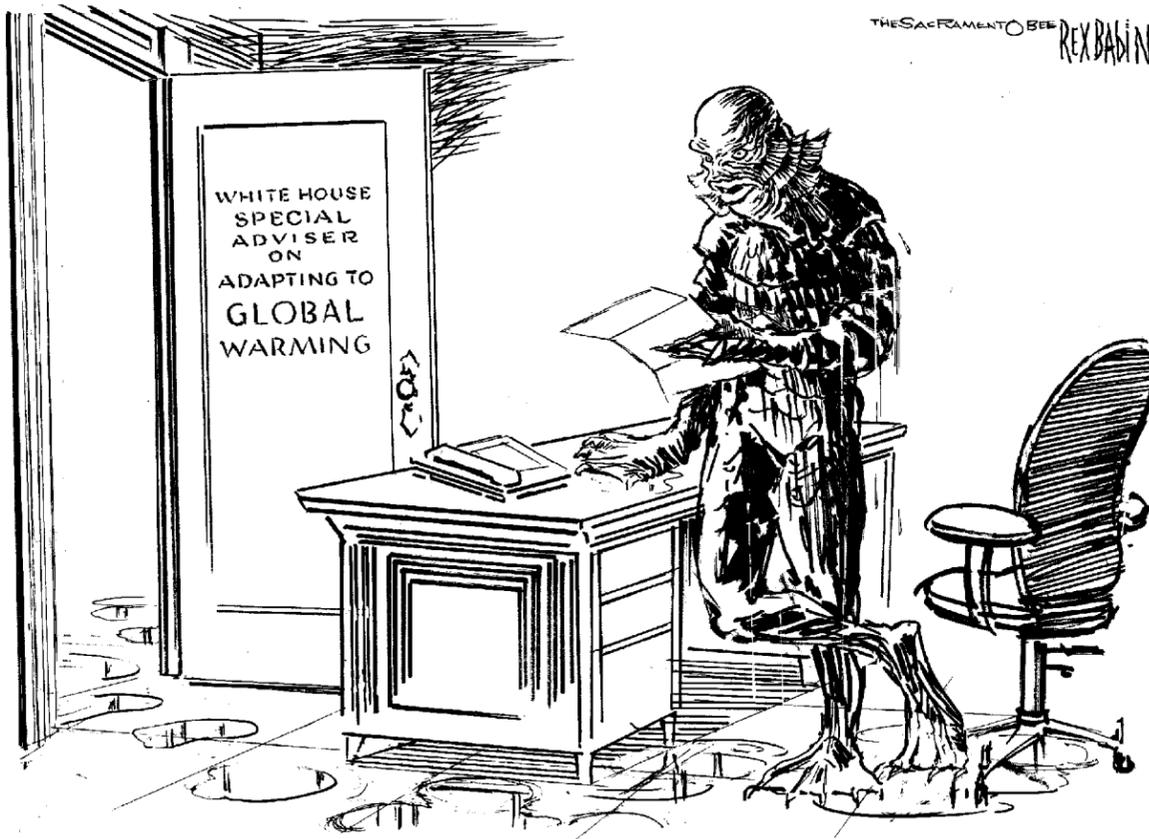
On this July Fourth, as we stand on Main Street USA and watch the parades pass by, reflect on the hard earned freedom we cherish. Celebrate the Fourth of July not only as a family holiday but a community holiday. This day commemorates the American family and our bonding as a free nation.

In towns dotted all over Texas people know what it means to be free. We celebrate the fact that we live in strong and united communities. We recognize how blessed we are to enjoy unparalleled freedom - freedom that has been earned and protected at a high price.

Let us not forget to give thanks on this day. On July 4, 1776, our founding fathers set up the greatest nation on the face of the planet. They knew that a truly free nation would not be defined in terms of its borders, but in its philosophy. For 223 years courageous Americans have risked their lives to adopt and maintain the true meaning of the Declaration of Independence: "...that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness..."

As you celebrate this day, draw close to your neighbors, and like one grateful family, remember the sacrifices of the men and women throughout history who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy and celebrate.

Pass the brisket, slice a watermelon and draw your hand close to your heart when you see the banner of red, white and blue. I hope you and your family truly enjoy the birthday of our nation. Have a safe weekend and to all of my fellow Americans, Happy Fourth of July!



Write stuff

Dear Editor:

I am a Democrat and a proud member of the Texas House of Representatives. I currently represent seven counties that fall under the congressional district represented by Henry Bonilla. I was very surprised to hear I was listed as a supporter of Henry Cuellar in his campaign literature.

I never gave Mr. Cuellar permission to use my name. In fact, I am supporting Henry Bonilla in this race. Mr. Bonilla has been a huge supporter of agriculture throughout his entire congressional district. All agriculture groups including the Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Cattle Feeders, Texas Cattle Raisers, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers and Texas Cotton

Farmers have always strongly supported Mr. Bonilla. Members of these groups will also be working hard to re-elect Mr. Bonilla by a wide margin.

The news media has accurately reported that Mr. Cuellar used the names of several Democratic elected officials in his campaign literature without their permission. This is unfortunate. There is an understanding among elected officials about using their names in campaign literature for their candidates. You always ask permission first! Mr. Cuellar's tactics are very misleading.

Count me in as a Bonilla supporter for all of the good bipartisan work he has done for our district every year he's been in office.

Representative Bob Turner
Texas House of Representatives

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AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL



As America celebrates her birthday, let us honor the foundation on which this great nation was built.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—may these cherished values always remain at the core of everything we do.



Henry Bonilla
Member of Congress

HENRY U.S. CONGRESS
BONILLA

Paid for by Texans for Henry Bonilla, Jill DeYoung, Treasurer.

View from here By Chris Patterson

Teacher certification board is failing Texas

Improving Texas public schools depends on qualified teachers. That's why the threat of a teacher shortage prompted the Texas Legislature to create the State Board for Educator Certification in 1995.

But SBEC has done little to fix the problem. In fact, SBEC has increased the likelihood that children sit in classrooms without an academically qualified teacher.

Since its inception, SBEC has methodically dismantled the academic requirements for prospective teachers. Today, you could be certified to teach algebra even if you failed or never took algebra in college.

According to education research, there are two factors that contribute to being a good teacher. The first is a broad body of academic expertise in the field being taught. The second is an expansive vocabulary.

SBEC only requires that prospective teachers pass the academic equivalent of the TAAS for the grade they hope to teach. This means a seventh-grader could meet the SBEC academic requirements for teaching the sixth grade.

Parents should be frightened. These requirements don't mesh with what we know about good instruction.

SBEC is divorcing academic

knowledge from teacher certification even further. Two years ago, SBEC drafted a proposal to let teachers teach subjects and grades outside their certification for three years.

If SBEC wants educators to teach outside their certification, why have certification in the first place? Fortunately, the State Board of Education had the authority to veto this misguided idea.

Of course, SBEC is hoping to change that. They want to be autonomous. That would be a disaster for teachers and children.

Many Texans had hoped SBEC would craft an alternative to traditional teacher certification that would allow knowledgeable individuals to bypass teacher education programs that are weak in academics and strong in fuzzy teaching methods.

Over the past seven years, SBEC has only increased the number of teachers with alternative certification by a paltry seven percent. Last year, school districts reported that 25 percent of new teachers were not certified to teach in the classrooms they were hired to lead. If increasing the number and qualifications of teachers isn't SBEC's main concern, what is?

SBEC recently completed work on a new ethics code for teachers. This

new code would prohibit a teacher from sharing her professional and personal judgment with parents about their children, unless the law compels schools to release such information. What could SBEC find wrong with open, honest parent-teacher communication?

It is clear that either SBEC should be placed directly under the authority of the elected State Board of Education, or that individual districts be allowed to decide who is qualified to teach—provided there is full disclosure to parents of teacher qualifications.

Growing bureaucracies and expanding regulations will never produce classrooms staffed by academically qualified and responsible teachers.

Texas children, parents, teachers and taxpayers deserve better. As the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission reviews SBEC this year, Texans have an opportunity to reshape the educator certification process in a way that makes it more responsive to the academic needs of our children while enhancing parental involvement.

(Chris Patterson is the director of education research at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Her research can be found on the web at www.tppf.org.)

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Former Clint ISD superintendent Hubert Harris dies

TYLER, TEXAS — Former Clint Superintendent Hubert Harris died in Tyler, Texas on June 5, 2002. He is remembered in El Paso County for his 23 years of educational service in the Clint Independent School District. He was 84.

He was born on Nov. 5, 1917 in Winnsboro, Texas to the late Loyd and Lola Goolsby Harris. He graduated from high school there, received his Bachelor's Degree from Sam Houston State University and his Master's Degree from East Texas State College.

He taught school and coached for several years in East Texas before coming to El Paso County. He and his wife of 63 years, La Verne Coe Harris, spent 23 years working in the Clint Independent School District.

They retired to Lake Palestine, moved back to Winnsboro, then moved to Tyler.

He was honored by Clint ex-students in 1998 at a reunion at Cattleman's Steakhouse. "He was recognized for his positive influential role on he had on many students' lives and successful careers," said Mary Helen Rojas, a 1967 graduate of Clint High School who is now a counselor at Clint Junior High. "He was truly a forerunner in his administrative capacity at Clint ISD."

Harris was a member of the Southern Oaks Baptist Church of Tyler and former deacon of the Pine Street Baptist Church of Winnsboro. He is survived by his wife, La Verne; daughters Sylvia Brandon of Georgetown, Pennsylvania; one sister, Pat Mars of Mt. Vernon; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Independence was far from unanimous

By Samantha Weaver

People often seem to lump early American history together in their minds, so that the so-called Pilgrims intermingle with the so-called Founding Fathers.

It might be helpful to remember that the English Puritans who landed (according to legend, anyway) on Plymouth Rock arrived in 1620. The Declaration of Independence was adopted (not signed, by the way, just adopted) on July 4, 1776.

That's a 156-year interval!

The generation that fought the Revolutionary War included the great-grandchildren and even great-great-grandchildren of those who founded the first British colonies in what later became the United States. It was a gradual process, not an overnight development.

Not everyone agreed with the idea of separating from the mother country, either. In fact, more inhabitants of the American colonies fought for the British side than the American side during the war for independence! To get a more accurate picture, however, it should be noted that only 16 percent of all able-bodied males who lived here at the time participated at all.

The unrest was mainly about money — not much has changed in American politics, eh?

Specifically, the colonists were angry that although they paid taxes to England, they had no voice in the Parliament under King George III. This flew in the face of their assumption that they were English citizens. After years of harsh mercantile taxation practices which favored the British Empire and stunted the growth and prosperity of the American colonies, the minority that had been calling for independence finally gained the reluctant and apathetic support of the general population...or at least of enough of it to fight and win a war of repulsion.

In this context it is easy to understand why the Fourth of July did not start out as a massive nationwide celebration. In fact, the first anniversary of the fourth was observed only in Philadelphia, the place where the Continental Congress had adopted it.

It later became what it is today, our nation's grandest secular holiday, celebrated from sea to shining sea with picnics and fireworks.

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Town of Anthony PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 during the Regular Town Council Meeting at Anthony Town Hall, 401 Oak Street, Anthony, 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) (second reading):

- 1) Ordinance No. 403 regulates the use and operation of all-terrain vehicles within the municipal limits of the Town of Anthony, Texas. This ordinance carries a penalty for violation.

Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the Town Clerk at the above address. Those that are unable to attend may submit their written comments to the Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821. Persons in need of assistance to attend are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 886-3944.

Nilia J. Stillwell
 Town Clerk/Secretary

WTCC: 07/04/02

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CITY OF SOCORRO

The City of Socorro will be holding two (2) Public Hearing in connection to Grant Contract No. 721174 received from the Office of Rural Community Affairs – Planning Capacity Building fund. The purpose of these meetings is to provide information to the community on the various issues related to this grant and to give a report on the final documents related to the Master Plan for the City of Socorro.

- 1) July 11, 2002 – 6:30 p.m. City of Hall Chambers, 124 S. Horizon Blvd.
- 2) July 16, 2002 - 6:30 p.m. Rio Vista Community Center, 901 Rio Vista Rd.

All residents are encouraged to attend any one of these Public Hearings. Persons unable to attend these meetings may submit their views regarding this grant to the office of the Mayor, Socorro, City Hall, 124 S. Horizon., Socorro, Texas 79927.

Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall, (915) 858-2915, to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so the appropriate arrangements can be made.

The City of Socorro does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. The City of Socorro promotes Fair Housing / Affirmative and Equal Employment Opportunity.

WTCC: 07/04/02

DPS offers suggestions for keeping kids out of the hot seat

As Texans creep closer to the hot summer season, it's time to take steps to ensure your child's car seat or booster remain safe and comfortable for summer use.

Here are some tips for "summerizing" your child's car seat or booster:

- Cover the car seat or booster with a towel or blanket when you're not in the car to help keep it cooler. Check the car seat's metal clips before placing a child in a car seat, so they don't get burned by a hot clip.
- Don't use after-market harness strap covers or pads to place over car seat straps to protect children wearing tank tops or spaghetti straps. Instead, use pieces of old t-shirts cut and placed between the car seat straps and the child. After-market covers are too bulky and change how the seat is fitted.

• Replace and destroy any seat that was installed in a vehicle during a crash, even if the child wasn't in it. Car seats can sustain unseen damage from the physical forces expended during a crash.

• Kids grow out of seats before you realize it. Check the weight and height limits listed for the current seat and replace it if your child has outgrown the limits.

• Check for car seat recalls. Visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website for an updated list (<http://www.nhtsa.gov>). Follow the link to "Recalls."

• To find a certified child passenger safety technician in your area, go to the NHTSA site (<http://www.nhtsa.gov>) and follow the links to "Child Passenger Safety/Technician Contact Locator."

Briefs

From Page 1

and will open July 29. Loma Verde School, expected to open in early fall of 2002, is located at 12150 Ted Houghton in the Zaragoza Rd, Vista del Sol, Joe Battle and Pellicano areas. It will host Pre-K to 5th grade students. District residents with questions about attendance are urged to contact the district's Department of Administration at 860-3441.

■ Americas High School, in the Socorro ISD, will have its registration starting July 9-19 in the Americas Gym at 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for last names A-M, and 12-4:00 p.m. for students last names N-Z. The schedule is as follows: July 9-12 for all new students to the district: 8:30 a.m.-12 for last names A-M; 12:00-4:00 p.m. for last names N-Z. Returning students and 8th grade students from Americas' feeder pattern: July 16-Seniors, July 17-Juniors, July 18-Sophomores, July 19 Freshmen. All students will need to pick up

their schedules during registration. Proof of residency, such as utility bill, must be presented to the school when students register. All students must adhere to Americas dress code. For information, contact Debra Carden at 856-4300.

■ The San Elizario ISD regular school board meeting has been postponed to July 17. It will be held at the Central Administration Office, 1364 FM 1110 at 5:30 p.m. Information: 872-3900.

■ After an absence of several years to renovate and refurbish the heart of El Paso, the Downtown Street Festival returns July 4th from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. to promote the revitalized business and entertainment sector. Advance tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 10 and under; gate prices are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids. The 35-minute-long fireworks spectacular begins at 11 p.m. from the El Paso City Hall Parking Lot A. Covering the entire El Paso Convention and Performing Arts Center area, including the Abraham Chavez Theater, the Union Plaza District and Santa Fe Street from Main to San Antonio, the festival features four

stages for concert performances. The Tecate Main Stage overlooking Santa Fe Street features Eddie Money, Night Ranger and Jay Cabrera while Mike's Lemonade Rock Stage will star Mariachi Solecitos, Churuhui Folklorico Dancers, 62nd Army Band from Fort Bliss, Magician Randy Collins, El Paso Sun City Dancers, and soloists Emmanuel Lorenzo Mendez, Christina Aldana, Jesus Enrique, Jacqueline Jaquez and Cristina Rascon. La Vida Loca Latin Stage highlights performances by Edric Ray, Gary & the Jive Junkies, Nite Drifters, Gloria Reza, Pando Productions, Rescate, Asi, Rio and Karisma while the Abraham Chavez Theatre showcases the Old El Paso Cheerleading Showdown. Additional entertainment includes a Fort Bliss military display, over 60 classic cars restored to perfection from the Rio Grande Wheels Car Club (inside the Convention Center), and a children's wonderland of fun with jumping balloons, rock walls, velcro walls, magical space balls and more. For information call Aran Rush at (915) 534-0613 or visit www.klaq.com

Stay safe during summer parties

By Samantha Mazzotta

Almost everyone wants to just crank up the grill, start serving drinks and let the fun happen at backyard barbecues. But a little planning will ensure that everyone really does have fun, while minimizing risks to guests and yourself.

A few years ago in Atlanta, a summer party came to an abrupt (and painful) end when the host's backyard deck collapsed, sending guests plummeting more than 20 feet. Turns out the deck wasn't designed to hold more than a few people, and when the party-goers crowded out onto it to watch the sun set over the Chattahoochee River, the supports gave way.

In this case, the owner reportedly wasn't made aware of the deck's structural limitations by the builder. But it doesn't hurt for you to make a safety scan of the area where the party will be held.

In the yard or on the patio, put away tools and store garden hoses. Move potted plants out of the way to open up space. Make sure outdoor furniture is in good condition and that small debris (including Fido's little messes) are picked up. Mow the grass about two days before the party.

Make your house guest — and child — proof. Place medicines up high, out of reach. Do the same with breakable items. Items of value should be moved out of sight (hey, we all trust our guests, but there is a risk of breakage — and children are curious, too). Close the doors to rooms you don't want guests going

into.

On the day of the party, place the grill in a well-ventilated spot, to the side of the main gathering area. If a prevailing wind blows all day, great — situate the grill so that smoke blows away from the guests. Block off an area around the grill to discourage children from running past — use extra chairs, a serving table, whatever works. Have all your barbecue tools nearby.

If you have a pool, have at least one adult directly supervise it throughout the party (even if no children attend). Assign shifts to responsible, nondrinking friends or family members so that everyone has a chance to party, as well. The pool "supervisor" shouldn't leave the area during his or her watch, even if the pool is empty — too often, children slip away and go off exploring, and a swimming pool is an enticing place.

Keep a first aid kit and a telephone nearby for emergencies, big and small.

If alcohol is served, keep an eye on guests to make sure they don't drive drunk. You may want to discreetly remove alcoholic beverages about an hour before the party's end. Call taxicabs for those guests who shouldn't drive, or — if you have the room — offer to let them stay the night.

All this may sound like a lot, but it really isn't — it's the least an attentive host can do to maximize fun and reduce risk.

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Osbornes retire after 73 years combined teaching careers

By Paul Efaw
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — At the annual Canutillo Independent School District employee service awards and retirement banquet in May, hundreds of Canutillo employees and spouses said farewell to several retirees, including Robert and Joyce Osborne, a husband and wife team who are retiring after a teaching career of a combined 73 years.

That evening, Superintendent Charles Hart reminisced that he and Robert Osborne taught together in the 1960s at Address High School.

The Osbornes are leaving a legacy that will be remembered and cherished by their peers and former students, many of whom are now colleagues.

One of Robert Osborne's ex-students, Julian Britton, is now a colleague at Canutillo High School. Britton recalls, "As my math teacher, he had high expectations for the students in his classes, and he was always available to give extra help before and after school. It fascinates me that he can explain a complex problem in a way that is easy to understand."

Another graduate of Canutillo High School, Lily Soto Villaneuva, a math teacher at Canutillo Middle

School, recalls Osborne's influence on her when she was his student. "He was a teacher who pushed me to the very limits of my potential and left me wanting more knowledge. Mr. Osborne sparked an interest in me that gradually became a love for mathematics, and I'll always admire him for the genuine educator that he has been."

Joyce Osborne says that Canutillo has been a great place to teach, and it has a promising future. "It's very rewarding to see how many of our ex-students have become successful teachers, engineers and lawyers," she said. Her husband's greatest inspiration has come from "seeing young people who didn't have all the educational advantages I had, yet they worked so hard to get a good education and obtained such outstanding careers."

Mrs. Osborne added, "What a joy to teach the children of my former students these past few years. I can see how their love of reading has been passed on

to their children."

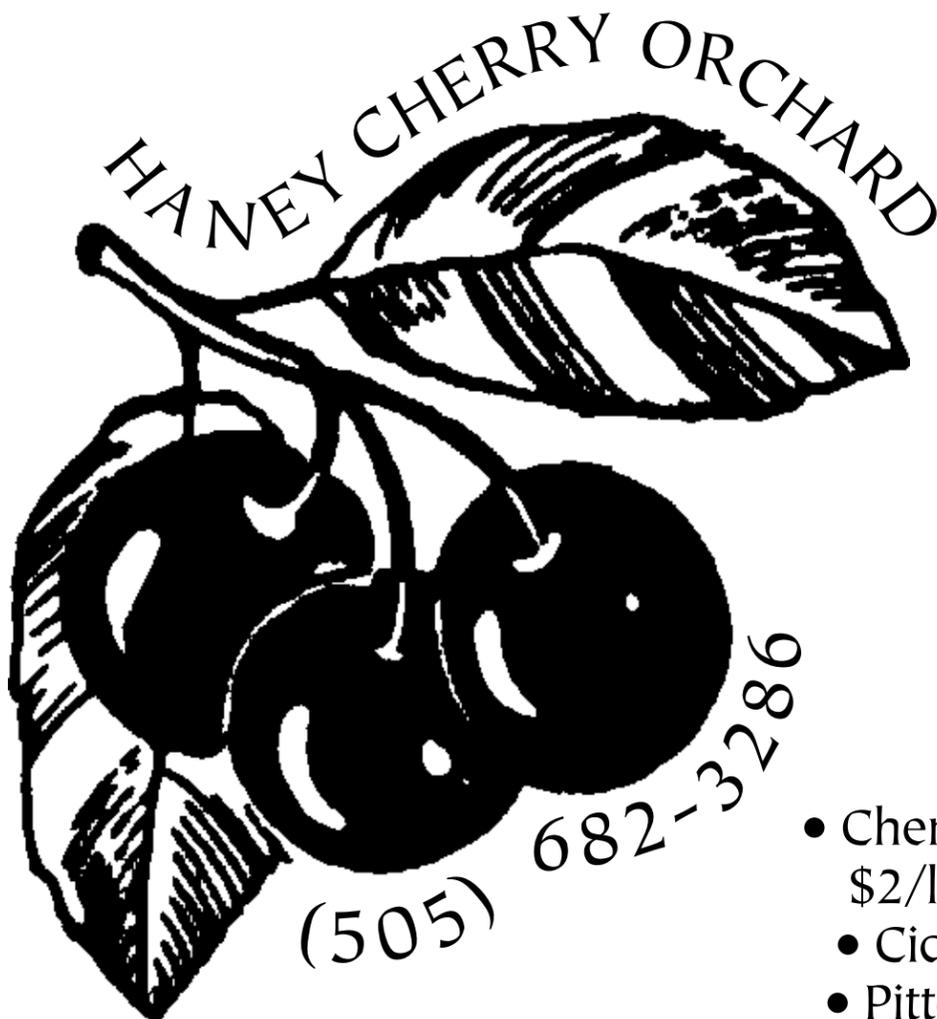
Stella G. Scott, a colleague for 21 years, has been inspired by the Osbornes. She said that these two teachers "have demonstrated professionalism at its best."

Carolyn Copeland, librarian at the Middle School who has worked with the Osbornes for 22 years, said, "Canutillo ISD will miss them. They'll take a piece of our hearts with them when they leave."

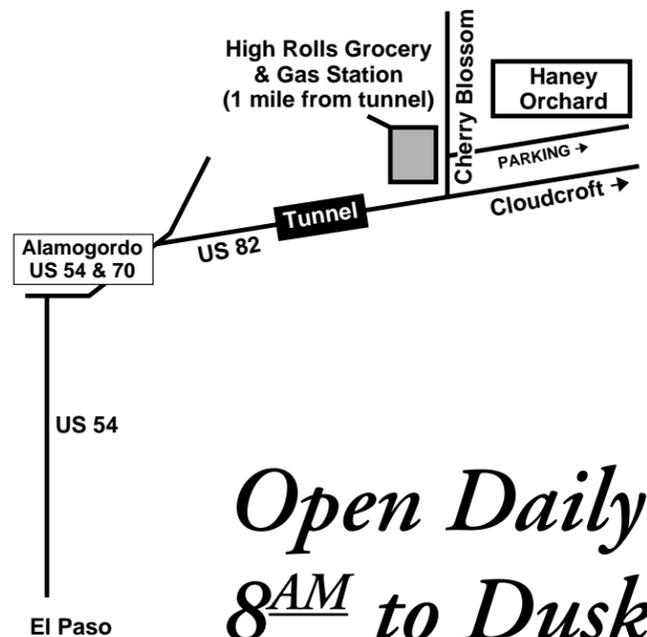


Joyce and Robert Osborne

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Ostertag makes spectacular assist off the court

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Ten years ago the UTEP Miners upset the Kansas Jayhawks 66-60 in the NCAA playoffs to reach the Sweet 16. In that game, Kansas coach Roy Williams played a promising freshman, albeit sparingly.

The player went on to have, and is still having, a successful but unspectacular NBA career.

The player, Greg Ostertag, has been a fixture with the Utah Jazz for years now along side the great Karl Malone and John Stockton.

Playing beside those two it's easy to go unnoticed.

But the 7-foot-2 center is being noticed now, and for doing something better than he has ever done on the basketball court.

Ostertag put his career on the line for his little sister this week by donating one of his kidney's to her.

Boy, talk about the gift of life. Ostertag's sister, the 26-year old Amy Hall, has had Type-1 diabetes since she was seven years old.

Her kidney problems began in 1999 and has slowly worsened since. According to Ostertag

there was never a doubt as to what he was going to do once it was learned that his kidney's were a perfect match.

Now I have never been a Greg Ostertag fan. He is kind of uncoordinated, slow and dull as a player. But as a human being, he has just zoomed past a whole lot of other people on my list because of his unselfish donation.

In the world of me-me-me-NBA basketball, it's refreshing and downright heartwarming to hear of a man who is willing to toss it all away for the sake of another person.

Now that's a rare act of human kindness...in any walk of life.

Russian ruffian

Did you happen to catch the heavyweight fight on HBO last Saturday between Russian Wladimir Klitschko and Ray Mercer?

Klitschko is the highly regarded fighter that many feel is the only real threat out there for Lennox Lewis' crown and the Russian's performance against Mercer would go a long way toward setting up a possible clash between the two.

Klitschko has been awesome but he hadn't fought any "name" boxers, until Mercer.

So did the 6-foot-6, 250-pound Russian

deliver?

Well, let's put it this way — not since Ivan Drago pounded Apollo Creed all over the ring in *Rocky IV* have I seen as much damage inflicted on an American from a European.

I mean, I wouldn't be surprised if Klitschko found a couple of Mercer's teeth embedded deeply into his right-hand boxing glove the morning after the fight.

True, Mercer is 41 now and a shell of what he once was but the man is still as tough as they come and fought six very-painful rounds with Klitschko.

But Klitschko's long jab kept Mercer from being able to land anything. In fact, Mercer landed only five power punches in the fight. That's right, just *five*...in six rounds.

Klitschko's lightning quick jab and thunderous overhand rights proved way too much for Mercer, who looked more like a 5-foot-8 accountant next to the towering Russian.

Heck, I watched the fight hoping that Mercer would just stay alive, let alone make it through the round.

The next big heavyweight championship fight will not feature an American. Boy, when is the last time that happened?

Klitschko vs. Lewis, look for that one in about a year-and-a-half...for about \$75 on pay-per-view of course.

Mac attacked

Everybody's heard of the steroids contro-

versy that is currently hitting the sports scene hard. Accusations abound among football and baseball players.

Don't boxers, track athletes, wrestlers, basketball players, hockey players and even racehorses take steroids? Of course, a lot of them do. But last week a new controversy arose.

Steroids in tennis? And guess who the guilty party is...at least according to the claims of an angry woman who used to be married to him.

John McEnroe. The screaming, crying, stomping, huffing, pouting, cussing former tennis star is accused of shooting-up as well.

According to former wife Tatum O'Neal, who is barely a credible source, Johnny Mac used to take steroids, cocaine and marijuana during his years on the pro tennis circuit.

And I'll bet you just thought he was paranoid over tennis linesmen.

Now McEnroe says that O'Neal's memory of those days is not as clear as it could be because of her own substance abuse problem.

Wow, not exactly Ozzie and Harriett is it? Though when directly asked twice whether he had ever taken steroids during his playing days, McEnroe evaded the question, never answering yes or no.

We all know that McEnroe was a little high-strung as a tennis player. Maybe he was a little strung-out as well.

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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 sábado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-4948 para informacion.

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous Group 8 de Enero meets at 15360 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call 859-0484 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Visitemos. Alcoholicos 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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Horizon City picks first All-Star team

HORIZON CITY — In its charter year, the Horizon City Little League has chosen its 11/12-year-old All Star Team to represent Horizon City in the Little League World Series run for the title.

The 15 players chosen will consist of a 12-man traveling roster and three alternates. The first tournament will be in Midland for the District 03 Title. Winners advance through sectional, state and regional competition up to the

World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Travel expenses will have to be raised through donations, so area businesses and individuals interested in supporting the team are encouraged to contact John Dixon at 852-9349 or mail contributions to the Horizon City Optimist Club, 14933 Roslyn Drive, Horizon City, 79928.

"As young ambassadors of Horizon City (players) will travel through these tournaments to help put Horizon City on the map," Dixon said.

Four to compete in Region 10 Championship

EL PASO COUNTY — The No Limits Track Club has qualified four athletes from the East El Paso County area to compete in the Region 10 Championship.

Priscilla Mendoza and Jessica Sanchez of Horizon; Brenda Esparza of Sparks; and Crystal Callozo of San Elizario will compete at UTEP's Kidd Field July 11-14.

If these athletes finish in the top three of their event, competing against the best from Utah, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico, they will advance to the USATF National Junior Olympics in Omaha, Nebraska July 22-28.

King Super Crossword

SELF-DIRECTED ACROSS

- 1 Way through the forest
- 5 Enthusiastic
- 9 Rappers _-n-Pepa
- 13 Encrypted
- 18 Sweet sandwich
- 19 Son of Isaac
- 20 "Zip-_-Doo-Dah"
- 21 Big name in chocolate
- 22 Self-directed in "Henry V"
- 25 Hockey's Yashin
- 26 Facilitated
- 27 Queue tip?
- 28 Stirrup site
- 30 Taxing org.
- 31 A little night music?
- 34 Self-directed in "Bulworth"
- 39 Vacation home
- 42 Friday's creator
- 43 "Stop!"
- 44 Ransom _ Olds
- 45 Broccoli _
- 47 Lots of time
- 49 It gets wet as it dries
- 53 Ohio city
- 55 First-class
- 57 Wool gatherer?
- 59 Atlanta campus
- 60 Peter of "Casablanca"
- 62 Seeks change?

- 64 Parent
- 66 Lennon's lady
- 67 Frequently
- 70 Mlle., farther south
- 72 Supply with Stens
- 73 Uproar
- 74 Geldof or Goldthwait
- 76 Self-directed in "The Bridges of Madison County"
- 80 "Definitely!"
- 81 Clerical garb
- 82 Slangy suffix
- 83 Actress Louise
- 84 Stage stuff
- 86 Wahine's wreath
- 87 TV's "Family _"
- 88 Floor model
- 90 Gush forth
- 93 Actress Dominique
- 95 Behalf
- 98 Hurried
- 101 _ vera
- 102 Photographer Adams
- 103 Cheerful song
- 105 Turner of "Peyton Place"
- 106 Be human
- 107 Velvety plant
- 110 Lake near 36
- Down
- 112 Aphid apparatus
- 115 Self-directed in "Dances with Wolves"
- 119 Break a commandment

- 120 Actress Tatyana
- 121 GI's address
- 122 Promise
- 124 Discernment
- 128 Tire type
- 131 Self-directed in "Modern Times"
- 136 Pronto
- 137 Cabbage cousin
- 138 Absquatulate
- 139 JVC competitor
- 140 Pithy
- 141 Goblet part
- 142 Pop one's pecs
- 143 Sundance's sweetie
- 1 Jab
- 2 Neck of the woods
- 3 Hamilton bills
- 4 Candid
- 5 Fathom
- 6 Deciduous tree
- 7 Building feature
- 8 Atmosphere
- 9 Southwestern capital
- 10 Orthodontists' org.
- 11 Poultry serving
- 12 Snicker sound
- 13 Mil. rank
- 14 Dryden work
- 15 "Ipse _"
- 16 Tennis player
- Chris
- 17 Dagwood's dog
- 21 "Ninotchka" star

- 23 Best of films
- 24 "_ forgive those _"
- 29 Plus
- 32 Brute
- 33 Genuine
- 35 Inn offering
- 36 Nevada city
- 37 Computer key
- 38 Mighty mite
- 39 Battery
- 40 Hodgepodge
- 41 Self-directed in "Bob Roberts"
- 42 Do more than dislike
- 46 Chest protector
- 48 Skimmer material
- 50 Self-directed in "Annie Hall"
- 51 Singer Maresca
- 52 French port
- 54 Word from a whipplet
- 56 Snowy bird
- 58 Biblical tyrant
- 61 Catchall abbr.
- 63 Formal
- 65 "Porgi _" (Mozart aria)
- 68 Wells creatures
- 69 Frasier's brother
- 71 Ed of "Roots"
- 74 Hobby wood
- 75 City on the Allegheny
- 77 Twangy
- 78 Hot stuff?

- 79 Smidgen
- 85 "_ culpa"
- 87 Crow's toe
- 89 _Locka, FL
- 91 Podiatric problem
- 92 Jealous Olympian
- 94 Half (Pref.)
- 96 Singer Eartha
- 97 Dash
- 99 _ the finish
- 100 Hamlet or Kierkegaard
- 104 Proposition
- 108 It'll give you a weigh
- 109 Soak up
- 111 Spoken
- 113 "Cheerio!"
- 114 Slip by
- 115 Metal measure
- 116 Gladden
- 117 Director King
- 118 Darned things
- 119 Seashore souvenir
- 123 Petty clash?
- 125 Job opening
- 126 Add color
- 127 "Only Time" singer
- 129 Officeholders
- 130 Expert
- 132 Arlen's "The Green _"
- 133 Flagon filler
- 134 Artichoke heart?
- 135 Spell

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| 128 | | | | 129 | 130 | | | 131 | 132 | 133 | | | 134 | 135 | | | | | |
| 136 | | | | | | | | 137 | | | | 138 | | | | | 139 | | |
| 140 | | | | | | | | 141 | | | | 142 | | | | | | 143 | |

We must free ourselves from Big Water

By Don Flood

Quick! How much water do you need to drink each day?

If you're like the Average American — and according to your neighbors, you are (at least mostly) — then you know the answer is: IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH WATER YOU'RE DRINKING, IT'S NOT ENOUGH!

Ten gallons a day? Drink more water! Ten gallons at lunch? Think camel! No, be the camel! The thinking seems to be: If you're not spending eight hours in the bathroom each day, you're not drinking enough water.

But now word is leaking out, so to speak, that maybe we don't need to drink as much as we think.

The following quote from CNN Medical Correspondent Elizabeth Cohen suggests one surprisingly effective method for gauging how much water we need: "You start to get thirsty, start to get a dry mouth, means you're not drinking enough."

You read it here, folks! The way to tell if you need water is: you feel thirsty!

Not long ago, I heard experts say if you felt thirsty, then it was *too late*.

Too late for what? I wondered. But being an Average American (at least mostly) you ask, how do I know how much to drink?

Here's what Ms. Cohen recommends: Use common sense. (!)

Does this woman realize she's talking to Americans?

In the U.S., people — normal everyday people — lug around water bottles as if they expect, without warning, to be magically transported to the middle of the Sahara desert.

As amazing as it may seem, people throughout history, even before cable TV, used to drink water based on the very same method now advocated by Ms. Cohen.

But nowadays people don't just drink; they attend to their "daily hydration needs."

Really. Check one of those water bottles: *daily hydration needs*, like you're performing a complex medical procedure on yourself.

And that's because we in America are in the grip of an All-Powerful, All-Evil Bottled Water Cartel, their only weakness being they don't actually control anything!

It's true! Run to your sink now.

Turn on the faucet! WATER COMES OUT — so cheap it's practically free.

And yet people who get burned up about gas going up a few cents happily take out a second mortgage so they can fulfill their "daily hydration needs" with bottled water.

Is this water safer? No. Taste better? No.

Oh, what's that I hear? *It's too chlorinated*. Be a man (or woman) and fulfill your daily hydration needs the way our foreparents did.

I challenge people do a blind taste test of bottled waters and tap waters.

It's like Coke and Pepsi. They don't just taste the same. They are the same.

(While lip-synching hydration expert Britney Spears contends Pepsi is for "those who think young (repulsive, affected wink)," soft drink scientists have been unable to establish the truth to this claim.)

Yes, my friends, it's time to free ourselves from the corrupting influence of Big Water.

But first, I have to go to the bathroom.

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Reviewers say Texas history books are bleached of truth by political correctness

AUSTIN — As the Texas Public Policy Foundation prepares to release reviews of proposed social studies textbooks, problems are being uncovered according to the foundation's director of education research.

Even after new textbooks are adopted by the State Board of Education this November, pinpointing Texas on a map and knowing why colonists threw tea into Boston Harbor may still puzzle students.

"Our reviewers are finding a big difference in academic quality: some books are good and some are very bad," noted TPPF's Chris Patterson. "But none are just right. All the texts we reviewed have bleached history from the pages."

"Texas' new social studies textbooks replace history with a stew of geography, economics, government, citizenship, science, technology, sociology and culture that is lightly seasoned with history," said Patterson. "The educational bureaucracy, not publishers, is responsible for the historical amnesia in our schools."

In fact, the nation's latest report card on public schools, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, shows one-third of 4th grade students cannot find their state on a map and less than one-quarter know about the Boston Tea Party.

The State Board of Education begins hearings on the textbooks July 17, and a final vote on adoption is not expected until November. The board is charged with approving or rejecting textbooks on the basis of factual content and conformity with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards.

TPPF's comprehensive review by university scholars and public school teachers evaluating the academic quality and accuracy of middle and high school social studies textbooks is being coordinated by Christopher Hammons, Ph.D., of Houston Baptist University.

The reviewers include current and retired teachers from Fort Bend ISD, Brazosport ISD, Houston ISD, College Station ISD, Judson (San Antonio) ISD and the Texas Military Institute (San Antonio). Also included are professors from Austin College, Texas A&M, Texas A&M Commerce, the University of North Texas, Southwest Texas State University and Stanford University. The American Textbook Council is also participating in the TPPF review.

Added Patterson: "We need better books, but we also need better curriculum standards. Texas' students are cheated by watered-down, politically-correct social studies that replace history education."

Texas does not short change students financially, study says

AUSTIN — With 40 percent of Texas' general spending going toward education, the Lone Star State outpaces the national average of 34 percent. Further, Texas outspends Florida, Colorado and California, according to a new study to be released June 26 by the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

The study, part four of the Foundation's "Taxing Texans" series by internationally acclaimed economist Richard Vedder, Ph.D., examines how the state compares to its geographic and economic rivals, as well as the nation overall. The reports can be found at www.tppf.org.

"At the elementary, secondary and collegiate levels, Texas devotes a larger percent of its tax revenue to education than the national average," says Dr. Vedder. "Yet some claim Texas' spending is inadequate, pointing to the fact that Texas' per pupil spending is slightly lower than the national average."

However, Texas ranks 27th in actual spending per pupil, \$6,588. Vedder explains comparisons of per-pupil spending are unreliable because of the differences between

the states in other economic factors. His study points to a number of factors, including a lower wage level and Texas' higher concentration of young people. Nationally, 17 of every 100 state residents go to primary or secondary public schools; in Texas, it is 19 out of 100.

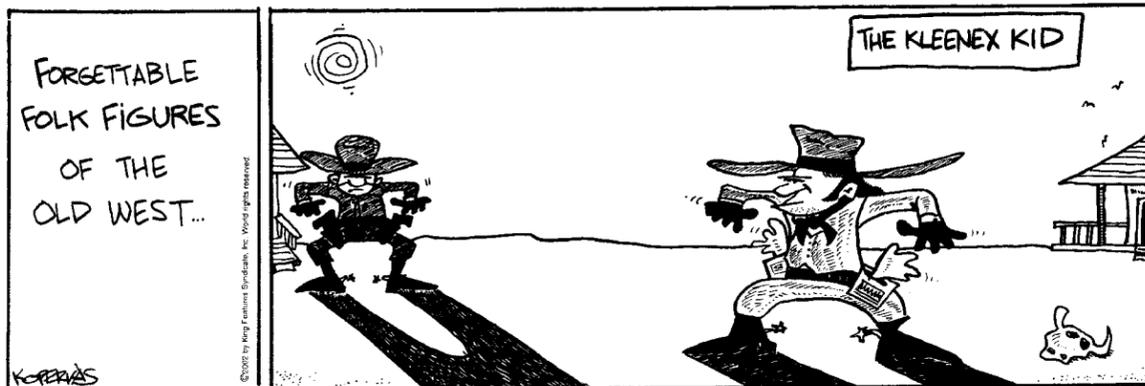
"The most contentious issue in education financing is the state-local mix," notes Vedder, a college professor. "Texas does rely somewhat more on local funding than average — but that reliance is a virtue, not a weakness."

Vedder points to very recent research by Harvard University's Caroline Hoxby that finds heavier reliance on local dollars for school funding increases school accountability and student academic performance.

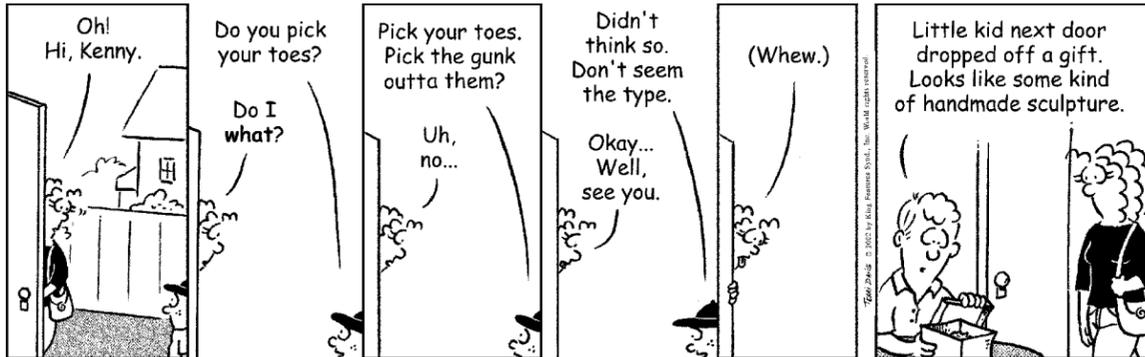
"Students in Texas — particularly African-American and Latino students — demonstrate impressive gains in elementary and middle grades that challenge the average achievement of their peers throughout the nation," Vedder concludes. "So when people try to tell you Texas shortchanges its students, don't believe them."

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



Phamiliar phrases "show him the ropes"

An experienced sailor would be expected to familiarize an apprentice seaman with all the rigging of the ship - the ropes used to manage the sails. This phrase is still used today when a newcomer needs to learn basic job knowledge.

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Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

Use of the Social Security website can save time, effort

Have you ever wondered if you might now be eligible for monthly Social Security benefits, or if you qualify for Medicare health insurance? Sometimes it's hard to know where to begin when you are looking for information about large government programs.

Now Social Security has introduced a new online service that can provide some real help for you. It's called the Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool (BEST). It's available in both English and Spanish.

You will need to answer some questions about your age and marital status. And there will be some questions about your personal fi-

nances. These questions will help determine if you may be eligible for Social Security Disability, Retirement, Survivors or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, or if you can qualify for help with your Medicare premium.

BEST takes only five to 10 minutes to complete. You will not have to give any personal identifying information, such as your name or Social Security number and it will not give you an estimate of benefit amounts. And once you exit this screening tool, all your answers will be permanently erased.

BEST is not an application for ben-

efits. The information you provide will only be available to you, no one else can view your answers. After you complete the questions and see the results, you then decide if you should apply for benefits

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

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Clouds and sun; a stray thunderstorm. | Partly cloudy and warm. | Partly to mostly sunny. | Partly sunny; stray thunderstorm. | A mixture of clouds and sun. | Clouds mixed with sunshine. | Partly sunny and hot. | Hot with some sunshine. |
| ▲ 94° | ▼ 70° | ▲ 96° ▼ 70° | ▲ 96° ▼ 72° | ▲ 96° ▼ 72° | ▲ 96° ▼ 70° | ▲ 98° ▼ 70° | ▲ 98° ▼ 68° |

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

| | | |
|-----------|----|-----------|
| Thursday | 10 | Very High |
| Friday | 10 | Very High |
| Saturday | 10 | Very High |
| Sunday | 10 | Very High |
| Monday | 10 | Very High |
| Tuesday | 10 | Very High |
| Wednesday | 10 | Very High |

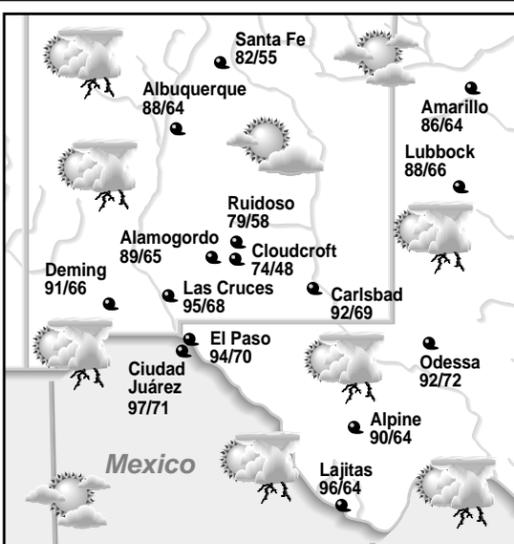
REAL FEEL TEMP™

The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Thursday | 89° |
| Friday | 89° |
| Saturday | 89° |
| Sunday | 90° |
| Monday | 94° |
| Tuesday | 94° |
| Wednesday | 90° |

TEXAS WEATHER

| | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| Anthony | 94 | 70 |
| Canutillo | 95 | 71 |
| Clint | 97 | 70 |
| E. Montana | 94 | 70 |
| Fabens | 97 | 69 |
| Horizon | 95 | 71 |
| San Elizario | 95 | 69 |
| Socorro | 96 | 69 |
| Tornillo | 97 | 70 |
| Vinton | 95 | 71 |



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 | 88/64/pc | 90/66/pc | 92/68/s | 94/68/s | 96/68/s |
| Atlanta | 90/72/t | 90/72/pc | 88/70/t | 90/72/c | 92/72/pc |
| Atlantic City | 88/68/pc | 84/62/s | 82/64/s | 84/66/s | 86/68/pc |
| Austin/San Antonio | 92/72/pc | 94/72/pc | 94/72/pc | 94/74/c | 94/76/c |
| Baltimore | 94/66/pc | 88/64/s | 86/64/s | 88/66/s | 90/68/pc |
| Boston | 88/66/pc | 78/60/s | 78/62/s | 82/66/s | 86/66/s |
| Chicago | 88/64/pc | 88/68/pc | 88/70/pc | 90/72/pc | 92/70/pc |
| Dallas/Ft. Worth | 92/74/pc | 96/76/pc | 98/76/pc | 98/76/pc | 96/76/pc |
| Denver | 84/58/pc | 88/60/pc | 90/62/s | 92/64/s | 94/62/s |
| Flagstaff | 80/46/pc | 79/47/c | 80/47/c | 82/49/c | 84/52/pc |
| Houston | 94/74/pc | 94/74/pc | 94/74/pc | 94/76/t | 94/74/c |
| Kansas City | 90/70/pc | 90/70/c | 90/70/pc | 92/68/pc | 92/68/pc |
| Las Vegas | 102/78/s | 102/80/s | 104/82/s | 104/82/s | 106/80/pc |
| Miami | 90/76/t | 90/78/pc | 90/78/pc | 90/78/c | 90/74/pc |
| Minneapolis | 88/66/pc | 86/66/t | 86/68/t | 88/66/c | 84/62/pc |
| New Orleans | 92/76/pc | 90/78/pc | 92/78/t | 90/76/t | 92/72/pc |
| New York City | 92/68/pc | 86/66/s | 84/66/s | 84/68/s | 88/70/pc |
| Philadelphia | 92/68/pc | 86/64/s | 84/64/s | 86/66/s | 90/68/pc |
| Phoenix | 105/80/s | 107/82/s | 109/84/s | 109/86/s | 109/84/s |
| Portland | 68/52/c | 72/52/pc | 78/54/pc | 84/56/s | 88/58/s |
| San Francisco | 62/52/pc | 64/54/pc | 70/56/s | 74/54/s | 74/52/pc |
| Seattle | 64/52/c | 66/52/pc | 72/54/pc | 78/54/s | 82/56/s |
| Tucson | 100/72/s | 102/74/s | 104/76/s | 106/76/s | 104/76/s |
| Washington, DC | 94/68/pc | 88/66/s | 86/66/s | 88/68/s | 92/70/pc |

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

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