



## NEWSBRIEFS

### View textbooks

Canutillo Independent School District parents and community members are invited to view the state approved textbook selections for the current adoption in Biology, Advanced Placement Biology, and Career and Technology at the secondary level and ESL materials at the elementary level. Each of the six Canutillo ISD school campuses has samples from which the Textbook Committee will make its recommendation to the Board of Trustees in February. These books are on display at each campus through Friday, Feb. 13. Interested individuals may view the books and fill out comment forms. "Be sure to sign in at each campus and follow district regulations regarding visitors," commented Carol Hecker, CISD Textbook coordinator. For more information, call 877-7434.

### Exercise with a cause

Las Palmas and Del Sol Regional Healthcare System will present the 4th Annual Las Palmas and Del Sol 1/2 Marathon and 5K. The event also includes both a one-mile non-competitive walk and 5K non-competitive walk. The 1/2 Marathon is a scenic 13.1 mile race over Scenic Drive, starting from Las Palmas LifeCare Center, 3333 N. Mesa and ending at Del Sol Medical Center, 10301 Gateway West. The 5K (3.1 mile competitive run) and the fun walks both begin and end at Del Sol Medical Center. T-shirts and finisher medals or ribbons will be given to all participants; several trophies and prizes will be awarded. Refreshments will be served after the race. Preregistration cost is \$25 for the 1/2 Marathon; \$15 for the 5K or 1 mile walk. On race day those costs are: \$30 and \$20, respectively. \$5 discounts for students, military, and employees of YISD, SISD, City of El Paso and County of El Paso (ID required). Online registration is at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) — for more information, call 915-478-5663.

### In other news

■ Friends and students of Socorro ISD's newest primary campus, Desert Wind Elementary, hosted a dedication ceremony on Jan. 16 for the expandable elementary school which serves almost 660 students in pre-K through 5th grade. The school opened at the beginning of this school year. Principal David Solis welcomed guests, which included SISD Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Duron and SISD Board President Guillermo "Willie" Gandara.

■ A \$4 million expansion of the El Paso Veterans Clinic is planned for design this year and construction in 2005. "We received word today that it's awaiting final approval from the Veterans Health Administration budget office," said Congressman Silvestre Reyes. "It will dramatically

See BRIEFS, Page 5

*In the "good old days" the man who saved money was a miser. Now he's a wonder.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Over 200 mailboxes hit in one night Suspects arrested in Horizon City mail theft

*Courier Staff Reports*

HORIZON CITY — It could be your worst nightmare and it came true for more than 200 households in Horizon City last week when their mailboxes were burglarized, resulting in an unknown amount of mail missing and scattered in the street.

In the early morning hours of Jan. 14 the Horizon City Police Department got the call — that mailboxes on Homestead Street were opened and mail was in the roadway. Officer Damien Jones answered the call, only to discover it was not just on Homestead that the intrusions had occurred but on more than 21 other neighborhood streets in all parts of the municipality.

The police immediately put out media announcements, asking for tips, which may have netted the thief in an unexpected way.

Officers have arrested a 21-year-old Horizon City man, who lives on Kingston — one of the streets burglarized. Ironically, police came to suspect the man based on an anonymous tip he called in to direct suspicion toward some youths in the area. He was apparently attempting to provide police with a false lead by telling them he had seen someone with pink hair going through mailboxes. When police questioned the youths, the name of the suspect came up, leading eventually to his arrest.

Also under arrest in connection with the mail

theft is a 16-year-old male. Both suspects remain unidentified because, as of press time, the 21-year-old had not yet been arraigned on the federal charges he is expected to face. The identify of the juvenile will not be released because of his age, and he will not face federal charges in the case.

Sgt. Ron Swenson said the suspects went methodically from box to box, opening mail and leaving behind items that did not interest them. He said they had determined the thefts occurred between 10:30 p.m. and 1 a.m. He said four large envelopes full of mail had been recovered as a result of the investigation.

"It was recovered and turned over to a Postal Inspector. The HCPD is coordinating the investigation with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service," Sgt. Swenson said. "We are asking all residents of Horizon City if they had mail stolen or missing to contact their local post office and call the HCPD also to report the theft."

He noted that it is important that households which receive their mail in curbside mailboxes remove their mail promptly after delivery and that they do not leave outgoing mail in the box overnight. Persons who receive sensitive mail should consider purchasing a private post office box or a locking mailbox. Identity theft is among one of the greatest concerns for persons whose mail has been stolen.

"The HCPD is also asking anyone that may have information on these thefts to contact the HCPD at 546-2280 or call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 545-5205."

## Student athletics trainers are vital to high school sports

*By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier*

CANUTILLO — Behind a successful high school sports program are the athletic trainers who help ensure that players are prepared for competition. From providing water and taping ankles to repairing equipment, these student trainers unselfishly give up their free time to carry out a myriad of tasks for daily practices and game day events.

Six Canutillo High School students were recently recognized for their efforts as athletics trainers. These students are seniors Laura Alarcon, Esther Solorio, and Patty Lopez; junior Mike Gonzalez; and freshmen Debbie Cantu and Veronica Flores. They were presented special recognition certificates during a Canutillo ISD School Board meeting held in December.

"People need to understand that student athletics trainers are not water boys or girls. They

are actually a part of the team. They help coaches keep players ready for competition," said Connie Johanson-Sanchez, Canutillo High School athletic trainer supervisor.

At Canutillo High, the athletics trainers support 24 different boys and girls' sports teams throughout the school year including football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, golf, and track.

"Football season is the most demanding sport for trainers," Alarcon said. "Thursdays and Fridays were very busy for us. I stayed after

school Thursdays to work the junior varsity or freshmen football games in the evening. I would get home about 11 p.m. then back to school in the morning and stay after school for the Friday night varsity football games. I would get home about midnight and be back in the trainers' room at about 7 a.m. to help treat players' injuries."

"The athletics trainers are the backbone to



**A VITAL INGREDIENT TO SUCCESS** — Canutillo High School Athletics Trainers were recently recognized by the school board. Shown in photo, from left, is Michael Gonzalez, Debbie Cantu, Esther Solorio, Laura Alarcon, Veronica Flores, and Patty Lopez.

See TRAINERS, Page 6

## Sam Brewster, Socorro community servant, dies



**Sam Brewster**

SOCORRO —

Sam Brewster, 68,

died on Jan. 17,

2004 following a

battle with cancer.

He was currently

servicing as Mayor

pro-tem of the

Socorro City

Council, as council-

man represent-

ing District 3, and

in numerous other

capacities in community service.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force and retired after 32 years of civil service, Brewster was an advocate of youth programs and former president of the Lower Valley Athletics Association.

He was appointed to serve on the Rio Grande Council of Governments advisory committee on solid waste, representing the small incorporated municipalities in El Paso County. He had also served as a Historical Landmark Commissioner for the City of Socorro.

He is survived by his wife, Cecilia; three daughters, Linda Brewster, Kathy Brewster and Annette Melton; and one son, Michael Brewster, who is presently serving in Iraq; nine grandchildren; three brothers and three sisters.

Rosary was to be held Wednesday, Jan. 21,

5-9 p.m. at Martin Funeral Home East, 1460

George Dieter, with a 7 p.m. rosary.

Funeral Mass will be held 9:30 a.m. Thurs-

day, Jan. 22, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Church. He will be buried with military hon-

ors at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.

## Socorro HS is one of 20 national semi-finalists

SOCORRO — Socorro High School is being nationally recognized by The College Board for its success in helping students continue their education at colleges and universities.

The Board, a nonprofit membership organization of high schools, colleges and universities, is honoring the high school as one of 20 semifinalists competing for its 2004 "Inspiration" award. The annual award honors schools that succeed in preparing students for college studies in spite of economic and social challenges.

"It's a very detailed application," says SHS Principal Oscar Troncoso. "The Board wants information for the past three years — graduation rates, the number of advanced placement classes, the number of students on the preferred graduation plan. But through good work by a lot of people, Socorro High School has been able to get a lot of students headed in the right direction."

The "finalist" designation carries a prize of \$25,000.

The College Board is a national nonprofit membership association with a mission to inspire, prepare and connect students to college success and opportunity. The Board's best-known programs include the SAT® and PSAT/NMSQT® college admission examinations, and the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) for high school students.



# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## In the face of disaster

My glasses, my boots and

disaster than I am. If I manage to save the kids, good for me.

my kids.

Not necessarily in that order. This odd combination came out on top of a recent list of priorities I mentally drew up when considering what I would most want to retrieve from my home in case of a disaster.

Of course, this doesn't mean that my husband isn't important. It's just that he is responsible for saving himself.

Several years ago we had several episodes when unstable weather patterns caused our fair city to come under tornado warnings. Sometime during this season of treacherous weather, we had a dreadful storm in my neighborhood.

It hit with a ferocious and unpredictable force, slamming around loose items in our backyard like wrestlers on a WWF episode. The shed doors had been left open and my husband hurried out to secure them.

As I watched through the large plate glass window in the kitchen, I saw a storage shed levitate over the neighbor's back fence and smash into the alley. That was enough for me. I yelled at the kids to gather in the bathroom like we'd discussed earlier and headed down the hall.

As I did, I heard the window give way in the kitchen, spraying glass everywhere.

As we huddled in the bathtub with a heavy quilt over our heads, one of the kids asked where Dad was, and was I going to go get him? No, I said, Dad's a big boy. He can take care of himself.

Of course, I took a little heat for that comment, but I figure he's going to behave in a much more savvy and sane fashion when faced with a

Meanwhile, he's stuck in the tool shed, hanging onto the flapping metal doors, listening to the lightening pop outside and envisioning a travel itinerary that just might include Kansas, if he doesn't get fried first.

It's not that I'm heartless — I just figure people ought to be practical when confronted with disaster. After all, what could I do? March out there and carry him in over my shoulder?

This is the thought process that makes me think I should save my boots and glasses before the family photo albums. I figure in case of a terrorist strike or natural disaster in which the community is deprived of water and power, I'll probably want to be able to see clearly and have my feet warm and protected much more than I'll want to reminisce about the good old days.

A good coat, in case it happened in winter time, would also be nice.

Of course, with the kids, there's no question. No matter how much trouble they are, how much they eat, whether they talk back, want things, or aren't too efficient about doing their chores, you gotta love 'em.

I watched the newscasts last year about the devastating wild fires in California and I was struck by how emotionally dependent we are on what we own.

It's not that I didn't feel sorry for the folks who lost their homes. But there they were, whole, uninjured, having lost no family members and most having saved their pets, weeping about having "lost everything."

Well, they hadn't. And if they owned a house in that neighborhood, they would have to be insane not to

carry insurance, which most of them must have at the behest of their mortgage company.

Their future was most certainly going to be downright inconvenient, but they weren't facing anything nearly as devastating as, say, the folks caught in an earthquake in Iran or a flood in China. In those parts of the world they don't cry themselves to sleep after disaster strikes because they lost their wide-screen television,

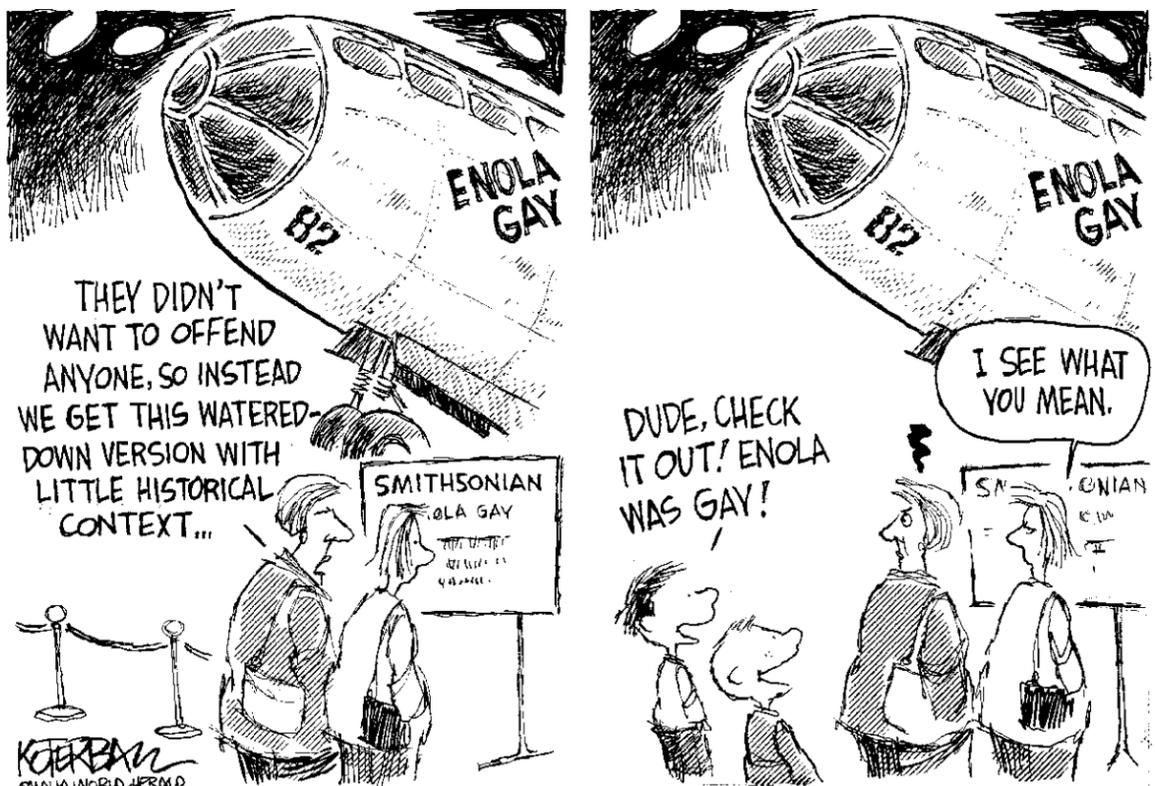
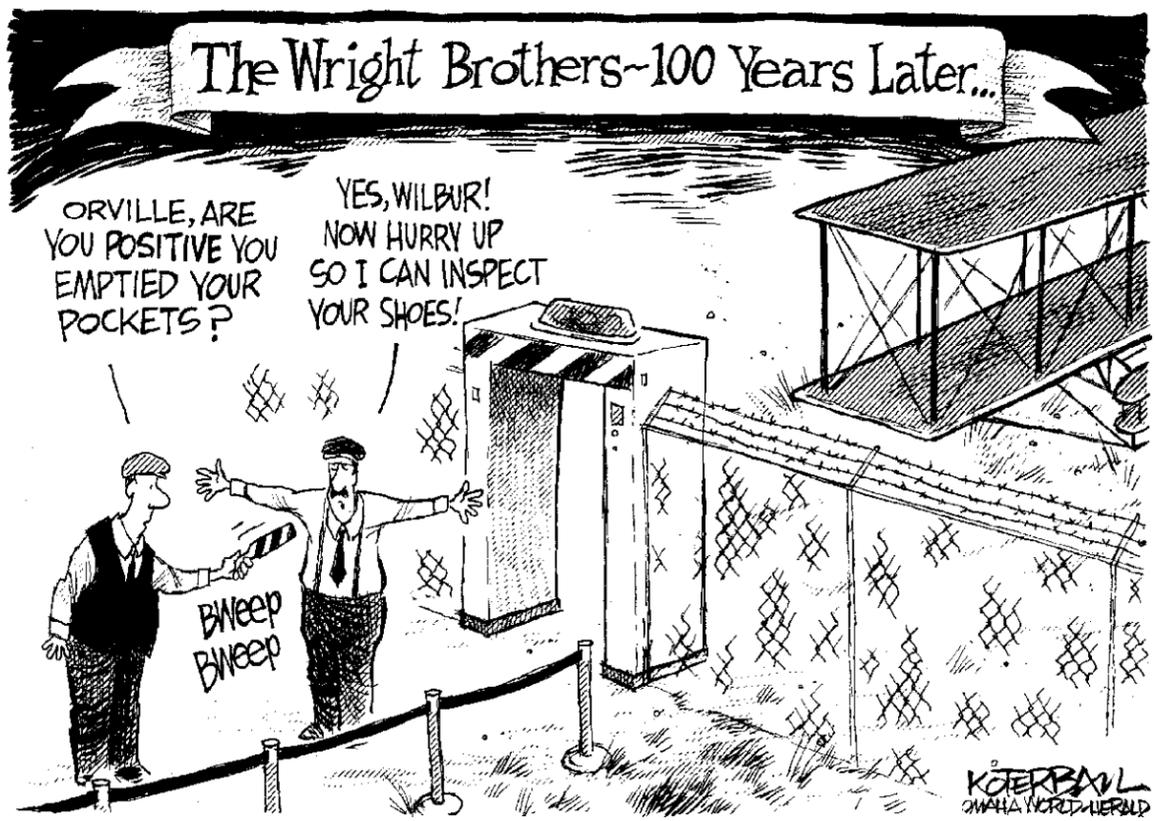
leather furniture or jacuzzi-with-a-view. I expect their tears are for the children, parents or mate who died because there was insufficient medical aide available to treat their injuries. Their concerns are not how soon the insurance check will arrive but whether they will be able to retrieve a little sustenance from the relief supply truck or find a drink of water.

I like old, sentimental stuff as well as the next guy. Just ask my family

members, who must wind their way around the various objects of questionable taste with which I decorate my home. I am more blessed with material goods than anyone deserves to be. And, in the face of disaster, I would sure hate to lose it all.

But as long as I'm breathing, and so are my family, life will go on.

Still, before I close my eyes at night, I make sure I know where my glasses and boots are.



**WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER**  
 SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CASITILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLAY, FARMER, SAN ELIZABO AND TURNELL

**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 \$35. Delivery via 1st class mail.

**ADDRESS:**  
 15344 Werling Court  
 Horizon City, TX 79928

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

**Publisher**  
 Rick Shrum

**Business Manager**  
 Francis D. Shrum

**Contributors**  
 Don Woodyard  
 Steve Escajeda  
 Arleen Beard

**Homesteader News, Inc.**  
 Est. 1973

Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

## Write stuff

Dear Editor,

January is Birth Defects Prevention Month. Each year more than 11,000 Texas children are born with a major structural birth defect. Birth defects are the leading cause of disability and infant death. As part of its mission to save babies from death and disability, the March of Dimes

has introduced a special license plate benefiting the Texas Birth Defects Registry at the Texas Department of Health. The Registry exists to identify and describe patterns of birth defects in Texas and collaborate with others in finding causes of birth defects, working towards prevention and linking families with support ser-

vices. For more information about the March of Dimes license plate, visit the Texas Department of Transportation's web site at [www.txdot.state.tx.us](http://www.txdot.state.tx.us), contact TxDOT at (512) 374-5010, or contact your local county tax assessor-collector. Join the fight against birth defects and help give every Texas baby the chance at a healthy start in life.

Meganne Walsh, M.D.

Chair, State Public Affairs Committee  
March of Dimes, Texas Chapter

today. Finger pointing as to who is responsible for this growth will not solve the problem.

The issue facing all of us as residents of the Socorro school district is, are we responsible for the education of our children? If we deny that it is the responsibility of each of our generations to educate the following generations, then we must also deny the advancement of our society.

Inherent in educating children is providing them a safe and healthy learning environment — a set of decent classrooms. Not just a box to warehouse children, but a well-equipped classroom sufficient in space to give our teachers a reasonable chance of succeeding in a difficult mission. We cannot stuff 30,000 to 40,000 young people into space for 20,000 without creating an unhealthy and impossible learning environment.

While education may be expensive, I would hate to put a price tag on ignorance.

Please vote yes on the SISD bond issue.

Incidentally, you/us senior citizens will be little, if at all, impacted in our tax bills.

Bruce A. Truesdale  
Horizon City

Dear Editor,

We begin to acquire the skills we need in life at a very early age. It is most important to get a good start so we do not face enormous obstacles later.

The current federal Education policy does exactly that by providing assistance to schools early on in children's education and emphasizing achievement so children do not fall far back of their peers by the time they reach the upper grades of school or college.

And it is not just the children who must strive to succeed, but the schools as well, for education is a joint venture between those who have knowledge and those who need it. That is why accountability is so important. We as a nation and as part of a world are better off for it.

James Stewart  
El Paso, TX

Dear Editor:

As a long time member of the Socorro ISD Board of Trustees I have witnessed the extraordinary growth in student population from about 11,000 in the early 90s to over 30,000



"GETTING INTO A GOOD COLLEGE WILL DEPEND ON YOUR GRADES, SATs, CLASS RANKING, AND PARENTS' BANK ACCOUNT ..."

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

## The state of our District



This week, President George W. Bush delivered his State of the Union address to an attentive audience. These are tumultuous times and I believe it was the speech our nation needed to hear.

In his national address, President Bush reminded us of the tremendous accomplishments made over the last year. But all the time, the president expressed that we still have a long road ahead of us. He presented a blueprint for our nation's success. I believe that with this vision, our nation can and will remain focused and strong.

Much like the president reviewed the state of the Union, I've taken the opportunity to review the state of the 23rd Congressional District. And I have good news: The state of our district is STRONG!

Growth statistics show that cities in our district are growing at a rapid pace. This record growth is providing more economic opportunities for people throughout the 23rd Congressional District. Growth means more jobs, better opportunities for small business owners, and continued economic development. Our district universities are expanding and health care facilities are providing better service, more doctors and nurses and greater coverage for all patients.

By working with the local border patrol, we're keeping our borders prosperous and safe. Our farmers and ranchers are seeing improvements in grants and research programs that

help bolster their profitability. And our local military service-members are enjoying improvements in salary, base renovations and retiree commitments.

Yes, the state of our district is strong. But we must remember that "no man is an island." The issues affecting our nation also affect our state and our district. And while I will always look out for the needs of the 23rd Congressional District, I am also committed to keeping a watchful eye on the needs of our nation.

As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am dedicated to rebuilding our national defense. We must continue to support our men and women in uniform who have taken an oath to defend and protect our nation. As our troops face new challenges, we must demonstrate the true commitment for our armed services.

As Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee I oversee hundreds of state and national agriculture programs. Last year's Agriculture bill was great news for Texas agriculture producers. Many of the programs funded will directly impact farmers and ranchers in the 23rd district and throughout our great state, as well as our nation. I remain dedicated to keeping the agriculture industry strong and healthy.

Beyond my subcommittee positions in the House of Representatives, I want each of you to know that I will not back down on the issues I have

fought for since my first days in Congress. We must continue

to provide meaningful tax relief to the people of America — especially considering our current economic conditions. Now, more than ever, we also need to look out for the small businesses of America. They are the backbone of our country. Small businesses should be protected so they have the opportunity to grow and flourish. I'll also continue my work on the Texas/Mexico border; I'll aim for better health research funding; and of course, I'll shoot for the stars when it comes to educating our nation's children.

After more than a decade of commitment to these issues, we've seen remarkable results. But we're not finished. This year will bring us one step closer to accomplishing our goals and making the 23rd district better than ever.

It goes without saying that America is facing new and different challenges. With these challenges come important, new goals that we must attend to. President Bush has set forth his goals for our nation and now you and I must set goals for our district. By standing together we will prove that these goals can be accomplished. We will prove that we are a united district and united nation, prepared to work together for the good of America.

## Clint senior receives National Hispanic nod

CLINT — Daniel Sosa, a member of the senior class at Clint High School has been recognized by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program according to an announcement by Principal Morris Aldridge.

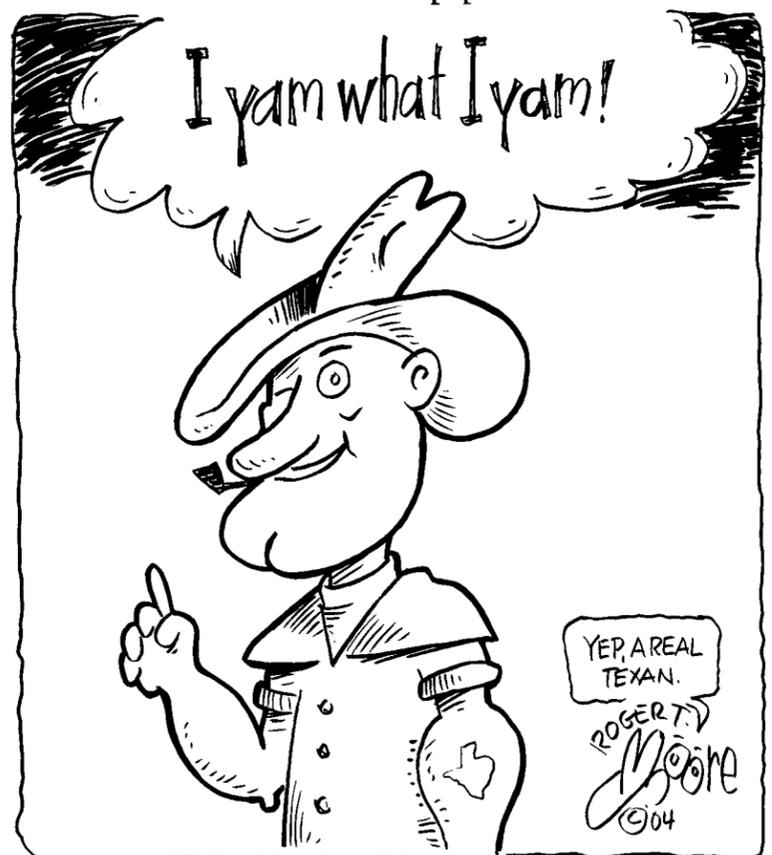
The National Hispanic Recognition Program, established in 1983, is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for post secondary institutions.

Students enter the program by taking the preliminary SAT/ Na-

tional Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) as high school juniors and by identifying themselves as Hispanic. From more than 124,000 students nationwide, approximately 4,300 highest scoring students were initially identified. Based on further evidence of their academic achievement, a select group of 3,300 students have been recognized by the program as a Scholar or Honorable Mention Finalist.

Founded in 1900, the College Board is a nonprofit membership association of schools, colleges, and other educational organizations.

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore, Jan. 17, 1929, Popeye the sailor man is born in a comic strip by Crislar Segar in the Victoria Advocate Newspaper.



# San Elizario faculty gets a little wild during professional development

By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — To an outsider, seeing a group of about fifty San Elizario ISD elementary teachers and administrators chasing each other — and not the children — in a parking lot might seem a bit strange.

In fact, the group was participating in one of the most unique professional development trainings of the year, called Project Wild. As part of the exercise they pretended to be coyotes chasing rabbits or even deer as part of a "schoolyard habitat" exercise, just one of the game-oriented activities.

These games and activities for the all-day training were designed to help

elementary teachers reinforce science concepts in elementary classrooms, mainly because science will now be assessed as part of the TAKS curriculum, according to Molly Munkatchy, Math and Science Partnership Program Director at Region 19.

The MSP project, in conjunction with Texas Parks and Wildlife, helped fund and bring Project Wild to San Elizario.

"Science hasn't been focused on a lot because it hasn't been tested," Munkatchy said.

TAKS science assessment tests will be given for students in grades 5, 10 and 11, the last being an exit test which students must pass in order to graduate high school. According to Munkatchy, getting students interested in science at an early age

will help them understand some of the different terminologies and concepts when they get older.

"It even helps high school students prepare for subjects like biology in college," she said. "It can also be extended to different areas in school."

For example, the teachers and administrators participating in Project Wild played a game called "Oh Dear," which teaches about populations and "what we need to survive," Munkatchy said.

Texas Parks and Wildlife says that as a part of the outdoor classroom workshop or "schoolyard habitat," "Oh Dear" helps teach environmental education as well as other multi-disciplinary subjects. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills requirements for all grade levels can be achieved in the schoolyard habitat. Graphing data is an instrumental part of playing the game.

"Teachers can extend this to math," Munkatchy said. "They extend the activity to English by having students write about it. It's an integration of what is learned into other subject areas."

Project Wild participants in the training also got a dose of classroom strategies they can use with their students, especially utilizing technology. The web site, [www.sciencenetlinks.com](http://www.sciencenetlinks.com), helps give teachers internet-based lesson plans, tools for teachers, and other resources for their classrooms.

"It was great," said Christina Lara, an instructional specialist in San Elizario. "They incorporated the hands-on and the technology."

Lesson plans available for teachers on the web site are grouped into appropriate grade levels with various exercises such as "Building a better pencil," "The warmth of the sun," and "My body helps me get food."



**SUPPORT WILDLIFE** — Teachers and administrators in San Elizario played a game of "Coyotes and Rabbits," part of a schoolyard habitat exercise in the Project Wild program.

- Master Licensed Plumber #M18624
- Bonded and Insured
- Senior Citizens Discount

- Sewer and Drain Cleaning
- Faucet and Sprinkler Repair
- Appliance Installation
- Mobile Home Repair

**Horizon Plumbing**  
852-1079

Miss an issue?  
[www.wtccourier.com](http://www.wtccourier.com)  
Archives available.

# Horizon City seeks citizen input on growth in eastside community

**Forum to be held in new Clint ISD boardroom**

HORIZON CITY — The Town of Horizon City will host a community forum to discuss the future direction this growing East El Paso County community will take.

The forum is to solicit input on the community needs and development issues and will be held Thursday, Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m. at the boardroom of the new Clint Independent School District Administration Office at 14521 Horizon Boulevard.

The Town of Horizon City has issued over 800 permits for single-family residences in the last four years, and expectations are that the rate of growth may accelerate. Growth pressures are increasing due to the eastward expansion of El Paso; the completion, last fall, of the Eastlake Blvd. interchange at U.S. Interstate Highway 10; and the expansion that will make the Horizon High School a full four-year high school by 2006.

The reconstruction of the interchange where Loop 375 crosses I-10 is also expected to influence growth in the area because this will lessen congestion and improve access to the rapidly-developing eastside corridor.

Anticipating additional growth, the Town of Horizon City completed the annexation of over 400 acres of property earlier this month, expanding its corporate limits to the east.

The Town of Horizon City revised its master plan less than two years ago, but growth pressures are making this plan obsolete. Ed Hamlyn, the planner for Horizon City, said that the plan may need to be revisited to account for changes in the Town's thoroughfare plan, to reassess its park needs, and to re-examine its land use projections.

"The increasing population in the area is creating demand for addi-

tional commercial uses," Hamlyn said.

Beyond simply accommodating growth, the Town is concentrating on upgrading its regulations to ensure quality growth. Mayor Diane Whitty said greater control of the town's roadways are needed.

"We want better control over commercial signage and we want to adopt landscaping standards," she said. Whitty further added that the Town is considering adopting architectural standards. "It's important that the aesthetics of our community project a positive image," she said.

Growth creates opportunities, but it also has consequences. "Our residents value the beautiful starlit skies, but light pollution from the expansion of El Paso is destroying this amenity," Whitty said. "We should consider a 'dark skies' ordinance to limit light pollution from signs, parking lot lighting, and other sources of light pollution."

The forum will include both long-range growth concerns and new regulations that are currently under consideration. Regarding the decision to hold the public forum at the Clint Independent School District Boardroom, Hamlyn said that the Clint facilities have electronic projection equipment not available at the Horizon City Town Hall. He also noted that the forum has a different purpose than a meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission or Town Council.

"This forum is not for the purpose of taking action; it is to make the public aware of issues and to engage the broader community in a discussion of our options for the future," he said.

For more information regarding the upcoming Community Forum, contact Ed Hamlyn or Mayor Diane Whitty at 852-1046.

## CORRECTED NOTICE

### City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 10, 2004 during the Planning Commission meeting at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the following proposed rezoning(s):

- 1) Lot 8, Block 3 Lajolla Subdivision, 118 La Cienega from R-1, Single Family Residential to R-2, Medium Density Residential by Maria del Socorro Hernandez.
- 2) Lot 2, Block 2 Valle Real Subdivision, 501 Brisa Del Valle from R-1, Single Family Residential to RE, Rural Estate by Javier Hernandez.

Yolanda Rodela  
Interim City Clerk

WTCC: 01/22/04



# How secure is YOUR mail?

## COME AND GET 'EM!

**PRIVATE MAIL BOXES AVAILABLE IN HORIZON**

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

**GREAT FOR:**

- Business address
- Securing payments
- Peace of mind

## Scams trying to exploit new federal immigration proposals

By Greg Abbott  
Attorney General of Texas

AUSTIN — Rogue “immigration consultants” often take advantage of high profile policy announcements to mislead the public about available immigration benefits and programs.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott has warned consumers to be wary of the potential for fraud resulting from increased attention to federal immigration laws following President Bush’s proposals announced this week.

In the past, proposed changes to federal immigration law have brought with them an inevitable surge in misinformation and deception perpetrated by scam artists. These are attempts to defraud the public by distorting facts to consumers seeking benefits for themselves or immigrant family members, or businesses with immigrant employees.

“As immigration policy is given increased national attention, consumers should be aware of those who use this heightened public interest as a means to deceive,” said Attorney General Abbott. “Developing and enforcing immigration laws is the exclusive domain of the federal government. However, in Texas, I vow to continue enforcing our state consumer protection laws to go after those who seek to exploit the immigrant community.”

Consumers should remember the following:

- Be wary of any immigration services professional who makes sweeping and vague statements or promises about a “new amnesty” or other federal program, suggesting that every immigrant is eligible for

such benefits. No such program yet exists.

- In Texas, only licensed attorneys or nonprofit organizations approved by the federal government are permitted to charge fees to help immigrants complete and submit documents to apply for benefits, including work permits, visas, permanent residency or naturalization documents.

- Do not trust those who promise that they can help you obtain immigration benefits or who guarantee results. Legitimate immigration attorneys and organizations that assist immigrants will look at a case in detail before making any determination on eligibility. No reputable attorney will “guarantee” that the client will receive the benefits he or she is seeking.

- In Texas, notaries public are specifically forbidden from providing immigration benefit services unless they hold a separate license to practice law in the state. Furthermore, notaries are also prohibited from advertising their services using the Spanish term “notario público,” since to some Spanish-speakers this may falsely imply that the person is an attorney.

To apply for immigration benefits, or to obtain a list of immigration attorneys and nonprofit organizations that can legitimately assist immigrants, consumers should contact their local Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) or go online at [www.bcis.gov](http://www.bcis.gov).

Consumers who believe that they have been the victims of a scam related to immigration services should contact the Attorney General’s office at 1-800-252-8011.

### Briefs

From Page 1

improve the quality of deserved care for our veterans. And the added increased services are truly needed.” The present Veterans Outpatient Clinic at 5001 N. Piedras Street adjoins William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC). The present four-story structure was completed in 1995, while the new construction will add three stories and 28,350

square feet for behavior health, physical therapy and administrative services. The expansion will take place on the east side of the existing clinic. There are about 21,500 local veterans enrolled for healthcare services with 360 staff members at the present facility. Funding for the project will be included in the 2004 VA budget when finalized by Congress. The 2003 fiscal year budget for the El Paso facility was \$57 million. This year’s VA Clinic budget is awaiting approval.

## Horizon City council annexes over 400 acres, hears outline for \$1 million bond election

By Arleen Beard  
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — In recent months the Horizon City Council has been receiving presentations regarding a bond election to provide funds needed to finance the administration of current and anticipated growth.

The bond election proposal has arrived hand-in-hand with the successful annexation of some 400 acres along the eastern city limits in the area of Eastlake Drive.

During the Jan. 13 City Council meeting, a public hearing was held

regarding three parcels of land, totaling over 400 acres, prepared to be annexed. There was no public input, therefore Mayor Dianne Whitty closed the hearing and Council approved the annexation. The details of the areas annexed are available at City Hall, city spokesmen said.

At the same meeting, Steven Adams of First Southwest Company made a presentation outlining the process required to hold a successful bond election. The dollar figure Adams used in the presentation was \$1 million. According to Adams, in order to have ample time to prepare properly, the bond election should be

called on Feb. 10, 2004, which is the next scheduled Council meeting.

He said the tax impact for a \$1,000,000 bond election would be around 3.44 cents per \$100 of property valuation. For example, a house worth \$150,000 would pay about \$3.80 per month, or about \$45.60 a year, more on their property tax bill.

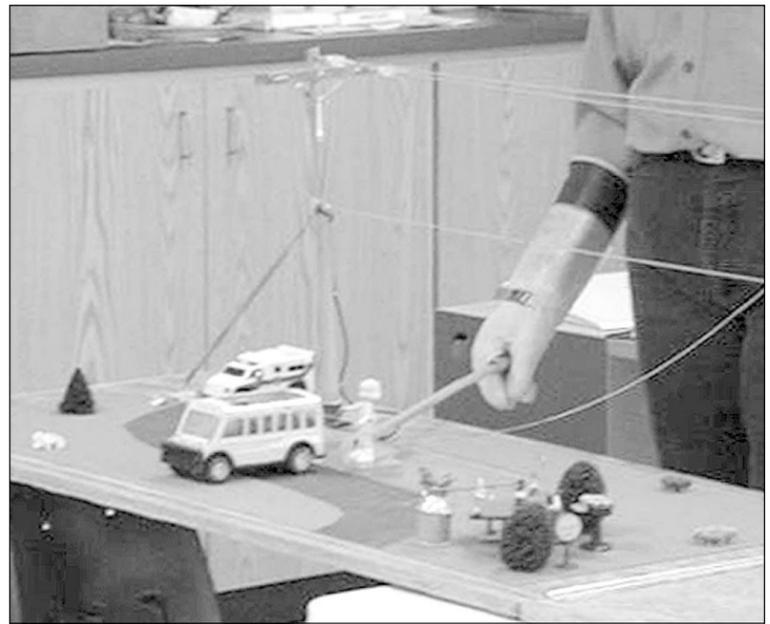
The use for the monies has not clearly been defined, but street improvements is a topic frequently discussed during bond election presentations.

If called in February, the election date would be May 15, 2004 should Council decide to pursue the bond election process.

## Parent volunteers get a jolt out of electrical presentation

HORIZON — Parent volunteers at Frank Macias Elementary School are given opportunity to attend educational presentations on a variety of topics, which on Jan. 20 was a presentation by Joe and Dorothy Baca from the El Paso Electric Company. The event demonstrated the dangers and necessary precautions that must be taken when working around power lines. A scale mock-up of a town with working power lines was used to show just how important it is to stay away from downed lines. After the presentation, the Bacas held a question and answer session. The ongoing parent education programs are an effort by the school administration and school counselor to reciprocate to the volunteers for their valuable time donated. Many noted the presentation was fun and enlightening.

— Contributed by Arleen Beard



**DANGER TO SCALE** — This scale model village showed parent volunteers some of the dangers associated with downed electrical lines.

## UTEP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**Thursday, Jan. 22nd**

**HAWAII**

**VS @ 7:05 PM**

**MINERS**

**THINK ORANGE WEAR ORANGE**

**Saturday, Jan. 24th**

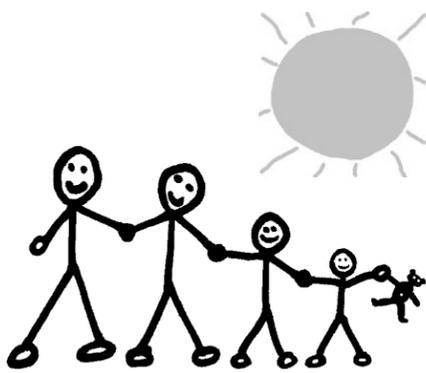
**SAN JOSE ST.**

**VS @ 7:05 PM**

**MINERS**

**BASKETBALL IS BACK!!**

Carlisle Navidomskis  
M.Ed., LPC, RPT  
Family Counselor



### Horizon Family Counseling

By appointment only • Se habla español  
Medicaid and insurance accepted

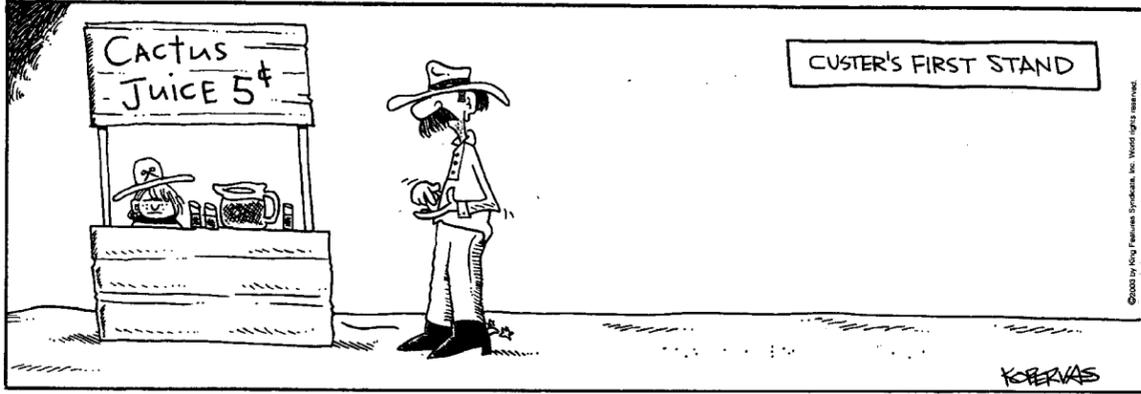
14200 Ashford  
Horizon City, Texas 79928

(915) 433-7727  
[cnlpc@earthlink.net](mailto:cnlpc@earthlink.net)

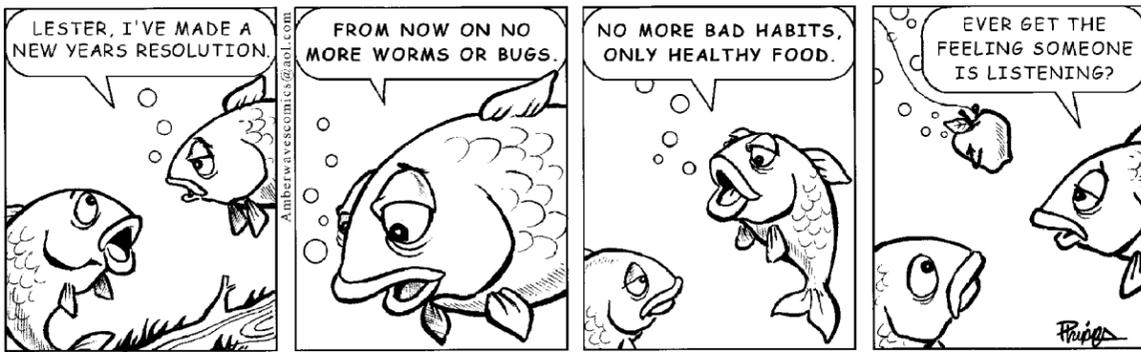


Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



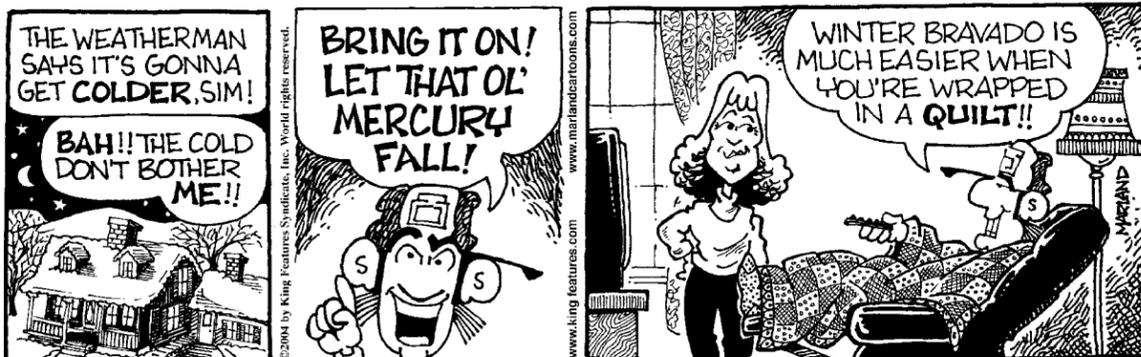
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Survey says...

By Don Flood

According to a CNN story, the most common fake name used by people ordering pizza in Washington, D.C. is Paris Hilton.

The second: John Ashcroft.

Are those Washingtonians cut-ups or what? No wonder Washington has a reputation for being a city of 24-hour-a-day, knee-slapping hijinks.

Imagine the fun as Supreme Court justices prepare for another late-night pizza party.

JUSTICE 1: I'm going to order pizza and say I'm John Ashcroft!

JUSTICE 2: No wait, I want to say I'm Paris Hilton!

This is why legal decisions take so long; just deciding on toppings requires hours of legal arguments and finally a vote. (Sandra O'Connor is often the swing vote, usually coming down on the side of pepperoni.)

But, frankly, I am shocked that Washingtonians would think nothing of besmirching Miss Hilton's reputation — potentially putting her on the hook for thousands of pizzas she never ordered.

Of course, there is another possibility.

I don't want to start rumors, but it's very possible John Ashcroft and Paris Hilton are an item.

Or, should I say, were an item. Now they're fighting and trying to get back at each other by calling Domino's and giving their ex's name.

I know that sounds pathetic, but that's how celebrities and attorneys general act when they break up.

Also, Ashcroft has a long history as a practical joker.

Many people don't know this, but his first official act as attorney general was to call up a local tobacco shop and ask, "Do you have

Prince Albert in a can?"

After the guy said, "No, of course not, you idiot. People stopped smoking pipes 30 years ago," Ashcroft lowered the boom. "Well, let him out! Ha, ha, ha, ha!"

The survey, reportedly of 630 pizza delivery drivers, turned up another interesting fact: People who answer the door in the nude are better tippers than those in pajamas. In fact, they tipped more than 20 percent.

I don't doubt that naked people would be better tippers. After all, they have no pockets to put the change.

This raises some important questions: Does John Ashcroft greet his pizza delivery driver in the nude? How much does he tip?

But I can't help wondering if the whole survey was made up, which would be extremely disturbing.

The only people who should be allowed to make up polls are professionals such as myself. The public heartily agrees with this position.

According to a recent poll, 87 percent strongly agree with the statement: "Only trained professionals should be allowed to make up polls. The others should butt out."

(This is based on a fictional nationwide poll of 5 million people between 6:15 and 6:20 last Saturday night. Margin of error: Plus or minus 125 percent.)

But just in case the survey is for real, remember — if you are one of the millions of Americans who regularly accepts his pizza in the nude — to tip at least 20 percent.

Otherwise, your driver is sure to be disappointed (unless you are Paris Hilton).

(c) 2004 King Features Synd., Inc.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

**SCIENCE AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT**  
CSP NO.199-0127-0429  
ACCEPTED UNTIL JAN. 27, 2004 @ 2 P.M.

**SOCIAL STUDIES MATERIALS**  
CSP NO.199-0127-0427  
ACCEPTED

UNTIL JAN. 27, 2004 @ 2:30 P.M.

**OFFICE FURNITURE**  
CSP NO.199-0127-0428  
ACCEPTED UNTIL JAN. 27, 2004 @ 3 P.M.

**INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
CSP NO.199-0127-0433  
ACCEPTED UNTIL JAN. 27, 2004 @ 3:30 P.M.

**DISTRICT AWARDS**  
CSP NO.199-0127-0434  
ACCEPTED UNTIL JAN. 27, 2004 @ 4 P.M.

Proposals will be

received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-1/22/04

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 2GTEK19K7R1526878, 1994 GMC Sierra 1500, black, license 5BGJ72  
VIN 2P4GP4434VRI97849, 1997 Plymouth Voyager, silver, dealership license P48279  
WTCC-1/22/04

BARGAINS

18 cubic foot Sears frostfree refrigerator, has icemaker, adjustable shelves, in excellent condition. 5 years old. \$200. 852-3713. 1/22

HELP WANTED

PECAN BUSINESS one mile south of Fabens

needs full time employee that is computer skilled, bilingual, and speaks fluent English with good telephone skills. Packaging and shipping included. Must be reliable and references required (include all employment for past five years). Five days per week, may require some travel. Must have drivers license. Starting salary is \$9/hour. Send resume to Secretary, P.O. Box 777, Fabens, TX 79838. 1/15/04

**WORK FROM HOME**  
Market the GlycoLEAN Body System Commissions, bonuses,

incentives, fun!  
Call: 915-852-2156  
Mannatech Independent Associate

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. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

**AV CONSTRUCTION**  
Additions & Remodeling Kitchen & Bathrooms

Garage Conversion  
Extend Any Room of Your Home  
Deck & Porches for Mobile Homes  
Replace Existing Windows  
Free Estimates: 851-2165

**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**

**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.

Fowl

From Page 6

caged birds) must register only if their birds are commingled or transported with domestic fowl, or are sold at the same public venue with domestic fowl.

Public comments on the proposal may be emailed to comments@tahc.state.tx.us or mailed to TAHC Comments, Box 12966, Austin, TX 78711-2966. For more information, the TAHC Austin headquarters can be reached at 1-800-550-8242."



• Mail Boxes • Copies • Faxes

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

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

*Q: I was married to my husband for only three months before he died. I never remarried after that, and now I am about to turn 60 years old. Can I get Social Security widow's benefits?*

**A:** A marriage must last at least nine months before we can pay widow's benefits. However, there are exceptions. The most common is in the case of an accidental death. Call us at 1-800-772-1213 or visit your local Social Security office and we will

go over the details of this and other exceptions to find out if you are eligible for widow's benefits.

*Q: I have Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. My condition has gotten so bad that I can no longer work. I heard that changes to the Social Security law mean I would now automatically qualify for disability benefits. Is this true?*

**A:** It's not quite automatic. But there

are new rules that make it much easier for ALS patients to qualify for Social Security disability benefits. Assuming you meet all other requirements, you will be considered disabled for benefit purposes if you present medical evidence of an ALS diagnosis. (Many other impairments require more medical evidence than just a simple diagnosis to qualify for benefits.) And if your income and assets are low enough to qualify for Supplemental Security Income payments, another rule change allows us to presume you are disabled so that we can pay your SSI benefits immediately, even while we are still processing the paperwork on your

claim. Also, people with ALS qualify for Medicare as soon as their disability claim is approved. (Most other people with disabilities must wait two years before Medicare coverage kicks in.)

*Q: I have chronic pain and it has reached a point where I have to stop working. I want to file for Social Security disability benefits, but I have been told that pain does not qualify as a disability. Is this true?*

**A:** If you are unable to work because of any physical or mental impairment, you should file for disability benefits. Obviously, we do not automatically

pay those benefits based on an allegation of pain. But pain is usually a symptom of other problems. And if there is enough medical evidence to show that those problems are severe enough to keep you from doing any substantial work, you will qualify for Social Security disability benefits.

For more information visit your local Social 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.

# WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
▲ 51°	▼ 31°	▲ 56° ▼ 32°	▲ 56° ▼ 35°	▲ 61° ▼ 34°	▲ 58° ▼ 29°	▲ 53° ▼ 27°	▲ 50° ▼ 29°

### UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	3	Low
Friday	3	Low
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	3	Low
Tuesday	3	Low
Wednesday	4	Low

### REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	40°
Friday	43°
Saturday	39°
Sunday	47°
Monday	52°
Tuesday	42°
Wednesday	39°

### AGRICULTURE

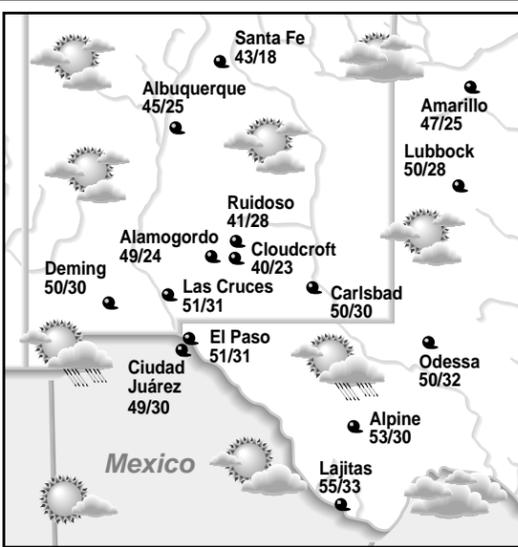
A low drifting slowly eastward through southern New Mexico by Thursday night and Friday will keep the chance of some showers around into Friday. Rainfall should average between 0.10-0.20 of an inch. Dry weather will return Saturday and last into the first part of next week as the system moves to the east.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2004

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	52	32
Canutillo	52	32
Clint	49	32
E. Montana	51	31
Fabens	49	32
Horizon	52	32
San Elizario	50	29
Socorro	50	30
Tornillo	49	32
Vinton	52	32

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



### TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	45/25/pc	51/27/pc	53/28/s	53/28/pc	50/23/c
Atlanta	52/28/pc	48/32/s	52/38/pc	50/38/c	55/36/c
Atlantic City	40/21/pc	32/15/pc	32/15/c	30/16/c	38/17/c
Austin/San Antonio	53/34/c	58/40/c	60/44/c	66/43/pc	66/41/c
Baltimore	40/20/pc	32/16/pc	30/18/c	30/20/c	41/19/c
Boston	32/20/c	24/10/pc	18/8/c	20/10/c	27/14/c
Chicago	16/6/pc	24/14/c	28/20/pc	32/20/c	32/19/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	52/36/c	52/38/c	54/42/pc	62/42/pc	59/38/pc
Denver	42/20/pc	46/22/s	46/20/pc	47/21/c	44/16/c
Flagstaff	39/17/c	41/17/pc	41/22/pc	40/22/c	43/15/c
Houston	54/42/c	56/44/c	58/44/c	66/46/pc	68/48/c
Kansas City	34/23/pc	46/28/pc	51/31/s	42/26/c	37/24/pc
Las Vegas	59/39/s	61/39/s	59/42/c	54/40/c	54/34/c
Miami	76/52/pc	71/52/pc	73/57/c	77/61/c	79/61/c
Minneapolis	10/-5/pc	16/6/pc	20/10/c	19/9/c	22/7/c
New Orleans	59/40/c	57/42/pc	62/48/c	67/50/c	65/47/c
New York City	38/21/c	28/16/pc	22/16/c	28/21/c	30/21/c
Philadelphia	38/20/pc	28/15/pc	28/15/c	30/20/c	34/20/c
Phoenix	63/47/pc	64/45/s	64/46/pc	63/46/c	64/39/c
Portland	47/38/pc	48/36/c	40/30/c	46/33/c	47/31/c
San Francisco	58/44/s	56/44/c	56/44/c	57/44/s	58/42/pc
Seattle	46/36/pc	46/38/c	40/30/c	46/34/c	46/32/c
Tucson	59/39/pc	61/39/pc	63/41/pc	61/41/c	59/37/c
Washington, DC	44/22/pc	34/20/s	32/20/c	32/24/c	43/24/c

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

► Powerful enough for all of your tough workshop, garage, and basement messes—wet or dry

► Portable enough for all of your household appliances, furnitures, 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.**