



NEWSBRIEFS

Security chief

Steven McCraw has been named by Gov. Rick Perry as the Texas Director of Homeland Security. He will be responsible for directing day-to-day homeland security efforts that affect Texas through local, state and federal agencies. A native of El Paso, McCraw began his career in law enforcement with the Texas Dept. of Public Safety. He most recently served as theage it. Inspection Division. He has also been assistant director of the FBI's Office of Intelligence and special agent in charge of the San Antonio office. He was selected in October of 2001 by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to serve as director of the Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force. He will work closely with Jay Kimbrough, who oversaw development of the state's Homeland Security Strategic Plan, which was the first among state plans to be approved by the federal Dept. of Homeland Security. Kimbrough will continue as senior advisor on Homeland security to Gov. Perry, who recently announced that some \$1.4 million in federal 2004 Citizen Corps funds to prepare Texans for homeland security duties will be provided to 57 local governments and regional organizations. Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteers in Police Service and Neighborhood Watch are among programs to benefit. Information about the Texas Citizen Corps is at <http://www.texascitizen corps.org/>.

Dangerous kiss

Texas Department of Health (TDH) officials are alerting the public that visitors to the Children's Animal Center at the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center near Glen Rose in East Texas may have been exposed to a Barbado sheep that later tested positive for rabies. TDH officials say that people who visited the Children's Animal Center at the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center from July 10 through July 30 should contact a doctor or the TDH zoonosis control office in Arlington at 817-264-4920 to determine if post-exposure treatment to prevent the development of rabies is needed. Rabies is most often transmitted by bites, but transmission can occur in other ways that allow the saliva from an infected animal to enter a person's bloodstream such as from a lick to a person's face or to fresh wounds or broken skin. Transmission also can occur if a person kisses the infected animal on its face or lips. A series of post-exposure shots, if given in time, can prevent rabies from developing. Once symptoms develop, rabies is almost always fatal.

Soldier assist

Injured soldiers returning from overseas combat often arrive back at Ft. Bliss with little more than the clothes they are wearing and their dog tags. Montwood High

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A hotel is a place where you pay seventy-five dollars a day — and they call you a "guest."

— Quips & Quotes

Socorro HS freshman class advised to 'lay your claim'

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — It's the first day of Socorro ISD's school year July 26, 2004.

Socorro High School freshman Bernie Alvarez says he was afraid of "getting pushed around" once he entered the four-year challenge of high school. Lots of new faces to be seen and lots of new locations, all of them found in the seven short minutes allowed between class changes.

But Alvarez isn't as worried now. Along with an estimated 800 other first-year students, he participated in the Freshman Success program July 20 and came away with a renewed attitude.

This is the fourth year of the program, part of the Freshman Success center directed by mentor teacher Elizabeth Maldonado-Salinas.

"The program has come full circle now. We have been able to establish a culture that encourages upperclassmen to help freshman students. And we're very proud that the success of our program has created similar programs at Socorro's other high schools."

The students gathered for an all day session featuring motivational speaker Scott Greenberg, who used the tools of both a standup comedian and a cancer survivor to persuade students to get involved in school activities, maintain high grades and work together for their futures. Under the name Jump-Start Performance Programs, he's taken his message of growing up in America to dozens of high schools and businesses across the U.S. He's worked the SHS program each of its four years.

Meeting challenges is nothing new for Greenberg. Some years ago, he was diagnosed with Stage II Hodgkin's disease, which is cancer of the lymphatic system. He beat the disease, raising his health to the point where he ran and finished the San Diego Marathon.

So how can a freshman student be more than just one in 800 other students?

"I figure you have to lay your claim," Greenberg says. "And there's enough territory for everyone. That's going to happen by figuring out what classes you're interested in, what



PREPPED — Scott Greenberg talks to Socorro High freshman students during the Freshman Success program July 20.

activities you want to take, and meeting as many people as possible. A lot of people would look at being one of 800 as not being very important. I look at 'one of 800' as having 799 friends, more people to get your back, more people to help. The odds are in your favor that you'll meet a boyfriend, a girlfriend, people who can help you."

Students met in the SHS Performing Arts Center for introductions, then split to find their assigned classes or gathered in The Pit gym to form teams with Socorro High's upperclassmen. The upperclassmen volunteered two days of their intersession to work with the younger Bulldogs.

Senior Leslie Maxwell was one of those team leaders.

"Our freshman year, we took this program, and it did help. You're not lost, you know where your classes are the first day. You meet a lot of people, and Scott Greenberg's awesome." Her advice? "Give it all you've got."

Her pal, junior Eddie Carrillo, Jr. also a Team Leader said students have seven minutes between classes on the sprawling campus, so

See SISD, Page 4

County moves to dissolve City-County health district

EL PASO COUNTY — The El Paso County Commissioners Court approved initiating the dissolution of the City County Health and Environmental District during a special budget session on Tuesday, Aug. 3.

The Court authorized County Judge Dolores Briones to send a letter to El Paso Mayor Joe Wardy advising him with an official six-month notice of its intentions. The longtime interlocal agreement between the City of El Paso and the County of El Paso which created the City-County Health Environmental District expires Sept. 30.

The interlocal agreement was intended as a cost-saving move — because health and environmental related issues in the region affect both the county and city residents equally, the concept of having one health district to provide services to the entire county was adopted. Smaller incorporated municipalities in the county also have contracts with the health district to provide services such as animal control and health and environmental related inspections and enforcement.

Judge Briones described the Court's actions as stemming from several concerns, the main one being a \$6 million shortfall in the 2004-2005 budget which will have far-reaching implications; and secondly, a perceived lack of accountability by the district to inform the County.

"From the beginning, the district has been out of compliance with the agreement," Briones said. "We have paid our share every year without being advised of where or how the money is spent."

As an example, she cited a recent request, made repeatedly, to provide the County with a list of employee salaries. So far, as of Aug. 4, she said the County has not received such a list. Another is the recent funding provided for litigation of a case the County was not informed about in a timely manner. Amendments added to the budget at the last moment are also a concern, Briones said.

"The Court, however, is ready to consult with the City in exploring all options available," she added. "The Court does not plan to take any other actions at this time."

Philosophy of sacrifice, trust creating beautiful music in San Eli

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — There's more than just the pounding of drums and the scattering of musical scales coming from the San Elizario High School band room this summer. New band instructor Sharon Hittle and her assistant Carl Ortega are making sure their band students are listening to their philosophies about trust and sacrifice, too.

"We've talked to the kids about what our expectations are and how we want to evolve the program here," said Hittle, who takes over for the retired Ken Boese. "We know that we have different ways of doing things. These

kids are going to have to trust us."

Only mere weeks into the job, Hittle and Ortega are knee-deep in band camp, preparing the band for a challenging school year in which they will learn songs with a Russian theme for this year's program.

"When we pick a theme, we try to build completely around that theme," Hittle said. "This also includes the flags."

The flag team is a group that Hittle will be placing more emphasis on, saying that the group will be taking on more of a contemporary role in the band. The group of 14 girls has been practicing for about two hours a day, led by part-time

coach Tina Chatman.

"To us, the flags are a part of the band," Hittle said. "We feel we're one big musical entity."

No matter which part of this musical entity the student belongs to or which instrument that student plays, Hittle will be stressing education above everything else, saying that a weekly study hall will be implemented. And like a clock keeps time, so many different pieces to the band — the flags, the cadence and choreography, the new music — have to be in perfect sync. It's no wonder that both are preaching sacrifice and trust.

"We're also stressing that these kids make a



Carl Ortega



Sharon Hittle

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Capture and release policy revised by Dept. of Homeland Security

WASHINGTON, DC — Less than a week after being calling on to fix the flawed ‘capture and release’ program, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has responded to Congressman Henry Bonilla with a new proposal for illegal immigrants on the Texas/Mexico border.

“I’m thrilled that the Department of Homeland Security has taken action against this flawed program,” said Bonilla. “The Texas/Mexico border is a hot-bed for illegal immigration. Ignoring the problem is like ignoring the war against

terrorism.” Undersecretary of the Department of Homeland Security Asa Hutchinson today announced that the Department will implement Expedited Removal for land borders between ports of entry along the Texas/Mexico border. The program had originally been in effect for all ports of entry, including airports.

Under the Expedited Removal program, when a migrant is apprehended and placed in expedited removal proceedings by a Border Patrol agent, he or she generally will be detained and removed

to his or her country of origin as soon as circumstances allow. The migrant will no longer be released into the community and will no longer be provided a hearing before an Immigration Judge.

“This new policy will send a signal to our friends on the Texas/Mexico border: you can no longer use the ‘capture and release’ loophole as a free ticket to America,” said Bonilla.

Bonilla recently sent letters to both President George W. Bush and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. In the letters, Bonilla called for action against the flawed ‘capture and release’ program where illegal immigrants were detained for a short period of time before being released into the community. Although the illegal immigrants were told to appear for a court hearing scheduled weeks in the future, less than 30 per-

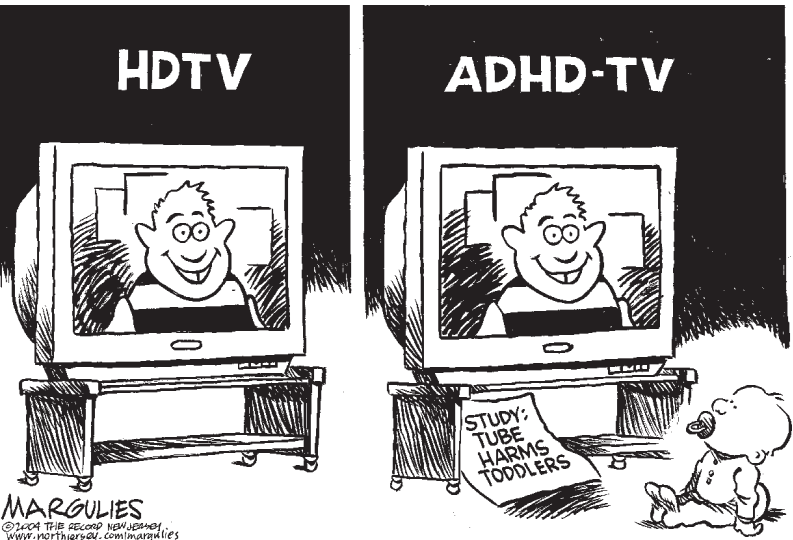
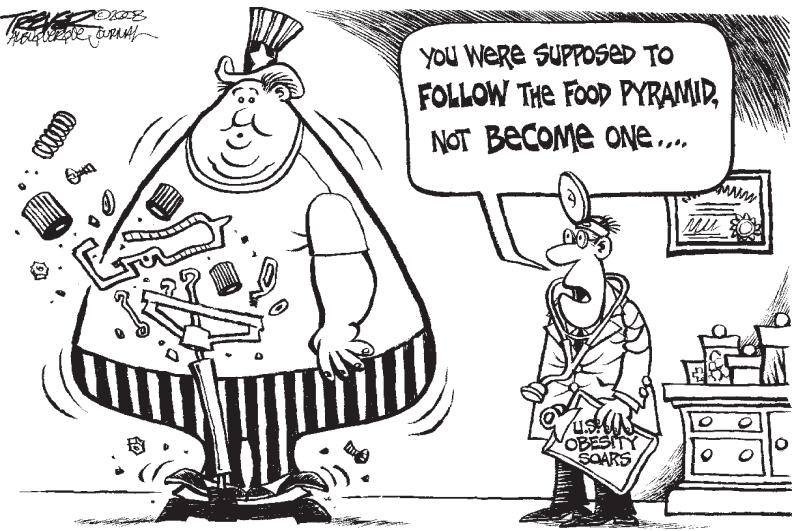
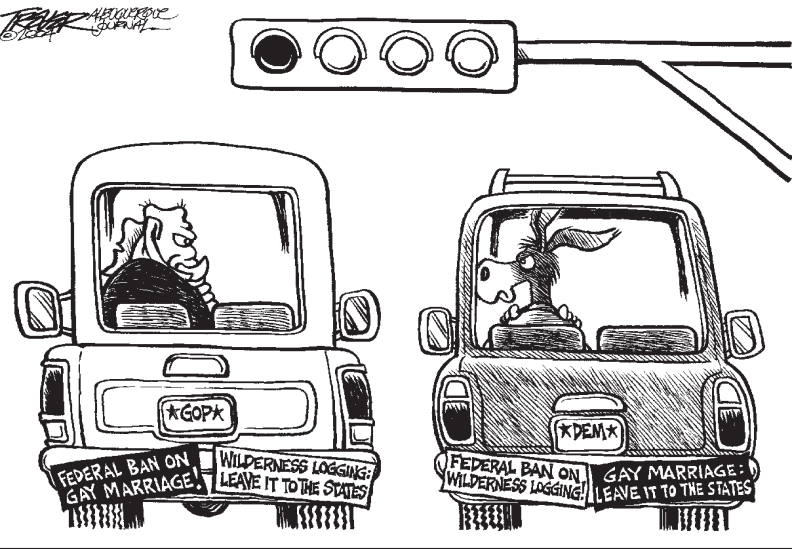
cent of the migrants returned for the hearing.

“The ‘capture and release’ program was bad policy. Allowing immigrants to roam freely through the streets of America is a security threat that our nation cannot afford to take,” said Bonilla.

Bonilla is co-chair of the Congressional Border Caucus. His congressional district includes more than 800 miles of the Texas/Mexico border.



Henry Bonilla



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Eastside residents unite, defeat project

Hola, mi gente, Chente Quintanilla, here to remind you that when political leaders work hand in hand with their constituents, dynamic things happen. I’m referring to the recent battle we had against Investment Builders/Cedar Oak home project who is seeking state tax credits from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Please do not misinterpret me, because I strongly believe in affordable and public housing unless it creates apartment clustering and slum living conditions.

This is a perfect example of democracy in action. This proves that when public officials unite with their constituents to tackle a difficult subject, positive things happen. Not only were we successful in putting a stop to this project, but we were able to convince the TDHCA that clustering in a community is not a good thing.

In the first place, there are already 338 units of low income housing in zip code 79936 — which is the area in question. Not only this, but within one mile of the proposed development, there are already 111 low-income housing units, plus 236 units

affect neighborhoods and the people who live in them. This time, however, we didn’t let them get away with it. For this, we must thank State Rep. Joe Pickett, State Rep. Norma Chavez, and City Rep. Vivian Rojas.

And, of course, a heart-felt thank you goes out to the people to whom this matters the most — mainly, the residents who fought tooth and nail to prevent the building of the project. Opposition came fast and furious, as residents of the area expressed their concern via petitions, letters, phone calls, and e-mail messages. Due to us all fighting for the common cause, we were able to defeat the Townhomes project.

This clearly demonstrates an overabundance of low income housing and public housing in the immediate area of the proposed Cedar Oaks Townhomes Development Project. Fortunately, TDHCA saw it our way, and denied the developers a permit to continue with their plans.

The clustering of apartment housing in the eastside of El Paso has always been a problem for those good folks who live in what is known as the George Dieter corridor, an area that encompasses Cedar Oak Dr., Pendale Rd., Pellicano Dr., and George Dieter Dr. Quite frankly, the people are quite fed up with efforts to build what became known as the Cedar Oaks Townhomes project.

This was a case of developers trying to up-end a community merely for financial gain, without even considering how the development would

Another positive result from this battle was that we convinced TDHCA that it needs to look at its process for awarding these types of permits. TDHCA needs to develop a fairer process and allow for input from the people who will become affected by their actions.

But, we’re not quite finished yet. I will recommend, in the very near future, that the City of El Paso review and consider rezoning the George Dieter Corridor so that we don’t run into this problem again. What we want and need is for the city to consider the strong possibility of re-zoning C-4 to exclude apartment construction. I believe that this will help alleviate any future concerns that residents might have.

Remember that it’s not true when people say that you can’t fight city hall. Yes, you can. Because, you *are* City Hall. I remain your friend and public servant, Chente for la gente.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Congress debates intelligence reform

Late last month, after almost two years of close study and scrutiny of the circumstances surrounding the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission issued its final report. This 500-plus page account presents a narrative of the attacks, as well as the Commission’s recommendations for protecting the country against future terrorist threats.

close resemble the changes we propose in our legislation, including:

- The creation of an intelligence director who will serve as the principle intelligence advisor to the President, separate from the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.
- A dual position for the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, who will also serve as the intelligence director’s deputy.
- Intelligence collection and analysis that will be modeled after the successful Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986, which reformed the Department of Defense following a series of operational failures.
- Comprehensive reforms that will address information-sharing and focus on moving the intelligence community from a “need to know” culture to a “need to share” culture.
- The establishment of a communications system that allows data to be shared by intelligence personnel, defense officials and homeland security officials, including state and local departments.
- Emphasis on the importance of horizontal integration and joint management across all 15 intelligence

organizations.

- The establishment, by the President, of procedures for the use of domestic and commercial databases by the intelligence community for counter-terrorism purposes.

Last week, numerous committees in the House and Senate, including the House Intelligence Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, began holding hearings to consider the commission’s recommendations. These hearings, which will stretch through August and possibly beyond, will give the Congress and the country as a whole the opportunity to hear different viewpoints and perspectives on possible reforms.

It is not surprising that my Democratic colleagues and I on the Intelligence Committee came to similar conclusions as the 9/11 Commission about how we should improve our nation’s intelligence capabilities. These recommendations are the result of countless hours of hearings and hard work on both our part and the Commission’s part. For the safety of El Paso and the nation, I look forward to swift enactment of these proposals.

Chamizal featuring the Addis collection of 20th Century Mexican art

EL PASO COUNTY — The Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso’s National Park, is exhibiting selected works from the Joy and Arthur Addis collection of Twentieth Century Mexican Art. The exhibit is currently on display in the Memorial’s Los Paisanos Gallery through Aug. 28.

Comprised of works by major Mexican artists such as Rafael Coronel, Feliciano Bejar, Francisco DosAmantes and Francisco Corzas, the Addis Collection contains many different styles of art.

Representational works like the stone lithographs by DosAmantes present three girls from behind in black and white, accentuating the braids in their hair and its length.

Works by Feliciano Bejar incorporate gouache, watercolor, pen and ink to create complex images like “Los Actores” (The Actors). In this work, the faces and bodies of actors appear from within the different textures to create a dream-like image of melancholy.

These two artists represent a small portion of the diversity of art work

that is present within the Addis Collection, which features figurative paintings and a sculpture from the late 1940s to the early 1970s Mexico.

Donated in 1979 to the Chamizal National Memorial by Joy and Arthur Addis, the collection has gained in value as many of the artists, such as Rafael Coronel and Francisco Corzas have found broad international recognition and renown.

“That we have such substantive works here in El Paso should be a source of great pride to our community,” Isabel Montes, Superintendent of the Memorial, said.

“Approximately 30 works are on display right now in our Los Paisanos Gallery. There is no charge for admission and through Aug. 28 visitors can come as often as they wish to see the work,” she added.

The Addis Collection is not new to praise. In first describing the exhibition in 1979, then-director of the National Park Service William J. Whelan, noted that “by utilizing the graphic and performing arts as a medium of interchange, Chamizal serves as an open door to help

people better understand not only other cultures but their own cultural roots as well.”

“We now can substantiate that the arts really are at the core of learning,” Montes said. “Exhibits, such as this, when coupled with education support the supposition by John I. Goodlad in his *A Place Called School* where he noted that ‘The arts are not an educational option; they are basic.’

“Standing alone, the exhibition holds great value for the region and the community. On a regional level it would be difficult to find so many diverse works by so many noted Mexican artists in one place,” Montes explained. “But used concurrently by educators who care to explore the collection with their students, the exhibition is simply invaluable,” she concluded.

The Chamizal National Memorial is located at 800 South San Marcial between Bowie High School and the Bridge of the Americas. The Los Paisanos Gallery is open during the week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and by request on weekends. Admission is free. Information: 532-7273.

Grants to help children who have a parent in jail

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded two grants to organizations in El Paso to provide mentors to children with at least one incarcerated parent. These grants are the first installment of three-year grants for each organization.

Community Solutions of El Paso, Inc. was granted \$114,000; \$100,000 was earmarked for Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso, Inc.

“All children need positive role models in their lives,” said Congressman Silvestre Reyes. “However, those who have a parent in jail can especially benefit from the guidance of a responsible, caring friend or mentor. Through these federal grants, both Community Solutions and Big Brothers Big Sisters will have the opportunity to enrich the lives of El Paso children by providing committed, caring mentors at a time when they need stability and companionship. I applaud the Department of Health and Human Services for providing these grants,” said Reyes.

“We are thrilled to have this opportunity to expand our services to an additional 75 youth in El Paso who have a parent in prison,” said Beth Shaw, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso. “Thirty percent of our enrolled youth have had this experience and we know that the guidance of a friend and mentor has made an impact. I hope the parents and caregivers of those kids will call to find out how to enroll their children (544-4203). We also look forward to working with Community Solutions to find out how our programs can complement one another — we know that the non-profit community in El Paso can accomplish so much more for these youth, and the entire city, through collaboration,” said Shaw.



IT’S LIKE THIS, KID — Socorro High School freshman Bernie Alvarez is welcomed to the school by senior Leslie Maxwell, center, and Eddie Carrillo, Jr. during the Freshman Success program.

SISD

From Page 1

scouting the distance and the route is a good thing to do before the first day of school. Say, Carrillo — can you go from one end of the campus to the other in seven minutes? “Most of the time you can.”

“The problems have never changed, not since I was in high school,” Greenberg says. “Even though there’s a lot more MTV today and other things we adults deem inappropriate, peer pressure is (still) way up there. Lack of self-esteem, loneliness, feeling like ‘I don’t belong.’ I get a tremendous amount of e-mails from kids telling me they are suicidal, kids who are abused. It doesn’t matter whether it’s high school or cancer that gets you, it’s what we do about it, what our choices are.”

And Greenberg, who presents programs to students from all walks of life, says Socorro kids “are a lot more similar to kids around the country.

People ask me that a lot because I am around kids from different economic groups, different nationalities, and you find little cultural differences. What the kids here are talkin’ about in Spanish are the same things kids are talkin’ about in Maryland — still wanting to fit in, still wanting friends, still wanting to be important and be somebody.”

Greenberg says his work in Socorro has shown him a lot of family loyalty. “It’s inspiring. I don’t see that in a lot of other places.”

The lessons Greenberg teaches apparently stay with Socorro’s students. “I had a team leader come to me yesterday, and he told me he had been a group leader last year, and that he had changed three lives — a gang member, who still is, but who will talk to him; a girl who he talked out of slitting her wrists; and another seriously troubled student. He told me he knew he had made a difference for three people, and what a difference that has made for him. And he said to me, ‘Tomorrow, I’m going to change three more lives.’”

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Tornillo Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 25, 2004 in the TISD Administration Building, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.** Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year’s Rates					
	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.500000	\$ 0.015000*	\$ 1.515000	\$ 540	\$6,744
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.488975	\$ 0.208202*	\$ 1.697177	\$ 538	\$7,696
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.500000	\$ 0.208202*	\$ 1.708202	\$ 542	\$7,696
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 30,034	\$30,701
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 15,034	\$15,668
Last Year’s Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.515000	\$ 1.708000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 227.77	\$ 267.61
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 39.84
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.		

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.750000. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.750000.

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 2,864,633
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ -0-

Companies can lose big money due to depressed employees, calculator determines show much

WASHINGTON, D.C. — West Texas employees suffering from depression may benefit from a new free internet-based “Depression Calculator” that shows employers the benefits of treating employees both with medications and counseling.

According to National Institute of Mental Health statistics, approximately 18.8 million adults, or about 9.5 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year have a depressive disorder.

The new calculator, which gives employers the whole picture on the economics of bringing patients with depression into needed medical care, is available at <http://www.depressioncalculator.org>. or <http://www.phrma.org>.

The calculator was developed by The HSM Group, Ltd., a health care consulting firm based in Scottsdale, Arizona, with support from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

Employees suffering from depression are affected, on average, about 30 to 50 workdays per year by absenteeism or low productivity, and they sustain average annual medical costs that are \$2,000 to \$3,000 higher than those of other employees. The combination of missed days, lower productivity when on the job, and other associated issues costs the U.S. economy approximately \$80 billion annually. Yet a high percentage of those with depression never receive treatment.

“Employers and employees both come out ahead when employees with depression receive the right medical treatment, with both counseling and medicines. Employers see improved work productivity and decreased absenteeism,” said Alan F. Holmer, President and CEO, PhRMA.

The calculator estimates the incidence of depression and its impact on a company’s work force, based on the company’s size, type of industry, location, and the age/gender breakdown of employees. It computes the expected number of days each year employees will be absent or suffer low productivity due to their depression and calculates the associated costs to a business. Finally, it projects the net savings the company can expect, after accounting for the cost of treatment, if employees obtain treatment. An employer can change the key assumptions so that the calculation best reflects the characteristics of that particular work force.

“This calculator integrates extensive research findings from peer-reviewed literature and turns them into usable results for employers. It’s an important research-based management tool that lets employers and others see the whole picture on the economics of bringing patients with depression into needed medical care,” said Sheryl Bronkesh, president of The HSM Group, Ltd.

Even a small company can experience significant costs from depression. A company with 500 employees, for example, can expect about 25 employees to be suffering from depression at some time during a 12-month period. This amounts to 750 to 1,250 days lost each year to absenteeism and low productivity.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) represents the country’s leading research-based pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, which have the stated purpose of inventing medicines that allow patients to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. The industry invested an estimated \$32 billion in 2002 in discovering and developing new medicines.

— Contributed by Claude M. Gruener

Pepperoni’s Pizza & Deli

852-2544

Limited Delivery Area

Chinese Food

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PUBLIC NOTICE Fabens Independent School District Provision II Feeding Program 2004-2005

The Fabens Independent School District is pleased to announce that all children in the district will be receiving meals at no charge through the National School Lunch Program for the academic school year of 2004-2005. Be assured that all children will receive a free lunch and a free breakfast regardless of your income or family size.

Adult Prices

- Breakfast \$1.75
- Lunch \$2.60

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WTCC: 08/12/04

Canutillo ISD to receive less state assistance than anticipated

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — Money matters are the focus of two upcoming meetings in the Canutillo ISD.

The first is a special school board meeting scheduled Aug. 19 to discuss options and alternatives for retiring its existing indebtedness. The second meeting is an Aug. 23 public hearing in which the board will discuss the options and get input from area residents.

Both will begin at 6 p.m. They will be held at the district’s administrative offices, 7965 Artcraft Road.

The meetings are scheduled against a background of concern by the district’s comptroller Tony Reza who finds the state suddenly singing a different financial tune in regards to servicing its EDA (Existing Debt Allotment). Based on a formula that factors in elements such as average daily attendance and tax rates, the state helps financially-strapped districts in retiring its existing bonded indebtedness.

The state tune has some sour notes as far as Reza is concerned. He says the state claims, after checking back five years, that it has overpaid the district in years past and is therefore reducing considerably the amount of money it will be giving the district this year. He said this funding shift by the state was “unanticipated.”

Reza is not voicing a message of financial doom for the district. He assures residents that the district is in sound financial shape with a balance of \$900,000 in a fund established for debt service retirement. However, he is under the financial gun, having to adjust plans to accommodate the new dollar-sign signals from Austin.

The adjustment will come to about \$400,000. Reza was expecting \$1.5 million. The district will receive about \$1.1 million instead.

Other school districts in the state face financial problems similar to those of Canutillo.

A district financial consultant, who asked not to be identified, said there are not sufficient funds in the system to help school districts. “Statewide

they are feeling the budget crunch. There has to be something done for them,” the individual said.

Because of the unanticipated changes from the state, Reza says establishing the new tax rate is “more critical.” The tax rate is comprised of two separate elements. The first is for M&O, for maintenance and operation; the second is I&S, the interest and sinking fund. Money coming from the latter fund goes to retire bonded indebtedness.

Canutillo residents are looking at an M&O of \$1.50 per \$100 of property valuation. This is the maximum that can be levied. The present I&S is 20 cents per \$100.

“The Texas Education Agency adjustment to our EDA funding forces us to re-evaluate our tax rate for next year. With the help of our financial advisor, we are looking at ways to keep the debt service rate the same as last year; however, just to be prudent, we are publishing the higher tax rate with the hope that we can present options to the School Board that will allow for a lower tax rate,” Reza said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Canutillo Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 23, 2004 in the Canutillo ISD Administration Facility, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.** Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year’s Rates					
	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.500000	\$ 0.200000*	\$ 1.700000	\$2,171	\$ 5,080
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.508239	\$ 0.247800*	\$ 1.756039	\$2,377	\$ 4,854
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.500000	\$ 0.241537*	\$ 1.741537	\$2,232	\$ 4,883
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 58,963	\$67,864
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 43,811	\$52,285
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.700000	\$ 1.741537
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 744.78	\$ 910.56
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 165.78
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.		

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.809776. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.809776.

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 755,125
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 521,773

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2004 Property Tax Rates in the City of Socorro

This notice concerns 2004 property tax rates for the **City of Socorro**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax roll-back procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:	
Last year’s operating taxes _____	\$1,965,397
Last year’s debt taxes _____	257,723
Last year’s total taxes _____	2,223,120
Last year’s tax base _____	467,100,895
Last year’s total tax rate _____	.475940/\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$2,221,504
+This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____	459,999,231
=This year’s effective tax rate _____	.482936/\$100
x 1.03=maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings _____	
	.497424/\$100

This year’s rollback tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____	
	\$1,963,968
+This year’s adjusted tax base _____	459,999,231
=This year’s effective operating rate _____	.426950/\$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate _____	.461106/\$100
+This year’s debt rate _____	.101100/\$100
=This year’s rollback rate _____	.562206/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **City of Socorro** adopts a 2004 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **\$0.482936** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2003 taxes by **\$186,422**.

SCHEDULE A
Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$1,600,746
Debt Service (I&S)	\$16,781

SCHEDULE B
2004 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
1999 Certificates of Obligation _____	\$ 95,000	\$ 44,827	\$ -0-	\$ 139,827
2001 Certificates of Obligation _____	15,200	26,145	-0-	41,345
First National Bank - Police Vehicles _____	23,138	3,664	-0-	26,802
First National Bank - Pothole Patcher _____	18,135	2,437	-0-	20,572
Interlease _____	-0-	-0-	1,581	1,581
First National Bank - Firehouse/Vineyard _____	12,192	3,640	-0-	15,832
State Infrastructure _____	80,394	14,745	-0-	95,139
SIB #2 _____	12,103	12,103	-0-	24,206
Park & Ride _____	6,000	-0-	2,000	8,000
2004 Certificates of Obligation _____	23,000	108,114	-0-	131,114
Public Service _____	10	-0-	-0-	10
Total required for 2004 debt service _____				\$504,428
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A _____				-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources _____				-0-
-Excess collections last year _____				-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2004 _____				504,428
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2004 _____				-0-
=Total Debt Levy _____				\$504,428

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets. **Name of person preparing this notice:** Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: July 30, 2004

Mother and daughter artists to show at Chamizal Festival

EL PASO COUNTY — New Mexican Retablo artist Viviana Duran-Prelo will demonstrate and show her traditional art at the Chamizal Festival in El Paso. Her daughter, traditional New Mexican tinworker Cynthia Prelo-Riedlinger will join Viviana on Oct. 9-10.

A self-taught artist, Viviana Duran-Prelo embraces the true significance of this early art form. Her traditional New Mexican retablos encompass the history of her early New Mexican pioneer family. Viviana is the descendent of Cesario Duran who was the first alcalde of Tularosa in 1860. She began her painting legacy

in oil landscape, but a new found interest and talent as a retablo painter led her to a restoration project at the historic San Jose Mission church near Safford, Arizona, in 1977 where she was commissioned to paint the alter screen or reredo and the stations of the cross at the newly restored church. An avid story teller and writer, Viviana’s short story “Tia Mama” will be featured in the fall issue of *La Herencia*.

The history of the traditional art deeply connects to Viviana’s religious heritage, and because Spain occupied New Mexico, the Catholic religion was predominant. The

newfound New Mexicans’ churches and home chapels needed accessories and religious objects.

While large baroque paintings were conveyed in from Mexico for noble families, the typical New Mexican was left to sustain art for himself. New Mexico became part of the Republic of Mexico in 1821 but the outside world was still inaccessible for most New Mexicans, and by necessity families became self-reliant. New Mexican families began to produce their own form of religious artwork. Local individuals who lacked recognized educational training in art created home made images of saints. The religious art produced by New Mexicans between the 1700’s and the later 1800’s are known as “santos.” There were two types of santos, retablos and bultos.

Retablos are santos painted on pine wood panels. Subject matter traditionally reflects God, the Virgin Mary and various saints. Because outward appearance is much a part of the art form, traditional artists like Viviana continue to center on meaning and history of the art as well as the appearance.

The tradition of creating these religious images strongly carries on and many New Mexican families maintain a devotion to the creation of these objects of tradition and faith. Retablos painted by Viviana reflect her strong ties to the heritage and strength of her early New Mexican ancestors.

Tin artist Cynthia Prelo-Riedlinger was introduced to the craft of New Mexico tin while a student at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico. A teaching career led Riedlinger into another direction. She was re-introduced to the art form in 1996 and studied with master tin artist Richard Gabriel from Questa, New Mexico.

The early Spanish explorers first brought the craft of metalworking into Mexico, and due to the lack of metals New Mexican metal work was limited during colonial times, Tin crafting appeared much later as all tin had to be transported from Mexico and Europe. British tin plate was popular during this time. Once known as “poor man’s silver” tin art declined in the 1850’s and New Mexico’s Bishop Lamy’s appointment to some extent eliminated early forms of native religious art. Local hand crafted religious artwork including retablos and tinwork were destroyed during this period.

Mexican and New Mexican tinwork was used as décor for the home and church. Mirror frames, picture frames, boxes, candleholders and crosses were often made of tin. The serviceable items were affordable and more accessible because they were being fashioned locally. The opening of the Santa Fe Trail in 1821, followed by the railroad in 1880 made tin more available to New Mexican artisans, but the craft declined with the introduction of commercial frames and the use of coal and gas for lighting. In 1930 the art form, primarily in religious motif, revived. The dedication of tin artists like Cynthia has contributed to the continued renaissance and stabilization of this traditional art.

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2004 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Emergency Services District #2

This notice concerns 2004 property tax rates for the **El Paso County Emergency Services District #2**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:	
Last year’s operating taxes _____	\$1,637,593
Last year’s debt taxes _____	-0-
Last year’s total taxes _____	1,637,593
Last year’s tax base _____	1,637,593,000
Last year’s total tax rate _____	.100000/\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$1,635,991
+This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____	1,605,898,845
=This year’s effective tax rate _____	.101873/\$100
x1.03 = maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings _____	
	.104929/\$100

This year’s rollback tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____	
	\$1,635,991
+This year’s adjusted tax base _____	1,605,898,845
=This year’s effective operating rate _____	.101873/\$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate _____	.110022/\$100
+This year’s debt rate _____	.000000/\$100
=This year’s rollback rate _____	.110022/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **El Paso County Emergency Services District #2** adopts a 2004 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **\$0.101873** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2003 taxes by **\$108,299**.

SCHEDULE A
Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$-0-
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

SCHEDULE B
2004 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
None	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-
Total required for 2004 debt service _____				\$-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A _____				-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources _____				-0-
-Excess collections last year _____				-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2004 _____				-0-
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2004 _____				-0-
=Total Debt Levy _____				-0-

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets. **Name of person preparing this notice:** Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: August 5, 2004

Understand the details if you depend on a water well

EL PASO COUNTY — Families who depend on ground water for their household water supply often know little about the people who service their wells, but they should, according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). As with any service provider, it is a good idea to obtain information about several contractors in the area before making a choice. NGWA offers the following consumer tips about hiring a water well contractor.

First, ask questions. For instance, is the contractor licensed by or registered with the state? Is the contractor certified through the National Ground Water Association? Contractors must pass exams testing their professional expertise to earn NGWA certification. What is the contractor’s reputation with previous customers (references)?

Second, it is important to get a written contract. Unless you know what each contractor will do for his specified price, you cannot compare offers and decide which one to hire. NGWA makes available a standard contract form to its members.

If having a well drilled, a good contract might include: Details about liability insurance coverage held by both the well owner and the contractor; a statement that all work is to comply with local and state regulations and codes; the diameter and thickness of the well casing to be used; the type of screen to be installed, where needed; the type of well cap or seal to be provided; the disinfection procedure; the cleanup after drilling, which includes all material abandoned without authorization at a drill site except drill cuttings and waste water; an anticipated date for start of drilling; a guarantee of materials and workmanship. The contract should specify that the contractor will return to do or to correct the initial work if necessary.

An itemized list of charges is better than a lump sum. The list could include the cost of drilling per foot; casing per foot; other materials such as the drive shoe, grout and well cap; other operations such as grouting, “developing” the well, test pumping and disinfection; drilling deeper and/ or a second well, if required to ensure an adequate water supply; cost of abandonment should it prove necessary (for instance, if salt water is encountered and another site is selected). You also should ask what costs are not included in the specifications.

After the well has been built and before the contractor removes his equipment from the site, you should inspect the well. Here is a list of items to check:

Well Depth — This is easily done by tying a weight on a tape. Verify the measurement against the well construction report made out by the contractor.

Well Yield — Ask the contractor at how many gallons per minute (gpm) the well was tested, what distance the water level dropped during the test, and how quickly the water

level recovered after the test.

Well Cap — Ensure that the well is capped and secure, and that the cap is at least six inches above the ground or at whatever height your state might require.

Disinfection — Ask the contractor if the well was disinfected.

Well Construction Record - Make sure that you received your copy of the well record. The con-

tractor is required to deliver copies of the record to the owner. It would be advisable to keep your well record with your house deed so that the information is passed along to future owners.

To learn more about water wells, visit www.wellowner.org. You can find an NGWA-member contractor near you at this web site by clicking on “Contractor Lookup.”

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2004 Property Tax Rates in Town of Horizon City

This notice concerns 2004 property tax rates for the **Town of Horizon City**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:	
Last year’s operating taxes _____	\$582,145
Last year’s debt taxes _____	83,213
Last year’s total taxes _____	665,358
Last year’s tax base _____	231,428,870
Last year’s total tax rate _____	.287500/\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$664,956
+This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____	238,979,642
=This year’s effective tax rate _____	.278247/\$100
Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings _____	.231957/\$100

This year’s rollback tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____	\$581,794
+This year’s adjusted tax base _____	238,979,642
=This year’s effective operating rate _____	.243449/\$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate _____	.262924/\$100
+This year’s debt rate _____	.034578/\$100
=This year’s rollback rate _____	.297502/\$100
-Sales tax adjustment rate _____	.065545/\$100
=Rollback tax rate _____	.231957/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Horizon City** adopts a 2004 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **\$0.278247** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2003 taxes by **\$60,630**.

SCHEDULE A Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$576,376
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

SCHEDULE B 2004 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Infrastructure	\$25,052	\$9,233	\$-0-	\$34,285
Equipment	46,489	9,446	-0-	55,935

Total required for 2004 debt service _____	\$90,220
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A _____	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources _____	-0-
-Excess collections last year _____	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2004 _____	90,220
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2004 _____	-0-
=Total Debt Levy _____	\$90,220

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.
Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: July 30, 2004



YOUR Gift IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE

Find out how you can help ...

www.texaslung.org

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

1-800-LUNG-USA

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2004 Property Tax Rates in Town of Anthony

This notice concerns 2004 property tax rates for the **Town of Anthony**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:	
Last year’s operating taxes _____	\$174,152
Last year’s debt taxes _____	197,318
Last year’s total taxes _____	371,470
Last year’s tax base _____	81,158,907
Last year’s total tax rate _____	.457707/\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$371,418
+This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____	81,290,762
=This year’s effective tax rate _____	.456900/\$100
Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings _____	.458397/\$100

This year’s rollback tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____	\$174,128
+This year’s adjusted tax base _____	81,290,762
=This year’s effective operating rate _____	.214204/\$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate _____	.231340/\$100
+This year’s debt rate _____	.227057/\$100
=This year’s rollback rate _____	.458397/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Anthony** adopts a 2004 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **\$0.456900** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2003 taxes by **\$13,867**.

SCHEDULE A Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$234,753
Debt Service (I&S)	\$21,000

SCHEDULE B 2004 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
1974 Bonds DS	\$7,000	\$ 3,656	\$-0-	\$10,656
SIB Loan #2	33,482	14,173	-0-	47,655
2002 Bonds DS	90,000	18,427	-0-	108,427
2002 Certificate of Obligation	13,000	11,756	-0-	24,756

Total required for 2004 debt service _____	\$191,494
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A _____	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources _____	-0-
-Excess collections last year _____	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2004 _____	191,494
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2004 _____	-0-
=Total Debt Levy _____	\$191,494

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.
Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: July 30, 2004

Grants intended to help clean up the air

IRVING, TX — Texas Gov. Rick Perry made an announcement here late last month that an \$80 million grant has been authorized through the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions.

The emissions are commonly produced by heavy construction equipment, large trucks, locomotives, tugboats and pushboats.

Several private sector companies in areas of the state designated out-of-compliance with clean air standards have applied for assistance to replace or retrofit dirtier engines with cleaner-burning versions.

Perry said this grant program is “a novel approach to clean air that is not driven by mandates, but partnerships with the private sector.”



Sharon Hittle gives an unidentified band member some individual instruction.



— Photos by Phillip Cortez

Carl Ortega barks out marching orders to the SEHS band.

Band

From Page 1

commitment,” Hittle said. “They’ve really matured in the past few weeks.”

Ortega agrees. “We’ve worked them pretty hard,” he said.

Both stress that being in the band is an athletic event, and judging from the sweat dripping from the members

of the band as they march several times along the track under a scorching sun, both Hittle and Ortega are right. It’s a common sight to see students douse each other with water during breaks; the sound of music is quickly replaced by the sounds of laughter. One gets the sense that the team is coming together in more ways than just quality sound and perfectly timed marching.

As much as Hittle and Ortega preach trust and commitment, the students

need to look no further than the relationship Hittle has with the Middle School band director, who just happens to be her husband, Leslie Hittle.

“We’ve been married for 10 years, we went to the same high school together,” Sharon Hittle said. “We had the same band instructor and we both have the same philosophy.”

This philosophy will undoubtedly help the evolution of the San Elizario band program, and that’ll be music to the ears of everyone.

Fabens Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Fabens Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The Fabens Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Assistant Superintendent Charles Hopp, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838. Phone: (915) 764-2025. Fax: (915) 764-3115.

NOTIFICACION PUBLICA

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de Fabens prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de Fabens esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975 como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con Asistente Superintendente Charles Hopp, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838. Phone: (915) 764-2025. Fax: (915) 764-3115.

WTCC: 08/12/04

Shot clinics scheduled

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro ISD’s Health Services Department, in cooperation with the El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District is again sponsoring a series of immunization clinics during the 2004-2005 school year. Parents should bring children’s shot records. Medical personnel will assess the child’s immunization needs. Injections are \$5 for one shot or \$10 for two or more per child; Medicaid and CHIP insurance plans are accepted. No one will be denied services because of their inability to pay. The clinics are scheduled at two SISD campuses on the following dates:

- Escontrias Elementary School, 205 Buford Road
Saturdays, 9 a.m. - noon
September 4
October 2
November 6
December 4
February 5, 2005
March 5
April 2
May 7
June 4
- O’Shea Keleher Elementary School, 1800 Leroy Bonse Drive
Saturdays, 9 a.m. - noon
August 21
September 18
October 16
November 20
January 15, 2005
February 19
March 19
April 16 — Clinic at the annual Lower Valley Health Fair, Socorro High School campus
May 21
June 18

Fabens Independent School District SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Fabens Independent School District provides the following education program/services to identified children with disabilities who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), 1) Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; and 10) Homebound Services.

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policies FL and FL-E provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a child with disabilities who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Richard Ortega, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 764-3816.

El Distrito Escolar de Fabens SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL

El distrito escolar de Fabens provee los siguientes programas/ servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

Programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), 1) cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terapia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia física; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; y 10) servicios de clases en el hogar.

Se provee servicios a niños identificados como desabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley publica 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Polizas FL y FL-E explica los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Fabens que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Richard Ortega, Director de Educación Especial, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 764-3816.

WTCC: 08/21/03

Briefs

From Page 1

School wants to do something to ease this transition by collecting personal toiletry items such as toothbrushes and paste, soap, shampoo, combs and other items. Packaged snack food items such as popcorn are also needed. “When soldiers come back from Iraq or Afghanistan, they’re usually sent to ‘holding areas’ until a decision can be made about their health and future,” said Laura Price, Student Activities Director. “We’ve discovered their needs and with the help of Ron Quiett, one of our teachers in the Army Reserves, we though we could provide these items to our soldiers.” Supplies should be delivered to Montwood High Student Activities office, 12000 Montwood Drive, by Aug. 20 for delivery to Ft. Bliss. Information: 937-2465.

In other news

■ Volunteers and nominations for open positions on the Canutillo ISD District and Campuses Site-Based Management Committees are now being taken for the 2004-2005 school year. Canutillo ISD welcomes individuals who are parents of enrolled students, persons who reside in the community, and business persons who have an interest in the Canutillo school district to be on these committees. If you would be willing to serve, or you would like to nominate someone, please contact Letty Gonzalez, secretary for the assistant superintendent for Student Performance, at 877-7440.

■ Football season is just around the corner and the Clint High School Athletic Booster Club invites all Lion parents and fans to “Meet the Lions” on Thursday, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Lion Stadium. Watermelon donated by S&S Food Stores will be served and the Booster Club membership drive will continue with “Blue Crew” T-shirts available.

■ Socorro High School is seeking nominations for Outstanding Ex Student to be honored in 2004. Nominations must include complete name and phone number and should be turned in on or before Aug. 13 to Student Activities Director Carmen Lucero at SHS, 10150 Alameda. Nominations by phone are accepted, call 937-2134.

■ Socorro ISD Community Services is offering an adult begin-

ning Computer Class with registration from Aug. 11 to Aug. 20. Classes will be offered in Introduction to Microsoft Office, internet, e-mail, and keyboarding. Classes will be held at 313 S. Rio Vista beginning Friday, Aug. 20 at 1:30 p.m. from 1:30 to 2:45 pm each Friday. The classes are open to all community members 18 years and older. For further information, call 937-1700 or 937-1704.

■ Agents with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection made significant seizures of illegal drugs recently. Agents at the Traffic Checkpoint on U.S. 54, confiscated over a ton of marijuana over a four-day period. The drugs were concealed among cargo in tractor-trailer rigs and in a false compartment in a passenger vehicle. Three persons were arrested as a result. On Aug. 5, agents seized 670 pounds of marijuana in a 1995 Chevy Suburban eight miles east of the Fabens Port of Entry. When approached by agents, the driver of the vehicle abandoned it and escaped on foot across the border into Mexico. A seizure of about 17 pounds of methamphetamine, valued at about \$544,000, was found in the dashboard of a Grand Marquis sedan on Sunday, Aug. 8, north of Truth or Consequences. The driver and passenger were detained for Drug Enforcement Agency officials.

■ The Clint Independent School District Leadership Team went into retreat in July for two days in Ruidoso, New Mexico, led by Superintendent Dr. Donna Smith. The team includes assistant superintendents, directors, principals, coordinators, supervisors and other administrators in the district. The goal and theme of the retreat, “I Heard It Through the Grapevine,” was to improve communication while fostering teamwork. The leadership team addressed problem areas in the District’s internal communication network, including cell phone use, email utilization, phone/voice mail use, and the scheduling of meetings. About 1,200 employees of the district congregated in Horizon City earlier this week for the Annual District Convocation, with School Board President James Pendell welcoming everyone back for the new school year. The keynote address was given by Dr. Ann White, of *Laugh and Learn*. Dr. Smith also shared the new mission and goals for the 2004 and 2005. “The district will be a model of high standards for student academic excellence,” she said. This will be the focus for the school year, devel-

moral responsibility — told to reach for the stars without a road map on how to actually get there; to produce Godly results without God.

An army of green recruits expected to wage a purposeless war without orders or battle plan.

I’m not the only refugee from public schools. Across this nation there are hundreds and thousands of us. Some of us fled because we decided to, some have been forced to, and still the battle rages on, the years pass, another generation is formed.

Scary thing is, we won’t know if the war is won or lost until it’s over.

oped by the Clint ISD Board of Trustees and Dr. Smith at the Board retreat in June.

■ A special meeting of the El Paso County Democratic Party Executive Committee will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at the Elks Lodge, 1211 Cliff beginning at 6 p.m. This meeting is called for the specific purpose of electing precinct chairs for vacant positions. No other business will be conducted. For more information call 533-2141 or 474-1081.

■ Becky Quiett, principal of Escontrias Elementary in Socorro, was named District 19 President for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association during the Leadership Conference in San Luis/Galveston. “TEPSA has people working to help us understand the education budget, teacher retirement, pay raises and other challenges Texas faces. If we don’t stand up for our teachers, our students and ourselves, we have no one else to blame,” Quiett said. She was selected as TEPSA’s 2001-

2002 Assistant Principal of the Year for District 19, and has served as a district officer since 2000.

■ ACT, best known for the college entrance exam, has launched a website, www.actstudent.org, for students preparing to take this exam. It features information that changes according to the needs of the student during the school year, and includes online registration for testing; early scores and reporting; information about ACT test dates, deadlines, etc.; free test prep; college search and online applications; and financial need estimator.

■ The Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) has allocated a portion of its farm loan program to specifically benefit socially disadvantaged applicants including minority and women producers. The FSA serves a 14-county area, including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. Located at 2306 West Dickinson, Suite 1 in Ft. Stockton, Texas, 79735, 915-336-5206, Ext. 2, The FSA contact is William H. McAnally. Qualified loan candi-

dates are provided information and assistance to develop sound management practices. Information about these loans is also available at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture website, <http://www.usda.gov>.

■ Socorro ISD’s Board of Trustees approved the appointment of four assistant principals during the regular meeting on July 20. Cynthia Stone will move from her position with the District’s Math and Science enhancement program to assistant principal at Elfida P. Chavez Elementary. James Vasquez, currently curriculum coordinator at Loma Verde Elementary, will be assistant principal at H.D. Hilley Elementary. Ray River, a counselor with KEYS elementary guidance and counseling program, will become assistant principal at Helen Ball Elementary. Jaime Hernandez, reading and ESL teacher at Socorro Middle was approved to become assistant principal of Lujan-Chavez Elementary. SISD students went back to school July 26.

Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Programs at Fabens ISD

1) Fabens Independent School District offers career and technology education programs in Home Economics, Business Education, Drafting, Graphic Arts, and Automotive Technology. Admission to these programs is based on courses offered, age appropriateness, class space available, and individual graduation plans.

2) It is the policy of Fabens Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

3) It is the policy of Fabens Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

4) Fabens Independent School District will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator and/or Section 504 Coordinator: Charles Hopp, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 764-4353.

Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia de Fabens ISD

1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens ofrece programas programas vocacionales en Carrera y Tecnología en Economía Domestica, Educación de Negocios, y Mecánica. La admisión a estos programas se basa en registrado en la escuela de Fabens y completar los requisitos necesarios.

2) Es norma de El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios, o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, que fue enmendada, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.

3) Es norma de El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens no discriminar por motivos raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmienda, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua inglés no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas vocacionales y educativos.

5) Para más información sobre sus derechos y procedimiento para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX: Charles Hopp, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 764-4353

WTCC: 08/12/04

Refugees

From Page 2

“meetings,” questionable educational “improvements,” lack of disciplinary support, lack of school-room funds and lack of opportunity to develop into a well-rounded person who could actually teach a kid something.

The kids, meanwhile, are left without an educational compass and a mass of rules that no one enforces. They are taught a philosophy of competition without the supporting curriculum of

Union and Cowboys far from united in Carter’s dismissal

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Things are finally getting back to normal in the world of the National Football League.

There are a lot of good franchises out there but there is only one that demands the most interest of fans around the country. And the interest right now is focused right where it should be — on the Dallas Cowboys.

The Cowboys are slowly but surely stocking up on better talent for their run at the NFC title this season. But even the Cowboys shocked the sports world last week when the top power tandem in football, Jerry Jones and Bill Parcells, held a news conference announcing the release of starting quarterback Quincy Carter.

This move hit us square in the forehead without a hint, without a warning, without anyone yelling “DUCK!”

Now don’t get me wrong — I’ve been a Cowboys fan since I wore my little Dallas Cowboys PJs to bed with the little flap that covered my — well, any way, I am a longtime Dallas fan and I applaud the move.

You hate to see anyone lose their job, but let’s face it, Carter was probably the worst starting QB in the league.

And for all those self-proclaimed football

experts who suggest Carter led the Cowboys to the playoffs last season — no, no, no. The Cowboys’ defense led the team to the playoffs.

Under Quincy Carter, the Cowboys scored 17 points or less in a game seven times. That’s almost half the games of the entire season. Plus they were shut out twice.

So I knew as long as Carter remained the starter, the Cowboys were destined to struggle through narrow 14-10 and 13-7 victories and the occasional 14-0 defeats.

Now, I thought the Cowboys cut Carter because of his performance on the field. It appears, however, that he was let go because he was having a little too much action off the field.

Seems Carter failed a team drug test just before he got the heave-ho. According to media sources, it appears his substance de jour was cocaine.

And lest we forget, this is his second bust for cocaine. Let’s see, since this is his second strike at cocaine, the NFL’s usual punishment would be something like making Carter eat liver and onions and then send him to bed without a playbook.

Or maybe the NFL would order a mandatory trip to a local elementary school to talk to impressionable kids about the dangers of illegal substances.

Well, to make matters worse, the NFL player’s union, who could care less about

Carter’s health or well being, appears to be on the way to filing a lawsuit against the Cowboys for wrongful termination.

Seems the union feels the Cowboys conducted an illegal test.

Funny, I always thought the whole idea behind the union was to help keep NFL players clean and away from potential life-threatening drugs. No, all the player’s union cares about is making excuse after excuse for the players’ bad behavior just to keep receiving that green.

Apparently, the union believes the question is not whether you are doing drugs, it’s whether you were tested at the right time and without surprise.

I wonder if my boss would be that understanding if I failed a second drug test at work due to my addiction to cocaine? How about your boss?

So the Cowboys will now depend on the arm and fragile legs of 40-year Vinny Testaverde to lead the team. If Testaverde’s age gets the best of him, new second-stringer Drew Henson has shown great improvement in scrimmages.

Are the Cowboys in trouble offensively? No. With the addition of Keyshawn Johnson as wide receiver and Eddie George as running back, the ’Boys now have a little depth at the skill positions and that will go a long way toward keeping the team fresh as the season goes along.

Now, will Quincy Carter get picked up by another team? Of course he will. In fact, about 10 teams have already inquired about him.

But let’s be honest, Carter has bigger problems right now. He obviously has a problem with drugs and until he wins that war, he’ll continue to lose the important little battles that face him everyday.

The decision by Parcells and Jones does one very positive thing for the Cowboys — it makes crystal clear to the rest of the team that nothing of this magnitude will be tolerated. And that’s good.

Players have to learn that selfish acts like working and practicing under the influence of drugs hurts everyone involved. Like I’ve taught my kids since they were very small, the more freedom you get, the more responsible you have to be.

These players are treated like little gods with the ridiculous amount of money they receive, the perks they get and the celebrity status they enjoy. Is it too much, really, to ask them to at least follow the rules?

The Cowboys are within their right to let go of a player if they feel his conduct is a detriment to the team. Remember how America made fun of the Cowboys years ago for having the most drug-related player incidents?

They should be applauded now and the NFL player’s union should be scorned.



— Photo by Betti Flores

Jan Engels, right, thinks Bobby Joe Valdez has the potential to make it big. Valdez stopped Fray Sierra after three rounds.

I was there... Valdez, Tapia take care of business at Speaking Rock

By Jan Engels
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — I was there — at Speaking Rock’s newest venue: boxing. El Pasoan Jorge Garcia, local manager and trainer. did a great job setting up a second round of semiprofessional and professional boxing last Saturday evening, Aug. 7.

The crowd was exceptional considering this was the second time the main event contestants faced each other within a three month period. The six-bout card was very entertaining with most of the boxers coming from El Paso and Juarez.

One of two fights that stood out was the Carlos Tapia of El Paso vs. Fidel Avila of Harrington, TX bout. It was a very evenly matched fight with Tapia earning a unanimous decision from the judges, Jake Martinez, Rocky Burke and an out of town judge.

The final — and main event — was outstanding. Bobby Joe Valdez came out slugging. To his credit Fray Sierra tried to keep up the pace but was unsuccessful. He conceded in the fourth round when he failed to answer the bell. The crown of approximately 1000 was clearly for Valdez and rightly so. This writer believes El Paso could have another Ernie “Juan” Lozano in their midst!



— Photo by Jan Engels

El Paso’s Carlos Tapia’s right hand earned him a unanimous decision against Fidel Avila. County Commissioner and sometimes Courier photographer Betti Flores offered her congratulations on his victory.

King Super Crossword

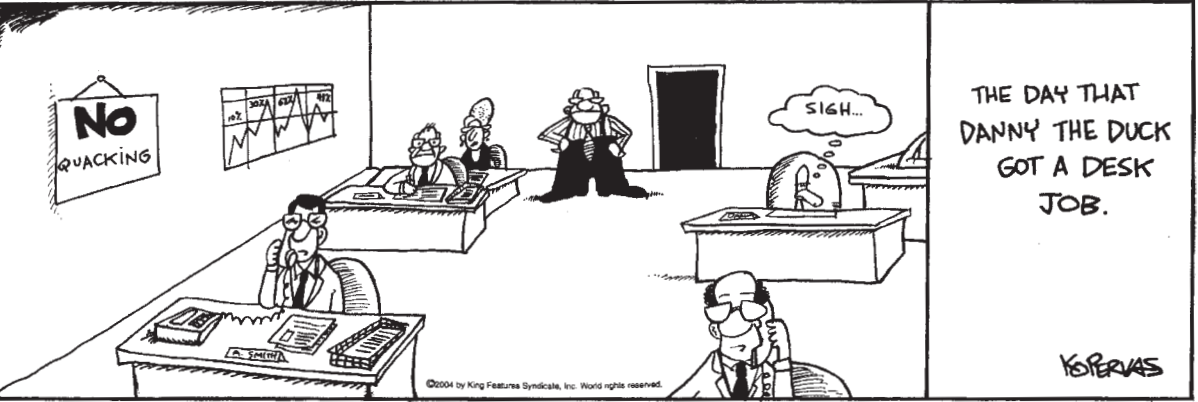
SPECTACLE ACROSS										63 Heraldic garment	Nastase	37 " _ Marleen" ('81 film)	79 Sudden pain
1 Related	abbr.	5 Speedometer	8 Jaffe of "Ben Casey"	11 Implored	15 Married Mlle.	18 TV's "What's My _?"	19 Snobbery	21 Exist	22 Mare's morsel	23 Doris Day refrain	24 Start of a remark	27 Exhausted	29 Move like mad
30 Discernment	31 Hosp. area	32 Acclaim	35 Like wormwood	36 Part 2 of remark	42 Stance	43 Khartoum's river	44 Herber of football	45 Carnivorous plant	48 Euclid's remark	52 Liverwurst or fruitcake	53 Emulate Aladdin	55 Present for pop	56 Must-haves
57 Underneath	59 City near Montpelier	61 Beardless dwarf	62 Heiss on the ice	67 Psychic Geller	68 Cruel treatment	69 Lacking principles	70 Savalas role	72 Fad	74 Mettle	75 "The Chosen" author	76 With 61 Down, "Jurassic Park" star	80 High rails	81 Obligation
82 California city	84 It's hardly aesthetic	87 Opportunity to overeat	89 One of the Osmonds	90 Summer stinger	91 Part 3 of remark	95 Dwell	98 Pansy part	99 Actress Munson	100 Modify	101 Part of MP	102 Uneven	108 End of remark	113 Cartoonist
114 Menu phrase	115 Go down	116 Ruin	117 Tennis pro	120 Oyster's home	121 Tofu base	122 Litigated	1 To boot	2 Chicken _	3 Memo start	4 Within view	5 Dennis, for one	6 Solar _	7 Bee flat?
8 " _ Duke" ('77 song)	9 Deciduous tree	10 2001, to Tiberius	11 Braid	12 Like a wet noodle	13 Diva Marton	14 He's got a lot of pull	15 Dewy	16 Dull	17 A great composer?	20 Cassidy or Koppel	25 Coal carrier	26 Restaurant freebie	28 " _ the season ..."
32 Sicilian smoker	33 Tai _ (martial art)	34 Emulate Pinocchio	35 William of	"Hopalong Cassidy"	36 Petite pest	38 Away from the wind	39 Gender	40 "Jude the Obscure" author	41 Spring flower	42 Deere thing	45 " _ #1" ('61 hit)	46 Pianist Claudio	47 Acts catty?
49 Arctic jacket	50 Sherpa site	51 Singer Kiki	52 "Alice" spin_off	54 Eliot's "Adam _"	57 Ehud of Israel	58 Estrada or Satie	59 "Le Pere Goriot" author	60 Competent	61 See 76 Across	62 King canine	63 Pageant prop	64 Poirot's concern	65 Plentiful
66 Timid	70 Japanese port	71 Baseball's "Master Melvin"	72 Bel _	73 Furrow	75 Cop's target, for short	76 Glasgow girl	77 Saharan nation	78 Algerian seaport	82 Comic Mort	83 " _ -di-dah	85 Basketball's Patrick	86 Most melancholy	87 Suitable
88 LAX letters	91 Put the metal to the metal	92 Rita of "The King and I"	93 Vigor	94 Playground game	95 Morocco's capital	96 Boxer Griffith	97 George of "Just Shoot Me"	98 Loony Lee	101 Flutist Herbie	102 Nobelist Andric	103 Journalist Jacob	104 "Armageddon" author	105 Berg opera
106 Rose lover?	107 Oliver of "Gladiator"	109 "Blame It on _" ('84 film)	110 Wheel part	111 Chemical ending	112 Find the sum								

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Comix

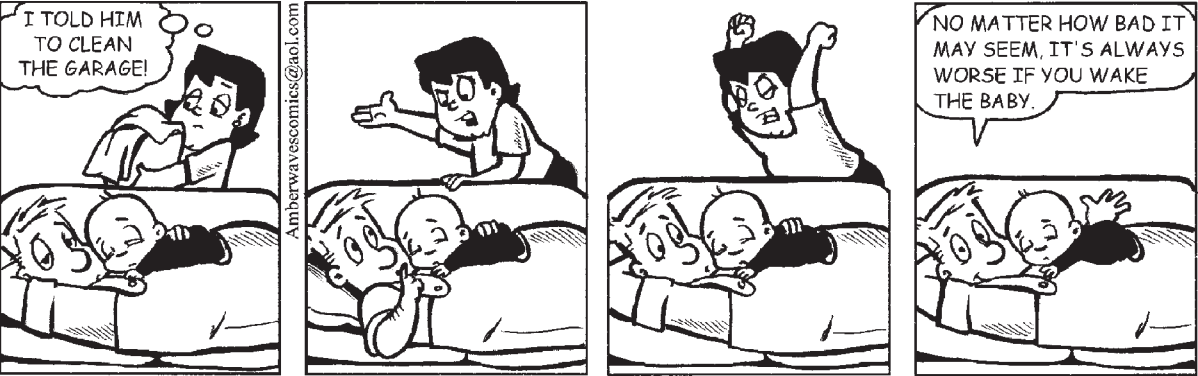
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



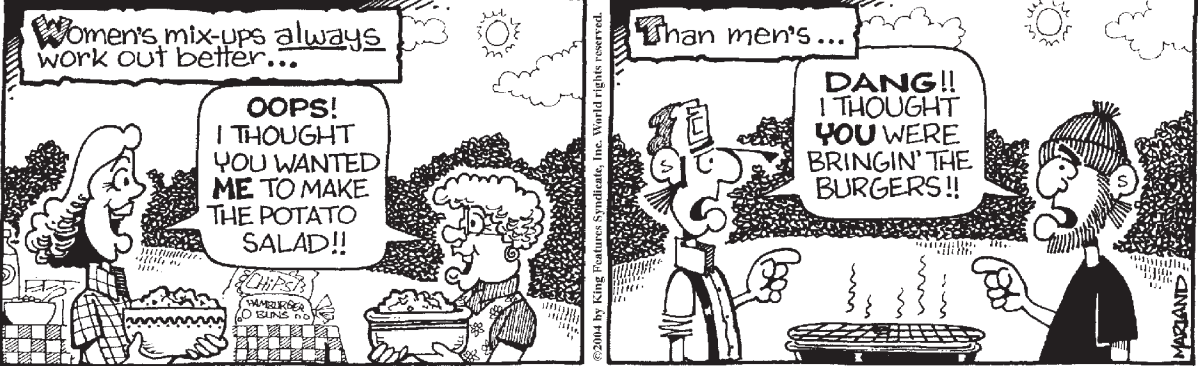
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Hair superiority

By Don Flood

Regular readers of this column were no doubt surprised and disturbed to see that I was not chosen to be John Kerry's running mate.

I had offered my services after seeing a consultant recommend that Kerry pick a vice-presidential candidate who brought to the ticket a critical balance, or, as she put it, "less hair."

Adding insult to injury, the man who was chosen, John Edwards, boasts a head of hair almost as luxurious as Kerry's, if not as spectacularly well-coiffed.

In trying to console me, my wife pointed out — and this is absolutely true — that after the announcement, Kerry said, "We've got better vision, better ideas, real plans. We've got a better sense of what's happening in America — and we've got better hair."

So it is possible, contrary to the other consultant's suggestion, that Kerry's own strategists had decided to run a campaign based on overall hair superiority.

But, fortunately, a recent trip to Boston steered my mind away from my own personal disappointment to the riches of our nation's heritage.

Walking around Boston, an old, almost European city, steeped in history and tradition, I found it hard not to occasionally pause and wonder: How could Spider-Man operate in such a city?

Yes, Boston has some tall buildings, even skyscrapers, but nowhere does it have the steel and concrete canyons so essential to Spidey's predilection for swinging from building to building.

And just imagine if Spider-Man were from Kansas? He'd be this weird geek shooting gunk out of

his wrists and doing what? Rounding up stalks of corn?

On the other hand, Superman, this trip taught me, could operate effectively anywhere. To a lesser extent, so could Batman, since he's got the Batmobile. But Spider-Man? If he couldn't swing from building to building, he'd be stuck walking.

No superhero looks cool walking: "Oh, there's an emergency? Well, let's see, you're about a mile and a half away. If I hurry I might be able to get there in 15 minutes or so."

Sorry, Spidey, it's not the stuff of which major motion pictures are made.

While in Boston, we walked the Freedom Trail, a historical pathway, a guide told us, of about 2 miles, for a total of 4 miles there and back.

Oddly, this estimate was off, conservatively, by about 75 miles.

It was much the same path our forefathers took before the Battle of Bunker Hill, though in their case they didn't have to fend off tourists, nor did they have to climb the Bunker Hill Monument when they arrived.

Over the years, there has been much controversy about whether it should be properly called the Battle of Bunker Hill or the Battle of Breed's Hill.

After visiting the site and reading various documents, I can now state with confidence that: I DON'T KNOW.

I just know the British would have given up a lot sooner if they had had to climb that blasted monument, especially while carrying a bag of souvenirs.

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Classified Ads

LEGAL

Fabens Independent School District

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for providing all labor and materials for:

Fabens Independent School District O'Donnell Elementary Fire Alarm System and Public Address System

will be received at the Office of Gilbert Alarcon, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Support Services, Fabens Independent

School District, 821 N.E. G St., P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838 until **2:00 p.m. local time on Sept. 10, 2004**. All bids will then be opened and publicly read aloud at 2:30 p.m.

The successful bidder will be required to complete the project within the time limits set forth in the Instructions to Bidders and General Specifications, and liquidated damages will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of the date required by the successful bidder to complete the project to the satisfaction of the Owner in accordance with the Contract Documents.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Owner.

A pre-bid meeting and site visit is scheduled for Aug. 20, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fabens Independent School District Central Office Board Room, 821 N.E. G St. in Fabens, Texas.

Note that Davis-Bacon Wage Rates, insurance, and bonds will be required as set forth in the Instructions to Bidders.

The Fabens Independent School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities.

Board of Trustees of the

Fabens Independent School District
WTCC-8/12/04

BARGAINS

FOR SALE: HP Computer, 2 drives, CD burner, \$750. Bunkbeds, white metal frame, \$75. Sofa with oak trim, green and brown tones, \$100. Oil painting (Fabian's Decor) 4'X5' Southwest design, \$125. 241-3861, 857-2557.

HELP WANTED

yan Supply is seeking applicants for several positions. ALL APPLICANTS MUST be 18, like to help people, be bi-

lingual, have good math skills, be able to lift and stock shelves, and enjoy the challenge of a fast-paced work environment. Part-time cashier: Must have computer skills and be a problem solver. Loader/Stocker: Must have valid TX driver's license with good driving record and be able to lift 94 lbs. Customer Service: Must like to help people. Knowledge & experience in any or all of the following areas a plus, but not necessary: electrical, plumbing, paint, lawn and garden. Applications: Available at Ryan Supply, Inc./Ace Hardware. 117 N. Fabens St.,

Fabens, TX 79838.

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.

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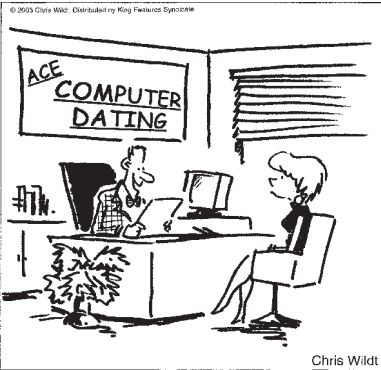
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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I am constantly running across information on identity theft. What is Social Security doing to protect our social security numbers?

A: People who apply for a new Social Security number must furnish at least two documents to establish age, identity, and U.S. citizenship or lawful non citizen status. And now Social Security must verify the birth record for all U.S.-born applicants age one and older. We do this by contacting the custodian of the record,

usually the local bureau of vital statistics, before assigning a Social Security number. An in-person interview must be conducted if the applicant is age 12 or older and is applying for an original SSN. In addition, U.S.-born applicants age 12 or older must explain why they do not already have a Social Security number.

Q: My birthday will be coming up in a couple of months and I recently received my Social Security Statement of Earnings. I noticed that my earn-

ings for the last 3 years are not reflected on my record. How can I make certain that all my earnings are properly credited to my earnings record?

A: It's critical that your name and Social Security number (SSN) as shown on your Social Security card match your employer's payroll records and year-end Form W-2 (Wage and Tax Statement). Each year your employer(s) send to Social Security Copy A of Forms W-2. Social Security matches your name and SSN on Form W-2 against its database of all SSNs issued. When a match is

found, the earnings information from the W-2 is recorded in your lifelong earnings history. If your employer's records do not match your name as reported by social security, you need to have your employer correct his records.

Q: I was surprised to learn that Social Security charges a fee for a record of one's work history. How true is this?

A: There is no charge for a record of your earnings information which lists the years and amounts you earned but if you are requesting a detailed earn-









ings and employer history, there is a charge. The fee is based on the number of years you need to have researched. You can request detailed information by obtaining form SSA-7050, Request for Social Security Earnings Information.

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
							
Partly sunny.	Partly to mostly cloudy.	Partly sunny; chance of a late day thunderstorm.	Clouds and sun, a p.m. thunderstorm possible.	Partly sunny.	Partial sun; maybe a late-day thunderstorm.	Mostly sunny.	Partly sunny.
▲ 94°	▼ 72°	▲ 92° ▼ 71°	▲ 92° ▼ 70°	▲ 92° ▼ 71°	▲ 90° ▼ 68°	▲ 92° ▼ 69°	▲ 93° ▼ 68°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

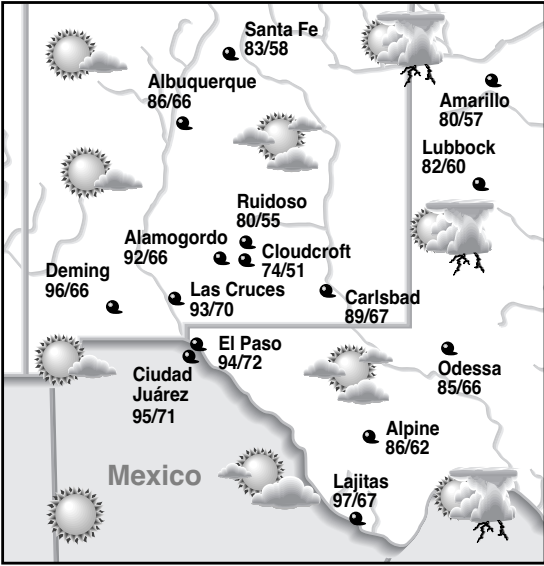
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	95	71
Canutillo	95	71
Clint	94	70
E. Montana	94	72
Fabens	94	70
Horizon	96	72
San Elizario	93	70
Socorro	94	71
Tornillo	94	70
Vinton	95	71

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	86/66/t	84/63/t	84/64/t	85/65/c	85/60/t
Atlanta	84/65/t	82/63/pc	82/65/s	86/67/s	86/67/s
Atlantic City	80/67/t	76/64/r	78/61/pc	81/61/s	82/62/pc
Austin/San Antonio	89/64/t	88/65/t	89/69/pc	92/72/s	94/68/c
Baltimore	80/66/t	78/62/r	80/60/pc	82/62/s	82/62/pc
Boston	78/67/t	76/65/r	78/65/pc	80/65/s	78/63/pc
Chicago	70/54/pc	74/56/pc	76/56/pc	80/60/pc	80/61/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	86/66/pc	89/68/pc	91/70/pc	92/72/s	93/69/c
Denver	78/52/t	78/56/pc	82/58/pc	88/59/t	86/55/s
Flagstaff	82/56/t	77/52/t	75/52/t	74/49/t	73/49/c
Houston	88/68/t	88/68/pc	90/69/pc	92/72/s	94/72/pc
Kansas City	76/56/pc	77/56/pc	80/60/pc	83/65/pc	87/68/c
Las Vegas	107/84/s	102/80/pc	100/80/t	101/78/s	101/78/s
Miami	91/79/t	90/78/t	89/78/t	90/78/t	89/76/t
Minneapolis	72/54/pc	74/58/pc	78/60/pc	80/62/sh	82/63/sh
New Orleans	88/70/t	86/70/pc	89/72/s	90/74/pc	90/73/t
New York City	76/68/t	74/68/r	81/66/pc	82/66/s	81/67/pc
Philadelphia	82/68/t	78/66/r	82/64/pc	84/66/s	82/66/pc
Phoenix	107/84/s	103/82/t	103/82/t	102/82/s	102/79/s
Portland	94/62/s	94/60/s	82/60/s	80/59/pc	82/54/r
San Francisco	72/58/pc	70/56/pc	70/56/pc	71/56/s	72/54/s
Seattle	86/58/s	86/58/s	80/56/s	78/56/pc	73/52/r
Tucson	99/74/t	94/72/t	94/72/t	96/72/t	96/72/t
Washington, DC	82/68/t	80/66/r	80/64/pc	82/66/s	82/66/s

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

AGRICULTURE

A fairly typical pattern for this time of year with partial sunshine and highs in the low to mid-90s. There will be a couple of thunderstorms around the area each day with the most numerous coverage Thursday through Saturday as more moisture creeps into the area. Activity should taper a bit toward next week.

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