



NEWSBRIEFS

EPCWA gets bonds

The El Paso County Water Authority (EPCWA) which serves the greater Horizon area, received approval for \$45 million in tax bonds with 371 votes in favor and 301 against when voters went to the polls on May 3. The EPCWA management said that the district has issued all of its bonds previously authorized by voters and that future projects will have to be funded either by tax bonds approved by voters or by selling revenue bonds which do not require voter approval but would require the district to raise water and sewer rates to repay debts incurred to make replacements, additions and repairs to the water system infrastructure. "It is estimated that these funds (the requested \$45 million) will be spent over the next 20 years to rehabilitate and improve the district's water and sewer system as part of a long-range plan to ensure our community remains strong," an EPCWA release said.

Anthony keeps Franco

Anthony Mayor Art Franco will retain his title following the May 3 balloting in general elections. Franco maintained a healthy margin of 293 votes over challenger German Avila's 121. Two seats on the Anthony town council went uncontested: Luis "Lee" Vela in Place 1 and Jerry F. Hall in Place 2.

Other elections

- The Socorro ISD board of trustees will host different faces following the May 3 local elections. In District 1, Barbara Perez Pena took 640 votes over incumbent Isela C. Rosales, 267; and Richard Del Hierro, 187. In District 5, former City of Socorro mayor Raymundo Rodriguez easily won the seat with 237 votes, over incumbent Alex Vidales, 156; Victor Perez, 112; and George Fernandez, 102.
- The Canutillo School Board elections sent the top three vote-getters from a field of six candidates back to public office. Sergio Coronado garnered the highest with 492, followed by Yvonne Sapien Sanchez with 384. Rafael Reyes will retain the third seat with 375 votes. Other candidates were Carl Frieze with 343; Frank Lerma with 324 and Laure Searls with 304. Gonzalo M. "Chalo" Garcia will serve out the unexpired term on the ballot, garnering 435 votes over David Guzman Garcia, 246.
- Fabens ISD had two places on the May 3 ballot. In Place 1, Sylvia Gonzales won 247 votes over Seferino "Sefa" Ramirez; 215. In Place 2 Jose Porras was top vote getter with 257 over Jean M. Hill, 153; and David Corral Jr., 39.
- Tornillo ISD will see Joseph Soria Jr. sitting in Place 7. He won 59 votes over challenger Luis Renteria who took 13 votes.
- The Anthony School District board

See BRIEFS, Page 10

Our mistake is loving things and using people, when we should use things and love people.

— Quips & Quotes

Socorro council appoints interim city manager during stormy session

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — An agenda item during the regularly scheduled Socorro City council meeting on May 1 erupted into controversy between City Council members, Mayor Irma Sanchez and community members.

City Representative Joe Ramirez made a motion to appoint current city engineer Reyes Fierro as interim city manager pending the selection and hiring of a permanent city manager.

Mayor Sanchez voiced opposition to the appointment because, she said, an interim is usually appointed for positions that have already been held by someone and later vacated.

Since the city manager position is being

newly created, Mayor Sanchez indicated an interim is not necessary. City Representative Joseph "Chito" Bowling was also opposed to the appointment and went on to say this appeared to be a "You scratch my back and I'll scratch your back" situation.

Bowling said he felt believed the position would more than likely be filled within a couple of weeks and a need for an interim was unnecessary. It would be a waste of taxpayer's money due to having to increase Fierro's salary while he served as interim, Bowling said.

City Representative Gary Gandara, however, took offense to Bowling's statement.

The motion to appoint Reyes Fierro as city manager on an interim basis was approved

See SOCORRO, Page 7

Vinton's effort pays off as grant is approved for water system

VINTON — The Village of Vinton mayor and council are celebrating their good fortunes after two major financial doors were opened recently.

Last week, with the help of Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, a pending lawsuit involving Valley By-Products, TCEQ and the Village was settled. As a result, Vinton received a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) amount of \$23,437.

Additionally, with the help of Carlos Colina-Vargas, the Village's urban planner, Vinton was named this week as number one on the list to receive funding under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant and Supplemental Environmental Project.

The Village expects to receive \$263,000 to begin laying lines for a municipal water system.

Mayor Tony Castro extended his thanks to his entire council, especially Mayor Pro-Tem Jose Alarcon; Alderperson Dolores Diaz; and Village Clerk Camille Castillo. "Without their efforts these projects wouldn't have gone as smooth," he said.

Fabens student goes to state competition for writing skills

FABENS — Diana Mendoza, a senior at Fabens High School, took her skills as a writer to the state level this month after winning third in regional competition.

Over the past three years she has competed in several events at both district and regional level but this was her first trip to state.

"This is the first time in the history of Fabens High School that a student has competed in journalism at state," said Penny Jones, UIL coordinator. "It has also been three years since one of our students has gone to state."

"Of all my students, Diana is the one I would choose to receive the honor of competing on the state level," said Carol Silver,

See MENDOZA, Page 5



Diana Mendoza

Canutillo to see tangible results of bond election before long

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — Residents of Canutillo won't have long to wait to see tangible results of the \$12.3 million school bond election they approved overwhelmingly on April 12.

The bond money will be used in two areas, renovation of current facilities in the Canutillo school district and enhancement of plans for the new high school.

The four renovation projects, expected to begin this summer, cover the upgrading and improvement of current facilities. These projects are allocated \$5 million of the total bond issue. The second is for enhancement and fine-tuning the design of the new high school and includes features not included in the original bond issue concept. The balance of \$7.3 million goes into the enhancement area.

The reason Canutillo is able to move for-

ward expeditiously on the renovation projects, says District Public Relations Officer Alfredo Vasquez, is that it will tap into current fund balances and not have to wait several months for the processing and sale of the school bonds. At its April 17 meeting, the board of trustees passed a resolution authorizing the use of these other funds.

The funds would be reimbursed, Vasquez points out, once the bonds have been put on the market and sold.

The renovation projects are:

- Roof repairs are scheduled on all six CISD campuses. Half-a-million dollars is earmarked from the bond issue to complete roof repair projects.

- The district has allocated \$85,000 each to Childress, Davenport, Damian and the middle school for new playground equipment. Vasquez says each campus, not central administration, will determine how their playground money will be used.

Horizon City picks Whitty for mayor

HORIZON CITY — Diane Whitty, a political newcomer, became Horizon City's new mayor following the May 3 election day that concluded the 2003 local elections.

Whitty garnered 346 votes, 55 percent of those cast, over incumbent Patricia "Pat" Randleel, who posted 283.

Running on a platform of making Horizon City financially stable, holding down taxes and keeping the town user-friendly, the former Portland, Oregon resident will lead the town council after living here for the past five years.

Calling herself a "domestic engineer" for the past 18 years, Whitty has three children, a daughter age 16, and two sons, ages 19 and 23. Her former careers were commercial auto insurance agent, and employment with Corporate Freight Audit at Crown Zellerbach.

"Horizon City is a great place for families to live," Whitty said in announcing her candidacy. "The sense of community here is unique in the El Paso area and we need to keep it that way."

Whitty also objected to rezoning commercial areas to high-density residential as a major part of her campaign, stating that without a sound commercial tax base Horizon City will soon find itself a land-locked residential community with a high tax burden to support city services.

"There have been major tax increases with little or no tangible benefits to the citizens," Whitty said in appraising the last few years in Horizon City. "(Tax increases) and personnel costs...are not consistent with the present economic situation."

Other Horizon City elections saw former Horizon alderman and longtime resident/community activist Art Borst return to council in Place 3 with 226 votes, defeating Ken Watters who garnered 216 and Dean Hulsey, 176.

Alderman Place 5 went uncontested to Robert G. Reyes, a senior inspector with U.S. Customs, and Place 7 uncontested to businessman Keenan Greseth.

Whitty, Reyes, Greseth and Borst campaigned on similar platforms and issued joint election information.

- Three 10-classroom wings, complete with restrooms, will be added to Childress and Damian Elementary and Canutillo Middle schools. Total cost for the three new classroom wings is \$2.4 million, approximately \$825,000 per wing. Vasquez says the new wings should be finished in four to six months. Pointing out their age and condition, he adds, "We want to get out of the portable classroom business."

- Electrical and mechanical upgrades will be made to Canutillo Elementary, the middle school and the present high school.

In previous school board meetings, trustees have been going over plans for the new high school in detail with architect Sergio Martinez. The results are the enhancements over and above the original design.

They include the addition of more classrooms, making the auditorium and sports stadium larger and expanding the commons area.

See CANUTILLO, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Birds of a feather

They say birds of a feather flock together — therefore, a man is known by his associations.

Like all proverbs it often holds true but is not infallible. I've known some pretty fine people to suffer because of misplaced loyalties.

It is equally unfortunate that their lack of foresight or their simple dedication to undeserving friends can deprive them — and those around them — of their valuable skills, strengths and potential.

With the recent election just past we take stock, as always, of the winners and the losers — sometimes with surprise, other times nodding that we could have predicted the outcome very closely. Sometimes those we assumed would be a shoo-in to office are left outside while the darkhorse takes his seat at the head of the table.

You never know.

Sometimes we say it was because they didn't get out there and go for it. Sometimes we are affirmed of a hunch that the avid underdog would triumph simply on the basis of will — or on the basis of his supporters.

I don't enjoy elections at all. I especially didn't like the last one here in Horizon City, I guess because it was closer to home, closer to people I have known for many years, whose service and efforts, much of it selfless, I have admired. It involved differences in philosophies about the future of our community but worse than that, it involved people who were defending their own personal space on a public stage.

Big mistake.

I hate it when good folks wind up on opposite sides of the fence. I hate it equally when bad apples spoil both

barrels.

People aren't like birds. They don't always flock with those of like mind. More often than not the more appropriate adage for humans is that opposites attract — a good, solid person can be influenced by someone of less integrity simply because they see in the other person a quality they themselves lack: drive, ambition, ability to cut corners and to ignore black-and-white in favor of a muddy shade of gray when it suits their purpose.

People are not like birds in that they don't always recognize danger when it lurks in the nearby brush — or feeds off the same table. Birds are pretty canny about that. They'll fly off squawking at the first sign of danger and ask questions later — if ever.

People, on the other hand, have a very difficult time recognizing wolves in sheep's clothing, who promote themselves as benefactors of the community whilst sucking the very life out of it from under the council table.

The problem is that there are few absolutes anymore. Good guys don't wear white hats and the bad guys don't either. We all sort of look alike these days.

Equally true, the issues we face aren't clear cut. On a local level our goals and battle cries are pretty ethereal: education funding, water issues and tax hikes don't bring the populace streaming to the ballot box because most folks figure that government is going to do what government is going to do.

Political campaigns never come

See POLITICS, Page 5



MARGULIES
©2003 THE RECORD NEW JERSEY
www.northjersey.com/margulies



30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2003 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the *West Texas County Courier* may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

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

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

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

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$20 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The *Courier* reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$30. Delivery via 1st class mail.

ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtcc@wtccourier.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.



Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla



Death of young patriot sheds light on immigrant loyalty

More than 1,000 mourners shed a river of tears, as family, friends, and neighbors bid a sorrowful farewell to one American hero. Although he's not the only one who gave his life to free Iraqi citizens, his death did strike close to home.

Ruben Estrella-Soto, who lived in Montana Vista (East Montana) and was a recent graduate of Mountain View High School, was only eight days away from his 19th birthday, when he was killed by enemy troops in Nasiriyah. Estrella-Soto died along with eight other members of the 507th Maintenance Company — a group that deployed out of Fort Bliss, Texas.

Although he was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, our young hero adopted the United States as his country-of-choice. He wasn't born in America, but Estrella-Soto didn't waste too much time becoming a citizen of this great nation. Estrella-Soto's death is a reminder to me of the many sacrifices that immigrants from Mexico have made to keeping our nation free. Well, here's a patriot who made no bones about his love for our beloved nation. Estrella-Soto was only too glad, and too proud, to serve in the U.S. Army. His aunt, Leticia Soto, said that her nephew was very proud of his military service.

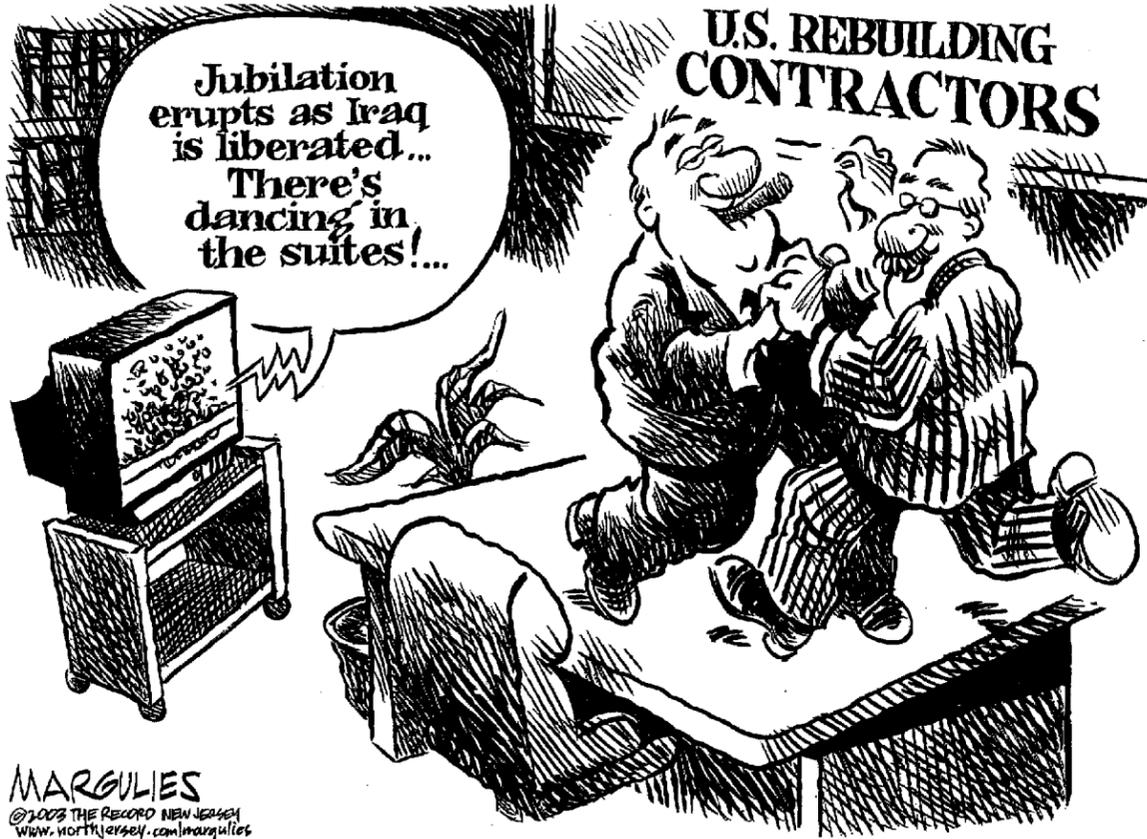
"When he came back from boot camp, he was very happy," she said. "He was so proud of wearing his uniform because all he ever wanted to be is a soldier." Unfortunately, Estrella-Soto never got the chance to con-

tinue proving his love for our nation. However, he did make us proud in the short, but eventful life, which he lived. Again, let me reiterate that I am proud of every one of our troops. We salute and celebrate those who survived, especially the POW's who came home safely. Yet, there remains an ache in my heart for Estrella-Soto. So young, so vital, so heroic. God Bless you, my young friend, and God Bless each and every one of our troops who are fighting, and who fought in Iraq. Thank you.

On another note...HB 2634, which I authored, relates to interest-free loans from the Texas Water Development Board for water districts in economically distressed areas. In 1989, the 71st Legislature created the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) under the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). These areas receive grants and/or loans from the TWDB to provide water and wastewater services. EDAP counties are those with a per capita income that is 25 percent below the state average and unemployment at 25 percent above the state average for the last three years, or that are next to an international border. HB 2634 amends Sec. 17.933, Water Code, to require that when a water district receives a loan through the TWDB's EDAP Program, the loans are received interest free.

I also sponsored SB 446, a bill that relates to the authority of the rural foundation. The Rural Foundation was created during the last Legislative session under SB

See CHENTE, Page 8



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Social Security was only meant to be supplemental income for elderly Americans

EL PASO COUNTY — May is Older Americans Month. So I thought it would be a good time to review the impact that Social Security has had on our nation's senior citizens.

Today, almost 30 million people age 62 and older receive Social Security retirement benefits every month. The average benefit is just under \$900 per month. Contrast that to 1940, just a few years after the Social Security Act passed, when only 112,000 people were collecting, on average, \$22 per month in retirement benefits.

Another five million older Americans are paid more than \$4 billion monthly in widows' or widowers' benefits today. Widowers' benefits were first paid in 1950.

Besides the raw numbers, the effect of Social Security benefits on the livelihoods of older Americans also is interesting. The Social Security Administration has compiled some statistics showing the income of older people in 1962 and compared that to the income of today's seniors.

For example, in 1962, 69 percent of older Americans received Social Security benefits while only 9 percent had a private pension. Today, 90 percent of seniors get Social Security and 29 percent receive a private pension.

Social Security benefits have played a major role in boosting the median income of older Americans. Even after adjusting for inflation, the median income has risen 91 percent for elderly married couples and 98 percent for non-married older folks. In 1962, elderly married couples had a median income of \$16,339. By 2000, that median income level had risen to \$31,118. For single seniors,

the median income almost doubled from \$6,422 in 1962 to \$12,715 today.

In the County of El Paso, Texas, 87,816 beneficiaries received a total of \$56,335,000 in social security benefits during the month of March 2003. Of those, 48,601 were retired workers who received \$34,994,000 in retirement benefits.

Despite the increases, an alarming number of older people still rely on their Social Security benefits for their total livelihood. For 20 percent of Social Security beneficiaries age 65 and older, their Social Security check is their only income. For two-thirds of today's older Americans, Social Security represents at least half of their income.

Of course, Social Security was never meant to be a person's sole source of retirement income. If you are not yet receiving Social Security benefits, you should make plans now to supplement those benefits with pensions, savings and other investments. A good place to start reviewing your future retirement income needs is your Social Security Statement. You get one each year about three months before your birthday. It will tell you what you can expect to get from Social Security. Then you can make plans to supplement your Social Security benefits with pensions, savings, and other investments.

For more information visit your local social security office, see www.socialsecurity.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.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

El Paso teachers make more with less



All across El Paso, schools are in need of more funding. From Loma Verde Elementary to Chapin High and everyone in between, teachers and students have had to make more with less as budgets continue to be cut. As we head into Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4th-10th) and celebrate National Teachers Day on May 6th, let's take a moment and focus on education in our community.

A good education and a strong economy go hand in hand. To strengthen both in El Paso, I secured a \$150,000 congressional appropriation for fiscal year 2003 and \$250,000 from Governor Perry for the El Paso Realworld Schools Project, which is based on the successful Fresno, California Center for Advanced Research and Technology. This program is a win-win for El Paso. The Realworld Schools Project is a joint effort between high schools, post-secondary education institutions, and local businesses. It pro-

vides high school juniors and seniors with opportunities to succeed in fields such as biomedical research, engineering, and science, which in turn provides local employers with skilled, technologically savvy employees.

I also requested \$1.5 million for Project ARRIBA for fiscal year 2004. Project ARRIBA is a hugely successful program aimed at providing high-skill, high-wage job training. Project ARRIBA provides critically needed training in health care, computers, and other fields that offer higher-paying jobs. Our community as a whole benefits from Project ARRIBA, as graduates are filling positions in our local hospitals and businesses.

A number of our problems ironically stem from the No Child Left Behind Act, which Congress passed and the President signed into law two years ago. This Act set clear goals for federal education programs and, if fully funded, provided the answers that ailing schools across the country needed. However, two years later, it appears that education is hardly

better off. President Bush is not following through on the promises he made in 2001, with the 2003 budget falling \$7 billion short of the resources promised in the Act and the 2004 budget falling more than \$6 billion short of the \$18.6 billion called for by the Act. I want to make sure that no children are left behind in El Paso and that's why I support full funding of this bill.

Despite tightened budgets, though, El Paso's educational community still manages to shine. We have a lot to celebrate for Teacher Appreciation Week and National Teachers Day. The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Silva Health Magnet School the National Blue Ribbon Award. The National Blue Ribbon program recognizes schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and that have shown dramatically improved student performance; or those that score in the top 10 percent on state assessment tests. Congratulations to Silva Health Magnet School and thanks to Principal James Lamonica and all of Silva Health's

Available online:
www.wtccourier.com

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore May 16, 1888: the new state capitol is formally dedicated. It rained and the roof leaked profusely.



teachers, staff, and especially the students for their hard work.

Congratulations also to Alicia Stredic and Mary Henderson, who were just recently named El Paso Independent School District 2003 Teachers of the Year. Stredic, of Burges High School, and Henderson,

of Polk Elementary School, are shining examples of the enthusiasm, creativity and compassion El Paso's teachers pour into their classrooms every day. El Paso is proud of them and all our teachers and knows that, despite budget cuts, they will not leave any child behind.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

The Town of Horizon City Street and Road Committee would like to thank the individuals, civic groups and school children who helped with the street cleanup in Horizon City on April 25, 26. Many bags of garbage were collected from curb areas and medians of many of the major streets.

Also a "thank you" to TxDot for their cooperation in cleaning up their right-of-ways on Horizon Blvd. If you missed this opportunity to help and still would like to participate in keeping Horizon City clean, please feel free to speak with the people at your Town Hall about which areas still need to be cleaned up.

Throughout the year we can all take it upon ourselves to keep our streets clean.

Ronald E. Baerbock
Horizon City Alderman Place 2
Chairman - Street and Road Committee

Dear Editor:

I'm sure I speak for many citizens of Horizon City with these few words regarding Mayor Patricia Randleel. Mayor Randleel has lived in Horizon City for over 20 years, devoting much of her time in activities dedicated to the

good of the community.

At the time of incorporation, August of 1988, she was a member of the first Town Council and was instrumental in the difficult efforts in getting the town started. She helped program the Town's "general Law" start up, she wrote and designed necessary ordinances, helped form a police department and even participated in the purchase of the present Town Hall at very little expense to the local citizens.

Her knowledge of finance and untiring work was a priceless asset during the difficult start up years. For immediate operating finances, she assisted in obtaining utilities franchise fees.

In a word, her service to the town has been commendable. I'm sure all concerned citizens thank her for sharing her knowledge and efforts in making Horizon City a better place to live and she will be long remembered for a job well done.

Desmond P. Corcoran
First mayor of Horizon City



Pat Randleel

Poultry disease in El Paso County is penalizing Texas chicken industry

When chickens in El Paso County got sick with Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) in early April, Texas commercial chicken, egg and turkey producers hundreds of miles away in East Texas saw export markets shut down nearly overnight.

Although this foreign bird virus has been confined — up to now — to only one small backyard flock which has been depopulated, at least a dozen countries, including Mexico, either have banned the importation of Texas poultry, eggs or poultry meat, or have placed stringent requirements on products. Even some U.S. states are requiring county-of-origin documentation to prove Texas poultry and products didn't come from the El Paso area.

"For the pet bird owner or backyard producer, END infection in a flock is devastating, emotionally and financially. Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reimburses owners for depopulated flocks, companionship, breeding and genetics are lost," said Dr. Max Coats, deputy director for animal health programs at the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "For the commercial chicken, turkey or egg producer, END has financially devastating consequences, even when the disease

strikes hundreds of miles away. In Texas, END was detected in far West Texas, but it impacted the commercial poultry industry, most of which is congregated in East Texas," explained Dr. Travis Cigainero, veterinarian for Pilgrim's Pride Corporation in Texas. "One case of END in a state, and the commercial poultry and egg industry loses many of its international marketing opportunities until the state regains its disease-free status. In the meantime, we have to find alternative marketing solutions, or reduce production in order to survive and maintain jobs for employees until export markets are reopened. One infected flock puts the entire commercial poultry industry in jeopardy, and it's an industry that pumps more than \$2 billion into the state's economy."

Since April 10, five Texas and New Mexico Counties have been under state or federal quarantines issued by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), New Mexico Livestock Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), due to the disease outbreak. Counties from which birds can not move include El Paso and Hudspeth Counties in Texas, and Otero, Luna and Dona Anna Counties in New Mexico. The infected flock in El Paso County — and neighboring small flocks that had 'dangerous contact' or potential disease exposure — were depopulated in early April and paid for by the USDA.

A team of veterinarians and animal health inspectors from the USDA, TAHC, and New Mexico Livestock Board are working in the five-county area to take calls about sick birds and to test many of the backyard flocks.

The END Task Force is operating from an incident command center set up at the El Paso County Fire Department at 11440 North Loop in Socorro.

Bird owners in the five quarantined counties may contact the task force at 915-859-9446. For general END disease information, or to report sick birds in other parts of Texas, call the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242. In New Mexico, producers may call the New Mexico Livestock Board at 505-841-6161.

END doesn't affect human health, or animals, other than birds. The disease, however, is considered deadly to all avian species, including chickens, turkeys, pet birds and ratites, such as ostriches. Two days to two weeks after being exposed to the virus, infected birds may gasp, cough, exhibit muscle tremors or complete paralysis, develop watery diarrhea, or die suddenly, without signs of illness.

Dr. Cigainero reminded owners that the END virus can be carried on clothing, shoes or equipment and precautions should be taken accordingly.

"When folks protect their own pet birds and backyard birds, they're also protecting the avian industry as a whole in Texas," said Dr. Coats. "The pet bird and backyard flock industry has a very important niche in the Texas economy. Bird shows, poultry as 4H projects, pet birds as companions, and exotic birds are an important part of our culture. The Texas commercial poultry industry also has a major economic impact, as more than 10,000 Texans rely on this industry for jobs."

Dr. Coats said that an END outbreak is still being fought in Southern California, which is also suffering from international trade embargoes. Earlier this year, the disease also was detected in backyard flocks in Nevada and Arizona which have been eradicated and these states are awaiting quarantine release.

"We do not have a date for quarantine release in Texas, even though we've found no additional infection," said Dr. Coats. "We have to develop scientific proof that we have looked for and tested all possible sources of infection before the USDA and our trading partners will consider our state to be free of the disease."



Mother's Day Special Buffet

Join Us on Sunday, May 11, 2003

Top Sirloin Steak • Roast Turkey • Glazed Ham • Pot Roast • Meat Loaf • Gravy
Cornbread Dressing • Candied Yams • Corn • Green Beans • Hot Bread
Cranberry Sauce • Soup and Salad Bar • Special Desserts

Adults \$9⁹⁹ • Children \$4⁹⁹
All Moms Will Receive A Special Gift.

Open 24 hours — Full family menus plus spectacular buffet and salad bar.
I-10 at Horizon Blvd., 790-4514. Not Valid with any other coupon or offer.



"I don't know ... go ask your computer."

- Master Licensed Plumber #M18624
- Bonded and Insured
- Senior Citizens Discount
- Sewer and Drain Cleaning
- Faucet and Sprinkler Repair
- Appliance Installation
- Mobile Home Repair

Horizon Plumbing
852-1079

Loans Available
Farms - Ranches - Rural Homes
Livestock and Equipment



Jimmy Chambers
520 W. Catherine, Marfa
915-729-4351 or 1-800-663-2846.



SOUTHWEST TEXAS ACA

Your Agricultural Credit Association
Offices

Devine-Edinburg-Hondo-Laredo-Marfa
Pleasanton-San Antonio-Sonora-Uvalde

800-663-2846 - www.swtaca.com



MAIL BOXES NOW AVAILABLE IN HORIZON

Private mail boxes provide security for your mail that a home box just can't offer. Thirty boxes now available at 14200 Ashford, Ste. C or call 852-3235. First come - first serve!

GREAT FOR:

- Business address
- Securing payments
- Peace of mind

Canutillo High special education students earn lettermen jackets working in real world environment

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School students enrolled in the Special Education Developmental Skills Class were presented lettermen jackets for their outstanding achievement and continued progress throughout the 2002-2003 school year. The special awards were made during the recent Special Education Students Recognition Banquet held at the Great American Steakhouse in Vinton.

“The Developmental Skills Class (DSC) is designed to help special needs students develop functional living skills and give them the opportunity to work towards job independence,” said Yvonne Rivera, DSC instructor and banquet coordinator.

Twelve DSC students received their lettermen jackets thanks to the generosity of Tom Benson, Azar Nut Company chief financial officer. “Mr. Benson and Azar Nut Company employees Tammy Velasco and Elodia Miramontes were instrumental in funding the CHS lettermen jackets.

They have been immense supporters of the DSC program,” said Rivera.

Through a partnership between CHS and Azar Nut Company, these DSC students spent approximately six hours a week attending on-the-job training at the northwest company plant. “The students learned how to perform in a real workplace environment and were able to complete a variety of assembly line tasks such as sorting and packing products,” said Rivera.

The Special Ed. Banquet was held to honor the students and their families and to present Azar Nut Co. representatives with special recognition plaques, said Rivera. Also, special education assistants Rosa Ruiz and Letty Medina were presented special recognition plaques for their work with the DSC students.

Attending the banquet were Canutillo ISD Superintendent Charles Hart, Assistant Superintendent Pam Padilla, Comptroller Tony Reza, and Special Education Director Priscilla Caballero.



Yvonne Rivera

Canutillo

From Page 1

Also, there will be a geothermal heating and cooling system.

“We are doing the dirt work now,” says Dr. John Kessinger, assistant superintendent for operations and planning. More than 10,000 cubic yards of dirt have already been moved in preliminary site work.

The grading plan is being worked out, showing the elevations for dif-

ferent areas of the new high school campus that is located adjacent to the Northwest campus of El Paso Community College. Kessinger says it will be terraced on three levels, dropping 25 feet each time.

Basically, the first is the classroom and administration area that fronts largely on I-10. At the second level is the football field and track area. Located on the third level are the baseball and softball fields.

Kessinger says actual construction of the high school will begin in the spring of 2004.

Mendoza

From Page 1

FHS journalism teacher.

Mendoza did not place in Austin on May 2, competing against much larger schools since Fabens has been designated 4-A, but her participation qualifies her for the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation Scholarship program. An estimated \$1.3 million will be awarded this year by the

TILF in an estimated 700 new and renewed grants.

Diana has been co-editor of the school newspaper for the past two years, is a member of Quill and Scroll, the International Honor Society for High School Journalists, National Honor Society, student council, Math Club, choir and Upward Bound.

“It seems that my competing at state affected the whole school,” Diana said. “Everytime I walked down the hall or entered a classroom someone was congratulating me.”

Politics

From Page 2

right out and say that a person shouldn't be doing a particular thing because it is wrong. Instead the criticisms are couched in a wide spectrum of personal innuendo, hints, speculation and character assassination.

I would feel a little sorry for El Paso's new mayor Joe Wardy if he didn't look so stinking happy. The only thing I can do is wonder how long his smile will be this wide and honest and open, how long he will consider himself a “mayor of the people in the neighborhoods” when

they start complaining, finding fault, crying foul and disappointment and calling for his head on a platter.

And we all know that most of them will, some sooner, some later, depending on who doesn't get his wish list fulfilled first.

As the first-timers take their places in the halls of power I wish them the ability to remember whatever vestiges of idealism may have motivated them to seek office in the beginning, and to recognize the wolf sitting in the next seat — or the one who carried their briefcase into chambers.

I wish this, of course, provided they aren't a wolf themselves. If they are, well, we have a whole new set of problems, don't we?

Clint High senior given first-year scholarship

CLINT — Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas will be helping Yvette Nancy Loya's career dreams become a reality. The university is ranked among the top



Yvette Nancy Loya

Hispanic Serving Institutions and each year their selective College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) awards 50 students a first year scholarship. Thereafter, the university assists them with various applications for obtaining grants for the remaining three years. Yvette is a senior at Clint High School and is the fourth student to be awarded a CAMP scholarship. Although high school performance is part of the selective process, CAMP also considers desire and commitment to succeed in higher education. Other students at Clint High who have been awarded this scholarship as of May 2001 are Rosa Moya, Texas A&M at Kingsville, Rene Herrera, St. Edward's at Austin and Gilda Victorino, UT at El Paso.

Sustainable energy plan for Texas announced

AUSTIN — A series of achievable, common sense proposals designed to increase the state's production and use of sustainable energy while increasing revenue for local economies and public schools was announced on Earth Day by Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office.

Texas is a national leader in the study and development of sustainable energy sources, Patterson said. This year alone, Texas will host six national conferences of sustainable energy trade associations and businesses.

“Sustainable energy sources such as wind power represent a vast, untapped source of energy and revenue for Texas,” said Patterson.

In 1995, the General Land Office helped develop the state's first and one of the nation's largest commercial wind energy facilities. Built on state lands on the Delaware Mountains in West Texas, the project generates enough electricity to power 2,000 to 2,500 homes and has contributed more than \$600,000 in royalty payments to the state's Permanent School Fund.

“Wind power projects benefit the environment and can provide a renewable source of revenue for school children in Texas,” said Patterson. “With sustainable energy, everybody wins.”

But projects such as the Delaware Mountains wind farm are facing hurdles in getting their clean energy to the customers, Patterson said, adding there are not enough power lines in West Texas to move the electricity they create to the state's power grid.

This lack of transmission capability hampers the growth of new wind farms and prevents existing facilities from producing energy at maximum

capacity. Patterson envisions his plan will help address these challenges, he says.

Patterson also highlighted a series of conferences to be held in Texas this year hosted by sustainable energy trade association groups and businesses from across the country. Among these meetings will be the national meetings of the Wind Energy Association, the Solar Energy Society and the National Association of State Energy Officials. The General Land Office's Tenth Annual Border Energy Forum will be held October 23-24.

The Patterson Plan for Sustainable Energy

- Creates an innovative State Green Power Program: This new program allows cities, state agencies and schools to buy sustainable energy created on state lands at competitive rates. Status: Will begin this year.

- Use wind mapping data to facilitate commercial wind energy development on state lands:

The GLO is nearing the end of a two-year effort to find state lands with maximum wind energy potential. This is the data wind energy developers need before locating facilities in Texas. Status: Will issue a bid for a new commercial wind energy facility on state lands this year

- Create incentives for construction of new power transmission lines needed for wind energy development in West Texas. Patterson will reduce or waive easement fees for companies building transmission lines over state lands and supports pending legislation to eliminate barriers to new construction. Status: Minor legislative language change needed to adjust easement fees has been filed and is on track to pass this session.

Canutillo Elementary School Family Would Like To Thank All The Volunteers Who Helped With The Playground Community Build Project...

ORGANIZATIONS

- Cummins Diesel
- KFOX
- Little Diner
- Sonic
- Magnolia Coca Cola
- Canutillo High School
- NJROTC
- Urban Associates
- INDIVIDUALS
- Carlos Aceves
- Jose Adame
- Carlos Aguilar
- Nora Aguilar
- Omar Alarcon
- Jaime J. Armendariz
- Andres Arriola
- Carmen & Sonya Arroyos
- Danny Arzaga
- Jose Arzaga
- Liz Ayala
- Ruben & Cindee Ayon
- Sunny Baker
- Isidra Barron
- Ida Cajigas
- Nury, Greg & Robert Campbell
- Sheila Campos
- Marie Cantrell
- Martha, Mariela & Mario Casas
- Carmen Castañeda
- Cyndi Castañeda
- Rose Cereceres
- Javier Chacon
- Michelle Chavez
- Clay Cherry
- Greg Contreras
- Jose Luis & Evangelina Coronel
- Rock D'Cruz

- Perry Duby
- Evelyn Duran
- Michael Escobar
- Sara & Isabel Escobar
- Eddie Esquivel
- Pablo Estrada
- Donna Farmer
- Argelia Flores
- Faviola Flores
- Jaime Flores
- Jose Flores
- Maria Flores
- Lizeth Fragoso
- Cesar & Adriana Franco
- Carl Fietze
- Damian & Stephanie Fietze
- Jason & Jethro Gaglione
- Adriana Galindo
- Leticia & Abner Galindo
- Jose Luis Garcia
- Judy Garcia
- Lourdes Garcia
- Sam & Sandra Garcia
- Sergio Garcia
- Manny & Bertha Gauna
- Petra Giron
- Maria Gomez
- Rosa Gomez
- Ruben Gomez
- Josie Gonzalez
- Irma Granillo
- Priscilla Gutierrez
- Gloria Guerrero
- Carmen Guzman
- Carlos Hernandez
- Felusa Hernandez
- Hector Hernandez
- Laura Holt
- Chris Hoy
- Isabel Huerta

- Lisa Isaacks
- Imelda & Tiffany Islas
- Crystal Jameson
- David & Melanie Jones
- Wesley & Diana Joosten
- Kathy Kelly
- Laura Lane
- David Lemon
- Abel Leyva
- Adriana Loera
- Laura Lopez
- Robert, Ceci, Robbie, Jacki Lopez
- Teresa Loya
- Mary, Reese, Rachel Luckie
- Lily & Christina Maldonado
- Gloria Marquez
- Ulises Marquez
- Kyann McMillie
- Thomas Michael
- Joe & Cecilia Montoya
- Elizabeth Morales
- AJ Moreno
- Sylvia Nuñez
- Maria Olivarez
- Angel Pacheco
- Diana Payan
- Linda Perez
- Stheysi Perez
- Robert Piña
- Veronica Propeck
- Anne Quiñones
- Rosalba Rama
- Edgar Ramirez
- Eustavia Ramirez
- Karla Reding
- Joe, Letty, Thomas Retana
- Amanda Rios
- Teresa Rios

- Hector & Leo Rivera
- Ruben Rivera
- Miguel & Oralia Robledo
- Maggie & Meili Robles
- Jamaira Rodriguez
- Erika Rosales
- Brenda Rubio
- Isabel Ruiz
- Soledad & Roberto Ruiz
- Maria Sanchez
- Raymond Sanchez
- Bertha Sapien
- Courtney Schexnaydre
- Bobbie Sherman
- Miguel Sifuentes
- Susan Smith
- Veronica & Vincent Solis
- Eliana Solorzano
- Juan Sotelo
- Liliana Soto
- Jesus Tarango
- Nancy Tebay
- Rachel, Jennifer, James Tellez
- Miriam Terranes
- Jonathan Trillo
- Modelos Angeles Valdivia
- Judith Valle
- Felicitas Varela
- Sandra Vasquez
- Diana Velasco
- Maria Velasco
- David Venegas
- Emmett Villarreal
- Priscilla Villegas
- Cory Wallace
- Dyana Zapata
- Perla Zapata

¡Muchas Gracias de parte de Terry Jimenez, Julie Hoy, and Hector Giron!

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE TO REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUND

County of El Paso
500 E. San Antonio St.
El Paso, TX 79901

West Texas County Courier
Published:
May 8, 2003

To All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

Seventeen (17) days after this publication The Housing Assistance Council will request the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development to release Federal Funds under the Self-Help Home Ownership Opportunity Program.

PROJECT NAME: Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario Self-Help Construction Program

PURPOSE: This project will provide FY 2002 funds for the construction and land acquisition of 5.5 acres of vacant land in San Elizario, TX. The land will be used for the construction of (11) eleven single family three bedroom houses targeting low-income families.

LOCATION: Census Tract No: 155.

EST. COST: \$111,111.00 (for site acquisition) in Self-Help Home Ownership Opportunity Program Funds.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

It has been determined that such request for release for funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the County of El Paso Texas has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such a statement are as follows:

1. Negative impacts to the environment as a result of the project are not anticipated.
2. Disturbances (noise and dust) will be of a temporary nature and should cease upon completion of the project.
3. The project will not affect or be affected by the 100 year flooded plain.
4. No effect is expected to protected or endangered wildlife or vegetation.
5. The project will not affect archaeological sites or historic structures.
6. Negative demographic impacts to the community, including community facilities and services, are not anticipated.

An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario of San Elizario, Texas which documents the environmental review to the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the Office of Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario, 1444 Main St. San Elizario, TX 79849, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. An additional copy for review will be on file at the County of El Paso, 500 E. San Antonio St. El Paso, TX 79901.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDING

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by The County of El Paso. Such written comments should be received at the address specified above on before. All such comments so received will be considered and the County of El Paso will not request the release of funds or take any administrative action on the within projects prior to the date specified above.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The County of El Paso will undertake the project described above with FY 2002 Self-Help Home Ownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The County of El Paso is certifying to HUD that the County of El Paso and County Judge Dolores Briones, in her official capacity as County Judge, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making and action, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario may use the FY 2002 Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

OBJECTIONS TO STATE RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following basis: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer of other officer of the applicant approved by HUD; or (b) decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; (c) other specific grounds in HUD regulations at 24 CFR 58.75. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to HUD at 200 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Objections received after fifteen (15) days from the date of request of funds stated above, will not be considered by HUD.

*Dolores Briones,
County Judge*

View from here By Jim Munafa

Chicken feathers don't tickle my fancy

All of the hubbub — impressive! Local officials teamed up with state bigwigs from both Texas and New Mexico. There was even support by dictates from on-high — directives from the USDA.

How touching that we would be so deserving of notice by royalty. Most assuredly, the integrity of something of significant value must have been severely threatened to elicit so much attention. Surely an element essential to our cultural heritage was in peril.

And so it was. That long-standing, august and regal pursuit of high-minded gentlemen — the glorious sporting tradition of cock-fighting.

So, that's what it takes. That's what will bring the vast, silent majority out into the sunlight, protesting an injustice. That's what makes our blood boil.

"What do you mean we can't transport our 'killer chickens' across state and federal lines? How else can we throw them down it those smoke-filled pits? How else can we watch and wager and cheer as one highly-skilled assassin goes about inflicting mortal wounds on an opponent until it becomes a slaughter? Only then are we free to strut around in our mantle of manhood!"

Or maybe I misjudge. Or maybe I'm too quick to judge. Or maybe I've missed the point altogether. Or maybe it's just about the money — maybe the passion and lust for blood has nothing to do with it at all.

How dare something as mundane as a chicken disease named END (Exotic Newcastle Disease) invade our environs and practically impoverish the promoters of this "sport." END is a very fitting acronym.

Just because the practitioners of this machismo-building fiasco caused the infectious problem to begin with, is that really a good reason to punish them? Is that a valid reason for isolating their flocks and paying them for any poultry that must be destroyed to stop the spread of the contagious disease?

What a shame. How devastating.

How tragic.

Yes, it is a shame that this is what it takes to move people to action, to awaken them from their lassitude, to make them cry out in anger. Yet, that is what it takes — interfere with their savage lust for bloodletting, for extreme violence. How tragic and shameful that the same voices, now crying "foul," could not be raised, carrying a vastly different message.

"Stop the killing of young women along our border" ought to have been the banner message echoed from the rooftops for several years.

Why has no one dared to even look at the numbers? We have 200 dead chickens and almost instant protest. We have 300 dead women and only a little hustle and bustle, and that only after more than three years have passed.

Nor do kidnapped and molested infants and young children seem as important as dead chickens. Is there nothing wrong with this scenario?

Where are our priorities? How can dead poultry count more than human life? Is the hunger for bloody death and violence so strong that this society sees such vile, violent acts against persons as somehow less important?

For whatever reason, we as a people have steadily become more accustomed to violence and much more accepting of it. And it may be that we have reached a point in human existence where there exists an innate desire to either mete out or receive uncivilized, barbaric treatment.

It may be that we here in El Paso do so, in part, because of our proximity to an area where it is "entertaining" to watch the slow bloody death and painful death of "El Toro."

Please do not suppose that I believe that it's just a "Tex-Mex" thing. It's not. What it is, is a universal and antiquated attitude that equates manliness to a red-blooded, arrogant and pseudo-callous attitude.

Under the aegis of such an umbrella of acceptance, we must work hard and resolve to change that conviction in others' hearts — and within our own.

Bush administration launches online environmental resource

WASHINGTON, DC — The Bush Administration has launched EarthDay.gov, a Web site that provides Americans a comprehensive guide to environmental service opportunities and Earth Day events sponsored by the federal government, including events hosted by USDA agencies. The site is the first interagency effort to create a comprehensive federal resource for citizens who want to participate in Earth Day and other year-round environmental activities. President Bush has asked all federal agencies to support volunteer service this Earth Day. "In the three decades since the first Earth Day celebration, our air is cleaner, our water is purer and our natural resources are better protected. We have learned from our successes and are putting that experience to work at the federal, state and local government levels. Additionally, all Americans can help protect our natural resources by being good stewards of our air, water and land," said President Bush.

"A healthy environment leads to a healthy agriculture and forest system. There are many opportunities for the public to participate in programs to reduce soil erosion, conserve water and improve the quality of our natural resources," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "This website provides useful information about volunteering for a variety of programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other government agencies."

Visitors can search the Web site by state and region to find community service opportunities and Earth Day events where they live. In addition to events, it allows visitors to download classroom curricula and find additional information about the environment. EarthDay.gov also allows visitors to directly access the large database of environmental service opportunities that are part of the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network. The USA Freedom Corps is President Bush's initiative to engage Americans in volunteer service.

The Web site includes links to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Earth Team Volunteer Program and the NRCS Backyard Conservation Program, as well as Forest Service Volunteer Programs.

Doctors threaten to drop Medicaid if cuts are approved

AUSTIN — A new survey of Texas family physicians foretells a frightening future for the state's Medicaid patients. The number of family physicians who participate in the Medicaid program could drop by more than 40 percent if the cuts to physician reimbursement called for in the Texas House of Representative's version of the budget becomes a reality.

"There will be a mass exodus of physicians forced to leave the Medicaid program if reimbursements that already are inadequate are cut further," said Robert Hogue, M.D., president of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

The budget recently passed by the House includes a five percent reduction in payments to physicians and other health care providers. Based on economic analysis of the cost of delivering basic, quantifiable units of medical care, Medicaid fees fall woefully short of covering those costs. In fact, Medicaid currently pays only about 50 cents on the dollar. The Texas Senate is currently considering a three percent cut to provider reimbursement rates.

The survey, conducted by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, shows that about 89 percent of the state's family physicians currently participate in the Medicaid program. Of those, only 59 percent say they will participate in the program if the proposed provider cuts go into effect.

"More and more patients will be stranded without ac-

cess to health care and limited physician choice," Hogue said. "As physicians are forced to drop out of the Medicaid program, patients will receive care in the emergency room, ultimately shifting costs to the local tax base and driving up the cost of health care to all Texans."

The forecast becomes even grimmer for new Medicaid patients. According to the survey, 8 out of 10 family physicians who participate in Medicaid currently accept new patients, but when the proposed provider cut is factored in, that number drops to only 3 of 10.

The survey also found that 84 percent of family physicians participating in the Medicaid program were having difficulty referring Medicaid patients to specialty physicians.

"Our survey clearly shows serious problems already exist with the availability of specialty physicians participating in the Medicaid program. Any deterioration in the specialty ranks will only exacerbate this bleak situation," Hogue said.

TAFP, Texas' largest medical specialty organization, promotes and assures the maintenance of high-quality health care, has 31 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. (Polling dates: April 17-22, 2003)

Socorro Mission preservation project moving right along

SOCORRO — They are called Volunteer Days and the mood has been enthusiastic as more than 100 interested people have showed up on occasions in March and April to help paint, pamper and preserve the ancient structure that is the centerpiece of Socorro's Historical District.

In a partnership project between Cornerstones Community Partnerships of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Historic Missions Restorations, Inc. of El Paso, work is moving forward to replace and renew the Socorro Mission with methods and materials used in its original construction.

During the March 1 event, over 270 adobes were made from caliche and sand, and more lime plastering was applied to the walls. There was something for everyone to do, from clearing the irrigation ditches to sifting and screening materials to be made into more adobes.

Organizers say the project is about a month behind in reaching the target completion date of August 2003 due to inclement weather, holiday va-

cations and illness. Also of concern has been the discovery of separation cracking at the front facade, an issue currently being addressed.

Landscaping projects are being assisted by the La Purísima Restoration Committee.

The use of interns and teams of volunteer trainees from other areas have been beneficial to the project. Once crew members have completed 1,000 hours of training with the program they can assume positions of leadership with other trainees.

The assistance of personnel trained professionally for such restoration projects has also given impetus to the project. The HMR began last fall to actively pursue the assistance of interns through the International Council on Monuments and Sites and North American Community Service volunteers, and a grant proposal has been submitted to the Tinker Foundation to bring four masters from Casas Grandes, Mexico, to assist with exterior lime plastering and brick coping at the parapets of the Mission.

Interns and trained volunteers have come from Mexico, Canada, Ghana, South Africa, Australia, Vermont, Colorado and Georgia, making the project a truly international event.

Meanwhile, the project has maintained its home-town focus and participation. The La Purísima Restoration committee has requested that its parishioners "adopt a church pew" by taking it home, refurbishing and refinishing it, and bringing the new, improved version back for installation.

Organizers thanked the Sierra brothers, Manny and Leo, who have "adopted" multiple benches, and Bernardo Fresquez who, lacking an pickup to haul his, strapped it to the top of his mini-van for transport.

"The project to preserve the Socorro Mission has proven that volunteerism is alive along the Mission Trail," one organizer said.

Those interested in participating the project may obtain further information at 858-4655 or stopping by in person at 328 South Nevarez Rd. in Socorro.

Socorro

From Page 1

three to one. City Representatives Gandara, Gloria Rodriguez and Ramirez voted in favor of the appointment while Bowling voted against it. City Representative Sam Brewster was not present at the meeting.

Community member Lorenza Fraire spoke up on issue stating that city council was not in compliance because they were appointing a "public servant to a non-public servant position." She said this appointment was made without following the City Charter and Ordinance 186, thereby not allowing the Civil Service Commission to be a part of this temporary promotion.

Fraire went on to say she feels the quality of public service at all levels of government must continue to improve to benefit the public through efficient and effective utilization of resources available. She feels City council is not letting the Civil Service Commission operate as it should. Fraire said she wanted to know who she needs to speak to in order to get the matter cleared up.

Shortly after Fierro's appointment was approved, Gandara and Fraire

engaged in an argument severe enough to cause Gandara to leave the meeting. He was followed by City Representatives Rodriguez and Ramirez.

Due to not having a quorum, Sanchez called a recess. During the recess, City Representative Bowling also left the meeting and did not return. As soon as the meeting was called back to order, City Representatives Gandara, Rodriguez and Ramirez were the only council members left along with Mayor Sanchez.

The action item regarding where to place new hires of staff in the city hall building sparked some chuckles from two council members.

Mayor Sanchez asked Fierro to begin looking for answers on where to house new employees as one of his initial directives as city manager.

City Representative Ramirez suggested Fierro could be housed in Mayor Sanchez's office, at which point Rodriguez and Gandara began snickering at Ramirez's suggestion.

Mayor Sanchez replied she had no problem with sharing her office.

Two other items that caused lengthy discussion were resolutions consenting to the creation of two Municipal Utility Districts; Desert View and Rio Grande.

These two districts would create affordable housing, but the expense

of supplying water to these areas would be paid for by the current landowners. The expense would then be transferred to the new homeowners in the municipal utility districts by way of a tax.

Initially, the resolution for consent to create the Desert View Municipal Utility District was approved, but when further discussion occurred in relation to the second municipal district, Council reversed the previous vote and tabled both resolutions to create the two municipal districts.

The current landowner did confirm the double taxation, but said it applied only to residents living within the two districts and went on to explain that the homeowners would be made aware of the double taxing prior to them buying a house.

Council decided to table the items anyway.

In other business, City Council approved the purchase of "Keys to the City" to be given to an international group that will be touring the City of Socorro. Some of the representatives touring Socorro will be from areas such as Chile, Bolivia and Uruguay. Mayor Sanchez said the keys are a good marketing tool and council approved the item. In a related item, Council also approved the purchase of "City of Socorro" pins also due to being a good marketing tool.

First SISD job fair called success

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Monica Morton is looking for a job as a middle school social studies teacher. So is Christy Foote, a soon-to-be graduate of New Mexico State University. Ramon Aguilar wants to teach science to high school or middle school students.

Their job searches became a bit easier following May 2, when the Socorro Independent School District staged its first-ever Teacher Job Fair in the Education Center Board Room.

The late afternoon event brought together applicants and administrators from all Socorro campuses. Lines of hopeful teachers stretched out each of the board room's four doors. "We are having an absolutely tremendous response," said Director of Personnel Services Barry Edwards. "I would imagine we have a couple hundred people here, with a wide range of teaching skills from elementary to high school. All the specialty areas we're looking for — special education, mathematics — are here. We're pleasantly surprised and excited to have them."

Edwards' colleague, Director of Personnel Services Dorothy Whitman, says the department hopes to hire at least 50 teachers from the job fair, adding that the size and quality of the crowd is good news. "They are also high-quality people that we've already seen at the U.T. El Paso job fair, and in New Mexico. We told them to meet the principals directly, and they did."

Town of Anthony Public Notice

AMNESTY PROGRAM — THERE WILL BE NO ARRESTS

The Anthony Texas Municipal Court will sponsor an amnesty program from May 9, to May 30, 2003, for citizens who have been cited and have not appeared in Court, for Traffic, Criminal, City ordinances, County Animal Control and Department of Public Safety violations. Also, if defendants have been placed on payment plans and have not complied with the payment terms, there is the possibility that a Capias Warrant of Arrest has already been issued and/or your driver's license has been suspended in the State of Texas, the State of New Mexico, or any other of the states that are in the Non-Resident Compact Agreement.

During the amnesty period, defendants that appear in Court and/or make arrangements with the Court, will not be arrested, charged with Failure to Appear, (a \$200.00 fine), and the \$50.00 dollar arrest fee will be deferred, (a \$250.00 saving). The Anthony Texas Municipal Court encourages all defendants to take advantage of the amnesty program. **It is a good opportunity to resolve any pending matters with the State, to prevent being arrested and to save money.**

After the amnesty period with out notice, there will be a warrant sweep conducted by the Anthony Police Department.

Aviso Publico

AMNISTIA — NO HABRA ARRESTOS

El Juzgado (Corte), Municipal de Anthony Texas pondra en efecto un programa de AMNISTIA de Mayo 9, 2003, a Mayo 30, 2003, para personas que hayan violado la ley por infracciones de trafico, infracciones criminales, infracciones del Departamento de Seguridad Publica, violaciones de las ordenansas de la ciudad de Anthony Texas, y que no se hayan presentado al Juzgado para comparecer como lo exige la ley.

Las personas que se presenten al Juzgado de Anthony, Texas, durante el periodo de amnistia a pagar sus multas y/o a resolver cualquier problema pendiente en este Juzgado, no se les requerira pagar la multa por no haberse presentado durante el periodo especificado, (Failure to appear, una multa de \$200.00), y/o costos de arresto, (\$50.00). Se ahorraran cuando menos \$250.00.

El juzgado / corte municipal anima a los infractores a tomar ventaja de este periodo de amnistia. Es una magnifica oportunidad para resolver cualquier problema pendiente con El Estado de Texas, prevenir ser arrestado y ahorrar dinero.

Al terminarse el periodo de amnistia el Departamento de Policia de Anthony Texas conducira una redada de infractores.

**ANTHONY MUNICIPAL COURT
401 OAK • ANTHONY, TEXAS 79821
915-886-3272**

There's no predicting how sports people will vote or behave

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

For the second straight season San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan claimed the NBA's Most Valuable Player trophy.

And for the second straight season San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan winning the award was a bit of a surprise.

Last year everyone had pretty much already given the trophy, and deservedly so, to New Jersey Nets point guard Jason Kidd. Last Sunday it was fairly evident that Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Garnett was the front-runner.

But in both instances, a case can be made for Duncan's trophies. Duncan can score, rebound, defend, pass the ball and lead a team by his example on and off the court.

I felt Garnett had earned the award this season but I can live with the eventual choice. It's some of the other voting that I found hard to swallow.

Garnett did finish a close second to Duncan...that was good. Kobe Bryant finished third in the voting...that was bad.

The main criteria for the MVP award involves a determination of how valuable you are to your particular team. Kobe finished two

spots ahead of teammate Shaquille O'Neal in the balloting, who finished fifth.

How can Kobe finish ahead of Shaq when it is obviously clear that O'Neal is far more valuable to the team?

Don't get me wrong, Kobe can score but he can also take the Lakers out of a game by going one-on-one all night and taking 40 shots, many of them while teammates are open and waving for the ball.

Here is an interesting fact. The Lakers finished the season with a 50-32 record this season. Not up to their usual standards but enough to get them to where they want to be...in the playoffs. But remember that Shaq missed the first 12 games of the season with foot problems.

When Kobe was asked to step in and be the main man, the Lakers raced out to a dismal 3-9 record and found themselves firmly ensconced in last place in the Pacific Division of the Western Conference.

After Shaq rejoined the team, the Lakers recorded a 47-23 mark and are beginning to resemble the same old Lakers.

Another shocker I noticed was the fact that Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki placed seventh in the voting while Sacramento Kings forward Chris Webber finished 10th.

What the heck were these voters thinking

about? These two guys should have been at the top of the list in contention for the award.

Nowitzki averaged 25 points per game and 10 rebounds while Webber averaged 23 points and 10.5 rebounds. Both players led their respective teams to great seasons and each wants the ball when the game is on the line.

Another surprise was that Allan Iverson, the Philadelphia 76ers guard, was sixth. Sixth! Iverson's numbers were way down this season and there is no reason he should have finished ahead of Nowitzki, Webber, New Jersey's Jason Kidd (9th) and Dallas' Steve Nash (12th).

The MVP award may be an unofficial barometer of how we rate the best player in the league by, but at least it's good to see Duncan, one of the most respected "gentlemen" in the game of basketball, earn its highest individual award.

Now if we could only have the voters to improve their game.

Coaches gone wild

What's the deal with college coaches lately? I'm ready for the first installment of the new video "Coaches Gone Wild."

First, 47-year old Iowa State basketball coach Larry Eustachy is caught on camera doing his best John Belushi in Animal House

imitation, drinking beer and fondling co-eds at an early morning frat party.

Then Alabama football coach Mike Price takes a trip to Florida and spends hundreds of dollars at a topless bar and the next morning a female charges \$1,000 in room service to Price's room.

Wow, where were these guys when I was looking for some partying buddies in my younger days?

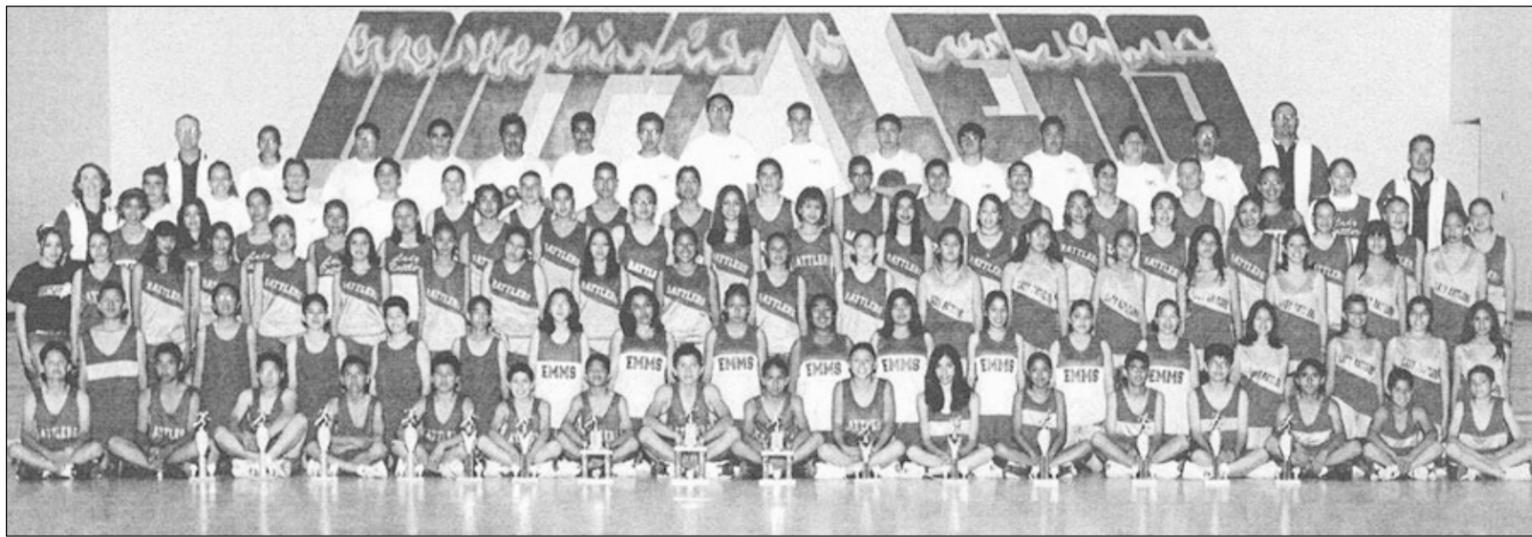
Trouble is, both coaches are married, evidently not happily, and have children.

What is going on? Do these high-profile men think they are invisible? It's one thing to be stupid but it's quite another to think nobody will notice.

Some guys never learn. When Price was fired (he was hired just four months ago) he had the gall to say that he thought the school president was using bad judgment. Using bad judgment! I wonder how Price would describe what he did — "a momentary loss of brainwave activity?"

Are coaches supposed to be flawless or saints? Of course not. But how difficult is it to stay out of a topless bar or a room full of college co-eds at 2:30 in the morning?

And these adults are supposed to mold our young men for the future. Sad.



— Photo courtesy of J. Marin

East Montana runs away with district titles

EAST MONTANA — The East Montana Middle School track teams had another great season. The boys eighth grade and the girls seventh grade teams captured district titles. Runner-up in the district was the girls eighth grade and the boys seventh grade at Fabens

during the district meet. The four teams combined came up with 18 trophies total from six meets. The Rattlers were 135-members strong and were coached by J. Cooper, M. Chavez, K. Antwine, L. Montes and J. Marin.

Chente

From Page 2

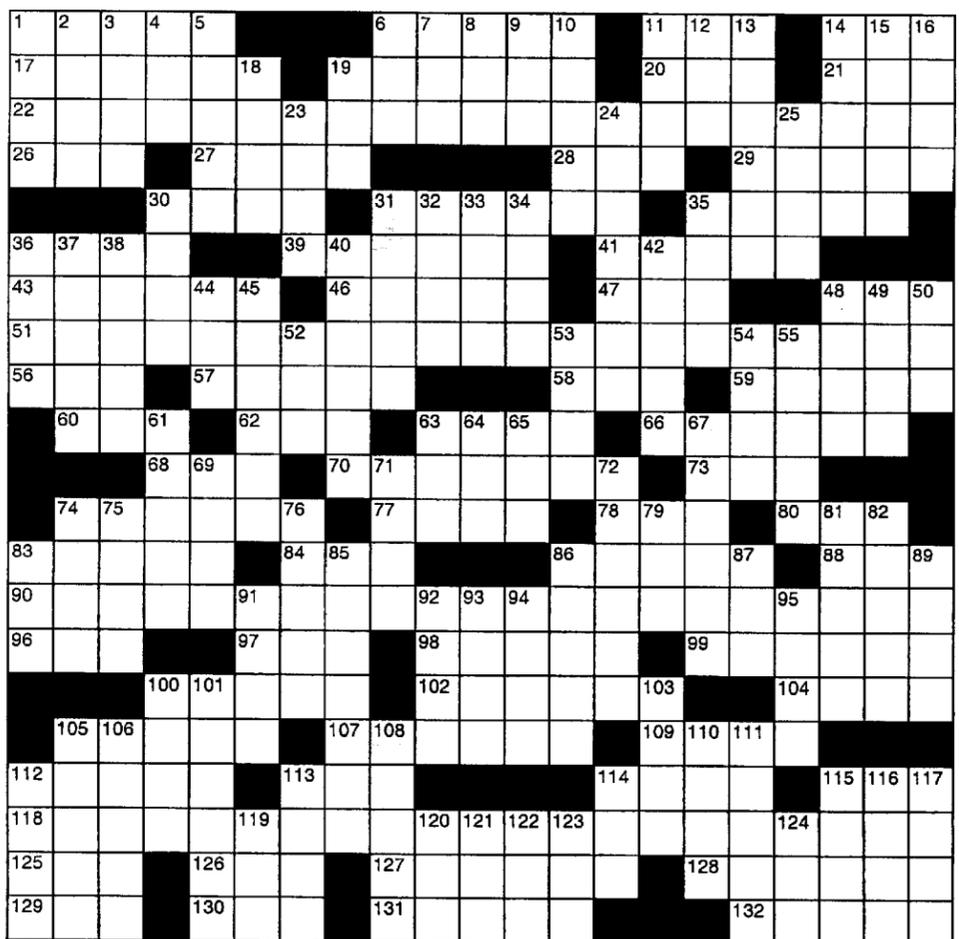
115, at the Office of Rural and Community Affairs. This non-profit Foundation can apply for and administer grants on behalf of rural communities, hospitals, schools, health care providers or even chambers of commerce that no other entity would have the resources to administer. Due to a drafting error, however, SB 115 only allows the Foundation to handle health care related grants. SB 446 corrects this error. It simply clarifies language so that the foundations may apply for community and economic rural programs and makes simple technical changes.

That's it for today. Rest assured that I am working very hard on your behalf at our Texas State Capitol. I'm happy and proud to be your representative — Chente for la gente.

King Super Crossword

- HOPE SPRINGS
- ETERNAL ACROSS
- 1 "Outta here!"
- 6 Acted kittenish
- 11 Cul-de- _
- 14 Select, with "for"
- 17 Porthos' pal
- 19 She knew how to get a head
- 20 Blunder
- 21 Kind of cross
- 22 Start of a remark by Florida Scott-Maxwell
- 26 Loser's locale
- 27 Prepare to fly
- 28 Maria _ Trapp
- 29 Inflict
- 30 Daly of "Judging Amy"
- 31 '81 Albert Finney film
- 35 Decorate
- 36 Tennis legend
- 39 Uproar
- 41 Knight fight
- 43 Stalls
- 46 Courtyards
- 47 Baseball's "Master Melvin"
- 48 "The Raven" monogram
- 51 Part 2 of remark
- 56 Dundee denial
- 57 Networks
- 58 Formerly known as
- 59 _ as a beet
- 60 Drink like a dachshund
- 62 Menu phrase
- 63 California resort
- 66 Let
- 68 Seance sound
- 70 Relaxes
- 73 Chanteuse
- Lemper
- 74 Woodworking tool
- 77 "Eugene Onegin" character
- 78 Candidate's backer
- 80 AAA offering
- 83 Take by force
- 84 Prone
- 86 Bridal path?
- 88 _ -Locka, FL
- 90 Part 3 of remark
- 96 Be in debt
- 97 Seville shout
- 98 _ France
- 99 Did without
- dessert
- 100 Put on
- 102 Coercion
- 104 Famed loch
- 105 Daphnis' darling
- 107 Allure
- 109 "Against All _" ('84 film)
- 112 Sign of spring
- 113 "So there!"
- 114 Nastase of tennis
- 115 "Pshaw!"
- 118 End of remark
- 125 Wonderment
- 126 _ tai
- 127 "Walker, Texas Ranger" star
- 128 Big name in fashion
- 129 _ judicata
- 130 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 131 Put down
- 132 First American saint
- DOWN
- 1 Without
- 2 Cut short
- 3 Sita's spouse
- 4 Doctors' org.
- 5 Daydreamer
- Walter
- 6 _ -jongg
- 7 "Evil Woman" group
- 8 "Holy cow!"
- 9 Funnyman Philips
- 10 Probe
- 11 John and Yoko's son
- 12 Peacoat part
- 13 Packs
- 14 Different
- 15 Hymn of praise
- 16 Ottoman
- 18 Hockey's Mikita
- 19 _ Lanka
- 23 Part of CEO
- 24 "Carmen" character
- 25 Horse's gait
- 30 TV host John
- 31 Pianist Andre
- 32 King of Israel
- 33 Meat cut
- 34 Wittenberg wife
- 35 Car
- 36 Related
- 37 Rope material
- 38 Biblical book
- 40 Martin of "The Majestic"
- 42 Aquatic mammal
- 44 Beer barrel
- 45 Nick one's knee
- 48 Raison d'_
- 49 Sailed through
- 50 Third degree?
- 52 "Lorenzo's _" ('92 film)
- 53 Oklahoma city
- 54 Poverty
- 55 Fall flower
- 61 Periscope part
- 63 He gives a hoot
- 64 Lively dance
- 65 Santa _ CA
- 67 He knew all the angles
- 69 _ Spumante
- 71 A bit of Bach
- 72 Curry components
- 74 Sailors
- 75 Present
- 76 Mete out the minestrone
- 79 Timber tree
- 81 Bakery buy
- 82 Duel-use items?
- 83 "Says _?"
- 85 Vows
- 86 TV's "The Black _"
- 87 Ivy Leaguer
- 89 "No ifs, _ , or buts"
- 91 Make too much of
- 92 "O patria mia" singer
- 93 Melancholy
- 94 Architect Saarinen
- 95 Bears' lairs
- 100 Heady quaffs
- 101 Mrs. Richard Wagner
- 103 Go it alone
- 105 Russell of "Gladiator"
- 106 Takes on board
- 108 Hotelier Helmsley
- 110 Pons or Ponselle
- 111 Exploits
- 112 Out of range
- 113 Cut a cuticle
- 114 April initials
- 115 Fedora fabric
- 116 Facts, for short
- 117 School founded in 1440
- 119 Guy's counterpart
- 120 Watch pocket
- 121 Author Levin
- 122 "_ Brown" ('97 film)
- 123 Quiche or pizza
- 124 Shemp sib

Answer Page 11



Mountain View runner will take his speed to Austin again on May 9

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Alexander Ramos will represent his home campus of Mountain View High School in East Montana for a second consecutive year by competing at the state level in Austin on Friday, May 9. Ramos, a senior this year, quali-

fied in the 3200 meters and 1600 meters. He is one of only two student-athletes to represent Region I which covers the entire Panhandle and extends from El Paso to Ft. Worth, according to Coach Raul Salas.

Qualifying in the 3200 meters with a time of 9 minutes and 32 second, Ramos clocked the third fastest time out of eight qualifiers; in the 1600 meters he ran a time of four minutes and 22 seconds, fifth fastest of eight state competitors.

Undeclared in the El Paso area in both these events for the past two seasons, Ramos hopes to build on his success at state competition last year when he placed second in cross-country.

Ramos has represented Mountain View well in track and field but hasn't neglected his studies. He is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and is in the top 10 percent of his class.

It will be the fourth consecutive year that MVHS has had a runner advance to the state level, Salas said.

DPS helps farmers, ranchers recover equipment

To stop the rise in farm and commercial equipment theft, the DPS Motor Vehicle Theft Service is implementing the Texas Recovery and Identification Program, or TRIP, which will give law enforcement an effective tool for identifying stolen equipment and returning it to its rightful owner.

Across the state, thieves are taking farm and commercial equipment, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, and then reselling it at a high price. From 2000 to 2001, the number of stolen pieces of farm equipment increased by 32.7 percent. In the same time period, there was also a slight rise in the numbers of stolen commercial equipment.

Less than 20 percent of this stolen equipment is recovered because ownership is difficult to track.

TRIP will give law enforcement statewide access to equipment and ownership information so that officers can quickly identify stolen property and return it to its rightful owners.

Farm and commercial equipment owners can enter their equipment information into the password-protected,

DPS-maintained database by visiting <http://records.txdps.state.tx.us> on the internet. DPS will contact owners on a regular basis to verify ownership status of registered equipment and update contact information.

Equipment must meet the following criteria for eligibility in the TRIP:

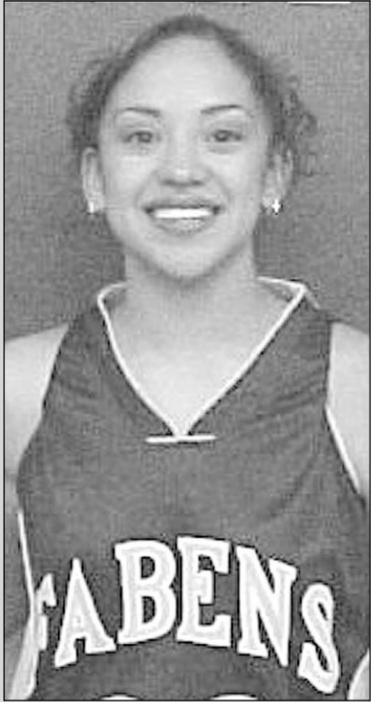
- Grade — farm or commercial grade.
- Style — Vehicles must have permanent wheels or tracks. However, a trailer does not qualify for the program, unless it has some type of equipment, such as an electric generator or air compressor, permanently mounted on it.
- PIN — Equipment must have a manufacturer property identification number (PIN).

Anyone who owns equipment that meets the above listed criteria and is interested in participating in the TRIP can do so at no cost by entering their information online at the above-mentioned Web site. For anyone who does not have access to the Internet, they can pick up forms at dealers and rental companies of heavy equipment and farm equipment.

Fabens girl makes history with All-State selection

FABENS — Paula Portillo, a senior at Fabens High School, has been named to the Texas Girls Coaches Association 2002-2003 Basketball Academic All State Team. Paula is the only Class 4A student-athlete from this area honored with this Award. She was also a First team All-District 2-4A selection as well as an Academic All-District selection. Paula led Fabens to a third place tie in District 2-4A and is a National Honor Society member at Fabens HS.

— Contributed by Noel Castaneda



Paula Portillo

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Anthony, Texas

Project Completion and Closeout Texas Community Development Project #722002

The Town of Anthony will conduct a public hearing to solicit the input and participation of all of its residents in its Texas Community Development Program project. Please attend this meeting and voice your opinion concerning the completion of a project which has provided infrastructure in support of business investment, and which has been implemented with assistance from the Texas Capital Fund of the Texas Community Development Program. Discussion of the completed activities of the project, including location, general cost, and project benefits, and the town's performance in implementing the project.

DATE OF THE HEARING: Tuesday, May 13, 2003
LOCATION OF THE HEARING: Town Council Room, Town Hall in Anthony, Texas
TIME OF HEARING: 5:00 P.M.

The Town of Anthony has a Citizen Participation Plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation at all stages of the Community Development Program; copies are available by request. Persons unable to attend these public hearings may submit their views regarding completion of the project at the Town Hall in Anthony, Texas.

Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at (915) 886-3944.

El publico en general está invitado a asistir a estas audiencias. La presentación y discusión del Programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad del Estado de Texas se haran en español para aque las personas que asi lo deseen.

Art Franco, Mayor
Town of Anthony, Texas

Date Published:
05/08/03



EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or special appraised value placed on your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the jurisdiction in which you are being taxed
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the Chief Appraiser, Appraisal District or Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

Informal Review

The El Paso Central Appraisal District has a trained staff to assist you with your tax appraisal problems.

In order to have an informal or ARB hearing you **must file a written protest before your deadline** (see below for deadlines).

If you receive a notice of appraised value, a protest form is attached to the bottom below the perforation. If you wish to protest, simply tear off this form, sign the back, and return it to the El Paso Central Appraisal District.

If you do not receive a notice of appraised value, you should send a letter or postcard stating that you wish to protest your property value. Be sure to include your name and address or property identification number.

After your written protest is received, the Appraisal District will send you a letter notifying you of the date and time of your informal and ARB hearings.

However, if you have a question about exemptions, procedures, or anything not related to a protest, you may call (915) 780-2131. Your call will be logged, your question noted, and given to the appropriate department for a call back.

Review by the Appraisal Review Board

If you can't resolve your problem informally with the Central Appraisal District (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns aforementioned. It has

the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a Notice of Protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing on Saturday or Sunday, or in the evening. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD will use to uphold their determination. The CAD may ask you for a copy of the evidence you plan to present. The hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person or present evidence, or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. The CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented. You can get a copy of a protest form from the Appraisal District office at:

5801 Trowbridge Drive

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order.

Tax Payment

If you appeal and your case is pending, you must pay the lesser of the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information

You can get more information by contacting the El Paso Central Appraisal District, 5801 Trowbridge Drive, El Paso, Texas 79925-3345, (915) 780-2131. You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the Appraisal District or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

Deadline* for Filing Protests with the ARB

Usual Deadline

On or before May 31, (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause.

Late protests are due the day before the Appraisal Review Board approves records for the year. Contact the Appraisal District for more information.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

Special Deadlines

For change of use (the Appraisal District informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

If you believe the Appraisal District or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1). The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

Childress ES awarded grant

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Bill Childress Elementary School, in Canutillo School District, was presented recently with a Wal-Mart Good Works grant to support the school's on-going campus beautification projects.

Ruben Garcia, manager of Wal-Mart on Mesa Street, visited the Childress ES campus last week to present Principal Annette Brigham with a check for \$500 as part of the employees' efforts to get involved with their communities. In addition, store employees donated 25 plants and two trees for the campus.

Employees participating in the presentation were Emma Canales, Good Works committee coordinator, and Kristi Moss, employee-volunteer. Receiving the donation on behalf of the school were Carroll De La O and her fifth grade students. De La O is



Wal-Mart representatives (in background, from left) Ruben Garcia, Emma Canales, and Kristi Moss present check to Childress Elementary School fifth grade students in Carroll De La O's class.

the school's campus beautification coordinator. She has been involved with the beautification project since its inception five years ago.

"We are truly appreciative of the

support that we have received from community businesses like Wal-Mart. Their contributions have made our campus a better place for students to learn and play," said Brigham.

Briefs

From Page 1

elections seated the top three vote-getters from a field of five candidates. Angel J. Cuellar won 280 votes; Rick Villarreal, 205; and Monica Munoz, 154. Other candidates were Ernestina Fierro, 116 votes; and Alex Seanez, 113. Beatriz "Bea" Burciaga will serve out an unexpired term, garnering 208 over candidate Becky Avila who took 155 votes.

• The Clint ISD and the San Elizario ISD did not hold elections due to uncontested races, as was the case with the Town of Clint.

In other news

■ The Socorro Police Department will be conducting a Warrant Sweep during the last week in May, but the first three weeks of this month will be considered amnesty weeks for anyone who might have an outstanding warrant for whatever violation, such as traffic citations and City Ordinance Violations. It is in the citizen's best interest to take care of any citations they may have during the first three weeks in May.

■ American Cancer Society, in conjunction with Canutillo ISD, will hold the Second Annual Relay For Life Walk, Run or Stroll, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 9, and continue through 8 a.m., Saturday, May 10, at Canutillo High School Eagles Stadium, 7311 Bosque Road. The event is designed to bring together community residents for a night of exercise and entertainment, to celebrate cancer survivors, memorialize those who lost their battle with cancer, and support families and friends who are currently battling with cancer. "All funds raised through this event

will be used to help provide education and patient services to families in the Canutillo area," said Gabriela Marquez, Canutillo Elementary School counselor and Relay For Life volunteer. Music, food and refreshments will be available. An awards ceremony will be held at 8 a.m., Saturday morning. For more information, call 877-7614 or 544-4425.

■ The Mission Valley Business Alliance will meet on Tuesday, May 13, 2003, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Sombras Del Pasado Restaurant in Socorro, Texas at 10205 Socorro Road. The next major initiative for the alliance is to establish an arts district to promote tourism and economic development. Special guests include Jack Anderson, Texas Commission of the Arts, who has experience in Art's and economic development with successful projects in the U.S., Mexico and British Columbia. For information call Raul Carrasco (915) 858-2015 (LVMSG).

■ Many youngsters dream of traveling into space. The lucky students at Borrego Elementary in San Elizario will get to live that dream vicariously when their personal signatures travel aboard a U.S. Space Shuttle mission with the Signatures in Space program. Student Signatures in Space (S3) is a nationwide project associated with Space Day, which took place on May 1 as the culminating event of the Embrace Space educational initiative, intended to inspire future generations to continue space exploration and to encourage science, math, and technology education. More than 500 elementary and middle schools are participating in the S3 project this year, and Alfonso Borrego Elementary was one of the schools selected.

■ Toni Marie Ramirez has been selected as the 2003-04 Socorro High School student body presi-

dent. Student body officers are Debie Lafuente, vice-president; Jaime Carrasco, secretary; and Rosalie Lujan, treasurer. Brenda Bagues, also of SHS, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from TEXTESOL.

■ Horizon's award-winning Scorpion All-Star cheerleaders will host a fund-raising Skate Jam on May 26, Memorial Day at Rollerking at 1579 Pellicano. During a four-hour session, 6 to 10 p.m., tickets are being offered at half-price — a \$10 value for only \$5. For more information on a VIP Guest Pass call 852-4235 or 858-1769.

■ The El Paso Mystery Troupe is holding registration and auditions for upcoming performances of traditional murder mysteries, dinner mysteries and melodramas. People ages 16 to 90 are invited to participate in one-night events and multiple performances. Costumers, set builders and promotional personnel also needed for both in and out-of-town performances. Call 544-5992 for information.

■ May as National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month and according to the Skin Cancer Foundation the lifetime risk of an individual developing melanoma will increase to 1 in 50 by the year 2010. Education, prevention and early detection are the best weapons to fight this deadly disease. Detailed descriptions of warning signs, as well as guidelines for sun protection, are available on the internet at www.galdermausa.com, sponsored by Galderma Laboratories which also offers a dermatologist search tool, news and articles about various skin conditions and links to other skin care and dermatology resources to keep you up-to-date and well-informed year around.

Digital Technologies

A Custom Services Company

- ♦ Custom Computers
- ♦ Onsite Repair/Upgrade
- ♦ On Call
- ♦ Web Design
- ♦ Contracts Available
- ♦ Competitive Pricing

Appointments by phone or e-mail.
Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM

Joseph E. Dion, Jr.
(915) 478-4292
jedion@dionetechs.com

City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on May 27, 2003 during the Planning Commission meeting at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the following proposed rezoning(s):

- 1) Lot 1, Block 1 Melton Place, 101 Melton Road, from R-1, Single Family Residential to C-2, General Commercial by Edmundo Rubio, Jr.;
- 1) Lots 19 and 20, Block 5 Spanish Trail, 183 Carreta Lane from R-1, Single Family Residential to R-2, Medium Density Residential by Diane E. Dominguez Ramirez.

TERE RODRIGUEZ
Interim City Clerk

WTCC: 05/08/03

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2003 during the Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Proposed Ordinance No. 0106: rezoning a portion of the southern Section of 31, Block 78, Township 3, Lots 1, 2 and 3 from R-2, Single Family Residential to C-1, General Commercial.
- 2) Proposed Amendment No. 001 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102, to amend Chapter 13 to create a Planned Unit Development.

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

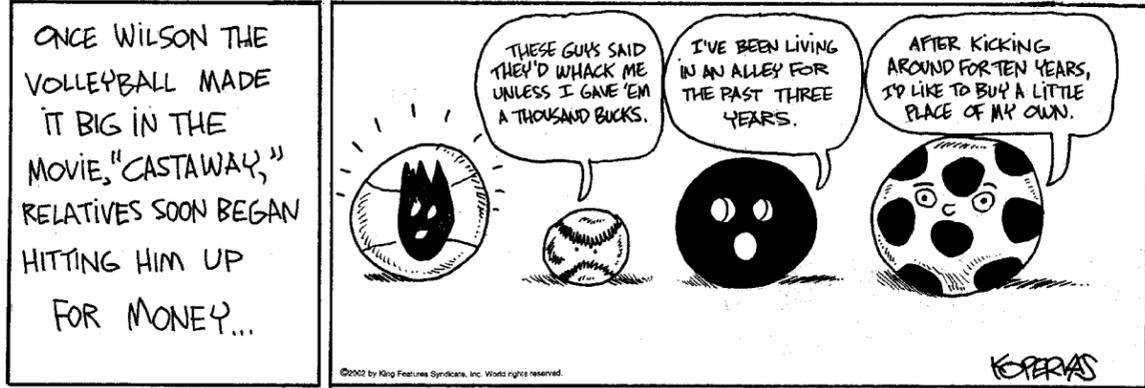
Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

WTCC: 05/08/03

www.wtccourier.com

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Remembering the way we were — briefly

By Don Flood

You've probably heard about "speed-dating," gatherings where singles meet for a series of seven-minute "dates."

But you can guess the problem. *Seven minutes?* Please.

That's a lot to invest in a relationship that you know from the get-go is a dud.

Which brings us to the latest breakthrough in American dating efficiency — the three-minute dating service! (Absolutely true.)

Someday, though, people may look back and recall a gentler time, when relationships were allowed to blossom, mature, and yes, sometimes wither, at a more measured seven-minute pace:

SHE: What is it?
HE: Nothing.

SHE: Look, we've been together long enough for me to know when something's wrong.

HE: It's just that, uh, I think maybe we should "cool" it for a while.

SHE: Cool it? Forty-five seconds ago you wanted a commitment.

ME: I know, it's not you, it's ...

SHE: Is there someone else?

HE: Well, um, yes. You see, just before we met, I was involved in a long-term relationship.

SHE: How long?

HE: Seven minutes.

SHE: Wow.

HE: I thought she was the "one."

SHE: What happened?

HE: I don't know. I gave her some of the best minutes of my life.

SHE: What about us? Don't our 5 minutes and 38 seconds together mean anything to you?

HE: Yes, of course, but she was ... she was my Soul Mate.

SHE (through tears): Your soul mate?

HE: And I thought I was hers.

When she was down — and believe me, there was a period of close to 2 minutes when she was down *all the time* — I was the one who picked

her up. I was the one who ... (sound of quiet, manly sobbing).

SHE: It's OK.

HE: I'm sorry, I just don't know if I'm ready to jump into another relationship right now.

SHE: I can wait.

HE: You say that now, but what about a minute from now? Two minutes?

SHE: I can't believe you're ready to throw everything away. Sure, we've had some tough times, but we've had good times too. Remember how hard we laughed when I spilled that drink on myself?

HE: Of course I remember!

SHE: That was our two-minute anniversary. Oh, those were the seconds!

HE: Yes — we were so young and carefree then.

SHE: But that was then.

HE: Maybe it can be that way again.

SHE: No, I don't think so. I'm not that frightened little girl you met 6 minutes and 21 seconds ago ...

HE: But ...

SHE: Let me finish. I'm older now; I've changed. And you're still the same old guy I met, oh, 6 minutes and 33 seconds ago now. Besides, I don't think you've forgotten her.

SHE: Who?

HE: Your soul mate!

HE: Her? She's ancient history!

SHE: You're my soul mate!

SHE: I'm sorry, but I've moved on.

HE: That can't be! I promise you, you'll be my soul mate for all ...

DATING HOST: TIME!

HE: What?

DATING HOST: Time! Seven minutes is up. Next date!

(Moving on to next date.)

HE: You'll have to forgive me.

I'm very vulnerable right now. I just got out of a long-term relationship.

(c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Respond:

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

ICS SYSTEM UPGRADE FOR CLARKE/SIERRA VISTA SCHOOLS
CSP NO. 199-0516-0370
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2003, 9 A.M.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained beginning Friday, May 2, 2003 by contacting the Project Engineer's office at:

Borunda & Associates, Inc.
9900 Montana

Ave., Suite E
El Paso, Texas 79925
Phone: 592-7611
Fax: 592-7622

A deposit of \$100 per set will be required for each plan set a contractor wishes to receive. If the plans and specifications are returned in good condition, the deposit will be refunded.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled to be held at 9 a.m., Friday, May 09, 2003, in the at Socorro ISD Operational Services, 201 Tanton Rd., El Paso, TX 79927. At this conference bidders will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any aspect of this project. Although attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory, all bidders are responsible for the information discussed at the con-

ference, and are strongly urged to attend. It is also highly recommended that all bidders visit and inspect each work site prior to submitting a bid.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-5/08/03

BARGAINS

2002 Honda Accord DX, A/C, 5-speed, 4-cylinder. 23,000 miles. \$14,000. 505-546-4286.

HELP WANTED

Attention

Students!
SUMMER WORK
\$13.50 base-appt. Scholarships/ Internships
Conditions exist, FT/PT flex
Customer service/sales
779-1600
www.workforstudents.com
5/8-6/12

RENTALS

TWO BEDROOM HOME FOR RENT:
• Off Alameda in Clint • Nicely remodeled, quiet area
• Call 598-1961 or 383-1152.

REAL ESTATE

Residential lot, cul-de-sac, 15311 Woodhill, Horizon City. Owner finance. 633-6684. 5/8/03

SELF-HELP

Alcoholics Anonymous Group Paso

Del Norte meets at 8501 Kingsway in Westway, Monday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Call 886-4948 for information.

Alcohólicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a 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 solucion. Visitemos. **Alcohólicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360**

Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick
Harshberger
915-852-9082

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

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

• Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
• Appliance installation
• Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

Four busts net 4,684 pounds of marijuana

EL PASO AREA — El Paso Sector agents of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection seized 4,684 pounds of marijuana, valued in excess of \$3.7 million, in four separate episodes that began Friday morning, May 2.

The first took place near Ft. Hancock when agents stopped a Chevy Blazer driving in a notorious smuggling area. Two Mexico nationals, ages 23 and 24, were arrested when agents saw burlap bundles in the rear passenger area. The net was 760 pounds of marijuana.

The second episode was near Santa Teresa on Friday night when agents saw a pickup cross the border from Mexico into the U.S. The driver fled as agents approached, eventually getting the vehicle stuck in the sand and fleeing on foot back across the border. Agents found over 1,000 pounds of marijuana in the abandoned vehicle.

The third event was on Saturday when agents found foot tracks entering the U.S. 12 miles north of the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry. After following the tracks for more than an hour they found 14 bundles of marijuana stashed in the brush but were unable to locate the suspects.

The fourth seizure was also made on Saturday when agents near Tornillo responded to a notice of vehicle traffic near the Rio Grande. They found an abandoned Chevy Suburban near the border service road — subsequent search revealed 1,700 pounds of marijuana inside.



For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

Vulnerable

I like to think of myself as the kind of girl who can clean out the attic, strip wallpaper, pay bills, wash the dog and put up the groceries all before 9 a.m. That gives me the rest of the day to do something productive with my time.

My family knows that I rarely ask for help or manage to sit still (in reality, I mostly shuffle things — kids, newspapers, laundry baskets, toys — from one activity or room to the next).

You get the picture: *I think I am*

strong. STRONG. I am invincible. INVINCIBLE. I am wooooooooooman.

Except that for a while I haven't felt so strong or invincible because I have a nagging pain in my back.

And this is where the problem creeps in. What hurts more than a backache is that I'm having to rely on my husband and kids to ... ahem, do things for me. Small things, I might add, and only when I say they can.

"You aren't very good at letting

someone help you," my daughter observed one evening when I had promised to sit still and let my family take care of me. Queen for an evening. Can't get any better than that.

But then the irritation set in. No, not the back pain. The shoes on the stairs everyone seemed to be stepping over. Oh, yes, and the paperwork somewhere only I knew where to look. And while I was up, I didn't think it would hurt anything to load the dishes into the dishwasher. Before I knew it I had my purse and junk drawer neat and tidy.

"Would you all like me to bake cookies?" I asked my family.

"What are you doing? I thought

you were going to let us take care of you," my husband said.

So I settled onto the couch and my kids massaged my back and my husband brought me an aspirin and a drink of water. They said they could bake cookies on their own, and I resisted the temptation of being Mom-in-Charge. Although I think I did drop a few hints about how I like a clean kitchen.

You know what happened? They managed just fine without me flitting through the house rearranging things. The world didn't end because clean dishes weren't unloaded from the dishwasher before we went to bed, nor did the Earth stop spinning because I didn't finish paperwork.

For one evening I let someone else be the caretaker. No one died, the house didn't catch on fire, and I felt a lot of relief. I'll add that the cookies were tasty. A girl could get used to this kind of treatment.

Lately my family is seeing me in what I consider two very vulnerable positions: 1) still, and 2) on the receiving end of nurturance. And you know what I'm learning? That it doesn't make a woman wimpy or high maintenance to let someone take care of you now and then.

If I'd figured this out sooner I might have saved myself some aches and pains.

(c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny and breezy.	Clear and breezy.	Sunshine and windy.	Sunny and breezy.	Sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Sunny.
▲ 84°	▼ 60°	▲ 86° ▼ 54°	▲ 84° ▼ 56°	▲ 84° ▼ 56°	▲ 86° ▼ 60°	▲ 88° ▼ 56°	▲ 86° ▼ 56°

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	80°
Friday	77°
Saturday	74°
Sunday	74°
Monday	81°
Tuesday	81°
Wednesday	85°

AGRICULTURE

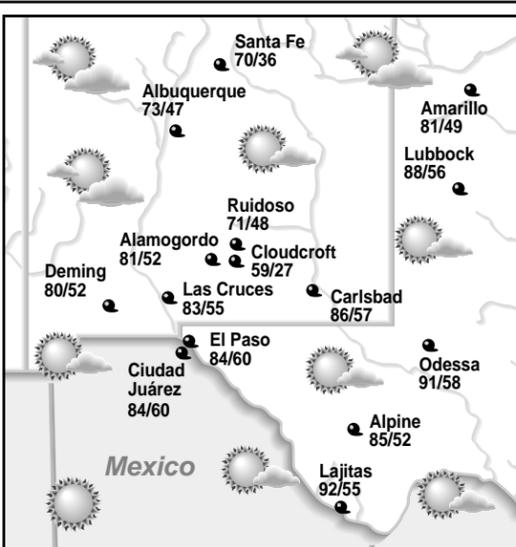
There will be 10-12 hours of sunshine Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It will be breezy to windy at times each day with areas of blowing dust, especially during the afternoon hours. Winds can gust past 30 mph on Friday. Sunny Sunday and Monday with less wind. No significant rainfall is expected over the next week.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2003

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	84	58
Canutillo	85	59
Clint	84	58
E. Montana	84	60
Fabens	84	58
Horizon	85	59
San Elizario	81	56
Socorro	83	59
Tornillo	84	58
Vinton	85	59

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	73/47/pc	75/45/pc	71/46/s	75/49/s	77/51/s
Atlanta	85/67/pc	85/67/pc	83/67/pc	83/65/pc	82/66/pc
Atlantic City	74/54/t	66/50/c	70/50/c	67/49/c	70/56/pc
Austin/San Antonio	92/70/pc	92/74/pc	92/71/pc	90/69/pc	89/66/pc
Baltimore	77/54/t	72/52/c	72/52/c	75/54/c	77/58/c
Boston	62/48/t	56/44/pc	56/46/c	60/48/c	63/53/c
Chicago	64/52/pc	68/50/c	72/52/c	74/49/pc	69/43/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	89/68/pc	90/70/s	86/68/pc	86/67/c	84/64/c
Denver	66/38/pc	65/40/pc	59/37/pc	62/41/pc	64/34/c
Flagstaff	58/30/pc	50/24/pc	57/27/pc	62/30/s	64/31/s
Houston	90/75/pc	90/75/pc	90/72/pc	88/72/pc	87/67/pc
Kansas City	74/58/c	79/60/pc	74/57/pc	74/54/pc	71/46/pc
Las Vegas	76/58/pc	70/52/pc	74/54/s	82/58/s	84/60/s
Miami	89/77/s	89/77/s	89/77/s	89/76/s	88/74/s
Minneapolis	64/46/pc	68/48/c	68/46/c	65/47/c	64/34/c
New Orleans	89/75/pc	88/75/pc	89/73/s	89/72/pc	88/70/s
New York City	71/54/t	63/50/c	60/52/c	64/52/c	69/61/c
Philadelphia	72/54/t	70/52/c	70/52/c	74/56/c	74/62/pc
Phoenix	84/58/s	80/58/s	84/61/s	89/64/s	93/60/s
Portland	59/44/sh	60/46/c	62/46/pc	67/48/pc	66/40/c
San Francisco	58/48/sh	62/48/pc	62/50/pc	64/50/pc	67/45/pc
Seattle	58/44/pc	60/44/pc	62/46/pc	62/45/pc	61/39/c
Tucson	84/54/s	80/53/s	86/53/s	86/55/s	93/54/s
Washington, DC	78/56/t	74/54/c	74/54/c	78/58/c	78/62/c

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



shop·vac
THE ORIGINAL WET/DRY VAC

Can't Tip This!

Exclusive TRUETRAC™ Anti-Tip Design makes it virtually impossible to knock over!

Available Only At Lowe's

\$69⁸⁸

12 Gallon 5.0 Peak HP Wet/Dry Vac #159648

DARE TO COMPARE No other wet/dry vac has all of these features.

- Genuine Shop-Vac Brand
- Low-Profile, Anti-Tip Design
- Quietest Wet/Dry Vac Available
- Extra-Large Tool Basket
- Convertible Blower Port
- High-Performance Cartridge Filter
- Lock-On Hose
- 18-Foot Power Cord
- Top & Side Carry Handles
- Big 2-1/2" Accessories

See the complete line of the #1 selling brand of wet/dry vacs, filters and accessories.

www.shopvac.com
Shop-Vac® is a registered trademark of Shop-Vac Corporation.

If It Doesn't Say Shop·Vac, Keep Shopping!®

www.lowes.com
Lowe's® and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC.
©2002 Lowe's® Home Centers, Inc.
For the Lowe's nearest you call 1-800-44-LOWES.
Prices may vary if there are market variations.