



NEWSBRIEFS

Trans-Texas corridor

The Texas Department of Transportation is holding public hearings next week concerning the Trans-Texas Corridor, a massive network of roads, rail and dedicated utility zone that will be built with the intent to move people, goods, utilities and ideas through the state faster and more safely than ever before. Construction of the corridor will be funded over several decades through tolls, bonds and other financing tools. Eventual features of the corridor could include separate lanes for cars and trucks, separate passenger, commuter and freight rail lines and dedicated utility zone that includes water, electricity, natural gas, petroleum, fiber optics and telecommunications. The public hearing for El Paso will be Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the TxDOT District Headquarters, 13301 Gateway West. A second hearing will be held on Feb. 18 in Hudspeth County at the County Courthouse in Sierra Blanca, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Eating with purpose

Montwood Middle School's Pre-Vocational Class is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner catered by Johnny Carino's Italian restaurant. The dinner will help raise funds for a trip to San Antonio, Texas. The purpose of the trip is to teach independence skills to the students. The \$6 meal includes spaghetti, salad, drink and dessert; dine-in or carryout. Orders must be placed by Feb. 13 at the school. For more information call Bobby Lucero, 937-5800 or Gilbert Lopez, 937-2486.

In other news

■ El Paso's Opportunity Center for the Homeless received a \$200,000 Affordable Housing Program (AHP) grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank) of Dallas that will help rehabilitate a facility that houses chronically homeless single women, according to Congressman Silvestre Reyes. The facility at the Opportunity Center will include a small night shelter and is adjacent to a Resource Center that houses nine social service agencies serving the homeless. The total cost of the project is \$580,000 and this grant will be funded through the City Bank of Lubbock.

■ The first of 10 elementary school library book donations and reading presentations to regional far West Texas school districts by the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association was held Thursday, Feb. 5 at L.G. Alarcon Elementary. The distribution is of a one-of-a-kind book that promotes pet care and veterinary professions with content geared to kindergarten through third grade. The book is "Happy's Special Doctor," a specially commissioned hard-back children's edition distributed

See BRIEFS, Page 4

An expert is a man from another city; the farther away the city, the greater the expert.

— Quips & Quotes



SNOW...WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' SNOW — Tornado ISD Superintendent Paul Vranish, right, didn't let a little thing like the lack of snow prevent a good time with his students.

Minnesota native gives desert children unusual lesson

By Rudy Barreda
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — The lack of a heavy snowfall last Wednesday, Feb. 4, didn't stop Tornado ISD Superintendent Paul Vranish from breaking out his snowmobile to give students a thrilling first experience riding this type of vehicle.

Students from Tornado Elementary and Tornado Intermediate Schools laughed, squealed and watched in amazement as Vranish — a Minnesota native — sped around the district

football field, giving rides and explaining how the snowmobile works. The maintenance supervisor used the field's sprinkler system to provide the necessary wet conditions for the machine's track.

"I'm so pleased my students are asking questions and learning how the vehicle works," said Mrs. Robles, a fifth grade teacher at TIS. "I'm sure none of my students have ever seen a snowmobile in person, much less ridden on one."

The idea that fun and learning go hand in hand is part of Tornado's Mission Statement. That belief was very evident as students clamored for a snowmobile ride they may never forget.

Science grants to provide unique teaching opportunities for five

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — There's going to be some advanced, hands-on science learning in Socorro ISD's El Dorado and Americas High Schools during the next few months.

Five Socorro ISD science teachers have been awarded grants from the National Science Foundation through the El Paso Mathematics and Science Partnership and the Center for Educational Reform at the University of Texas at El Paso.

The teachers — four from El Dorado High School and one from Americas High School — were presented checks to fund their research into student learning during a Feb. 7 ceremony in the UTEP's Geology Building Reading Room. The five honorees include teams Luisa Bonilla and Leslie Gardner of El Dorado; fellow Aztecs Rosa Harding and Ernie Herrera; and Americas teacher Yogesh Velankar. Each team received \$4,000 while Velankar received \$3,000.

The five grants were part of \$29,000 handed out to a total of 19 recipients that day to fund new strategies for teaching science. The University will also provide mentors for the program during the next few months.

The project of Gardner and Bonilla will

See SCIENCE, Page 5



PUTTING MONEY WHERE SCIENCE IS — From left, Dr. Arturo Pacheco, Director of Center for Educational Research and Reform at UT El Paso; Dr. Penelope Espinoza, the Center's Assistant Director, and El Dorado teachers Rosa Harding and Ernie Herrera. The honorees also include Luisa Bonilla, and Leslie Gardner of El Dorado and Yogesh Velankar of Americas High School.

Socorrans question use of vacant structure as revenue source to back tax obligation

Courier Staff Reports

SOCORRO — Taxpayers in the City of Socorro are financing improvements to their city through certificates of obligation partly based on claims of revenue from a "museum" located in a vacant building the city does not own, and a "library" which consists of the city's archives, according to statements at last week's regular council meeting.

The city council of Socorro agreed unanimously on Feb. 5 to authorize issuance of some \$2 million in certificates of obligation (CoO) to finance improvements in infrastructure, such as streets and lighting.

However, during discussion, Interim City Manager Reyes Fierro stated that the obligation is partially backed by revenue from a museum consisting of little more than a "shell" which has generated no revenue and is located in the Rio Vista complex which is owned by the County of El Paso.

Referring to the revenue pledge as simply a formality, Fierro said this is not the first time the city has pledged a source which has not generated revenue. He said income from a "city library," consisting of the city's archives stored in city hall, has been used as a revenue pledge for 11 years to back issuance of other CoO.

Fierro said the CoO will be paid back from property taxes but the state of Texas requires another revenue source to also be pledged as part of the bond process.

He said the Socorro's city museum consists of a "shell" in the Rio Vista complex, with some renovations and lighting installed. However, when asked by Councilman Chito Bowling what was in the building, Fierro said, "Nothing."

Mayor Irma Sanchez questioned the practice, including putting Socorro money into the Rio Vista property which is not owned by the city, to create a museum in the future. She also questioned whether \$2 million would approach the needs the city has to upgrade standard infrastructure.

Fierro said current and future subdivisions will be equipped with community services and proper infrastructure — tax funds will not be needed to upgrade them. He added more tax dollars will soon be coming into the city through property recently annexed including the Petro Truck Stop, so that repayment of the certificates of obligation is not in question. He said he had discussed the issue with Leroy Grawunder, a Dallas attorney handling the bond work for Socorro. He said Grawunder was aware of all the facts.

Grawunder told the *Courier* during a phone conversation he was comfortable with the bond issuance as it stood.

Others at the meeting were also concerned about pledging revenue sources that do not create revenue.

Socorro resident Don Davisson questioned the issuance, the legitimacy of the revenue sources, and Socorro's ability to afford \$2 million in a tax obligation.

Lorenza Fraire said that because the museum was nowhere included in the budget as either an expense or a source of income, she considered the pledge to be fraud.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

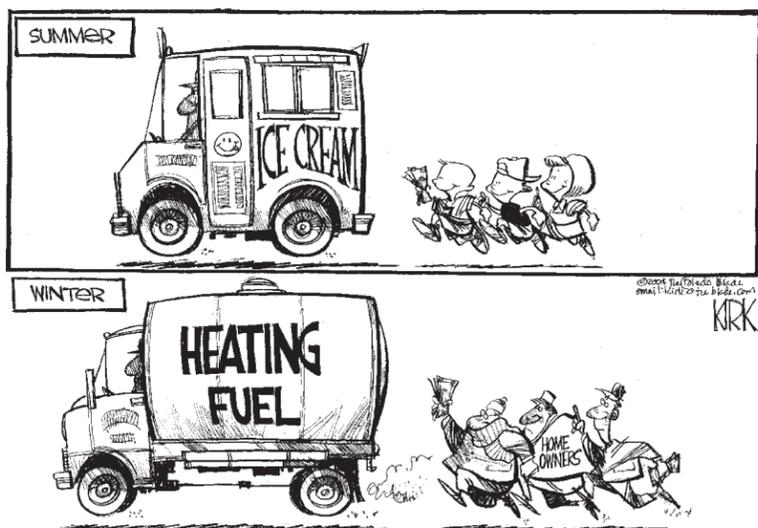
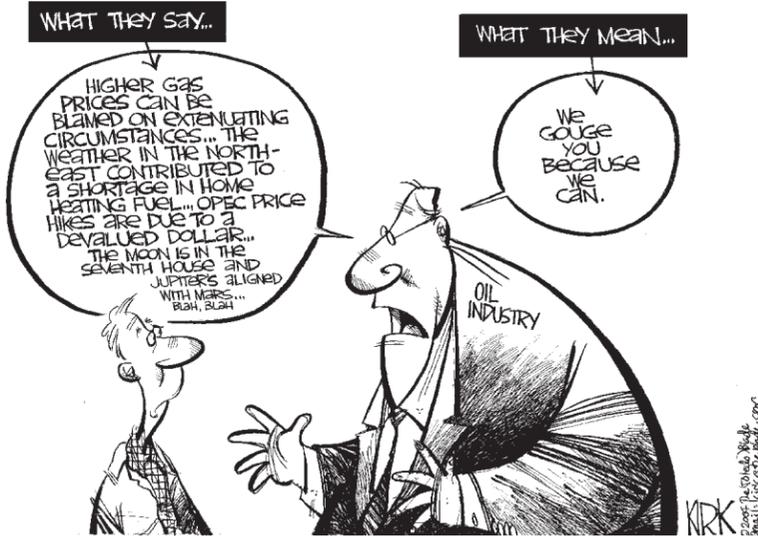
Sneakies

I hate it when people don't just come out and say what they mean. You know, it's sort of a disease. Some folks call it political correctness. But somehow that sounds just a little too politically correct to me — let's just call it the sneakies. It happens when people want to get something done but if they made their true intentions known, they might look bad. We sure don't want to look bad these days, do we? We want to insult one another, sell each other's water, take advantage of folks without political clout, get elected without admitting we might not have been just squeaky clean all our lives, and push out people we don't like anymore, all the while claiming we had some other really good, really high-minded, rea-

son for doing whatever sneaky thing it is we're doing. And, of course, nothing caused by sneakies is ever personal. No sir, a sneaky is way above all that, and if he or she isn't, well, they'll make up an excuse why not. If you got hurt, insulted, or just plain steamed by what they did it's only because your mind doesn't function on their superior level. People who suffer from the sneakies use lame excuses when everybody knows what's really going on — but as long as it doesn't go on record and if anybody calls us on it, they're just soreheads. Sour grapes. Grasping at straws. If we have a bad case of the sneakies we will argue till the rooster crows but we'll never admit we did anything wrong, ever had a bad thought or motive. Folks who are badly afflicted with

the sneakies don't realize that it's a deteriorating disease, that it has an eventual consequences that are always unpleasant. Sometimes the consequences are just little ones — like kids that don't want to be around you when they get big enough to have a choice. Sometimes it's just a divorce. He or she was just a sorehead anyway, right? Always harping on this or that, even if you had a perfectly good excuse. Sometimes the consequences are bigger, like wars in which people lose their lives or national debts that will forever burden our children. Sometimes the consequences are that you make a lot of money in your own lifetime and you live pretty high on the backs of a community devastated because you plundered their resources. For folks like that I figure the con-

sequences are probably the worst because they never feel those consequences until, maybe, they lay dying in the hospital and realize that all that money can't buy a moments worth of time. And I wonder if, at that point, they hear the voices of all the people they undermined in their lives. There used to be a sure cure for the sneakies. It was called parents. But somehow that cure doesn't work anymore. Not at home. Not between friends. Not in the workplace. Not in our government. Because our whole society is founded on the sneakies. Get for yourself, protect yourself, no matter what your behavior may be doing to the other guy. Too bad we don't realize that each of us is personally facing something that is never fooled by the sneakies. Time.



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

'To touch the face of God'



More than thirty-three years ago America made reality out of a dream. We put a man on the moon. We achieved a feat that many on Earth thought was impossible. Those of us from the black and white TV generation remember where we were on that July day when Neil Armstrong lowered himself onto the moon's surface and uttered the words: "This is one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind." That monumental mission — and the dozens that have followed it — remind us that dreams really can become reality. But with reality comes tragedy and sorrow. Sadly, one year ago we were reminded of this fateful fact. Seven brave and dedicated astronauts lost their lives while pursuing a national dream. Words cannot express the gratitude we owe to those courageous souls, their families and loved ones. I think President Ronald Reagan said it best in 1986 when he expressed a national gratitude to the space program after learning that the Space Shuttle Challenger had been

lost. I would like to leave you today a portion of his poignant remarks: "Perhaps we've forgotten the courage it took for the crew of the shuttle... they were aware of the dangers, but overcame them and did their jobs brilliantly. We mourn seven heroes... We mourn their loss as a nation together... For the families of the seven, we cannot bear, as you do, the full impact of this tragedy. But we feel the loss... Your loved ones were daring and brave, and they had that special grace, that special spirit that says, 'Give me a challenge, and I'll meet it with joy.' "They had a hunger to explore the universe and discover its truths. They wished to serve, and they did. They served all of us. "We've grown used to wonders in this century. It's hard to dazzle us. But for 25 years, the United States space program has been doing just that... We've grown used to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we've only just begun. We're still pioneers. They, the members of the Challenger crew, were pioneers. "The future doesn't belong to the

fainthearted; it belongs to the brave. The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future, and we'll continue to follow them... I've always had great faith in and respect for our space program. And what happened today does nothing to diminish it. We don't hide our space program. We don't keep secrets and cover things up. We do it all up front and in public. That's the way freedom is, and we wouldn't change it for a minute... We'll continue our quest in space. There will be more shuttle flights and more shuttle crews... Nothing ends here; our hopes and our journeys continue. "The crew of the space shuttle Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives. We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God.'"

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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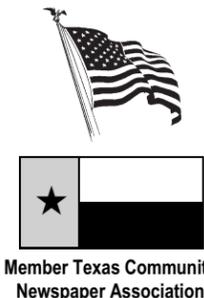
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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

President's budget: Good, bad news

Earlier this month, President Bush submitted his budget for fiscal year 2005 to Congress, which reflects his funding priorities for the country's federal agencies and programs. While I applaud the investments the President is making in Fort Bliss and White Sands, his budget could also negatively affect many El Pasoans. The Administration's budget includes:

- Millions of dollars for construction and renovation efforts at our regional military facilities — \$16.5 million for a new Missile Defense Instruction Facility at Fort Bliss, \$33 million for the Electromagnetic Vulnerability Assessment Facility at White Sands and \$31 million for new housing units at White Sands.
- An overall funding increase for homeland security programs. However, the budget would cut federal grants to local communities for first responders by \$800 million. In these

times of heightened security, El Paso and other cash-strapped cities and towns across America need more resources from the federal government to support their critically important first responder efforts, not less.

- The elimination of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and decreased funding for the Southwest Border Prosecutors Initiative (SBPI). Both SCAAP and SBPI help El Paso and other communities finance the prosecution and incarceration of criminals, as well as other judicial activities that would otherwise be paid by the federal government.
- A freeze in funding for Pell Grants, work-study grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), and Impact Aid. Many low and middle income students and families rely on these programs, which offer the promise of secure employment and a better future for many El Pasoans. Funding these programs simply must be a higher priority.
- A \$286 million cut for federal job training and employment services.

Reduced funding could be devastating to communities like ours, where so many dislocated workers are trying hard to find new jobs.

- Higher co-payments for veterans' drug benefits and a new enrollment fee for more affluent veterans seeking to obtain VA medical care. I strongly oppose these fees and we in Congress have helped strike down similar initiatives in the past. Also, the budget fails to repeal the Disabled Veterans Tax, which forces disabled military retirees to give up one dollar of their pension for every dollar of disability pay they receive.

I commend the President for his investment in Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range and will work to ensure that this funding is included throughout the entire budget cycle. I will also work to ensure that El Paso receives adequate funding for our law enforcement, education and labor programs, as well as our healthcare needs. With El Pasoans working so hard to provide for themselves and their families, the federal government needs to adequately address our community's needs.

Charles Gonzalez looks back as he prepares to pass Clint's mayoral baton

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CLINT — Charles Gonzalez is a busy man of many hats — four to be exact.

The first one identifies him as mayor of the town of Clint, a position he has held since 2000. It is also a position he will relinquish in May of this year because he isn't seeking re-election to a third, two-year term.

His reason is that he needs to focus his time and efforts on the other hats that involve career and family.

Gonzalez' second hat identifies him as an automotive technology instructor in the Socorro Independent School District.

The third is one of a student at Sul Ross State where he is working on a mid-management educational degree program. A teacher for nine years, Gonzalez drives to Sul Ross one weekend a month where he is working on his doctorate with the long-term goal of being a school

superintendent. He already has three degrees — one bachelor's and two master's.

The fourth hat has a family label as a husband and father. This he considers the most important hat he wears. He and his wife Laura have three children, Adam, 9; Christian, 7; and Cydney, 2-1/2. Adam and Christian attend Surratt Elementary School. They moved to Clint in 1997 because they liked its small-town atmosphere.

"None of my accomplishments could have been possible without the strong support of my wife. I couldn't have done it without her."

In an office at the Eastside Saturn car dealership where his advanced automotive students receive hands-on experience, Gonzalez looks back on the major accomplishments of his terms of office.

• He says the most significant achievements



Charles Gonzalez

come in the area of providing improved water and sewer service to the residents of Clint. He points out a \$263,000 CDBG (community development block grant) for new water lines in Burbridge Acres and Eubanks.

• In addition, in February of 2003, the town received a grant of \$102,000 for 55 new water connections and 14 sewer connections.

• In the following month, funding was approved for safety lighting. Completion is expected in January of 2005. It is 100 percent funded by the Texas Department of Transportation.

• Also in March of last year, the design was completed for the Clint Municipal Park. Preliminary construction estimate is \$1.2 million with 20 percent raised to date. Fifty percent is required before applying for grants. The park will include five baseball fields, six soccer or football fields, basketball courts, pavilions and

a walking trail.

• In June the town drew state and national attention as it received the Governor's Community Achievement Award of \$60,000 for a beautification project.

Gonzalez emphasizes that these accomplishments were not a "me" thing. "It was a team effort. They are the product of the work of others," he said. He mentions the chief of police, Bill Manson; his town clerk, Jessica Garcia; and the town council for making it all possible.

"I have no regrets, none whatsoever," he says, looking back on his nearly four years of service. "I have thoroughly enjoyed it." While not precisely a regret, the mayor does wish he could bring about more change and get more community involvement in matters affecting the town.

To his successor, whoever he or she may be, he has one piece of advice: "Think outside of the small-town realm. Do away with small-town mentality. We have big city issues — economic development, roads and ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction) to deal with."



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Realities of the school performance plan

Hola, mi gente. Recently Gov. Rick Perry announced some education

ideas, tossing out the performance-based incentive plan. The proposed \$500 million school incentive package would provide more funds for schools and teachers to reach higher levels of student achievement to get more money. I am not suggesting that schools should not encourage high performance; but we have to provide all schools with the resources to achieve this goal. We cannot talk about education in terms of "adequacy." When our team takes the field, we chant "we're No. 1" — not "we're adequate." Our children deserve no less.

I strongly agree that in order to provide every child real educational opportunity and remove the burden from local taxpayers, the state must invest the necessary funds to pay for the education reforms that are already on the books. I support innovative revenue plans such as the legalization of video lottery terminals and allowing gambling on American Indian reservations.

The following are the bold and hard facts concerning Texas public education funding:

1. Texas is providing only 38 percent of all funds for our public schools — the lowest level of state commitment in over 50 years — leaving local property taxpayers to pick up over 60 percent of the tab.

2. In the 2001-2002 school year, the average Texas teacher salary was \$5,451 below the national average, dropping Texas from 26th to 32nd in the country.

3. In that same year, per pupil expenditures for instruction dropped from 27th to 31st, the lowest national ranking for the Texas public schools in a decade, \$744 dollars less per student than the national average.

Texas still has a serious teacher shortage. As education funds are cut, inadequate teacher salaries and health care benefits make it difficult to attract qualified teachers. Currently, one third of all "new" teachers leave teaching within three years. According to TRS, another 50,000 educators are currently eligible for retirement.

It was only a year ago, that a bipartisan statewide poll found that Texans — Republicans, Independents, and Democrats alike — agree that public education is the top priority for state government. The public believes schools are improving and there is strong bipartisan support for high standards, accountability, and public school funding. A solid majority believes we should increase spending so our schools will continue to improve. In addition, over 80 percent of all voters believe the most important education standards are those that attract and maintain the qualified teachers our children deserve.

It is unfortunate that the following programs have been cut for the 2004-2005 school year and I believe we must restore them before we address "performance-based incentives" that promise \$100 here and \$1,000 there and only help a fraction of Texas Students:

New textbooks were cut \$213 million; student success initiative (including mentoring) cut \$12.4 million; 9th grade success initiative cut \$27 million; teacher training cut \$29.9 million (60 percent); Math, reading and science Initiatives cut \$14 mil-

lion; extended year programs cut \$83.3 million (over 70 percent); and the \$150 million TIF technology program was completely eliminated

We cannot maintain quality standards unless we invest resources in the classroom and work to end the shortage of qualified teachers in Texas schools. We can't afford to divert any state educational resources to private school voucher schemes or similar experiments — this will risk the quality of education in the public schools that educate the overwhelming majority of our children. Until then, Chente for La Gente.

College-bound students should register for ACT exam by Feb. 27

College-bound high school students can take the ACT Assessment on April 3, 2004, the next nationwide test date. Colleges use ACT scores, along with a student's high school GPA, high school courses taken, extracurricular activities and other information to help determine admissions and the appropriate course placement for new students.

The registration postmark deadline is Feb. 27. Late registration postmark deadline is March 12 (an additional fee is required for late registration). ACT scores are accepted by virtually all colleges and universities in the nation, including

all Ivy League schools. The test fee is \$26.

The ACT Assessment is an achievement test in English, reading, math and science. It measures what students have learned in high school, and the skills required for success in college. It is not an aptitude test.

Some students find it more comfortable than an aptitude test because it reflects their high school curriculum. The ACT was administered more than two million times last year.

Students who have already taken

See ACT, Page 4

MINERS™

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FEBRUARY 14TH
VS SUL ROSS STATE
@ 1:00 PM
&
@ 3:00 PM**

***GAMES PLAYED AT
EL PASO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
VALLE VERDE CAMPUS**

TENNIS

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VS LOUISIANA TECH @ 2:00 PM**

**FEBRUARY 15TH
VS HAWAII @ 10:00 AM**

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ACT

From Page 3

the ACT can take it again and try for a higher score, since students who take the exam more than once can

report only their highest composite score to prospective colleges if they choose. Juniors can use their scores to examine academic weaknesses, take courses to correct those weaknesses and re-take the exam as seniors.

For more information, including

registration forms and test locations, contact your high school guidance counselor or register online on ACT's website: <http://www.act.org>. The website also has helpful information, sample tests and the opportunity to order test prep materials.

Briefs

From Page 1

statewide about a family who adopts a dog. It is written by Cindy King Boettcher, who holds a Ph.D. in Educational Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M, and illustrated by Tamme L. Bissett, a professional artist. It explains the importance of responsible pet guardianship, educates children about the role of veterinarians in a pet's life, explains the purpose of vaccinations and disease prevention in people and pets, promotes the human/companion animal bond, and encourages careers in veterinary medicine. Other school districts to be visited later in February include Clint, Ysleta, El Paso, Socorro, Canutillo, Anthony, Tornillo, Fabens and Ft. Hancock. The book commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

■ U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla has announced an "Academy Day"

orientation for all high school students interested in educational opportunities available through the U.S. Service Academies. The seminar will be held in San Antonio, Texas on March 7, at the United Services Automobile Association (USSA) Building Auditorium, 9800 Fredericksburg Road from 2-4 p.m. Students and parents will meet with Bonilla's Academy Liaison who will assist them through the nomination process. The service academies that will be represented are the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. The U.S. Coast Guard and the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) will also be represented. Interested students who are unable to attend the event may visit Bonilla's web site at www.house.gov/bonilla or call 210 697-9055 for more information regarding the nomination process.

■ U.S. Representative Henry Bonilla said that the El Paso area will receive more than \$9 million in funding this year after President George W. Bush officially approved the Fiscal Year 2004 spending legislation. Included for El Paso is \$2.8 million in funding for a new El Paso flood control system to provide flood protection for the urban areas subject to damaging floods from arroyos on the slopes of adjacent mountains; \$370,000 in funding for continued work on the reuse water project to ensure a continuous source of freshwater; \$535,000 in funding for investigation projects for Northwest El Paso and Sparks Arroyo Colonias in El Paso to provide the Corp of Engineers with the resources needed to investigate the needs, planning and evaluation of improvements; \$2.4 million in funding for the Texas Colonias Initiative to assist the job access and reverse commuter program (JARC). The program provides transportation via vans to jobs that are located in areas or during hours that regular transit cannot accommodate including colonias.

■ Because a hazardous material (ricin) has been found in a Capitol Hill mail room, the U.S. Capitol Police Department has stopped all mail deliveries to Congressional offices until further notice. Several bundles of mail for each Congressional office have been confiscated and will be destroyed. U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla says if a constituent has mailed correspondence after Jan. 26, 2004, he asks that they consider re-sending it to one of his Texas offices. There is a strong possibility that he will not receive mail sent after this date. Should constituents have an issue that needs urgent attention, they should consider faxing or calling their closest district office at:

- Alpine: 107 W. Avenue E #14, Alpine, TX 79830
- Del Rio: 111 East Broadway Suite, 101 Del Rio, TX 78840
- Laredo: 1300 Matamoros Street Suite, 113B Laredo, TX 78040
- San Antonio: 11120 Wurzbach Ste., 300 San Antonio, TX 78230



Valentine's February Special
Dinner for Two
Two 10oz. Ribeye Steak Dinners
Includes Choice of Potato
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Fresh Fruit



Coupon expires 02/29/04. Not good with other offers or coupons.

Open 24 hours — Full family menus plus spectacular buffet and salad bar. I-10 at Horizon Blvd., 859-1906.



Canutillo Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended August 31, 2003

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 8,950,543	\$ 1,190,109	\$ 609,715	\$ 111,610	\$ 10,861,977
5800 State Program Revenues	21,716,888	2,037,343	—	1,428,115	25,182,346
5900 Federal Program Revenues	2,187,806	—	—	5,124,382	7,942,188
5020 Total Revenues	33,485,237	3,227,452	609,715	6,664,107	43,986,511
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	17,019,285	—	—	3,021,568	20,040,853
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	458,407	—	—	399,836	858,243
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	374,406	—	—	797,040	1,171,446
0021 Instructional Leadership	838,797	—	—	314,047	1,152,844
0023 School Leadership	1,686,148	—	—	48,402	1,734,550
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	779,067	—	—	132,614	911,681
0032 Social Work Services	33,888	—	—	999	34,887
0033 Health Services	248,803	—	—	9,219	258,022
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,153,665	—	—	140,293	1,293,958
0035 Food Services	2,363,747	—	—	239,317	2,603,064
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	624,640	—	—	1,750	626,390
0041 General Administration	1,660,788	—	—	21,110	1,681,898
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	3,477,925	—	—	102,622	3,580,547
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	13,814	—	—	7,857	21,671
0053 Data Processing Services	400,099	—	—	59,293	459,392
0061 Community Services	152,332	—	—	560,170	712,502
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	175,107	2,305,000	—	369,893	2,850,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	242,030	1,403,254	—	—	1,645,284
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	6,500	814,115	—	—	820,615
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	282,259	—	3,585,579	322,540	4,190,378
Intergovernmental:					
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member District of	—	—	—	804,782	804,782
6030 Total Expenditures	31,991,707	4,522,369	3,585,579	7,353,352	47,453,007
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	1,493,530	(1,294,917)	(2,975,864)	(689,245)	(3,466,496)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7911 Capital-related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	26,677,000	7,378,000	4,915,000	38,970,000
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	—	1,845,598	—	—	1,845,598
8949 Other (Uses)	—	(27,590,000)	—	—	(27,590,000)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	—	932,598	7,378,000	4,915,000	13,225,598
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	1,493,530	(362,319)	4,402,136	4,225,755	9,759,102
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	4,988,351	1,313,477	23,625,771	656,197	30,583,796
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 6,481,881	\$ 951,158	\$ 28,027,907	\$ 4,881,952	\$ 40,342,898

Socorro to delay elections, voters will be asked to amend Charter

Courier Staff Reports

SOCORRO — The sitting city council for the City of Socorro will most likely continue sitting through the summer and possibly into next fall due to an imbalance of the population in the city's voting districts.

The council voted unanimously during regular council meeting Feb. 5 to delay the regular municipal elections in May. Instead, the May ballot will request approval from the voters to amend the Charter and redraw new district lines with a even population distribution.

Once this is accomplished, a city council election will be held.

Socorro Mayor Irma Sanchez said

this issue arose last May when it became apparent that the rapid growth within the city, about 22 percent over the past three years, was going to require adjustment in the districts.

Sanchez said requests for legal advice were sent out through then-City Clerk Teri Rodriguez. However, then-city attorney Richard Contreras resigned, and Sanchez said she did not know if Hudson or current city attorney Chris Borunda did anything on the issue.

The city apparently faces two difficulties — the first being that the precinct numbers and boundaries were changed by the County of El Paso following the last census. Secondly, even if the county had not changed the lines, population within

Socorro's council districts would still require the boundaries be redrawn.

Charter attorney Greg Hudson told council that because the four existing districts are imbalanced, the council is required by Charter to take action before a valid council election can take place. If they move on the issue now, he said, an election could probably be held by September.

Council also agreed not to hold a special election to replace Councilman Sam Brewster who died last month.

However, there was indecision and disagreement within the council and audience as to whether redrawing the districts to include a fifth, or simply filling an at-large position seat was the better course of action.

In other action, council held a public hearing to adopt an ordinance amending the 2002-2003 budget in which more than \$218,000 was transferred from salaries to cover expenses in numerous city departments.

Rosa Avalos, currently handling city finances, said the ordinance was "just a final amendment to the budget of 2003."

However, Socorro resident Lorenza Fraire did not see the ordinance as being routine. "I have concerns," she said. "We had plans to hire a city manager but it was too expensive. But this budget is full of salaries money being transferred to other things. Why was this money stashed in salaries? You lied to me

last year," she told Avalos.

Avalos replied that many positions they believed the city would need remained unfilled so the money was left over. Interim City Manager Reyes Fierro added that the city has a "half-million dollar" shortfall. He said every department turns in a proposed budget and "we look at all of them."

Council also appointed Gary Gandara as mayor pro tem in place of Brewster who previously held that position. After questioning regarding the Charter-based reasoning for an alternate mayor pro tem, Hudson reviewed the document, then replied that an alternate was to chosen on a case-by-case basis if both mayor and mayor pro tem were absent.

San Eli students "Cowboy up!"

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SANELIZARIO — February is the time of year when the rodeo comes to the El Paso County Coliseum, thrilling spectators with everything from bunking broncos and rodeo clowns to barrel racers and bull riders.

It's also the time of year when Alarcón Elementary gets to experience the excitement right on their own campus, thanks to Coach Bertha Garcia, who brings her rodeo friends over for an entire week of rodeo activities and presenters for her PE students.

Garcia, who has participated in barrel racing since the age of 15, has been bringing various rodeo contestants to San Elizario since she began working for the district in 1993.

"What I've always said is that it takes physical strength and agility to do what these people are able to do," Garcia said. "My job is to teach life sports, something the kids can do outside of school. These rodeo contestants all have an exercise regime and talk to the kids about how they train for their respective sports."

San Elizario is the perfect atmosphere for students to get a feel for rodeo sports, and Garcia adds that taking part in these activities is not just a hobby. She and the presenters she brings tell the students that there are opportunities that come with this love for animals and rodeo sports.

"There are rodeo scholarships available out there and there's not a lot of people applying for them," she said.

All presenters at the campus during rodeo week have college degrees in various fields, according to Garcia, from business to education degrees.

"The rodeo is something these people like to do," Garcia says, "But they also know that they have their education to fall back on."

Alarcón students were able to get involved, as well. Fifth graders Valente Dominguez and Marisol Salado were voted the campus All Western Boy and Girl. Meanwhile, Vanessa Holguin, Yadira Ramirez and Sandra Carreon were selected rodeo essay contest winners.

Students were also given the opportunity to actually see their presenters in action, as free passes to the rodeo were given to every student at the campus, according to Garcia.

Science

From Page 1

focus on creating a water-efficient xeriscape environment at the school, Gardner says.

"It will function as an outdoor classroom where we can incorporate chemistry, biology, physics, astronomy — all sciences, and our

point is to educate the students as well as the community around the school on issue that face our area."

Bonilla says she's talked to her middle school students about the project, and they're excited. "They can't wait to get out there and actually see how the ecosystem works. I love the kid's excitement, and they're ready to do this."

Harding says her middle school students will be shown supposedly "incomprehensible" concepts of

physics in to the science classrooms before actually enrolling in a physics class. "A lot of students have misconceptions about physics and there are low enrollment rates," Harding says. "We're hoping we can spark interest in the students. We want to get them into hands-on activities, things they can relate to."

Velankar's Americas High School students will explore the relationships between mathematical thinking and

the learning of other subjects. "I want to build the student's conceptual understanding of mathematics, developing their concept of logic and problem-solving skills. With that understanding, they should be able to successfully take any kind of test, not just the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS test. I know it's a very strong emotion, but I want to change their concept of 'hating' math, and get them to start using it."

Clint Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2003

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 6,418,235	\$ 1,349,370	\$ 206,401	\$ 331,348	\$ 8,305,354
5800 State Program Revenues	39,425,262	3,454,601	—	1,813,150	44,693,013
5900 Federal Program Revenues	264,156	—	—	6,080,337	6,344,493
5020 Total Revenues	46,107,653	4,803,971	206,401	8,224,835	59,342,860
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	25,554,813	—	—	3,096,400	28,651,213
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	688,632	—	—	37,436	726,068
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	441,852	—	—	918,319	1,360,171
0021 Instructional Leadership	714,126	—	—	175,533	889,659
0023 School Leadership	2,973,340	—	—	85,231	3,058,571
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,275,989	—	—	425,071	1,701,060
0032 Social Work Services	95,190	—	—	2,833	98,023
0033 Health Services	447,377	—	—	13,884	461,261
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,410,768	—	—	71,478	1,482,246
0035 Food Services	—	—	—	2,447,568	2,447,568
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	1,100,609	—	—	4,926	1,105,535
0041 General Administration	2,101,889	—	—	27,041	2,128,930
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	4,804,507	—	—	431,367	5,235,874
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	793,318	—	—	46,956	840,274
0053 Data Processing Services	715,489	—	—	131,455	846,944
0061 Community Services	154,299	—	—	79,625	233,924
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	154,334	2,225,000	—	—	2,379,334
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	8,311	3,003,888	637,855	—	3,650,054
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	13,848	—	—	13,848
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	323,589	—	5,389,647	6,864	5,720,100
6030 Total Expenditures	43,758,432	5,242,736	6,027,502	8,001,987	63,030,657
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,349,221	(438,765)	(5,821,101)	222,848	(3,687,797)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7911 Capital-related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	3,915,000	36,165,000	—	40,080,000
7915 Transfers In	141,868	—	—	—	141,868
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	—	205,482	854,348	—	1,059,830
8949 Other (Uses)	—	(4,012,913)	—	—	(4,012,913)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	141,868	107,569	37,019,348	—	37,268,785
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	2,491,089	(331,196)	31,198,247	222,848	33,580,988
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	2,576,330	579,755	4,659,216	612,530	8,427,831
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 5,067,419	\$ 248,559	\$35,857,463	\$ 835,378	\$ 42,008,819

LeBron James: Slam dunk all-star missing from roster

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I have learned over the years that when things are going bad, you have to do what's best to rectify the situation.

You have to pull out all the stops to turn the negative into a positive.

There is no doubt that the NBA has a problem. The NBA has a big identity problem.

Fans are turning away by the thousands. First of all, the game is dull and boring.

Teams shoot so badly that most games now end in the 70s or 80s. There are no more fundamentals. All players do now is either thunder dunk or fire up a 3-pointer.

It's more important to be highlighted on ESPN's SportsCenter than do the little things that help their teams win.

And then you've got the personalities. One of the top spokesman for the league is Allan Iverson. Have you ever witnessed an Allan Iverson press conference? I have to keep reminding myself that I'm not watching an episode of COPS.

And then you have the blithering Shaquille O'Neal. You can barely decipher what Shaq says half the time and when you finally do, it's an expletive of some kind.

Then you have the wife-beaters, the drug dealers, the rapists and the gang-bangers in the league. The NBA is being hit from all sides with negative news and embarrassing headlines on a daily basis with no end in sight.

Wait a second. Maybe there is a shining light at the end of the NBA tunnel.

Amid all the muck, one person of apparent class and selflessness has risen from the high school ranks to act as savior of the league.

With Michael Jordan-like charm and the game to match, LeBron James has taken the league by storm.

James, unbelievably, has not only matched the hype, he's exceeded it like no one ever expected.

LeBron James has quickly become one of the most exciting players in the league with an all around game. Scoring inside, outside, passing and defense. And the most pleasing thing is that he never talks about himself as a star. He always talks about the success of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

How refreshing. The NBA would be smart to push LeBron to the forefront.

But the NBA isn't always that smart. During a time when the league needs LeBron James more than ever, it leaves the young phenom off the all-star team.

What in the world are they thinking? James is one of just four players in the entire league averaging more than 20 points, six rebounds and six assists a game.

The NBA not only needs to showcase him as an all-star, but he deserves the honor.

The omission of James was incredibly stupid. It was the kind of marketing decision that puts executives on the unemployment line.

LeBron James is the best thing to happen in the NBA since Jordan left the game for good. The league is hanging on by a thread and it is in desperate need of positive role models. It needs decent men for our youth to emulate.

Especially the inner-city kids that start out with two strikes against them.

James can still be named to the team if someone gets hurt but that's not how he wants to get in and I don't blame him.

An amazingly mature 19-year old, James will rise over this oversight and come out stronger than ever.

I can't, however, say the same about the amazingly inept NBA.

Parcel Post Pro Bowl

Talk about mailing it in. Did any of you watch the Pro Bowl last Sunday? I couldn't watch the dumb thing either.

Did you catch the final score? The NFC defeated the AFC 55-52. Yes, 55-52. I could have sworn I heard one of the linebackers yell out, "defense, we don't need no stinkin' defense!"

With a score like 55-52, you get the feeling that the game was downright offensive.

What a farce it is to spend a week in Hawaii soaking in the sun, pretending to practice hard and then going out and pretending to play hard.

I know an all-star exhibition isn't worth getting injured for, but then I wonder why the game has to be played at all.

Couldn't the players get their Pro Bowl trophies during a ceremony of some kind and be done with it?

Why play a game that nobody, except for maybe the player's wives, cares about?

The worst part of it all is that the players got paid for this 55-52 "don't get my jersey dirty" affair.

If the guys are going to play like this, I say they should play the game in grass skirts next year. Like flag football, if an opponent tears off your skirt, you're tackled. And unlike Janet Jackson, they won't be allowed to wear any pasties.

I bet they would run a little harder.

Public Notice For Comment Period

Do You Want to be Involved in Spending Over \$6.5 Billion of YOUR Tax Dollars?

WHO, WHAT?
The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is affording an opportunity to all residents of El Paso County and the City of Sunland Park NM (MPO study area) to review, comment and/or offer ideas on how to spend over \$6.5 billion dollars. The MPO is presenting the following documents for public review:

- 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Amended 2004-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- MTP/TIP Transportation Conformity Reports (TCR) and the,
- Annual Listing of Transportation Projects (ALTP) FY 2003.

The 30-day comment period will begin on **February 12, 2004** and end on **March 12, 2004**.

The MTP is the long-range transportation plan that establishes regional transportation policies, goals and lists projects for implementation by the following years 2005, 2015, 2025 and 2030. That is 27 years of transportation projects estimated to cost over \$6.5 Billion Dollars. If a project is not listed in the MTP, that project will not be implemented.

The TIP is the short-range transportation plan that programs transportation projects scheduled for implementation by local, county and/or state agencies in the El Paso MPO study area in the next 5 years (2004, 05, 06, 07 and 08). TIP projects are estimated to cost over \$700 Million Dollars for the 5 year period. TIP projects must first be listed in the MTP before becoming a TIP project and must be sponsored by a city, county, transit authority or a state department of transportation. An MPO study resident can work with a sponsoring agency and/or the MPO to submit projects for the MTP or TIP.

The TCR technical document indicates how the MTP and TIP projects meet the guidelines of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. The TCR answers the question, How are these projects cleaning our air?

WHY?
All residents living in the MPO study area have the right to be informed and to participate in the regional transportation decision-making process. Your opinion is important and it counts. The MTP and TIP are documents that uses your tax dollars for regional transportation projects.

WHERE?
The El Paso MPO is hosting a series of Public Meetings during the 30-day public comment period to inform the citizens about the MPO documents listed above, and to encourage discussions and comments about their content. MPO staff will be available to receive comments and answer questions. The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Monday, March 1, 2004	Tuesday, March 2, 2004	Wednesday, March 3, 2004	Thursday, March 4, 2004	Friday, March 5, 2004
Town of Horizon City City Hall 14999 Darrington Road Horizon City, TX 79928 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	San Martin de Porras Catholic Church 1885 McNutt Road Sunland Park, NM 88063 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Chihuahuita Community Center 429 Charles Road El Paso, TX 79901 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Northeast Regional Command Center 9600 Dyer El Paso, TX 79924 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	City of Socorro City Hall 124 Horizon Blvd. Socorro, TX 79927 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The MTP 2030 Update, Amended TIP 2004-2008 Amended, MTP/TIP Transportation Conformity Reports, and the Annual Listing of Transportation Projects FY03 are all available at the above-listed public meeting locations, all Public Library branches, and at the following locations:

El Paso MPO 10767 Gateway Blvd. West, S.605 El Paso, TX 79935	City of El Paso Planning Dept. City Hall - Second Floor 2 Civic Center Plaza El Paso, TX 79901	Texas Dept. of Transportation Advanced Transportation Planning 13301 Gateway Blvd. West El Paso, TX 79928	Sun Metro 700 San Francisco El Paso, TX 79901	City of Socorro City Hall 124 Horizon Blvd. Socorro, TX 79927
Town of Horizon City Town Hall 14999 Darrington Road Horizon City, TX 79928	Town of Clint Town Hall 200 N. San Elizario Road Clint, TX 79836	City of Sunland Park Town Hall 1000 McNutt Road Sunland Park, NM 88063	Village of Vinton Town Hall 436 Vinton Rd Vinton, TX 79821	Town of Anthony Town Hall 401 Oak St. Anthony, TX 79835

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the MPO documents listed above, as well as by logging into the MPO's web page at www.elpasompo.org. For more information, contact Eduardo Calvo at the El Paso MPO Office, (915) 591-9735, Ext. 25.
WTCC: 02/12/04

www.wtccourier.com

King Super Crossword

- BLUE GENES ACROSS**
- 1 Plot
 - 6 Philanthropist
 - 11 Send out a page
 - 14 Highlander's head-gear
 - 17 Vision-related
 - 19 Likes a lot
 - 21 Barcelona bravo
 - 22 "I _ Rock" ('66 song)
 - 23 A few words
 - 24 Start of a remark by Laurence J. Peter
 - 27 Itch
 - 28 Loaf part
 - 30 Dram
 - 31 Emcee
 - 32 Swiss sharpshooter
 - 33 Like feta
 - 37 Feta
 - 39 Oscar or Tony
 - 42 Fragrant plant
 - 44 Mets' milieu
 - 45 Isolated
 - 46 Spud state
 - 47 97 Across singer
 - 50 Part 2 of remark
 - 56 Seal school
 - 58 Actress Massen
 - 59 TV's "The _ Limits"
 - 60 Animosity
 - 61 Nimble
 - 62 Printer's proof
 - 64 Be buoyant
 - 67 Hindu duty
 - 69 Word form for "milk"
- DOWN**
- 1 Duplicate
 - 2 Want badly
 - 3 Overdo a tan
 - 4 _ carte
 - 5 Tied tightly
 - 6 "The Witches" author
 - 7 Horatian creation
 - 8 Neither's partner
 - 9 Vein contents
 - 10 Word with carpet or cabbage
 - 11 Racing legend
 - 12 Boxing legend
 - 13 Makes one's mark
 - 14 Resort lake
 - 15 Pile up
 - 16 Lusterless
 - 18 Virginia _
 - 20 Alaskan city
 - 25 Italian greyhound, e.g.
 - 26 Bread ingredient
 - 29 Wee one
 - 32 " _ bien!"
 - 33 Chest material
 - 34 Get wind of
 - 35 Tennis legend
 - 36 A roaring success?
 - 37 Rubbed the wrong way?
 - 38 Juno, in Greece
 - 39 Plus
 - 40 Troubles
- 41 Penguins' place**
- 43 Ready to eat
 - 44 Detect
 - 48 Tyranny
 - 49 With 101 Down, '79 Sally Field film
 - 51 Subject matter
 - 52 "Ben-_" ('59 film)
 - 53 School founded by Henry VI
 - 54 Siamese
 - 55 Fill to the gills
 - 57 Actress Cannon
 - 61 Mall event
 - 63 Homeric characters
 - 64 So, state
 - 65 Mouth piece?
 - 66 Habitually, to Herrick
 - 68 Neighsayer?
 - 69 Den
 - 70 Upstairs basement?
 - 72 _ Bator
 - 73 Singer Horne
 - 74 Irritated exclamation
 - 77 More enthusiastic
 - 80 Scoundrel
 - 83 _ majesty
 - 84 Ridicules
 - 85 Superior
 - 87 Burden of proof
 - 88 Brute
 - 90 " _ the mornin'"
 - 91 Guys' counterparts
 - 92 Corporate clashers
 - 93 Bank statistic
- 94 Big bird**
- 96 Indira Gandhi's father
 - 100 Enjoy the beach
 - 101 See 49 Down
 - 102 Diatribe
 - 103 "To fetch _ ..."
 - 104 Clavell's " _ House"
 - 105 Alistair or Sam
 - 106 Part of PST
 - 108 Sita's husband
 - 110 Dylan's colleague
 - 111 Fiber source
 - 112 Leslie Caron role
 - 113 Step _ (hurry)
 - 114 Cry of contempt
 - 116 Check
 - 117 Jeff Lynne's grp.
 - 118 Sphere
 - 119 Singing syllable
 - 120 It may be tipped
 - 121 WWII area
 - 123 "Great!"

Answer Page 8

Comix

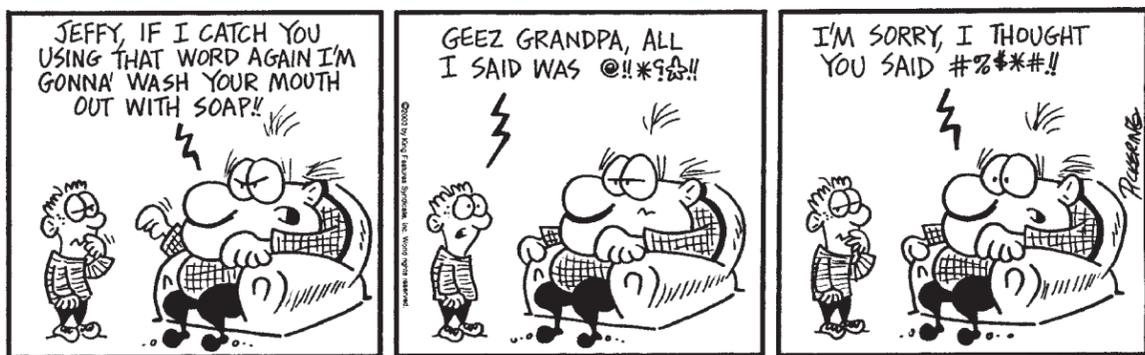
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



New razor coming to a face near you

By Don Flood

In the greatest leap forward in shaving technology since the invention of the stone battle-axe, Gillette recently introduced the M3Power — the very first razor with a handle that pulsates.

Yes, folks, it pulsates! The tech-wizards have designed a razor that includes a battery-powered motor in the handle.

And that's a good thing, an innovation — innovation being used here in its modern sense of "amazingly useless frill that the public must just be dumb enough to buy."

The way the M3Power works, according to Gillette, is the "pulsations pull the skin taut, allowing the razor to cut closer."

I believe, I believe! (I also believe in Schick's four-bladed Quattro razor and Tinkerbell.)

The product is an update of the innovative Mach3 shaving system, so you can imagine what the commercials will be like.

For years, they've been showing ads that basically equated shaving with a Mach3 to flying a fighter jet, the difference being that shaving required greater skill and daring.

From watching the commercials, you'd think men prone to motion sickness would require a shot of Dramamine just to survive the morning shave.

(Note to wives: If you see your hubby strapping on a parachute before lathering up, it may be time for an intervention. But wait until he puts the razor down.)

Interesting Fact I: The new M3Power is protected by, get this, 62 patents — for a razor! How many patents were there to protect the telephone?

Interesting Fact II: Gillette also owns the company that makes Duracell batteries, which makes me wonder about the sequence of events that led to the pulsating handle:

MARKETING: We need to sell more batteries.

ENGINEERING: I've got an idea. Let's stick batteries in razor handles.

MARKETING: That's brilliant! ENGINEERING: I was kidding! That's totally useless.

MARKETING: You're getting a bonus.

ENGINEERING: I am brilliant! As the president of the Gillette's blades and razor business said, apparently with a straight face, "We're redefining wet shaving."

Here, here! It's about time someone redefined wet shaving, because here we are in the Third Millennium, trying to shave our manly 21st-century beards with stodgy Second Millennium technology.

It's a wonder we don't all look like those celebrities, such as Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt, who always have a one-day growth of stubble.

(How do they do it? Do they wear hairpieces on their chin?)

But one thing confuses me — OK, more than one, but we have limited space here.

Looking at old paintings, it appears that in previous centuries many men were close-shaven — so close you'd swear they possessed three-blade, pulsating-handle technology.

This, of course, is impossible. Or is it?

Could these artworks, in fact, be another tantalizing clue that someday may confirm the theory that space aliens — representing civilizations literally thousands of years ahead of us in shaving technology — once visited Earth on a mission to rid our planet of the five o'clock shadow?

We may never know, but that won't stop the History Channel from devoting a special week to the topic.

Now if they could just invent a comb that pulsates.

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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:

SCREENING AND COATING OF WOODEN FLOORS CSP NO. 199-0219-0455 THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 2004, AT 2:00 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-02/12/04

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 - 2GTEK19KINI524103,

1992 GMC Z77 Sierra, white, license FPZ 862 VIN I68DMI525GB227437, 1986 Chevy Astrol, blue, license VOI HJN WTCC-02/12/04

WANT TO BUY

BUYING VIDEOS AND DVDs — Disney, action, comedy, etc. Good prices. Call Paul at 833-9611 or 539-2378 2/19

HELP WANTED

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: 02/12/04

RENTAL

HOUSE FOR RENT - Two bedroom, off Alameda in Clint, nicely remodeled in quiet area. Call 598-1961 or 383-1152. 02/19

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 solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

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Pizza party

EVERYBODY LOVES... — Canutillo Elementary School has teamed up with Peter Piper Pizza to reward Canutillo ISD students for outstanding achievements such as honor roll, perfect attendance and most improved. Shown in photo from left is Christopher Lopez, marketing director for Pizza Properties, William Tepsick, manager for Crossroads Peter Piper Pizza, Rocky the Peter Piper mascot, Debbie Gonzalez, CES kindergarten teacher, Mike Dillard, CES assistant principal, and Gonzalez's kindergarten students.

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Telephone scam targets senior citizens

Senior citizens receiving retirement Social Security benefits have been targeted by unscrupulous telephone solicitors with the promise of a special grant from the federal government in the amount of \$400. The caller will ask for bank account and other personal information with the promise to deposit the money directly into your account.

"The Social Security Administration has received reports from offices in New Mexico and southern Oklahoma within the past two weeks that callers are targeting seniors," said Ray Vigil, Public Affairs Specialist.

The caller may allege to have a grant from the federal government to contact individuals who are entitled to receive an increase of \$400 in their

monthly Social Security checks. The story varies a bit.

"One individual reported he was told that the grant was a one time payment of \$400. Two other individuals were told their Social Security checks would be increased \$400 per month if they paid a one time fee of \$424 which would be drafted from their bank account," said Vigil. To make the call sound legitimate, the caller will give the individual a toll free number to call back if they have questions. Calls to the toll free number indicate that it is not in service.

Scams over the telephone, through the mail or in-person are becoming more common. It is very important

to protect your personal information. If someone asks you for personal information, find out why they need it. Be especially careful if the call, in-person visit or request by mail is unsolicited. Once someone has your personal information, they could steal your identity. Personal information can include your name, address, telephone number, date of birth, Social Security number, bank account or credit card information.

If someone calls about Social Security business and you are suspicious, call your local Social Security office or call the toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 to confirm the person is a Social Security employee or

that they are conducting official Social Security business. Social Security toll free number representatives are available between the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.



WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny, cold and very windy.	Partly cloudy and very cold.	Chilly with intervals of clouds and sun.	Mostly sunny.	Plenty of sunshine.	A good deal of sunshine.	Abundant sunshine.	Sunny.
▲ 48°	▼ 20°	▲ 50° ▼ 26°	▲ 60° ▼ 34°	▲ 68° ▼ 36°	▲ 64° ▼ 38°	▲ 66° ▼ 38°	▲ 68° ▼ 40°

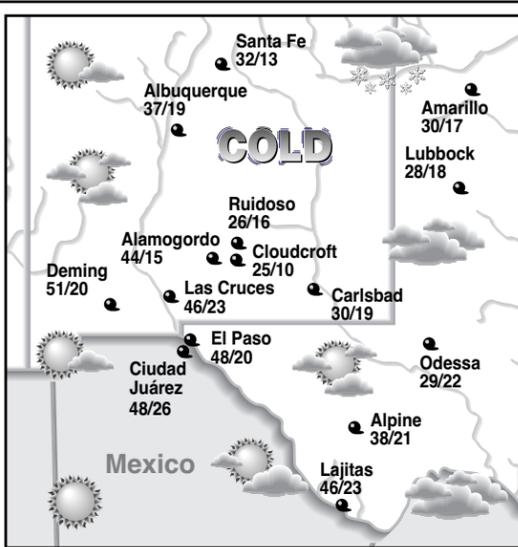
UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	5	Moderate
Friday	5	Moderate
Saturday	6	Moderate
Sunday	6	Moderate
Monday	6	Moderate
Tuesday	6	Moderate
Wednesday	6	Moderate

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	48	23
Canutillo	48	22
Clint	45	21
E. Montana	48	20
Fabens	45	21
Horizon	49	22
San Elizario	46	19
Socorro	47	20
Tornillo	45	21
Vinton	48	22



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

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	37/19/pc	48/27/s	54/31/s	55/31/s	56/32/s
Atlanta	42/35/c	46/35/pc	57/37/s	56/39/pc	57/33/pc
Atlantic City	38/26/c	46/30/pc	46/26/pc	40/22/s	39/23/c
Austin/San Antonio	42/31/c	49/24/c	61/34/s	65/37/s	63/39/s
Baltimore	40/24/c	46/30/s	48/26/pc	39/24/s	43/24/pc
Boston	33/26/pc	40/26/pc	36/22/pc	26/16/s	29/18/c
Chicago	28/16/sf	32/22/pc	30/12/c	26/10/pc	30/13/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	39/28/c	51/26/s	59/39/s	63/38/s	59/37/s
Denver	23/14/s	46/18/s	50/22/s	48/24/pc	50/18/pc
Flagstaff	37/12/pc	44/15/s	49/20/s	51/22/s	52/24/s
Houston	50/36/c	46/32/sh	58/42/pc	62/44/s	64/48/pc
Kansas City	27/18/pc	42/23/s	42/27/pc	43/27/c	42/20/pc
Las Vegas	56/36/s	58/38/s	64/44/s	64/44/s	66/46/s
Miami	84/68/s	81/67/c	81/64/c	76/62/c	78/60/c
Minneapolis	16/6/pc	30/10/pc	22/-4/c	17/0/c	21/7/c
New Orleans	56/44/c	50/38/sh	60/44/sh	64/48/s	62/44/s
New York City	36/30/pc	41/30/pc	42/26/pc	33/26/s	37/26/c
Philadelphia	37/28/c	44/32/pc	44/26/pc	35/24/s	36/26/c
Phoenix	65/42/s	71/45/s	74/49/s	76/50/s	76/52/s
Portland	53/38/pc	51/38/c	53/38/pc	52/38/c	53/35/pc
San Francisco	60/46/s	60/46/pc	62/48/s	62/48/s	61/52/s
Seattle	52/38/pc	48/40/c	48/38/pc	50/37/c	49/36/c
Tucson	64/34/s	63/38/s	70/42/s	72/42/s	74/44/s
Washington, DC	40/30/c	46/32/s	48/30/pc	40/28/s	43/29/pc

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	31°
Friday	38°
Saturday	47°
Sunday	55°
Monday	59°
Tuesday	68°
Wednesday	58°

AGRICULTURE

High pressure building across the southern Rockies and southern Plains will bring plenty of sunshine to the region for the next several days. With a storm system moving through northern Mexico on Thursday, winds will become quite gusty. By Friday, winds will ease as this storm moves away from the region.

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