

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Narcotics in Horizon

Officers of the Horizon City Police Department recovered 90 pounds of marijuana at a home on Orchid St. in Horizon City on June 6. The drugs were found after officers were called to the residence about a small amount of recovered narcotics. A police K-9 was called in and hit on a vehicle parked at the residence, and on the house itself. A search warrant was then obtained the search revealed large quantities of marijuana hidden in the trunk of a vehicle parked in the garage. The drugs were weighed at HCPD and found to have a total weight of 90 pounds. One felony arrest has been made in the case. "We feel that there are a lot more cases of this nature and more narcotics in Horizon City," said Sgt. Ron Swenson. "We would like the citizen's cooperation in reporting suspicious activity of any nature." To report suspicious or illegal activity citizens can call 852-1047 or 546-2280. You may remain anonymous when calling, Swenson said.

### Narcotics on Hwy 70

U.S. Border Patrol agents seized nearly 26 pounds of cocaine hidden in a false floor of a 2003 VW Beetle on July 4 at the traffic checkpoint on Highway 70, south of Alamogordo. Valued at \$831,360 on the street, the drugs were bundled into 14 duct-tape wrapped packages. The 31-year-old driver, Alejandro Reyes-Cordova, a VISA cardholder who lives in Juarez, was arrested on charges of possession with intent to distribute. He had \$1,500 in cash on him at the time, agents said.

### Correction

In the July 3 issue the *Courier* identified Elena Slape as director of the Fabens Senior Center. She is president of the Center's council. Lupe Ornelas is the Center's director.

### In other news

■ Could it really have been 30 years ago? The Fabens High School Class of 1973 is celebrating their 30th year reunion by inviting all other Fabens High School alumni — no matter what year they "marched out of Fabens High Wildcat Stadium" — to join them in the Cattleman's Steakhouse Cantina on Friday, July 26, for activities beginning at 7 p.m. to include dinner, dancing, pictures and more. Call Billy Thomas at 764-2349 or 203-8880; or Josie Apodaca at 877-7508 or 433-2310 for reservations and further information.

■ Vacation Bible School at the Clint First Baptist Church, July 21-25 will host a great mystery and children ages Pre-K to 6th grades are invited to come help solve it. The event will be at the church, 200 Main Street and further information is at

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*Americans have come to learn that it's easier to vote for something they want than to work for it.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy of SISD

**THINKING IT THROUGH** — Socorro ISD's Skills USA national champions are, left to right, Armando Ramirez, Aundre Garcia, Angelica Ramos, Jennifer Contreras and Jacqueline Porras. The students used problem-solving skills to evaluate and recommend improvements for a Juarez company.

## A little ingenuity wins AHS the top award in 39th Annual Skills USA meet

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Even though school's out in Socorro school district, five Americas High School senior students went to Kansas City June 24 and returned June 27 with the First Place Gold award from their national organization. The award was presented by the Skills USA-Vocational Industrial Clubs of America's National Leadership and Skills Conference June 27 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Armando Ramirez, Aundre Garcia, Angelica Ramos, Jennifer Contreras and Jacqueline Porras were guided by Americas teacher Grace Vaughn as they competed with 4,000 other vocational students throughout the nation for honors in various categories.

Ramos says she gained experience from the challenge. "I learned many of the quality tools and how to apply them in the real world. I now understand how valuable these quality tools are for business."

The students worked as a Total Quality Management team to devise technical solutions to the industrial problem of Ansell Golden Needles, a Juarez, Chihuahua glove maker. The team was sponsored by the El Paso chapter, American Society of Quality Management, and the United States Army's Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss.

Vaughn says the students were asked to improve Ansell's manufacturing operations, reduce operational and product defects, and raise profits. They concluded that the primary cause of Ansell's problems was poorly trained workers. "The students gained work experience in the U.S. and in Mexico," Vaughn says, "learning the work ethics of both countries."

The project took the students approximately 11 months to analyze the problems. Contest judges then evaluated the students' recommendations.

## Canutillo High school wins federal grant for agriculture curriculum

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Canutillo High School won a \$48,258 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its MATE (Mechanized Agriculture: Technology of Education) Program.

The MATE Program will develop an industry-modified mechanized agriculture curriculum at Canutillo High School. Teachers who have gained recent industry experience would prepare the curriculum, which will encompass all disciplines of agriculture production and processing.

"The MATE Program will be a wonderful addition to Canutillo High School and will have a positive impact on the agricultural economic development of the region. Having grown up on a farm in Canutillo, I know the great importance of agriculture in the area," said Con-

gressman Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso.

The MATE Program will serve as a model for Texas and New Mexico mechanized agriculture programs at the secondary level. It will enhance agricultural education, increase faculty teaching competencies, expand student career opportunities, and facilitate interaction with other academic institutions.

"I commend Canutillo Independent School District for the leadership role they have taken with the MATE program. In addition to educating students about mechanized agriculture, this program will open doors to careers in agriculture and opportunities for our students. By providing its students with a quality education, Canutillo ISD is helping to ensure a bright economic future for the entire community," said Reyes.

## Conflicting priorities in schools are bypassing overweight kids

AUSTIN — Texas' smallest citizens have a big problem.

Too many kids are too fat, and that's unhealthy. Senate Bill 19, passed in the last legislative session, targets the problem by calling for a remodeling of health education, including a minimum standard of physical activity in schools. Many health care and education professionals believe in the cause. So why does it appear that compliance is merely trudging along?

Mix conflicting scholastic priorities, an unfunded mandate, ever-slimming school district budgets, and lack of accountability to the state, and you get your answer, according to the April issue of *Texas Medicine* magazine.

Health statistics indicate children are contracting diseases once exclusive to obese adults, such as type II diabetes and heart disease, a result of their ever-increasing girth. So SB 19 was written to address the problem, requiring a three-pronged approach:

- Set a new minimum requirement for the amount of kids' physical activity each week;
- Adopt a coordinated, well-rounded approach to child health, including physical activity, nutritional education, and other issues; and
- Expand the scope of school advisory committees.

Many school districts have sprinted ahead with implementation of SB 19, but many are frozen in the starting blocks, *Texas Medicine* reports.

"They (school districts) are supposed to be complying," Tommy Fleming, director of health and physical education at the Texas Education Agency, told the magazine. "But my gut feeling is, without any objective data, that there are many, many school districts whose administrators have so many other things to think about that they just said, 'forget it,' and they aren't doing anything."

This spring Fleming will assess compliance with the law by the state's 4,000 public elementary schools.

Some schools interpreted increasing physical activity time in the school day, *Texas Medicine* reports, to mean decreasing class time in other "specials," namely art and music classes. That's caused an uproar in some districts by parents who do not want to see their child lose educational enrichment, and by school budget-watchers wondering where the funds will come from to staff these extra, specialized class requirements. What's more, the state also mandated a new standardized proficiency test required for kids to step up to the next grade level, which many districts have prioritized highly. The result is that for many, SB19 and its recommendations don't make the team.

Yet *Texas Medicine* cites other districts that have apparently found ways to score by increasing physical activity time for their students. Some have added formal physical education class time, some have re-tooled recess time to incorporate structured physical activity, and some have formally adopted a TEA-approved coordinated program. One approved program is the Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH), which, among other things, maximizes the amount of physical activity kids experience in P.E. classes.



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# Hard to get good help

It's not an uncommon sight.

You come to a traffic light in a major section of the city and traffic is backed way up. You crane your neck around and are able to determine the obstacle is an 18-wheeler hopelessly hung, cutting off all lanes of traffic. The driver simply didn't know how to negotiate a sharp turn in his big rig.

It's not an uncommon occurrence. You've got a mistake on your medical bill. You are being billed for treatments covered by your insurance. You spend hours getting it straightened out between the hospital and the insurance company. You struggle through an answering service, a maze of extensions and representatives who just can't seem to help you.

There was a man we knew about 10 years ago out here in the county who spent a good bit of cash to put in a state-of-the-art auto repair shop. Nice fellow. We took our cars to him several times for servicing — nothing major. Then one day we went there and the shop was closed. Out of business, the sign said.

Later we ran into him in town. He explained that he shut down the shop because the expense of having to do the same work twice was eating his lunch — employee mistakes, either from ignorance or carelessness.

He was retired from another career and really didn't need to work, he said, but he opened the shop as a good way to keep busy into his twilight years. Instead he found he was losing money hand over fist and the headache he was getting from his dissatisfied customers wasn't worth it.

He just couldn't get any good help,

he said.

In an environment where people are screaming that there just aren't enough good jobs, I'm sometimes left wondering if maybe the problem is the reverse — maybe folks are out of a job because they just aren't good help.

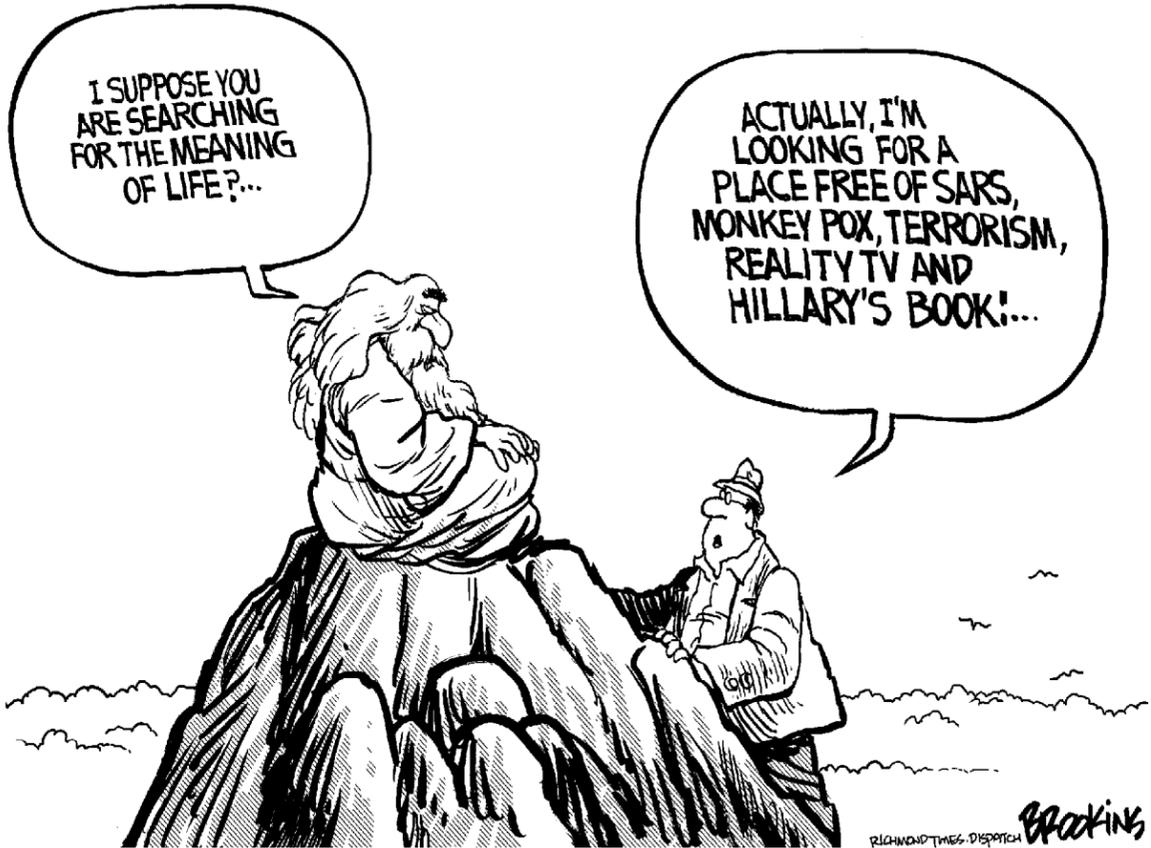
One of my kids worked in a call center for a while. It employed lots of young people, but never for very long. They came and went like a breeze in the brush. Some days they showed up, some days they didn't. When they came, the managers plugged them into a headset and paid them on a per-sell basis. When they didn't, the company rolled the dice that there would be another one hanging around to take their place. The center could operate because they didn't really depend on the entry-level help to show up.

There was some fan-fare made lately about a new training center in Socorro. It is aimed at training people who are high school dropouts, displaced workers, low-income, and/or limited or non-English speakers.

The government pays for the program, as much as \$5,000 a year per student, to certify these folks in one of several areas including medical insurance billing, truck driving, and shipping and receiving. They attend classes five days a week, seven hours a day, all expenses paid, to learn how to do a job so they can become productive members of society.

That's great. But then there was this other little thing that raised my eyebrows. The student can go to school as long as he or she wants to — "working at their own pace" — until they earn certification. Well, that sounds a little

See HELP, Page 7



# 30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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



# Border communities need money for added security

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, El Paso, like every city and county in the country, has increased its emergency preparedness efforts. One look at El Paso, though, and you'll realize our homeland security efforts are different than the majority of cities across the country. Our geographic location on the border presents an increased threat to our national security and challenges El Paso first responders and law enforcement officers in ways which are unique to our community.

I serve as Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Homeland Security, which recently held a hearing in Washington, D.C. highlighting the homeland security needs of communities across the country.

With the additional challenges facing border communities, it was important that voices from El Paso be heard. I invited El Paso Police Chief Carlos

Leon and Lt. Ray Resendez III, Assistant Coordinator with the El Paso City and County Office of Emergency Management, to participate in the hearing. Other witnesses included mayors, sheriffs, and hospital administrators. Chief Leon and Lt. Resendez were the only two in the group of 15 witnesses from across the country to represent border communities.

Chief Leon discussed how, in addition to their regular law enforcement duties, his officers are routinely tasked with security at ports of entry, such as in the case of port closures or protests. Also, when the national terror alert level was raised to orange (or high), Leon's department spent an extra \$39,000 per week for expanded police presence. With the increased costs incurred from their additional and expanding duties, Leon could not afford to fill 230 vacancies on his 1,349 member force — vacancies he desperately needs to fill.

Lt. Resendez addressed terrorism and El Paso's position as a target for

terrorists who might try to enter the country through the U.S.-Mexico border. The population of the entire region — 700,000 people in El Paso and 2 million people in Juarez — is at risk.

The same day that Chief Leon and Lt. Resendez testified before the Task Force on Homeland Security, the House of Representatives passed the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. This bill, while providing some funds for border security, transportation security, local homeland security efforts, and aviation security, was not sufficient.

More money should have been included in the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, but unfortunately our country is operating in the reality created by the recently-passed tax cut. When debating this bill, an amendment to decrease the tax cut for the approximately 200,000 households making over \$1 million a year

See REYES, Page 7

2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 2 EXTREMIST



# The road to the Capitol

When I was attending South San Antonio High School, I never thought I would one day be representing you in Washington as a United States Congressman. It was something of a feat for a student there to graduate, let alone go on to college and beyond. Most people assume congressmen have worn suits their whole lives, and that a law or business degree is a required ticket of admission. However, Congress is full of self-made men and women who came from every background imaginable. Let me share a few examples with you.



By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

## Eye on D.C.

after retiring as the third all-time leader in pass receptions in 1989. Congress is also honored by the service of true heroes, its war heroes. Sen. Bob Kerry of Nebraska served his country in an elite Navy SEAL team in Vietnam

and was awarded the Medal of Honor after losing part of his right leg in action. Rep. Sam Johnson of Plano, Texas, is a retired Air Force colonel who endured nearly seven years of brutality — half of that period in solitary confinement — in a North Vietnamese prison camp.

Congress is full of people from all walks of life, many who never ran for office before coming to Washington. My colleagues have included a great songwriter (Sonny Bono), a winemaker, a restaurant manager and a self described “journeyman” carpenter, just to name a few.

As students across America graduate from high school and move-on to college and other ambitions, I’d like to remind them that America is still a country where the American Dream can become a reality. It’s a country where a child living in a public housing project can grow up to become whatever he or she dreams of becoming.

Congress has also attracted its share of athletes over the years. Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma was a college All-American football player at the University of Oklahoma. He went on to play for the Canadian Football

## West Nile Virus and encephalitis are a threat to El Paso County horses

EL PASO COUNTY — Horse-owners in El Paso County can help protect horses, mules and donkeys against mosquito-borne diseases with vaccinations according to Dr. Terry Conger, veterinarian and state epidemiologist for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state’s livestock health regulatory agency.

cause infected horses to develop debilitating fever, swelling of the brain, muscle tremors, weakness and extreme fatigue, and in about a third or more of cases, death of the animal.

Vaccines are available to protect horses against three viral diseases that pose a risk to Texas horses: West Nile Virus (WNV), and Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and (WEE). The three diseases are forms of “sleeping sickness,” that can

“In June 2002, Texas had its first case of WNV, and by year’s end, 1,699 equine cases had been reported. Denton County was hit hardest, with 69 equine cases,” explained Dr. Conger. “More unreported cases undoubtedly occurred across the state, as owners may have been reluctant to ask their veterinarian or the TAHC for assistance. Only laboratory

See WNV, Page 5

### Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla



## Medicaid estate recovery in Texas – learn the rules

Today I want to speak to you about the Estate Recovery Provision contained in House Bill 2292 — the Medicaid Estate Recovery Bill. The provision requires the commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to ensure implementation of the federal law requiring states to seek recovery from the estates of certain deceased Medicaid recipients for the costs of Medicaid long-term care services.

First, let me explain that under federal law, each state must recover costs, after the death of a Medicaid recipient aged 55 years or older, for Medicaid coverage that included: nursing facility services; home and community-based services; and hospital and prescription drug services provided while the recipient was receiving nursing facility or home and community-based services.

However, federal law also provides the following protections:

- Prohibits recovery as long as there is a living spouse, child under age 21, or permanently disabled child of any age;
- Requires the state to inform applicants during the Medicaid eligibility determination process;
- Requires the state to establish procedures and criteria to waive recovery, if it would cause undue hardship, and
- Requires the state to establish procedures and criteria to determine when recovery is not cost-effective.

However, every state has implemented the federal law in a slightly different manner, depending upon their Medicaid program and state laws. For instance, among Texas’ considerations when designing a recovery program it must take into account its current homestead and probate laws, which includes:

- Under the Texas homestead laws, a Medicaid estate recovery program cannot seek recovery against the homestead of a deceased Medicaid

recipient if the decedent is survived by a spouse, a minor child, or an unmarried adult child living with the family at the time of the decedent’s death;

- Under Section 322 of the Texas Probate Code, which classifies and prioritizes probate claims, claims for the recovery of Medicaid payments rank behind other recovery claims, such as funeral expenses, secured claims, mortgage liens, child support, and taxes.

However, Texas is still reviewing relevant federal and state laws to determine the requirements, and the state’s options. This process is necessary because to implement the federal Medicaid estate recovery provisions, the Texas Medicaid Program must go through a public rule-making process. The process includes obtaining public input when developing rules, and notifying the public of the proposed and final rules.

In addition, Texas must notify the

See CHENTE, Page 7

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore July 12, 1912, Katherine Stimson gets her pilot’s license. In spite of being an accomplished and famous pilot, she is rejected by the military because of her gender in WWI.



### REAL ESTATE SALE El Paso County, Texas

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will sell 1/2 interest in Lot 1, Block 15, Haciendas Del Norte #2, El Paso County, known as 5649 Wagon Wheel Place, El Paso, Texas, at a Trustee's Foreclosure Sale to the highest bidder or bidders, for cash, at the back of the lobby of the El Paso County Courthouse, located in the city of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas on Tuesday, August 5, 2003. The minimum FSA bid will be \$1,574.00. For specific information, contact the Farm Service Agency, 2306 W. Dickinson, Suite 1, Fort Stockton, Texas. Phone number: (432) 336-5206, Extension 2.

### REAL ESTATE SALE El Paso County, Texas

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will sell Lot 2, Block 6, Desert Meadows Estates, El Paso County, known as 15362 Montana, El Paso, Texas, at a Trustee's Foreclosure Sale to the highest bidder or bidders, for cash, at the back of the lobby of the El Paso County Courthouse, located in the city of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas on Tuesday, August 5, 2003. The minimum FSA bid will be \$17,766.00. For specific information, contact the Farm Service Agency, 2306 W. Dickinson, Suite 1, Fort Stockton, Texas. Phone number: (432) 336-5206, Extension 2.

## Supercalafragilisticchemochromatosis

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

EL PASO COUNTY — "... Even though the sound of it is something quite atrocious, occurring in the virile sex it is more precocious, supercalafragilisticchemochromatosis."

In this, the Hemochromatosis Screening Awareness Month, that little ditty seems all the more apropos. I can assure you, however, that for 0.5 percent, or one million plus, of the U.S. population, it is no laughing matter. Even the treatment of hemochromatosis would make Bram Stoker's Count Dracula proud, as phlebotomy or bloodletting to reduce and maintain body iron at near-normal levels, is the treatment of choice.

Hemochromatosis is currently the most common cause of iron overload in the United States, with as much as 10 percent of the population carrying the condition and subject to minor, apparently harmless increases in body iron stores. For the 0.5 percent of the population with serious hemochromatosis, the genetic defect results in an abnormality in the control of iron absorption that causes an inappropriate increase in iron uptake and a progressive buildup of body iron.

The iron accumulates as hemosid-

erin in liver prencymal cells, and subsequently in the pancreas, heart, adrenal glands, testes, pituitary gland, and kidneys, leading eventually to hepatic, pancreatic, and cardiac dysfunction and hypogonadism.

Women, take heart, however (and please excuse the pun), as the disease usually occurs in males and is rarely recognized before the fifth decade. Ten to 20 years postmenopause is the time-frame for targeted women.

The classic tetrad of clinical signs is liver disease, diabetes mellitus, skin pigmentation of a bronze color, and impotence. Cardiac failure develops in about 10 to 15 percent of untreated patients, with arthropathy and bleeding esophageal varices also factors. Furthermore, in patients who develop cirrhosis due to hemochromatosis, there is a 15 to 20 percent incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma.

Body iron stores have usually increased from the normal amount of one gram or less to 15 to 20 grams or more by the time symptoms of organ damage appear. Environmental factors, including dietary iron content and alcohol use, may also greatly influence the rate and severity of organ damage.

A high degree of clinical suspicion must be maintained in patients with a family history of hemochromatosis. For screening purposes, liver enzyme assays and measurements of the plasma iron, transferrin saturation, and plasma ferritin provide the best indirect means of screening. If any of these measurements is abnormal, further evaluation is indicated with a hepatic iron index on a liver biopsy specimen. A hepatic iron index greater than 1.9 suggests hemochromatosis. Screening of family members at risk for the disease should follow.

Treatment involves weekly phlebotomies (bloodletting) of 500 milliliters of blood (about 250 milligrams of iron), continued for up to 2 to 3 years, to achieve depletion of iron stores. When that is achieved, maintenance phlebotomies (every 2 to 4 months) are continued.

Vigilance and aggressive therapy are the only options available to turn down the volume on our "Supercalafragilisticchemochromatosis," and silence the cirrhotic chorus.

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## Briefs

From Page 1

851-1599 or 592-9081.

■ Lorenzo G. Loya Primary School will register new students ages three, four and five on Aug. 6, 8 a.m.-11 a.m. and on Aug. 7-8, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., and on Aug. 11 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Registration will be held in the school's gym. Parents should bring child's birth certificate, Social Security card, immunization record, proof of address. Proof of income needed for pre-kinder only. An immunization clinic will be held at that location on Aug. 5-6. Call 872-3940 for information.

■ Rio Grande Safe Communities will be having their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 10 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at 1100 N. Stanton in the 6th floor conference room. Guest speaker will be Paul O'Sullivan from the Institute for Public Strategies. A 15-member committee will be discussed to assist in the prevention of cross-border underage drinking. The public is invited. For more information contact Irene Duran at 775-2555.

■ The Rio Grande Citizens' Forum will meet on Monday, July 21, 6:30 p.m. at 4171 N. Mesa Street in the Commons, Building C. A progress report on the Joint Desalination Facility between El Paso Water Utilities and Ft. Bliss will be given, as well as discussion of other water quality issues. For information call 832-4175.

■ Substance abuse prevention

specialist training from the Rio Grande Safe Communities will take place Aug. 11-15 at 1100 N. Stanton in the 4th floor conference room. The free 40-hour training is for individuals in the prevention field, faith community, policy and community coalitions members who are seeking to identify and implement effective prevention programs. This course was developed and is taught through a partnership with the Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT), a program funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Interested persons should contact Irene Duran at 775-2555. This training in Spanish is planned at a future time.

■ For the third straight year, drug seizures by DPS troopers on traffic patrol topped the \$100 million mark. According to 2002 statistics released today by the Traffic Law Enforcement Division, DPS troopers intercepted illegal drugs valued at \$123.8 million while on normal patrol duty. Statistics also show heroin seizures of 86 pounds were a record for DPS troopers; 1,780 drug arrests were the second highest in DPS history; cocaine seizures topped one ton (2,202 pounds) worth an estimated \$90.1 million, and troopers confiscated more than 25 tons (50,908 pounds) of marijuana. Excluding drug and alcohol-related arrests, DPS troopers arrested more than 17,000 people for a variety of criminal violations, ranging from homicide to auto theft.

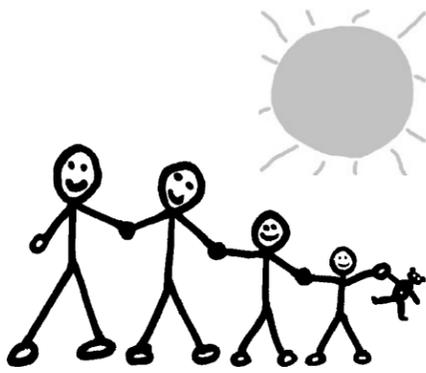
■ More than \$40,000 in new grants and project monies are available this year for free and low cost spays/neuters for El Paso's

dog, cats, puppies and kittens. Project coordinators urge interested pet owners to call (915) 873-PETS to find out which program they qualify for and to arrange for a spay/neuter appointment with a participating veterinarian. PETS ALIVE El Paso and the Humane Society of El Paso have received the money. PETS ALIVE, a Texas non-profit corporation that in part raises funds for the pending animal shelter and a variety of pet over-population spay/neuter efforts, works closely with the El Paso City/County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee (ASAC). Pet guardians, depending on economic status, may receive free or minimal co-pay (\$10 cat or \$20 dog) spays and neuters for their pets. For more information about El Paso's free and low-cost spay/neuter programs, call PETS ALIVE at (915) 873-PETS.

■ The El Paso County Historical Society will host a Backyard Bargains Auction and Sale on Saturday, July 19, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the backyard of the historic Burges House, 603 W. Yandell. A silent auction and a book sale will be held along with the availability of antiques and collectibles. Proceeds will benefit the re-working of the landscape for water conservation.

■ The El Paso Playhouse is holding try-outs for *Opening Night*, a play by Norm Foster and directed by Derek Niegemann and Richard Munyon. Auditions will be July 13-14, 7 p.m. at the Playhouse, 2501 Montana. The cast requires three women and five men of various ages. The production will run Sept. 5-28. For further information call 532-1317.

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## WNV

From Page 3

confirmed cases are included in the state's database."

"While no vaccine can guarantee 100 percent protection, it's much better than no protection," commented Dr. Conger. "Last year, Colorado State University followed more than 500 equine animals infected with the WNV in Colorado and Nebraska. The death rate was greater than 36 per-

cent in animals that had not received vaccine.

Dr. Conger said equine animals infected with WNV, EEE or WEE, may exhibit similar signs, including fever, irregular gait, teeth grinding, drowsiness, an inability to swallow. Affected animals may be paralyzed and be unable to rise. He said TAHC and public health officials advise owners to have sick animals tested to diagnose the disease that caused illness or death, because rabies always must be considered when an animal is disoriented or staggers.



Chris Wildt  
"You're lovely, charming, rich ... well, look at this ... the computer picked me as your date!"

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## HOMESTEAD MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NOTICE OF RULE MAKING

The Homestead Municipal Utility District (the "District") hereby gives notice that it has adopted new Rules Governing the Furnishing and Control of Water Services and Solid Waste Collection Services within the District (the "Rules"). Breach of these rules will subject violators to civil penalties of up to \$5,000.00, exclusive of interest. The effective date of these Rules is five days after the final publication date noted below.

### Substantive Statement of the Amendment to the Rules and Regulations

On June 23, 2003, the District's Board of Directors, at its regular board meeting, adopted a comprehensive consolidation and revision of its existing Rules and Regulations. The new Rules are, in large part, a compilation of previously adopted rules and amendments. This notice sets forth the substance of the adopted Rules and a brief explanation to give an understanding of the structure and context of the Rules. Although the new Rules set forth various one-time fees and charges related to services provided by the District, the monthly rates for water and solid waste services and other charges may be set forth in separate rate and fee orders issued by the District's Board of Directors. A chapter by chapter analysis summary of the new Rules is as follows:

**Chapter 1** sets forth the definition of the terms which are used in the new Rules.

**Chapter 2, General Provisions**, lays out the Rules which are generally applicable to all the types of services rendered by the District. It prohibits the free use of any service of the District system and requires that only one meter or one service be provided per dwelling or building. All dwellings and businesses within the boundaries of the District which require water for their ordinary and customary use and which have water lines located within 300 horizontal feet of a dwelling or business must connect to the District's system within 90 days after service becomes available. A customer may appeal in writing any ruling or action by a member of the District staff charged with the responsibility of making such ruling. In addition to the penalty stated above, the District may also disconnect water service as provided for by the Rules and/or an application for water service may be dismissed and any further processing terminated.

**Chapter 3, Water Related Services**, sets forth the conditions for the initiation of water service including the submission of certificates of compliance and a customer service inspection certificate. The chapter also provides the conditions under which stand-by fire service will be available.

**Chapter 4, Protection of Water Supply**, sets forth the requirements for back-flow prevention devices and cross connection control devices which will protect the water quality in the District system. These requirements drawn from the existing Rules, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Rules for Public Drinking Water. The Rules specify that a District customer has the responsibility for preventing contaminants or pollutants originating on the customer's premises from entering the District's public water supply as well as the customer's own water system.

**Chapter 5, Customer Rights and Responsibilities**, specifies the limitations on water meter connections to each lot within the District. In recognition of current contractual limitations, in order to properly serve its present and future customers, protect its water system, and comply with its legal obligations, the District will limit one meter to each lot that was lawfully platted and recorded with the County of El Paso as of April 1, 1993. No meter connections will be provided to lots platted after April 1, 1993 until such time as the District has additional meters and supply available to serve new lots. Issuance of a meter for a non-residential use will include a condition that prohibits use by a high-volume water user. In the event a service connection remains inactive for one year or more after approval

of the connection, the District may cancel the connection and remove or plug the service. Reinstallation or activation of the service will require a new extension and connection charge. No assurance is made as to future availability of meters. The chapter also sets out responsibility for any loss or damage to District property by customers. Revised water conservation measures are also adopted. These measures are similar to those adopted by the City of El Paso and restrict outdoor watering except in accordance with a specified schedule.

**Chapter 6, Design and Ownership of Facilities**, specifies that design, operation, and maintenance of all water facilities shall be in accordance with District standards.

**Chapter 7, Discontinuance of Service**, sets out the specific reasons for which water service may be discontinued and establishes procedures to assure due process and an opportunity for the customer to be heard before service is discontinued.

**Chapter 8, Extension of Service to New Areas/Subdivisions**, specifies the procedures for requesting and qualifying for water service extensions to areas not currently served by the District's public water system and where construction of an extension of the District's water distribution facilities is required. An application must be submitted for an extension of services and must include a description of the proposed project, including the size and number of proposed water connections, the anticipated water usage requirements and preliminary plans for the proposed subdivision or new area to be served. An administrative fee of \$1,000.00 to defray the expenses of processing the application is required. The fee may be increased based on the size of the subdivision. The District's engineer will prepare a cost estimate and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Directors as to approval of water service for the proposed subdivision.

Provision is made for a recommendation regarding plat approval to the appropriate plat approval authority. Upon approval of the plat by the District, the applicant shall enter into an appropriate development contract with the District, which will include provisions for the refund of frontage fees and cost sharing, if appropriate. At the option of the District, project construction may be done by the District, a contractor employed by the District, or by a contractor employed by the applicant. Procedures for letting of the bid and construction of the project are also described. The Rules also provide that water taps must be provided by the developer in the new subdivision and that individual purchasers must apply for water service in accordance with the Rules.

**Chapter 9, Deposits and Charges**, states that monthly charges for water service shall be in accordance with the rate orders adopted by the District's Board of

Directors. The Rules also specify that a bill guaranty deposit and a service connection charge must be paid prior to service being received from the District. Customer service extensions of water service lines from the property line to the building must conform to standard plumbing codes. Customers must also pay testing fees for the initial acceptance test on contaminant cross connection control assemblies. Rules are also adopted as to extension charges, calculation of frontages, frontage fee refunds, and special deposits applicable to water service.

When it is necessary to cut paving to make a connection, additional charges shall be assessed to the customer in accordance with adopted rates and charges, except when the connection is on a Texas Department of Transportation highway. In which case, the customer will pay the actual cost of meeting special TX-DOT requirements. Rules are adopted relating to partial refunds which may be given after a customer is required to construct or pay to construct boundary water lines. Offsite facilities such as reservoirs, pump stations and lines outside the boundaries of the property to be served may require a special deposit.

**Chapter 10, Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services**, provides Rules under which the District will provide solid waste collection services to its residential water customers. All District residential water customers are required to use the solid waste collection and disposal services provided by the District. The customer will be billed by the District in accordance with the rate order adopted by the District, whether or not the service is actually utilized by the customer. District residents who are not currently receiving water service, but desire to receive solid waste collection service, may receive such services, but will be required to pay an advance fee equal to three times the monthly fee plus all applicable taxes and fees. Restrictions on routes and pick up days, location for pick up, responsibility for damage or loss of carts, or overloading the carts, are also provided. The District waste collector shall not be required to collect or accept any liquid waste, hazardous or toxic waste, or infectious medical waste. Each customer shall be required to maintain their waste cart in a clean, neat and sanitary condition so as to prevent nuisance conditions.

The full text of the Rules is on file in the District's offices, 3668 Desert Meadows Road, El Paso, TX 79938, where they may be read by any interested person.

Erich A. Morales  
Kemp Smith LLP  
General Counsel

Homestead Municipal Utility District  
Published WTCC: 07/10/03 & 07/17/03

# Bad news for Kobe, good news for UTEP athletics

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Kobe Bryant has always been anything but your average professional athlete. He's always set himself apart from the other guys on the court. He's never been described as just another one of the guys.

Well, turns out that Kobe may be just that, no better than just another one of those stupid athletes that believes the law doesn't pertain to him.

Who knows the truth? Kobe was arrested last week on charges of felony sexual assault near Vail, Colorado.

The 24-year old Los Angeles Lakers star posted a \$25,000 bond and was released.

It still doesn't sound right — the first time I heard the news last Sunday I must admit that I wasn't sure I was hearing correctly.

The woman, who had not yet been identified at the time of this writing, said Kobe sexually assaulted her at the Edwards Hotel. The manager of the hotel confirmed that Bryant did stay there. Bryant was in the area to have arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

Now I am not a Kobe Bryant fan by any

stretch of the imagination but I've always thought that, though a little immature and selfish at times, he always carried himself as a gentleman and a man of character and class.

Now I don't have a clue what to believe.

Could it be possible that the NBA's poster boy can now be tossed in the same category as notorious bad boys like Mike Tyson, John Rocker, Daryl Strawberry and Steve Howe?

I thought it was kind of weird when Kobe got engaged to a girl while she was still in high school. But they did get married and now have a baby. But is Kobe actually capable of something like this?

Could this be an attempt at a money grab by a woman who saw her opportunity and took it?

My contention has always been that where there's a little smoke, there's at least a little fire.

And if it turns out that Kobe didn't sexually assault this woman, what were they doing in the same hotel room in the first place?

He said, she said... so hard to prove in court. But Kobe has already been severely damaged in the court of popular opinion.

## See UTEP run

All UTEP Miner fans are happy today because of the new agreement between the El

Paso Times, Time Warner Cable and UTEP. For the first time in a number of years, you will be able to see some UTEP football and basketball road games in the comfort of your own home... and in living color.

Just when it looked like we were going to go through another season of fan-disinterest because of the lack of exposure, this new 11th-hour partnership gives UTEP a new lease on its promotional life.

And the best thing about the deal is that UTEP fans will catch the football Miners against the best road opponents on their schedule. The new TV lineup, which will appear on cable channel 7, includes the season-opener at Arizona on Aug. 30, a big road game at Louisville on Sept. 20, and a road WAC game against SMU on Oct. 4.

The basketball agreement guarantees TV games at Texas Tech and Mr. Bobby Knight on Dec. 3, at Tulsa on Jan. 8, and at Fresno St. on Feb. 12.

And because of other cable TV organizations' contracts with the WAC, some other UTEP games, even home games, could be aired as well.

A lot is expected from the UTEP football basketball teams this coming season, and they

shouldn't disappoint.

Think of it this way, like I've said in the past, the teams have been so bad recently that both Gary Nord and Billy Gillispie can coach their respective teams to .500 records and each win WAC Coach of the Year honors.

## Tiger and the Beemer

A lot of the recent talk around the PGA had people wondering what the heck had happened to two of the most charismatic players on the tour.

Of course, one of the players is Tiger Woods, and the other is El Pasoan Rich Beem. Though Tiger has won three events this year, he hadn't won since March, and though Beem had come close to winning on several occasions, he hadn't yet won.

Neither had been playing the way everyone thought and hoped they would.

That was, until last week's Western Open. Tiger won the event with a record-tying 21-under par performance while Beem played brilliantly, finishing second at 16-under.

Both are playing some good golf just in time for next week's British Open.

Don't be surprised if both golfers make a run at the title... the game could use the excitement.

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

*Q: I am 59 years old and receive Social Security disability. My wife is 54 years old and also is disabled. But she has been turned down for Social Security. She didn't work very much and only has six years of Social Security coverage. Does that mean she will never be able to draw Social Security or Medicare?*

A: It means she will never be able to draw Social Security on her own record. But she might qualify for Social Security and Medicare on your record when she's old enough. Social Security and Medicare are insurance programs. She must be "vested" in the system to qualify for benefits on her own record. Most people, including your wife, need 40 credits (about 10 years of work) to meet the minimum qualification requirements. So assuming she never works again, the only

way she will get Social Security benefits is on your record. However, we do not pay benefits to wives until they reach 62. If your income is very low, you might want to ask your local Social Security office about the Supplemental Security Income program or talk to your local welfare office about food stamps or other help.

*Q: I soon will be 60 years old and am afraid I will not qualify for widow's benefits at that time. I was married to my husband for many years. But four years after he died, I married another man. That marriage was later annulled because of fraud on his part. Did that mistake mess up my chance to get my first husband's Social Security?*

A: Don't worry. When you turn 60, you will be eligible for widow's ben-

efits on your first husband's Social Security record. The fact that your second marriage ended (or because it was annulled, it legally never happened) is the key. The law says you merely have to be unmarried in order to qualify for a deceased husband's Social Security. So, because you are now unmarried, you will get widow's benefits on your first husband's Social Security record when you turn 60.

*Q: I am 68 and my husband is 67. He started his Social Security at 62, and I'm getting a wife's benefit on his record. If he dies before me, will I get the 80 percent rate he's getting for taking early retirement? Or will I get the 100 percent rate I understand widows are due after age 65?*

A: You'll get 100 percent of his 80 percent rate. Does that make sense? In other words, if your husband dies, you'll start getting whatever Social Security benefit he was getting at the

time of his death. In addition, you would also get a one-time \$255 death benefit.

*Q: I'm almost 65 and soon will go on Medicare. But I live on my small Social Security check and can't afford the \$58.70 monthly premium. What can I do?*

A: For those with limited incomes, the government sometimes will pay the Medicare premium. Check with your local Human Health Services Office, they administer the "qualified Medicare beneficiary" program which helps individuals pay their Medicare premiums.

*Q: I signed up for Social Security at age 63. I don't get very much money, and the Social Security representative told me I would qualify for SSI if I were disabled. But I wasn't then and still am not. Thank goodness I've always been quite healthy. But I turn 65 this month. A neighbor said I*

*could get SSI now. Is she right?*

A: She probably is. Assuming you still meet all the eligibility requirements for Supplemental Security Income, you're now old enough to get SSI without being disabled. People 65 and older can get SSI based on their age.

*Q: I'm about to turn 65, and I heard Medicare will not cover any pre-existing conditions I have. Is this true?*

A: No, it's not. Medicare will cover you no matter what state of health you're in when you turn 65.

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

## King Super Crossword

- SPAGHETTI WESTERNS ACROSS
- 1 Apples lightly
- 5 Helicopter sound
- 9 Swedish rockers
- 13 "Whole \_ Love" ('69 hit)
- 18 Guinness or Baldwin
- 19 Actress Skye
- 20 Chrysler competitor
- 21 Toils
- 22 "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Ragazzo" star?
- 25 O'Neill's "The \_ Cometh"
- 26 New Hampshire city
- 27 Postpone
- 28 Leaf part
- 30 Married Mlle.
- 31 Tarbell or Lupino
- 33 Theft
- 36 Spring mo.
- 37 "Duello at Diablo" star?
- 43 Punjabi princes
- 46 Ornamental vine
- 47 It may be bitter
- 48 Blue hue
- 50 The very bottom
- 52 Tijuana title
- 55 "Star Wars" Skywalker
- 57 Fawn's father
- 59 Pride of lions?
- 61 Be a pest
- 63 Actress Helgenberger
- 65 Alaric, for one
- 67 Easily read
- 71 Kedrova of "Tom Curtain"
- 73 Unwell
- 74 Gulf ruler
- 75 Part of EEC
- 76 "The Tin Stella" star?
- 79 Wrath
- 80 Fateful 15th
- 82 Demolished a Danish
- 83 Rain hard?
- 84 Incorporated, as territory
- 87 Smith or Jones, e.g.
- 89 Junket
- 91 Petite pooch
- 92 Forster's "- With a View"
- 93 Evaluate
- 96 Level
- 98 Account entry
- 102 Have \_ over one's head
- 104 "My Sweet \_" ('70 smash)
- 106 Debtors' letters
- 108 Indefinite pronoun
- 109 Baal and Elvis
- 111 "Rosso River" star?
- 115 Funnyman Philips
- 117 Hailing from Haifa
- 119 Paw part
- 120 Once around the track
- 121 "Peter Pan" pirate
- 122 Pound the podium
- 126 Stallone role
- 130 Puts up
- 132 "How the Ovest Was Won" star?
- 136 Actress Tyson
- 137 Poker stake
- 138 Peter and Gordon song, e.g.
- 139 Small combo
- 140 Asian capital
- 141 Tavern staples
- 142 District
- 143 Prophet
- DOWN
- 1 TV's "\_ Shadows"
- 2 Burn remedy
- 3 Neuwirth or Daniels
- 4 Picturesque
- 5 Humor
- 6 Car part
- 7 Memo start
- 8 Scuba site
- 9 Insult
- 10 Derisive cry
- 11 "It's freezing!"
- 12 Confuse
- 13 Tablecloth fabric
- 14 UK honor
- 15 "Riders of the Purpureo Sage" star?
- 16 Vagabond
- 17 Ed of "Lou Grant"
- 21 Tripoli native
- 23 Change the decor
- 24 Earl \_ Biggers
- 29 Hockey's Bobby
- 32 Current unit
- 34 Honey bunch?
- 35 Wild child
- 37 "M\*A\*S\*H" extras
- 38 "\_ been had!"
- 39 Writer Rand
- 40 Vinegar's partner
- 41 Dejected
- 42 Detergent ingredient
- 44 Actress Gertz
- 45 Saying
- 49 Linda of "Alice" class?
- 53 Kimono closer
- 54 Massage
- 56 Fromm or Segal
- 58 Comic Radner
- 60 Start the slaw
- 62 Shimmer
- 64 Rub it in
- 66 Distort
- 67 Camera company
- 68 Writer Welty
- 69 "The Grande Country" star?
- 70 Go in
- 72 Blazing
- 77 Kidney-related
- 78 De Havilland or Hussey
- 81 Hair net
- 85 Start to snooze
- 86 Spud bud
- 88 Melville novel
- 90 Menial laborer
- 94 Tiberius' threads?
- 95 A Great Lake
- 97 Sister
- 99 Lad
- 100 Bed and breakfast
- 101 Pigskin prop
- 103 Poorly made
- 105 Costello or Del Rio
- 107 Use a straw
- 110 Compass pt.
- 112 Neighbor of Tenn.
- 113 Weft's opposite
- 114 Modifies
- 115 Vote in
- 116 Lanza or Lemieux
- 118 "King Lear" role
- 121 WWII site
- 123 Verdi opera
- 124 \_ de force
- 125 Fencing weapon
- 127 Full-grown filly
- 128 Soft cheese
- 129 Scent
- 131 Dodger Ron
- 133 Shiba \_ (Japanese dog)
- 134 Giant legend
- 135 Greek vowel

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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



Candidate singing a new tune

By Don Flood

Louisiana, at least, is doing something about declining voter interest.

According to a recently introduced bill, people who died in between the time they completed their absentee ballots and Election Day would still have their votes counted.

This could be an important first step toward granting the vote to dead people, who through no fault of their own often find themselves stripped of their most basic rights.

(The late Sen. Russell Long said it was his desire to be buried in Louisiana, so that he could remain politically active.)

But while it's all well and good to encourage the cemetery vote, something needs to be done to encourage voting among the living, many of whom show less interest in politics than dead people.

Enter Bob Graham, who until recently had been considered the dullest and least memorable presidential candidate since, um, what's his face.

(A quick check of professional historians didn't turn up anyone else who could remember what's his face's name, keep it to yourself. No one else seems to care.)

Appearing before a group of stunned Iowa voters, Graham, who claims to be running for President of the United States, boldly separated himself from the rest of the pack by suddenly launching — this is true — into his very own campaign song, which included lyrics such as:

*From the Atlantic to the Pacific, we all say —*

*He's terrific — That's why America needs Bob Graham today.*

Right away, Iowans knew Graham wasn't just any presidential candidate; he was a certifiable lunatic.

But that's OK, because Bob Graham's performance suggests a new way to get people interested in politics.

Compare the last election with the excitement surrounding the voting for "American Idol," where 10,000 applicants were narrowed down to a final winner.

The Democrats, of course, don't have nearly that many presidential candidates — probably not more than 8,000 — but there's little doubt that Simon Cowell and company could quickly weed out the losers.

(Can't you just see Simon saying, "If you want to be President of the United States, you simply have to raise your game," to which Randy Jackson would add, "I'm sorry, Dawg, it's just not working for me.")

For "Idol," people voted for their favorite each week — by phone! They became invested in their candidates. They cared about them.

The same would be true of: "American President."

And unlike political debates, where candidates often spout the same tired refrains, would-be presidents would be required to perform a different song each week, including pop, R&B, rock, American standards, and, of course, torch songs.

By the end of the show, Americans could be confident that, whatever music the situation called for, their president would be there to lead them in song.

Now I realize that some may have concerns about the charges of fraud surrounding this spring's "American Idol" vote, which the show's producers have promised to address.

But for "American President" to seem like a legitimate election, of course, charges of voter fraud would have to continue.

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Help

From Page 2

strange to me. If somebody else is paying for your training, isn't it incumbent upon you to actually learn it within a reasonable amount of time?

After all, there may be somebody else out there who needs that \$5,000 a year boost to get a little training, too, don't you think?

The other part, however, that raised not only my eyebrows but the hairs on the back of my neck is that this program allows these students to not only take their own good time to complete their tax-paid training, but they only have to achieve a 70 percent level of proficiency before the training center will help them find employment in the workplace.

My minds drifts back to the 18-wheeler lodged in the street and the wrong data entered in my insurance records, and I feel a little hopeless.

What kind of attitude, job performance and work ethic can we expect from folks in the workplace if we don't expect anything out of them before they even get there?

Maybe that's one of the reasons good help is so hard to find.

Reyes

From Page 2

to fund approximately \$1 billion for key homeland security investments was not allowed. Instead of an \$88,000 tax cut, the 200,000 families would receive an \$83,000 tax cut.

That modest decrease would have provided \$200 million for border security, \$400 million for port security,

Chente

From Page 3

public of proposed rules and the public comment period via the HHSC web site at [www.hhsc.state.tx.us](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us) and via the Secretary of State's Texas Register, which is published on the web at: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>. Texas must also modify its state Medicaid plan and receive federal approval of the plan amendments prior to implementing estate recovery.

To refresh your memory, Medicaid is a state and federally funded health benefit program for poor, elderly and disabled individuals.

\$150 million for aviation security, \$100 million for maritime security, and \$50 million for infrastructure security.

H.R. 2570, the State Threat Alert Reimbursement (STAR) Act, is another measure that would help our local responders. This bill will allow governors to apply for reimbursement on behalf of state and local agencies for costs associated with homeland security when the Secretary of Homeland Security increases the threat advisory level to Code Or-

ange and above. I am a co-sponsor of the STAR Act, which is currently being debated in committee, and will work for its swift passage into law.

When a panel of homeland security experts from across the country testify before Members of Congress unanimously asking for more resources, we should be able to give them what they need. After all, our security depends on it.

While operating on a tight budget, El Paso is lucky to have dedicated individuals in local law enforcement and emergency management positions. As a former federal law enforcement officer, I understand the difficulties our local officials face. El Paso officials and first responders have risen to the challenges before them. I applaud their efforts and will do all I can to support them.

Which means that for every 40 cents the state pays for Medicaid, the federal government contributes 60 cents to the program; in general, state general revenue is used to fund the state's portion of its Medicaid expenditures. Medicare doesn't enter into this scenario, because it is funded entirely by the federal government. The Federal Estate Recovery Law applies only to Medicaid.

I hope this clears up the issue of Medicaid, and how the state proposes to garnish funds from a Medicaid recipient. Remember, there are rules and regulations to Estate Recovery. Become familiar with the rules. You'll be glad you did. As ever, your friend, Chente for la gente



# For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

## Checking for growth

Last year I became a gardener. I think of it as my big science experiment. But for a first-year farmer, I believe I did OK.

My squash did, however, come down with a fungus. Many times I had to snatch my cantaloupe and eggplant out of the mouths of hungry turtles, and one pumpkin survived out of the whole packet of seeds I planted. The lone pumpkin prematurely fell off the vine in August, as

did our hopes for an autumn pumpkin on our front porch.

I've planted another garden this year, and compulsively check on its progress — sometimes two times a day. The tomatoes don't look much larger than when I planted them. Flower seeds have germinated, but when am I going to see the blossoms? A corn stalk has sprouted. One out of 20.

I'm feeling a little impatient. Sometimes I'm like that as a mother

too.

This morning as I passed my son's bedroom, I noticed that his drawers were closed, but every article of clothing he owns stuck out.

The clothes I folded neatly yesterday are now wrinkled and smooched.

"I don't know how many times I have to show him how to do this," I grumbled as I folded his shorts and T-shirts.

I picked up a wet towel on my daughter's bedroom floor, gritching, too, as I hung it up in the bathroom to dry.

Keep your feet off the furniture. Remember to be helpful. Clean up your messes.

These are lessons I've taught for years. But sometimes parenting does feel like one step forward and two steps back. And you wonder when you are going to see the growth.

If I'm going to keep this gardening comparison going, I must admit that when I step in my garden, I really do see progress. The seeds are now plants, and if I'd take my measuring stick out each day I'd be amazed at how fast things really do grow.

My disappointment comes because I expect too much, too quickly, and forget about the joy that comes in watching something beautiful gradually unfold.

In gardening and in parenting.

My son's clothes may look as if he slept in them, but when I survey his room I see that his bed is made, and I didn't have to ask him to make it. He also told me that he helped someone who had recently hurt her arm.

The towel may be moldering on the bedroom floor, but I didn't have to ask the 10-year-old who used it to remember her shower this morning. She popped out of bed and into the shower on her own. I also overheard her encouraging and affirming her little brother after his baseball game.

Blossoms are there — if I'm willing to look for them.

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# WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
▲ 100°	▼ 70°	▲ 98° ▼ 70°	▲ 98° ▼ 72°	▲ 96° ▼ 72°	▲ 96° ▼ 72°	▲ 94° ▼ 68°	▲ 96° ▼ 70°

### 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	9	Very High
Tuesday	9	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

### REAL FEEL TEMP™

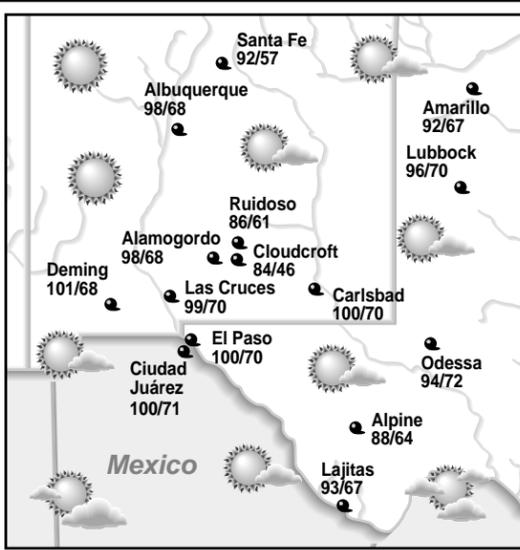
The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	98°
Friday	89°
Saturday	90°
Sunday	89°
Monday	93°
Tuesday	96°
Wednesday	92°

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	100	71
Canutillo	101	72
Clint	99	71
E. Montana	100	70
Fabens	99	71
Horizon	101	72
San Elizario	97	69
Socorro	99	69
Tornillo	99	71
Vinton	101	72

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	98/68/s	94/67/s	93/67/s	94/68/s	92/63/s
Atlanta	90/70/pc	88/70/t	88/70/pc	90/70/pc	89/70/pc
Atlantic City	81/65/c	82/65/pc	82/65/pc	85/66/s	84/64/pc
Austin/San Antonio	93/73/pc	96/73/pc	96/72/pc	96/72/pc	96/73/pc
Baltimore	84/68/c	86/66/pc	88/68/pc	88/66/s	87/64/pc
Boston	78/62/pc	76/64/c	84/66/pc	84/64/s	81/62/pc
Chicago	78/60/t	80/61/pc	81/63/pc	80/63/sh	82/60/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	95/76/pc	97/76/s	98/75/pc	99/75/pc	96/74/s
Denver	88/58/s	94/58/s	90/60/s	92/60/s	88/61/s
Flagstaff	90/48/s	90/49/s	89/49/s	88/50/s	83/48/s
Houston	92/76/pc	94/78/pc	94/78/pc	96/78/s	96/76/pc
Kansas City	88/66/s	88/66/s	86/68/s	86/68/pc	89/69/pc
Las Vegas	110/82/s	112/84/s	110/84/s	108/82/s	106/78/s
Miami	89/79/pc	90/79/pc	90/78/pc	90/79/pc	91/77/pc
Minneapolis	67/62/sh	79/65/s	79/58/pc	81/61/c	78/62/c
New Orleans	91/78/pc	91/77/pc	93/76/pc	91/75/c	92/74/pc
New York City	80/67/c	80/69/pc	85/71/pc	85/71/s	83/66/pc
Philadelphia	80/68/c	84/66/pc	86/70/pc	86/68/s	86/68/pc
Phoenix	111/86/s	113/86/s	111/84/s	111/84/s	108/83/s
Portland	88/60/s	88/60/s	82/58/pc	78/57/c	76/51/c
San Francisco	74/56/s	76/56/s	76/54/s	74/54/s	71/54/s
Seattle	80/58/s	80/56/s	76/56/pc	71/55/r	70/49/c
Tucson	106/76/s	107/75/s	105/75/s	103/75/pc	103/75/pc
Washington, DC	86/70/c	88/68/pc	90/72/pc	88/68/s	87/68/pc

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

### AGRICULTURE

There will be 10-12 hours of sunshine Thursday and Friday with highs a few degrees above normal. Relative humidity levels will be around 20 percent or less each afternoon. Sunshine and near-normal temperatures are expected this weekend. There is the small chance for a thunderstorm later Monday or Tuesday.

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