



NEWSBRIEFS

Deputies honored

El Paso County Sheriff's Deputies Miguel Marquez, Michael Lara and Cesar Anchondo were among officers honored in an Awards Presentation Ceremony on May 6, with a presentation from Sheriff Leo Samaniego of a Certificate of Merit for the rescue of 14 children from a flooded home in Tornillo, Texas on Aug. 17, 2003. The ceremony was to present awards to Sheriff's Office personnel and El Paso Community citizens for service and extraordinary actions. Deputy Jose Daniel De Anda received the Purple Heart Medal earned in the arrest of two violent gang members; and Deputies Manuel Rubio and Alex Medina were noted for their efforts when they saved two lives on Oct. 20, 2003 during a mountain rescue on Trans Mountain Road.

Around the world

The Horizon High School freshman class will be holding their first annual World's Fair on Wednesday, May 19, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Gym Foyer. If you have ever dreamed of seeing the world, this will be your chance. Dozens of countries spanning the seven continents will be represented in addition to food, games, prizes and even an Olympic Tournament! The event is open to the public — admission is 50 cents for anyone 7th grade and under and \$1 for anyone 8th grade and over. Call 926-4200 and ask for Pete Wagner or Amanda Sanchez for more information.

Top Cats Banquet

The Second Annual Top Cats Banquet will be May 20, recognizing the top 10 students in grades 8-12, with UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio headlining the event as special guest speaker. A total of 50 Fabens ISD students will be honored for outstanding academic achievements, and a special dinner will be served. Additionally, the Teacher of the Year from each Fabens campus will be honored.

In other news

■ A fundraising concert featuring the Fuentes del Bravo band and Aladdin Disco will held on May 22, 8 p.m. at the Mission Valley Ballroom to benefit Virginia Garcia, who is awaiting liver treatment at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. The event is being sponsored by five Socorro women, all relatives of Garcia who is SISD Special Education coordinator. Tickets are available before the concert at the SISD Transportation Services Department, 12300 Pine Springs Drive. Admission is \$10 donation. Contact Josie Trillo at 937-0547 for more information.

■ The No Limits Track Club, which participates in Junior Olympics track and field

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Between tomorrow's dream and yesterday's regret is today's opportunity.
 — Quips & Quotes

School districts name Teachers of the Year

Clint ISD picks Quezada and Sanchez as top teachers

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

Clint Independent School District announced the District Secondary and Elementary Teachers of the Year for 2003-2004 at a banquet held at Emerald Springs Golf Club on April 22. Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, James Kelch, announced the winners to a crowd of family, friends, colleagues, administrators and board members.

The Clint ISD District Elementary Teacher of the Year honor was given to Eva Quezada from C.T. Welch Intermediate where she has been teaching the last two years. Quezada, who has been an educator for six years, is currently a sixth and seventh grade science teacher. She has given much of her own time to be involved in numerous committees and coordinate campus science fairs.

The Clint ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year honor went to

Amanda Sanchez from Horizon High School where she has been teaching English for the past year. Mrs. Sanchez is involved at her campus as a Cheer and freshman sponsor. She also serves as the Language Arts Department Chair.



Eva Quezada



Amanda Sanchez

Also honored at the banquet were the Clint ISD Campus Teachers of the Year: Luis Ramirez, Clint High School; Tom Dean, Mountain View High School; Belinda Pendell, Clint Junior High School; Lorenza Marquez, East Montana Middle School; Michelle Payne, W.D. Surratt Elementary; Ernesto Esparza, Montana Vista Elementary; Esther Castor, Desert Hills Elementary; Yolanda Reed, Red Sands Elementary; Lorena Alvarado, Frank Macias Elementary.

The Campus Teachers of the Year were awarded a plaque and a check for \$1000. The District Teachers of the Year were awarded with a plaque and a check for an additional \$2500.

Arellano and Nieto named top teachers in Socorro ISD

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — April 22 marked the beginning of a busy year for Montwood High School's Pat Arellano and Robert R. Rojas Elementary School's Yolanda Nieto. The teachers were



Pat Arellano

selected as Socorro ISD's 2004-2005 Teachers of the Year during the annual dinner and ceremony at Downtown's Camino Real Hotel ballroom. Arellano is the media technology instructor at Montwood, and teaches students how to use video and audio equipment and computers. Nieto is a second-grade bilingual teacher at Rojas, and has

taught there for three of her 16 years as a teacher. Nieto says she was "pleasantly shocked" to be named Elementary Teacher of the Year. "We have so many powerhouse teachers here at Rojas. I really didn't expect to win beyond the campus level." And why does she think she was picked? "I am not really a joiner; I often ar-



Yolanda Nieto

rive at 6:30 a.m. to begin creating the environment that allows my students to learn."

"It's beyond surprise," Arellano said moments after the announcement. "It was utter shock." She came into teaching four years ago from corporate America, after working in management at Intermed Corporation and another firm, Paxar Corporation. She was also chief operations officer and partner in the El Paso company, Turnkey Solutions and also worked as a freelance photographer and videographer.

"But nothing, nothing that I have ever done in the corporate arena compares to this," Arellano says. "Here, you're touching lives not rolling sales figures or crunching commission checks you're touching lives." Arellano and Nieto each received a check for \$1,000, a plaque, and the opportunity to compete for the Region 19 Teacher of the Year title later this year.

El Paso County Commissioners urged to continue fiscal restraint

By Guadalupe Silva
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Despite an increase in revenues this past year, El Paso County is still spending more than it collects in taxes and fees and will have to continue its fiscal restraint for five more years, Auditor Ed Dion said, during a budgetary special session last week.

Dion commended elected officials and county departments for their efforts toward

increasing the growth of revenues by 9.5 percent. Unfortunately it's still not enough to reduce the gap between expenditures and revenues, he said, crediting last year's budgetary cuts and the County's new cost-saving and enhanced collection efforts for some of the growth in revenues.

"But we cannot continue on this path, since this will be our third consecutive fiscal year of shortfalls," Dion said, explaining that even with the planned budget reductions, the county's projected shortfall for fiscal year

2004-2005 is estimated at \$13.8 million and at \$12.6 for 2006. "At that rate our reserves, expected to be at \$30.8 million by the end of this year, will be completely wiped out by 2007. Unless the county's revenues and expenditures are aligned in the near future, we'll be forced to borrow money to keep operations going in the beginning of each fiscal year, starting in 2007."

Most of last year's budgetary cuts will continue this year, Dion said, except for those that

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Socorro council agrees to move forward with internal audit

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — What has been one of Socorro Mayor Irma Sanchez' goals since she took office — an internal audit of the City of Socorro — is getting closer to becoming a reality.

Members of the Socorro City Council are in agreement with the need for an internal audit and Mayor Sanchez said the process will make sure that taxpayer's monies are being spent appropriately.

During the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on May 6, 2004, members of Council agreed to meet with the top three candidates that responded to requests for qualifications, to negotiate on a price to conduct the audit, going back as far as 10 years.

It was the hope of Mayor Sanchez to have the audit done for the past 18 years, but in an effort to save money, Council agreed to go back only 10 years. The Socorro City Charter states a yearly internal audit should be conducted, and since the Charter has been in place since November of 2001, Council would be in compliance if they elected to get an audit for only two years, but they felt they should go back further.

Community member Ricardo Ortiz voiced his approval for the internal audit. Lorenza Fraire, a concerned citizen, said she thinks it will be a miracle if the audit ever takes place.

In other business, some community members in the audience continue to express their concern over the items being placed in consent agenda they feel are not routine items. The consent agenda allows routine items to be approved with one single vote without indepth

discussion. There were 26 items in the consent agenda and Council pulled out five items for discussion and approved the rest of the items in one vote. These items approved included some that were being protested, such as pay increases for employees that did not stipulate if the increase was hourly, weekly, monthly or exactly what type of increase was intended.

In another agenda item, some members of Council and Mayor Sanchez selected citizens to sit on the Charter Amendment Review Committee. The committee will consist of 11 members, seven of whom have already been selected. This committee will review the Charter and make recommendations for any amendments needed. The City of Socorro will hold the Charter Amendment election on May 15, 2004 to decide if the committee may begin reviewing the Charter.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Aw, just keep it

They say you aren't supposed to look a gift horse in the

mouth but this one needs a real good dental checkup.

The new "government-sponsored" Medicare drug discount card is nothing short of a good smack in the face to the folks to whom we owe the most. Our elderly.

Good old Uncle Sam says that virtually every drug is covered by the 26 nationwide drug discount cards — or maybe one of an unspecified number of cards of "regional" origin — of which a senior citizen is allowed to have only one.

But how many hoops are we going to require our older folks to jump through to find out which card they need? Instead of honoring our senior citizens, this program is going to require them to go through a long, complicated and demeaning application process — worse than applying for food stamps, I figure — to find out which card they need, whether or not they can get it, whether or not the drug company they need services the area they live in — and whether or not they must prove they are unable to stand on only one leg while scratching their left ear.

Okay, so I made that last one up. But it fits right in with the rest of the gobbledygook that is being offered as a "benefit" to our older people just so they can get a 25 percent discount which is still, in some cases, more expensive than drugs obtained via the internet or a trip across the border.

And who knows how many card changes they'll have to go through depending on how many times the doc changes their prescribed medicines.

Sorry about that, but this one doesn't even get close to passing the

smell test. As many tax dollars as are sent up the pike every year, this drug "discount" program would be worthy of a good chuckle if it weren't so serious.

The magnanimous attitude of the folks who put this thing together just blows my mind. For instance, if you are a "low income" senior citizen — good luck figuring out whether this designation applies to you and proving it to Uncle Same — you will get an "extra" \$600 "credit" on your card, provided that you have actually figured out which one actually applies to you, if any at all. Then you get the privilege of paying a fee, \$30 or so, to sign up for most of the cards, though some do charge less or nothing.

Don't understand the process? Uncle Sam is there to help confuse you further. Simply log on to their website on your computer or call a 1-800 number. Now, how many of our older folks actually use the internet or want to spend the useless hours — and I do mean hours! — wading through the telephone answering system that will inevitably be required?

Further, Uncle Sam will show his unlimited generosity by allowing seniors to keep whatever existing drug discount cards they may have from an insurance or drug company.

C'mon, boys and girls who are supposed to represent us, you can do a better job than that. This program had to have been written by lawyers since it requires a lawyer to decipher all the regs in it. If the U.S. government truly wanted to be helpful to its older folks, all it had to do is take a gander through the list of people who have and use Medicare cards. Then they could have simply issued cards with drug credits on them, much like a telephone card or a gift card from a department store, to all our senior citizens in the amount that is avail-

able for this program.

What's that you say? We can't do that because why? Oh, I see. It would put all those lawyers and administrators out of a job — all that personnel needed to power this unwieldy and unworthy governmental monster.

Like all other government programs that some genius dreams up to "help" us, this one is destined to fall flat on its face. It is custom-designed to be useless and unused by those who really need it, and for abuse by the thieves among us who will play hide and seek among the numerous and confusing guidelines.

They had a program here in Texas called the "Crime Victim's Assistance Program" to reimburse victims of violent crimes for their financial losses. Unfortunately, it died of unnatural causes — namely the standards that a crime victim had to meet to "prove" they deserved every single penny were so great that nobody applied for it. I don't imagine that a woman who has just been seriously beaten by her husband is going to remember to record the mileage to the doctor or hospital.

CHIP (Child Health Insurance Program) is intended to assist families in obtaining medical care for their kids, but it is already suffering from the same malady — it's just too hard to qualify and keep up with all the requirements which change as often as the weather.

The vast majority of the money designated to fund these kinds of programs never makes it to those in need. Instead, these funds are siphoned away to pay for printing application forms, for the little girl on the phone who tells you she will send out the forms right away, for the administrator-types who will look over those forms until they come to an irregularity and stamp them "rejected," and for the travel expenses to send officials out to give you a "fair" hearing if you feel like pursuing it that far.

More than likely, though, the folks who most need a little government help to pay for their medicines will simply say, "Aw, just keep it."



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ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Military spouses deserve full retirement benefits

As a community with a large military presence, El Paso knows the sacrifices our soldiers and their families make for the safety and security of our country. Military life is not easy. Families move constantly, spend extended periods of time separated from each other, and often do not spend priceless moments such as the birth of a child or a high school graduation together. In times of war and peace, those who stay behind have an equally tough and stressful job as those who leave home.

This is why a bipartisan group of 333 members of Congress co-sponsor the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act, which has the support of numerous veterans service organizations. This Act would ensure that military spouses receive the retirement benefits that were promised them through the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).

1972. When enrolling in the program, service members agreed to pay premiums to provide their spouses with a retirement income — 55 percent of their retirement benefit — in the event of their death.

However, under current law, when these spouses reach the age of 62, their benefits are reduced from 55 percent to 35 percent. The offset is intended to account for Social Security payments and other subsidies provided by the government; however, those offsets have not materialized and servicemembers were not even made aware of this change when enrolling in the program.

While the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act, which would phase out the penalty over five years, enjoys broad bipartisan support in the House of Representatives, the recent Republican-backed fiscal year 2005 Budget Resolution, which passed the House in March, does not pay for ending this penalty.

Many of my colleagues and I in Congress are fighting to end this unfair penalty. These surviving spouses — many of whom are elderly women struggling to meet basic living expenses — must make painful choices concerning food, fuel and housing costs. Through the use of a discharge petition, a congressional procedure which will force a committee — in this case, the House Armed Services Committee — to act on a bill two weeks after the petition gains 218 signatures, we hope to end this unfair penalty. This discharge petition currently has 201 signatures and garners more support each day.

Military spouses play an important role in the defense of our country and oftentimes do not receive the recognition they deserve. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will continue to urge my colleagues to fight for our military families.

Medicare drug discount cards: Important facts to know

This month the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will introduce new Medicare-approved prescription drug discount cards. The new cards will offer seniors discounts of up to 25 percent off the cost of their medications.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the seniors of our nation. Like any new program, there is an abundance of information that participants should know and understand. What follows is a series of frequently asked questions regarding the prescription drug discount cards.

1. What kinds of discounts do the cards offer?

The new Medicare-approved cards will offer seniors discounts of up to 25 percent off the cost of their medications. Better yet, low-income seniors will be eligible to receive a \$600 credit on their cards to defray their drug costs this year. They will also receive an additional \$600 credit in 2005.

2. Who is a low-income senior?

Under the new law, a low-income senior is a person who makes less than 135 percent of the federal poverty level, roughly \$12,900 annually for an individual or \$16,600 for a couple.

3. When can seniors begin to sign up for these cards?

Seniors can begin to sign up for their Medicare-approved discount cards on May 3rd. The cards will become active on June 1.

4. How will they sign up?

Seniors will be able to enroll with a drug card of their choice a number of ways. They include calling their congressional office for assistance signing up, and visiting www.medicare.com or calling 1-800MEDICARE.

5. How much will it cost to sign up?

Some discount card sponsors will charge an enroll-

ment fee of around \$30. However, other card sponsors will offer a lower fee or no fee at all.

6. What drugs are covered?

Every drug, any drug, all drugs, are covered under this program. Though all cards may not cover all drugs, every drug is covered by at least one of the cards offered.

7. How many cards will be offered?

Currently, 26 cards will be available nationwide and still others will be available regionally. The number of cards available to seniors will depend largely on where they live.

8. How will a senior know which card is best for them?

Because participation in this new discount card program is voluntary, choosing a card will require some research on the part of seniors or caregivers. First, whether or not a

card sponsor charges an enrollment fee will be a factor for some seniors. Second, which drugs the card covers and how much of a discount they offer will be other factors. Finally, which pharmacies in a senior's area offer which discounts will be another factor.

9. What if a senior has an existing drug discount card?

Seniors can have only one Medicare-approved discount card but they CAN KEEP discount drug cards they already have from drug makers or groups. In many cases the savings these cards offer will be greater than those the Medicare-approved card can offer. What types of cards a senior has should be a factor when choosing which Medicare-approved card to sign up for.

I hope the information in this week's column proves helpful when making a decision about this new resource for our nation's seniors. For more information on the prescription drug cards, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE.



By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Eye on D.C.

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla



High taxes and NO new money to fund public education

Hola mi gente. This week the Republican leadership passed House Bill 1 (HB1) — better known as the Public Education Bill. I believe its name should be the Tax Bill, due to its context and drive to hike up sales tax to one of the highest in the country. With notable opposition, I am proud to report that the entire El Paso House delegation voted against it.

With one vote, Republican leadership killed good ideas and turned their backs on Democrats and Republicans who wanted to work toward improving public education in Texas. This bill is a sham — the process was a sham.

On Tuesday, May 4, 2004 during the bill's second reading, let it be known that the Republican leadership chose to silence members, shut down the democratic process, and ignore 200-plus amendments to the bill. Democrats — and many Republicans who voted against the bill — were denied the opportunity to debate important issues and present good, constructive amendments that could have made the bill better than disastrous. Only two of the 200-plus amendments sitting on the Speaker's desk were deemed worthy of discussion by House Republicans.

A number of changes were made to HB 1 on the second reading.

- Sets a uniform local property tax rate of \$1.20 per \$100 — up from \$1.05. A resident in the Socorro ISD will have a miserable tax reduction of approximately \$50 a year in property taxes — but will make it up by paying a very high sales tax of 9 percent.

- Raises the state sales tax to 9 percent — up from 6.75 percent in the committee substitute and up from 6.25 under current law. No state would have a higher sales tax rate than Texas under HB 1. Most Texans will pay a total sales tax (including local city/county/transit authority tax of two percent) of 9 percent under this proposal. A family that spends an average of \$100 a week will spend \$468 annually in sales tax. So where's the savings when you must pay almost the same property tax and much more on sales tax? Our economy will regress for the sole purpose of saving 139 property wealthy school districts money but sorely affecting 1,040 property poor school districts. In addition to raising the sales tax and spending \$800 million more than the bill raises, the bill will be carried on the backs of working families by taxing newspapers, magazine subscriptions, billboards, the internet, bottled water,

concerts and sporting events.

- Under Rep. Grusendorf's — author of HB1 and chair of the Public Education Committee — amendment, school districts are prohibited from raising money for enrichment. The bill falls far short of providing a fair long term solution; implements a funding system that will allow the gap between the very wealthiest districts and poor districts to widen; will not grow with the economy; is based on unstable revenue sources and shifts the tax burden to those who are least capable of shouldering it. Out of the \$6.2 billion in new revenue proposed by this bill, only \$1.35 billion would go for education — much of it goes to unproven incentive plans.

Above all, there were many notable amendments that Republicans chose to ignore that were supported and filed with the Speaker's Office by various House Democrats. Their actions have failed our kids, failed our teachers, failed our taxpayers, and trampled over Democracy. God help us!

I thank all my constituents who contacted our office regarding their concern for public education and we encourage you to contact us at Chente.quintanilla@house.state.tx.us. Until then I remain your friend and public servant, Chente for la gente.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

Village of Vinton is getting ready to elect a new mayor. Voters should look very closely at who is running for mayor. One of the candidates that is running has cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars in legal fees due to the constant allegations against council members and employees of the Village of Vinton. Juvencia Rios Ontiveros has filed three complaints with the Sheriff's Department.

Do we want a mayor who will cost the taxpayers money in legal fees due to her constant allegations? We need a mayor that will look out for the interest of the Village of Vinton.

Carmen Gauna Canutillo

Dear Editor:

To the registered voters of the City of Socorro BEWARE! On May 15, 2004, an election has been scheduled to vote on a petition which would amend our current Charter of the city of Socorro.

The city council is asking for this petition to be passed as it will give them the authority to enact any changes which they deem necessary without the input of us, the registered voters and residents of the city of Socorro.

If we give away our right to vote on any changes to the Charter then we are granting the city council a blank check and the authority to commit our city into financial situations without our vote. Thus, we the residents of Socorro, will end up responsible for any future indebtedness, which the city could incur. Please exercise your constitutional right to vote and vote against the petition.

Rudy Ortiz Socorro

Dear Editor:

I would like to invite my friends and neighbors to join me in voting for John Page to hold the office of Socorro ISD trustee, District 2.

John Page of Horizon City has stepped forward to volunteer his service to our community. It is something he has done throughout his life. He served our nation in the U.S. Army for 20 years and then went into the classrooms of Socorro and Fabens to teach our children.

In recent years, he has worked as the Energy Manager for Socorro and Ysleta districts. By definition, his job requires him to examine every possibility for saving the taxpayer money while making the classroom a comfortable learning environment.

When he set his feet upon the path for an elected office, Mr. Page faced an important choice. How would that campaign be financed? He chose at that moment to be a Trustee and not a Politician.

He decided not to accept contributions in excess of \$50. Most of his donations are no more than \$25. He did not invite contractors to fundraising dinners and he refused over \$2600 in contributions from district vendors.

He paid for his campaign with less than \$500 in donations and the balance from his own pocket.

Mr. Page sees the need for establishing a strong ethics policy that holds the Board to the same standards of accountability to which teachers and students are held. The current board has refused to consider one despite continued requests from many community members. He understands that a Trustee must make decisions that balance the interest of the students and taxpayers. Donors,

especially vendors and contractors, consider their sizable contributions to school board campaigns as an investment for their companies. They expect a return in new contracts and renewals of existing ones.

He has felt the effects in the classroom that decisions made by the Board can have. With the many changes in education funding, he is concerned that any dollar wasted will diminish the opportunities of our students.

Our community recently passed a bond issue to finance \$189 million dollars in new construction. He knows it is imperative that our Trustees intelligently examine and debate policies and expenditures before decisions are made.

John Page is worthy of our trust. He does not seek personal gains or glory. He is not a politician. He is an honest gentleman and we need honest people at our helm.

Danelle Ivey East El Paso County

Dear Editor:

The taxpayer pays for water twice, on the tax bill and on the water bill.

The taxpayers in the Horizon Municipal Utility District (MUD) voted for a \$15 million bond and a \$60 million bond. These bonds have been used to help the developers create a town without industry. The taxpayers will pay increased taxes to pay for these bonds. Industry will not relocate to an area with a high tax rate, no guarantee of future water supplies and no services.

Each director of the Horizon MUD gets paid a director's fee recently increased to \$600 a month. They often take trips to other states for useless conferences. In addition, they get \$50 for attending other meetings. Ms. Bonnie Moorhouse was paid an additional \$500 for attending many meetings during July of 2003, a total of \$1,000.

Often they stay in expensive hotels during their out-of-town meetings. Ms. Moorhouse charged the MUD \$120 a night for a fancy hotel on the waterfront and for other luxuries.

The sitting MUD board votes 5-0 on most issues. They signed a contract with ECO Resources to manage the water district and they usually do what ECO wants. ECO makes a profit on construction projects they do for the water district.

The developers will keep building houses as long as ECO will charge the taxpayers for the water and street development. When we run out of water, the developers will be long gone.

VOTE THEM OUT, and vote for Bruce Godfrey and Howard Buck. We need better management and we need to save our water.

Mark Connolly Horizon City

Dear Editor:

We are days away from the Canutillo school board election in which two positions are up for grabs. The two positions are currently held by Margarito "Mago" Arellano and Gonzalo "Chalo" Garcia. Members serve three-year terms. One of the seats was left by Carl Fietze who did not fulfill his obligation as a board member because he resigned his seat for personal gain. Why should we elect a person to the board whose only interest is for personal gain? Last weekend, campaign signs were graffitied — someone is not too sure of their campaign or uncertain they

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Special forum in Tornillo gives community access to board candidates

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TORNILLO — The community of Tornillo had the opportunity to meet and listen to the candidates running for school board at a district-sponsored forum and debate, held recently at the Tornillo High School cafeteria. The event was moderated by UTEP Professor Dr. Gary Brooks.

A crowd of over 100 were treated to dinner and then heard opening statements and responses to written questions. Fully participating in this forum were incumbents Gloria Blanco, Hector Luna, Joe Tittle and Letty Trejo, as well as challengers Rachel Avila and Rosalee Silva. One candidate, Porfirio Aguilar, was unable to attend. By mutual agreement with Trejo, his opponent for place

one, arrangements were made for his wife, TISD teacher Loretta Aguilar, to read his opening statement and prepared response to one question submitted by school employees.

Javier Escalante and Bertha Brew had communicated in advance of the event that they would not participate. Escalante is a former TISD Board member who is running against Luna, Avila and Silva for place seven. Brew,

who is running against Blanco for place two, did come to the forum but refused to answer questions from her opponent. With Blanco's agreement, she was allowed the same participation as Aguilar; an opening statement and one prepared question response.

Candidates answered questions submitted in writing by school employees, members of the audience, and the candidates themselves.

Brooks, who invited his Thursday night graduate class to attend the debate, screened the randomly selected questions to ensure their appropriateness and legality for the debate. District employee Estella Pacheco provided translations for questions and candidate responses.

Early voting, which began April 28, continues through May 11. Election Day is Saturday, May 15.

Fabens High School student council honored

FABENS — Fabens High School Student Council was named Outstanding Student Council at the Spring Convention held March 30 at Andreas High School.

The group also received "Excellent" on their Scrap Book and Second Place on Name Tags.

Marilu Lopez, senior, was named as the scholarship recipient for a \$500 scholarship. "I was surprised, yet thankful," said Lopez. "... and I felt

very special because it was my last Stu-Co meeting.

The council is sponsored by English teacher Renee King. "The Student Council here at FHS is an extremely hard-working group. They should be as proud as I am for all they have accomplished," she said.

Lopez, who is also president of the group, said, "In the entire six years of being involved with Stu-Co, I have never seen a group of individuals so

dedicated to achieve their goals, and I am glad to be a part of it."

A total of 15 of the 24 members attended the convention whose theme was "Dive Into Leadership."

Officers include, Lopez, president; Naomi Magallanes, vice-president; Krystal Ortega, treasurer; Jennifer Ramos, secretary; Krista Popham, community service; Joe Castro, pride and patriotism; Gabriel Lopez, TEED (energy); and Patty Olivas, DASH.

Tornillo Independent School District Notice of 2004 Summer Food Services Program

The Tornillo Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided free of charge to children 18 years of age and younger at the Tornillo I.S.D. Elementary School Cafeteria, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas. The program will begin June 7, 2004 through June 25, 2004, with breakfast being served from 7:15 A.M. to 8:15 A.M. and lunch being served from 10:45 A.M. to 12:45 P.M., Mondays through Fridays. Transportation will be available by registering with the Campus Administration Offices. Daily menus for the Summer Food Service Program will be available on May 24, 2004. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250. NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred only to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo Da Aviso Programa de Servicios para Comida en el Verano para 2004

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo anuncia el patrocinio del programa de servicios para comida en el verano. Almuerzo y comida de mediodía se va servir en la cafetería de la escuela elemental del distrito de Tornillo, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas. Es gratis para todos los niños de 18 años y menores de edad. El programa de servicios para comida en el verano empieza el 7 de Junio hasta el 25 de Junio, 2004, Lunes a Viernes. Almuerzo se servira de 7:15 A.M. hasta las 8:15 A.M. y la comida se va a servir de las 10:45 A.M. hasta la 12:45 P.M. Va haber transportacion si necesitan, pero tienen que alistarse en la oficina de la administracion de la escolar de el distrito de Tornillo y proveer su domicilio. Los menus van estar listos el 24 de Mayo, 2004. Gente que califiquen para participar en el programa no deberan ser discriminadas por su raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, edad, incapacitacion, religion, o creencia politica. Cualquier persona que piense que lo han tratado mal injustamente puede escribir inmediatamente al: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, PO BOX 149030, Austin, Texas, 78714-9030 o Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250, Aviso: Quejas de discriminacion basado a religion o creencia politica deberan ser dirigidas unicamente a el Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services.

WTCC: 05/13/04

Write stuff

From Page 3

will get elected. This type of campaigning looks very bad on the community and candidates. There is going to be a lot of finger pointing. We, the voters, need to look at the candidates very closely and see what they have done for our school and community.

Use your vote wisely — your children's education is riding on this election.

**Johnny Gauna
Canutillo, Texas**

Dear Editor:

When considering the best person to elect as the trustee of District 2 in Socorro ISD, one needs to look closely at the marked differences between the incumbent, Martha Contreras; and the challenger, John

Page.

They have distinctly different philosophies as it applies to the raising of campaign funds. On the first set of forms, covering donations and expenses through April 5, Mrs. Contreras raised \$19,950 from many sources, including vendors and construction companies who stand to gain contracts with SISD for the building of future schools.

Mr. Page received slightly over \$500, the largest donation being \$100. Word has it that he will even return that donation, as his desire is to not be beholden to anyone who might later come back to him for a political favor.

Which candidate do you think would be the most impartial and fair-minded in deciding which companies and vendors receive contracts with SISD? It will either be the one who received thousands of dollars or the one who refused any donation over

\$50. Vote for integrity by electing John Page for District 2.

**Ron Thompson
East El Paso County**

Dear Editor:

After reading Bonnie Moorhouse's campaign flyer and letter to the editor I am compelled to respond. I think she means well, but just doesn't comprehend, bless her heart.

Is it really necessary to demean one's opponent by questioning his sincerity, credibility, stability and capability. Does she really believe that the only qualification for an elected official of the Horizon Regional MUD is to have been an elected official of the MUD? Perhaps in her future requests for votes she could provide background information concerning her "non-elected official" experience, capabilities and qualifications.

Is it really necessary as an elected official of the MUD to tout land developers? The developer's employees can handle this. Some of her praise for growth and land development is misleading. An elected official should know that land developers only put infrastructure on the land they are developing and then pass the cost to the lot purchaser. Taxpayers pay for existing infrastructure maintenance and capacity upgrades. She states that developers are cost-sharing for infrastructure. What she is really saying is that *taxpayers* are having to cost-share for the development. In fact, the developer that profits from the development should pay for all the increased capacity/upgrade due to the development.

Is it really necessary to spotlight the many meetings attended? Are they necessary meetings? Did she make any written reports as to the value and worth to the taxpayers? Would she attend if she didn't get paid \$50 a meeting by the taxpayers?

A cursory review of financial statements from the last budget year reveals that she charged the taxpayers and received payments averaging over \$500 a month for attending meetings. This is in addition to conference fees and travel expenses, which are also paid for by the taxpayer. A trip to Corpus Christi cost the taxpayers \$806.54 — hotel alone was \$120 a day. In addition to travel expenses, \$50 a day in cash payment to her was charged for each day she attended meetings.

**Al Tope
Horizon**

City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. during a **Special City Council Meeting** of Thursday, May 13, 2004 at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following:

- 1) Determine as nearly as practicable, the population of the respective single-member districts and revise the boundaries of all or any said districts to maintain a substantial equality of population of each by redrawing voting districts within the City of Socorro, Texas, for submission and approval by the Department of Justice following the May 15, 2004 Charter Amendment Election.

Those that are unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Secretary (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting.

The City of Socorro promotes Fair Housing/Affirmative Action and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against race, color, creed, or national origin.

**YOLANDA RODELA
City Secretary**

WTCC: 05/13/04

Briefs

From Page 1

events, has begun practice at the John O. Ensor Middle School track, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays. Boys and girls, ages eight to 18, are invited to participate. For more information call Dick Harshberger at 852-9082.

■ A play group for children ages birth to five years is being formed in Horizon City. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning the group will meet to play at St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, 14999 Darrington Rd. Call 433-7727 or 637-1982 for more information.

■ Montwood High School is scheduling physical exams for students in athletics in the 2004-05 school year. Exams will be held in the Green Gym — girls beginning 4 p.m., May 17; boy 4 p.m. May 18. Fee is \$20 cash. Information: 937-2400.

■ The El Paso County Sheriff's Patrol Unit arrested Phillip George Schneider, 53, at 13171 Soleen Rd. in East El Paso County on Monday, May 3, and later charged him with murder in the first degree following the shooting death of Lee Michael Ross, 40, at that location. Ross is identified as a resident of Indio, California, and was reported to be staying with Schneider at the Soleen address. Schneider's bond was set at \$150,000.

■ Marine Corps Pvt. Matthew J. Ryan, a 1999 graduate of Clint High School, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego California. Navy Seaman Recruit Erick R. Herrera, a 2000 graduate of Socorro High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.

■ Three Socorro ISD senior students have been awarded the District's 2004 Dr. W.G. Barber Scholarship for Teacher Training. Jacqueline Cornelius is a student at Americas High School. Carla Padilla is about to graduate from Montwood High School, and Nancy Chavira is a senior at Socorro High School. The scholarship committee is awarding \$4,000 to each of the winners, which should pay full-time tuition for the student's first two semesters at UT El Paso. The committee includes counselors Carol McKinney; Sonia Ugarte-Gil, Phil Thornberry and Donna Liner, parent Rachel Tarango, volunteer Susan Hill and Director of Stu-

dent Services Ken Mearns. The winner must attend UT El Paso with the intent of becoming a public school teacher, and an alternate student is chosen in case the first recipient does not attend UTEP during the freshman year. Alternates include Brian Gameros from Americas; Erika Ortega from Montwood and Silvia Rodriguez from Socorro High. The scholarship is named after the father of former Socorro Superintendent Dr. R. Jerry Barber, a longtime professor of education at the UTEP. The recipients will be introduced to the Board of Trustees during the board's regular meeting May 18.

■ After interviewing a pool of 55 applicants, the following individuals have been promoted to various administrative positions in the Clint Independent School District: Josie Perez, associate principal for Horizon High School - Mrs. Perez is currently the principal of C.T. Welch Intermediate in Clint ISD; Charles Vass, principal C.T. Welch Intermediate - Vass is the current assistant principal at Santa Teresa High School in Gadsden ISD; Dagoberto Gonzales, principal at Montana Vista Elementary - Gonzales is currently the assistant principal at East Montana Middle School in Clint ISD; Michael Phillip, Coordinator for Fine Arts - Phillip is currently the Head Band Director at El Paso High School in El Paso ISD; Jan Palmer, Coordinator for Career and Technology - currently, Mrs. Palmer serves Clint ISD in an advisory capacity for Career and Technology. The coordinator and associate principal positions are new to the district. As associate principal at Horizon High School, Josie Perez will move with the students to the new Horizon Middle School in the 2005-2006 school year. During the 2004-2005 school year, Mrs. Perez will help Horizon High School make the transition to a 9th through 12th grade campus. At present, Horizon High School serves 7th through 10th grades.

■ The Texas Department of Health (TDH) confirmed today that Yersinia pestis, the bacterium that causes plague, has been detected in wood rats found dead in a rural location near the Midland-Glasscock counties border in West Texas. Plague is usually spread by fleas that have bitten an infected rodent. The illness can be transmitted to dogs, cats and humans, and in humans can be effectively treated with antibiotics if detected early. Infection also can occur by breathing in respiratory droplets from a live animal that has the pneumonic form of the illness. TDH is issuing a plague advisory to veterinarians and physicians in these areas and the public is asked to report large die-offs of rodents to public health officials. Personal precautions include: removing food and

shelter sources for rodents around homes, work sites and recreational areas; using safe insecticides to kill fleas around property; applying a DEET-containing repellent to exposed skin and clothing when in rodent- and flea-inhabited areas, and treating pets with long-acting flea control products. TDH also advises wearing gloves and because some rodents also carry hantavirus, rodent nests in closed-in areas should be aired out before removal. Any rodent nests and droppings should be wetted-down with a 10 percent bleach-90 percent water solution before removing.

■ Celebrate National Tourism Week, May 8-15, with free travel guides from the Texas Historical Commission that highlight the people and places that shaped Texas history. These guides take visitors through such places as the Texas Forts Trail Region in West Central Texas where travelers can experience first-hand the western frontier; or to Los Caminos del Rio, which highlights Spanish Colonial villages, unique architecture and natural beauty in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and Mexico. The THC offers eight themed travel guides — Texas Forts Trail Region, Texas Independence Trail Region, Texas Forest Trail Region, Texas Lakes Trail Region, African Americans in Texas: Historical and Cultural Legacies, The Chisholm Trail, Texas in the Civil War and Los Caminos del Rio: Legacies of the Borderlands. To request a free copy, call toll free at 866/276-6219 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us/travel.

■ USDA Rural Development State Director Bryan Daniel has announced that the Agency is offering low interest loans to help finance storm shelters for very-low income homeowners living in rural Texas. "Severe weather can strike Texas unexpectedly, and with serious personal consequences. As Texans know, violent storms and the unfortunate loss of life underscore the need for improved home safety measures. The installation of an approved storm shelter can provide rural Texans added safety and security," said Daniel. Eligibility requirements for this program includes a family income of less than 50 percent of the median income for their respective county, an applicant must live in their own home, and the family must reside in an eligible rural community. The USDA Rural Development financed shelters must also meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards in design, construction and installation. The USDA Rural Development local office that serves your area can be located at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/officeinfo.htm>.

Socorro Charter Amendment Election

May 15, 2004

VOTE AGAINST

"Keep Your Right To Vote Alive"

Eleccion Para Amendar La Acta

Constitiva De Socorro

15 de Mayo, 2004

VOTE ENCONTRA

"Mantenga Sue Derecho De Votar"

— Pol. ad paid for by R. Ortiz —

Anthony ISD Offers Summer Food Program

The Anthony Independent School District, Anthony, Texas announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided at the Anthony Elementary School Cafeteria from June 7, 2004 to July 30, 2004. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. **NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred only to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services, at the address above.**

El Distrito de Anthony Ofrece Comida en el Verano

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony, Anthony, Texas, anuncia que va ha ofrecer el Programa de Comida en el Verano. El desayuno y comida seran servidas en la Cafeteria de la Escuela Primaria de Anthony a partir del 7 de junio 2004 al 30 de julio 2004. El desayuno se va a servir de 8:00 a.m. a 9:00 a.m. y comida de 11:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. Las personas que tienen derecho a participar en el programa no deben ser discriminadas por raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, incapacidad, religión ni creencia política. Cualquiera que crea que lo han discriminado debe escribir inmediatamente al: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030, ó la Secretaria de Agricultura, Washington, D.C. 20250. **NOTA: Las quejas de discriminación por religión o creencia política deben presentarse solamente ante el Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Texas a la dirección antes mencionada.**

WTCC: 05/13/04

SUPPORT ETHICAL AND HONEST LEADERSHIP

ELECT JOHN PAGE *for* SISD TRUSTEE, DISTRICT 2

— Pol. ad paid for by EL Ivey

ABC finally hits the mark with Tafoya on the sideline

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There's a concept that I've always considered important. It's called "substance over style."

When it comes to celebrities, television news, politics or just about anything nowadays, the line between what is "real" and what is "real superficial" is being clouded more and more with each passing minute.

Since the 1980s, the Professional Wrestling-Jerry Springer-National Enquirer phenomenon has taken over the country, and not for the better.

It's no longer important to make sure that major media outlets get out the news as quickly and as accurately as possible.

Now, it has to be wrapped in 30-second sound-bite form and delivered by a person who looks like they spent way too much time at the beauty salon to have had enough time to fully investigate the story.

There's a scene in the movie Schindler's List that says it all. Oskar Schindler explains that he is better at style than substance. "That's what I'm good at. Not the work, not the work... the presentation."

And sadly, especially in the media, that is

the case. But at least one network was smart enough to learn from its mistake, and got it right.

ABC, broadcasters of Monday Night Football for years, have finally seen the errors of their ways. It just took them longer than most.

First there was the hiring of Dennis Miller in the booth a few years ago. That was one of the worst moves in the history of, well, history.

Then ABC hired Eric Dickerson as the sideline reporter a couple years ago. Dickerson was a great running back. What the heck that had to do with being a sideline reporter — as we witnessed game after excruciating game — we never knew.

Then last season, ABC replaced Dickerson with the sexy Lisa Guerrero. Again, what in the heck does being sexy have to do with being a good sideline reporter?

Guerrero was easy on the eyes, but a strain on the brain. She always had that deer-in-the-headlights look. Maybe it was the fact that she had great headlights. Who knows what ABC was thinking. Who knows if ABC was thinking.

But, at least, as I said earlier, they finally got it right.

ABC recently hired Michele Tafoya to replace Guerrero.

Now I hope Michele doesn't take this the wrong way, but she isn't gorgeous. She isn't a supermodel or even a mortal-model.

What she is though, is an excellent sideline reporter.

She knows her sports and she reports it in a way that the public can accept without sounding coached or like she's desperately trying to remember what she spent the week memorizing. She is spontaneous and thinks on her feet.

In this era of superficiality and style, it's good to see a little common sense put into play in making an intelligent decision.

I hope other networks will follow suit and go with a little substance — even if it means saying goodbye to The Osbourns and Paris Hilton.

Where's the beef

The price of fame can be painful sometimes. It can even leave you with a bump on the head — just ask Mandy Block.

Who is Mandy Block, you ask? You may recognize her (or at least her Italian sausage costume) as the Milwaukee Brewers' racing giant sausage that got plunked in the head as she raced against others in costume at a Brewers' baseball game last summer.

The Pittsburgh Pirates' Randall Simon, in one of his more cerebrally-challenged mo-

ments, whacked Block with his bat when she raced by the dugout.

I'm sure you remember her falling to the ground amid a pile of other packaged meats including a giant bratwurst, a huge hot dog and a gigantic Polish sausage.

It was hard to watch and hard to swallow — literally.

But though Mandy Block came through the incident like a trooper and continued to race the other cured meats the rest of the season, she is apparently hanging up her deli-friendly racing shoes.

Block has decided to take off her sausage costume forever and dedicate her time to her studies.

After the traumatic incident at Milwaukee's Miller Park, what else would she be majoring in but psychology. She is focusing on her classes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

One of the many awards and accolades Block received after the incident, was being recognized by the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, with a certificate of bravery.

Boy, I've never received a certificate of bravery — and I've eaten the stuff.

So, goodbye to Ms. Sausage, Mandy Block. I will always relish your story and you will always hold a special place in my heartburn.

Sixth annual rocket festival to be held at Sun Bowl

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — A hundred and fifty rockets will compete for the highest altitude record during the Sixth Annual Rocket Festival, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Friday, May 14, at the UTEP Sun Bowl.

About 650 eighth grade science students from Canutillo Middle School, San Elizario Middle School, Fabens Middle School, Clint Junior High School, and Horizon Middle/High School will participate in the rock festival.

For six years, the annual rocket competition has been coordinated by Todd Martin, Canutillo Middle School sci-

ence teacher, with support from Harry Schulte, event supervisor for NASA-MUSPIN/NRTS (NASA's Minority University Space Interdisciplinary Network and the Network Resources Training Site). One of MU-SPIN's goals is to strengthen science capabilities in schools.

"This program is supported by Schulte and funded by NASA-MUSPIN/NRTS. They have been instrumental in providing funds for equipment and materials for our schools and students. With their assistance we have gone from a 35-rocket event with 50 students to a regional event involving over 600 students and four school districts," said Martin.

A contest that will be added to this year's festival is the egg drop. "Students have been challenged to design

and engineer a vehicle to safely carry a raw egg from a vertical drop as high as possible from the top of the Sun Bowl. The winner will be the egg dropped from the highest altitude and still unbroken," explained Martin.

Students are engaged with a variety of science concepts by participating in this type of hands-on activity including Newton's laws of motion, variables associated with flight, use of computer simulation programs, construction and launch of rockets using hydro-power, and use of an apogee scope for calculating altitude, stated Schulte.

Winners will be treated to a special viewing of the Amigo Air Show compliments of Larry LaRose, manager of ELP-FOL at the NASA hangar.

For more information, call Martin at 877-7901 or Schulte at 747-5401.

Border Health Institute gets \$700,000 federal grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded a \$700,000 federal grant to the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association to improve outreach and testing for people with HIV/AIDS and promote awareness of the disease in the El Paso community.

"HIV/AIDS — and many other diseases — have a higher incidence in the Southwest border region than in other parts of the country," said Congressman Silvestre Reyes. "Relatively high poverty and low literacy and education rates challenge health-care organizations to serve the needs of the area."

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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



Going toe-to-toe with Brad Pitt

By Don Flood

When it comes down to the looks department, are you ready to go toe-to-toe with Brad Pitt?

I am. And I mean that literally — toe-to-toe — my big toe vs. his big toe, my middle toe vs. his middle toe, and so on.

It's not that I have extraordinarily good-looking toes — though they are, I like to think, moderately handsome toes that have about them a certain dash and *joie de vivre* — a French phrase that translates roughly as "something de something" — rendering them attractive to toes of the opposite sex.

Not so with Brad Pitt, who, I am very sorry to report, has hideous feet, topped with ridiculous looking toes that are the laughingstock of Hollywood.

This is all true, at least some of it.

Pitt, who is starring as mythological hero Achilles in the movie "Troy," reportedly asked if he could wear boots, as opposed to the more historically accurate sandals, because he "didn't want his fellow cast members looking at his toes because he thinks they're ugly."

Isn't that the saddest thing?

OK, so it's not, but it is noteworthy that Brad Pitt, the handsome and widely acknowledged King of Bad Movies, suffers from a classic case of Obsessive Ugly Toe Complex, the debilitating fear that everybody is looking at your toes and laughing at them.

But this revelation raises serious questions:

Do his boots conceal the fact he's some kind of "Creature from the Black Lagoon" webbed-foot freak?

For "adult" scenes that call for full foot nudity, does he use a foot double?

And, finally, did Jennifer Aniston know the truth about his feet when she married him?

(Coming soon to a supermarket tabloid: Jennifer's Secret Heartbreak: "I was all set to have children — till I saw Brad's feet!")

And speaking of foot doubles, is Brad Pitt the foot model for those repulsive foot fungus commercials that cause you to lose your appetite for up to three months?

It's not like Pitt has a ton of movies coming out. He can't just be sitting home all day, with his disgusting feet propped up, waiting for Jennifer to bring home the bacon.

(Before you go out and blow a bunch of money on a big-screen, high-definition television, ask yourself: Do you really want to see Very Clear and Larger Than Life FOOT FUNGUS commercials?)

Sadly for Pitt, this foot controversy comes at a time when men, because of the popularity of ugly, open-toed sandals, have started taking more of an interest in their feet.

Some men are even signing up for pedicures.

But don't worry, these aren't your girly-girl pedicures of yesteryear. These are no-nonsense, professional appointments, aimed at highlighting the manly splendor of the male foot.

Some spas — and this is true — are even calling them "sportsmen pedicures."

I'm not sure why "sportsmen" need pedicures — perhaps it involves painting the toenails with special "camouflage" designs — but if you're a modern man you'll want to make sure that your feet adhere to highest standards of male beauty.

You might even catch Jennifer Aniston on the rebound.

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Classified Ads

LEGAL

Town of Clint Invitation to Bid

Sealed bids/proposals to furnish the the following items/services for **STEP Project #722056** will be accepted at the following times:

• Material for new water lines and sewer connections.

• Contractor for the installation of sewer tap, hydrants and water service connections.

Detailed specifications are available beginning Monday, May 10th, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Town Hall, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Clint,

Texas 79836.

Proposals will be received at the above address until **THURSDAY, May 20, 2004, UNTIL 4:00 PM.**

Late proposals will not be accepted.

WTCC: 05/13/04

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Drum set, great quality, condition. Call 852-2610 for details.

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SUMMER WORK
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Flexible Schedules

Cust. sales/srvc, conditions exist, all ages 18+ 915-779-2129 www.workforstudents.com

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BY OWNER: In San Elizario, good 1997 mobile home, 3/br, 2/ba, central heat/air, with land, \$31,000. Call 1-817-579-5965.

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.

SERVICES

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Drivers Ed Classes begin
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• June 1
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• Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
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Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



Budget

From Page 1

impact employees and the county's goals of investing in its workforce. Last year, for example, salary step increases were frozen, and employee workdays were reduced by two holidays without pay. Last week, the Court approved reinstatement of the salary step increases for 2005, which means employees will get their planned increase for this year, but will continue to lag behind in their step plan by one year. The Court also reinstated the full holiday schedule, with no days off without pay.

Among the cost saving measures for next year proposed by the auditors and approved by the Court, which offered some suggestions of its own, were:

- No operating budget increases.
- No new positions.
- No funding of outside agencies.
- Funding reductions of non-mandated programs.
- Evaluation of health care premium costs to the county and its employees.
- Consolidation of equipment maintenance contracts for cost-saving measures.
- Participation in a consortium of government entities to increase purchasing power.

Commissioners Court continues to encourage all departments to review their revenue generating opportunities, such as fees and other collections.

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

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: Does the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pay benefits to widows?

A: Many widows collect SSI benefits. But they are not getting those benefits because they are widowed. They get SSI because they are poor and either 65 or older, or any age and disabled.

Q: I am moving to a retirement community and need to let Social Security know about my change of ad-

dress. What's the easiest way to do this?

A: You can change your address online by visiting <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/coa> and providing us with some required information. You can also change your address on the Internet if you have established a permanent password. If you would like to get a password, you can apply online by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/password or you can call us at 1-800-772-1213.

If you do not want to answer the questions that are asked online and you do not have a permanent password, you cannot submit a change of address online. Instead, you can either speak to a Social Security representative by calling our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 or you can contact your local Social Security office.

Q: I wanted to start receiving my Social Security benefits as soon as I reached age 62, and I filed for benefits early. However, I turned 62 on April 4 but my first check came in June. Why?

A: The law says you must be eligible for Social Security for an entire calendar month before you can receive that month's benefit. You were not 62 the entire month of April, so May is the first month you meet the age requirement for the full month, and we pay in the month following the month you are entitled.

Q: I have done quite well financially and really do not need my Social Security check. Can I make arrangements to have it donated to a local charity?

A: Social Security will pay you your

Social Security benefit payments every month. Once the money is in your bank account, you can disburse the funds anyway you see fit. But one thing that you should probably know first — you will not receive any Social Security benefits unless/until you apply for them.

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.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny.	Breezy in the evening; otherwise, clear.	Sunshine and patchy clouds.	Partly sunny.	A mix of clouds and sunshine.	Partly sunny.	Times of sun and clouds.	Partly to mostly sunny.
▲ 84°	▼ 56°	▲ 84° ▼ 56°	▲ 88° ▼ 60°	▲ 90° ▼ 63°	▲ 92° ▼ 60°	▲ 88° ▼ 59°	▲ 86° ▼ 56°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	10	Very High
Friday	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	7	High
Monday	9	Very High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	9	Very High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	82°
Friday	77°
Saturday	78°
Sunday	79°
Monday	87°
Tuesday	89°
Wednesday	87°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	84	54
Canutillo	85	55
Clint	84	56
E. Montana	84	56
Fabens	84	56
Horizon	85	56
San Elizario	81	53
Socorro	83	55
Tornillo	84	56
Vinton	85	54

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	77/47/s	76/49/s	78/53/s	80/55/pc	81/53/pc
Atlanta	82/64/t	82/64/t	82/62/pc	80/62/t	78/58/t
Atlantic City	80/61/r	86/60/pc	88/60/pc	75/53/t	69/50/r
Austin/San Antonio	84/71/r	84/66/t	83/65/t	85/67/t	87/64/c
Baltimore	86/64/r	88/64/pc	88/62/pc	79/56/t	72/51/c
Boston	62/58/pc	74/60/pc	76/58/pc	72/54/pc	68/51/pc
Chicago	78/60/t	72/50/t	66/48/pc	70/52/pc	70/52/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	84/68/r	78/60/t	75/58/t	80/64/t	83/65/r
Denver	54/37/sh	64/40/pc	67/44/pc	73/44/pc	75/49/s
Flagstaff	65/28/s	68/33/s	72/35/s	73/36/pc	73/36/s
Houston	82/70/t	82/68/t	82/68/t	82/68/t	82/68/t
Kansas City	71/57/t	65/46/t	69/52/pc	74/56/pc	76/59/r
Las Vegas	84/60/s	88/65/s	90/67/s	92/67/s	92/65/s
Miami	84/74/sh	84/74/sh	84/72/t	84/73/t	85/72/t
Minneapolis	60/46/t	55/37/pc	61/43/pc	62/49/sh	72/53/c
New Orleans	80/70/t	82/70/t	82/67/t	84/68/t	85/64/c
New York City	76/65/t	86/68/pc	84/62/pc	76/56/t	68/54/r
Philadelphia	84/66/t	88/68/pc	88/62/pc	76/56/t	71/54/r
Phoenix	92/64/s	94/68/s	96/70/s	96/71/s	97/67/s
Portland	68/48/pc	74/50/s	72/50/pc	68/49/c	66/46/sh
San Francisco	68/51/s	66/51/s	66/52/pc	66/52/pc	65/48/c
Seattle	64/44/pc	66/44/s	68/46/pc	64/47/c	61/43/sh
Tucson	90/55/s	90/61/s	92/61/s	94/63/s	94/63/s
Washington, DC	86/68/r	88/66/pc	88/64/pc	80/58/t	73/55/c

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

AGRICULTURE

High pressure will continue to control the weather and bring a mainly dry week to the region. One or two spots could have a pop-up thunderstorm. High temperatures will be in the 80s through Friday and then rise into the 90s during the weekend and early next week. Lows will be in the 50s and 60s.

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

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With more power, better features and rugged construction, Cub Cadets are just plain gutsier than the rest. We build our tractors with only the best, heavy-duty features. You'll find engines ranging from 18.5 to 25 horsepower, easy-to-operate hydrostatic transmissions, heavy-duty welded steel frames and cast-iron front axles. Plus, most models feature shaft drive. And they're backed by a 5-year limited warranty.

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- 18.5 HP Briggs & Stratton Intek™ ELS engine
- 42" QuickAttach™ deck
- Hydrostatic transmission

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until April 2005*



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To learn more about Cub Cadet equipment and to find the dealer nearest you, visit www.cubcadet.com or call 1-877-282-8684 (1-877-CUB-TOUGH).



*Deferred Interest until April 2005—Deferred Interest with Payments—Must request promotion at purchase. Offer is subject to credit approval by GE Capital Consumer Card Co. and applies to purchases of \$799 or more made between December 3, 2003, and May 31, 2004, on your Power Credit Card. No finance charge will be assessed on your promotional purchase balance if you pay the promotional purchase balance in full by the end of the promotional period. If you do not, periodic finance charges will be assessed on the promotional purchase balance from the date of purchase. Minimum monthly payments will be required on your promotional purchase balance during and after the promotional period. If minimum monthly payments are not paid when due, all special promotional terms may be terminated. Standard account terms apply to non-promotional purchases and, after the promotion ends, to your promotional purchases. Annual Percentage Rate for purchases is 18.99% (18.99% minimum) as of December 1, 2003, and may vary after that date. Minimum Finance Charge \$1. Variable APR of 22.99% as of 12/1/03 will apply if you fail to pay your minimum payment by your due date for two consecutive months. Financing promotion for residential customers only. **Product price—Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. ***Cub Cadet will provide an extended limited warranty for a period of 5 years or 500 hours, whichever occurs first, for the frame and pivoting cast-iron front axle and drive shaft on all new Cub Cadet Series 1000 tractors retailed after December 1, 2003. Cub Cadet will provide an extended limited warranty for a period of 5 years or 500 hours, whichever occurs first, for the frame, pivoting cast-iron front axle and drive shaft on all new Cub Cadet Series 2000, 2500, and 3000 tractors purchased after July 31, 1998. This additional limited warranty is available only to residential users and not commercial users. For complete details on 2-year and 5-year limited warranties see your Cub Cadet retailer. C11135-04-55080-1