



NEWSBRIEFS

Big grant

Gov. Rick Perry has announced a \$2 million grant to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Texas to continue efforts to improve the lives of Texas children. The funds will be provided through the Texas Education Agency from discretionary federal funds. "There is no greater cause than ensuring that every child has a bright future, and that's why I am always proud to stand with an organization that has a big vision for the children of Texas: Big Brothers and Big Sisters," Perry said. "The work of this organization is helping Texas children reach their highest potential and breaking the cycle of despair that too many underprivileged young Texans face." Perry said statistics show that a child mentored by a Big Brother or Big Sister will have a 94 percent chance of graduating from high school, will be 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs and will be 33 percent less likely to become violent.

Reading grant

Canutillo Elementary School awarded recently a \$500 Literacy Grant from the Wal-Mart store on North Mesa, according to spokesman Kim Guzman. Over the past five years, the grant was given to only two schools, but expanded to five schools this year. "The grants are given to help build education in our community and one grant per district was awarded in our area," stated Randy Hicks, general merchandise manager for the N. Mesa Wal-Mart. "The grant funds will be used to buy additional materials to assist the 504 Reading Specialist for intervention activities to help students improve reading skills," said Hector Girón, principal at Canutillo ES. This grant will benefit as many as 100 children and we are grateful that companies like Wal-Mart are supportive of the national goal to advance Reading literacy in our community," added Girón.

In other news

■ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded over \$10 million in Capital Fund Program Grants to public housing authorities in the El Paso area. These grants may be used for modernization, development, financing and management improvements. Awards included \$10,343,485 to the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso; \$162,938 to the El Paso County Housing Authority; and \$47,711 to the Housing Authority of Anthony.

■ Troy Byrne has joined Clint ISD as the new math coordinator in instructional services. Formerly the Region MSP staff developer, Byrne taught math and science in both Ysleta ISD and El Paso ISD for a total of 13 years. He holds a B.S. in secondary

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The best thing to do behind a person's back is pat it.

— Quips & Quotes

Cattle producers urged to keep sharp eye out for potential health risks

AUSTIN — Whether sorting calves for sale, moving the herd to fresh pasture, or deciding which cows to keep, working cattle is a good time to address herd health issues that can affect Texas' ability to trade and move cattle freely.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended funding for the cattle tuberculosis (TB) testing program until the end of 2004, so ranchers still can take advantage of a free TB test for their seed stock, or purebred cattle," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry regulatory agency. "Increased TB surveillance must be accomplished, in order for Texas' TB-free status, downgraded two years ago, to be reinstated. TB-free status will enhance the marketability of Texas cattle, because breeding animals could move across state lines without TB testing requirements or restrictions."

Texas, New Mexico, California and Michigan are the only states not cattle TB-free. Each of these states is following a specially tailored plan to regain TB status, explained Dr. Hillman. "Texas must not be the only state that doesn't fulfill its disease surveillance obligation."

Dr. Hillman urged Texas producers to contact either the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242, or their private veterinary practitioner to arrange for a TB herd test. More than 550 Texas private veterinarians are certified to conduct TB herd tests and are reimbursed by the TAHC, through cooperative agree-

ment funds from the USDA.

Only one out of more than 750 of the state's 807 dairies have been tested for TB since last fall — in Hamilton County — has been found to be infected and is being depopulated.

"The Texas cattle industry's plan also called for testing of 2,400 purebred, or beef breeding herds. As of early September, however, only about 300 herds have been tested, far short of the goal," Dr. Hillman said. "Time and money are running short — please support the Texas cattle industry and get your herd tested while the costs can be offset with federal funds."

"Producers also may be able to arrange for a free herd test for cattle brucellosis, or 'Bangs,' if their cattle had potential exposure to the bacterial disease, or if the herd exhibits signs of the disease, such as abortions, weak calves of lowered milk production. Many times brucellosis infection is 'silent,' with few obvious signs of disease, so proactive measures are crucial to find infection," said Dr. Hillman.

States may be classified "free" of brucellosis after 12 months without an infected herd and a USDA-mandated review. Texas and Wyoming are the only states without the free status.

Dr. Hillman also urged inspection for unusual ticks, for skin blisters and for cattle that stagger or fall. He said tick and maggot submission kits should be a 'staple' on every producer's shelf — they may be obtained from the TAHC area offices, some private veterinary practitioners or the TAHC headquarters at 1-800-550-8242. Unusual ticks or maggots can

be identified by the State-Federal Laboratory free of charge.

This summer's vesicular stomatitis (VS) outbreak may be nearly over in Texas. However, he said if livestock exhibits lesions, blisters or sloughing skin in or around the mouth, nose, teats or hooves, don't pass it off as VS. He said TAHC or a private vet should conduct laboratory tests on a blood sample and snippet of skin from the affected animal to ensure that it is not "what we dread most, an introduction of foot-and-mouth disease."

Dr. Hillman also urged producers to call the TAHC to report 'downer' or non-ambulatory cattle, so brain tissue samples may be collected and tested for BSE, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, otherwise known as mad cow disease. He said non-ambulatory cattle are no longer accepted at livestock markets or slaughter plants, considered at 'high-risk' for the brain-wasting disease. He said TAHC will assist with tissue collection. The USDA in June launched a national BSE testing program on more than 200,000 head of cattle by late December 2005, to determine if BSE is present in the U.S. As of early September, all of the 48,000 samples tested were negative — 2,600 were from Texas-origin cattle.

"It can be frightening to look for disease," admitted Dr. Hillman. "But if we don't, disease can gain a foothold in Texas, and eradication will be extremely costly, and the industry's market share and reputation could be damaged. If you see something unusual, call your veterinarian, or call the TAHC. Don't wait till it's too late."



Canutillo NJROTC cadets participating in the Paint-A-Thon (from left) Francisco Gutierrez, Vienna Sepulveda, Karla Yanez, Linda Perez, Jesus Larrea, and Priscilla Gutierrez.

Canutillo High School's Cadets participate in Paint-A-Thon

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Cadets from the National Junior Reserve Officer Training Core (NJROTC) at Canutillo High School participated in the Project Bravo annual Paint-A-Thon held on Saturday, September 18. The Paint-A-Thon is a community service project that selects a home of a senior citizen or disabled person and provides the materials needed to paint the home.

Twenty-one cadets showed up at 8 a.m. to paint the home of Manny & Maria Rios, who

live on Statesburg Street in Canutillo. Petty Officer Pete Soto and Captain Charles Young, instructors of the CHS ROTC program, along with Danny Aguilar and Yolanda Moreno, cadet parents were on hand to assist in the painting project.

Captain Young stated, "These cadets benefit through teamwork in helping others. I believe the students get gratification from improving their community, and that instills pride in both the cadets and the home owner."

The ROTC program at CHS has been participating in this program for about six years. The event is held once a year in September.

Area non-profit organizations receive \$50,000 in grants

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Numerous area non-profits received about \$50,000 in grants this week from the El Paso Community Foundation for educational, health and advocacy programs benefiting thousands of area residents. Twice a year the Foundation awards grants through a competitive process, recognizing entities for their community contributions and allocating monies that will be used to effect the most positive change.

"It's phenomenal," said Cynthia Horton, director of development for the VNA of El Paso, "Every dollar we receive for our hospice program goes directly to patient care. It's a real quality of life issue for them and makes a difference between life and death that we see everyday. We're just ecstatic to receive these much needed funds."

Funding includes \$5,000 for the Fundacion Margarita Miranda de Mascare's to support the Rene Mascare's International Excellence Award; \$5,000 for the Paso Del

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Bonilla honored for tough stance against death tax

WASHINGTON, DC — One of the nation's leading senior citizen groups has honored Congressman Henry Bonilla for his long-time fight against the death tax.

"It's a distinct honor to bestow the Benjamin Franklin Award upon Congressman Henry Bonilla for his ef-

orts to abolish one of the most burdensome taxes," said 60 Plus Association President Jim Martin at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

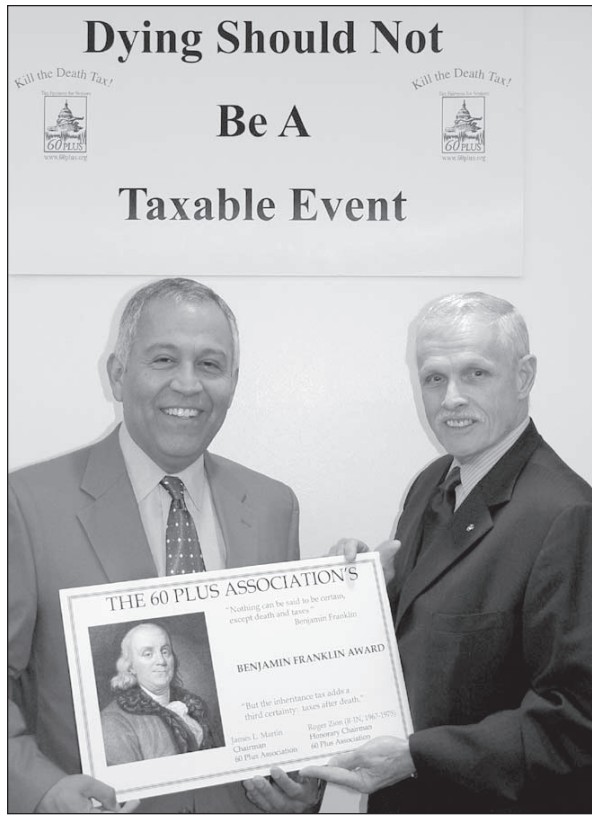
have been in their family for generations. "No section of the tax code is more unfair and more dangerous to our entrepreneurial spirit than the death tax," said Bonilla. "Repealing the 'death tax' is the right thing to do for American families. The death of a family member should not be a taxable event."

In addition to the Franklin Award, Bonilla also earned the 60 Plus Association's top honor, the Guardian of Seniors' Rights Award, for his efforts to protect Social Security and Medicare.

The 60 Plus Association is a non-partisan, eleven-year-old group that relies on 4.5 million seniors for support. The group publishes a scorecard on issues affecting the elderly.

"I'm honored to work for the senior citizens of my district — and proud to have earned this award. The real celebration will begin when we abolish the death tax once and for all," said Bonilla.

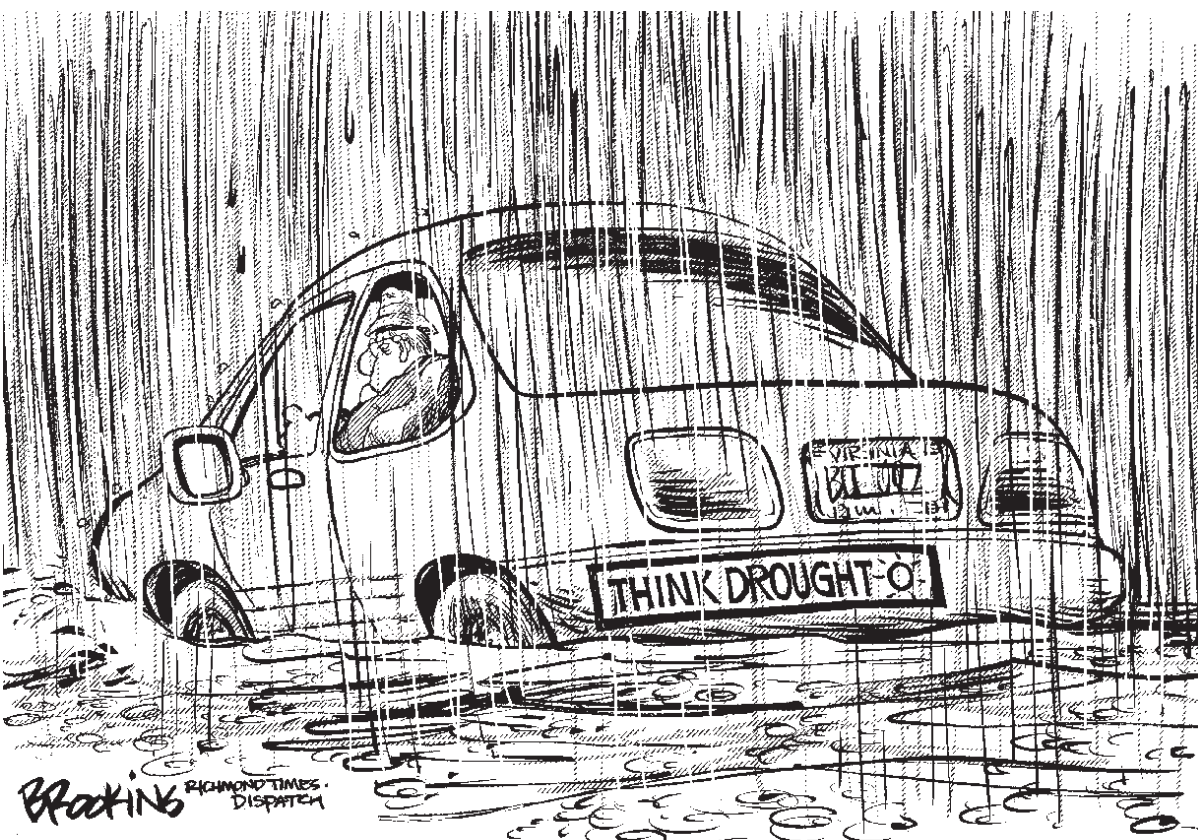
Bonilla has represented the 23rd district of Texas since his first election to Congress in 1992. He is chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and a senior member of the Defense and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.



SENIOR HONOR — Congressman Henry Bonilla accepted the Benjamin Franklin Award from 60 Plus Association President Jim Martin.

orts to abolish one of the most burdensome taxes," said 60 Plus Association President Jim Martin at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The estate tax, commonly referred to as the "death tax," forces many Americans to pay as much as 60 percent of their savings, businesses or farms in taxes when they die. In order to pay these large tax bills, many families are forced to liquidate assets and sell businesses and farms that



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



JTF-6 adds their expertise to help in war on terror

Recent reports that suspected terrorists are trying to enter the country through our southern border is troubling to both border communities like El Paso and the nation as a whole. Local law enforcement agencies are hard at work protecting our safety and security — and now have another partner in the war against terror.

Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) at Biggs Army Airfield, a critical military asset in the national war on drugs, is expanding its counterdrug mission to fight terrorism. JTF-6 is a Department of Defense command that has a strong fifteen year history of fighting the war on drugs along the U.S. southern border. The counter-drug expertise of the men and women of JTF-6 has contributed to many successful operations that have disrupted the flow of drugs into our country.

On Oct. 1, the Department of Defense expanded the mission of JTF-6, which is now known as JTF-North, to include counter-terrorism. It is now

the Department of Defense's agent in helping federal law enforcement protect our borders from threats such as international terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and organized crime.

After spending 26 and a half years in the United States Border Patrol, I know firsthand the importance of JTF-6. I understand the crippling effect that the illegal drug trade has in our country — especially in our border communities. Working to end the illegal drug trade is directly related to our national security. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, I knew that JTF-6 would be a valuable asset in the defense of our homeland. The techniques that JTF-6 has used since its inception in 1989 to fight drug smuggling, such as manned and unmanned aerial reconnaissance and intelligence dissemination and analysis, are both applicable and relevant to the war on terrorism.

I worked with my colleagues in Congress and at the Department of Defense to expand JTF-6's mission to include counter-terrorism, explain-

ing that since its inception in 1989, JTF-6 has completed over 5,000 missions in support of more than 430 federal, regional, state, and local law enforcement agencies and counterdrug task forces. This is exactly the same type of coordination required in the war on terror.

Last year, in the bill authorizing funding for the Department of Defense, I secured the language that expanded JTF-6's mission to play an official role in both counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism missions. I commend my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee and in the Congress as a whole for recognizing the important contributions JTF-North will make to the war on terrorism.

JTF-North begins its new mission under the command of Brigadier General Jose Riojas, who has an impressive background in the Army. JTF-North is joining a fight against a fierce enemy unlike any we've fought in the past. With their past successes, expertise such as theirs is necessary to our safety and security.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

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All of Tornillo ISD school board members make presentation at TASB/TASA Convention

By Rudy Barreda
Special to the Courier

For the second straight time, all seven members of the Tornillo ISD Board of Trustees attended the TASB/TASA Convention, the most recent of which was held last week in Dallas. The board, along with Superintendent Paul Vranish, gave a two-part workshop on Superintendent Evaluation. The presentations attracted over 200 participants, most of whom highly praised the presentation. In fact, the workshop continually receives the highest evaluations of all presentations given at TASB/TASA conventions. Last summer, all Board members attended the TASB Summer Leadership Conference, held in San Antonio, where they also presented the Superintendent Evaluation workshop.

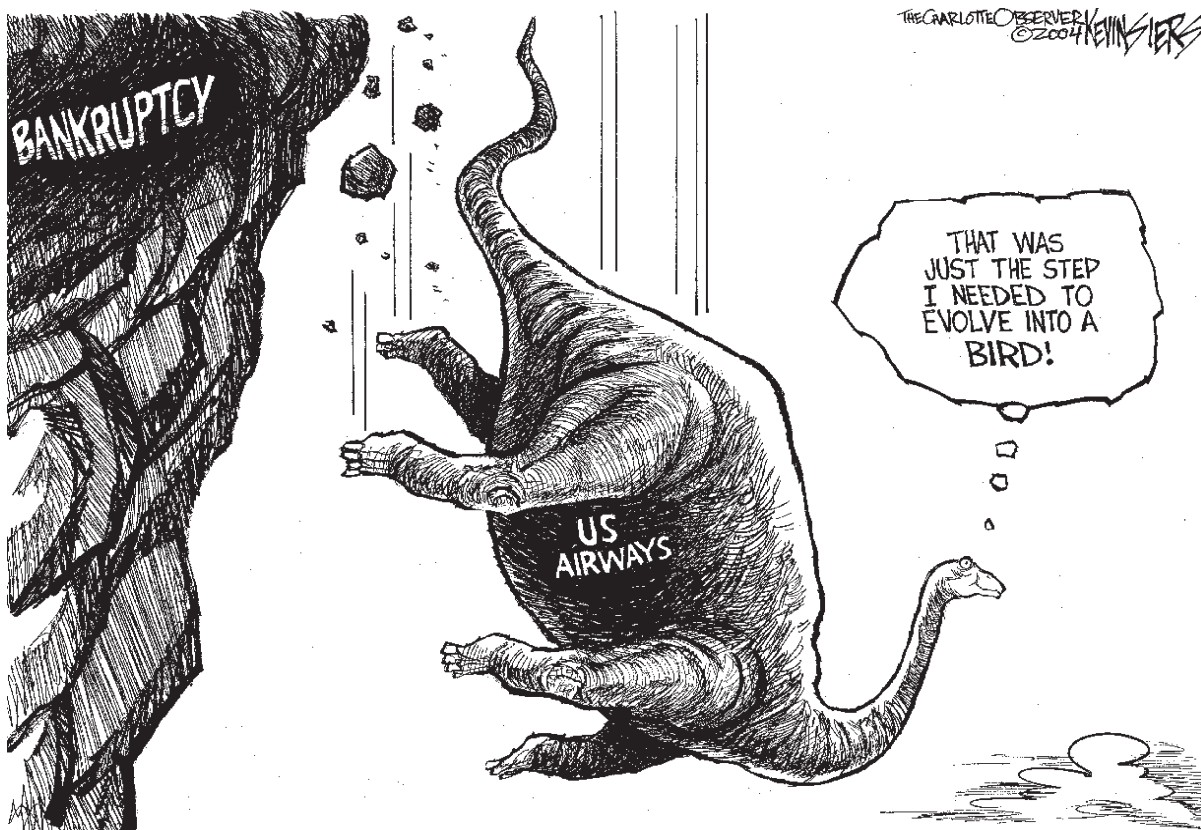
It is rare that all members of a school board are able to attend conventions and conferences of this kind. The Tornillo Board is extremely proud of the fact that they have been able to perform this feat - not once,

but twice in a row. "I believe this shows how tremendously dedicated and committed each member of this Board is, and how well they work as a team," said Rudy Barreda, Tornillo ISD Assistant Superintendent.

The quality of Board's presentation was also reflected by the number of participants who came up to individual members after the formal presentation to learn more about the superintendent evaluation process used in Tornillo. These participants from around the state said that the methods used in Tornillo are unique and highly effective, and they are interested in using the system in their own districts.

"You've got to come to our district and make this presentation to our Board!" was a frequent comment heard during the after-session conversations. "We'd be pleased and honored to do so," replied Superintendent Vranish to these requests.

The Dallas event was the 44th time the convention has been held. The annual convention is sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators.



Clint ISD creates newcomer centers

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Because of the increase in new immigrant student enrollments in Clint Independent School District, Newcomer Centers at the middle and high schools have been created to address the needs of this student population.

The centers will support immigrant students who have low literacy levels in their native language or who have limited English proficiency. Support for these students is offered through resources and instruction which are necessary to quickly and effectively help these students acquire not only grade level mastery of literacy skills in their native language, but second language proficiency as well.

Individualized instructional plans will be used for each student in the centers to be able to properly monitor student progress. This will enable teachers and students to determine where the greatest academic areas of need are and address them appropriately.

"The Newcomer Center concept provides the safety net necessary for the English language cognitive development for the recent immigrant, the non-English speaker. Without a foundation in the language of the country the student resides, there is no hope

for successful integration," said James Kelch, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

Students will spend one school year at the center and then transition into a sheltered English classroom to continue the development of English language skills until they can be placed in the mainstream classroom. Parents will be involved in all phases of the language program to include an orientation which will provide them with guidelines to follow with their child for a stress free transition.

With the orientation, the teachers and staff will be able to guide the parent and the student through the move from a self-contained classroom to a regular school schedule.

The 2004-2005 school year began with six Newcomer Centers, each class staffed with a teacher and an aide. The materials and salaries for the centers are funded through a Title III federal grant which targets English language learners and English language acquisition. "What we hope to provide our recent immigrants is a basis for success in school through rapid linguistic development in order to not only exist, but thrive in the secondary school environment," said Kelch. The centers are currently serving approximately 150 newcomer students as well as providing content area help to ESL students who are currently in need of tutoring or remediation.

Fabens board attends influential leadership workshop in Dallas

By Maureen Graham
Special to the Courier

DALLAS — Six board members and three administrators from the Fabens Independent School District joined more than 10,000 public school trustees, superintendents, and other education leaders Sept. 17-20 at the 44th Annual TASB/TASA Convention at the Dallas Convention Center.

The joint gathering for the Texas Association of School Boards and Texas Association of School Administrators focused on extensive training opportunities, distinguished speakers, and the latest information on education trends, issues, and innovative programs.

Saturday's first general session featured Ben Carson, the youngest physician at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions to head a major division as director of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Carson also is president and cofounder of the Carson Scholars Fund, A nonprofit corporation that has recognized more than 800 students in grades 4-12 for superior academic achievement and strong humanitarian qualities. In

his presentation, Education in America, he discussed what it takes to meet life's obstacles, maintain discipline, and live a life of faith when tested by unbelievable odds.

How to Build High Self-Esteem was the topic of Jack Canfield, keynote speaker at Sunday's second general session. Canfield, chief executive officer of Self-Esteem Seminars in Santa Barbara, California, also chairs the board of the Foundation for Self-Esteem in Culver City, California. In addition, he has coauthored *Chicken Soup for the Soul* and 36 other motivational books. He shared specific guidelines, practical exercises, and key skills that educators need to expand their own self-esteem and incorporate esteem-building activities in the classroom.

In addition, distinguished lectures began Saturday at 1:30 p.m. with Jamie Almanzan, director of Collaborative Action Research for Equity (CARE), a program of Pacific Educational Group, Ind.

Commissioner of Education Shirley J. Neeley discussed the current state of Texas public schools Saturday at 4:30 p.m. She also updated attendances on school finance, the state's new accountability system,

and federal No Child Left Behind reforms.

Ray Saurez, senior correspondent of *The NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer, addressed participants Sunday. With an extensive background in journalism and worldwide reporting, he gave a unique perspective on our cultural landscape and the issues that shape our practices and education.

Other convention highlights included announcement of the 2004 Outstanding School Board at Saturday's first general session and Superintendent of the Year at Sunday's second general session. Early-bird workshops on Friday gave attendees in-depth training on such issues as education law, team building, school finance, facilities, and student achievement.

Attendees from Fabens ISD were board members Greg Spence, Jose Ramirez, Sylvia Gonzales, Rey Sepulveda, Danny Salcido and Jose Porras, along with Superintendent Poncho Garcia, Assistant Superintendent Jose Cervantes, and Executive Director Charles Hopp.

The TASB/TASA convention is the largest training event of its kind in Texas for school trustees and superintendents.

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore. Texas buys more pickup trucks than any other state in the U.S.



Briefs

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education from UTEP and will complete his M.Ed. in educational administration in May. Heather Hinojos, the new assistant principal at East Montana Middle School, has an eight-year background in special education. Before joining Clint, she spent the last three years as a special education mentor for YISD. Hinojos also taught special education in YISD and EPISD. A native of Amarillo, Texas, she received her B.S. in interdisciplinary studies from West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas and her M.Ed. in educational management and leadership from New Mexico State University.

■ Navy Fireman Apprentice Sergio Holguin, son of Maria M.

Holguin of El Paso, Texas, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. with honors. During the eight-week program, Holguin completed a variety of training including first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. Holguin is a 2004 graduate of Socorro High School of El Paso, Texas.

■ Navy Seaman Jessica H. Orozco, daughter of Olga and Efren Orozco of Fabens recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Great Lakes, Illinois. With emphasis on physical fitness, she learned naval customs, first aid, water safety and survival, firefighting, and more.

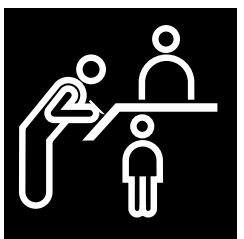
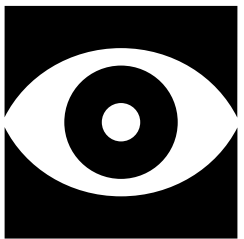
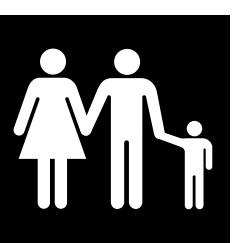
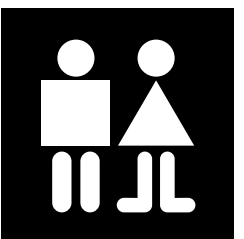
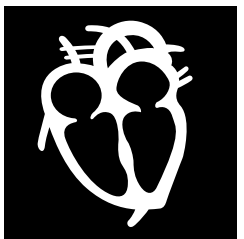
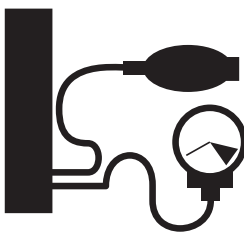
■ Paintings, pastels, and charcoal sketches by artists who live and delight in the varied landscape of the Chihuahuan Desert are now on

display in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Dept. of the Interior Museum in the exhibit *Along the Rio Grande: the Plein-Air Painters of El Paso*. The 11 featured artists work out-of-doors, or as the French say "en plein air." The exhibit continues there through Dec. 10, 2004. The 20 contemporary works of art were sent to Washington from the Los Paisanos Gallery at El Paso's Chamizal National Memorial. Corinne Abeyta-Spinnler, Julie Ford Oliver, and Candy Mayer are the El Paso artists exhibited. Admission to the exhibit is free at the Main Interior Building at 1849 C Street, N.W., in Washington, D.C. For information, call 202-208-4743.

■ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded \$7,160,569 to the Region 19 Education Service Center to fund El Paso's Head Start centers. Region 19 Head Start provides educational opportunities and services for economically challenged children and their families. It is home to the third largest Head Start program in the state of Texas and serves more than 4,000 children and more than 200 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. Services are provided in twelve school districts in El Paso and Hudspeth counties. Head Start provides basic educational and social services that El Paso children might not otherwise receive, such as books, dental exams or nutritious meals," said Congressman Silvestre Reyes. "Without Head Start, many El Paso children would not have such a strong foundation on which to build healthy, successful lives."

■ The George W. Bush Childhood Home in Midland was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) assisted in the nomination of this property for inclusion in the National Register in recognition of its importance to the history of Midland, Texas and the nation. The George W. Bush Childhood Home, located at 1412 W. Ohio Ave., is currently under restoration as the representative childhood home of President George W. Bush. The home is where George W. Bush lived the longest during his youth, and is the house most often recalled in family memoirs.

■ A "novel" approach is being used to start the 2004 United Way Campaign at Tornillo Elementary School. United Way of El Paso recruited volunteers from other non-profit organizations to read to every first grade class. The volunteers also distribute to each child a "Book in a Bag," which contains a hard-back book, various school supplies and other treats. Recently, Center for the Family Violence volunteers Lisa George and Genevieve Ramos read to Ms. Ginithan's and Ms. Limon's first grade classes about sharing with others. Students the eagerly discussed the merits of sharing at the conclusion of the read aloud. District officials said they hope the literacy effort helps United Way reach its fund-raising goal of \$4.68 million.



Horizon City Health Fair

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Horizon City Lion's Club, HCIA (Horizon Communities Improvement Association), Oz Glaze Senior Center and Del Sol Medical Center

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What the public should know about old unused water wells

EL PASO COUNTY — Each parcel of land has a history as old as the earth and sky. It is common for properties to have had many owners through the years. Among the land use changes that may have occurred is the construction of one or more water wells put there by drilling, auguring, jetting, or even by digging a hole or excavating around a spring or seepage.

Out-of-service wells of any type may pose potential safety hazards and threats to ground water quality if not correctly maintained or abandoned — “decommissioned” — according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). There also may be liability issues to consider if an old well on your property is shown to be a pathway for contamination that reaches neighboring ground water.

Often old wells are forgotten. The components of abandoned wells may deteriorate, and new owners or property developers can build over the old well site or unknowingly create a hazardous land use. For example, wastes associated with stables, chicken houses, dumps, etc. that are located over an old out-of-service well hole may flow straight down to the aquifer.

In an area where wells penetrate more than one water-bearing layer, contaminants may reach the ground water zone of the old well and then travel on to other portions of the aquifer. If the contamination connects with another abandoned well, it could impact other aquifers and threaten operating wells and water supply sources. Abandoned dug wells do not typically lead to contamination risk for deep aquifers, but their wide diameter, usually three to five feet, creates a physical safety hazard for construction equipment in addition to a danger to people and animals that may be injured from falling into the well.

NGWA recommends that landowners locate any old or out-of-service wells. Clues to the location of these wells include:

- Pipes sticking out of the ground.
- Small buildings that may have been a well house.
- Depressions in the ground.
- The presence of concrete vaults or pits, perhaps covered by lumber or metal plates.
- Out-of-use windmills — wind pumps are likely to be located near an old well).

Clues and information can be obtained from old maps, plans and property title documents; information from neighbors; additions to an old home — in the past, wells were commonly constructed in basements or under porches to keep the water pumps from freezing and to ease access in the winter; water utility history telling what was the source of water for your home before utility water was available.

In most cases, homeowners are required to notify their local Department of Environmental Protection or Water Quality Division to document the decommissioning of the well. Homeowners are urged to contact these environmental agencies to learn what procedures are required in their region.

Grants

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Norte Community Resource Center for general support of programs; \$17,000 for the El Paso National Dance Institute for program support; and \$3,800 each to the following organizations from the Edgar L. and Sibley Cirlot Hunter Fund for elderly programs: Alzheimer’s Association, El Paso Symphony, Lutheran Social Ser-

vices, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, La Familia del Paso, Mary Peyton Foundation and the Visiting Nurse Association.

“We very much appreciate the Community Foundation and all it does for the region and for our programs,” said Ruth Ellen Jacobson, executive director of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. “The Foundation helps make it possible for us to open our curtain every year. Without them and their generous donors, it would be quite difficult to have an orchestra in El Paso.”

For more information about the El Paso Community Foundation September 2004 grant recipients, log-on to www.epcf.org.

City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDER OF ELECTION FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO

An election is hereby ordered to be held on November 2, 2004 from 7 a.m. to 7p.m. for the purpose of: Electing a Mayor and five Council persons from Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and one at-large for the City of Socorro, Texas.

Early voting will be conducted at Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda Ave. beginning Monday, October 18, 2004, and continue through Friday, October 29, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday.

The early voting ballot applications and ballots may be sent to Helen Jamison, County Elections Department, 500 E. San Antonio, Room 402, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Precincts	Polling Place	Address
149	Hilley Elementary School	639 Rio Vista
150	Rojas Elementary Schoo	500 Bauman Rd.
151	Socorro High School	10150 Alameda
152	Rojas Elementary School	500 Bauman Rd.
153	Escontrias Elementary School	205 Buford Rd.
154	Campestre Elementary School	11399 Socorro Rd.

Issued this 19th day of August 2004

Irma S. Sanchez, Mayor
City of Socorro

ORDEN DE ELECCIÓN PARA LA CIUDAD DE SOCORRO, TEXAS

Por medio de la presente se ordena que se lleve a cabo una elección el 2 de Noviembre del 2004 con el proposito de: Eligir el Alcalde y cinco Regidores de los Distritos 1,2,3,4, y un en general para la Cuidad de Socorro, Texas.

Votación temprana en persona se llevara a cabo en Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda Ave., apartir del Lunes, 18 de Octubre del 2004, y continuara hasta el Viernes, 29 de Octubre del 2004, desde las 8:00 a.m. hast alas 5:00 p.m. en todos los dias que no sean Sabado, Domingo, o dia oficial de vacaciones estatales.

Solicitudes para boletas de votación de antemano y boletas con votos pueden ser enviadas a la secretaria de votación a: Helen Jamison, County Elections Department, 500 E. San Antonio, Room 402, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Precincto	Lugar de Votacion	Domicilio
149	Hilley Elementary School	639 Rio Vista
150	Rojas Elementary Schoo	500 Bauman Rd.
151	Socorro High School	10150 Alameda
152	Rojas Elementary School	500 Bauman Rd.
153	Escontrias Elementary School	205 Buford Rd.
154	Campestre Elementary School	11399 Socorro Rd.

Emitada este dia 19 de Agosto del 2004

Irma S. Sanchez, Alcalde
Cuidad de Socorro

WTCC: 10/07/04

Public Hearing Notice Town of Horizon City

Texas Community Development Program

The Town of Horizon City intends to submit a grant proposal to the Office of Rural and Community Affairs under the Texas Community Development Program. This grant program must primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. Interested residents of the Town of Horizon City are invited to recommend eligible projects at a public hearing to be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2004 during the Regular City Council Meeting at 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas 79928.** Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Mayor Diane Whitty at Town Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact Town Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For additional information, please contact Mayor Diane Whitty at (915) 852-1046.

WTCC: 10/07/04

Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2004** during the **Regular City Council Meeting** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Repeal & Replace Ordinance No. 0010 — National Electric Code 1987 Edition including Amendments No. 001 & 002, with the National Electric Code (NEC) 2003 Edition.
- 2) Repeal & Replace Ordinance No. 0011— The Standard Plumbing Code 1985 Edition including Amendments No. 001 & 002, with the International Plumbing Code 2003 Edition.
- 3) Repeal & Replace Ordinance No. 0012 — The Standard Building Code 1988 Edition including Amendments No. 001 & 002, with the International Building Code 2003 Edition.
- 4) Repeal & Replace Ordinance No. 0013 — The Standard Mechanical Code 1985 Edition including Amendments No. 001 & 002, with the International Building Code 2003 Edition.
- 5) Repeal & Replace Ordinance No. 0014 — The Standard Gas Code 1985 Edition including Amendments No. 001 & 002, with the International Fuel Gas Code 2003 Edition.
- 6) Proposed Ordinance No. 0128 — International Energy Conservation Code 2003 Edition.
- 7) Ordinance No. 0129 to Repeal Ordinance No. 0043 including Amendment No. 001 — Establishing the Duties of the Building Official and Code Enforcement Officer.
- 8) Ordinance No. 0130 — Establishing the Duties of the Building Official.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Ordinances are too extensive to print and are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address or call 915-852-1046.

Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

WTCC: 10/07/04

Demise of the Original Stars Hockey League in progress

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I've got some hot news from the "dumb idea" department. Seems the National Hockey League players who are locked out of their team's facilities for not coming to an agreement with management will play hockey after all.

Wait just a second, you mean to tell me there is no NHL going on right now and the NHL players are still talking about playing hockey?

How the heck is that possible?

Thank you very much for asking.

Seems the players have put their collective brains together, almost enough power to ignite a light bulb, and have come up with an idea for playing through the lockout.

And what they came up with is the Original Stars Hockey League. This 4-on-4 league has gotten off to a shaky start to say the least.

A series of scheduled exhibition games have already been canceled but league officials swear there will be a regular season.

Does all this sound familiar? Remember the NFL subs that suited up when the football players went out on strike? We're looking at a recipe for disaster.

First of all, only about one in 10 sports enthusiasts in the United States even watches the NHL. Things are so bad that there are about the same number of hockey fans in this country as there are WNBA fans. Ouch!

It's one thing to question the baseball, football or basketball owners when they say they're losing money because of the size of the game's

popularity and the size of the league's TV contracts.

But when the NHL owners say they're losing money you've got to believe them. I mean, nobody is watching.

NHL players are going to find themselves traveling abroad to play if they they're not careful.

Anyway, I raise my empty glass and say: "Here's to the 'Original Stars Hockey League,' may you die a painless death."

Or a painful death, like everyone else. I could care less.

Baseball in DC

It's almost a sure thing that professional baseball will be played in Washington DC next season.

The Montreal/Puerto Rico Expos are real close to finalizing a deal that will move the franchise to the Nation's capital.

Good idea, I think. The only thing wrong with the idea is that this has been done already — more than once, and it had failed every time.

It seems every time a baseball team is established in DC, fans flock to watch the new team, for a couple of years — and then things go south.

And don't forget the Baltimore Orioles, who are already located near that part of the country. Fans will begin to choose between the two teams and both will suffer.

I would have much rather seen pro baseball go to a new location. To a city that has never had a MLB team.

Think of the excitement in Nashville or New Orleans or Portland or San Antonio or even Las Vegas.

I don't think it's very smart to keep attempting something that hasn't worked. But we are talking about Bud Selig and Major League Baseball.

WTTEP SOCCER

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King Super Crossword

- SIMPLE MATH ACROSS**
- 1 "That was a close one!"
 - 5 Horror-film extras
 - 9 E-junk?
 - 13 Football team
 - 19 Troubadour's instrument
 - 20 Each
 - 21 Holy headgear
 - 22 Fill with fizz
 - 23 Taj town
 - 24 West. alliance
 - 25 Like _ of bricks
 - 26 Cheesemaker's need
 - 27 Start of a remark
 - 31 Busy bug
 - 32 Initials of interest?
 - 33 Snuggled up
 - 37 Iraqi city
 - 40 _ de deux
 - 42 Requirements
 - 45 Bristol brew
 - 46 Chalky cheese
 - 47 Tidied the terrace
 - 49 Word form for "bird"
 - 51 Compete
 - 52 Hotelier Helmsley
 - 54 Take in, perhaps
 - 56 Actress Thurman
 - 57 Fury
 - 59 Part 2 of remark
 - 61 Standish's stand-in
 - 63 Day or Duke
 - 66 Foreman's fortes
 - 67 French port
 - 69 Rap session?
 - 70 Dry run
 - 74 Part 3 of remark
 - 77 Encounter
 - 78 Diva Maria
 - 80 Plaza Hotel kid
 - 81 Ewe said it!
 - 83 Massenet opera
 - 84 Mistreat
 - 85 Part 4 of remark
 - 90 Diocese
 - 91 Fix a fight
 - 92 Spartan serf
 - 95 Pith helmet
 - 96 Make lace
 - 98 They're out of this world
 - 101 Early emancipator
 - 103 TV's "The Twilight _"
 - 104 Kimono closer
 - 105 Snowy bird
 - 106 Relative of _ator
 - 107 Mad general?
 - 109 Duncan's murderer
 - 112 Olive product
 - 114 Tighten the tent
 - 115 End of remark
 - 124 "On the Waterfront" star
 - 127 Gymnast Korbut
 - 128 Plunder
 - 129 Carry out orders
 - 130 Confer
 - 131 Singer Campbell
 - 132 Frank or Francis
 - 133 Forsaken
 - 134 Ringed orbiter
 - 135 Manuscript enc.
 - 136 Pilsner
 - 137 _ ranch
- DOWN**
- 1 Realty map
 - 2 O'Brian or Downs
 - 3 Raison d'_
 - 4 Put on
 - 5 '71 Woody Allen film
 - 6 Separately
 - 7 Shopper's sack
 - 8 Primer pooch
 - 9 Like some cheddar
 - 10 Coaching legend
 - 11 Burn remedy
 - 12 Cadfael, for one
 - 13 Fervent
 - 14 Yorkshire city
 - 15 Surrealist Max
 - 16 Heflin or Cliburn
 - 17 When Paris sizzles
 - 18 Badminton divider
 - 28 Bend someone's _ (yak)
 - 29 Dispatch
 - 30 Delhi denizen
 - 34 Shirley's sidekick
 - 35 Ransom _ Olds
 - 36 Scottish river
 - 37 Complaint
 - 38 Perched on
 - 39 Rational
 - 40 Brazilian kicker
 - 41 Address abbr.
 - 43 Learned
 - 44 Snare
 - 46 Mr. Ziegfeld
 - 48 "America's Most Wanted" host
 - 50 Conceal
 - 53 NASA affirmative
 - 55 English explorer
 - 58 Wander
 - 60 Greenhouse items
 - 62 Miss
 - 64 " _ Station Zebra" ('68 film)
 - 65 Salon request
 - 67 Toilet water
 - 68 Ever's partner
 - 69 Mikita or Musial
 - 70 Pt. of the whole
 - 71 Team scream
 - 72 Stretchy
 - 73 Ballet movement
 - 75 More mysterious
 - 76 Diminish
 - 79 Disoriented
 - 82 Tread the boards
 - 84 Flying brother
 - 85 Price
 - 86 Glop
 - 87 "Once _ a midnight dreary..."
 - 88 Hawaii's state bird
 - 89 Placekicker's prop
 - 93 Zola or Griffith
 - 94 Rock's _ Lobos
 - 96 Hen's hubby
 - 97 "The _ Daba Honeymoon" ('14 song)
 - 99 Disappoint
 - 100 Silly trio
 - 102 Fall fashion
 - 108 FBI employee
 - 110 Swahili, e.g.
 - 111 Witch's home
 - 113 Pointless
 - 114 Conversation piece?
 - 116 Grabs all the goodies
 - 117 Poet Wilcox
 - 118 Thick slice
 - 119 Actor Franchot
 - 120 Winter woe
 - 121 Hunt's " _ Ben Adhem"
 - 122 Dweeb
 - 123 Actress Daly
 - 124 Small shot
 - 125 Stephen of "Ready to Wear"
 - 126 Nova Scotia hrs.

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Comix

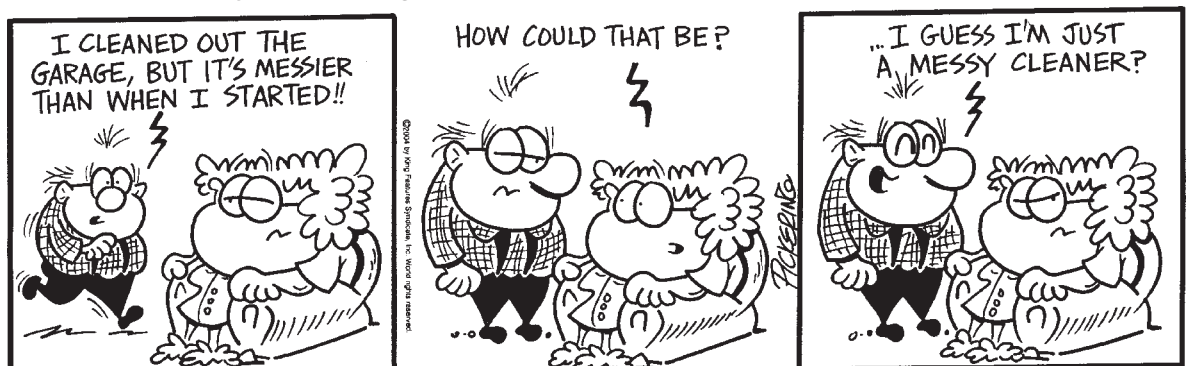
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



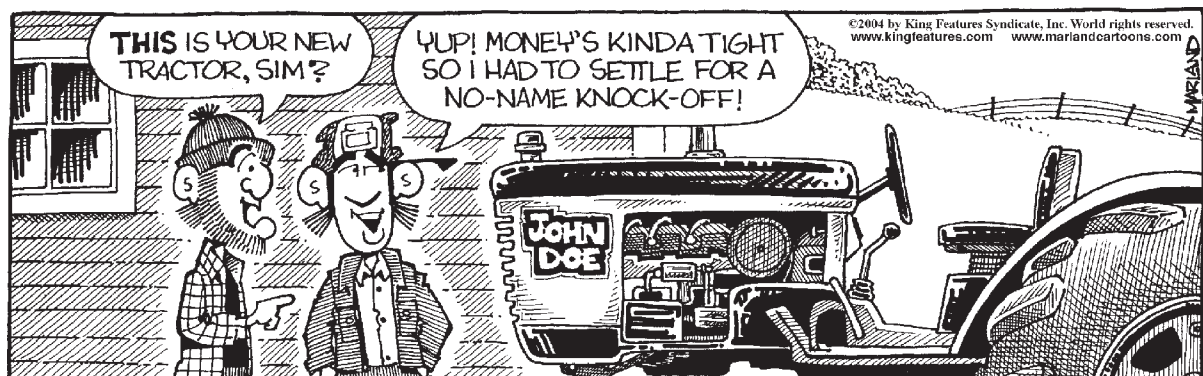
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Settle disputes the old-fashioned way

By Don Flood

In an election year filled with mudslinging, name-calling and down-and-dirty cheap shots, it's refreshing to see a suggestion that would return to politics a measure of civility.

I am referring, of course, to the gentle art of dueling.

Recently, Sen. Zell Miller, speaking with host Chris Matthews on the "Foaming Blowhards" show, waxed nostalgic for the days when men could settle their differences with a duel.

"Chris," he said fondly, "I'd like to draw and quarter you and then feed you into a woodchipper."

Miller, you may recall, was the "rogue Democrat" from Georgia who endorsed President George Bush at the Republican Convention, highlighting his talk by biting off the head of a live chicken named John Kerry.

Miller had planned to bite off the heads of two chickens — named Kerry and Edwards — but was dissuaded by "girlie-man" Republican officials who felt that decapitating two chickens would work against their desired image as "compassionate conservatives."

Vice President Dick Cheney's speech was a little more thoughtful, pointing out to voters that, if elected, John Kerry had promised "to appoint Osama bin Laden as Secretary of the Interior."

The Kerry campaign, lightning quick as always to deliver an effective response, retorted, "No final decisions have been made about any cabinet posts, including the Secretary of the Interior."

But let's look at how a return to dueling could improve modern politics.

First, imagine that, instead of arguing, Miller and Matthews took their 10 paces, turned and fired, each falling mortally wounded.

That, of course, would be the ideal "win-win" situation. No more

arguing, no more hot air — at least not from Miller and Matthews.

Many other political arguments, likewise, would be cut short. Peace and quiet would reign in our fair republic!

Plus, there would be the added bonus of getting our young people interested in politics.

Unfortunately, government today doesn't seem relevant to people whose lives revolve around reality TV shows and hyper-violent video games.

(Older folks don't require such "value added" political entertainment. Their reason to vote can be summed up in two words: Social Security. *Keep working, industrious young people!*)

But if people knew that any debate could potentially turn into a Showdown at the OK Corral, ratings would go through the roof.

Not that the networks haven't tried. Executives from the top 148 networks negotiated to allow candidates to exchange a "reasonable" amount of gunfire during debates but, unfortunately, talks broke down over the definition of "reasonable."

Since then, some in the League of Women Voters have come out against gunplay of any kind during presidential debates, despite polls indicating broad interest in the format.

But there's no rule saying candidates have to use pistols.

President Bush is said to favor lightsabers, while Kerry prefers hand-to-hand combat using kayak paddles.

Zell Miller, not surprisingly, disdains such "fancy-pants" dueling, preferring to fight it out in an open grave using Bowie knives, a style he learned as a boy from his grandmother at family picnics.

And if Miller doesn't like this column, I'm ready for him. I'll meet him at dawn — with spitballs.

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Classified Ads

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Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

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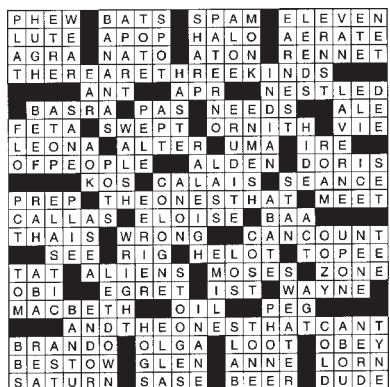
Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: (No repairs within Horizon City) R.V. Dick Harshberger 915-852-9082

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New technology can help age-old problem of hearing loss

By Linda Anderson

TEXAS — Loss of hearing is a common complaint among older people.

"About 10 percent of Americans have hearing loss; about half of them are age 65 and older, making this one of the most common disabilities in older adults," said Andrew B. Crocker, Texas Cooperative Extension gerontology and health specialist in Amarillo.

But just because it's a common complaint doesn't mean it can't be treated, he said. New technology may be able to help.

The two most common forms of hearing loss are:

- Sensorineural hearing loss, which is caused by reduced sensitivity of the inner ear's nerves and nerve fibers. Loud noises (including rock concerts, even those of more than 30 years ago), high fevers and certain medications are some of its causes.

- Conductive hearing loss is caused by some kind of obstruction in the outer or middle ear. A buildup of ear wax, ruptured eardrum, middle ear infection and certain medical conditions can contribute to this condition.

"Some persons who experience hearing loss may suffer from both types," Crocker said.

Finding out the cause of the hear-

ing loss is the first step in treating the condition, he said. That's why medical screening is so important. But too many older people don't seek the help they need.

"Often hearing loss is hidden or ignored because it is equated with old age or is an embarrassment to the older adult," Crocker said.

And that's too bad because many forms of hearing loss can be successfully treated, he said.

"Your health provider can evaluate for hearing loss, including determining which type you may have, what may be causing it and which type of therapy may be best for you," he said. "Some remedies for hearing loss include surgery followed by assistive hearing devices and hearing therapy."

But the most common therapy is hearing aids, he said, which are available in three types:

- Analog: The most common and least expensive, these hearing aids amplify sound without too much filtering of background noise.

- Digitally programmable: A combination of analog technology and digital control gives these units the ability to amplify sound and filter out some background noises.

- Digital: The most technologically advanced — and expensive — hear-

ing aids, these units amplify sound, reduce background noise, have feedback control and maintain comfortable listening levels.

Like the people who wear them, hearing aids come in different styles too, Crocker said. Some are worn in the ear, some are worn deeper inside the ear canal, and some two-piece models are worn both inside and behind the ear.

Although the most common form of therapy for hearing loss, these products aren't the only choice. "If you and your health provider determine that a hearing aid is not right for you, there are still options for hearing assistance," Crocker said.

"Consider what problems you are having with hearing and then talk to your health provider about possible solutions," Crocker advised.

For more information on hearing loss, visit Web site of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at: <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/index.asp> or contact an Extension agent.

For more information on this and other issues affecting older people, visit Extension's Family and Consumer Science Web site at <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> and click on the link to Family Life.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Earlier this summer one of the "think tanks" that studies Social Security issues came out with an especially interesting report. It noted that today most American husbands and wives both work, and when they make future plans, they do so with expectations of retiring at about the same time. But because husbands tend to be older than their wives (by an average of four years), retirement age decisions can become complicated and need to be coordinated.

Retirement Research at Boston College) stated, "Many husbands and wives differ in age and health status, and they often belong to separate employer-sponsored pension plans."

However, the one common denominator for nearly all couples is that they are covered by Social Security. So here is a brief primer on some basic Social Security considerations that couples should take into account when choosing a retirement date.

Both a husband and wife are, of course, eligible for their own retire-

ment benefits based on their own work records. Often, however, one spouse may work at much lower-paying jobs throughout his or her career, or stay at home to care for the couple's children. In that case, Social Security always pays the lower-earning spouse whatever benefit he or she might have earned through work — and then does calculations to see if his or her benefits "as a spouse" would be higher. If they would be, that person would get a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse's benefit.

And that is where the calculations and the decision making can become

tricky.

A spouse is entitled to one-half of the retired worker's full benefit amount, unless the spouse begins collecting benefits before his or her own full retirement age. In that case, the amount of the spouse's benefit is permanently reduced.

For example, based on the present full retirement age of 65 and 4 months, if a spouse begins collecting benefits:

- at 64, the benefit amount would be about 46 percent of the retired worker's full benefit;
- at age 63, it would be about 42 percent; and

• at age 62, 37.5 percent.









And just to show how tough real-life financial decisions can become, let's suppose that there is a big age difference between the couple — and that they have a child. In that case, if one spouse is taking care of a child who is younger than age 16 or disabled and receiving Social Security benefits, he or she gets full (one-half) benefits, regardless of age.

Please note that a Social Security spousal benefit may be reduced if either the husband or wife receives a pension from a federal, state or local government based on work where he or she did not pay Social Security taxes.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
▲ 81°	▼ 58°	▲ 78° ▼ 53°	▲ 80° ▼ 56°	▲ 80° ▼ 56°	▲ 78° ▼ 50°	▲ 76° ▼ 48°	▲ 74° ▼ 46°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	7	High
Friday	7	High
Saturday	7	High
Sunday	7	High
Monday	7	High
Tuesday	4	Low
Wednesday	6	Moderate

REAL FEEL TEMP®

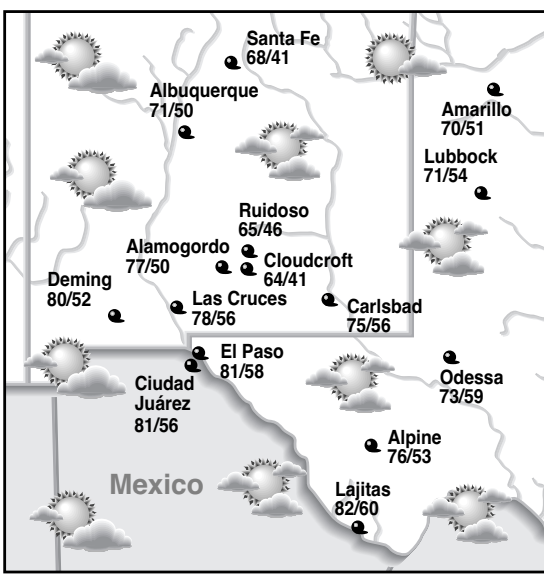
The exclusive AccuWeather composite index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

Thursday	74°
Friday	73°
Saturday	72°
Sunday	73°
Monday	72°
Tuesday	67°
Wednesday	70°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	81	58
Canutillo	81	58
Clint	80	58
E. Montana	81	58
Fabens	80	58
Horizon	82	59
San Elizario	79	56
Socorro	80	57
Tornillo	80	58
Vinton	81	58

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	71/50/pc	72/49/pc	72/50/t	70/49/pc	67/43/c
Atlanta	76/54/s	76/56/s	78/56/pc	74/58/t	72/54/sh
Atlantic City	73/49/s	73/51/s	71/48/pc	67/45/pc	68/43/s
Austin/San Antonio	76/62/t	77/59/t	78/56/pc	80/57/pc	82/58/pc
Baltimore	73/49/s	75/52/s	70/50/pc	68/48/pc	69/45/s
Boston	66/53/s	68/54/s	66/50/sh	62/46/pc	62/43/pc
Chicago	74/56/pc	72/54/sh	70/48/pc	68/46/s	72/49/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	74/65/t	74/57/t	74/59/pc	76/58/pc	79/58/pc
Denver	75/45/pc	72/45/s	73/45/s	67/42/s	65/40/pc
Flagstaff	70/34/s	68/34/s	68/36/s	62/38/s	53/27/r
Houston	80/72/t	78/66/t	82/66/t	84/64/pc	86/64/s
Kansas City	69/57/t	75/55/t	74/54/sh	71/53/sh	71/51/pc
Las Vegas	90/64/s	90/62/s	90/62/s	85/58/s	83/58/s
Miami	86/74/sh	86/74/sh	86/74/sh	88/74/sh	88/74/t
Minneapolis	62/50/sh	72/50/pc	72/48/s	68/46/pc	67/47/c
New Orleans	85/68/t	81/67/t	79/66/t	81/67/t	81/66/pc
New York City	70/58/s	71/56/s	69/56/pc	66/53/pc	64/49/s
Philadelphia	71/50/s	73/54/s	70/52/pc	67/49/pc	68/47/s
Phoenix	94/70/s	96/70/s	95/69/s	91/66/s	82/58/pc
Portland	70/52/pc	67/50/r	63/47/sh	63/47/pc	64/44/c
San Francisco	72/56/pc	70/56/pc	68/54/pc	70/53/s	73/57/s
Seattle	66/50/pc	62/48/r	59/45/pc	62/46/pc	61/44/c
Tucson	90/62/s	91/63/s	90/62/s	90/61/s	80/52/s
Washington, DC	74/56/s	77/56/s	72/55/pc	69/53/s	69/51/s

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

AGRICULTURE

Sunshine and some clouds on Thursday with a few thunderstorms in the area. Rainfall amounts in any thunderstorm will average 0.10-0.20 of an inch. Winds southeast at 5-10 mph. High pressure will provide dry weather on Friday. Pleasant conditions will last through the weekend.

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