

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 48

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

NOVEMBER 28, 2002

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Annual parade

For the seventh consecutive year the Horizon City Christmas Parade will traverse this township on Dec. 14, with local schools, civic organizations, law enforcement, veterans groups, service organizations and more will contribute to this colorful event. The parade route will begin at 10 a.m. at Col. John O. Ensor Middle School on Ryderwood and proceed east to Darrington Road, then south to Horizon Blvd., turning left to Breau Lane, right to McMahon Drive and on to Carroll T. Welch Middle School. The 2.25-mile route will feature a reviewing stand on Darrington Rd. for performances. The Horizon City Kiwanis Club will provide treats for kids at the end of the parade. For more information call 852-4525 or 852-9349.

### Fairs on parade

Numerous Christmas fair events have been scheduled for upcoming weeks in El Paso County. Here are a few:

- The Mission Valley Ballroom will host a Community Christmas Fair on Dec. 1, with admission price only a canned food item or new toy for donation. Beginning at noon at 10600 North Loop Rd., a variety of vendors will present arts and crafts, food and entertainment. Vending slots are still available by calling 859-6424.

- Not your average 7th Annual Christmas Fair, this event featuring 90 vendors, 38 entertainment groups, and almost 100 students in competition for the title of Miss or Mr. Americas, will kick off at 5 p.m. on Dec. 6 in the Rotunda and other areas of Americas High School. Guitarists, bands, cheerleaders and dancers, choirs, orchestras and flag corps will all be on parade. At the end of the evening, 52 contestants for Miss Americas and 37 for Mr. Americas will be introduced. Admission is free to the public. Information: 937-2000.

- The Clint High School Class of 2004 is hosting a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A showcase of performing groups and vendors will be featured. Call for information between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 851-2302 or 851-2344.

### In other news

- The El Paso Upper Valley Lions Club will deliver fruit baskets to your destination of choice for \$15 beginning Dec. 14 through Dec. 22. Orders must be placed by Dec. 13. Proceeds support the Lions Club charities. For information or to order call 915-587-6848.

- Show your patriotism for free, says the Spotts Specialty Co. of Virginia, which is providing free American flag decals to persons who send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 2242 Market Street, Third Floor #2, Wheeling, West Virginia, 26003. Military personnel need only to provide return address and decals will be sent to them at no expense. There is no

See BRIEFS, Page 6

*We should thankful for the good things that we have and, also, for the bad things we don't have.*

— Quips and Quotes

## 'Poncho' Garcia officially named to head Fabens school district

FABENS — "I appreciate being given this opportunity," said Eldefonso "Poncho" Garcia after being named the district's new superintendent by the Fabens Independent School District board of trustees on Nov. 20.

Garcia had been named as the single finalist for the position of superintendent during the the board's regular meeting on Oct. 16. The action was taken on unanimous vote to finalize Garcia's service as interim superintendent since the departure of Dr. Lu Stephens last summer.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the Fabens, community, staff and students. This is a great district to be a part of," speaking from his experience as the

district's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum since July of 2000.

He is credited with supervision of the overall instructional program for the district which resulted in Fabens High School becoming the first Texas Education Agency "Recognized" campus in the district's history.

Garcia was formerly a principal of schools in Ft. Stockton, Presidio and Alpine before coming to Fabens. He earned a masters in school administration in 1979 from Sul Ross State University.

His wife, Rosa, is Dean of Instruction at Fabens High School, and their son, Jason, is a medical student in Houston.



Poncho Garcia

## Hopes fulfilled for Trejo family with liver transplant surgery

TORNILLO — The hopes of Cindy Trejo's family and friends were fulfilled last week when the 18-year-old was finally given a liver transplant after a years-long wait and three previous attempts that were canceled at the last minute.

Trejo's life-threatening condition had reduced the Tornillo student's final years of high school and first year of college to an endurance struggle with depression and illness.

The surgery was performed in San Antonio due to lack of adequate facilities in El Paso and the



Cindy Trejo

family is expecting to return to El Paso County sometime in early December.

The Trejo family has incurred significant debt as a result of Cindy's extended illness and tax-deductible donations are still welcomed at: National Foundation for Transplants-Cindy Trejo, c/o P.O. Box 993, Tornillo, Texas 79853. The family also encourages others to consider becoming organ donors. For information on future fund-raising events, contact Tornillo ISD Superintendent Paul Vranish at 764-2366.

## City of Socorro appoints third interim police chief

By Arleen Beard  
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — It is the hope of the Socorro City Council to bring stability back to the daily operations of the Socorro Police Department and they took a step in the right direction at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21.

It was agreed upon by City Council to appoint Sgt. Jesus Ortega, who started with the department in 1996, as the next Interim Chief of Police. It has been over one year since the City of Socorro has had a permanent Chief of Police on board. Police Chief Canuteson resigned on Oct. 14, 2001. In the meantime, the City of Socorro has had two other Interim Chiefs of Police. The most recent was Officer Irma Molina and her predecessor was Sgt. Manuel Ponce.

The City of Socorro is currently seeking to hire a permanent Chief of Police.

In other business, City Council approved the installation of much needed street lights requested by Mayor Irma Sanchez. There are a total of 15 locations that will be receiving street lights at a total expense of \$10,069. The El Paso Electric Company has provided the City of Socorro with the list of the streets receiving the lights and the cost for each location. Mayor Sanchez went on to say there will be a total of 75 street lights installed in the near future. Placement of the remaining sixty street lights will take place soon.

City Council also approved the hiring of Concepcion Ruiz as Director of Personnel/Human Resources. Her salary will be \$35,000 with an evaluation at six months. It

See SOCORRO, Page 4

## Students run marathon to celebrate Great American Smoke-out



A LAP AT A TIME — Canutillo ISD's Davenport Elementary School fifth grade students run a victory lap during the Great American Smoke-out program to culminate the 26-mile marathon run that took them six weeks to complete.

CANUTILLO — Hundreds of Davenport Elementary School students yelled out their pledges to not smoke when guest speaker Claudia Chavez, of the American Cancer Society, asked them to take a stand against tobacco products.

Chavez's presentation was part of Davenport Elementary's Nov. 21 program that brought the entire student body together in observance of the Great American Smoke-out campaign. To reinforce the no smoking message, fifth grade students Brenda Flores and Amanda Acevedo read their winning essays that warned students of the dangers of teenage smoking.

Also included in the event was the recognition of the 90 fifth grade students who participated in a marathon run to promote clean and smoke-free lungs.

Davenport ES's fifth grade students ran about two miles a day for six weeks during their physical education classes so that they could complete the 26-mile marathon that they undertook in conjunction with the school's CATCH (Coordinated Approach To Child Health) program.

The marathon runners were presented medals and special certificates signed by the Mayor of El Paso Ray Caballero and State Senator Eliot Shapleigh.

"We are very proud of these fifth grade students. They tried so hard to complete the 26 miles in time for the Great American Smoke-out event," said Celsa Madrid, Davenport Elementary School physical education teacher.



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# The best job I ever had

The discussion was about getting a good job in America.

The congressman said we'd have less problem with illegal immigration if we'd just pay more for "cherry picking and cleaning toilets" because then Americans would consider them worth doing.

But the liberal news pundit was outraged. He drew himself up righteously in his chair.

"When," he fumed, "have cherry picking and cleaning toilets ever been considered good jobs?"

Well, I used to be a custodian, and in terms of job satisfaction, it was the best job I have ever had.

I was required to exercise time management, organization skills, creative solutions to difficult problems, interpersonal relationships and networking. I had access to the offices of the highest-ranking personnel in my organization and knew them on a first-name basis. There were any number of on-the-job perks, like cookies from the librarian and grins from the kids. At the end of the day, my last job was to lower Old Glory from the flagpole and put her safely away till the next morning. As I did so, I could look back on the day with the satisfaction of knowing that my job was essential to making the place a clean, attractive and healthful place to educate our kids.

Now who can say that is not a good job?

I had to leave that job for one that paid higher wages, but when I see a custodian at one of the local schools I can't help having a twinge of envy.

I've picked cherries, too, though not for a living, and found it to be a challenging and satisfying enterprise.

A report I read recently said that people who do jobs with a recognizable result at the end of the day — be it stacking barrels, plowing fields, or landscaping yards — have better health and a more contented outlook

on life than those with "open-ended" work requirements.

I believe the problem with our national outlook on career opportunity is that we consider it menial — hence paying lower wages for its performance — if it requires physical effort. We consider jobs more desirable — hence more valuable — if the only output it requires is mental.

Little wonder the "cream" of this nation is overweight, stressed-out, cranky, divorced and suicidal.

We also make the mistake of telling people who perform so-called "menial" jobs that their occupations are not worthwhile and should be abandoned at the first opportunity.

Little wonder a local TV station had plenty of fodder for an "expose" on the unsanitary condition of school bathrooms. Tell a man his job is unimportant and he'll do it accordingly.

Now, I'm not saying that we should educate our kids to do nothing more than physical labor. I am saying that physical work is honorable, satisfying and necessary to maintaining a strong and healthy nation — and that this work should be respected and paid accordingly, no matter who is doing it.

Mssrs. Meriam and Webster define "menial" as humble, relating to service or servants. There sure isn't anything wrong with that either. If that attitude were honestly practiced in what we wrongly refer to as "service industry" we'd all be less inclined to want to reach through the phone line and strangle that snotty "customer servant."

I've said for a long time that in most areas of corporate sales and especially in government offices the term "customer service" has been replaced by "customer serves us."

Instead of the endless wrangling over what constitutes a "good job,"

See JOB, Page 3



# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

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## Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

# Drop-out prevention and preparation for college must be top priorities

Homeland security is critical, but there is no reason why we cannot also pay attention to other important issues that cannot be

resolved in Congress.

The work of educating the next generation of Americans is never done, and many in Congress fight behind the scenes for funding to prevent an increase in drop-outs and provide for college preparation. Despite opposition, these programs were sustained this year, but future funding is unresolved. Since a better educated society is a benefit for all, Congress must push for continued and increased investment in education.

Two examples of federal programs targeted at increasing high school graduation and college enrollment rates are Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP) and the Federal Drop-out Prevention Program. Such programs, combined with community activism and parental involvement, have made some progress while much work remains to be done.

The El Paso drop-out rate decreased by 1.3-percent over the past five years and sharper decreases took place in Tornillo and Fabens, where the annual drop-out rates decreased 6.4-percent and 4.4-percent, respectively, since 1994.

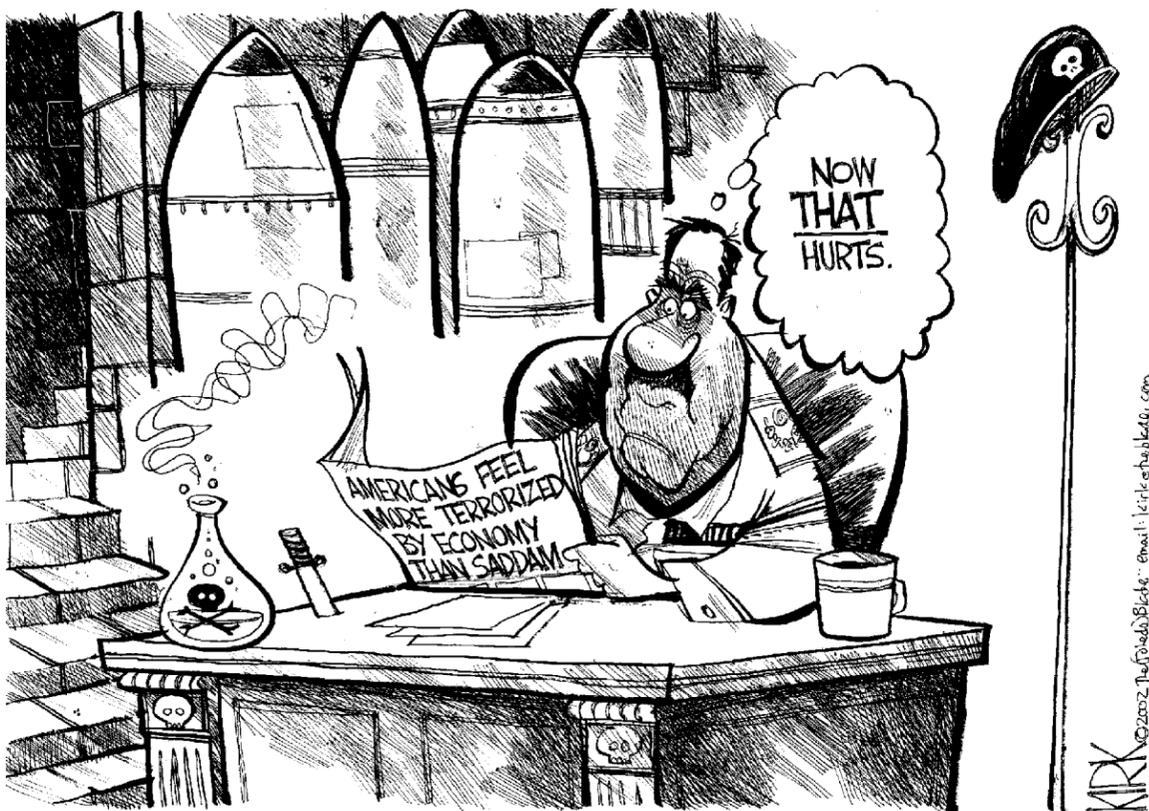
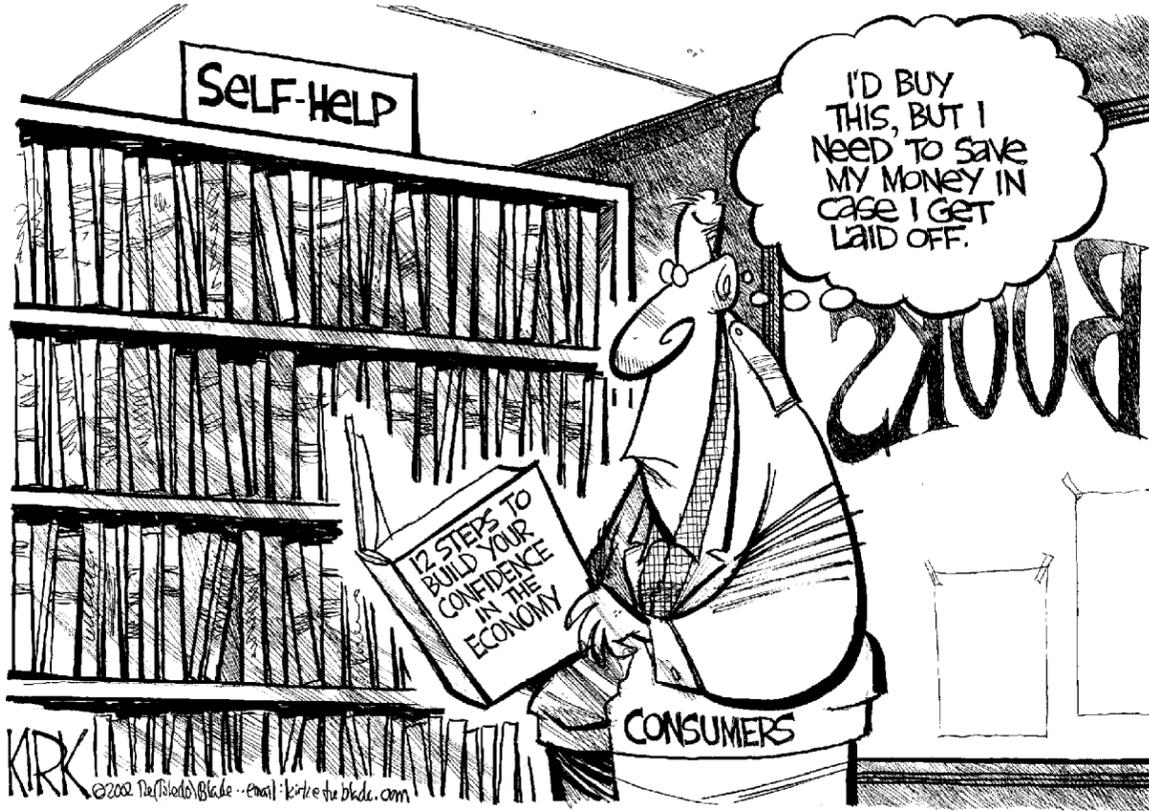
Unfortunately, the overall national picture is not as positive. Hispanic students in the United States are still three times more likely to drop out of high school than non-Hispanic students. In order to bridge this gap, we

must continue to fund programs that target the specific needs of today's high school students, especially in under-served communities.

Bilingual education programs, parental involvement, and migrant education assistance are critical keys to closing the gap between Hispanics and non-Hispanics.

Even though good programs are in place, increased funding and support are needed to prepare our students for an increasingly difficult job market. Much work remains. Too many students in El Paso take more than four years to graduate from high school, and until the drop-out rate is erased, room for improvement remains. High school drop-outs face an uncertain future with limited job security and little room for promotion. We must encourage all young adults to attend college or receive additional technical and vocational training after high school. Better educated job applicants will attract new business and technology, infusing our city with new life and bringing new customers to existing businesses.

There is no doubt that the scramble for education funding will carry over to the next session of Congress. Funding alone will not keep people in school, but along with community involvement, it is an essential piece of the puzzle. El Paso has a vested interest in making sure that education is adequately funded at the local, state, and federal levels, and not overshadowed by other issues. El Paso's educators, teachers, students and elected officials have the potential to make sure education gets the attention it deserves and ensure that we will continue to reduce high school drop-out rates in the future.



**For Sanity's Sake** By Taprina Milburn

**Too comfortable**

I've grown too comfortable in my marriage. I'm sure of it.

An episode of "The Bachelor" brought this to my attention. For those of you who have important, responsible things to do with your time, "The Bachelor" is a reality television show in which one handsome young man spends six weeks getting to know 25 beautiful young women. They go on dates, have intimate conversations in which every word, every kiss, every tear is aired on national television.

The girls are competitive and vie for the guy's attention and affection, relying on their personalities, their smarts — and figures — in hopes they will be chosen as one of the select few at the closing of each episode. At the end of the six weeks, however, there's only one winner.

It's like a beauty pageant except that instead of scholarship money and a tiara, the girl is awarded the hunky bachelor, whom she can take home to mom, dad and the wedding planner.

How does this relate to my marriage?

As I watched the show and thought about my own used-to-be bachelor who now shambles about our house each evening in his faded, ancient gym shorts, I thought that if I had to rewind a decade or so and try to win my husband's affection all over again, I don't know that I could.

Dating looks like entirely too much work.

First, from this end of the aisle (married nearly 14 years, two kids, a minivan and a dishwasher in need of repair), the girls on the program look as if they are interviewing for a job.

We all know how that feels — worried about saying the right thing, feigning genuine interest in a flat conversation, concerned about the competition and wearing uncomfortable shoes bought the night before the interview. Right along with the girls, I felt jittery and rejected as the bachelor took inventory of their character and looks and eventually sent some of them on their way. Who needs that kind of stress?

Second, I think many of us "married forever," if we're honest with ourselves, are happy that we've grown into our marriages. We're finally content to be at the stage of our lives where we don't feel obligated to walk around with our stomachs sucked in and that we can have a variety of conversations with our spouse, even if it's about something as boring as toast.

This doesn't mean we've let ourselves go to pot, it only means that when we walk through the door of our houses we know that we're not going to be disqualified because there's someone who can talk more intelligently than we can about rocket science or who looks better in a size 6 evening gown.

But dating is a time for high ideals about romance and physical attractiveness.

We would all be single if we'd known in our dating years that we would one day call each other Mom and Dad, or that a date night with a spouse would include a trip to Walmart to buy poster board for a kids' school project.

And if we thought there was a possibility we'd sit around together wearing flannel pajamas and worn gym shorts watching the 10 o'clock news while flossing our teeth and clipping our toenails, the human race might be extinct.

No, those are attributes of a marriage that you certainly have to grow into.

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**Phamiliar phrases**  
**"human guinea pig"**

This expression is used when a person is used as a test subject for a medical experiment. The phrase comes from the use of such creatures as rabbits, guinea pigs, monkeys and rats in tests, conducted to determine effects of drugs or chemicals on living tissue.



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

**Counting our blessings on this Thanksgiving**



Each year on the fourth Thursday of November, families and friends across America gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving. This holiday gives us the chance to reflect on the many blessings we possess as citizens of this strong and wealthy nation.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving 2001, and face our new challenges in America, it's important to give thanks for the many blessings we share as Americans.

We should give thanks for living in a free country ruled by the people. It's easy to forget how fortunate we are to be a democracy. But the recent War on Terrorism has brought us new reason to reflect. The people of Afghanistan did not have the opportunity to elect their leaders. The Taliban leadership took over the government of Afghanistan and ruled by nothing short of a dictatorship. Let us be thankful we live in a democracy where we enjoy the freedoms of religion, speech, the press and the right to assemble.

Another simple blessing that is often overlooked is America's free, prosperous economy. Unlike any other nation, America's spirit of individualism and independence has produced the world's top economy. From the

very first families who struggled to farm this country's rich soil to today's high-tech entrepreneurs, the pioneer spirit has propelled our nation to the forefront of discovery and exploration.

Finally, we should give thanks for the thousands of men and women who protect us on a daily basis. The firefighters who protect our homes and places of business; the police officers who look over our family and friends; and of course, the men and women of the armed services, who dutifully watch over our nation. Each of these groups does their part to keep our nation safe from harms way. We would not be the nation of the free, if we were not also the home of the brave.

As our nation faces the War on Terrorism, now more than ever, we are thankful for the blessings our nation has provided each of us. I hope that on this Thanksgiving day, as family and friends gather around the table, each of you will say a special thanks to the amazing blessings our nation.

God bless each of you and may God continue to bless America. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

**Job**

From Page 2

who should be doing what job, and teaching our kids that the skills that will benefit them most in the job market is self-interest and competi-

tion, maybe we should be teaching perseverance, appreciation for all levels of employment, and equal pride in all job performances, no matter what that job may be.

While the liberal news pundit I mentioned fancied himself as a champion of the down-trodden immigrant worker, I couldn't help but wonder

what his reaction would be if he found out the Haitian custodian who cleans his office was paid as much as he is. I'm afraid his double-standard might explode, ripping a hole in the roof.

At least he would create some jobs for the construction workers who would have to repair it.

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**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore Nov. 23, 1916, An Aggie prank creates Bevo, the U.T. Longhorn mascot.





**IF ONLY IT COULD BE CANNED** — Students and staff at Frank Macias Elementary proved generosity needs no preservatives during food collection program to benefit the less fortunate in the community.

## Generosity comes in canned food items at Frank Macias Elementary

HORIZON CITY — As the holidays near, the tradition of generosity toward those in need was carried at Frank Macias Elementary. Rosa Granado and her parent volunteers coordinated a canned food drive for the Thanksgiving holiday which was overseen by Joe Solis, school counselor.

The canned food drive was a huge success with over 2,400 cans collected from all the classrooms. Students and staff members were the also donors. The Paso Del Norte Food Bank picked up the cans on Friday, Nov. 22 and said they were amazed at the quantity of cans collected.

"It warms my heart to see the generosity of everyone at Frank Macias Elementary," said Solis. He said he is looking forward to beginning another food drive for the Christmas Holiday.

"Everyone is always being so generous to us here at Frank Macias Elementary. What a perfect opportunity for the students to reciprocate by participating in this food drive," said Principal Pam Howard. "It teaches them to give back to the community that cares so much for them and supports them in many ways."

## Write stuff

**Dear Editor:**

Special thanks to Mr. Gary Gandara, Socorro City Council representative, for his donations on behalf of his program "Families in Need." We have been blessed with the donations (we have) received from this program and may it continue to help families in the City of Socorro.

Also we would like to thank the coordinator of the program, Gina Rodriguez. Both of you keep up the good work!

**Terry Myers  
Socorro**

**Dear Editor:**

The Emergency Services District (volunteer fire department) is located in Horizon City but is responsible for an area greater than 150 square miles which includes the five and a quarter square miles of Horizon City.

The dedicated, well-trained men and women are all volunteers that give of their time and abilities without compensation. Be it structure fires, grass fires, tending to the injured, providing emergency medical aid or other assistance, the volunteers of the fire department are ever-present. They are usually the first responders.

*Though they do not do this for recognition, they need to be recognized.*

An article in the *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, for which no byline was given, relates the following:

"For those who answer the call — they're carpenters, mechanics, plumbers, businessmen and more — and they put in a full day's work. But when a call comes in, whether it's in the middle of the night or during a workday, they stop what they're doing and take on another role.

The rest of the population gets to ignore the fire siren or wonder what might be causing a crisis in someone's life. But for fire fighters and EMS personnel, the calls are something they can't ignore.

When they arrive on the site, they're welcomed. Whether the call came for a grass fire, an automobile accident, a structure fire or some other reason, the trained personnel who answer are ready to do whatever it takes to solve the problem, save the property or rescue and treat an individual who has been injured."

Thank you, men and women, of Emergency Services District #1.

**Walt Lee  
Horizon City**

# UTEP Men's Basketball

• **Saturday, Nov. 30 vs. Bob Knight's Texas Tech Red Raiders**

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# Women's Basketball

• **Wednesday, Dec. 4 vs. Houston**

\*all games are played in the Don Haskins Center at 7:05 PM

**For information call: 747-6150**

## Socorro

From Page 1

is the hope of the City of Socorro to have Ms. Ruiz on board by Nov. 25, 2002.

The City of Socorro is also taking a more secure approach in the hiring of any new employees by requiring a criminal background check for each new employee. It is their intention to eliminate the termination of any employee when information is disclosed after the employee is on board. This will be beneficial to the city by saving monies of unnecessary expenses made in training the employees who were hired and then terminated. In order to continue to be a successful candidate for the position being applied for, the criminal background check must come back with a clean record.

## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IH57062 483129, Chevy Monte Carlo, red VIN - 2MECM74F5MX670190, Ford Grand Marquis, gray VIN - IG2NW52TXTC794053, Pontiac Grand Am, black, plates C29-VVZ WTXCC-11/28/02

**HORIZON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT HORIZON CITY, TX Invitation to Bid**

Nov. 20, 2002

The Horizon City Police Department is currently accepting bids for the purchase of radio/communications equipment as approved by the El Paso County 911 District:

- One (1) 100-watt VHF Motorola MTR 2000 Repeater and accessories (150' tower set up)
- Two (2) Mobile Radios. 45-watts VHF Motorola CDM 1150
- Four (4) Hand-held Radios, 5-watts VHF Motorola HT750
- Seven (7) Pagers, Alpha Numeric, UHF Motorola Advisor Gold

To be considered, vendor must be an authorized Motorola Service Station (MSS) and be authorized to perform warranty and post-warranty maintenance repair and services. Vendor must also provide complete installation on all equipment which requires installa-

tion. Vendor will be responsible for obtaining any new licenses/frequencies as may be required by the FCC for proper installation and operation of equipment. Bids may be received via fax or mail and will be accepted no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, 2002. For more information or questions call 852-1047, Chief A. Aguilar or Sgt. Ron Swenson.

Mail: Town of Horizon City  
14999 Darrington Rd.  
Horizon City, TX 79928

Fax: Attn: Chief A. Aguilar  
(915) 852-0318.  
WTCC-11/28/02

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WTXCC-11/28/02

**PECAN BUSINESS** one mile south of Fabens needs full time employee that is computer skilled, bilingual, and speaks fluent English with good telephone skills. Packaging and shipping included. Must be reliable, and references required (include all employment past five years). Five days per week, may require some travel. Must

have drivers license. Starting salary \$9.25 per hour. Send resume to Secretary, P.O. Box 777, Fabens, Texas 79838. 11/28

### 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. Alcoholicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.*

### SERVICES

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# IN THIS SEASON OF THANKSGIVING...



Henry and Lower Valley supporter Brad Bouma during an October rally in the valley.

A special thanks to the great people of El Paso County for their loyal and strong support in this year's election.

*Henry Bonilla*



# This could be the start of a beautiful friendship

By Don Flood

Recently, the business pages have been filled with tales of woe.

Not long ago, I saw that because of the stock market, Bill Gates' personal fortune had dropped \$40 billion, leaving him only \$40 billion to make ends meet.

And then there's poor Jack Welch, retired head of General Electric and arguably the most famous business executive in the world.

He's in the middle of a nasty divorce, and his soon-to-be ex-wife wants a bigger piece of his \$1.41 million a month income.

You read that right. According to an article in The Wall Street Journal that laid bare his personal spending habits, Welch makes \$1.41 million a month *after taxes*.

But Welch's losses have been psychic, not monetary, and that's why I wanted to use this column as an open letter to my new best friend, Jack Welch:

Dear Jack,  
I know it looks grim. They seem to be making sport of you all over the place, even The Wall Street Journal.

And I'll admit, some of those figures leapt out at me, too.

Like that one about gifts — \$52,000.

A month! Over \$600,000 a year! On presents!

I'm not sure how many lifetimes it would take me to spend \$52,000 on gifts, much less \$600,000. (Hint: a lot.)

I think my wife would be pretty thrilled if I splurged for \$52.

Either you've got one heck of a lot of friends or you're just one generous guy.

But you know, Jack, you can never have too many friends.

Especially at a time like this, when maybe you're not even sure who your real friends are.

But, Jack, I want you to know this: I'll be your friend.

You remember that old James Taylor song, "You've Got a Friend"?

It was one of those '70s kind of songs where the guy sounds like he just rolled out of bed, still stoned from the night before, and started talk-singing the first line of baloney that popped into his head:

"You just call out my name and you know where ever I am, yada, yada, blah, blah, blah, see you again..." Something like that.

That's me, Jack.

You need someone to talk to, you call me.

You need a shoulder to cry on, I'm right here.

And if it would make you feel better to unload, oh I don't know, a new Mercedes S600 sedan with a V-12, 493-horsepower engine that takes you from 0 to 60 in 4.6 seconds, I prefer black.

Hey, Jack, just kidding! It doesn't have to be S-class. E-class is fine!

Also, Jack, I couldn't help noticing you spend \$8,982 a month on food and beverages.

Listen, I feel your hunger, man, but that's enough to feed a family of four for a year.

There are countries that don't spend that much.

I'm a little concerned you may be overeating because you're depressed.

How about just you and me going out for something simple, like a pizza?

I was thinking of Rome.

Your friend, Don.

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## Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

**Q: Are Social Security benefits taxable?**

paid if the vaccine is provided at a doctor's office or by a hospital, skilled nursing facility, home health agency, rural health clinic, federally qualified health center, outpatient physical therapy provider, a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility or health maintenance organization.

**A: Yes, but only for those beneficiaries who have higher incomes.** About 20 percent of people who get Social Security have to pay taxes on their benefits. This provision affects only people who have substantial income in addition to their Social Security.

**Q: I plan to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because I'm disabled and have little income and few assets. But I do own my home. Will my home be counted against me?**

**Q: I received a notice in the mail about direct deposit. Do I have to use direct deposit?**

**A: Social Security strongly encourages all beneficiaries to receive their monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income payments by direct deposit.** You can still receive your benefit by check, but you should consider all the advantages direct deposit offers — safety, security, convenience and reliability.

**A: A home and other assets of reasonable value you need to survive will not be counted in determining whether you qualify for SSI.**

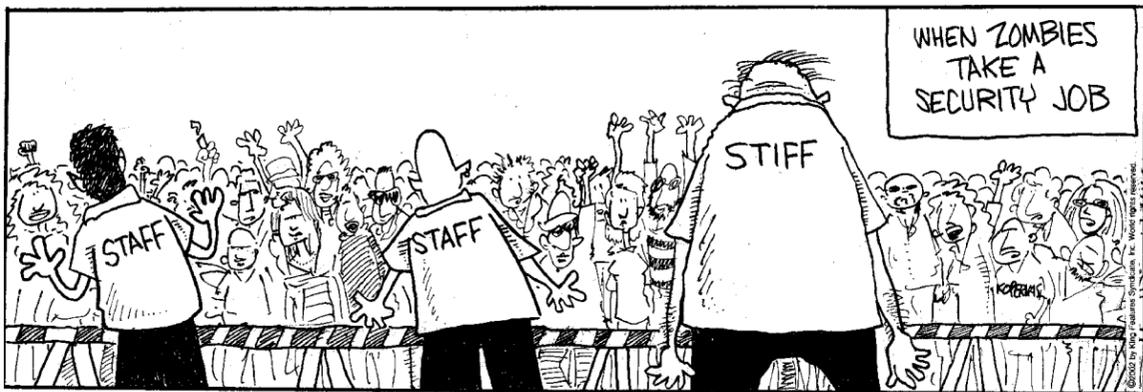
**Q: Last year I received a flu shot and pneumonia vaccine. Does Medicare cover these shots every year?**

**For more information visit your local Security office, log on at <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.**

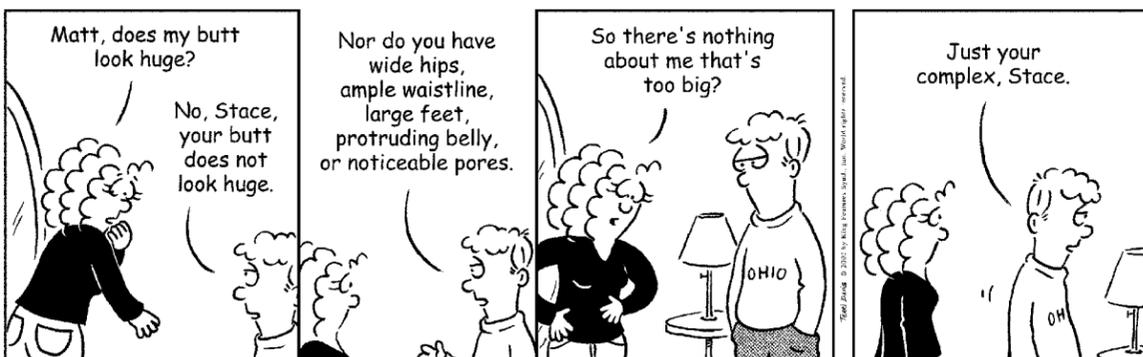
**A: Yes. Generally, the cost will be**

## 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



## City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. during the City Council Meeting of Thursday, December 5, 2002 at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Ordinance No. 223, Amendment No. 2, an ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year of October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002 for the City of Socorro, Texas.

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

TERE RODRIGUEZ  
City Secretary

WTCC: 11/28/02

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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# Celebration planned Fenters mark 70 years together

CLINT — Traveling from Interstate 10 down to the quiet farming community of Clint, many drivers turn off on Fenter Road, many not knowing that a couple bearing that name were married 70 years ago and have spent their entire lives living and working in the cotton farming industry here.

A.L. "Kiddo" Fenter first caught sight of Georgia when she was just a youngster while making a delivery to her father's farm, said Clint resident Julie Jones. "He watched her grow up and fell in love with her."

Both were already long-time residents

of Clint when they took matters into their own hands and eloped to Las Cruces on Dec. 4, 1932. She was 17, he was 25.

Starting out on the lean side of things in many ways — Georgia says she was a terrible cook — neighboring cotton farmers loaned Kiddo their mules so he could plant his crop. The local store extended them a line of credit so they could buy groceries and cottonseed.

Georgia's lack of cooking skills was only a temporary handicap, however.

"(She) says she couldn't cook and when her Mom or Dad invited them over to eat they didn't have to ask twice," Jones said.

"Now she's one of the best cooks in the Valley."

The couple have one daughter, Jacqueline Morris, and two grandsons, Stephen and Michael Morris. Jacqueline lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado with her husband, Steve. Their sons live there as well.

A celebration in honor of this couple will be held on Dec. 4 at the Clint Methodist Church, 201 McKinney, beginning at 6 p.m. All friends are invited to attend this joyous occasion, or to send cards to P.O. Box 175, Clint, Texas 79836. It is requested that cards only, no gifts, be sent.



Georgia and A.L. "Kiddo" Fenter

## WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

### SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
▲ 44°	▼ 30°	▲ 50° ▼ 36°	▲ 60° ▼ 38°	▲ 62° ▼ 38°	▲ 62° ▼ 34°	▲ 60° ▼ 34°	▲ 60° ▼ 34°

### UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	2	Minimal
Friday	2	Minimal
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	6	Moderate
Monday	6	Moderate
Tuesday	6	Moderate
Wednesday	6	Moderate

### REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	29°
Friday	44°
Saturday	48°
Sunday	52°
Monday	65°
Tuesday	55°
Wednesday	56°

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	45	28
Canutillo	46	28
Clint	44	28
E. Montana	44	30
Fabens	44	28
Horizon	46	28
San Elizario	43	26
Socorro	43	29
Tornillo	44	28
Vinton	46	28

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	45/26/pc	41/28/c	47/32/c	44/28/c	45/31/pc
Atlanta	48/28/s	52/35/s	52/38/pc	54/36/pc	50/27/pc
Atlantic City	37/24/s	42/32/pc	48/34/c	44/32/pc	45/23/s
Austin/San Antonio	55/31/c	44/38/c	63/41/pc	60/41/pc	61/38/pc
Baltimore	36/24/s	44/32/pc	52/32/c	44/28/pc	46/25/pc
Boston	32/24/pc	38/32/pc	44/32/sn	40/28/pc	40/28/pc
Chicago	34/22/pc	44/28/c	38/22/sf	35/25/s	38/29/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	50/33/pc	50/38/pc	57/41/pc	55/41/s	59/36/pc
Denver	48/28/pc	54/30/s	48/26/pc	50/24/pc	48/20/pc
Flagstaff	46/24/pc	44/34/c	42/22/c	44/18/pc	49/21/s
Houston	50/36/sh	55/43/pc	62/43/c	62/45/c	60/42/pc
Kansas City	41/25/s	48/30/pc	46/30/pc	43/28/s	47/27/pc
Las Vegas	62/40/s	58/38/pc	58/36/c	60/38/s	63/40/s
Miami	79/60/pc	74/58/pc	76/64/pc	78/63/pc	77/62/pc
Minneapolis	32/22/pc	40/22/c	36/22/pc	34/22/pc	38/27/c
New Orleans	51/37/c	55/52/pc	61/51/c	63/50/s	58/40/r
New York City	34/24/s	40/32/pc	48/34/c	38/26/pc	44/30/pc
Philadelphia	36/25/s	42/34/pc	50/34/c	42/28/pc	45/25/pc
Phoenix	64/46/pc	64/45/c	66/45/sh	67/45/pc	67/40/s
Portland	56/38/s	54/38/pc	52/40/s	51/39/pc	49/42/pc
San Francisco	68/46/s	66/46/s	64/46/s	64/46/s	59/44/s
Seattle	52/40/s	52/42/pc	52/42/pc	49/39/c	48/42/c
Tucson	66/41/c	60/39/c	62/39/sh	63/38/s	63/38/s
Washington, DC	38/26/s	44/36/pc	52/36/c	46/32/pc	46/28/pc

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

### AGRICULTURE

An upper-level storm system will spread moisture into the region for Thursday through Saturday. A shower is possible at any time during this time period, but it should be dry for the most part. Average rainfall amounts will be between 0.05-0.15 of an inch. Little if any sun for Thursday, then about 2-4 hours of sun Friday and Saturday.

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



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