



NEWSBRIEFS

Bond answers offered

Keeping in mind that residents will have questions about the \$188,680,000 Socorro ISD Bond Election scheduled for Jan. 24, 2004, the district has established several ways to provide answers to those questions. Plans call for building nine new schools and a new Education Center plus a number of additions and renovations to existing schools. Interested persons may call the District's Bond Election Hotline, 937-BOND (937-2663) for recorded answers or visit the SISD web site at www.sisd.net and click on the "Bond '04" icon. The district is also planning four community meetings in January — one at each high school — to discuss the bond election and its projects. The dates are as follows:

- 6 p.m. Jan. 7, Socorro High School Band Room
- 7:30 p.m. Jan. 7, Americas High School Band Room
- 6 p.m. Jan. 8, Montwood High School Commons Area
- 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8, El Dorado High School Band Room

80 year celebration

The First Baptist Church of Fabens celebrated 80 years of service to the Fabens community on Nov. 23. Former pastor L.J. "Bud" Goodwin and Judy Goodwin, who were here 1965-68, came from Sante Fe, New Mexico; former pastor Ralph Teague (1973-78, and 1981-90) came from San Angelo; and former pastor John Shugart (1957-60 and 1969-70) came from Tye, Texas. Former member Lillian Sambrano from Inglewood, California came and played piano, and Janie Furman came from Alamogordo. About 80 people attended the preaching, the luncheon and fellowshiping, which included a presentation by Elfi Register and Joan Wilson about Crossing Borders Ministries, an organization that works to help needy on both sides of the border. The celebration closed with a memorial for those who have died since the last celebration in November of 1998. Warren Coffman is the interim pastor at the church.

In other news

■ The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents near Ft. Hancock encountered another attempt by smugglers to move illegal drugs across the border by horseback. Just after midnight on Monday, Dec. 1, the agents responded to information from a Border Patrol pilot that two people on horseback were guiding a couple of pack horses across the border. The pilot said the subjects unloaded some large bundles from the horses near I-10. When they realized they had been discovered they fled on horseback, leaving behind what was later found to be about 870 pounds of

See BRIEFS, Page 5



EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS — Socorro High School sophomores Fernando Lopez in the white cap, Raquel Carrasco, Jose Cardenas, in the dark cap, and senior Alicia Rosales pick the meat off turkey bones.

SHS students prepare, deliver turkey meals

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Students of Socorro High School's "Raices" culinary arts program and Peer Assistance Leadership, or PAL program began their Thanksgiving service early this year. Six-a.m. early, to be exact. The organizations solicited donations for a Thanksgiving meal for Socorro's elderly and infirm. Then they cooked and delivered the meals Nov. 20.

About 30 students in different shifts met in the SHS Culinary Arts kitchen with instructor Charles Mitchell, PAL coordinator Carolina Herrera and others to prepare eight donated turkeys and side dishes of corn, peas, rolls, and peaches for Socorro residents.

The result was 135 meals delivered that afternoon to elderly and disabled residents who can't leave their homes.

"It's really caught on like wildfire," says instructor Mitchell. "The students came in early

and prepared their own breakfast before preparing the turkey meal." Mitchell says residents have often called to say how much they appreciate the meal — and the attention.

"So many of these shut-ins are lonely. Last year, when they went to deliver the meals, the ladies or whoever was there would ask them 'please, just sit down and talk to us.' In one house, one lady was blind, and the other — her mother — couldn't leave the house. So that made our visit an even bigger event."

Herrera says the turkeys were privately donated from the students' families and SHS personnel. Senior Alicia Rosales had been standing at a gleaming metal table with three friends for much of the morning.

"Yeah, it's fun," she said, grinning, her hands knuckle-deep in turkey meat. "But I don't think I'll make turkey like this next week, though."

House approves \$3.7 million for El Paso County

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Henry Bonilla role on the powerful Appropriations Committee has helped to secure funding for three El Paso Projects.

"This is a great day for the people of El Paso County," said Bonilla. "I'm proud to have played a role in securing this funding and look forward to the progress it will make."

A senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Bonilla's role enabled him to secure \$2.8 million for a new El Paso flood control system. The project will consist of detention dams, diversion dikes, conduits and channels to collect, regulate and discharge runoff into the Rio Grande river. The new system will provide flood protection for areas subject to damaging floods from arroyos on the slopes of the adjacent mountains.

Bonilla said an additional \$370,000 was approved for continued work on the reuse water project. The funding will be used to ensure a continuous source of freshwater remains intact for the El Paso.

Funding was also obtained for Corp of Engineers Investigations projects for Northwest El Paso and Sparks Arroyo Colonias in El Paso County. Funding totaled \$535,000 and will provide the Corp of Engineers with the re-

sources needed to investigate the needs, planning and evaluation of improvements for the basin, the river and other water resources.

"I'm happy my role on the Appropriations Committee was able to help my constituents in El Paso. All of these projects will mean a safer environment for everyone living in the (County)," said Bonilla.

Members of the Appropriations Committee oversee all of the nation's funding. Bonilla was the first freshman Member of Congress in 25 years to be given a seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee and is now chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and a senior member of the Defense and Foreign Operations Subcommittees. Bonilla is regarded as one of the two most influential lawmakers in Texas.

"A seat on the Appropriations Committee is an amazing position to hold," said Bonilla. "I represent one of the largest districts in our nation — that's a lot of people, businesses and resources to take care of. My role on this committee gives me the opportunity to shepherd and secure funding for my home-district in Texas."

Bonilla has represented El Paso since his first election to Congress in 1992.

Hit and run driver in fatal head-on collision arrested by HCPD officers

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Horizon Police Officers Adrian Flores and Joe Castorena made a crucial arrest of a hit-and-run driver who killed a female passenger in a head-on collision on I-10 at Eastlake Saturday morning, Nov. 15.

The driver, a U.S. Marine Sgt. Juan Gutierrez, 22, was driving westbound in the eastbound lanes of I-10 when he collided head-on with a Nissan Altima, killing the front-seat passenger, Valerie Melendez, 21.

Two back-seat passengers and the driver of the Nissan were also treated at a local hospital. After the accident, Gutierrez, apparently not seriously injured, fled on foot south towards the City of Socorro.

Officers Flores and Castorena were assigned to the Socorro area during a scheduled warrant sweep. They picked up the spot broadcast put out by the El Paso County Sheriff's Dept. dispatcher on the hit-and-run driver after the fatal head-on collision. The officers were advised that the driver was last seen on North Loop Road, near the Ave. of Americas.

Officers Flores and Castorena were in that vicinity and began searching the area for the subject. They spotted the driver outside the Good Times Store in Moon City using a public pay phone. When the officers approached him, Gutierrez fled on foot towards the back of the store. After a short foot-pursuit, he was apprehended and turned over to the Sheriff's Dept. He was subsequently charged with criminal negligent homicide.

"Officer Flores is a full time officer who has almost five years with HCPD and Officer Castorena is one of our non-paid part-time officers who is undergoing his Field Training Program," said HCPD Sgt. Ron Swenson. "They really did an excellent job in this case."

El Paso's first responders concerned about ability to secure and protect border

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representatives from El Paso's Police Department, Sheriff's Office and the City/County Office of Emergency Management stated the need for increased federal funding for homeland security in a survey circulated by Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso.

"El Paso's survey results and the national survey results all point to one glaring fact — the border region does not receive the attention it deserves from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). El Paso's first responders are stretched thin just trying to carry out their day-to-day operations and have to spend their own funds on homeland security needs," said Reyes.

"The international border is a potential point of entry for terrorists, and therefore places the local community and nation at risk," said Chief Ray Apodaca, El Paso City/County Office of Emergency Management in his written survey response.

"Any local funds directed towards homeland security issues come at the expense of

See BORDER, Page 8

The guy who invented the boomerang is probably the same one who invented the credit card.

— Quips & Quotes

One perspective

By Francis Shrum



Hocus smokus

Smoke and mirrors.

Houdini would be proud of the way hospitals, doctors and insurance companies can make charges appear, disappear, never exist — or come back to haunt you.

It's no wonder the financial state of the nation's health care industry is in such disarray. They are in a constant state of chaos and disarray, as murky and surreal as fog on a winter

morning — or as sewage as it swirls through the depths of the municipal treatment plant.

Whatever happened to honest, up front charges — no more than needed, no less than reasonable? Whatever happened to a small box of Kleenex that was charged at a realistic \$1 instead of \$10, or a toothbrush, never used, billed out at 50 cents instead of \$15?

Nowadays you'll be lucky to even get an itemized bill from the hospital after an enjoyable stay in their resort

accommodations. In fact, if you have insurance, they will refer you to your insurance company for that information.

Good luck.

If you are in good health, you should be thankful every day of your life. If you are not, or if you've been like most of us and suffered an occasional glitch on your health screen you're probably all too acquainted with the "hocus, smokus, let's not focus" reality of health care charging.

The following scenario really happened — names not revealed to protect the innocent — and no, it didn't happen to me.

Subject goes into hospital for a simple — though not to her — surgical procedure recommended by her doctor. Once there, the hospital refuses to allow the procedure to take place until somebody crosses their

palm — they refused a few copper pennies but accepted a check for \$500.

Fast forward about a month. The paperwork winds its way through the hall of mirrors — I mean, through the halls of her insurance company: Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Hocus, smokus, smoke and mirrors, the magic, indecipherable, incomprehensible process has been administered. The hospital has submitted \$8,394.50 for payment to her insurance company. The insurance company agrees to pay \$656. It informs her that she will owe the provider no more than \$88.96.

Whatever happened to the difference? Did the other \$7,649.50 simply disappear into thin air?

Her doctor billed the insurance company \$950 for his part. The com-

pany agreed to pay \$230.47. It tells her she will be responsible for \$40.66. What happened to the difference — to the \$678.87 the insurance company denied?

Meanwhile, nobody has said a word about the \$500 she already paid the hospital.

It happens over and over, everyday, to some degree or another, in varying amounts, some of which take your breath away they are so huge, some so minuscule you'd never notice.

The questions are as innumerable as they are unanswered. Did the hospital overbill or is the insurance company squeezing the faucet? Are the phantom figures honest charges or is the hospital admitting they are over-charges? Will they bill someone else more to make up their losses?

Talk to anyone on either side and you'll get opposing opinions.

Maybe we should talk to a magician.

I heard on the news recently about a unique clinic that opened up somewhere in a rural area up north. The doctor got so fed up with the whole insurance/Medicare/hocus/smokus that he simply started charging like a fast-food chain: Tonsillectomy, so much; appendectomy, so much; set a broken bone, so much. He was doing great. The community was happy. He was happy.

Everybody was happy except some bureaucrats in the state government, who were trying to prove he just had to be doing something wrong.

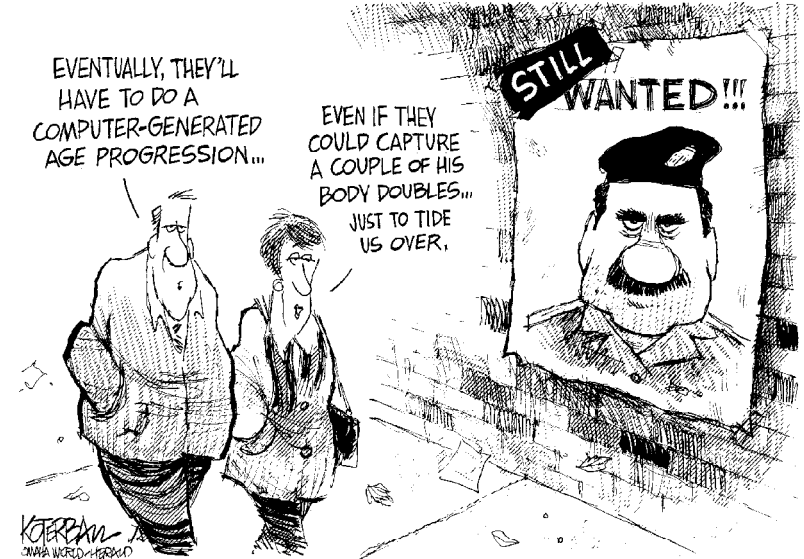
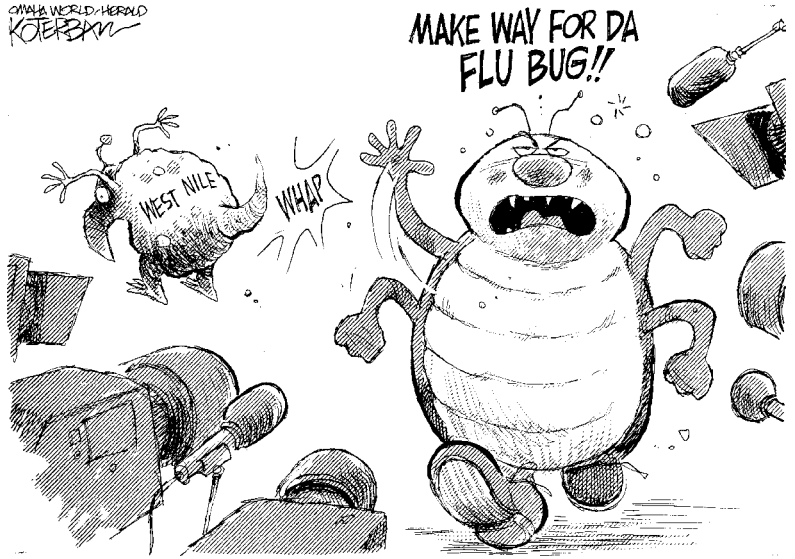
Meanwhile, ordinary health care providers maintain they are getting the short end of the stick trying to recover their costs beginning with private health care, then Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, right on down to a chicken, a couple kittens, or a dozen eggs — OK, so I made up that last part.

I don't mean to sound ungrateful for the medical advances that have taken place in my lifetime. They've made big differences in the quality of life, even saved the very life, of some people I love.

Still, I don't see the need for the entire system to function in a swirling vortex of greed, confusion, smoke and mirrors.

They say the future of paying for our nation's health care needs looks pretty dark.

Won't somebody please just turn on the lights?



30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY **COURIER**

SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CASUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLAY, FABENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TURNELLO

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

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

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

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

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

ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard


Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

Homesteader News, Inc.
Est. 1973

Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Keeping a close eye on the Patriot Act



Less than two months after the devastating terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Congress overwhelmingly passed and the President signed into law the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, commonly known as the USA Patriot Act.

The Patriot Act addressed a number of shortcomings that became glaringly evident on Sept. 11, 2001 — although it also raised concerns regarding civil rights and privacy. I am a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. My colleagues on the Intelligence Committee and I monitor progress under the Patriot Act and weigh advances in foreign and domestic intelligence activity as well as its effect on civil rights and liberties.

Counter-terrorism efforts fall into a gray area between law enforcement activities and national defense, which has caused confusion and debate over

the extent of the government's role in fighting terrorism. In 1978, the government enacted the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which was the principal statute regarding counter-terrorism, including activities such as search warrants and electronic surveillance.

Under FISA, a special court allowed surveillance if there was "probable cause to believe that the target... is a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power" and required that "the purpose of the surveillance is to obtain foreign intelligence information" before monitoring a suspect.

By requiring that the purpose of a search was "to gather foreign intelligence information," rather than investigate an ordinary crime, FISA created a barrier between law enforcement and intelligence investigations, which greatly reduced the ability of the US to track and fight terrorists.

The Patriot Act removed FISA's barrier between law enforcement and intelligence by stating that the "significant" purpose of surveillance was to obtain foreign intelligence infor-

mation in order to receive a search warrant, rather than the primary purpose, as it was under FISA.

This expanded authority and flexibility, while improving the US's ability to fight terrorism, has raised concerns that citizens' privacy and civil rights will be compromised in the name of national security. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I recognize the need for improved efforts in the fight against terrorism. As a Member of Congress and a proud American, I also recognize the need to protect our civil rights and liberties.

My colleagues and I on the Intelligence Committee and in Congress are constantly assessing the pros and cons of the Patriot Act regarding both national security and civil rights. The Act is meant to protect the basic tenets of US society — civil rights and liberties — for generations to come. Especially in this day and age, it is difficult to strike the delicate balance between a secure country and an open society, but we must remain vigilant. If we sacrifice liberty to have security, then we will have lost the meaning of being American.

Motor madness

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

"Rev it up," "blow the engine," "pole position," and "four to the floor" are calls to arms of despondent youths who equate manhood and testosterone levels with the length of a rubber trail, rather than with what lies beneath the left side of a rib cage.

Now, boys will be boys, but a six-pack, racing tires, and a pretty co-pilot can transform the "apple of a mother's eye" into something far more terrifying than the imagination of Mary Shelley or Bram Stoker. A new cultural phenomenon or simply a right of passage?

Motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in the U.S. for persons ages one to 34, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Thirty-eight percent (15,794) of U.S. traffic fatalities in 1999 were alcohol-related; on average, drinking and driving killed a human being every 31 minutes. Furthermore, about three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. If that were not

enough, from 1995 to 1996, alcohol-related traffic fatalities among youths ages 15-20 increased by nearly 10 percent, from 1,473 to 1,617.

We all know that mixing alcohol and other drugs with driving leads to potentially fatal impairment. Like a concoction of oil and water, or the mating of a supermodel with a nerd, they simply don't mix. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to know that blood alcohol concentration (BAC), expressed as the percentage of alcohol in deciliters of blood — for example, 0.10 percent is equal to 0.10 grams per deciliter — correlates with the risk of fatal traffic accidents.

Compared with drivers who have not consumed alcohol, the risk of a single-vehicle fatal crash for drivers with BACs between 0.02 percent and 0.04 percent is estimated to be 1.4 times higher; for those with BACs between 0.05 percent and 0.09 percent, 11.1 times higher; for drivers with BACs between 0.10 percent and 0.14 percent, 48 times higher; and, finally, for those with BACs at or above 0.15 percent, the risk is estimated to be 380 times higher.

What can we do? Who can we turn to for help? After all, even our ministers and priests have been known to take an occasional "snort" or two.

Our therapeutic thrust must follow seven lines of reasoning. First, we must examine risk factors such as personality, social environment, anxiety, depression, loneliness, genetics, and type of drug.

Second, family, friends, or co-workers must take an active role in persuading a loved one to undergo screening for drug addiction.

Third, family physicians must be reminded that a diagnosis of drug addiction often starts with them.

Fourth, we must be aware of the disruptions wreaked on our family, work, social, school, legal, and financial lives by dependence on drugs.

Fifth, the expedience of detoxification on an outpatient basis must be contemplated. Next, parents must be educated to communicate, listen, set a good example, and establish a strong, stable bond with their children.

And, finally, counseling services, treatment programs, and self-help groups must be sought out after detoxification has run its course.

"Wired, tired and perspired" is neither safe nor acceptable behavior when driving a motor vehicle or checking-in at an airport.

(©2003, Albert M. Balesh, M.D. All rights reserved.)

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Ticket to work now available across the country

Social Security's Ticket to Work program — designed to help people with disabilities go to work and achieve their employment goals — is now available nationwide.

The Ticket to Work program is one of the best ways to help Americans with disabilities realize their dreams through meaningful and successful careers. People receiving a ticket in the mail also get information telling them how to use it to get vocational rehabilitation services, as well as employment and other support services from any of the employment service providers. Social Security now has contracts with hundreds of groups and organizations around the country, called Employment Networks, to help people with disabilities find work.

Beneficiaries will receive services from Employment Networks for free. Social Security will pay the Employment Networks for successfully helping people go to work. Employment

Networks may choose to be paid based solely on helping beneficiaries achieve self-sufficiency, or they may choose to receive payments when beneficiaries achieve different milestones during their attempt to go to work.

The Ticket to Work program includes other provisions to help people with disabilities who try to go to work. For example, the law extends health care coverage. Under the Ticket legislation most Social Security disability beneficiaries are protected by Medicare for at least eight years and six months after they go to work. And some states allow working people with disabilities to buy Medicaid coverage even if they are no longer eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits. People with disabilities who get Supplemental Security Income should contact the state Medicaid office in their area for more information.

The Ticket to Work program is voluntary. Social Security and Supple-

mental Security Income beneficiaries who receive a ticket are not required to work, but may choose to use their ticket to attempt to go to work.

Another feature of the Ticket to Work law helps people restart benefits if they try to work but then have to stop work because of their disability. For 36 months after a "trial work period" ends, Social Security can restart a person's benefits almost immediately after he or she stops working. And even beyond that three-year period, there are protections. For another 60 months, people can request reinstatement of benefits without filing a new application.

If you're getting Social Security or Supplemental Security Income disability benefits, and haven't received your ticket yet, you soon will. Anyone who wants a Ticket immediately can call 1-866-968-7842 (1-866-YOURTICKET). TDD/TTY users should call 1-866-833-2967 (1-866-TDD2WORK).

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

Lend a helping hand to those in need

The holiday season is upon us, and what a wonderful time it is to spend with family and loved ones reliving old memories and making new ones. While we cherish these special moments, we should not forget about those among us who are not as fortunate.

All around our communities are hard working folks who, because of unfortunate circumstances, cannot stretch their paychecks for enough food for themselves or their families. Setting aside a portion of your afternoon or weekend to assist those less fortunate than us could make a huge difference — especially in this holiday season.

This country was built on individualism, which includes an individual's responsibility to his or her neighbors. Part of this responsibility is to lend a hand to a neighbor in their time of need. By giving a little of yourself, you not only empower your neighbor, but you also make your commu-

nity stronger and more united.

There is perhaps no better example of people uniting and working for the common good of the community than in small towns in South and West Texas. In these small Texas towns people are naturally charitable. Texans haven't forgotten to make it a priority to give something back to our communities. And it's not like you don't have anything else to do. You lead busy lives. You work, take care of families, go to church, coach little league, and yet still make the time to volunteer.

Many people think heroes are the people who beat the odds and achieve the impossible. But the people who do succeed against the odds aren't the only heroes. America is full of them. Heroes are the people who not only recognize that the world is full of need, they do something about it. They get up in the morning and decide they are going to do something to make their community a better

place.

There is nothing more satisfying than helping an impoverished child learn to read or delivering a good, hot meal to an elderly grandmother. Not only do you bring smiles to the faces of those you volunteer to help, but you get a warm feeling in your heart that lasts a long time.

The opportunities to help are boundless. If you're not involved, get involved. Make the decision to just do it. Whether it's stopping along the highway and picking up trash, or organizing a fundraiser to donate money to charity. You can make a difference. And to those who are already doing it, a hearty thank you. Giving to those in need around us, helping our neighbors, and assisting those with special needs — that is the true meaning of the holiday season.



Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2003** during the **Regular City Council Meeting** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following:

1) Proposed Ordinance No. 0112 to vacate a 20 foot-walkway right-of-way between Lots 15 and 16, Block 43, Horizon Heights Unit 10. As requested by Mr. Edgar Garcia.

2) Proposed Ordinance No. 0113, on the rezoning of a parcel containing 285.91 acres being a portion of Section 31, Block 78, Township 3. Presently zoned as R-2, Single Family Residential to a Planned Unit Development. As requested by Horizon Communities Improvement Association and Land of Texas.

3) Proposed Ordinance No. 0114, on rezoning a parcel containing 3.77 acres being a portion of Section 31, Block 78, Township 3. Presently zoned as R-2, Single Family Residential to C-1 Commercial. As requested by Colony Partners East L.P.

4) Proposed Amendment No. 004 to repeal and replace Amendment No. 002 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102-Sub-Contractor Permit Fees.

5) Proposed to repealing and replacing Amendment No. 007 to Subdivision Ordinance No. 0035 — Standards for Deeded Parkland and Miscellaneous Issues.

6) Proposed Amendment No. 003 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102, Chapter 9 — Special Regulations, Section 901 — Home Occupations.

7) Proposed Amendment No. 005 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102, Chapter 8, Section 809.1 — Variances.

8) Proposed Amendment No. 001 to Ordinance No. 0074 — Regulating Sexually Oriented Businesses.

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

Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

WTCC: 12/04/03

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore In 1977, a patron at Amarillo's Big Texan Cafe ate a 4 1/2 lb. steak in 11 1/2 minutes.



TDH targets troubling toys

Money is tight, but you need to buy a toy for your nephew who is in his "terrible twos." You find a great deal on a stuffed animal at a small discount store. Is it terrific or is it trouble?

Well, that depends. "Often product-recall information from manufacturers does not get to discount and bargain stores because they buy their merchandise through auctions rather than from the manufacturer," said Annabelle Dillard, product safety expert with the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

For that reason, TDH inspectors will focus on secondary markets such as discount and bargain stores during "Toy Sweep," an annual campaign to educate Texas retailers about the latest recall information and to remind consumers that certain items have been recalled and are not safe for children.

Each fall — just before the big holiday shopping season — TDH's product safety inspectors visit retail stores making sure that certain recalled toys are no longer available and giving retailers detailed information about each of the recalled items. This year's event will be Nov. 17-20 in stores in the Houston, Dal-

las, San Antonio and Austin areas.

Inspectors have 10 toys and five children's furniture products on their list this year. Some of the products that recently have been recalled by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) are a pendant that is high in lead content; pacifiers that come apart; a plush toy with small parts; bunk beds that pose a strangulation hazard because of the spacing between the guard rails; a changing table whose poor design could cause strangulation hazard; and children's chairs that tend to break.

"Choking hazards are the most common reasons products are recalled," said Dillard, adding that toys or games with small parts cannot legally be sold for use by children under 3. Toys containing small parts that are for children 3 through must have a warning label, and toys that generate heat must have a warning to alert parents and children to the risk of burns or electrical shock.

Dillard said a new product that inspectors will be discussing with retailers this year is a yo-yo water ball. TDH has received complaints that the stretchy cord of the toy can wrap around a child's neck when the child

swings the toy overhead like a lasso. No recall has been issued on them, but the CPSC has issued a warning.

Some tips for buyers:

- Buy toys that are age-appropriate for the child. Toy and game manufacturers test their products for safety according to how they should be used by children and include age-range recommendations on their packages.

- Look for quality construction and design. Can the product withstand an assault by your 2-year-old nephew?

- Don't buy anything that has sharp glass or metal edges for children under 8.

- When shopping for children under the age of 3, avoid small toys or toys with small parts that could come off. A good rule of thumb: If the item is small enough to fit through the cardboard spool from a toilet-tissue roll, it's not appropriate for children under 3.

- Assemble toys properly. Many manufacturers offer assistance by phone if you need help.

The CPSC Web site (www.cpsc.gov) is a good resource for retailers and consumers who want the latest information on recalled products. The CPSC has a free e-mail subscription list that is notified each time a recall is issued.

People who have concerns about specific products can call TDH's product safety division at (888) 778-9440 toll free in Texas. Inspectors follow up on complaints and investigate hazards associated with products. Products are tested and, if necessary, sent to laboratories for further testing. Findings are then evaluated and notices of violation will be issued to manufacturers if necessary. If the product is distributed nationally, these findings also will be forwarded to the CPSC for further enforcement action on the federal level.

Suspicious staph scourge concerns Texas doctors

A mysterious scourge has Texas physicians and other public health officials concerned, Texas Medicine magazine reports in its December issue. People are developing skin eruptions that cannot be treated by ordinary antibiotics, and while theories have been presented, researchers are not certain why outbreaks are occurring.

The skin eruptions are the result of a Staphylococcus bacteria called methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA.

People in jails, day care centers, schools, and other facilities in Texas and elsewhere have suffered outbreaks of the infection over the past 19 months, the magazine reports.

A San Antonio hospital reports more than 100 MRSA cases among children in recent months, and even one case in which the young patient died as a result of MRSA. Scores of inmates at the Bexar County jail also have contracted the malady since last December.

"What we have noticed since 1997 is that an organism that is usually seen only in the hospital is now becoming very common in the community," Jaime E. Fergie, MD, chair of the Texas Medical Association's (TMA's) Committee on Infectious Diseases, tells the magazine. "That bacteria, that germ that in the past was just associated with infections acquired in the hospital, is now being seen in children who are otherwise perfectly healthy," adds the pediatric infectious disease specialist.

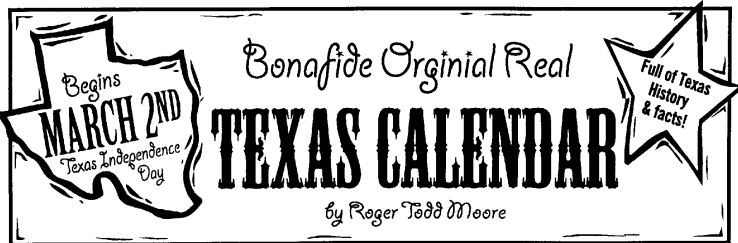
Where else is MRSA showing up? On our kids' school sports fields. Some student-athletes on middle school and high school teams are contracting the skin eruptions.

One health official tells Texas Medicine that 20 high school football teams across Texas have players suffering from the infection. "We have one football team with 25 members with soft tissue infections," Neil Pascoe, RN, an epidemiologist with the Infectious Disease Division of the Texas Department of Health (TDH) says in the magazine. Of those, nine are confirmed cases of MRSA, he says. Person-to-person contact with wounds often suffered in athletics apparently increases the spread.

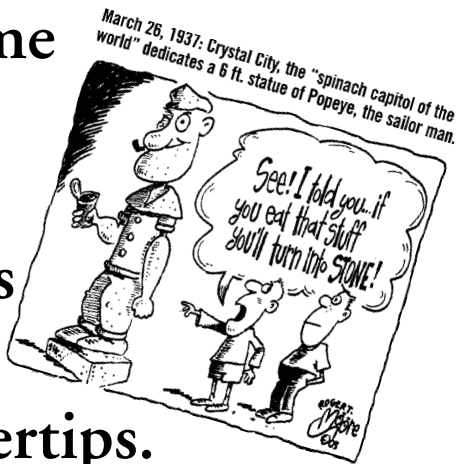
The MRSA infection is resistant to penicillin and other similar antibiotics, but it can be treated effectively with other drugs, including non-penicillin-related antibiotics. Public health officials are warning physicians that Staph infections not responding to antibiotics may be MRSA.

However, infection showing up in less-obvious places in the body, such as internally, is more difficult to detect, diagnose, and treat.

MRSA is spread primarily through person-to-person contact, so Texas Medicine says TDH's top prevention tip is thorough hand washing. But cases in which a person has no direct contact with an infected patient may be caused by the over-prescribing of antibiotics, and patients not completing their dosages of antibiotics when prescribed them.



A MUST for any REAL Texas home or office. Amazing true Texas facts at your fingertips. Get the Bonafide Original Real Texas Calendar today!



Great gifts for:

- *Displaced Texans*
- *Imported Yankees*
- *Educational material for all foreigners (anyone not Texan)*

Orderin' Instructions

Please send \$7 per calendar* to:
Roger T. Moore
3614 Crosswind Drive
Spicewood, Texas 78669

Be sure to include your shipping information in your neatest handwritin' — and don't forget to autograph your check (made payable to Roger T. Moore).
Allow two weeks for shipping.

* Orders of 5 to 10: \$6 per calendar

For larger orders and corporate sales, call: (512) 263-6943

Any good Texan knows the New Year really starts on Texas Independence Day!

Basketball is BACK in El Paso!!

Monday, Dec. 8th

Houston Cougars

@

The Haskins Center

7:05 PM



*** Bring a TOY!!**



*** First 1000 Fans receive \$1.00 Popcorn Coupon**

*** Tickets call 747-5234**

Briefs

From Page 1

marijuana with a street value of about \$690,000. The fleeing subjects, two men from Durango and Chihuahua, Mexico, abandoned the horses and were subsequently apprehended on foot. Agents said there has been an increased use of horses in drug smuggling in isolated areas.

■ **Red Ribbon Week at Fabens High School** brought out the best in art and writing, according to Carol Silver. She said winners in the Fabens High School Red Ribbon Art Contest were Amanda Garcia, first; Liz Nunez, second; and Anna K. Rodriguez, third. They received \$100, \$50, and \$25 for their art work. A total of 149 students entered the contest, with Lucy Parga as contest director. "These students are all very talented," Parga said. "They were conveying in words and drawings a very clear message: To stay away from harmful drugs. As Rudyard Kipling said, 'Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind.'" Approximately 23 students entered the Red Ribbon Essay Contest with the theme of "The Importance of Being Drug Free." Shawn Conlon won first; Edgar I. Ortiz, second; and Cruz Alvarez, third. Winners were awarded gift certificates. Penny Jones and other members of the Drug-Free Committee were the judges. "There was real effort on the part of some of the students," Jones said. "Some of the essays were very heart-wrenching, especially the one by Shawn Conlon," she added.

■ **Sun Ridge Middle School** will hold a Christmas Fair on Dec. 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2210 Sun

Country. Entertainment will be provided by Matachines, folklorico and more. Tables are \$5. For more information call Maty Garcia at 937-6633.

■ **"Fabens Clean-up Day"** is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 13. Students from all the campuses in the district will be participating in the clean-up from 9 a.m. to noon. Following the work will be a hot dog cook-out at Risinger Park for all those involved. "Everyone is invited to help us make this a successful event," said Rafael Ramirez, committee chairman. "We are still in need of trash bags and plastic gloves," he added. Anyone wishing to donate, contact Ms. Mendoza at 764-2380.

■ **St. Brendan's Episcopal Church**, 14999 Darrington Rd. at Horizon Blvd., is sponsoring a three-session video program presented by Tony Campolo, Madeleine L'Engle, Keith Miller and Philip Yancey. The series addresses guidance, the "why me?" syndrome, prayer, forgiving, doubt and love. The "Advent Event" includes soup supper, at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 14 and 21. Activities for children provided. Information: 852-4171 or 852-7855.

■ **Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott** has filed 15 lawsuits against telemarketing businesses that are in violation of the "Texas No-Call" law. The suits allege the companies harassed consumers at home, calling them repeatedly with high-pressure sales pitches. Nearly one million consumers have signed up to be on the "do not call" list, according to the Texas Public Utility Commission, which administers Texas No-Call. The AG's lawsuits seek injunctions to stop these unlawful calls, and thousands of dollars in fines, penalties and attorneys' fees.

■ **The Border Women's Development Fund** has been developed to focus on raising money for non-profit women's organization's that support social change, women's rights, and community development projects.



C. Rodriguez

The BWDF has the potential to significantly improve the living conditions of women and girls living along the Texas/Mexico Border. "There is a critical need for a fund that focuses on the issues impacting the lives of women and girls along the US/Mexico Border", says Carmen Rodriguez, President of the BWDF. "There are individuals and institutions that are interested in supporting a variety of projects in the region. For every issue on the local and national agenda, from violence to healthcare, there is a major dimension specific to women and girls. When women and girls are free from violence and have access to healthcare service and are economically self sufficient then the community as a whole is positively impacted. Our vision is to address these fundamental issues of social justice through a bi-national effort and organization," she said. On Tuesday this week the BWF held a joint news conference with the U.S./Mexico Border Philanthropy Alliance, which has pooled \$8 million to be awarded to community foundations along the US/Mexico border to fund projects that will significantly improve the quality of life in the region. For more information contact Carmen Rodriguez at 544-1112 or 490-9117.

Is your child at risk for heart disease?

When you think of heart disease, you probably don't think of your kids. But maybe you should.

Almost 40 percent of children in Texas are considered overweight or obese, significantly increasing their risk for type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke — even cardiovascular disease. The number of overweight adolescents has tripled over the past two decades, up to 15 percent. And an overweight child has a 75 percent chance of growing up to be an overweight adult.

Type 2 diabetes, once considered an adult disease linked to obesity, is being diagnosed in our children in unprecedented numbers — most likely a direct result of eating too much and not exercising enough. In fact, type 2 diabetes can promote the development of heart disease at younger ages.

Although smoking is still the leading preventable cause of cardiovascular disease, obesity is quickly gaining on it. An estimated 300,000 deaths nationwide each year can be

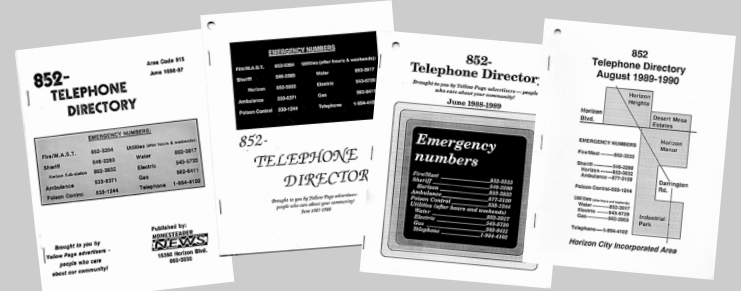
attributed to obesity. Child obesity has become an epidemic that is threatening the future of an entire generation of Texans. There are close to 6 million children living in Texas, and the prevalence of overweight and obese children in Texas is higher than the national average. If we don't take action now, this generation of children may not outlive their parents.

For the vast majority of our children, there is a sensible solution — eat better and exercise more. As with many, if not most, of our lifetime habits, nutrition and exercise habits are developed in childhood. It sounds simple enough, but changing the nutrition and exercise habits of a generation is a unique and profound challenge — one that requires coordinated efforts from parents, schools, elected officials and health care organizations.

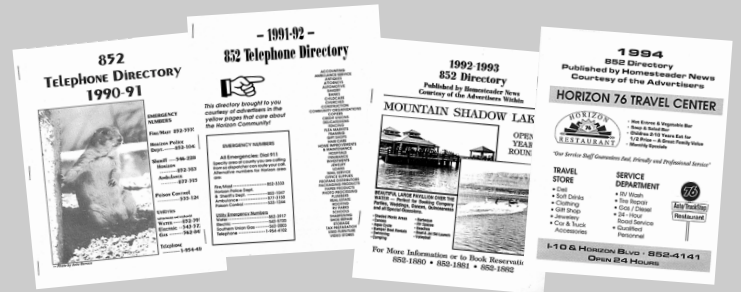
Our school system can be an ideal environment for children to learn about the importance of nutritious

See CHILDREN, Page 7

IT'S BACK: The 852 Horizon Area Telephone Directory!



After 11 publications...



...a five year hiatus...



...and public demand, the very popular 852 Directory returns.

For details or to reserve space, call:

852-3235

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Council for the Town of Horizon City approved the following items during the regular council meeting that was conducted on November 11, 2003:

- 1) Board of Adjustment Ordinance No. 0022 was repealed and replaced to include for the City Council to appoint three alternate members who shall serve in the absence of a regular member of the Board of Adjustment.
- 2) Amendment No. 010 to Subdivision Ordinance No. 0035-Section 4.2.21 pertaining to Preliminary Plats, which requires the developer to submit a copy of the preliminary plat to the County of El Paso-Planning and Development.

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: 12/04/03

Are you ready for a **STIHL**®?



Blowers Starting at **\$159.95**

A Powerful Blower with many features that make clean-up work a little easier. Has a 2-year consumer warranty.

Ryan Supply, Inc.
117 N. Fabens St.
Fabens, TX 79838
(915) 764-2239



www.wtccourier.com

Visit Big 8 Food Stores: **Big8.com**

Three straight two-win seasons ends Nord's job at UTEP

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

To Nord, or not to Nord? That is one heck of a question.

And UTEP has finally answered. Now that the big-time mistake that just was the Gary Nord era is over, the speculation about his replacement will reach a fever pitch.

If you talked to Nord right up until the end, and us guys in the media certainly did, he said the question of him staying was never, ever a question. He said he would be back no matter what.

Oops. Please extract foot from mouth. Early in the season Nord was quoted as saying that even if the Miners lost every game on the schedule — he would be back. He even said UTEP could not afford to buy-out his contract.

Those were pretty bold words coming from a guy that had just gone through two straight two-win seasons.

Once Nord made that three straight two-win seasons and a combined 6-30 record over that time, UTEPA.D. Bob Stull and president Diana Natalicio didn't have much of a choice to make.

And this is why Stull and Natalicio made

the decision they did. Before the season started everyone said the team had to show at least some improvement. And from my seat in the press box all season I have to say they were worse than they were last year.

Everyone says the Miners have a ton of young talented players but from my seat in the press box, all the other teams UTEP played had faster, stronger and infinitely more talented players that the Miners... it honestly wasn't even close.

Everyone knows that UTEP football has got to pay for all the other smaller sports. And from my seat in the press box, the crowds at the games got smaller and smaller as the season went on. And honestly, even though the attendance figures were announced around 18,000 over the last three or four home games, there was no way there were over 10,000 at any of those games.

And small numbers mean small dollars. Remember the bowl year for the Miners in 2000? UTEP averaged 44,000 fans at home that season. That's the biggest difference between winning and losing — the money.

Now that the likeable, but too nice, Nord is gone, who will replace him?

Two names have shot right up to the top of

the list. The first is former Washington State and Alabama (for about an hour-and-a-half) coach Mike Price and the other is McNeese State coach Tommy Tate.

Both are proven winners, both have head coaching experience and both will almost certainly improve the program from day one.

The time for UTEP to finally go out and spend the money to bring in a quality coach is at hand. The Miners have a unique chance to get one of the more well-known coaches in the country (Price) and he's actually interested in El Paso.

How many times has that happened? The only thing that is certain is that things cannot stay the same. The status quo has not worked and is guaranteed to fail... again.

Bulkin' Barry

How many of you remember what Barry Bonds looked like as a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates?

Fast, strong, athletic and thin. He was a great athlete — though still a jerk — and he was thin.

Have you seen him lately? He is so bulked up that he can barely clap his hands.

He can swing a baseball bat, that's for sure, but fairly recently, he has grown twice as wide

as he used to be with a neck that most football players would love to be blessed with.

Well, maybe Barry wasn't blessed with it. Just like all the Pamela Anderson's of the world, maybe Bonds' body mass and muscles have come via artificial means.

It's no secret that Bonds has been one of several athletes answering questions about the taking of steroids. Seems Barry has got some explaining to do.

Recently, the idea of Bonds actually taking steroids took a tremendous leap forward when a search of Greg Anderson's (Barry's personal trainer) house by authorities discovered anabolic steroids and information that detailed athletes' names, the names of drugs they may be using and apparent drug intake schedules.

Gee, what are the odds that some of those steroids in the possession of Bonds' personal trainer could have actually be meant for Bonds?

I'm sure it is all just a coincidence. The almost 40-year-old Bonds just muscled-up by having an extra bowl of Wheaties every morning.

The really big question (even bigger than Barry's biceps) is what will happen to the record books if it is proven that Bonds' got bigger and better with the help of an illegal substance?

Anybody have an asterisk?

\$88,500 awarded in auction at fall 2003 El Paso County Fair and Junior Livestock Show

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — This fall's 50th Annual El Paso County Fair and Junior Livestock Show awarded regional students more than \$88,500 in Premium Animal Auction sales from purchases of 123 animals made by 63 bidders.

Major sponsoring purchasers included Wal-Mart, Casa Ford, Yolanda Cortez, First Agriculture Credit, Inc., and Alfred Gonzalez representing Desert View Dairy and Southwest Dairy Association.

About 700 exhibits including 450 animals from hundreds of young students from dozens of area FFA or 4-H clubs participated in 2003 events at the El Paso County Coliseum.

The fair and livestock show is one of the oldest in the greater southwest with represented areas that include El Paso, Las Cruces, Sierra Blanca, Van Horn, Ft. Hancock, Dell City, Tornillo, Canutillo, Fabens, Clint, Socorro, San Elizario and Anthony.

The goals-oriented junior livestock show helps restore the involvement of local youth in the agriculture industry through the purchase of top grade animals to be raised and shown at the annual Junior Livestock Show. Students, with the help of their parents and county agent, FFA teacher or 4-H adult leader, purchase an animal, such as a dairy heifer, steer, hog, lamb, goat or rabbit or poultry. For an average of nine months, they learn everything about feeding, caring and maintaining the animal. They learn about purchase price, food and supply costs, proper shelter, balanced nutrition, shots,

grooming and veterinary services if it gets sick, among other expenses.

"It's a small business owned and operated 24-hours a day by these kids," explained Bryan Diller, president of the El Paso County Fair Association. "They learn by doing. These animals require constant care and attention. They have to be fed before the students eat. These young exhibitors are great teachers to their peers through their own experiences of raising animals while becoming responsible, caring, and productive citizens of the community. It's a huge responsibility that teaches dedication and work habits that will last a lifetime."

For more information about the 50th Annual El Paso County Fair and Junior Livestock Show, or about next year's show, call Rodney Connor at (915) 588-3143.

Open house at Fabens Middle recognizes 7th grade sport achievements

By Melissa Rodriguez

FABENS — Recognitions of the the 7th grade football and volleyball team received some well-deserved attention during Parents' Night, Nov. 5, for winning the District title and remaining undefeated in the season. The football team was named Lower Valley Conference Champions and went on to defeat Montwood Middle School with a score of 10-8 to become the El Paso Conference Champions. Head Coach is David Ponce and Assistant Coach Albert Jacquez.

The 7th grade volleyball coach is Ms. Monica Campos.

The coaches were presented plaques by Assistant Principal Ruben Carrillo for their outstanding coaching.

Players presented their parents with a sports pin in appreciation for their support and dedication throughout the season.

Never miss an issue. • www.wtccourier.com • Archives online.

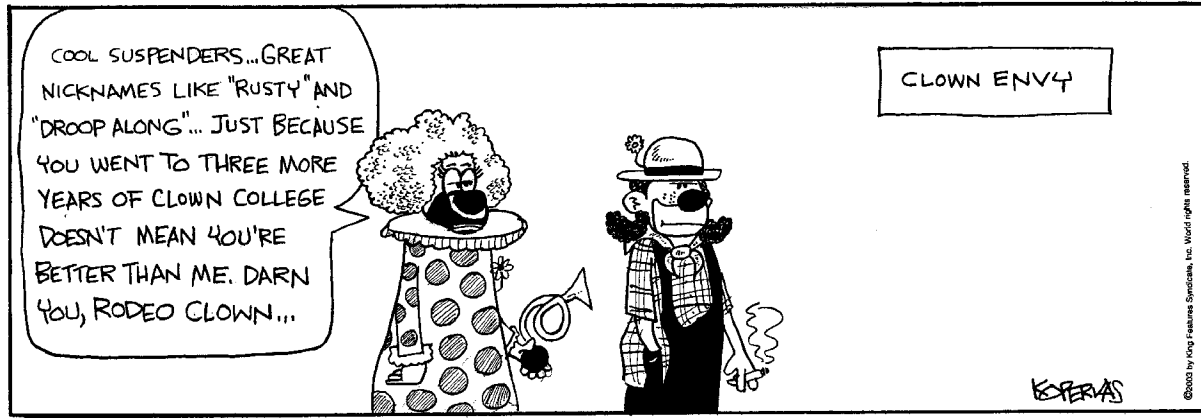
King Super Crossword

- LIQUIDITY ACROSS**
- 1 Still
- 5 Little devils
- 9 Lost a lap
- 14 '83 Woody Allen film
- 19 _ code
- 20 Year segment
- 21 Dodge
- 22 Beethoven dedication
- 23 Melanie Griffith movie
- 25 W. Somerset Maugham work
- 27 Check recipient
- 28 Marge in the fridge
- 30 Impresario Hurok
- 31 "Mal de _"
- 32 More than more
- 34 Author Martin
- 38 Dick Tracy's love
- 41 Laura Esquivel novel
- 50 Southern st.
- 51 Green bean
- 52 Artist Joan
- 53 Arrives
- 54 Most painful
- 57 Drivers' lics., e.g.
- 59 Bando of baseball
- 60 Yarn purchases
- 61 _ drum
- 62 Coolidge or Gam
- 64 Conspires
- 66 Where the buoys are
- 67 Dachshund or dikkid
- 70 Pop
- 72 Antipollution grp.
- 73 Porker's palace
- 74 With "The," John Irving book
- 79 Russian jet
- 82 Dogpatch's Daisy _
- 83 Ballet movement
- 84 "Dreaming of You" singer
- 87 Private pension
- 88 Insect stage
- 90 Canvas cover
- 92 Layette fasteners
- 94 Patriot Hale
- 96 Kind
- 98 Zilch
- 99 Sardou drama
- 100 Be nosy
- 101 Actress Purviance
- 103 Mountbatten's rank
- 105 Like Austin Powers
- 106 Jimmie Rodgers hit
- 112 _ machine
- 113 Stagger
- 114 Loretta Young's birthplace
- 115 Lawyers' org.
- 118 "_ pro nobis"
- 120 Certain Slav
- 123 Restaurateur Shor
- 127 "Angel of the Morning" singer
- 133 "No, No, Nanette" song
- 135 Actress Eve
- 136 Basketball venue
- 137 Valuable
- 138 Chiles or Nettleton
- 139 Baggage checkers?
- 140 Sociable starling
- 141 German river
- 142 _ lily
- DOWN**
- 1 "Friday the 13th" setting
- 2 Sayao solo
- 3 Painter Peter
- 4 "You _ Feel Like Dancing" ('76 hit)
- 5 _ Jima
- 6 "The Consul" composer
- 7 Role for Rigg
- 8 _ terrier
- 9 Wine word
- 10 Dam org.
- 11 Acorn, eventually
- 12 Poems of praise
- 13 Spanish explorer
- 14 Road to enlightenment
- 15 Antiquity, archaically
- 16 Novelist O'Flaherty
- 17 Tropical spot
- 18 Will of "The Waltons"
- 24 Catty remark?
- 26 Baldwin of "Outside Providence"
- 29 Lout
- 33 It's good in a pinch
- 35 Morticia, to Pugsley
- 36 Rainbow goddess
- 37 Remnant
- 39 White House pet
- 40 _ gin fizz
- 41 Glasgow girl
- 42 Actress Massey
- 43 Designer Donna
- 44 Islamic ruler
- 45 Salad veggie
- 46 Shout
- 47 Off the mark
- 48 Belief
- 49 Lamb product
- 55 95 Down's real name
- 56 Big rig
- 58 Bend
- 60 No longer fresh
- 63 Man or stallion
- 65 Artistic output
- 68 Big pitcher?
- 69 Tragic monarch
- 71 Laotian native
- 75 Study for exams
- 76 More macabre
- 77 Or _ (threat words)
- 78 "You _ Me" ('57 hit)
- 79 Capital of Belarus
- 80 Persian, presently
- 81 Los _ , CA
- 85 Ruth's mother-in-law
- 86 Chef's shield?
- 88 Stickpin locale
- 89 Cabinet word
- 91 Realty map
- 93 Mean Marquis
- 95 "Bonanza" brother
- 97 Patella's place
- 99 Insipid
- 102 Dug in
- 104 Pie filling
- 107 Any time now
- 108 Flow
- 109 High rails
- 110 West. alliance
- 111 Spirals
- 115 Trojan War hero
- 116 Raymond of "Godzilla"
- 117 "Celeste _" (Verdi aria)
- 119 Crooked
- 121 Raison d'_
- 122 Authentic
- 124 Nebraska native
- 125 Baby branch
- 126 Mediocre
- 128 Dodger Ron
- 129 Minnesota twins?
- 130 Hamilton bill
- 131 Out _ limb
- 132 Slangy negative
- 134 Service charge

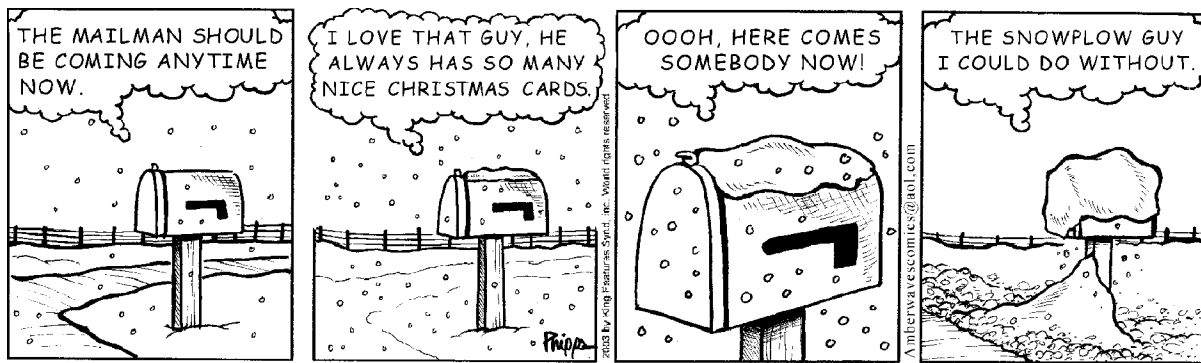
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18						
19				20				21					22										
23				24				25				26											
27					28			29			30					31							
			32	33				34	35	36	37		38		39	40							
41	42	43					44	45				46				47	48	49					
50					51				52						53								
54				55	56			57	58		59			60									
61								62		63		64		65				66					
		67				68	69		70		71		72					73					
											76				77	78							
79	80	81						82				83					85	86					
87								88			89		90		91		92		93				
94				95				96		97		98			99								
100									101		102		103		104				105				
106								107	108				109				110	111					
115	116	117						118		119				120	121	122		123		124	125	126	
127																							
135																							
139																							

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



You've got e-mail - again and again

By Don Flood

Sonny & Cher have reunited. No, not for a TV show — though, come to think of it, a reality show about a singer and her dead ex-husband sounds like a hot concept.

This is especially true since TV viewers were deprived of the opportunity to watch Liza Minelli and her soon-to-be ex-husband's reality show.

Gosh, talk about must-see TV. But getting back to Sonny & Cher, you won't believe where I heard from them — the Internet!

That's right, they sent me an e-mail — said "Sonny & Cher" right on the "sender" line, so I know it was from them.

Sonny, being dead five years and all, got right down to business: On the "subject" line, he said, "Type a 10-page report in one hour with your voice."

Open the message, and there was an ad for some nifty software that enables your computer to type up reports as you speak.

I admit, I was a little disappointed that the two refrained from their usual banter.

I expected Cher to pipe up, "With your voice, Sonny, the machine wouldn't last 15 minutes."

But Sonny appears to have returned from the dead a changed man; he's here to take care of business, not play straight man to Cher's putdowns.

And Sonny's not the only dead guy selling on the Internet.

On that very same day, I got an e-mail from Dean Martin, the famous singer who died in 1995. I had no idea he even had my e-mail address.

But here's the killer: He and Sonny are selling the same product!

Two men coming back from the dead to sell the exact same software over the Internet! What are the odds?

Dean took a somewhat different approach. He said, "Are you still having trouble typing?"

Fact is, I've never had trouble typing, but I appreciated his concern.

Of course, Dean liked to hit the sauce pretty hard, so he probably figured everybody has trouble typing.

But I've got bad news for Sonny and Dean. This product has attracted so much interest that some live celebrities are jumping on the bandwagon.

I can't say I was surprised to get an e-mail pushing the software from Kirstie Alley. How long can she keep doing those Pier 1 ads?

Kirstie's only comment was, "Amazing! Speak and it types!"

Sorry, Kirstie, you're going to have to try harder than that.

It may not be fair, but people are likely to take a testimonial from a dead celebrity more seriously.

The same goes for singer Tom Jones, who sent me an e-mail — yup, for the same product — with the line, "Breath taking voice typing software!"

C'mon, Tom, did you even try saying that line before you sent the message? Sounds idiotic.

Soon after, I got an e-mail from Alan Alda.

I'm thinking, Alan ol' pal, you're a little late.

But Alan had something else on his mind. He wanted me to know I could consolidate my debts at a lower interest rate.

Sure is worthwhile going though your e-mail.

(c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IFTEFI4NIPLA30763, 1993 Ford F-150, white, Oklahoma license #FDH 024 VIN - IGCMI9WXVBI75483, 1997 Chevy Astro, white, New Mexico license #FRN 121 VIN - IP3GP36CIFICI36216, 1985 Plymouth Re-

liant, grey, license #KCM-47K WTCC-12/4/03

BARGAINS

Two refrigerators, dining room table, sofa table, shop vac. 852-4527 12/4 BUY NOW FOR CHRISTMAS e-mail me for pictures, Judy922@yahoo.com BASSETT BED ROOM SET - Triple dresser with double mirrors, nine drawers, chest of drawers with five drawers, two night stands, king-size bed with new mattresses. Top brand of furniture at 1/4 of original price, \$950. Glass-top kitchen dinette set at 1/3

original price, \$150. Two six-foot tall oak book cases, \$200 a set. 852-0311

HOVEROUND CHAIR - barely used, \$1,500. 852-0311

FOR \$100 EACH, your choice of two patio furnitures, two papa sohn chairs with all new cushions, bedroom chaise lounge, white entertainment center cabinet, white queen sofa/bed, white baby cradle w/plush animals. 852-0311

FOR \$75 EACH - old dressing table with skirt and chair. 852-0311

FOR \$50 EACH - your choice of rocker/recliner,

four-drawer file cabinet,, Early American tea cart, bakers rack, set of three mirrored pedestal end tables. 852-0311

FOR \$25 EACH - your choice of a plant tier lamp, small room divider book shelf, manual tread mill (no dials). 852-0311.

WATER SYSTEMS

The importance of clean water becomes more obvious every day. The eSpring™! Water System is designed to bring a little piece of mind. It destroys microorganisms. It effectively reduces over 140 other possible health-effect

contaminants, from lead and mercury to VOCs, pesticides, and DBP. And independent testing proves it. Make the best choice for your family. Others treat. We purify. Call 852-3235, Quixtar affiliated Independent Business Owner.

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

¿Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Información: 838-6264.

SERVICES

CALL GREEN HORNET 915-790-1342 We'll Be Right on It! • Free Inspection for termites • Knock down spider webs with all free inspections • 24 hours on call 7 days a week SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

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

Children

From Page 5

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

Domestic and Foreign 852-3523 1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

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

West Texas County Courier (915) 852-3235 wtccc@wtcourier.com www.wtccourier.com

vending machines and cafeterias is now prohibited, and access to junk foods in middle schools has been restricted.

Good nutrition, combined with regular physical activity, can combat the incidence of obesity. A recent study from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, however, found that almost 62 percent of children do not participate in any organized physical activity during after-school hours. The American Council on Exercise has reported that 63 percent of children are no longer active by the time they reach high school.

We know that the most effective weapon in the fight against obesity is preventing poor health choices now instead of treating chronic illnesses later. Now let's act on that knowledge.

eating. Children consume roughly 30 percent of their daily calories at school. But only two percent of children receive the daily recommended number of servings of fruits and vegetables, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Fortunately, this school year, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) was named the administering state agency for the Child Nutrition Programs in public schools, and, under the leadership of Commissioner Susan Combs, has implemented bold changes regarding foods of minimal nutritional value. The sale of certain junk foods and sodas in elementary school

• Mail Boxes • Copies • Faxes

Horizon Contract Post Office • 14200 Ashford, Ste. C • Open 9 AM to 3PM, Monday - Friday

The reach of mentors in Big Brothers/Sisters programs extended through grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso will now have the opportunity to expand relationships between youth-serving and mentoring organizations in El Paso. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso \$149,000 in federal funds to create El Paso's Mentoring Empowers Coalition.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters provides positive role models and friendship for young El Pasoans who need it

most," said Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso. "I have worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso since its inception in 1999 and know it is an extremely effective program. I applaud HHS for awarding them this grant. The relationships created with this funding will improve their outreach and impact," said Reyes.

"This grant is primarily focused on coalition development," said Beth Shaw, Executive Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of El Paso.

"We hope that coalition partners — including schools, other mentoring organizations, faith-based organizations, and law enforcement organizations — will partner to address the mentoring and training needs of El Paso's youth. We still need and are seeking funding and local support to bring more mentoring services to the 27,000 youth in El Paso who need a big brother or sister," said Shaw.

HHS's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provided funding for this grant.

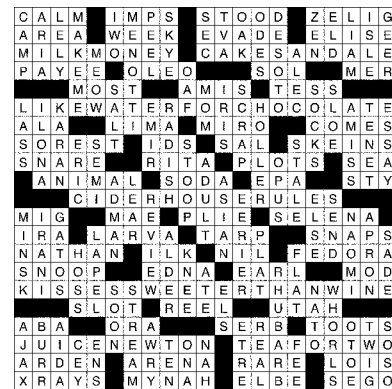
Border

From Page 1

other programs or budgetary needs," said Interim Deputy Chief Michael Gill, El Paso Police Department.

According to Captain Alvino Hernandez of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, "we have maintained the status quo but have been unable to gain ground on any potential threats."

To view the results of the national survey, visit: <<http://www.house.gov/maloney/issues/Homeland/Survey.pdf>>



Never miss an issue.
www.wtccourier.com

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Sunshine mixed with a couple of clouds.	Clear to partly cloudy.	Mostly sunny and comfortable.	Intervals of clouds and sun.	Partly sunny and windy.	Becoming cloudy with some showers possible.	Plenty of sunshine and comfortable.	Partial sunshine.
▲ 64°	▼ 35°	▲ 58° ▼ 35°	▲ 62° ▼ 37°	▲ 60° ▼ 39°	▲ 56° ▼ 35°	▲ 58° ▼ 39°	▲ 54° ▼ 37°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	4	Low
Friday	5	Moderate
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	3	Low
Monday	2	Minimal
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	4	Low

REAL FEEL TEMPTM

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

Thursday	65°
Friday	49°
Saturday	51°
Sunday	46°
Monday	45°
Tuesday	63°
Wednesday	47°

AGRICULTURE

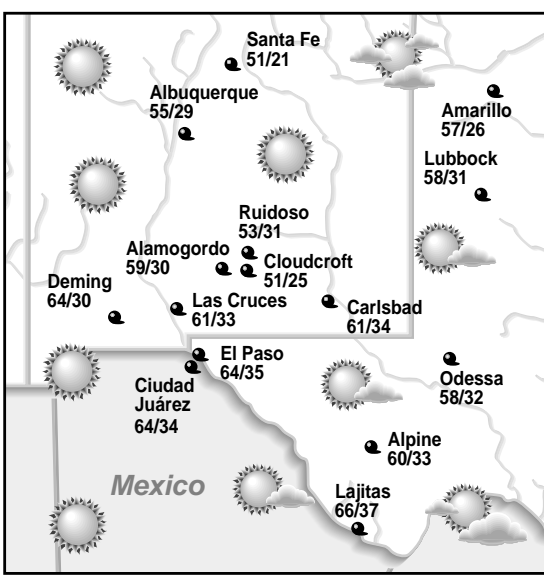
Thursday will feature plenty of sunshine as a high pressure system remains strong across the region. This comfortable weather will remain around the area for most of the weekend before a storm moves toward the region and brings the chance for some showers Monday.

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	63	35
Canutillo	64	36
Clint	61	36
E. Montana	64	35
Fabens	61	36
Horizon	64	36
San Elizario	61	33
Socorro	63	34
Tornillo	61	36
Vinton	64	36

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	55/29/s	53/30/s	54/31/s	50/29/pc	45/20/c
Atlanta	46/37/r	48/31/r	45/32/pc	49/39/pc	59/39/s
Atlantic City	42/26/s	44/40/pc	48/36/c	43/31/c	51/34/pc
Austin/San Antonio	67/40/s	65/40/s	60/36/s	65/43/s	68/39/pc
Baltimore	42/30/s	42/36/c	42/34/c	40/32/c	55/35/pc
Boston	40/30/s	38/36/pc	40/32/c	38/30/c	47/34/pc
Chicago	38/28/sf	36/22/c	36/24/c	38/26/pc	44/28/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	60/38/s	54/35/s	57/42/s	65/45/s	62/31/pc
Denver	46/25/pc	50/35/s	54/29/pc	48/23/c	43/14/c
Flagstaff	56/23/pc	54/25/s	46/23/c	44/20/c	42/15/s
Houston	68/45/c	60/36/s	58/36/s	62/44/s	68/53/pc
Kansas City	38/22/pc	37/23/s	44/30/s	44/33/pc	43/22/c
Las Vegas	66/43/s	66/46/pc	61/41/c	59/38/c	57/36/s
Miami	78/69/pc	79/68/c	74/57/pc	72/59/pc	76/61/s
Minneapolis	32/23/c	30/22/pc	36/23/pc	37/23/c	34/18/c
New Orleans	71/47/c	61/39/pc	58/44/s	64/49/s	66/47/pc
New York City	40/35/s	42/40/pc	46/38/c	39/38/c	52/41/pc
Philadelphia	42/32/s	42/36/pc	40/34/c	40/34/c	53/40/pc
Phoenix	76/49/pc	76/49/s	72/48/pc	68/45/c	68/43/s
Portland	52/44/c	50/42/r	48/40/c	48/40/r	46/38/c
San Francisco	62/50/pc	58/50/c	58/46/c	56/45/pc	57/45/c
Seattle	54/44/r	48/38/r	46/36/c	47/39/r	47/39/c
Tucson	76/43/s	78/45/s	72/43/pc	66/40/c	65/38/s
Washington, DC	40/34/s	42/38/c	42/34/c	40/32/c	54/38/s

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

Powerful and Portable

shop-vac 6 3.0 HP
6 Gallon, 3.0 Peak HP Wet/Dry Vac #215727 **\$39.96**

shop-vac 2.5 2.0 HP
2.5 Gallon, 2.0 Peak HP Wet/Dry Vac #215726 **\$29.96**

- Powerful enough for all of your tough workshop, garage, and basement messes—wet or dry
- Portable enough for all of your household appliances, furniture, and floors—wet or dry
- Convenient for kitchen spills and clogged drains

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

Available Only At **LOWE'S**
Improving Home Improvement®

shop-vac the Original wet/dry vac

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

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

www.lowes.com
Lowe's® and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. ©2003 Lowe's® Home Centers, Inc. For the Lowe's nearest you call 1-800-44-LOWES. Prices may vary if there are market variations.