



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Shot clinics

A series of immunization clinics to provide injections to all children through age 17 will be held at Socorro ISD's campuses of O'Shea Keleher Elementary and Escontrias Elementary. Cost is \$5 per shot and \$10 for two. Students 18 and older and adults can receive shots at the same price with some variation. The clinics are co-sponsored by the SISD and the El Paso County Health District. The schedule for Escontrias is Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1 and June 5. At O'Shea Keleher, dates are Feb. 21, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19. For more information call the District's Health Service at 937-4044.

### Deadline extended

The Texas Department of Agriculture has extended the stalk destruction deadline for cotton producers in Zone 10 because of recent heavy rains preventing growers from entering their fields, completing their harvest and destroying cotton plants. The new deadline is Feb. 8 for this year only. This deadline applies to El Paso County and a portion of Hudspeth County. Information: TDA West Texas office (806) 799-8555.

### In other news

■ El Paso's Rescue Mission — located just west of Downtown at 1949 West Paisano Drive — is getting some help from Montwood High School students, parents and administrators. The school is making a community project out of an effort to repaint the Mission's dining room walls and installing a mural on one of those walls. "We felt we could make their dining area a brighter place to eat," says Montwood's Student Activities Director Laura Price. "This is a project the kids discovered and wanted to do." LH & R Signs is donating paint and plastic wrap for the project.

■ Needed construction at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is included in President Bush's fiscal year 2005 military construction budget, according to Congressman Silvestre Reyes, a member of the House Armed Service Committee (HASC). The following are included:

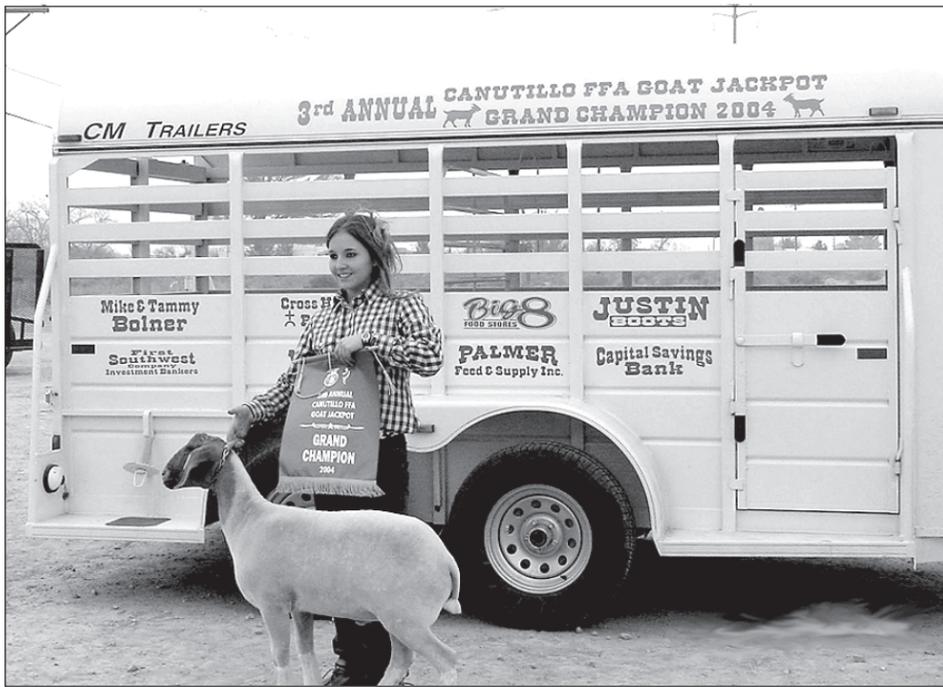
- \$16.5 million for the Missile Defense Instruction Facility at Fort Bliss.
- \$33 million for the Electromagnetic Vulnerability Assessment Facility at WSMR for research and testing.
- \$31 million for housing at WSMR.

■ Montwood High School's Media Technology class is getting practical, hands-on experience in making public service announcements for television. Assisted by Thomason Hospital's Project Care — part of R. E. Thomason Hospital's Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition — the class

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*The most humiliating thing about science is that it keeps filling our homes with gadgets smarter than we are.*

— Quips & Quotes



**JACKPOT** — Kayla Schuler, of McCamey, Texas, was selected Grand Champion in the Market Division and won the livestock trailer shown in background. The Goat Jackpot pays off big for young competitors.

## Over 100 compete in Canutillo's goat jackpot

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — Duffy Galloway stands in the middle of the sawdust arena. He rubs his chin thoughtfully as he intently studies the goats lined up in front of him. The judge, an ag-science instructor from the Hereford, TX, school district, walks closer and examines the animals that are held in show position by nervous kids.

Kids holding kids, but the young people do not kid around. They are very serious as they await the verdict of the judge who, after deliberation, awards coveted banners saying Best Doe of Show or Reserve Grand Champion.

The occasion is the 3rd Annual Canutillo

FFA Goat Jackpot held last Saturday in a field adjacent to Childress Elementary in the Canutillo Independent School District. Fittingly the site of the Goat Jackpot is the location of the district's planned agricultural-science center.

More than 100 young people participated in the show which drew entrants from New Mexico and West Texas and as far away as Lubbock. Hosted by Canutillo High's FFA chapter, the all-day event included market and breeding shows and Junior and Senior Peewee Shows.

Taking Best of Show, Grand Champion honors in the Market Class was Kayla Schuler from McCamey, TX. Canutillo High School student

See JACKPOT, Page 4

## Two Clint High seniors will compete for NHS scholarships

By Laura Cade  
Special to the Courier

Tracy Estrada and Sara Gonzales, both Clint High School seniors and members of the Clint High School National Honor Society, have been nominated to compete in the National Honor Society scholarship sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Morris Aldridge, Clint High principal, announced the nomination which places Estrada and Gonzales in the national competition. Two hundred national NHS winners will be chosen this spring to receive \$1,000 college scholarships.

High School National Honor Society chapters from across the country were eligible to nominate two senior high members to compete. Nominees were selected based on their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences, employment experience, and academic record. They also were required to write

an essay.

Cocurricular activities are considered as an essential part of the school curriculum.

While at Clint High School Estrada has been president of the National Honor Society, member of the varsity volleyball team, and UIL spelling and vocabulary participant. This fall she plans to attend Trinity University to study English. Gonzales has been vice president of the Clint High School NHS and is involved in several service projects. She plans to attend Texas Tech University in the fall to study business.

The National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society are the nation's premier organizations recognizing outstanding middle and high school students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character and are sponsored by the National Association of School Principals. The NASSP also sponsors the National Association of Student Councils, which provides leadership development opportunities to prepare and empower students to serve their schools and communities.



**SCIENCE WHIZ** — Tommy Chavez took top honors in SEISD science sweepstakes with a magnetic personality and project.

## Second grader noted for innovative thinking

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Tommy Chavez, a second-grader at Borrego Elementary in the San Elizario school district, grins broadly and holds a trophy about as tall as he is.

You might say he has a magnetic personality, because Tommy is clutching the sweepstakes trophy he earned last week in the district science fair for his entry, "La Cajita Magnetica," or The Magnetic Box." His project earned him top honors in the elementary-grade level contest that pitted him against students in the third-, fourth- and fifth-grades.

"He won against some tough competition," says Celia Aguilar who describes herself as a "very proud" second-grade bilingual teacher. "He is extremely articulate; the judges were very impressed by his answers.

"He is imaginative; he is creative. He can create things on a moment's notice. His mind is going so quickly," Aguilar says.

With assurance, Chavez describes his project in detail, underscoring his teacher's praise of him. He is not intimidated by adults as he explains the purpose of his work that incorporates small Plexiglas surfaces to which magnetic strips are attached.

In the two-piece Plexiglas structure, parallel magnetic strips are placed on the floor of the box as well as on the lid. The lid fits snugly between the walls of the box and presses down against the floor to show how opposites attract and like magnetic strips repel.

Magnets had always interested him since he had found a magnet and wondered how it worked.

Tommy is the son of Tomas and Magala Chavez. Borrego principal Sylvia Hopp praises his parents as "very supportive and very involved in the education of their children." Tommy has a sister Jasmine who is in the fourth-grade.

Hopp says this is not the first time Tommy has been recognized. She says he won overall first prize last fall in a citywide competition showing how recycled materials can be used. He used toilet tissue and paper towel rolls and cardboard to construct a toy tank that moved.



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# A valued customer

I knew we were in for it when our bank informed us that we could now take advantage of a whole new range of "services."

This utterance from any company can be loosely translated into regular human speak as "we are going to want a lot more of your money."

We've banked in the same building for almost 20 years, though it hasn't been owned by the same bank. It started out years ago as First City, then SunWest and finally Bank of America.

Every time a new institution took over we were offered more "services." Every time it cost more money.

Now, the average person probably doesn't know about, let alone utilize, all the "services" that are available to them. In fact, you can buy life insurance from the same company that sells you toilet paper. Why a company that sells toilet paper would want to go into the life insurance business is beyond me — other than they can charge you more for the toilet paper because they are offering you a phantom "service" you will never use.

All I want from my toilet paper supplier is toilet paper. All I wanted from my bank was simply a place to put my money, what little of it there is, so I could keep track of it — you know, because of the taxman and all.

I must be in the minority, though, because with the latest buyout of my bank I got a big envelope stuffed to capacity with a plethora of "benefits" I couldn't even understand, let alone use, all offered at one low price which was about twice what I was already paying.

The price of progress, I figured,

until about a year and a half ago I begin getting all these little extra charges on my bank statement. One of them was something called "Overdraft Interest Charge" except I didn't have an overdraft — not the kind for which you get dinged a solid \$25.

The way they explained it at the bank is that this tidy little charge covers the milliseconds in which there may be a deficit on my account before the electronic credit arrives from some financial institution on some unknown planet. It ranged anywhere from two cents to a quarter.

Then one day we found that some on-his-toes clerk had discovered that we still had \$500 overdraft protection on our account which carried over from the last institution. It had an interest rate of about three percent if we had to activate it.

So this sharp little boy instead attaches the overdraft protection to our Bank of America credit card.

That way, should there be an overdraft, it would be charged to our credit card in lump sums of \$100, and the transaction charged as a cash withdrawal — with an interest rate of about 19 percent.

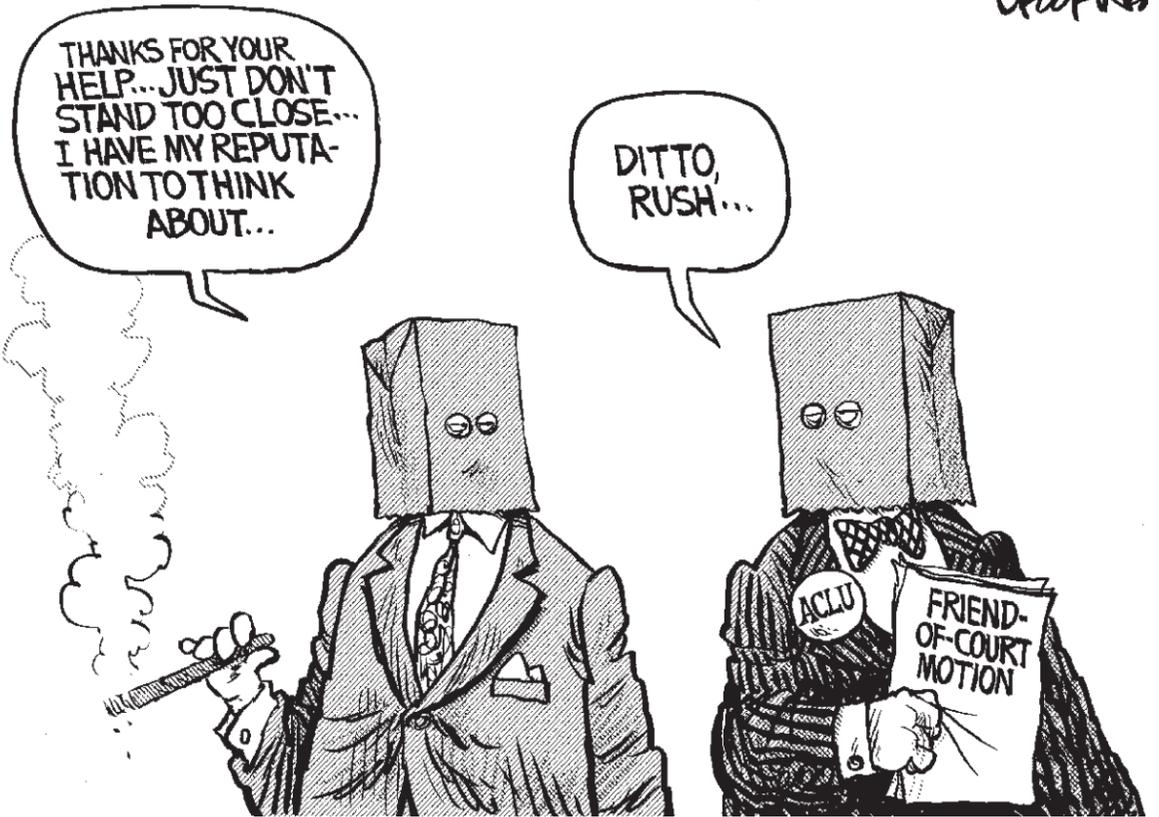
We took that one in stride, as well. After all, an overdraft could be interpreted as a genuine inconvenience for the bank, right?

However, the last straw was the day I found a \$5 charge on my statement for having used the overnight deposit drop.

It's not too hard to open a bank account. Closing one, we found, was nothing short of a nightmare, especially with today's financial institutions which guard their local

See CUSTOMER, Page 5

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH **Breaking**



# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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



# Help is available for victims of identity theft

In 2003, 681 El Pasoans were victims of identity theft. While some might have had their purse or wallet stolen, the majority of these individuals' identities were stolen through everyday transactions such as writing a check for groceries or applying for a new credit card.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), a federal agency that protects the needs of consumers, recently released their listing of the top ten fraud complaint categories for 2003. For the fourth year in a row, identity theft topped the list. Other complaints included foreign money offers and internet auctions.

Identity thieves, a new type of criminal that surfaced during the 1990s, prey on seemingly innocent activities that include personal information. Identity thieves find ways to access your social security number, address, or income from, say, a credit card application and use it to their

advantage. Identity thieves then take out loans, open bank accounts, buy cars, open credit accounts in various stores, use debit cards, and buy cell phones — all in your name.

Victims may lose job opportunities, be refused loans for education, housing, cars, or even be arrested for crimes they didn't commit. In order to retain their good credit, victims spend huge amounts of time working with credit bureaus, sifting through collections notices, and filing police reports trying to reclaim their identity. The whole experience can be a long, humiliating and frustrating one.

The FTC is leading the fight against identity thieves. Their guides, entitled "ID Theft: What's It All About?" and "ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen To Your Good Name," are available in English and Spanish both in paper copies and on their website: www.ftc.gov. You can obtain paper copies by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP. They include informa-

tion on protecting yourself against identity theft and a course of action if you are a victim.

In addition to protecting yourself against identity theft, it is also important that you make informed decisions when deciding what to purchase. Every day, consumers make financial transactions that require educated decisions: shopping for a mortgage or auto loan, understanding and reconciling credit card statements and telephone bills, picking a gym, choosing a retirement plan, comparing health insurance policies, understanding credit reports, or deciding something as seemingly simple as whether to pay by cash, credit or debit card.

The FTC has designated this week, Feb. 1-7, as National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), to make all these decisions a bit easier. "Financial Literacy: Earning a Lifetime of Dividends" is the theme. During

See REYES, Page 5

# Bilingual author entertains Damian ES students

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — “Sí Puedo, Yes I Can” was the underlying message behind Margarita Robleda’s recent, entertaining presentation to students at Jose H. Damian Elementary School, which is in the Canutillo Independent School District.

Robleda, a well-known author from Mexico City, read stories, sang songs, and played the guitar for students as part of CISD’s writer’s workshop project. “I like to motivate children to do the best they can in everything they do,” said Robleda.

“Plans are to bring to the district different authors throughout the school year to share their skills and experiences with students and teachers as a way to promote a better understanding of the writing process,” said Martha Strobach, CISD Academic Language Services lead teacher.

Robleda has written over 40 children’s books and makes presentations in schools throughout the Southwest and Mexico. Her presentations are in English and Spanish. Sponsor for the presentations is book publisher Hampton-Brown.



**INSPIRATION** — Margarita Robleda likes to motivate children to do the best they can in everything.

## \$50,000 granted to help low income spay/neuter their pets

By Michelle J. Brown  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Area animal health and welfare programs have worked to garner a new \$50,000 grant from the El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District to provide free spays/neuters for approximately 725 of El Paso’s dog, cats, puppies and kittens who have pet owners receiving public assistance.

To qualify, pet owners/guardians must be a resident of El Paso County and be receiving some form of public assistance that includes but is not limited to disability, Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, Lone Star Card (food stamps), WIC, CHIP, etc. Project coordinators urge interested pet owners/guardians receiving any form of public assistance to call 873-PETS to obtain an application. Spay/neuter appointments will be made by PETS ALIVE with participating vets of the El Paso Veterinary Medical

Association.

Touting responsible pet owner/guardianship and the myriad of specific health benefits and tax savings (versus Animal Control picking up/housing and destroying unwanted animals), PETS ALIVE El Paso will administer the voucher program with a team of volunteers. PETS ALIVE received the grant as part of \$150,000 included in the 2004 fiscal year City-County Health Department budget for spay/neuter. The other \$100,000 will be used to begin operating this spring the Health Departments mobile spay/neuter Pet Care-A-Van.

PETS ALIVE, a Texas non-profit corporation that in part raises funds for a variety of pet over-population spay/neuter efforts, works closely with the El Paso City/County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee (ASAC). Their members have streamlined efforts for pet owners/guardians to obtain spays and neuters for their pets.

“The plight of homeless animals is

tragic and it can be traced largely to failure to spay and neuter,” said Patricia Palafox, chair of ASAC. “Sometimes that failure is due to irresponsible pet owners, but in some cases it’s due to inability to pay. Our hope is that these free surgeries will work to stem the tide of more than 26,000 animals euthanized every year in El Paso because there are too many animals and too few to love them.”

“We encourage all qualified pet owners/guardians to take advantage of this valuable program while the approximately 725 vouchers last,” said Mark Everett, Public Health Administrator at City County Health, who has played a large role in implementing the project in El Paso. This project aims to spay/neuter thousands of El Paso area dogs and cats in the next year. El Paso euthanizes more than twice as many animals as the national average (35 animals per 1000 El Paso residents vs. national average of 17 animals per 1000 residents).

## Write stuff

Dear Editor,

Thanks to all of those residents of Horizon who are participating in our community’s recycling program. You are leading the way towards lowering costs of operating our fair city. I want to encourage everyone else to join in and bring your recyclable waste to the city’s recycling bins. You will be helping to lower our refuse collection rates and saving the city big bucks.

Andrea Munafa  
Horizon City

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Fabens senior citizens of the Nutrition Program, we

wish to thank all of our Fabens merchants who very generously gave donations for our Christmas party. We are blessed that Fabens merchants care about our elderly seniors. We have numerous merchants to thank.

As always, there was the Giving Tree, which Paul and Kit Ryan and staff sponsor each year, bringing cheer to the seniors’ faces.

This year, Poncho Garcia, Fabens ISD superintendent, invited the seniors for a lovely Christmas luncheon. We want to thank Letty, manager of the cafeteria, and her staff.

Wishing all of you a prosperous year.

Elena Slape and Council  
Members of the Fabens  
Nutrition Program

### Vote February 7, 2004 for New Leadership in El Paso County Water Improvement District #1

For Director 1, Southeast El Paso to the Upper Valley:

David Aguilera

For Director 3, Clint / San Elizario area:

Mike Diaz

For Director 4, Fabens area

Orlando Flores

**CHECK ALL THREE!**

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El Paso’s Water — Our Most Important Resource

Political Ad Paid for by Orlando Flores Campaign, W.L. Ruiz, Treasurer, 1191 Clint, San Elizario, TX 79849

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

### American Heart Month

# ‘Get in on the action!’

Heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases remain the number one killer in the United States. On an average day in Texas, 150 Texans die due to cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Heart disease has affected my family and, chances are, it may affect many of yours, too.

Every year since 1963, February has been designated American Heart Month. This month is the time to learn more about cardiovascular disease detection, prevention and treatment. The American Heart Association has designated this year’s educational message as “Get in on the Action!,” urging Americans to make physical activity a part of their daily lives.

There are a few simple things we can all do to reduce the risk of heart disease. Exercising regularly is an important step. We all enjoy some form of exercise. So, whether it’s

horseback riding, jogging, walking or bike riding, help keep your heart healthy and “just do it!” Other easy approaches to control heart disease include eating a diet low in fat and high in fiber, and controlling stress.

One of the myths surrounding heart attack and stroke is that it is a “male disease.” Wrong. Heart attack and stroke do not discriminate. In fact, heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases remain the number one killer of American females.

Research and education are key to battling and preventing heart disease. Today, the chances of saving a life and reducing disability from heart disease and stroke are better than ever because of research done in our lifetime. Important discoveries such as life-extending drugs, bypass surgery and pacemakers, have improved the lives of many heart patients. But the

fight against heart disease is far from over.

Hopefully, with more heart disease research and better education, fewer Texans will fall victim to the disease this year. As with any other health problem, please consult a physician immediately if you, or someone you know, shows any sign of a heart problem. For now, as we remember American Heart Awareness Month this February, get in on the action and increase your physical activity!

For more information or questions concerning prevention or treatment of heart disease, please call the Texas chapter of the American Heart Association (AHA) at 512/433-7220 or the San Antonio division of AHA at 210/614-4121.

For more information on this or other issues, please check-out my website at [www.house.gov/bonilla/](http://www.house.gov/bonilla/)



**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger T. Moore, Feb. 19, 1846, During the Texas Annexation ceremony, the final lowering of the Lone Star Flag results in a broken flag pole.



## View from here

By David Aguilera, Mike Diaz and Orlando Flores

We have recently had the opportunity to exercise our rights as American citizens to run for the El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 board of directors.

Although there are many issues, there are two that are very important to us. The first one being equal and fair representation. Out of about 34,000 accounts in the district, 30,000 are small tracts. We believe all tracts have agricultural potential, perhaps in a different form, or perhaps for personal applications, but it is the water user's right to make that decision.

The distribution of water — how much and when you get it — should be based on fair policy, not on politics. As elected representatives we will propose the following: form grower committees, small tract committees, and employee committees to ensure broad input into the decisions that ultimately affect everyone in the district. It is also important to have a comprehensive evaluation of current policies in order to reduce or eliminate privilege and prejudice.

Our second issue is to improve

community relations. We are not convinced that community interest is currently a priority over protecting self interest. We, as district taxpayers, are paying an average of \$32,000 per month in attorneys fees. This is a big problem, when you consider a recent layoff of 12 employees with a much smaller payroll than the district's legal costs.

As elected board members, we intend to ask for an audit, to ensure our tax dollars are being spent wisely. This is a much better approach for the district, for its employees, and for its customers. This will not happen if the district continues to operate in isolation, defensively postured, and threatened by differences of opinion.

As elected representatives we will propose the following: More open dialogue and joint committees to work on regional water issues with implications for the district. Bottom line, a commitment to get along and work together. We are three individuals committed to working for our community by being a voice for all water users. We ask you for your support and your vote on Feb. 7, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Briefs

From Page 1

wrote and shot public service announcements, called PSAs, for seatbelt and pedestrian safety. The class presented the pedestrian safety PSA to El Paso County Commissioners Feb. 2. The new announcement should be available to local television channels during the next few weeks. Pat Arellano is the class instructor. "Project CARE of the Coalition is the sponsoring organization," Arellano says, "and they have arranged for local time on the MTV, VH1, BET, the Entertainment News Network, TNN, SPIKE and Telemundo channels to run this announcement. Plus KINT-TV Channel 26 is running the English-language spots on their Spanish language station." El Paso County's chief medical examiner, Dr. Corinne Stern, was part of the seat belt project currently on the air. Mary Ellen Hernandez, Youth Services Coordinator for the Coalition, says the students are doing an effective job. "Mrs. Arellano has been in-

strumental in helping us with the PSAs and billboards. The students come up with the story lines, the filming and editing. Arellano says her students Marco Escudero and Crystle Lopez managed production and other students are working on billboard and bench ads for the campaign.

■ Texas wants input on the re-organization of the Texas Dept. of Health and Human Services & the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA). A public hearing will be held this Thursday, Feb. 5, 3-8 p.m. in the El Paso Community College Administration Center Auditorium, 9050 Viscount Building A to address the following:

- Request for public input regarding Substance Abuse Services, Mental Health Services, and the Dept. of Human Services in Texas;
- Request for input regarding the new HHSC organizational structure;
- Request for input regarding funding from the state for the El Paso region regarding these services. Changes taking effect as a result of House Bill 2292 (the consolidation of all the state's health and

human services) will have a major impact on local alcohol and drug services. Historically, it has been a battle for the border region to obtain resource regarding substance abuse issues and the TCADA has been responsible over the past two years to develop statewide and border specific plans. Under the recommended restructuring plan TCADA, the single state agency and model program will be divided into three separate parts. Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition Director Marge Bartoletti said this change will result in the loss of expertise and identity of this highly specialized field as well as dilute areas of service. "We have advocated for years to address this issue from a continuum of care perspective and raise awareness at all levels," Bartoletti said "The implications for urban and rural border communities are grave. Your attention to this issue would be greatly appreciated. For additional information visit the TCADA's web site at [www.tcada.state.tx.us](http://www.tcada.state.tx.us) and Health and Human Services site at [www.hhsc.state.tx.us/](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/), then go to hhs consolidation.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF EL PASO TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COLONIA CONSTRUCTION FUND PROJECT #723055

The County of El Paso is considering a proposed amendment to its approved 2003 Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) contract #723055 with the Office of Rural Community Affairs to include additional water system improvements. The proposed activities will take place in the Leisure Valley Addition along the following streets: Leisure Lane, Little Joe, Sleepy Lane, Helen Rushing and Windgail, pending funding availability. These improvements will be in the general vicinity of other water system improvements already under construction through a County approved TCDP project.

A public hearing concerning the proposed amendment is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2004, 6:00-7:00 p.m., at the Lower Valley Water District Office, 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas, 79836. The purpose of this public hearing will be to discuss the proposed amendment and solicit citizen input on the proposed change in the scope of the county's TCDP project.

All citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the County. The El Paso County Courthouse is accessible to the disabled; individuals who might have difficulty in attending this public hearing should contact the Community Development Division to arrange for special assistance. If anyone interested in attending the public hearing requires a translator, please contact the Community Development Division prior to the public hearing so arrangements may be made. If you cannot attend in person, written comments may be submitted and will be accepted by the County until this public hearing is concluded.

A copy of the proposed amendment is available for review during normal business hours at the El Paso County Courthouse address listed above. For further information concerning the County's 2003 TCDP project and/or this proposed contract amendment, please contact Jack Alayyan, Division Manager, County of El Paso, at (915) 543-3845.

WTCC: 03/21/02

### Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2004** during the **Regular City Council Meeting** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Proposed Ordinance No. 0117 to rezone a portion of Section 31, Block 78, Township 3, Texas and Pacific Railroad Company Surveys, El Paso County, Texas. Area is presently zoned R-2, Single Family Residential and R-4B, Single Family Residential to R-4, Single Family Residential. Request submitted by JNC Development Inc.
- 2) Proposed Amendment No. 006 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102 — to add Section 101.6-Re-zoning to Chapter 1, Administration, Section 101 General.
- 3) Proposed Amendment No. 007 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102 changes to Chapter 1, Section 101.4.1 — Town Council to delete the required vote for an overwrite from Council on a recommendation from Planning & Zoning.
- 4) Proposed Amendment No. 008 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102, Chapter 8 — General Provisions and to include a new Section 811 — Drainage Ponds.
- 5) Proposed Amendment No. 011 to Subdivision Ordinance No. 0035, Section 5.17 — Drainage and Storm Sewers adding Section 5.17.4 and subsequent subchapters.

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: 02/05/04

### Jackpot

From Page 1

Michelle Bolner won the Senior Showmanship award in Breeding Showmanship.

On a chilly and breezy day, there were goats with coats in a variety of colors. There were goats with muzzles. There were goat T-shirts ("Goat-Ts"?) for sale.

They had colorful names. Freshman Jason Flores bought a young goat through the FFA and named it Master Chief, after a character in a video game, he says. He feeds the animal twice a day and exercises it. He likes the program.

"It's fun," he says. "It teaches me responsibility." He's enjoyed traveling to shows and will be going to another show soon in San Angelo.

Canutillo ag-science instructor Mike Morales says the FFA has its own breeding program through which students can purchase the animals. About 20 have done so.

Alexandra "Alex" Fraire is a junior, and she too purchased a goat through the program and named it Pepe. More recently she has purchased a second goat and named it Powder because it is all white.

"This is a good experience. It gives me something to do," she says of the elective high school subject. The experience has had a humorous and colorful moment. She recalls that after she had cut and trimmed the hair of one of her goats that she put a fluorescent coat of many colors on it, a coat of pink and yellow and purple.

Freshman Carlos Delgadillo says he has a "very smart goat," one he has named Dexter. "He is always trying to open gates."

Also a friendly goat, he has an apparent amorous streak in him. He had at one time tried to kiss Alex.

"These are the cream of the crop," says Superintendent Charles Hart, dressed in cowboy hat and jeans and watching the events intently.

## Customer

From Page 2

phone numbers like they are CIA secrets and which won't even let you into their miles-long answering service unless you know your Access ID number — which, by the way, is *not* your PIN, your account number, your mother's maiden name, your social security number or your birth date.

In fact, the closest thing I can compare closing these accounts to is surgery to remove cancerous tentacles embedded in your brain — you can never be sure if, even after all the pain and suffering, you actually got it all.

We called for instructions on how to close out our accounts, followed them to the letter, and still have had to make five lengthy telephone calls to clear up the \$20 overdrafts we keep

getting charged for monthly account maintenance, long after the accounts were closed.

The latest notice came this week, threatening to turn us into a credit agency if we didn't come up with \$20 to cover last month's account maintenance charges.

We called a local number — which had been obtained through long hours of bloody battle with bank personnel — and talked to a young lady who requested a long and detailed account of our complaint. We told her up front we needed to speak to at least a bank vice-president. We now insisted.

She hesitated, then said, "I'm a vice-president." Why didn't she say so up front, we wondered.

"I had to make sure you were someone I wanted to deal with first," she said.

It's nice to be such a valued customer.

## Reyes

From Page 2

NCPW, representatives from federal, state and local agencies and national advocacy organizations will help consumers — of all ages — understand how the decisions they make in the marketplace affect their overall "fiscal" fitness.

Visit [www.consumer.gov/ncpw](http://www.consumer.gov/ncpw) on the FTC's website to access a clearinghouse of information for consumers. Whether you are buying a car, choosing a school or investing your money, various federal agencies (such as the Federal Citizen Informa-

tion Center or the Social Security Administration) and private organizations (such as AARP or the Better Business Bureau) are there to help you.

Today's world is full of complicated choices — and unfortunately those who hope to exploit those choices. My website, [www.house.gov/reyes](http://www.house.gov/reyes), and the FTC's website provide important information that will empower you as a consumer in today's economy. As the 681 El Paso identity theft victims know, identity theft and other forms of consumer fraud are out there. By arming ourselves with knowledge, we can protect ourselves and our good names — and hopefully put an end to consumer crime.

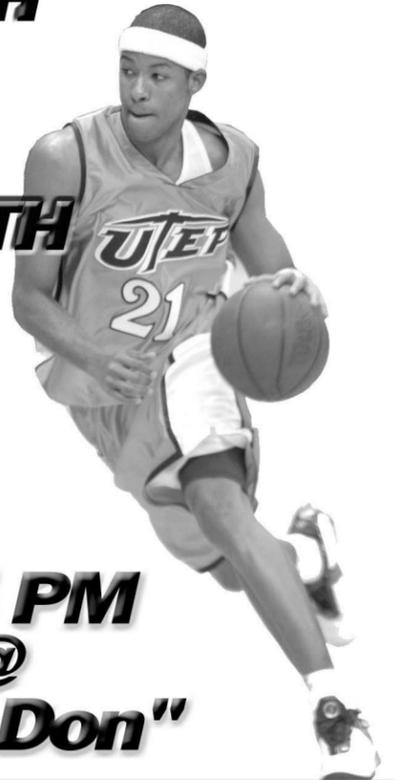
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VS.  
TULSA



7:05 PM

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## 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:

**AUTOMOTIVE PARTS - OEM**  
**CSP NO. 199-0206-0451**  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL FEB. 06, 2004, AT 2:30 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-02/05/04LEGAL

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

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

the following times:

**POWER MONITOR METER UNITS FOR VARIOUS SCHOOLS**  
**CSP NO. 199-0213-0452**  
**FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 2004 AT 2:30 P.M.**

Bidders may obtain copies of the bidding documents and project plans Jan. 30, 2004 by contacting the Project Engineer's office at:

Borunda & Associates, Inc.  
9900 Montana Ave., Suite E  
El Paso, Texas 79925  
Phone: 592-7611  
Fax: 592-7622

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

A pre-bid conference is scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6, 2004, at the at Socorro ISD Education Center, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, TX 79928. At this conference bidders will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any aspect of

this project. Although attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory, all bidders are responsible for the information discussed at the conference, and are strongly urged to attend.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-02/05/04

**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:

**ARMORED CAR SERVICES**  
**CSP NO. 199-0212-0453**  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL FEB. 12, 2004, AT 2:30 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-02/05/04

### 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 - IB4GP44RITB334344, 1996 Dodge Caravan, charcoal, New Mexico license, FNB 528 VIN - 2G2AF35W8G9253430, 1985 Pontiac station wagon, white, Colorado plates IPAL 485 VIN - IG3NT27UXC039980, 1985 Oldsmobile Galais, maroon, New Mexico plates FAF 497 WTCC-02/05/04

### NOTICE TO PUBLIC HORIZON PALMS

Tropicana Building Corporation is mak-

ing an application for Housing Tax Credits with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Horizon Palms development, located in the Horizon City's ETJ off Darrington Rd, El Paso, Texas 79928. This new development is a four-plex community comprised of 76 units of which 61% will be for tenants with incomes less than 60% of the AMGI, 17% will be for tenants with incomes less than 50% of the AMGI, 13% will be for tenants with incomes less than 40% of the AMGI, and 9% will be for tenants with incomes less than 30% of the AMGI. Income levels range between \$8,650 to \$28,680 for families with sizes 1-6 household members. The total restricted income percentage of the Development is 100%. The number of units and proposed rents (less utility allowances) for the subject property's tax credit units are:

24 - 1 Bedroom Units for \$159-\$237  
36 - 2 Bedroom Units for \$380-\$437  
16 - 3 Bedroom Units for \$546

If awarded credits, this development would be ready for

occupancy by December 2005. For more information on this notice, please contact Tropicana Building Corporation, Bobby Bowling IV, 4655 Cohen Ave, El Paso, Texas 79924, (915) 821-3550. For more information, see [www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us). WTCC: 02/05/04

### NOTICE TO PUBLIC SOCORRO PALMS

Tropicana Building Corporation is making an application for Housing Tax Credits with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Socorro Palms development, located on the 10200 Block of Alameda Ave, Socorro, Texas 79927. This new development is a four-plex community comprised of 36 units of which 61% will be for tenants with incomes less than 60% of the AMGI, 17% will be for tenants with incomes less than 50% of the AMGI, 11% will be for tenants with incomes less than 40% of the AMGI, and 11% will be for tenants with incomes less than 30% of the AMGI. Income levels range between \$8,650 to \$28,680

for families with sizes 1-6 household members. The total restricted income percentage of the Development is 100%. The number of units and proposed rents (less utility allowances) for the subject property's tax credit units are:

8 - 1 Bedroom Units for \$159-\$237  
16 - 2 Bedroom Units for \$380-\$437  
12 - 3 Bedroom Units for \$546

If awarded credits, this development would be ready for occupancy by December 2005. For more information on this notice, please contact Tropicana Building Corporation, Bobby Bowling IV, 4655 Cohen Ave, El Paso, Texas 79924, (915) 821-3550. For more information, see [www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us). WTCC: 02/05/04

### HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT - El Paso, PFT, \$26,195. Announcement TX-RD-04-11, closes 2/10/04. Benefits included. View announcement at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov), application forms at [www.opm.gov/forms/index.htm](http://www.opm.gov/forms/index.htm). For information (254) 742-9750, TDD (254) 742-9712. USDA Rural Development is an EOE. WTCC-02/05/04

### Town of Clint, Texas Request For Qualifications Engineering Services

The Town of Clint is accepting qualifications for engineering services for water system improvement projects funded by the Office of Rural Community Affairs. The

projects include a Small Town Environmental Project - First Time Water Service and Community Development Block Grant - Water System Improvements. Proposals must be submitted to the Town Clerk by February 18, 2004, before 5:00 PM at the Clint Town Hall, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., PO Box 350, Clint, Texas 79836. WTCC: 02/05/04; 02/12/04

### HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT - El Paso, PFT, \$26,195. Announcement TX-RD-04-11, closes 2/10/04. Benefits included. View announcement at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov), application forms at [www.opm.gov/forms/index.htm](http://www.opm.gov/forms/index.htm). For information (254) 742-9750, TDD (254) 742-9712. USDA Rural Development is an EOE. WTCC-02/05/04

### FOUND

FOUND: Wristwatch near Horizon Blvd. Call 852-4817.

### RENTAL

HOUSE FOR RENT - Two bedroom, off Alameda in Clint, nicely remodeled in quiet area. Call 598-1961 or 383-1152. 02/019

FOR RENT in Clint, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 142 Jeff Jones. Call 851-1546. TFN

### 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

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### BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

Domestic and Foreign  
**852-3523**  
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

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• Electric roofer service for sewers and drains  
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# Too many flags: Officials taint otherwise super game

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Last Sunday the NFL crowned a new champion. One team rose above the other and grabbed the game by the throat and never let go.

And, of course, every championship team has one man who leads it. A man who plays that all-important role of captain. A man who stands out front and leads the best team because he, very simply, is the best.

And everybody who witnessed the Super Bowl last Sunday knows exactly who I'm talking about. That man is referee Ed Hochuli and that team is the rest of his over-zealous officiating crew.

Don't get me wrong, the last-second 32-29 Pats' win was exciting, but c'mon, how many times do you have to watch Hochuli discussing a possible penalty with one of his crew for 30-60 seconds before coming to a conclusion?

Over and over, the yellow flags took over the game. They say the best referees practically go through the game unnoticed. This officiating crew went through the game as if they

were on American Idol or Star Search.

They got most of the attention — well, aside from Janet Jackson.

As I peaked at the time of possession for both teams in the big game, New England had the ball much more than Carolina did. The Patriots had the ball for 38:58 while the Panthers had it for 21:02.

But those numbers pale in comparison to the time that Hochuli and his crew had in front of the camera.

I would guess about an hour-and-a-half. OK, maybe it just seemed like that long, but I've never seen a Super Bowl start, stop and sputter its way through an afternoon.

The game could never get into any kind of a rhythm with the referees throwing a flag on almost every other play.

I haven't seen so much laundry on the ground since my college days.

The final tally showed that the zebras called a whopping 20 penalties in the game. And those are just the ones that were accepted.

When you calculate it, the referees threw a flag on 15-percent of the plays. I didn't even eat a chicken wing on 15-percent of the plays, and believe me, I gave it my best.

Let's take a look at last year's game between Oakland and Tampa Bay, 12 penalties. Two years ago when New England knocked off St. Louis, the refs called 11 penalties.

Heck, during Super Bowl XXXIII, when the Denver Broncos beat the Atlanta Falcons, a grand total of just four penalties were called.

In fact, this was the most penalized game since 20 penalties were called on the Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos during Super Bowl XII in 1978, 26 years ago!

Despite the high number of flags, this turned out to be a very good Super Bowl that went right down to the wire. But in the future, referees should concentrate on the game and have the common sense to let the players on the field decide things.

If I want to gaze longingly at a zebra, I'll go to the zoo.

## Shut up Shaq

What has gotten into Shaquille O'Neal?

I know that Shaq has never had the gift of gab, or the gift of intelligence, either, for that matter. But why the tirade last Sunday after a Lakers win?

Did you happen to catch his interview by a

local L.A. station? A reporter was interviewing the big fella when Shaq lost his mind.

Shaq had just scored 36 points in a win over Toronto but was upset over the officiating.

O'Neal said "My message to David Stern is get some people in there that understand the game and don't try to take over the game because people pay good money to see good athletes play."

Now, I agree with Shaq. I've always said that the easiest job in the world is being an NBA referee because you don't have to call anything, or just call things on the non-superstars.

But what is Shaq complaining about? Nobody in the league gets away with more under the basket than he does. If NBA officials called the game correctly, he'd foul out of every game... by halftime.

But Shaq's worst offense was that he used the F-word during his interview. When the reporter informed him that he was on live TV, Shaq did it again.

It's obvious that Shaq has muscles on his body. I'm beginning to believe that's all he has in head as well.

You're right, Shaq, the refs are bad. But once in a while, take a hard look in the mirror.

# America's High School star player decides on a league of her own

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Americas High School senior Kathleen Corona signed a

letter of intent to play softball with the El Paso Community College Tejanas Feb. 2.

Corona is the first Americas student signed by the team.

"I started catching my sophomore year, and I'm real excited," the student said just before signing.

AHS softball coach Jerry Paugh says Corona is an outstanding athlete. "Very dedicated, and she can play several positions for us, she pitched for us, she's caught for us. Whatever you ask her to do on the field, she does. She has a great attitude — that's the best part."

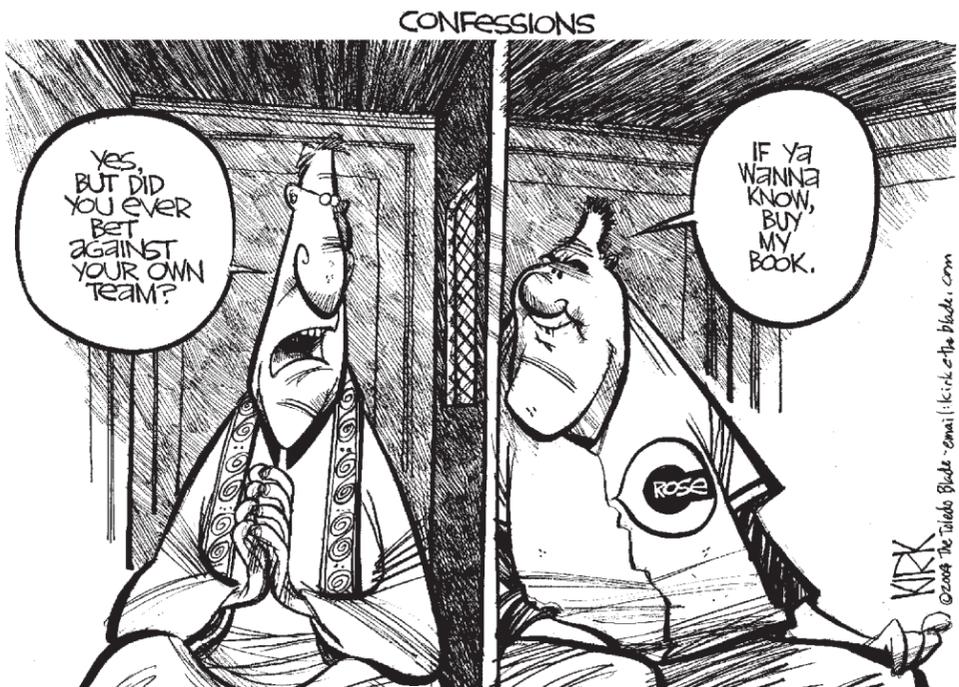
Corona says she expects to do her best — "play hard, and show them that they did a good job of signing me. I know how the team is — they're really strong, and

they stick together and I'm just hoping to vibe with that. Softball is my first love."

Corona's signing also means a scholarship from EPCC to help with school expenses.



**FAMILY AFFAIR** — Kathleen Corona plans to play locally for the EPCC Tejanas. During the signing she was joined by her family. Shown left to right, first row: Kathleen's father Sergio Corona, Kathleen Corona, her mother Gloria Corona. Second row: Americas High School Principal Mary Ross; AHS Athletics Coordinator Dale Reinhardt, and EPCC assistant coach Edna Garcia.



## King Super Crossword

- |                            |                                |                             |                              |                                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>AROMANCE</b>            | 68 Permit                      | 121 Dentist's directive     | 43 Santa _ CA                | 87 Pixie and Dixie                 |
| <b>ACROSS</b>              | 69 Grows light                 | 122 French bean?            | 44 Smith or Page             | 88 Charge                          |
| 1 Tower town               | 70 Studio                      |                             | 45 Like Machu Picchu         | 89 Vile                            |
| 5 Ditch                    | 73 Word with camp or tree      | <b>DOWN</b>                 | 46 Utmost                    | 91 Road curves                     |
| 9 Married Mlle.            | 76 "_ Rolling Stone" ('65 hit) | 1 Doggy                     | 47 Bizarre                   | 92 Luxury car                      |
| 12 "_ Life" ('66 hit)      | 77 Groundwork                  | 2 Restless                  | 48 Nest egg                  | 93 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues" |
| 17 Acted like grandma      | 79 Before, to Byron            | 3 Left the Union            | 49 Zombie base               | 94 Maestro Leinsdorf               |
| 18 Sills solo              | 80 Mackie or Marley            | 4 Fuss and feathers         | 51 Debra of "Love Me Tender" | 95 Novelist Cather                 |
| 19 Tam material            | 81 Wobble                      | 5 A Lennon sister           | 52 Fountain treats           | 96 St. _ fire                      |
| 20 Sit in on a class       | 83 Add a lane                  | 6 _ setter                  | 55 Use coupons               | 97 Savanna sounds                  |
| 21 Actor Alex              | 84 It may be white             | 7 West's "Diamond _"        | 56 Shampoo ingredient        | 98 Startled cry                    |
| 22 "Aida" river            | 85 Titmouse kin                | 8 _ kwon do                 | 57 Middle Eastern airline    | 99 Vestige                         |
| 23 "Meter" leader          | 87 Emulate Elle                | 9 Drilling site?            | 59 Electrical measure        | 100 Dubuque denizen                |
| 24 Actress Rivera          | 88 _ Castro                    | 10 Club creed               | 60 Librarian Melvil          | 101 Game fish                      |
| 25 Throb                   | 90 "_ vous plait"              | 11 Yale or Root             | 61 "The Addams Family" actor | 102 Intense                        |
| 26 Loser to DDE            | 91 Joyce's land                | 12 Tic- _ toe               | 62 Pindaric poetry           | 103 Behind schedule                |
| 27 Author Christie         | 92 Implore                     | 13 "What?"                  | 64 Stop on _                 | 109 Mil. base                      |
| 29 Stirrup site            | 93 Answer to riddle            | 14 "Farewell, Francois!"    | 65 Delibes opera             | 110 Homeric character              |
| 30 Riddle: Part 1          | 94 Answer to riddle            | 15 Big guy                  | 66 Blackboard support        | 112 _ -Magnon                      |
| 36 Gridiron position       | 104 "Exodus" protagonist       | 16 Austere                  | 67 Cry uncle                 | 113 Back talk                      |
| 37 Z _ zebra               | 105 Plaza Hotel kid            | 17 Close the curtains       | 71 Cleveland's lake          | 114 Sternward                      |
| 38 Present for pop         | 106 Get a galley going         | 19 Cart                     | 72 Stagger                   |                                    |
| 39 Dutch export            | 107 Marineland performer       | 26 Postfix                  | 73 English channel?          |                                    |
| 42 Ms. Silkwood            | 108 Kanga's creator            | 27 Exiled dictator          | 74 Fireworks reaction        |                                    |
| 44 Wine variety            | 111 Construct                  | 28 Mary of "Dodsworth"      | 75 Kimono cummerbund         |                                    |
| 50 Sought office           | 112 Crow's toe                 | 31 Claire or Balin          | 76 Peeper protector          |                                    |
| 51 Famed caravel           | 114 TV's "Mad _ You"           | 32 Big revolver?            | 77 Senator from Delaware     |                                    |
| 52 Om, for instance        | 115 Celebrity                  | 33 Lost                     | 78 Humorist George           |                                    |
| 53 Actress Joanne          | 116 Mispickel and galena       | 34 "The Ramayana" heroine   | 81 Stowe gear                |                                    |
| 54 ABA member              | 117 Costa _                    | 35 Barbie's boyfriend       | 82 Bisect                    |                                    |
| 55 Skater Hughes           | 118 Rampal's instrument        | 39 Austrian city            | 83 Sported                   |                                    |
| 56 Come out of one's shell | 119 _ apso                     | 40 Solemn statement         | 86 Civil War initials        |                                    |
| 57 Dutch export            | 120 Draft agcy.                | 41 "Wait _ Dark" ('67 film) |                              |                                    |
| 58 Sharif role             |                                | 42 Ballet company           |                              |                                    |
| 60 22 Across feature       |                                |                             |                              |                                    |
| 61 Internet acronym        |                                |                             |                              |                                    |
| 63 Riddle: Part 2          |                                |                             |                              |                                    |

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



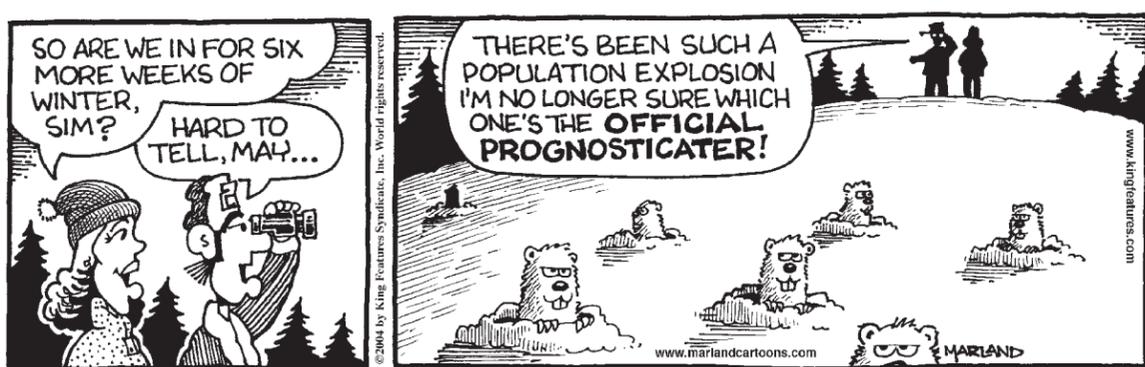
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Vege-toll

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

Taxes, death, and vegetables exact a "toll" on our bittersweet journey on the road of life. While the former drain both coin and vital juices from an organism already wracked by quotidian deceit, exploitation, and malfeasance, vegetables try to even the score.

They comfort, fortify, and replenish, although through no fault of their own they sometimes taste bad in their haste to be good. Those "red, green, and yellow, save-the-day fellows" are the king's champions and our heroes. They do battle with those recalcitrant bacteria, viruses, oxidants, pollutants, poisons, and cancer cells that invade portals and illegally homestead on prize property. Shortcuts, misinformation, and slights of hand, however, like too many cooks in the kitchen, will desecrate a desired result.

Do we heat our vegetables or eat them raw? Nutritionists agree that

eating fruits and vegetables raw is a healthy way to get water, fiber, and vitamins. Nonetheless, that should not be a blanket statement, as there are others who are convinced that some foods are healthier cooked. Cases in point are the examples that follow.

Most fruits, as well as spinach, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and red and green peppers, are healthier when eaten raw. In general, they are essentially quite high in vitamins B, C, folate, and potassium when eaten uncooked. Strawberries are especially nutritious and contain the cancer-fighting phytochemical called ellagic acid, which may be diminished or destroyed by cooking. Uncooked red and green peppers contain numerous antioxidants called polyphenols. The old adage, "Everything in moderation," must not be overlooked, however, as too much spinach, broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower can cause indigestion and the unleashing of an individual chemical attack that would make even Saddam Hussein blush.

Tomatoes, carrots, lima beans, black-eyed peas, navy beans, soy beans, sprouts (alfalfa, clover, etc.), potatoes, and corn live on "the other side of the tracks." It is smarter to cook them. Tomato sauce, paste, and ketchup have higher levels of leucopene, an antioxidant that protects against cancer and heart disease, than raw tomatoes. Leucopene is easier to absorb after a tomato is cooked, but cooking destroys some of the vitamin C in tomatoes.

Blanching (quickly boiling) and pureeing carrots increases levels of antioxidants by 34 percent, and allows the body to absorb more beta-carotene. Illegitimate children of the Bean Family (lima beans, black-eyed peas, navy beans, and soy beans) can attain a degree of respectability and a birthright through higher temperatures. Eating those legumes raw not only hinders the absorption of certain nutrients, but can irritate the gastrointestinal tract as well. Starchy vegetables are indigestible when raw, causing gas and indigestion.

We're facing Big Mac attack

By Don Flood

In 2004, still quite early in this new century, we Americans confront a question never before faced in our long and proud history: What, exactly, is a Big Mac?

Oh yes, we used to know what a Big Mac was. We all did.

It was — sing with me now — "two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun."

No more, my friends, no more.

As a way for dieters to cut carbohydrates, McDonald's has recently suggested that customers order Big Macs without the bun, the onions and — you must be kidding me — the Special Sauce!

Excuse me? I'm not sure what you would call the remainder, but it's not a Big Mac!

(I'm sorry to get so worked up about this, but I didn't speak up when they came out with low-carb beer and look what happened.)

Would you buy a house with no roof? No!

Would you buy a car with no wheels? Of course not!

Would you buy a Big Mac without onions, special sauce and a sesame seed bun?

You would?

Oh, well then, this column isn't meant for you.

(You will be glad to know, however, this newspaper is printed on special low-carb paper, so eat all you want. And don't forget the special sauce!)

But even low-carb dieters should appreciate that the original Big Mac and its jingle occupy a special place in our American heritage.

Reciting the jingle, a staple of junior-high civics classes, was test of diction and memory, sort of like the Gettysburg Address, only more relevant.

(Abraham Lincoln himself reportedly considered performing the Big Mac jingle as an encore to his brief, formal address. Why he refrained from doing so remains a mystery that continues to puzzle historians.)

And what of the jingle now?

Instead of the classic jingle, we'll have a "low-carb" version that goes: "two-all beef patties, (awkward pause where "special sauce" used to be), lettuce, cheese, pickles..."

And that's it! Without the onions and the sesame seed bun, the jingle goes right off a cliff — the sheer poetry of the original blown to smithereens! (And, no, I don't know what "smithereens" are.)

We need to act now before it's too late.

McDonald's should be required, by law, to call the "new Big Mac" something else — such as the Big Low-Carb Glop of Stuff. That way the integrity of the original Big Mac and its jingle can be maintained.

And what about those on the other side of the transaction — customers who insist on ordering a Big Mac but without the essential ingredients that contribute to its Big Macness?

These people, of course, would have to be arrested, though I would strongly recommend that first offenders be treated with justice and mercy.

For most, I'm sure, a year in prison would provide sufficient time to allow them to see the error of their ways.

But for the hard-core, harsher measures would come into play — a year in prison with a diet consisting entirely of McDonald's french fries.

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Sprouts like alfalfa and clover can carry salmonella and E. coli bacteria when raw, and cooking them is strongly advised.

So, while "an apple a day keeps the doctor away," unexpected detours to the oncologist can be avoided by paying one's "vege-tolls" on the road less traveled.

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## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** If I start receiving my Social Security at age 62, will I still get cost-of-living adjustments every year? A friend said that if I started getting Social Security benefits before my full retirement age, my payments would always be frozen at that amount.

**A:** All Social Security beneficiaries get an automatic cost-of-living adjustment every year. Your benefits are never "frozen." What your friend may have meant is that if you take reduced retirement benefits, that re-

duction generally stays with you for the rest of your life. In other words, your benefit will go up each year with the cost-of-living adjustment, but your benefit rate will always be less than it could have been had you waited until full retirement age to collect your benefits.

**Q:** I heard someone say that a wife can get somewhere between about one-third and one-half of her husband's Social Security retirement benefit. How do I know which rate

applies to me?

**A:** It depends on your age at the time you become eligible and whether you are eligible for benefits on your own earnings. You may be eligible for 50 percent of your spouse's full Social Security benefit when you reach your "full retirement age." If you collect benefits before then, they are reduced by roughly a half percentage point for each month of eligibility, down to about a one-third rate payable at age 62. Keep in mind also that if you're eligible for both your own retirement benefits and for benefits as a spouse, we always pay your own benefit first.

If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you'll get a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse benefit. For more information about spouse's benefits, contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit your local Social Security office.

**Q:** I get a Social Security check and a Supplemental Security Income check. I'm planning to move back to Italy. Can I have my benefit payments sent there?

**A:** Supplemental Security Income payments are only paid to people liv-

ing in the United States, so your SSI payments will stop if you move to Italy. However, your Social Security checks may continue to be paid even if you leave the country. It depends on the type of Social Security benefit you receive and on your citizenship.

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
Mostly cloudy, a shower possible in the p.m.	Partly to mostly cloudy and cold.	A good deal of sunshine.	Plenty of sunshine.	Sunshine and some clouds.	Mostly sunny.	Sunny.	Clouds and sunshine.
▲ 49°	▼ 30°	▲ 53° ▼ 31°	▲ 58° ▼ 35°	▲ 60° ▼ 35°	▲ 58° ▼ 33°	▲ 60° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 30°

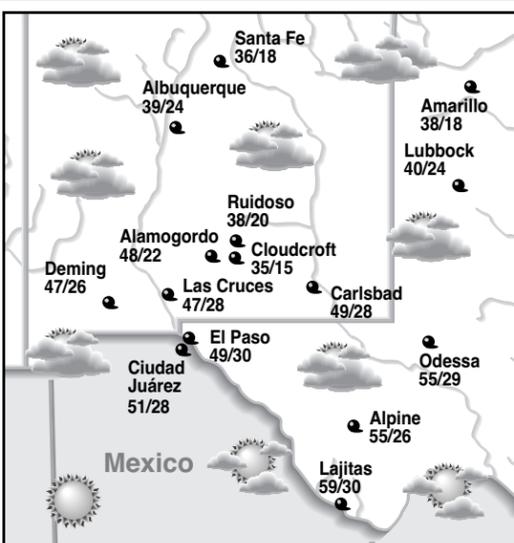
### UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	4	Low
Friday	5	Moderate
Saturday	5	Moderate
Sunday	5	Moderate
Monday	5	Moderate
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	4	Low

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	48	30
Canutillo	51	30
Clint	50	29
E. Montana	51	30
Fabens	50	29
Horizon	52	31
San Elizario	49	28
Socorro	50	29
Tornillo	50	29
Vinton	50	30



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	39/24/c	44/26/pc	48/28/pc	47/26/c	47/22/c
Atlanta	48/46/r	56/38/c	54/32/s	48/32/s	50/30/pc
Atlantic City	36/28/pc	41/28/c	42/24/c	39/21/pc	37/18/pc
Austin/San Antonio	68/35/pc	56/32/pc	58/34/s	58/39/pc	58/36/c
Baltimore	34/28/pc	40/30/c	40/26/c	38/22/pc	40/19/pc
Boston	34/20/s	30/26/c	34/22/c	32/20/pc	32/18/pc
Chicago	26/20/sn	28/18/pc	26/16/pc	24/12/pc	28/11/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	52/34/pc	46/28/pc	48/34/s	50/38/pc	50/31/c
Denver	28/13/sf	31/13/c	34/15/pc	41/15/c	39/11/c
Flagstaff	34/12/pc	38/18/s	40/18/c	36/16/c	39/12/pc
Houston	58/42/c	50/34/c	58/34/s	60/44/pc	60/48/c
Kansas City	28/15/c	27/11/c	23/9/pc	32/17/pc	35/13/c
Las Vegas	54/40/s	56/38/s	58/44/pc	68/42/pc	58/36/pc
Miami	81/71/pc	83/68/pc	80/63/c	77/62/pc	76/61/pc
Minneapolis	17/7/c	17/8/c	17/4/c	17/8/c	23/4/c
New Orleans	71/54/t	60/40/c	58/43/s	57/43/s	60/44/c
New York City	36/27/pc	33/30/c	39/27/c	34/25/pc	33/22/pc
Philadelphia	36/28/pc	40/30/c	40/26/c	36/24/pc	35/20/pc
Phoenix	59/39/pc	64/42/s	66/44/pc	64/44/pc	65/39/s
Portland	47/34/pc	46/35/r	48/34/pc	48/35/pc	49/32/pc
San Francisco	57/44/pc	56/44/c	56/42/s	58/43/s	57/41/pc
Seattle	46/35/pc	46/34/r	45/35/pc	46/35/c	48/33/pc
Tucson	55/34/pc	58/36/s	63/39/s	61/36/s	63/36/s
Washington, DC	34/30/pc	42/32/c	44/28/c	38/26/pc	41/23/pc

### REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	46°
Friday	43°
Saturday	47°
Sunday	47°
Monday	62°
Tuesday	64°
Wednesday	50°

A storm system moving through the region Thursday will bring a stray afternoon shower. Behind this system, high pressure will begin to build across the region Friday, bringing plenty of sunshine and unseasonably cool weather for the next several days.

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