



NEWSBRIEFS

Your belt or wallet

"If you won't buckle up to save your life, buckle up to save yourself a ticket." So says the message to young people from local law enforcement participating in the "Click it or Ticket" program, a two-week enforcement wave May 19 through Memorial Day supported by more than \$20 million in state and national advertising. The Horizon City Police Department is joining more than 12,000 other law enforcement agencies focused in a national crack down to save the lives of young people. Fatality rates for teens are twice that of older drivers and teens are four times more likely to be involved in a crash. "While national seat belt use stands at 75 percent, we know the remaining 25 percent who don't wear their belts are disproportionately teens and young me ages 18-34. At 69 percent safety belt use for teens and young adults ages 16-24 continues to lag behind the rest of the population," said HCPD Sgt. Ron Swenson.

Water show

Texas: the State of Water, a one-hour video documentary on water resource issues, will air the evening of Thursday, May 29 on 13 PBS television stations reaching more than 30 Texas cities. In El Paso it can be seen on KCOS-El Paso (8 p.m. CMT). The documentary includes segments involving El Paso, Caddo Lake in East Texas, the Ogallala Aquifer in the Panhandle, the Pecos River area in West Texas, and the Colorado and Trinity River watersheds involving Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin and Houston. The program also focuses on the once mighty Rio Grande as a case study to show how, if care is not taken, rivers can stop flowing. The Rio Grande has intermittently ceased flowing into the Gulf of Mexico in recent years, and today in many areas there is little or no water in the riverbed.

In other news

■ A tip from an FBI agent near the Texas/New Mexico state line led Border Patrol agents to 17 illegal immigrants hiding in a sea-pack container car on an east-bound train last Thursday near Alamogordo. The stowaways, two of whom were females, one an unaccompanied 17-year-old girl, were all believed to be from Mexico and were hiding inside the container where temperatures were as high as 110 degrees. In later incidents over the weekend, agents in the El Paso Sector seized more than 5,513 pounds of marijuana in five separate incidents. Three of the incidents occurred in Fabens and Ft. Hancock areas near the border where smugglers are known to cross over from Mexico. On Saturday, 900 pounds were recovered in the Lordsburg, N.M. area from a pickup

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The things most people want to know about are usually none of their business.
— Quips & Quotes

Socorro Council appoints interim city attorney

Mayor explains appointment is a conflict by City Charter

Courier Staff Reports

SOCORRO — The resignation of Socorro's current City Attorney Francisco Dominguez left the City of Socorro without a legal adviser it was announced during the May 15 council meeting. However, the temporary replacement selected by council may have a conflict of interest.

Dominguez resigned as the Socorro city attorney for reasons unknown and was not present at the meeting. Attorney Rudy Mata presided as adviser for the meeting.

The council agenda called for the selection of a attorney to assume legal duties effective

June 1, 2003 and authorization to advertise for a permanent city attorney.

After considerable discussion, City Representative Gloria Rodriguez motioned to have Ms. Chris Borunda, current Civil Service Commission attorney, to take over Dominguez's contract.

In a later interview, Socorro Mayor Irma Sanchez said Socorro's City Charter requires that the city retain legal counsel separately from the Civil Service Commission, which functions independently from the city with oversight of personnel matters.

Council approved Rodriguez' motion 4-1 with City Representative Chito Bowling being the only dissenting vote. The council did authorize advertising for Requests for Qualifications in preparation to name a permanent city attorney.

In other business, the recommendation from

See SOCORRO, Page 5

Canutillo ISD names valedictorian and salutatorian for Class of 2003

CANUTILLO — Valedictorian Ruben Salinas and Salutatorian Jacqueline Segovia will lead Canutillo High School Class of 2003

graduating seniors through the commencement ceremony, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 4, at the El Paso Civic Center.



Canutillo high School Class of 2003 Top Ten Graduating Seniors Shown sitting from left is Marilyn Valdez, Araceli Carrillo, Miriam Garcia; standing from left is Jacob Macias, Ruben Salinas, Jacqueline Segovia, Indira Montenegro, Mildred Ruiz, and Richard Guzman. (Not shown in photo Cassandra Cisneros).

Rounding out the top 10 graduates in ranking order are: Mildred Ruiz, Marilyn Valdez, Richard Guzman, Miriam Garcia, Indira Montenegro, Cassandra Cisneros, Jacob Macias, and Araceli Carrillo.

About 232 seniors are expected to graduate and over \$620,000 in scholarships will be announced during the evening ceremony. Salinas and Segovia said that they plan to attend the University of Texas at Austin on scholarships.

— Contributed by
Alfredo Vasquez

San Elizario students making impressions outside district

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SANELIZARIO — Students' achievements beyond the boundaries of the school district were highlighted at the May 14 meeting of the board of trustees of the San Elizario ISD.

It was a night of recognition for San Elizario students in several academic fields.

• Career and Technology: Thirteen students from the Career and Technology Department went to the state competition recently in Fort Worth. Miriam Alanis took second in T-Shirt Design. Jairo Valles took third in advertising design technology.

"All programs have exceeded expectations," said Superintendent Dr. Mike Quatrini.

• HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America): Nine SEISD students took part in area competition. Eight students won fourth place or better. Jonathan Grijalva took third in the area

meet and then went on to take earn first place at the state level in Clinical Specialties.

• Gifted and Talented: Five students received scholarship funding for "Shake Hands with Your Future," a special program for gifted and talented middle school students scheduled this summer at Texas Tech University. They are, along with the amount of scholarship support: Andrea Gutierrez, \$300; Stephanie Lopez, \$800; Joyce Alvidrez, a fully paid scholarship of \$935; Marie Godinez, \$425; and Nohely Vargaz, \$800.

• United Eagle Scholarship: Amanda Duran received a \$600 college scholarship. She is the first recipient of the scholarship that was established based on a proposal by high school registrar Olga Perez. Runnerup for the scholarship was Juan Mendoza who receives \$100 in college supplies.

Nancy Swanson, principal of Sambrano

See SEISD, Page 6

Exiting Horizon Council uses final meeting to create development district

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — With Mayor Pat Randleel presiding over her final meeting as Horizon City's mayor, Jeffrey Wright, representative from Land of Texas, made a presentation to the Horizon City Council at the regularly scheduled meeting on May 13 regarding the Planned Unit Development (PUD).

Mayor-elect Diane Whitty and three aldermen: Art Borst, Robert Reyes and Kenan Greseth, were sworn in during special ceremonies on May 16. The next regular council meeting is scheduled for June 10.

"We must gain back from this nation what we have lost — a sense of community," Wright said, adding that creating the PUD is a step in the right direction.

Wright went on to explain how the PUD would work — the vision is to have a "Town Square" which would include a farmers' market, a book fair, mom and pop stores and a park, all within walking distance of the residents of Horizon City.

The purpose of the district is to allow mixed use development, to incorporate compatible residential and commercial uses within the PUD boundaries.

A PUD diversifies and integrates land uses

See HORIZON, Page 7

Stamp unveiling honoring veterans to be held in Clint

CLINT — The sacrifices of the men and women in the military will be the focus of attention on May 31 when the U.S. Postal Service will unveil the Purple Heart definitive postage stamp during a ceremony at the Clint High School football field at 9 a.m.

Clint Postmaster Fernando Sepulveda will do the unveiling, joined by Manny Avila and several other Clint Purple Heart recipients.

Other presentations include entertainment by local talent, as well as representatives from the state and national representatives' offices, and members of area VFWs, Vietnam Veterans of the Southwest, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Bienavides-Patterson 82nd.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the world still in use. It is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to military servicemen who are wounded or killed in battle.

The stamp will feature one of two Purple Hearts awarded to Lt. Col. James Loftus Fowler, a Marine who served as battalion commander of the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines in 1968 on the border between North and South Vietnam. The stamp can be viewed at www.usps.com/communications/news/stamps/welcome.htm.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Your presence is requested

It's spring-time in El Paso County. The dust blows in on a pretty regular basis. The temperature can change on a dime. The living room is piled up with sleeping bags and camping gear. It's springtime, all right.

Another way I can tell is because the spring winds sometimes carry spring fever, you know, the kind of thing that makes people behave in odd ways that leave you scratching your head.

Like, why on earth is it considered "playing by the rules" when you decide that rather than let majority rule our system of government the way it is set up to do, you simply leave the state and hole up with a pack of your compadres so nothing can get done at all?

Now, I hear in the news all the time about people who "barricade" themselves in their own house and the SWAT team comes over and digs them out with a shovel and a little tear gas.

Why it is against the law to barricade yourself in your own house is something of a mystery to me, anyway. I do it all the time when things get too hectic out there. I guess I get away with it because the SWAT team doesn't know yet.

Maybe some of us remember a little incident not too many years ago when a couple of folks holed up in a trailer in the Big Bend, declaring themselves the true Republic of Texas.

Now these boys were really pretty far out there, in a lot of ways. But true to our nature, these boys and the government had a standoff for weeks. Law enforcement surrounded the place and the rebels dug in and it went

on and on till the togetherness inside the mobile home got a little too together and the boys came out.

During this "crisis" one sage fellow observed that he didn't see what the big deal was. After all these rebels only wanted that one little 'ol trailer sitting on a patch of dirt and rocks, which left the rest of the whole state for everybody else.

Nevertheless, their presence was requested. And the law saw to it that they presented themselves before a court.

Seems to me there's a double standard going on here. If the average citizen chooses to close his doors and windows for a little down time, after he runs afoul of a rule or two, the law comes after him with due force. If half the legislative body of the Texas House of Representatives takes a big-time hiatus right in the middle of the only time they are actually mandated by law to show up for work — once every two years — they call it "doing the right thing," "being courageous" and "standing up for what is right."

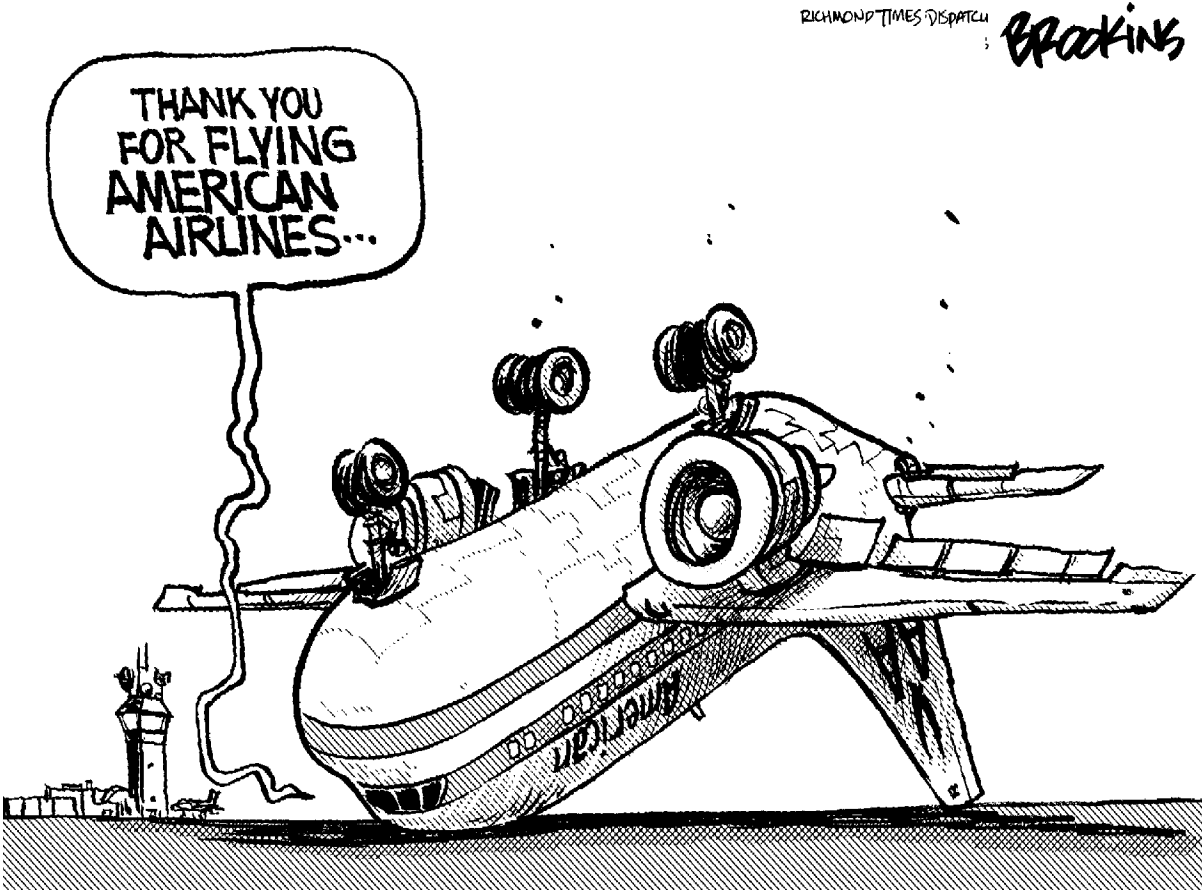
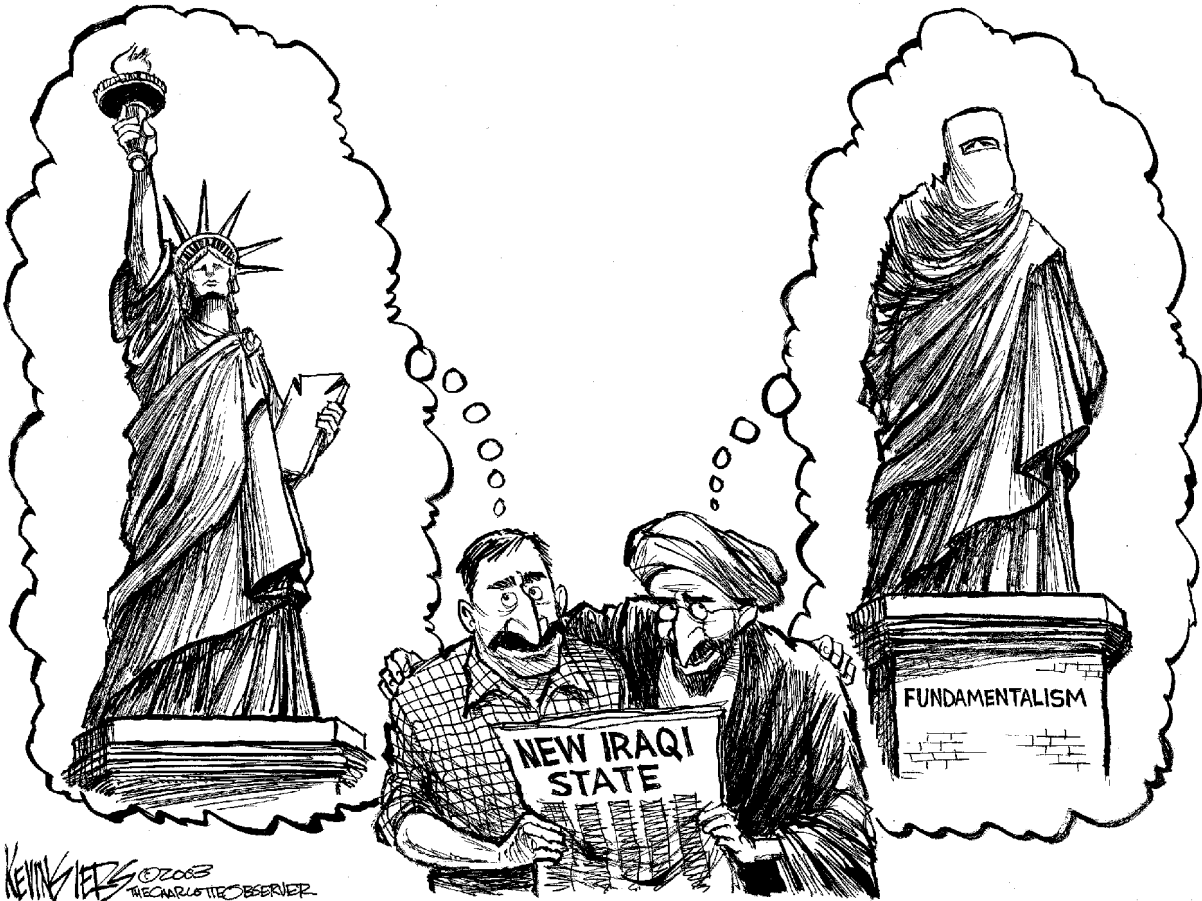
And they did their barricading in Ardmore, Oklahoma, no less.

They were absent when their presence was requested, not only by the Speaker of the House, but by every citizen of the state of Texas.

Now after a few days the closeness in the Holiday Inn in Ardmore got to be a little too much and the boys came home. It was also too late for the issue they contested to be decided this session.

There are some Texans out there calling the "Runaway Legislators" heroes. The rest of us are just shaking our heads in wonder. I've never

See PRESENCE, Page 3



30 Years

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FAHNS, SAN ELIZABIO AND TORNILLO

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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.

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ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum
Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Military benefits deserve to be updated and improved

With Fort Bliss's recent deployment of about 4,000 soldiers to the Persian Gulf during Operation Enduring Freedom, we know the heartache, pride, and fear that surrounds a military deployment. However, our soldiers and their families also have many practical concerns to deal with during deployment. What happens to the car payment? The mortgage? Even traffic tickets? Dealing with the emotional aspects of leaving home to serve are tough enough. The more mundane issues of life should be much easier to handle. That is why I am an original co-sponsor of the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, which the House of Representatives recently passed by a vote of 425 to zero.

While away from home on active duty, rent, insurance, mortgage, credit card bills — even parking tickets — all still need to be paid. Civil court actions, such as bankruptcy or foreclosure proceedings, are still scheduled to continue. However, if you were fighting through the Iraqi desert, your mortgage or an outstanding parking ticket might not be the first thing on your mind. During my tour of duty in Vietnam, I spent the majority of my time hanging out the door of a helicopter firing a machine gun. I can assure you I wasn't thinking about my monthly rent. I was a bit more concerned with survival.

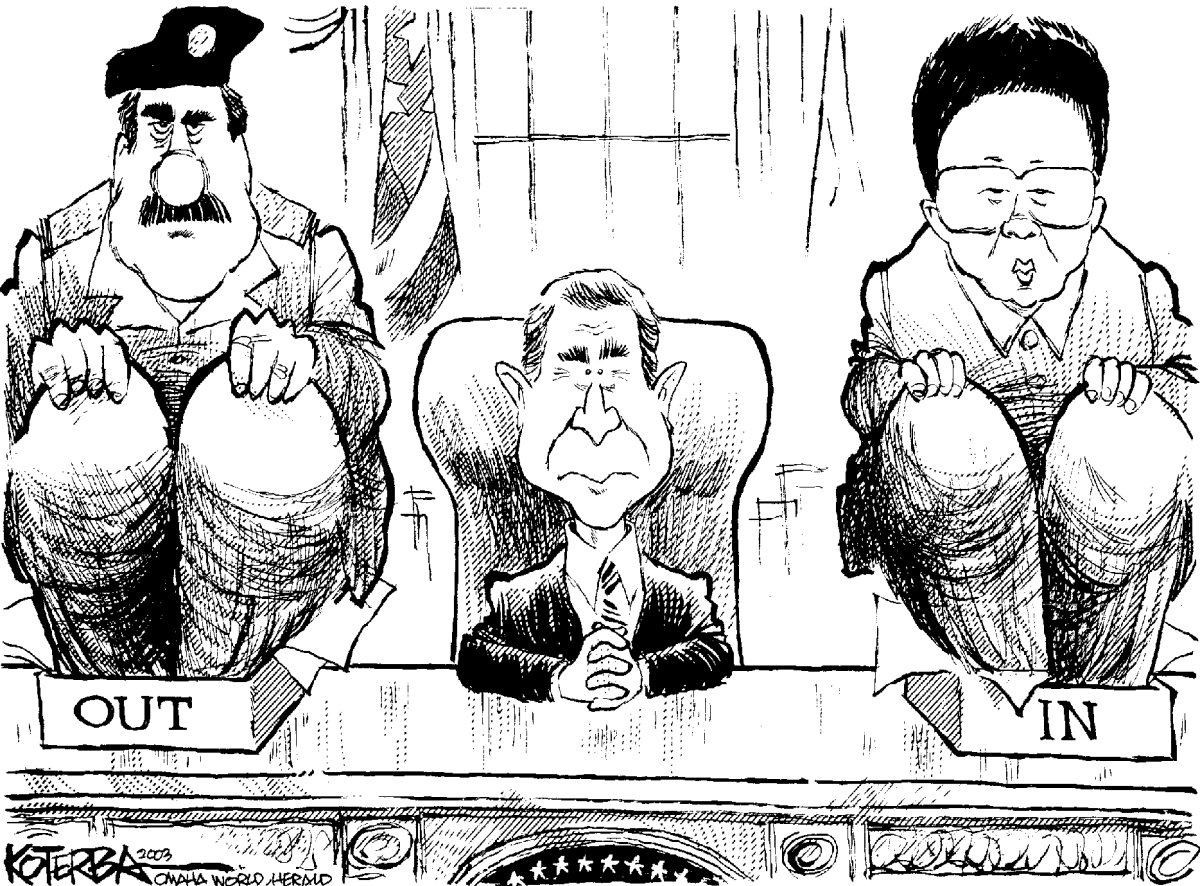
The Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act will help ease the minds of our military personnel while serving on active duty. It is an updated version of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940. The Act allows for a six percent reduction of interest rates on mortgage payments, credit card and other debts. It also offers some protection from eviction and delays all civil court actions.

Under the 1940 Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act — which is current law — rental amounts subject to protection are capped at \$1,200. The Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act increases this amount to \$1,700 and eviction proceedings are delayed for three months. Active-duty personnel will be protected from double taxation in situations where they are stationed in one state but are a resident of another.

I recently participated in a trip to the Persian Gulf, where I met with many men and women currently serving in the military. I learned that, while major combat in Iraq is over, the situation is still dangerous and our soldiers live in primitive conditions and under considerable stress. The men and women I met with have a difficult job to do and still fight occasional firefights. They only have their vehicles and tents for shelter and comfort. I'm sure our troops have enough on their minds and don't need to worry about bookkeeping back home.

On behalf of our troops and all the

See REYES, Page 7



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

Remembering the price of freedom

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend, let us step back from the usual festivities associated with the kick-off of the summer season and reflect on the service that many an American has given our nation to make us free.

Our other national holidays would have no meaning if it were not for the sacrifices made for freedom that we honor on Memorial Day. It may seem cliché, but it is true: Freedom does not come without a price. We may sometimes take for granted the many liberties we enjoy in America, but they have all been earned through the ultimate gift given by so many of the members of our armed forces. So many soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines have died for our liberty and prosperity, for peace and stability. They knew when they put on their uniform that there was no guarantee of safety and went off to follow orders without questioning and acted obediently with patriotism and commitment to their country. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude. We can make another payment on that debt this Memorial Day.

Memorial Day touches the hearts and memories of Americans like no other national holiday. The Fourth of July celebrates our independence. Thanksgiving expresses gratitude for our blessings. Veterans' Day hon-

ors those who served. But Memorial Day honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve that independence and those blessings.

Memorial Day combines the meaning of every other national holiday. It is on this day that we remember and pay tribute to the brave men and women who throughout history gave their lives upholding our freedom.

No other country in the world has sacrificed so many of its sons and daughters to secure not only its own freedom, but that of other nations. Foes after foe have thought Americans were too soft and too selfish to sacrifice their lives. More than a million heroes have proven them wrong.

This Memorial Day, I hope we will all take some time to remember the meaning of that day. Our freedom was earned by that heroic multitude who fought with unrivaled courage and gave their lives for their country. Memorial Day is a time to reflect on those sacrifices and remember them in our prayers. It is a time for us to show those who gave their lives that their country loves them as much as they loved it.



For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

PMS (Please Move Soon)

It's really not a topic we discuss much in public. Oh, maybe we whisper about it over lunch with our girlfriends — people who understand our inner beast.

Not long ago my family had finally had enough of me and the grumpy mood that happens to invade our home every so often, so they handed me my walking papers that read: Mom, PMS (Please Move Soon).

Now all of this didn't come as a surprise to me. Frankly, there are times when I can't stand myself. Today I know that PMS is real (people aren't just trying to tick me off) and is quite common among those of us who've yet to cross that childbearing-age finish line. But it is hard to look in the mirror and admit to yourself: *Mirror, mirror on the wall. Yes, I'm certainly the witchiest one of all.*

At least for the next couple of days, anyway. No excuse for bad behavior, but just as quickly as the big, bad wolf moves in and takes over, it goes away and I wonder why the things I huffed and puffed about were such a big deal.

I return to the mom who doesn't freak out if the kitchen cabinets are sticky with spilled apple juice or if the dog has tracked mud and grass into the house. I don't look at my children in a way that makes all of us burst into a puddle of tears, and my husband seems to recognize the woman he kisses when he walks through the door after work. On good days, I'm quite charming, if I do say so myself.

I'm well-read on the subject and

have been given lots of nice advice from women who just like me have received subtle hints from their families about their grouchy time of the month (of course their loved ones ran and hid, too, after delivering the news).

There are vitamins, creams, diets, Web sites, exercises, meditations, prescriptions, support groups, herbs, teas and chants, to name a few, that claim to help combat your obnoxious side. If you're female and breathing, chance is you've tried one or all of the suggestions.

Truth is, part of our plight as women is that on occasion we are held hostage by our hormones.

I have made a few notes of my own as I've done my research. Here are my suggestions. As mom works on taming her inner beast, how about giving her space for a couple of days? If she's particularly unbearable, send her to her room with a book to read. Let her get uninterrupted sleep and don't overwhelm her with too many requests to break up fights or find things, because on those particular days her brain is really short-circuited. She may forget what time you're supposed to be somewhere or forget to buy milk at the grocery store, three times in a row.

But before you give up and buy her a one-way ticket to Siberia, tell her you love her (even if you have to yell it to her from a distance). At that particular time, those are the words she actually needs to hear the most.

Presence

From Page 2

they said.

Baloney.

This had nothing to do with protecting "natural inalienable rights" nor with protesting the misuse of partisan politics. In fact, it looked to me like it was one right fine example of exactly how to manipulate and utilize partisan politics.

All that aside, of course, like most skirmishes it didn't win or lose the war. The war in the battle for power goes on and the differences between good and evil are so hopelessly blurred nobody can see the line in the sand anyway.

The one thing it showed me, though, was that next time your presence is requested you better show up — unless, of course, you are a Texas state representative,

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore May 28, 1971: war hero and movie star Audie Murphy dies in a plane crash. His most famous movie was "To Hell and Back".



Write stuff

Dear Editor:

The Horizon City Police Officers Association would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the successful candidates in the May 3 election: Art Borst in Place 3; Robert Reyes in Place 5; Kenan Greseth in Place 7; and Diane Whitty, mayor.

We would also like to offer our thank you to Mayor Pat Randleel. She has provided over 10 years of reliable service to Horizon City and had brought about positive change and responsible leadership.

We would like to congratulate Diane Whitty on her successful run for mayor. We look forward to continuing the stable and reliable partnership that the police department and the city administration have shared together the last two years. Mayor Randleel had many projects in store for the City of Horizon and we hope to see this forward-thinking and these progressive projects continued upon.

Again, congratulations to our new mayor and all of our new aldermen.

**The Horizon City Police Officers Association
Damien Jones, President**

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

During the regular council meeting on May 13, 2003, the Town of Horizon City approved the following:

- 1) Ordinance No. 0106 to rezone a portion of Section 31, Block 78, Township 3 from R-2, Single Family Residential to C-1, General Commercial as requested by Horizon Communities Improvement Association. C-1, General Commercial allows the placement of businesses such as: banks, personal service shops, restaurants, flower shops, car wash, convenience grocery-gasoline only stores and grocery stores.
- 2) Amendment No. 001 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102 - Amend Chapter 13 to create a planned unit development zoning district, declaring the scope and public purpose of planned unit development district; providing for administration and enforcement.

Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Sandra Sierra
City Clerk*

WTCC: 05/22/03

Public Notice San Elizario Independent School District

NOTICE OF VACANCY ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the San Elizario Independent School District is accepting applications for persons interested in filling Place 6 on the Board of Trustees of the School District due to the recent resignation of a Board member. Persons interested in being considered for this position should deliver or mail a letter of interest to the Board of Trustees, c/o the Superintendent, P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, Texas 79849. All letters of interest must be received on or before 5 p.m., May 28, 2003. The School District reserves the right to waive any formalities or extend the deadline for such letters of interest.

The letter should include any information which the applicant desires to have the Board consider such as a resume, qualifications, experience or other pertinent information. The Board of Trustees will consider all applicants and reserves the right to conduct interviews of some or all of the applicants before making a decision. The person appointed by the Board to the vacant position shall serve until the election held in May, 2004.

For additional information please contact the Superintendent's office at 915-872-3900.

WTCC: 05/22/03

San Elizario student shares good fortune with influential teacher

**By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer**

SAN ELIZARIO—A student in San Elizario High School received a \$1,000 scholarship and, in the process, could thank her math teacher whose help has meant so much to her.

Senior Valeria Barraza applied for and received the college scholarship, one of 100 area students awarded by Ford and Lincoln-Mercury dealers in their Salute to Education. Her selection was based on community service, leadership and academic achievement.

As a scholarship recipient she was entitled to nominate a teacher at her school, a person who has made a difference in her life. She nominated Leticia Monsivais, who teaches geometry, pre-calculus and calculus classes in grades nine through 12. She has been a teacher for seven years.

Barraza's essay praising Monsivais earned the teacher's school a \$1,000

grant in her name. Her essay was one of five selected by the judges. Monsivais said she would be using the money to purchase newer calculus textbooks that would replace those seven to eight years old.

The total contributed in the Salute to Education in scholarships to students and grants to teachers was \$120,500. This included a \$15,500 car won by a student in a drawing.

"Ms. Monsivais is a high-spirited individual who is unselfish and dedicates all of her time to her family—that is her immediate, religious and 'mathematical' family," Barraza wrote in her prize-winning essay.

"She has not only served as an inspiration for me as my pre-AP, calculus and AP calculus teacher, but (also) as my UIL math coach, my friend and mother figure. She always takes time from her hectic schedule to stop and listen to anything and everything I might have to say."

Barraza goes on. "No matter how



MENTOR: Valeria Barraza with her teacher Leticia Monsivais

badly I'd like to give up sometimes, she is always there pushing me. Like my mother, she persuades me to follow the right path and do the things that I, as a teenager, might want to put aside."

She concludes her essay by saying she hopes Monsivais receives the award so that she can "express my deepest gratitude and deepest appreciation."

Briefs

From Page 1

driven by an 18 year old Mexican citizen. On Sunday 3,461 pounds were found in a tractor-trailer near Las Cruces at the traffic checkpoint on I-25.

■ A spaghetti dinner will be held at the Oz Glaze Senior Citizens Center, 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City, on May 24, 4-7 p.m. Donation for adults is \$5, \$2.50 for children under 12.

■ Paula Portillo of Fabens High School has been named to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Academic All State Team in Class 4A. She is one of 10 student athletes from around the state of Texas in class 4A to honored by both the TABC and

the Texas Girls Coaches Association for their academic all state teams. Paula is a three-time All District 2AAAA selection. Her parents are Albert and Sylvia Portillo.

■ The No Limits Track Team will hold a registration and information session on Saturday, May 24, 9 to 10 a.m. at the Col. John Ensor Middle School track. Practice will begin May 27 at the same location, 6-8 p.m. Call 852-9082 for information.

■ Third Annual Flor y Canto Community Fair will be held, from noon to 10 p.m., Saturday, May 31, at the Canutillo Elementary School campus, 651 Canutillo Avenue. Flor y Canto will feature a variety of activities including food and game booths, rides, dance presentations, and live musical performances. "The community will

have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of cultural entertainment events, and Canutillo ISD students in the schools' fine arts programs will be able to display their works and talents," said Carlos Callejo, community services facilitator. The public is invited to attend. Admission price is only 25 cents. The community fair is sponsored by Canutillo ISD Student/Community Services Department and Canutillo Cultural Center. For more information, call Callejo at 877-7963 or 877-2422.

■ Children ages four to six are invited to join a mission, "The Great Kingdom Caper-Cracking the Character Code," on June 2-6 at the First Baptist Church in Horizon City, 17018 Darrington Rd. This Vacation Bible School special assignment features Bible studies, crafts, music, snacks and recreation. Admission is free and all are welcome. For information contact Heather Jurado, 852-3027 days or 852-3650 evenings.

■ Three Socorro ISD students have been awarded \$3,000 each from the Dr. R. Jerry Barber Scholarship for Public School Teacher Training fund at UTEP. Celina Gonzalez of Americas High School, Daisy Perez of Montwood and Adriana Dias of Socorro High School were selected. The scholarship fund has assisted more than 42 SISD students since it was established 11 years ago by former Superintendent R. Jerry Barber in honor of his father.

■ Paso Del Norte School, located between Zaragoza Rd. and Loop 375 North at 2501 Tierra Este, is among Socorro's newest campuses, and has scheduled registration for pre-kinder, kinder and new students on June 25, July 10 and July 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. all three days. Parents should bring immunization records, Social Security card, proof of residency, birth certificate and previous school records. Principal Debra Carden said the first day of school is July 28. Information: 937-6200.

Fabens Independent School District Public Notice

This summer the Fabens Independent School District will be part of the Summer Feeding Service Program (SFSP) through the Texas Department of Human Services providing a **free breakfast and lunch** to all children age 18 and younger. Meals will be served at the **Fabens Middle School Cafeteria**, 800 Walker St. in Fabens, Texas starting June 2, 2003 through July 11, 2003.

TIME

Breakfast	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ADULT PRICES

Breakfast	\$1.75
Lunch	\$2.75

This Summer Food Service Program does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, color, race, handicap, national origin, religion or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred ONLY to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Dept. of Human Services.

WTCC: 05/22/03

City of Socorro asks councilman to return money

Courier Staff Reports

SOCORRO — The City of Socorro is requesting the return of several payments made to a city council representative which he was apparently ineligible to receive, according to City of Socorro documents.

Councilman Joe Ramirez was paid three checks in early 2002 amounting to a total of \$1,692.36 during which time he was employed by the Socorro Independent School District.

In a letter to Socorro’s then-city attorney Richard Contreras on March 27, 2002, the Texas Municipal League legal department informed the city that as an employee of SISD, Ramirez, who was then serving on the council in the elected position of marshal, was not eligible to receive compensation from more than one governing entity in the state of Texas.

Though Ramirez had served on Socorro’s council without compensation previously, there was apparently some misunderstanding involving new legislation passed by the 2001 State Legislature, for which Contreras was requesting clarification.

The three payments were made to Ramirez on Feb. 7, Feb. 21 and March 7, 2002, prior to Contreras receiving a legal response whether such payments could be authorized.

No further payments were issued to Ramirez after March 7, 2002. However, city officials said this week that requests for return of the ineligible compensation have not been honored.

In a letter to Ramirez dated April 14, 2003, then-city attorney Francisco Dominguez requested a response from Ramirez regarding the compensation.

“If you dispute the validity of the overpayment, please contact me with any documents or other records which support your position,” Dominguez wrote. He further offered Ramirez arrangements to repay the amount owed. “I will be glad to work with you in order to resolve this matter in an amicable and quick manner.”

As of this week the matter remains unanswered, city officials said.

Horizon police make burglary-related arrests

HORIZON CITY — Since Jan. 1 this year the Horizon City Police Department has responded to 29 burglary-related incidents ranging from vehicle burglaries to residential burglaries, most involving houses still under construction in developing subdivisions. Seven recent arrests have been directly linked to the thefts.

“This increase in burglaries is a direct result of the rapid population growth in Horizon City and surrounding areas,” said Sgt. Ron Swenson. “Furthermore, patrol has been increased in residential neighborhoods to provide a deterrent and to provide proactive enforcement.”

Five of the seven arrests were related to the construction site thefts. As homes neared completion and were ready for sale, the suspects were breaking in and stealing everything from furnaces to stoves and light fixtures.

“Thanks to the watchful eyes of neighbors, one suspect was arrested after being positively identified. Another suspect was caught in the process of stealing a jacuzzi and had driven a stolen car to the scene,” Sgt. Swenson said.

Two others were caught “red-handed” by Cpl. David Ortiz while on patrol, and the fifth had been charged with an unrelated crime when his shoe prints were shown to match those at one of the crime scenes. Since the arrests the burglaries in the area have dropped dramatically.

Another burglary was committed on May 4 at the Emerald Springs Golf Club. The suspects broke into the pro shop and took thousands of dollars in golf clubs, bags and balls. The alarm system failed and the theft was not discovered until the following day.

Investigating Officer Manuel Rico alerted other local golf shops which proved a beneficial move when one of the suspects attempted to sell the stolen Emerald Springs equipment. Since then two arrests have been made — one juvenile and one adult — and \$6,725 worth of equipment was recovered and returned to the Horizon golf club.

“We are asking the public to get involved and call us if they see something suspicious. We need the citizens to be our eyes and ears,” Sgt. Swenson said. “If you see a crime being committed call 546-2280 or 911 immediately and provide the dispatcher with the details of the crime and location. If you have leads or information on any crimes that have been committed in Horizon City call 852-1047. You may remain anonymous.”

Water releases begun again

EL PASO COUNTY — New water releases from the Rio Grande Project Reservoirs started again on May 15, 2003 to meet irrigation needs, according to Filiberto Cortez, Division Manager of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The releases were stopped on April 21, 2003 in order to conserve water and storage levels will now fall to under 19 percent of reservoir capacity.

The snowpack in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado has decreased considerably from 93 percent to 33 percent since the last report and is compounded by very dry soil conditions and winds.

This, plus up-stream use of water and storage of water, will cause runoff into Elephant Butte Reservoir to be only about 20 percent of the 30-year average. Total allocations for urban and agricultural users for the year are projected to be 40 to 45 percent of a full water supply.

As previously predicted, current inflow to Elephant Butte reservoir is much below the 30 year average, in part, because of the agreement between New Mexico and Texas to allow upstream storage in New Mexico in exchange for relinquishment of credit water in Elephant Butte reservoir for use by Texas.

Socorro

From Page 1

Moreno Cardenas, Inc. was approved to award the contract for the Thunder Road street improvement project to FT James Construction for the amount of \$83,565.

Council also approved the temporary appointment of Yolanda Rodela for the position of City Clerk, pending the selection and placement/hiring of a permanent City Clerk.

The city has assembled a slate of finalists to interview for the clerk’s position for the third time, Mayor Sanchez said in a later interview. This follows two previous failed attempts to hire a clerk. The first attempt was abandoned when the search overlapped two administrations. The second search ended when personnel procedures were violated by inappropriate communication between an unnamed council member and the applicant who had scored highest in the application process.

In order to avoid potential lawsuits from other applicants, Mayor Sanchez said personnel policies required the city to readvertise and begin the process over again.

The council also took action to enter into negotiations on an interlocal agreement with the Emergency Services District #2 in San Elizario to enforce trash burning regulations, fireworks Ordinance No. 115 and enforce fire codes.

Fire Chief Enrique Magallanes addressed council to express his dissatisfaction in that he believes certain council members prohibit Code Enforcers from doing their job. Magallanes said he does not feel he has the full support of council because the only time he hears from them is during election time when they are seeking his vote.

City Council went on to approve the interlocal agreement negotiations and several members commended Chief Magallanes for the handling of the fire that occurred on May 14 at Caesar’s Pallets, 12000 North Loop.

The company, which provided wooden pallets for the shipping industry, suffered about \$1 million in damages following a fire on Wednesday night. More than 100 firefighters from eight area fire departments responded to the blaze which required monitoring for several days as the embers of about 400,000 pallets, an office building, part of a two-story house, and several business related trucks burned themselves out. Investigators from the El Paso Fire Department said the fire was ignited by combustible materials exposed to hot machinery.

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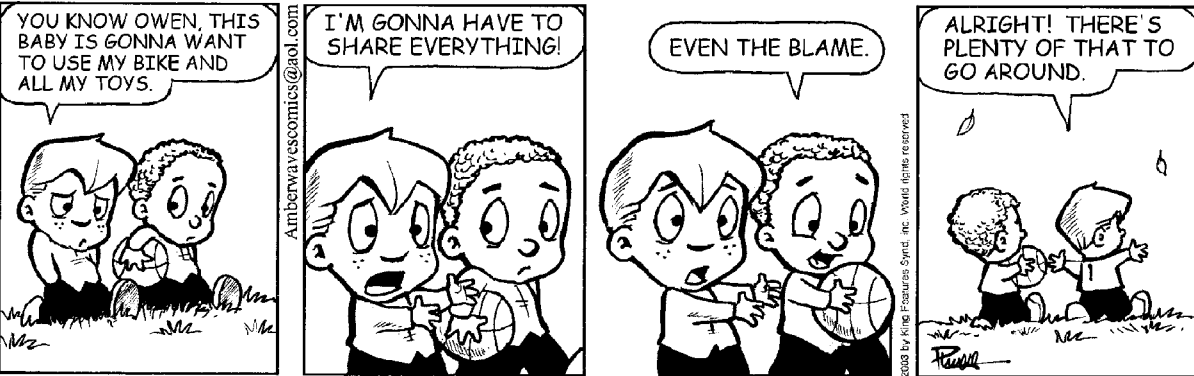
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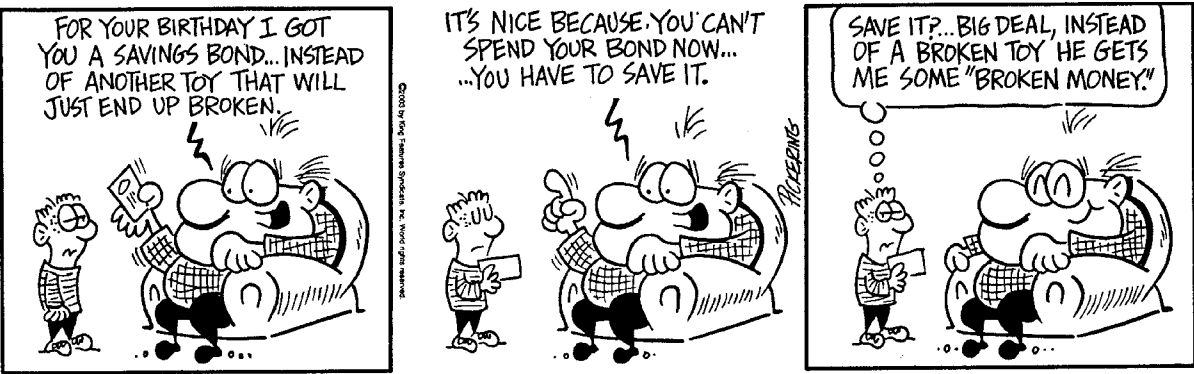
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



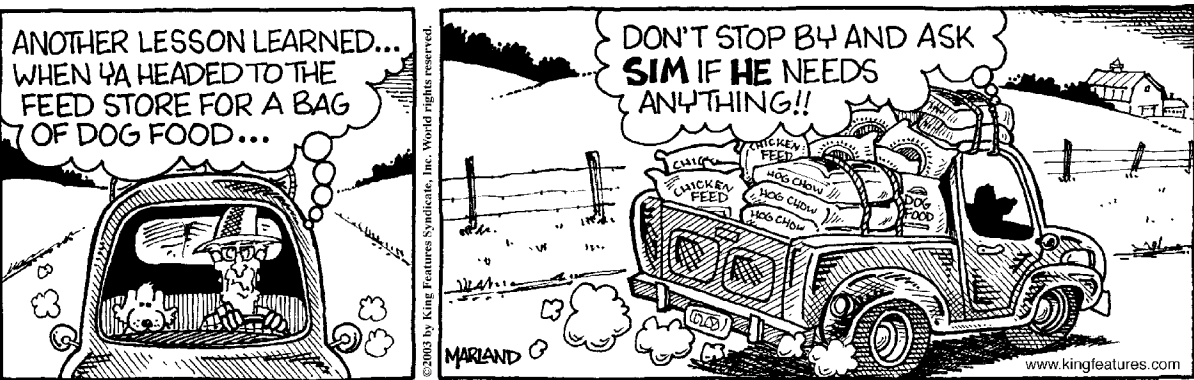
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Reyes

From Page 2

soldiers and families at Fort Bliss, I'm proud to say the House of Representatives passed the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act the day after my return from Iraq. I urge the Senate to pass this legislation quickly so our military personnel can enjoy these updated protections. The protections are fair and deserved. When called to duty, soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen set aside their lives to focus on our country's needs. When someone puts aside his or her life to protect others, we should ensure that they receive all necessary protections.

Horizon

From Page 1

within close proximity to each other and provides for the daily recreational and shopping needs of residents, Wright said.

James Barnett, representing the Planning and Zoning Commission, addressed Council. He said it took P&Z about six months to warm up to the idea of a PUD, but highly recommends its creation.

Mayor Randleel then opened up the public hearing regarding the reading on Amendment No. 0001 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102 to amend Chapter 13 to create a Planned Unit Development.

One community member did speak out from her chair in support of the PUD and also mentioned Horizon City residents should think about the youth in the city and how positively this PUD would benefit them. After the public hearing was closed, City Council approved the creation of the PUD.

In other business, City Council approved the purchase of a melter for sealing cracks in roads and also the purchase of a street broom.

City Council also approved to set the unreserved fund balance at \$10,000 and any excess would be earmarked for street improvements.

Judging a book by its cover

By Don Flood

Hillary Clinton's soon to be published "Living History" features a fascinating and thought-provoking ...
Wait! Wait! Don't leave!
I promise I am NOT reviewing Hillary Clinton's new book!
I know, I know! You don't have time to read books! No one does! (But see end of column for nifty way to get more out of your day!)

However, I do think it is very important for all of us to at least pretend to read books.
Especially important books, like Mrs. Clinton's.
That's why I am taking the time today to review the cover of Hillary's book.
Because I firmly believe that every thinking American who picks up this book — fan or foe, liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican — will share one common reaction: HOW DID SHE GET THAT FACE?

(Quick thought: Who knows? Maybe I'll be picked to be an Official Blurber for the book: "Fascinating!" — Don Flood, thought-provoking columnist.)
On the cover, Mrs. Clinton smiles confidently into the camera. And why not? She looks fabulous.
Maybe a little too fabulous, if you get my meaning.
Hillary's not old — she'll be 56 later this year — but, as gerontologists say in scientific terms, "she's not exactly a spring chicken."
And yet her face is perfect; not a line, not a wrinkle.
She looks more like she could be the next babe for "The Bachelorette" rather than a U.S. senator.
But while the cover photo looks good, I have doubts about the title

— "Living History."
I would suggest more of an attention-getter, something like: "Living With Botox."
Or maybe, "Hillary Clinton's Complete Guide to Facelifts and Botox Treatments."
Not that I'm saying Hillary has had either of those treatments. Nobody has.
Nobody in Hollywood or Washington, D.C., anyway.
They just happen to be magical places where people disappear from public view for a week or two and return looking 10, 20 years younger.
And now for that special bonus promised earlier in this column! No time to read?
What if I were to tell you that a lawyer in Upper Darby, Pa. has invented the 81-hour day?
It's true! A newspaper audit showed that a school district lawyer billed 81 hours' work in one day. Three other days showed 25 billable hours.
As the lawyer tells it, it was just a teensy, weensy mistake. A slip of a decimal point turned a 45-minute conference call — or .75 of an hour as he billed it — into a 75-hour conference call.
(Maybe it just seemed that long!)
But you know those decimal points. As we learned in grade school, they can make a BIG difference.
In this case, the charge for that phone call went from \$105 to \$10,500.
It could have happened to anybody! Especially anybody who bills by the hour!
The lawyer, I should mention, did give the money back.
But I imagine he'll still have enough to buy a few copies of Hillary's book.

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No news is good news for senior citizens

By Ray Vigil

People who plan meetings for local senior citizen organizations often invite me to visit their group to speak about “changes in the Social Security program that affect seniors.” Although I enjoy the opportunity to talk about Social Security to any group of people, I usually don’t have much to say if I limit my remarks to “changes” that affect current Social Security beneficiaries. If you are older than 65 and already receiving Social Security benefits, the only changes that usually happen are a once a year cost-of-living increase in

your monthly payment and generally a corresponding increase in the Part B Medicare premium deduction.

Beyond that, your Social Security life is probably a rather quiet one. That, of course, is how you want it to be. In this case, no news really is good news. And my speech to a senior citizens group would be equally quiet and lacking in news if I limited my remarks to “changes.” But there is other information I always share with groups of Social Security beneficiaries that I also can share with the readers of this column.

There is a simple and convenient

way to keep up with any developments that do occur with Social Security. Just add your name to our electronic mailing list for a monthly publication we call eNews. About a quarter million of your fellow citizens already receive this electronic newsletter that’s packed with information from Social Security.

If you are a Social Security beneficiary, one publication you will want to pay particular attention to is Social Security: What You Need To Know If You Get Retirement Or Survivors Benefits. This publication explains the rights you have as a Social Security

beneficiary. But just as important, it explains your responsibilities. For example, it reminds you that we need to know if you move (even if you have direct deposit), if you get married or divorced, or if your spouse dies.

I also have several messages for lower income senior citizens. If you’re having trouble making ends meet and you haven’t checked into the Supplemental Security Income program, please do so. You might be eligible for extra cash benefits from SSI, which in turn could be your ticket to extra health coverage through the Medicaid program. SSI is a federal program that pays benefits to low income seniors and people with disabilities. SSI is not another kind of Social Security ben-

efit funded by Social Security taxes. It is paid for out of general tax revenues and just happens to be managed by the Social Security Administration.






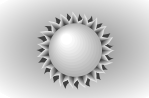
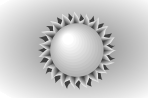
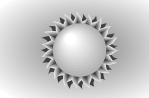
Even if you don’t qualify for SSI, you may be eligible for some help paying your Medicare premiums. Call your local social services office for more details.

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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Partly sunny; slight chance for a p.m. t-storm.	Maybe an evening t-storm; otherwise, partly cloudy.	Sunny to partly cloudy and warm.	Sunny to partly cloudy and continued warm.	A good deal of sun.	Sunny.	Sunshine.	Sunny and warm.
▲ 92°	▼ 64°	▲ 94° ▼ 66°	▲ 92° ▼ 64°	▲ 90° ▼ 64°	▲ 90° ▼ 64°	▲ 90° ▼ 62°	▲ 92° ▼ 62°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

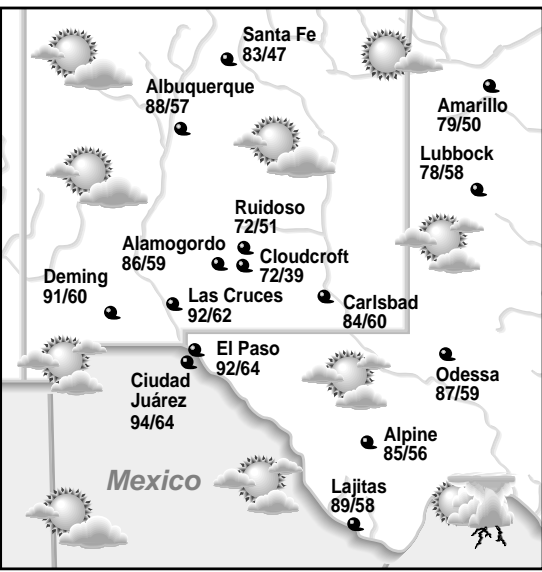
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	9	Very High
Friday	9	Very High
Saturday	9	Very High
Sunday	10	Very High
Monday	10	Very High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	94	64
Canutillo	95	65
Clint	93	62
E. Montana	92	64
Fabens	93	62
Horizon	95	65
San Elizario	92	62
Socorro	91	63
Tornillo	93	62
Vinton	95	65

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	88/57/pc	88/56/pc	82/55/pc	83/58/pc	83/50/pc
Atlanta	72/56/sh	72/54/sh	72/54/c	74/56/pc	75/55/s
Atlantic City	59/52/c	58/50/c	56/52/c	68/52/c	73/52/pc
Austin/San Antonio	86/57/pc	84/59/pc	83/61/pc	83/63/c	86/66/c
Baltimore	66/52/c	64/54/c	62/54/c	64/54/c	76/54/pc
Boston	64/50/c	64/52/c	60/54/c	62/54/c	68/55/c
Chicago	64/44/s	62/45/pc	64/49/c	67/50/c	68/44/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	78/58/c	78/58/c	76/56/pc	78/59/r	81/60/c
Denver	76/48/pc	74/50/pc	77/50/pc	77/51/pc	79/48/pc
Flagstaff	80/38/s	79/40/s	72/37/pc	75/39/pc	77/43/s
Houston	84/58/pc	84/63/pc	82/65/pc	86/64/pc	86/68/pc
Kansas City	72/48/pc	66/48/pc	70/50/s	74/55/pc	72/49/c
Las Vegas	98/70/s	100/72/s	98/70/s	92/71/s	92/71/s
Miami	85/73/t	88/72/c	89/72/pc	88/74/pc	88/71/pc
Minneapolis	64/46/c	68/48/pc	72/52/s	70/52/pc	74/50/pc
New Orleans	85/66/pc	82/64/s	81/61/s	81/65/pc	82/62/s
New York City	61/52/c	65/53/c	64/55/c	69/56/c	71/55/c
Philadelphia	64/52/c	66/54/c	62/54/c	64/54/c	76/59/pc
Phoenix	103/74/s	103/72/s	101/72/s	99/74/s	101/73/s
Portland	76/52/pc	74/52/s	68/52/c	69/51/pc	71/45/pc
San Francisco	66/50/c	66/50/pc	66/52/pc	64/52/pc	70/53/s
Seattle	68/50/c	68/52/pc	62/50/c	63/48/pc	64/44/c
Tucson	100/67/s	100/65/s	95/65/s	97/65/s	97/63/s
Washington, DC	66/56/c	64/58/c	62/56/c	64/56/c	77/59/pc

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



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