



NEWSBRIEFS

SISD superintendent

The Socorro ISD Board of Trustees completed its evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Duron, extending his contract by two years, though May 31, 2008. Dr. Duron's base salary, now \$175,000, will be increased to \$185,000.

ID assistance sought

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office is seeking public assistance to identify the body of a man found Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the 7800 block of S. Desert Blvd. in the Upper Valley, about 330 feet from the roadway in the desert. The body was accidentally discovered by officers who were seeking the driver of a car involved in an unrelated accident. The death is being investigated as a homicide. A forensic reconstruction specialist in Albuquerque, New Mexico has prepared a composite of the victim who is believed to be from this area and was wearing a blue t-shirt with Spalding logo on the left front. The body was partially burned, but was determined to be of a man about 5-feet, 11-inches tall, 140-150 pounds, with brown hair and eyes, between 25 and 35 years old. Persons with any information are asked to call 546-2280.

In other news

■ As part of the collaboration between Tornillo Junior High School and the UTEP Department of Theater Arts and Film, 7th and 8th grade students attended the famous Shakespeare play *Romeo and Juliet* Sunday, Feb. 15. Yvonne Carranza, UTEP Coordinator, greeted the group as they arrived and handed out special programs for the occasion. Donna Bretado, 8th grade English teacher at TJHS, organized the program as part of the schools initiative to broaden the scope of students' experiences. Student reaction to the play reinforced the school's belief that every child should be given the opportunity to experience a broader scope of cultural activities.

■ Over 75 Schools and teams from schools the El Paso, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario, Tornillo, Anthony, Alpine, Alamogordo, Roswell, Las Cruces, Dell City and Juarez will compete in the 5th Annual 2004 Americas Cup Cheer & Dance Competition Feb. 27-28 at Americas High School, 12101 Pellicano. Trophies for first through third place will be given all divisions and categories and the Judges Choice award for the outstanding group from each division. Sponsored by the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA), National Dance Alliance (NDA) and Cheerleader and Dance Team, the Dance portion will be on Friday, Feb. 27, 5-9 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 28 11 a.m.-4 p.m. will be the cheer competition. Information: 937-2832 or 760-6670.

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Never before has the fate of so many been at the whim of so few.

— Quips & Quotes

Sons of Los Tigres prowl through KEYS Academy encouraging success

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Two sons of the famed Norteño music group Los Tigres del Norte gave a pep talk to students of Socorro's alternative high school campus, the KEYS (Keep Every Youth In School) Academy Feb. 18.

Jorge Hernandez and Hernan Hernandez were joined by KDBC-TV Channel 4's 10 p.m. news anchor Katherine Decker for the presentation.

Decker, a native of Montana, spoke to the crowd of about 180 students first and told them to stay in school and prepare for success. "I'm working on my master's degree now," Decker said, adding that she holds a General Educational Development certificate, or GED, rather than a high school diploma.

"We're people just like you," George Hernandez told the crowd. "Sometimes we have problems that we have to work out. We all struggle," he said, telling the students of



CELEBRITY ENCOURAGEMENT — George and Hernan Hernandez, sons of members of the Norteño music group "Los Tigres del Norte" visited KEYS Academy alternative school Feb. 18.

his teenage fatherhood and living with the cousins of a family of 11 brothers and sisters. Hernandez handles logistics for the "Los Tigres" performances.

Hernan Hernandez, who works the group's recording sessions, told the crowd of his efforts to get his father's attention. "They were on the road all the time, and I wanted him to notice me, and to respect me."

The sons had no trouble earning the respect of the crowd, who lingered after the speeches to get autographs.

10th grader Yvette Sanchez says she was thrilled to see the Hernandez brothers — and even more thrilled to win an autographed "Los Tigres" T-shirt. "They're famous, and Los Tigres play good music," she said of the group.

For more than three decades, the group has promoted hundreds of songs of Northern Mexico through 52 albums. During 1988, the group was awarded the first Grammy award bestowed on a Norteño group by the American Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.



TICKET TO SUCCESS — KEYS Academy students gathered around George Hernandez of "Los Tigres del Norte" as he autographed a show ticket.



AIM HIGH — KDBC-TV News anchorwoman Katherine Decker also visited the school and encouraged the students to prepare themselves for life. She is working on her master's degree, but started higher education with a GED.

Socorro tax obligation issued under signature of mayor pro tem

Courier Staff Reports

SOCORRO — Socorro Mayor Irma Sanchez held firm to earlier statements of concern and refused to sign authorization for tax obligation in the amount of \$2 million during the Socorro Council meeting last week. However, the mayor's veto did not stop the process.

In an unusual turn of events, mayor pro tem Gary Gandara instead signed the necessary documents.

The council had voted unanimously earlier this month, Feb. 5, to issue the \$2 million tax obligation to finance what was described as improvements in infrastructure such as streets and lighting. However, the process came under scrutiny after it was stated that one of the sources of revenue pledged to cover the tax obligation included income from a "city museum" which at the time consisted of little more than a vacant building located on County of El Paso property.

Sanchez objected to the process, as did several other Socorro citizens in attendance, on the basis that it constituted a falsehood. Sanchez also said that the amount for which the city was being obligated did not begin to address the needs it is intended to cover.

However, Interim City Manager Reyes Fierro said the pledge of income was simply a formality.

At the meeting Feb. 19, Sanchez again said she felt the issuance of the certificates of obligation were not in the best interest of the city and refused to sign, choosing to veto the procedure.

However, without taking a vote or otherwise officially authorizing the change in authority, a five-minute recess was called on the advice of Socorro's city attorney Chris Borunda. Gandara then signed the bond paperwork and they were given to the bond attorney, Leroy Grawunder, who was at the meeting.

USDA confirms highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in Texas

TEXAS — The U.S. Department of Agriculture today confirmed that the H5N2 strain of avian influenza in a flock of chickens in Texas is highly pathogenic avian influenza, the first such case in the United States in 20 years. USDA is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to forestall any human health impacts from this outbreak. There is no evidence to date of any human health implications of this HPAI virus in Texas.

"The H5 strain can be high or low pathogenic, and the clinical signs observed at the outset of this outbreak suggested that the disease was low path avian influenza," said Dr. Ron DeHaven, USDA's chief veterinary officer. "However, further testing by our National Veterinary Services laboratory in Ames, Iowa, determined that this strain is highly pathogenic avian influenza."

The premises in Gonzales County, Texas, remains under quarantine, and the flock of approximately 6,608 broiler chickens were de-

stroyed over the weekend.

Chickens from the Gonzalez flock made their way to two live-bird markets in Houston. testing revealed chickens at both markets had the disease. Chickens at one market have been destroyed and the other has begun the process.

USDA and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) have started an epidemiological investigation that includes determining the source of the infection and surveillance testing within a 10-mile radius of the infected property.

"We urge everyone who has poultry to practice good biosecurity measures and report any sick birds or death losses to either TAHC or USDA," said DeHaven.

"Good biosecurity practices serve as a barrier against the spread of disease. We are urging poultry and bird owners to ensure they take precautions to prevent the accidental introduction of AI onto a premise. AI virus can be killed easily with a commercial disinfectant or with a solution of three parts bleach and two parts

water," urged Dr. Hillman of TAHC. "Typically, AI is transmitted from a sick chicken or bird to a healthy one by respiratory discharge. However, the virus can be passed in bird manure, which can be picked up on boots, shoes, equipment or tires. To avoid the possibility of 'tracking in' viruses to your farm, keep a pair of boots or shoes to wear only on your own premise, or disinfect your footwear before entering the farm."

Boots should be scrubbed with a long-handled brush to scrape off manure, mud or debris, and the bleach or disinfectant will kill viruses, bacteria and parasites "Tires and equipment should also be disinfected before entering a farm where birds or poultry are housed," he pointed out. "This is particularly important if items have been on or used at another farm where poultry are kept."

"Poultry owners should expect their visitors

See DISEASE, Page 5

One perspective

By Francis Shrum



Country revisited

about the time Garth Brooks started singing about domestic violence I quit listening regularly to country music on the radio. Kids, you know. It didn't help my feelings much when he and a band member slammed their guitars together dur-

ing a concert, destroying two beautiful musical instruments as their parts scattered to the wind. Kids, you know. We don't want them to think this is any kind of standard for behavior. I didn't stop listening to selected country music, though. Alan

Jackson's CD entitled *Drive* is a current favorite. A friend of mine has mentioned several new songs out lately, so I spent some time over the last couple of weeks with a country music radio station on.

Just as it has always been, there is everything from really trashy, to mediocre, to amazingly good.

I have almost forgiven Toby Keith for his brash and disrespectful 9/11 recording because he has followed up with what is — for Keith — a surprisingly insightful song, *An American Soldier*.

As country music always has, many of today's hits depend on events, stories, memories and relationships for their basis. And just as

the average American's life has changed from the hard-working agriculture class to the five-days-on-the-clock worker, so have the songs that tell their stories.

One young woman stuck in traffic writes down on the back of a Krispy Kreme wrapper all the things she would rather do than be where she is right now.

In *My Town*, a good old boy tells about the water tower being torn down, the mill closing up, and how he takes a rusted out old tractor, repaints it, and puts it in his front yard to preserve what it stands for.

Many of the songs are stories about rural America struggling to hold on to what it once was while searching

for the identity that it will have. Surprisingly, a traditional song entitled *Long Black Train* warning people about the dangers of living a life of sin is gaining in popularity on the charts.

Alan Jackson's *Remember When* is enough to soften the most hardened, cynical heart.

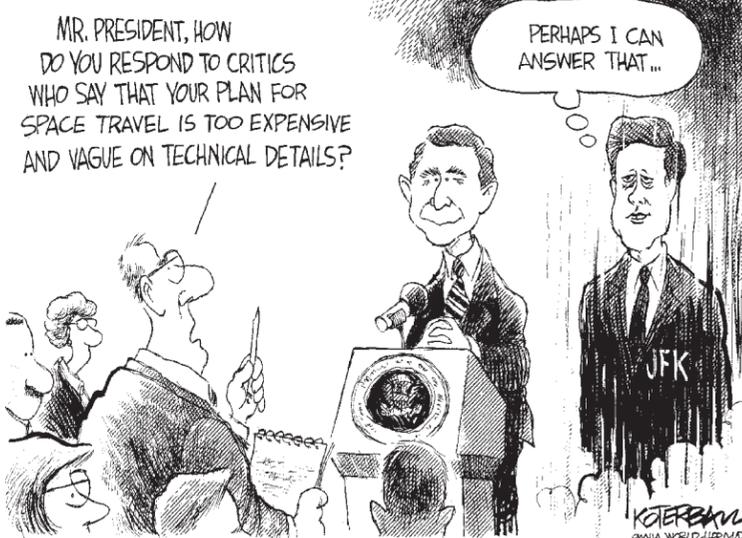
And just as our society has become more harsh and gritty, so has the content of some of the ballads, like the one about an abused little girl who depends on her dreams to help her rise above an unbearable life; and a little boy, virtually abandoned by his father, who realizes during his father's funeral that his Creator is the source of love he has long desired. As the artist explained in an interview, the premise of the song was based on the lack of love and concern from his own father who he barely knew.

There are a few, of course, that it would have been best if they'd never been recorded at all, and a few that most women would love to hear in the privacy of their bedroom but have no place on the public airwaves.

Unlike most styles of modern music, though, country as it is today still hangs onto hope for an optimistic outcome in most of its stories. Many people accuse country music of using emotionalism as an easy hook, which may be true, but there is a certain honesty to that approach. How else could John Michael Montgomery record *Letters from Home* about a soldier who reads his letters to his fellow servicemen. They laugh and share the humor in letters from his mother and girlfriend — but no one laughs when his father writes to him, because it's never funny when a soldier cries.

So, even though I maintain a comfortable closeness to the tuner, I'll be turning on country music radio from time to time, sorting out what is worthwhile and discarding the rest. And musical lessons are important.

For the kids, you know.



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View from here By John Navidomskis

An open letter about mining water on GLO lands

Numerous things need to be addressed by the State of Texas when considering leasing state-owned lands to Rio Nuevo of Midland, Texas for water mining. First of all we do not know the effects of drawing and depleting water from limited ground water sources of an unknown quantity.

The estimated dollar return to the Permanent School Fund (about \$7 million) is minuscule compared to the total in the Fund.

The cost of private water that will be sold to local communities, of limited tax resources, will be excessive.

This property and resource belongs to the all the people of the State of Texas. This agreement will place regulation of Texas-owned property into the hands of the private sector, especially in light of the recent de annexation of GLO lands under rule of local MUDs. How many more will they deannex to avoid local water authority regulations?

The proposed contract violates the rule of Texas Law by giving away something of value for some small returns — "Fair Value Rules" are not

being observed, since the company clearly would not enter into this contract unless they stand to make a substantial profit. Where is the state's share?

And I wonder, has the state board considered suggestions, or solicited comment, from persons with disabilities as per the Americans With Disabilities Act — don't they need water, too?

Additional concerns which indicate the sale of treated water would cause the end receiver to pay "gouged" prices:

- Cost of a 21-inch plastic transmission line is around \$26 per foot.
- Construction of a small reverse osmosis treatment plant to treat a million gallons per day is about \$7 million.
- Small booster pump stations cost more than \$500,000 each to move 4,236 gallons per minute.
- Cost of drilling a well is about \$250,000 to a depth of 425 feet.
- Small elevated or ground storage tanks to hold one half million gallons cost more than \$500,000 each.
- Maintenance and operation, in-

cluding electricity, management, engineering, chemical and legal expenses per month on a system as described above is about \$275,000.

While this may be an argument for the Rio Nuevo group to show how much they will spend in Texas to provide private water, it is actually a contra-indicator when considering the end user cost per 1,000 gallons. The company would be transmitting water hundreds of miles to end users at extremely high prices.

Finally, tax laws would allow Rio Nuevo to write off costs in a short period of time. The \$7 million paid to the Permanent School Fund is nothing compared to the loss of tax dollars in write-offs to the State of Texas.

I believe Rio Nuevo — if they could — would corner the market on the air we breathe and let those who could not pay go without. They are not in this for the betterment of the people of Texas. Government is established to serve the people — how does this serve the public good?

(John Navidomskis sits on the Horizon Regional MUD Board of Directors.)

Young musician seeks to tour Europe

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Cherity Pierce, daughter of Raymond and Sandra Pierce, has been accepted as a member of the 2004 Spirit of America National Honor Band for the 25th Anniversary Performing Tour of Europe. She is a member of the Clint High School Lion Pride Marching Band, directed by Donald Wood, which is a two-time division-one winner

over the past three years. Representing the entire El Paso area, Cherity was selected based on performance ability, maturity, character and the ability to represent the best of American youth. She will join other young musicians from across the U.S. for five days of rehearsal before flying to Europe to tour Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria and France. Performances



Cherity Pierce

will be given for the diplomatic community and at special events. Cherity will be raising her own tuition of \$3,595 on her own and donations to assist her would be welcomed. Call 915-852-4815 or send contributions to 15236 Jack Rabbit, El Paso, TX 79928. The Spirit of America National Honor Society is directed by Dr. George E. Naff.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Iraq trip an eye-opening experience

There is legitimate need to be concerned with the equipment and protective gear our soldiers in the Middle East are using. I gained this perspective through a trip I made earlier this month to Iraq and Kuwait to visit our troops in the region and survey their living conditions.

To ensure our soldiers' safety, they need the right combination of body armor and armor for their Humvees and patrol vehicles. They also need unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to provide added protection in the border regions, which are still extremely dangerous.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, my congressional oversight responsibilities demand that I know the situation on the ground. I can ask Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld questions about living conditions or food service in a hearing room in Washing-

ton, but his answers do not even compare to the first-person experience I gain when meeting with troops in the field. A hearing room does not allow me to sense the danger and feel the anxiety these soldiers live with all the time — nor does it show the soldiers we care about them and are proud of their hard work.

I shared a few meals with the troops, and while the food is not horrible, it could definitely improve. These congressional delegations are important because they show contractors that we will visit these bases, sample their work and not tolerate sub-standard food service.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this trip was my interaction with the soldiers themselves, I had the opportunity to visit with El Pasoan Lt. Andrew Cobos and Capt. Archie Herndon from Canutillo, both proudly carrying out their respective duties in a tough and dangerous environment.

While facing the danger and anxiety that surrounds a war, Lt. Cobos, Capt. Herndon, and all our troops

remain extremely professional and focused. Even during these demanding times, morale is high.

Fortunately, soldiers have access to e-mail, phones and mail services. As a soldier who served 13 months in Vietnam, I know the importance of these seemingly small things. A lifeline home is crucial and can raise the spirits of both our servicemen and women and those at home awaiting their return.

Most importantly, though, this trip served as a morale booster for our troops. Regardless of the differing opinions surrounding this war, we are there and need to finish the job. With the caliber of soldiers serving in the Middle East right now, we are certain of a job well done.

I am extremely proud of the men and women I met. I know there are many concerned families waiting for their loved ones to return home. I share your concerns and will do my absolute best to ensure their safety and security while they are fighting to ensure ours.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

School vouchers are not the answer to our educational needs

While some people view voucher systems as a panacea — the answer to all of Texas' educational needs and problems — I am hesitant in utilizing such a system because of the damage that vouchers could cause to our educational system that may never be repaired, and it will begin to separate, even more, the haves from the have-nots.

The first thing that concerns me about the voucher system is that vouchers would not treat all students equally. A voucher system, whereby a student is allowed a certain amount of money to attend a private school, is being considered as a replacement to our current system of funding our schools. Previously, the method used in Texas was known as Robin Hood because, in essence, it takes from property-rich school districts to distribute to property-poor school districts.

Vouchers would, by necessity, leave some students out. For instance, if a voucher system were adopted for Texas, what's to become of students who live in El Paso's Lower Valley, where poverty and lack of transportation is a major problem? If one such student chooses to attend a private school under the voucher system, but he or she doesn't have transportation, who is going to be in charge of transporting that child to the private school?

The voucher system, as stipulated, won't address issues like that. Those who would impose a voucher system on us won't even take such obstacles into consideration, because they assume that every child in Texas has a mother or a father with transportation to cart their kids around. But that's not always the case, especially in the poorer sections of El Paso, and Texas.

But, this isn't the only reason why I'm so adamant against the voucher system. Let me tell you a few more reasons why I'm opposed to such an unfair proposal:

- Vouchers would take the money out of the public schools system, and place it in the hands of private entrepreneurs, whose sole purpose is to make money;

- Most of the voucher schemes that are now in operation do not require public schools to take children with special needs. The cost of educating children with disabilities is substantially higher, but the voucher system would not provide enough money to meet the educational needs of such children;

- The state has a mandate to educate all children, including problem students. Private schools don't have such restrictions. A child who is expelled from a private school would likely end up in the public school system. There would be no due process rights for children attending pri-

ate schools;

- There would be no recourse for a suspension or an expulsion. This gives private schools the unfettered right to eliminate the slow learner, the student that doesn't fit in, or the student who presents a disciplinary problem. Under a full-fledged voucher system, the public schools would simply become the dumping grounds for problem students;

- The infrastructure of the public schools will be in place, and will have to be maintained at the same cost, but without the same amount of income. A 10 percent reduction in the number of children attending, will not translate into a 10 percent reduction in costs.

Heard enough? These are only a few of the reasons why I'm opposed to voucher systems. Although proponents of voucher systems argue that the giving of money to private schools and providing freedom of choice is the answer to acquiring a quality education, I currently disagree because of the inherent weaknesses in such a system.

What's the answer? I don't know yet, but I'm willing to listen. In fact, Gov. Rick Perry plans to call a special session sometime soon so that we can address the issue. I'd like to hear from you, my constituents, at Chente.Quintanilla@house.state.tx.us

Until then, I remain your friendly servidor, Chente for la Gente.

What you should know about Mad Cow Disease

How often do you think about BSE — commonly referred to as Mad Cow Disease? We've all read the news headlines. And if you're a rancher in America you've probably done a fair amount of research on the subject. But have you ever sat down, sorted out the facts and given the subject some serious thought?

I think about the disease pretty often. As many of you know, I'm the chairman of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. I meet with farmers and ranchers on a weekly —

sometimes daily — basis. The one issue they are all concerned about is a potential outbreak in our country. It's a frightening thought. But it's not just the farmers and ranchers who are concerned about the subject. Students, families and visitors of all kinds ask me about BSE. There are a lot of rumors and fictional tales out there. There's also a lot of confusion about the disease and how it would affect our country. I'd like to set the facts straight. Let me begin by telling you a little about BSE.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is a progressive degenerative disease that affects the central nervous systems of adult cattle. The suspected cause of BSE is a prion, an infectious protein with altered shape that triggers changes in normal protein cells. In BSE, the unknown agent causes the cow's brain cells to die, forming sponge-like holes in the brain. The cow exhibits the symptoms of a nervous disorder and eventually dies.

So how is BSE spread? BSE is spread by contact with brain or other nervous-system tissue from an infected individual. Contact can be from eating food or food by-products that have been contaminated with nervous tissue, or from instruments that have contacted diseased nervous tissue. But scientist have never found the infected proteins in red meat (muscle) or milk. They are found in the brain and spinal cord, and to a lesser extent in the retina and the furthest part of the intestine.

And what are the chances of you contracting the disease associated with BSE? Decide for yourself. There have been only 153 cases of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) in the world and none of these have been contracted in the



By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Eye on D.C.

United States. There is 96.7 million head of cattle in the United States; more than 36 million killed each year, which produced more than 27 billion pounds of meat — yet not a single case of BSE has been found in

cattle born in the U.S. The most recent report that many people remember came in December of 2003 when BSE was found in a cow imported from Canada. But because of our nation's detection system we found the case and were able to deal immediately with it.

Now that you know some of the facts, let me tell you what we're doing to prevent an outbreak. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are working hard to protect the United States from BSE. Several U.S. government agencies are monitoring the meat supply here, as well as imports from other countries.

I know that many of you are concerned about an outbreak. But remember that the United States is already several steps ahead of other countries that are currently dealing with BSE. We're strengthening and safeguarding our system. We're looking out for our livestock owners. And we believe we are prepared for the worst. The bottom line is that we're doing everything possible to prevent BSE from entering our country.

I hope I've answered your questions and given you a little insight into our protection plan. For more information on BSE, I urge you to contact the USDA or take a look at their website: www.aphis.usda.gov

The agriculture industry fuels our nation's economy. Rest assured that I'm doing everything possible to keep this important industry strong, prosperous and ready for the future.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Feb. 22, 1817, the 1st document to be printed in Texas was a patriotic paper prepared for Spanish revolutionary Francisco Mina.



Canutillo honors school nurses in memory of Wanda Fisher

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier



LIVING UP TO THE STANDARD — Canutillo ISD honored all its school nurses with the Wanda Fisher Award. Shown in photo, from left, is Beverly Sanchez, Juana Ulloa, Michele Cicchetti, Betzabe Britton, Christina Garcia, Ida Cajigas, Evangelina Peña.

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees recognized district school nurses with a special presentation of the Wanda Fisher Award during the February school board meeting.

Receiving special recognition plaques were: Juana Ulloa, Canutillo Middle School nurse; Ida Cajigas, Canutillo Elementary; Christina Garcia, Davenport Elementary; Michele Cicchetti, Childress Elementary; Betzabe Britton, Damian Elementary; Evangelina Peña, Canutillo High School; and Beverly Sanchez, district-wide nurse.

Wanda Fisher's influence on the community of Canutillo spanned from the sixties to the eighties. She was the only school nurse for the fledgling school district in the 1960's and seemed to be everywhere doing everything including putting in a lot of hours both on the job and helping with after-school student activities.

In addition to being the only nurse in the district, she was a chaperone for

school dances, cheerleader sponsor, and a role model for many girls, to name a few of her accomplishments.

Today, to honor Fisher's contribution and dedication to CISD, the district's Nurse of the Year award is named in her honor. And, "CISD has such outstanding nurses at each of our six campuses, we decided to honor all of them with this award," said Priscilla Caballero, CISD Special Education director.

"During the 1960's and 1970's, life was difficult, money was tight and

Wanda Fisher made every child feel special. She touched so many lives in so many ways; she will always have a special place in our hearts," recalled Patricia Mendoza, executive secretary for Canutillo ISD Superintendent Charles Hart.

"Mrs. Fisher was a second mother to many students at Canutillo. She held Christmas parties at her house and baked cookies for student functions. She was even able to secure eyeglasses for students who could not afford them," Mendoza related.

Another CHS graduate, Lorenza Gardea, now a legal assistant with Kemp Smith, P.C., said, "Mrs. Fisher was the gentle, kind-hearted school nurse who was always there to help us, and without hesitation she went the extra mile to help us feel better."

Gardea said, "One time my brother was ill, and my parents could not pick him up from school, so Mrs. Fisher went out of her way to drive him home."

Fisher served as class sponsor when Lilia (Teddy) Martinez,

Canutillo's Academic Language Services lead teacher, was a senior at CHS, and in 1982 Martinez nominated her for the El Paso Herald Post's Hero award.

Martinez said that Fisher and her husband would attend all of the high school boys and girls football and basketball games. She also started what may have been the first federally funded breakfast program for students in El Paso County.

According to Martinez, in the 1960's, Fisher arrived early to prepare and cook breakfast for students. Then, she would start her duties as the school nurse. Another task she undertook was to visit homes to provide health care screenings for children who were preparing to enter kindergarten.

"Mrs. Fisher didn't have children of her own, so she was a mother to all of us and served as an excellent role model," Martinez said.

In 1967, the CHS annual was dedicated to Fisher and part of the inscription read, "She was always hard at work in her office doing all she could to improve the health of all the students and teachers alike."

"It is fitting that the school board recognize our school nurses with the Wanda Fisher award because she established a wonderful standard to follow in our schools," said Canutillo ISD School Board President Yvonne Sanchez.

San Elizario 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	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,765,191	\$ 208,417	\$ 1,973,608
5800 State Program Revenues	23,327,187	2,233,411	25,560,598
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,946,714	2,104,367	4,051,081
5020 Total Revenues	27,039,092	4,456,195	31,585,287
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
0011 Instruction	13,302,527	2,271,772	14,574,299
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	459,229	19,158	478,387
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	258,361	200,536	458,897
0021 Instructional Leadership	352,876	197,818	550,694
0023 School Leadership	1,841,746	155,410	1,997,156
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	934,016	26,501	960,517
0032 Social Work Services	36,846	200,766	237,612
0033 Health Services	384,223	24,032	408,255
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	801,388	24,202	825,590
0035 Food Services	1,980,243	95,967	2,076,210
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	416,949	1,000	417,949
0041 General Administration	1,175,191	21,958	1,197,149
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	2,958,006	57,844	3,015,850
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	596,325	41,937	638,262
0053 Data Processing Services	377,568	4,042	381,610
0061 Community Services	4,995	196,516	201,511
Debt Service:			
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	430,000	580,000	1,010,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	548,754	434,829	983,583
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	8,480	3,717	12,197
Intergovernmental:			
0091 Contracted Instructional Services Between	15,098	—	15,098
6030 Total Expenditures	25,882,821	4,558,005	30,440,826
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	1,156,271	(11,810)	1,144,461
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	7,000	—	7,000
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	7,000	—	7,000
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	1,163,271	(11,810)	1,151,461
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	1,665,252	157,634	1,822,886
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 2,828,523	\$ 145,824	\$ 2,974,347

Town of Clint goes high-tech with web site for tourists

CLINT — "Thank you for visiting Clint," the promo reads, "the best kept secret in West Texas."

So are visitors welcomed to the new website for the Town of Clint, newly on the web with the intention of making the secret of Clint just a little less well-kept.

The website provides visitors with information about Clint's history and current status, population, local contacts and more. It reads:

"Clint is located in Southeast El Paso County (the lower valley) near the Rio Grande River. Founded in the late 1800's, Clint began as a rail stop for the Town of San Elizario which was then the County Seat. In 1886, the residents decided to begin a real community. Churches and schools were built and Clint quickly became a prosperous town. The valley was lush with fruit trees and the land was ripe for farming. Cotton was planted and Clint quickly became a large cotton producing region.

"Today, farming cotton, corn and chile, remains Clint's mainstay. A rural community of 1000 residents, Clint is removed from the hustle and bustle of El Paso but close enough to enjoy it's amenities.

"On the Mission Trail, history is very rich in Clint. El Paso County's first public school, Clint School, is still in use today. The First County Jail of El Paso County is a mile away in Historic San Elizario. A Texas Ranger Station used until the 1920's still stands in Clint. Her cemetery just yards away waiting for history buffs to explore her secrets.

"Many historic figures have travelled in and around Clint. Indian war Chief Victorio, famed Texas Ranger James B. Gillett, Pat Garrett, Billy the Kid, Pancho Villa, and a host of others.

"We hope that you might pay us a visit should you find yourself in West Texas. Just 3 miles off Interstate Highway 10, Exit 42, and follow the signs," the promo concludes.

Mountain View's Lobo student council shares love of leadership

By Manny Chávez
Special to the Courier

EAST MONTANA — While most young people were making plans for Valentine's Day, 25 Mountain View High School Lobo leaders spent their day guiding and mentoring 200 elementary and middle school students at the third annual Youth Leadership Summit.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, the Lobo Student Council spent their Saturday working with children from Red Sands Elementary, Montana Vista Elementary and East Montana Middle School.

To get them ready for the day, students were treated to donuts that were donated by Montana Vista Grocery, and Dr. Donna Smith, superintendent for the Clint Independent School District welcomed the students.

"It is so great to be here today" said Dr. Smith. "Do you know how lucky you are to be here and to be able to learn from this state-award winning Student Council?"

The day started on a high as students heard a heart-touching speech from the keynote speaker, Wayne Thornton, co-host of the High School

Senior Showcase.

"Do you know who your real models are? They are your parents and your teachers, not the stars you see on television. Take responsibility for your own actions and before you leave thank the Student Council who took time off on this Saturday to conduct this awesome summit," said Thornton.

The students were then split up for the girls' and boys' sessions. Here they learned how we must coexist in this world and how to respect the opposite sex.

"In our culture, women are taught obedience and that leadership is calling attention to themselves. We wanted the girls to reach inside themselves and realize their full potential," said Student Body President, Corina Cantu.

The students then broke up into seven groups that dealt with leadership, service, character, citizenship, scholarship, energy and environment, and drug awareness.

"In my group, citizenship, we spoke to the students about how they can implement pride projects in their school and how proud they should be to live in this great land. The students then made statue of liberty puppets

to symbolize America," said Christina Delgado.

The students then had the opportunity to sit and network with the officers about the morning activities as they ate a lunch that was donated by the Clint ISD school board president, James Pendell and the Fabens Big 8 store.

"I really think that the kids learned something that they can use in the real world," said Joey Amaya.

After a day of learning and activities, the students were ready to hear the closing speaker, Christina Montoya, anchorwoman for KTSM.

"Students need to work hard to achieve their dreams. I am very impressed with how you students are eager to take the initiative to become leaders in your community," said Montoya.

The day ended with inspirational songs and the students were asked to identify what breakout session was associated with each song.

"The leadership skills our students acquired during this event are priceless and have certainly made a noted difference in their lives," said Bertha Orona, counselor at Montana Vista Elementary.

Disease

From Page 1

to follow biosecurity rules, too," said Hillman. "Insist that visitors disinfect their footwear-or better yet, provide them with disposable shoe covers, or footwear worn only on your place. If visitors don't want their vehicle tires sprayed with disinfectant, ask them to park outside your gate, or outside the perimeter of the farm. Now be-

cause, we know there are infected flocks in Texas, we need to work cooperatively to prevent the potential spread of disease."

H5N1 spreads through bird to bird contact. H5N1 viruses can also be spread by manure, equipment, vehicles, egg flats, crates and people whose clothing or shoes that may have come in contact with the virus.

For more information on avian influenza, please visit the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov or the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at www.cdc.gov.



Briefs

From Page 1

- Salvador H. Sanchez Middle School, 321 North Rio Vista Road, is planning a series of immunization clinics for all students. The clinics are open to the public and scheduled for Feb. 25, March 3, April 14 - 28 and May 19. The cost per child is \$10, which covers all needed immunizations. No Medicaid is accepted. For more information, call Nurse Martha Tittle, 937-5212.
- The Family Pet Photo Session by photographer Jessie Miller is back by popular demand at Valley Feed/PETsBARN, on El Paso County's far west side, 5500 N. Desert, I-10 and Redd Road, on Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a portion of proceeds going to benefit El Paso animal rescue efforts. Leashes or carriers requested for dogs and cats. Appointments are required — call 833-1178.
- Two of Socorro ISD's new schools have set early registration dates for pre-kindergarten, kinder and all other new students enrolling for the 2004-05 school year. Both schools are located in the fast-growing area northeast of Loop 375 and Montwood Drive.

- The dates listed are for students enrolling in the new Paso Del Norte School at 12300 Tierra Este and Lujan-Chavez Elementary, 2200 Sun Country Drive. From 8:30-10:30 a.m. students with surnames beginning with A-F may register on March 30; G-L on March 31; M-R on April 1 and S-Z on April 2. Parents should bring child's birth certificate, shot records, proof of residence and child's social security number. Proof of income is required for pre-kinder. For information at Paso del Norte call 937-6200 or at Lujan-Chavez, 937-8700.
- Desert Hills Elementary, in Horizon City, will hold registration for the 2004-05 school year for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in the DHE cafeteria from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8, and on Tuesday March 9, with afternoon hours extended to 6 p.m. Information: 852-4881.
- Bill Sybert School, 11530 Edgemere Blvd., will hold pre-registration for pre-kindergarten, kinder and first grade Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. through March 4. For information call 937-4400.
- Congressman Henry Bonilla now shares a title with President George W. Bush, Governor Ann

- Richards and Senator Phil Gram. This weekend in Laredo, Bonilla was honored as "Mr. South Texas" 2004. "I'm humbled to be included with the great leaders and visionaries of Texas," said Congressman Bonilla. "This is a tremendous honor that I will carry with me throughout my days." Bonilla was inducted into Los Caballeros de la Republica del Rio Grande during Laredo's Washington Birthday Celebrations and was presented with the Caballero Medallion at the Los Caballeros reception on Friday night. Bonilla also make remarks Sunday afternoon at the Mr. South Texas Lunch, which has become one of the most popular events of the celebration, attended by hundreds of dignitaries and honored guests from both Mexico and the United States. At the lunch, Bonilla announced he will work to secure funding for a new Center for Homeland Security at Texas A&M International University.
- The El Paso Center Against Family Violence and Insights-the El Paso Science Museum will receive \$5,000 each from Dell Computers for the purchase of new computers. "I applaud Dell's investment in El Paso," said Congressman Silvestre Reyes. "In this day and age, technology is extremely important to the success of an organization."

PUBLIC MEETING

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a **PUBLIC MEETING on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004, at 9:00 A.M., at The El Paso MPO Office, c/o The Gateway Business Center, 10767 Gateway Blvd. West, Suite 605, El Paso, Texas 79935.** A copy of the agenda can be found on our Web Page at www.elpasompo.org. For more information contact the MPO Office at (915) 591-9735, Ext. 11.

WTCC: 02/26/04

Town of Horizon City Public Notice

The Town of Horizon City will conduct an election on Saturday, May 15, 2004 for the purpose of filling positions for council members whose two (2) year terms are expiring. The following places are up for election:

Alderman Place 1, Alderman Place 2, Alderman Place 4, and Alderman Place 6.

Qualified persons interested may apply for a place on the Town of Horizon City's General Election ballot beginning February 17, 2004 through March 22, 2004 at 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday — Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Council for the Town of Horizon City approved the following items during the regular council meeting that was conducted on February 10, 2004:

- 1) Ordinance No. 0117 — Rezone a portion of Section 31, Block 78, Township 3, Texas and Pacific Railroad Company Surveys, El Paso County, Texas. Presently zoned R-2, Single Family and R-4B, Single Family Residential to R-4, Single Family Residential. Request submitted by JNC Development, Inc.
- 2) Amendment No. 006 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102 — to add Section 101.6 Rezoning to Chapter 1, Administration, Section 101 General. This amendment sets out guidelines on rezoning requests.
- 3) 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 override from Council on a recommendation from P&Z. Based on the ordinance establishing Planning & Zoning this is not required.
- 4) Amendment No. 008 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102 — Chapter 8-General Provisions and to include a new Section 811-Drainage Ponds.
- 5) Amendment No. 011 to Subdivision Ordinance No. 0035, Section 5.17-Drainage and Storm Sewers adding Section 5.17.4 and subsequent subchapters.

Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

WTCC: 02/26/04

Say it ain't so, Billy — UTEP deals with rumors of Gillispie's departure

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

UTEPathletics.com it is the talk of the town. Everybody has an opinion on this subject.

Some people say the success will go on for a long time. Some say it is bound to end soon and will be forgotten in a few years. And yet, more people have absolutely no clue how long it will last.

The sad thing is that the opinions are not

about how far the Miners will advance into the NCAA tournament, or how deep the Miners can go into the NIT, or even whether they have a chance to win the WAC tournament.

The opinions are about coach Billy Gillispie's tenure here.

Unfortunately, the success of the UTEP basketball team has been coupled with a bit of uncertainty. The team is doing better than anyone could have ever imagined. And because of it, Gillispie is being talked about nationally.

And other colleges that are in need of a basketball coach are listening.

The subject of Gillispie's future with the team is beginning to take a toll on UTEP fans. Just when it appears the school has finally righted the ship, it appears it may carrying some possible defectors.

Athletics director Bob Stull is rumored to be on his way out of El Paso. If he and Gillispie leave, this could steer the ship right into the rocks.

But how can they leave? This thing they've created is just starting. Like a great movie that comes along only once a decade... you've got to stick around and see how it ends.

It's no secret that Gillispie hasn't signed his contract with UTEP. A year-and-a-half with the school and he hasn't signed his contract. That makes no sense to me.

I don't think anyone leaves a contract unsigned by accident. How many of you know someone who has a lucrative multi-year job and hasn't signed on the dotted line?

Yeah, me neither.

I even got the inside scuttlebutt from a member of the media after a recent game. He told me that Gillispie was going to be out of here at the end of March. He said it was a done deal and that a very, very reliable source had told him this.

From my own experience, very, very reliable sources are not always what their name implies. But, amazingly, more often than not, they're right on the money.

Do I think Gillispie will be around next year? I say certainly he'll be around... but I just don't know at which school.

It would be nice if

Gillispie keeps his word and stays. He's always said that he loves it here and that UTEP has always been his dream job. And I truly believe he means it.

I just wonder what he'll say when the big boys offer him three, four and five times the salary UTEP can.

What would you do?

So for now, El Paso, no matter how hard it is, store the Gillispie thing in the back of your mind and concentrate on the thing of beauty the UTEP basketball season has been and is still evolving into.

This hasn't happened around here in a while. Embrace and wallow in it. Like the UTEP marketing department says about the school, "Our time is now."

Wolves sharpen their teeth

Anyone who knows anything about the NBA can quickly tell you who the best team in the league is this year.

No, not the L.A. Lakers, not the San Antonio Spurs, not the Dallas Mavericks or the New Jersey Nets. Not the Indiana Pacers and not even the Sacramento Kings.

It's the Minnesota Timberwolves (or just the "Wolves" as they like to be called).

Minnesota has managed the best record in the league and got some incredibly good news last week.

Remarkably, they've put together the best record without three very important members of the team. Wally Szczerbiak, Michael Olowokandi and Troy Hudson, all rejoined the team after being out for most, or all, of the season with injuries.

Szczerbiak is a former all-star and has averaged 15 points a game for his career and is an 85-percent free throw shooter. Olowokandi is a 7-foot center who has averaged 10 points and eight boards in his brief NBA career. Hudson, a guard, has averaged 9.4 points and almost four assists in his career.

Wow, that's almost 35 points a game the "Wolves" have added to an already impressive lineup.

Very quietly, Minnesota, which also happens to have the league's best player in Kevin Garnett and two other pretty good players in Sam Cassell and Latrell Sprewell, is putting together a championship-type season... and almost 60 games into an 82-game season, they're still improving.

UTEPATHLETICS.COM

SOFTBALL
DOUBLE HEADER:
FEBRUARY 29TH
VS NEW MEXICO
@ 11:00 AM
&
@ 1:00 PM
*ALL GAMES PLAYED AT
EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
VALLE VERDE CAMPUS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
FEBRUARY 26TH
VS LA. TECH @ 7:05 PM
"LEAGUE NIGHT"
*18-UNDER GET IN FREE!
FEBRUARY 28TH
VS SMU @ 7:05 PM
"SCOUT DAY"
*18-UNDER GET IN FREE!
*GAMES PLAYED AT "THE DON"

TENNIS
FEBRUARY 27TH
VS NORTH TEXAS @ 2:00 PM
FEBRUARY 28TH
VS COLORADO ST. @ 1:00 PM
*MATCHES HELD AT
EL PASO TENNIS CLUB

LOS MINEROS DE UTEP

"It's Our Time"

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 747-5347

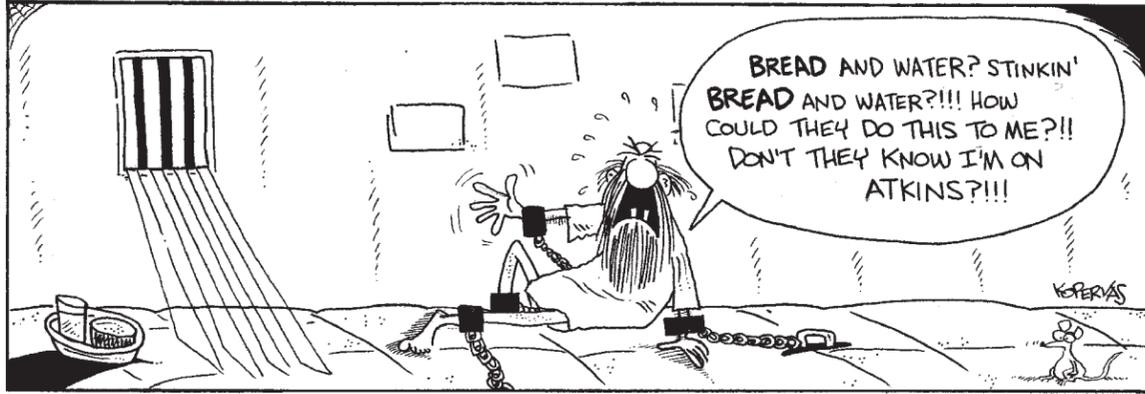
King Super Crossword

- PURCHASING POWER**
- ACROSS**
- 1 "Kon-Tiki," for one
- 5 Relay length
- 9 Lawyers' org.
- 12 Pontificate
- 18 Grasso or Raines
- 19 Prownd
- 20 Daring
- 22 European peninsula
- 23 "Giselle" composer
- 24 Sour fruit
- 25 Cupid
- 26 Elect
- 27 Start of a remark by Evan Esar
- 31 "Nightmare" street
- 32 Party potable
- 33 Likely to last?
- 37 Chemical compound
- 41 Gangster's gun
- 43 Kafka character
- 46 Bother
- 47 Homer's field
- 48 Pen pals?
- 50 Govt. notes
- 52 Duty
- 53 Part 2 of remark
- 55 Steel support
- 56 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star
- 57 Travel agcy.?
- 59 Salad veggie
- 61 Football's Herber
- 63 Christine of "Housekeeping"
- 66 Actor Brynner
- 67 Penny _
- 69 Seoul man?
- 70 Grass "The Tin _"
- 74 Part 3 of remark
- 77 Philanthropist Cornell
- 78 Creche figure
- 80 Whelan or Sorokin
- 81 Tear
- 83 Brawl
- 84 Made like Mata Hari
- 85 Chicken feed
- 90 Doctrine
- 91 Canine grp.
- 92 Cry of regret
- 94 Part 4 of remark
- 95 Rocker Morrison
- 97 _ piece
- 100 Easily digested
- 102 See 75 Down
- 103 Skater Midori
- 104 _ Carlo
- 105 " _ been had!"
- 106 Like Mister Ed?
- 108 Neanderthals
- 111 Remind one's spouse?
- 113 Part of a crane
- 114 End of remark
- 123 Candles
- 126 Enrages
- 127 Monthly expense
- 128 Vegetate
- 129 Go to extremes
- 130 Wonka's creator
- 131 Inland sea
- 132 Tun throwaways
- 133 With 17 Down, TV chef
- 134 Comedian Louis
- 135 Ruminant
- 136 New Mexico resort
- DOWN**
- 1 Paper quantity
- 2 Filmom's Ray
- 3 Custard of Castile
- 4 Docile
- 5 Brawn
- 6 Cairo creed
- 7 Uris or Trotsky
- 8 Churchill's successor
- 9 Diminish
- 10 Gasconade
- 11 Baseball family name
- 12 Important
- 13 Superior to
- 14 With 72 Down, "Spartacus" actor
- 15 Exist
- 16 102, to Tacitus
- 17 See 133 Across
- 21 Thirsty
- 28 Craving
- 29 Weasel relative
- 30 Uggams or Caron
- 34 Mississippi port
- 35 Nabokov novel
- 36 Deli delicacy
- 37 Neuwirth of "Cheers"
- 38 Artistic output
- 39 Coll. cadets
- 40 Qatar's continent
- 41 Sarcastic remark
- 42 Santa -, CA
- 44 Desert
- 45 Sphere
- 49 Novelist Cather
- 51 Rural sight
- 54 Attempt
- 58 Attention
- 60 "That hurts!"
- 61 Put on
- 62 Martha of "Jumbo"
- 64 Coal by-product
- 65 Claire or Balin
- 67 Fuzzy fruit
- 68 Govern
- 69 Mend, as a bone
- 70 Record players?
- 71 Caviar
- 72 See 14 Down
- 73 New York team
- 75 With 102 Across, table accessory
- 76 From Cork
- 79 Splendor
- 82 Child welfare org.
- 84 Island outfit
- 85 Summon electronically
- 86 Taj town
- 87 Film _
- 88 Takes in
- 89 Add fringe
- 92 Position correctly
- 93 Actress Tyler
- 95 Morrow or Dana
- 96 _ standstill
- 98 "The Sage of Concord"
- 99 Loman portrayer
- 101 Prickly plant
- 107 Broad sash
- 109 Film critic Roger
- 110 _ Gras
- 112 Bridal path?
- 113 Doctor Salk
- 115 Pitch in
- 116 Where to speak Farsi
- 117 Metric weight
- 118 Neighbor of Brazil
- 119 Lean
- 120 Concept
- 121 Toast topper
- 122 Stack role
- 123 Poul's papa
- 124 Palindromic name
- 125 _ diem

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



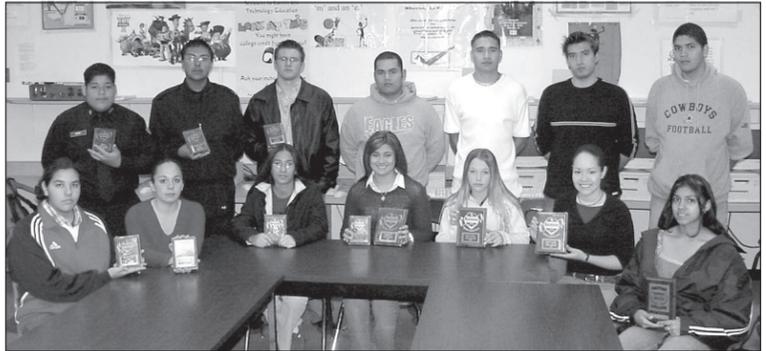
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Students qualify for national BPA competition

CANUTILLO — Canutillo High School Business Professionals students advance to state competition March 4-6, in San Antonio after taking top honors in various business contests during the BPA regional competition held recently at the El Paso ISD Career Center. Over 200 students from local area school districts participated in the two-day event. Shown in photo, seated from left are Ana Lisa Alvarado, Emma Escobar, Yorlin Flores, Ruby Palacios, Jeanette Steinbach, Claudia Iglesias, Carmen Hernandez; back row, from left, Rogelio Medina, Jesus Larrea, Weston Berry, Gabriel Del Rio, David Loya-Joosten, Michael Sainz, and Mario Garcia. Not pictured are Kyle Melton, Velia Herren, Alex Rodriguez, and Judith Pasillas. Canutillo HS Teachers Carol Sherman and Tim Barno are the BPA advisors.

Hotline for breathing problems and how to quit smoking

AUSTIN — If you have questions about asthma, emphysema, lung cancer, allergies, or how to quit smoking, the answers are just a phone call away, and absolutely free.

The American Lung Association of Texas is now offering free access to a nationwide Call Center in which anyone with questions about lung health can call to get answers from trained healthcare professionals or referrals to local medical facilities and specialists. Calls to the hotline, as well as any written materials requested by callers, are free of charge. All calls are handled by registered nurses, registered respiratory therapists, and quit smoking specialists. The Call Center offers one of the most comprehensive collections of information on the following topics, and more:

- Lung diseases, such as asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, COPD, influenza, pneumonia, lung cancer, sarcoidosis, and tuberculosis
 - Air Quality
 - Allergies
 - Tobacco & Smoking Cessation
- "We're very excited about the opportunity to offer this new service to the residents of Texas," said Edward Carter, president and chief executive officer of the American Lung Association of Texas. "The American Lung Association Call Center will allow us to provide a higher level of customer service to lung disease patients, their families, and caregivers."
- The Call Center is staffed from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). The toll-free phone number is 1-800-548-8252. Questions may also be submitted to the Call Center via the Internet at www.texaslung.org. Questions submitted online will be answered within 48 hours.
- Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2004, the American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary health organization in the United States. Its mission is to prevent, control, and cure lung diseases such as asthma, lung cancer, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, influenza, and pneumonia. For more information about ALA programs, or to volunteer or make a contribution, call 1-800-LUNG-USA, or visit www.texaslung.org on line.

Don Flood will return next week.

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:

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004

FINANCING FOR SCHOOL BUSES
CSP NO. 199-0309-0459
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3 P.M.

PORTABLE CLASSROOMS
CSP NO.

199-0309-0460
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 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-02/26/04

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:

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2004

CHARTER BUS SERVICES
CSP NO. 199-0305-0457
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2 P.M.

GENERAL APPAREL
CSP NO. 199-0305-0458
ACCEPTED UNTIL 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-02/26/04

Invitation to Bid

Texas Bollweevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. is soliciting bids for the manual application of pink bollworm pheromone ropes. Ropes will be tied to cotton plants at an approximate rate of 200 ropes per acre at certain stages of growth. A minimum of 40 persons over a four-week period will be needed for

this activity. Applications of ropes in the El Paso and Trans Pecos areas will begin in late May or early June. Bidders must furnish the Foundation Workers Compensation coverage prior to contract approval. Bids will be accepted through March 10, 2004. For more information and detailed instructions, please contact the local Foundation office at (877) 765-2139, or the Foundation Headquarters office at (800) 687-1212, ext. 3124. WTCC-02/26/04 03/04/04

BARGAINS

X-TRA WIDE WHEELCHAIR,

new condition! \$350 OBO (retails at \$600+). Call 852-3507 or 630-8474. 2/26

DRUM SET. 5-piece Forum Series complete with cymbals. Pearl chrome blue. Excellent condition. \$650. 852-4235.

HELP WANTED

Ryan Supply, Inc. Ace Hardware
117 North Fabens St
Fabens, Texas

Immediate part-time, entry level positions available for:
• Cashier
• Loader/ Stocker
Applicants must be 18. Bilingual

perferred.

RENTAL

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. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

AMERICAS

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Ticket Dismissal & Insurance Discounts
English y Español \$25
(915) 630-8474

AV CONSTRUCTION

Additions & Remodeling
Kitchen & Bathrooms
Garage Conversions
Extend Any Room of Your House
Deck & Porches for Mobile Homes
Replace Existing Windows
FREE ESTIMATES 851-2165
3/11/04

WINDOW TINT
Office • Home

• Car
Free Estimates
(915) 549-5774

CALL GREEN HORNET

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

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office: (No repairs within Horizon City)

R.V. Dick Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING

852-1079
• Electric roter service for sewers and drains
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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I know that a widow with small children can get Social Security benefits based on her deceased husband's earnings record. But someone told me that a woman with children who is not widowed could get benefits, too. How can that be?

disabled person's spouse, if he or she is caring for those children, and if the spouse's own work income is below a certain level. Those spousal benefits generally would continue until the youngest child reaches age 16.

A: We pay monthly benefits to the minor children of a worker who has retired or to the children of someone getting Social Security disability benefits. The law says we must also pay monthly benefits to the retiree's or

Q: I have had two heart attacks and two subsequent surgeries. Does that qualify me for Social Security disability benefits?

A: It might. The law says that to grant disability benefits, we must have suf-

ficient medical evidence that shows your heart condition will keep you from doing any "substantial" work for at least a year. As a general rule, "substantial" work is any job that pays \$810 or more per month in 2004. So, if you're not working, or if you're working and making less than \$810 monthly, you should apply for disability benefits. You can do so online at www.socialsecurity.gov or call 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to file at your local Social Security office.

Q: I am getting Social Security disability benefits. I just got a package

in the mail that talks about a "Ticket to Work." It looks official and I think it came from the Social Security Administration. But I've gotten other official-looking mail that turned out to be a scam. Is this legit?

A: Yes, it is an official package from the Social Security Administration. "Ticket to Work" is a voluntary program that's intended to help you find a job, with the eventual goal of becoming financially independent again and returning to the workforce. The program includes incentives that let you keep your government health insurance coverage for up to eight

years and six months after returning to work, and allows you to get back on the disability program quickly if you are forced to quit your job because of your disabilities.

For more information visit your local Security office, see 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.

www.wtccourier.com

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
▲ 64°	▼ 44°	▲ 62° ▼ 40°	▲ 58° ▼ 36°	▲ 60° ▼ 40°	▲ 62° ▼ 38°	▲ 64° ▼ 40°	▲ 66° ▼ 38°

UV INDEX

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

Thursday	7	High
Friday	5	Moderate
Saturday	5	Moderate
Sunday	6	Moderate
Monday	6	Moderate
Tuesday	6	Moderate
Wednesday	6	Moderate

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	64°
Friday	52°
Saturday	46°
Sunday	49°
Monday	67°
Tuesday	70°
Wednesday	70°

AGRICULTURE

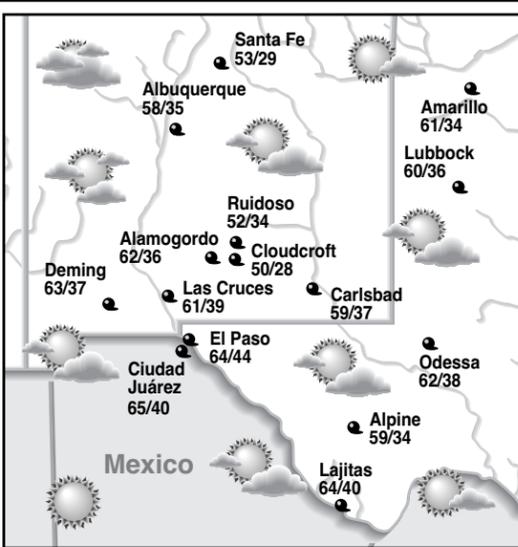
High pressure building over the southern Plains will bring sunshine to the region Thursday. A storm system slowly approaching from the west will produce cloudy skies and windy conditions Friday. This storm will move through on Saturday and could bring a shower or two with it.

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	64	42
Canutillo	64	43
Clint	63	43
E. Montana	64	44
Fabens	63	43
Horizon	65	44
San Elizario	62	41
Socorro	63	43
Tornillo	63	43
Vinton	64	42

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	58/35/pc	55/33/c	49/29/c	51/31/pc	52/28/pc
Atlanta	44/32/c	48/36/s	58/42/pc	64/46/pc	63/40/c
Atlantic City	40/26/c	46/32/s	52/38/s	53/35/s	50/30/c
Austin/San Antonio	60/35/s	64/47/s	67/52/pc	68/41/c	66/43/pc
Baltimore	42/24/c	46/28/s	55/36/s	55/36/s	53/31/c
Boston	35/23/s	40/28/s	48/34/s	50/36/pc	47/32/c
Chicago	42/26/s	48/32/s	52/34/pc	50/32/c	43/24/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	58/39/s	61/49/s	62/47/pc	61/41/pc	61/40/pc
Denver	60/31/pc	51/26/c	39/21/c	46/22/c	45/18/c
Flagstaff	36/24/c	32/20/c	36/18/c	40/20/c	42/17/c
Houston	62/40/s	68/48/s	70/58/pc	68/48/c	64/46/s
Kansas City	51/31/s	55/37/pc	53/33/c	50/30/c	46/27/pc
Las Vegas	62/46/c	57/43/pc	59/41/pc	62/42/s	64/43/s
Miami	82/56/pc	75/60/pc	78/66/pc	81/69/pc	83/65/pc
Minneapolis	39/24/pc	42/26/c	41/27/c	39/25/f	33/17/c
New Orleans	60/42/s	66/48/s	70/56/pc	73/55/c	67/50/s
New York City	37/30/s	43/35/s	51/38/s	51/40/s	51/35/c
Philadelphia	40/26/pc	44/30/s	55/38/s	55/38/s	53/34/c
Phoenix	66/50/c	64/44/c	62/46/pc	66/48/pc	68/45/pc
Portland	52/38/c	50/38/c	50/38/c	52/39/r	56/41/pc
San Francisco	56/44/r	56/44/pc	58/46/pc	59/48/c	62/50/pc
Seattle	50/38/c	50/38/c	48/36/c	50/39/c	52/40/pc
Tucson	71/46/pc	59/40/c	59/38/c	66/38/pc	68/40/pc
Washington, DC	45/30/c	48/32/s	56/38/s	56/40/s	55/35/c

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

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