



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Program funded

Congressman Henry Bonilla has announced funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assist under-served farmers and ranchers. The Texas/Mexico Border Coalition is scheduled to receive a grant in the amount of \$297,870 to provide training and technical assistance to Hispanic producers for computer usage through the USDA e-Government initiatives. It will also be used to gain access to USDA programs and services. The Texas/Mexico Border Coalition will receive the grant as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). This program, administered by CSREES, was created two years ago to work with agriculture producers who have concerns and questions about loan applications. Bonilla is chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which funds all grants for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### In other news

■ Students and staff of SISD's Benito Martinez Elementary School, 2640 Robert Wynn west of Saul Kleinfeld Blvd., are planning their 14th Annual Veterans' Day Parade through the school's neighborhood, 9 a.m. Nov. 11. The colorful procession will feature the Montwood High School Ram Marching Band and representative units from Fort Bliss and area law enforcement and emergency agencies. The school's 800-plus brightly dressed students are also scheduled to march in the parade. Principal Isabel Andresen and the school's 2004 Teacher of the Year Sylvia Ramirez are scheduled to speak. Participants will then move through the streets surrounding the Eastside school and return to the campus. For more information, call the school, 937-8000.

■ What began as a monthly morning prayer service in the Upper Valley for just two people on horseback has grown significantly to include about two dozen horses and riders — as well as people walking down the ditch bank and bicycling off the street to the meeting. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 7050 McNutt Rd., will host the event again on Nov. 7, 9:15 a.m., with a few extras like breakfast and entertainment by the Las Cruces Old Time Gospel Musicians, according to the minister, Jeff Lambert. Information: 505-874-3972.

■ Montwood High School's Emerald Dancers are planning a dance camp for Saturday, Nov. 13 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Girls and boys aged 5 to 16 years are invited to wear their dance clothes and have a great time learning dances styles. Lunch

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*On some freeways you can drive miles and never leave the scene of the accident.*  
— Quips & Quotes



— Photo contributed by Sam Sanchez, Sr.

This grainy photo from June of 1944 shows a group of American soldiers making their way to the beach when the allies landed at Normandy.

## Freedom's price remembered

### San Elizario to honor fallen sons on Nov. 11

By Sam Sanchez Sr.  
Special to the Courier

On Sept. 2, 1945, the Japanese surrendered aboard the battleship *Missouri* of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, in Tokyo Bay, bringing to an end the bloodiest war man had ever known. It had been exactly six years and one day since Adolph Hitler, the German dictator, had sent his armies into Poland, igniting a conflict that would spread warfare from the skies of London to the sands of North Africa.

World War II was fought by more men over more of the globe, with greater loss of life and

destruction of property than any other war. Seventy million men were killed.

Though not drawn into the war until late in 1941, two years and three months after it began, the U.S. lost more men than were killed in the Civil War on both the Union and the Confederate sides. Nearly 300,000 Americans gave their lives in the struggle. Every community, town and city in the U.S. was touched in one way or another as they saw their young men go off to war.

The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society, with the help of the County of El Paso,

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## Descendants thanked for the generosity of their father

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Carlos Escontrias doesn't remember much about his father, Texas Ranger Silverio Escontrias.

"I didn't know him too well. I was just six years old when he died. I'm the youngest, and I'm the last one," he says.

But the things his father did for the Mission Valley have grown children's minds as well as cotton, says Silverio's granddaughter, Irma Sanchez. Among other things, in 1921, Socorro district trustee Silverio Escontrias and his wife Pilar donated three acres of land and sold four more at a discount to the county for a school. The acreage, bounded by Buford Road and Texas Highway 80, was surrounded by cotton fields. Today, the land sits under Socorro ISD's Escontrias Elementary School, Escontrias Early Childhood Center, KEYS Academy and a

number of administrative annex offices.

Escontrias Elementary School hosted a reception for members of the Escontrias family, including Carlos Escontrias the last surviving member of the 12 children in his father's family.

The school ceremony included remarks by Socorro Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón,

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**HONORING ELDERS** — Escontrias Elementary School 4th grader Dakota Balderrama and 5th grader Corina Enriquez present photographs of Carlos Escontrias' family, the first Escontrias School and the first class of the school to him during a special ceremony honoring the Escontrias family Oct. 27.

*You can still help beat the flu even without the show*

By Linda Anderson  
Special to the Courier

COLLEGE STATION — Flu shots are in short supply this year.

For those who usually protect themselves with flu shots but will be unable to this year, Texas Cooperative Extension experts offer some advice: Don't panic.

Dr. Carol Rice, Extension health specialist, and Andrew Crocker, Extension gerontology and health specialist, said these common-sense health tips could help this winter, even if flu shots are not an option:

- Wash hands as often as possible. Frequent use of soap and water can go a long way toward reducing instances of winter illnesses, Rice said.

- "Most cold and flu germs are spread by direct contact," Crocker said. "If you were to sneeze into your hand and then touch a doorknob, the germs (from your sneeze, to your hand, to the doorknob) may stay on that doorknob for hours — even days." Washing hands will prevent germs from spreading from person to person this way.

- Cover sneezes and coughs. Keep tissues or a handkerchief handy to cover your nose and mouth if you have to sneeze or cough. That will keep germs from spreading into the air, where they can infect others, Crocker said.

Covering your sneeze with your hand isn't very sanitary, he said, especially if you immediately touch someone or some thing.

"If you do cover a sneeze or cough with your hands, remember to wash your hands immediately."

If a tissue or handkerchief isn't handy, he suggested turning away from others and coughing into the air.

- Get moving. Get regular exercise, such as walking for 30 minutes each day, Rice said. "Studies show this helps you avoid getting sick because your immune system is more effective."

- Eat a healthful diet. Be sure to choose a variety of foods, Rice advised. "The food guide pyramid can help you make good choices."

- Keep stress to a minimum. Recent studies show individuals who have a positive attitude are less likely to catch colds than individuals whose attitude is more negative, Crocker said. Healthy and positive attitudes also promote healthy lifestyle habits, he said, which can also mean fewer illnesses.

- Sleep. Quality sleep helps the body recover from illness, Rice said. Getting enough sleep can also be an important step in preventing some illnesses in the first place, she said.

The National Sleep Foundation (<http://www.sleepfoundation.org>) offered these tips: Keep a regular sleep schedule to help keep the body's natural rhythm in balance. Avoid caffeine, nicotine and alcohol, which can all

See FLU, Page 6

**View from here** By Byron Schlomach, Ph.D.

*For whom the drive tolls*

Until now, Texas has always followed the "free-cheese" model of road provision. Some years ago, clever bureaucrats decided the best way to get rid of federally-owned cheese was to give it away — why the feds owned cheese in the first place is a different subject.

They announced their intention to give away the cheese on certain days.

The result was as predictable as it was inevitable. Throngs showed up for the free cheese, and when the bureaucrats ran out, throngs still remained wanting more free cheese. That, in a nutshell, explains road congestion.

Roads are simply more free stuff "given away" by government. Of course, just like "free" cheese, roads are not really "free." They actually cost a lot, but that doesn't affect the way we use them.

Sure, we all pay gas taxes. Many wrongly dismiss them as user fees.

For a moment, assume we ran shopping malls the same way we operate roads. What if every person who walked into a mall was assessed a fee, then allowed to take merchandise without an additional charge? In no time, malls would be small and the selection would be limited — or non-existent.

Similarly, while road usage in Texas has risen 300 percent, road capacity has increased less than 10 percent. There is a fundamental disconnect between the way we fund and use roads, as compared to almost all other goods and services.

Another problem with the way we fund roads — the gas tax — is that those who mow their lawns and drive cars are heavily subsidizing the trucking industry. Heavy trucks do the most damage to roads, leading to greater expense. Trucks do not come close to paying through taxes the costs they impose on the road system. We could increase the diesel tax, but the use of diesel is not limited to heavy trucks.

In addition, gas tax revenues are

not keeping up with road needs. The combined state and federal gas tax is 38.4 cents per gallon. If this was adjusted to account for inflation since the last gas tax increases — 1991 for state and 1997 for federal, the combined tax today would be 49.2 cents, an increase of 10.8 cents per gallon! Want that on top of today's already-rising gas prices?

Rising fuel efficiency also erodes gas tax revenues. Better gas mileage is great, but it points up the silliness of continuing to consider a tax on gas as a "road user fee."

The way we fund roads simply makes no sense.

For centuries the inefficiencies of tax-funded "free" roads were outweighed by the inefficiencies of toll booths. Today, however, technology makes it possible to eliminate toll booths. With electronic systems, road pricing can be easily adjusted for axle weight, vehicle size, and time of day to create the most efficient transportation system possible.

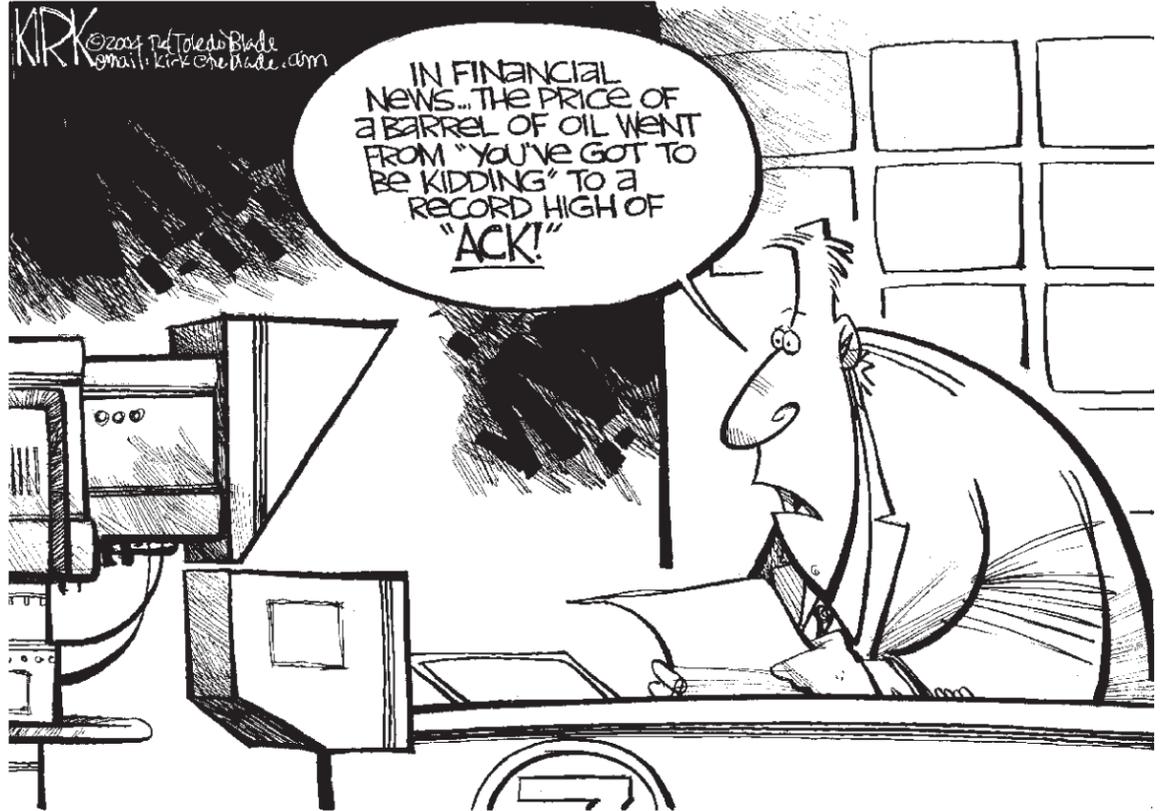
In Austin, where a comprehensive toll road plan has been adopted, a strange opposition coalition has arisen. There is the anti-development crowd resisting road construction made possible by tolls, and there is the conservative crowd convinced tolls are double-taxation.

Growth has happened in Texas despite the lack of new roads, resulting in gridlock that increases pollution. As for double-taxation, only new lanes and roads will be tolled.

We can either rationally build roads where we need them with tolls, or increase everyone's gas tax 11 cents per gallon and watch the gridlock continue.

Hopefully, rationality will prevail.

*Byron Schlomach, Ph.D., is chief economist at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan, Austin-based research institution.*



**MAYBE IF THINGS HAD GONE DIFFERENTLY...**

AND BECAUSE U.N. INSPECTORS FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF WMDs, SANCTIONS WILL BE LIFTED AND WE CAN RESUME OUR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMS.

THIS IS GOOD NEWS. ESPECIALLY SINCE BIN LADEN HAS SHOWN THE WORLD HOW TRULY VULNERABLE THE U.S. IS...

THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION! WHAT SAY WE EXECUTE SOME INNOCENT CHILDREN!



*Flat tired*

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

Like a nightmare that never ends, you fill up the tank in the morning, shift into drive, and cruise the straight and narrow all day, only to find yourself on the side of the road, "flat tired." Sound familiar? Well, take solace in the fact that you're not alone. It is estimated that at least 500,000 people in the United States, and most likely many more, find themselves on the proverbial shoulder of the road with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) or a CFS-like condition.

Although its cause remains a mystery, like a sudden pneumatic blow-out, its effects are evident. One's normal activities begin to stagnate, and good sleep, whatever that is, simply is no match for the strong and noticeable fatigue that takes over our daily existence. Pedal to the metal, in the form of caffeine and psychostimulants, is no match for the sputter of depressed physiologic machines of all ages and social and economic classes. Women are diagnosed with the malady two to four times more often, and Shakespeare's "rose" or chronic fatigue syndrome would smell as sweet, whether it be called myalgic encephalomyelitis, postviral fatigue syndrome, or chronic fatigue

and immune dysfunction syndrome.

CFS is a chameleon and a great imitator rolled into one. It can begin after a minor illness, such as a cold, or during a period of excessive stress. Finding its cause is infinitely more difficult than pin-pointing that obnoxious rattle and hum of a recently purchased used car. Diagnosis is difficult because

its symptoms mimic those of other more common diseases, such as influenza. Headache, tender lymph nodes, fatigue and weakness, muscle and joint aches, and inability to concentrate are all part and parcel of CFS, and yet they are nonspecific. Unlike influenza symptoms, however, which disappear in a few days or weeks, CSF symptoms taunt us, demoralize us, and then retreat, only to reappear, like a red dashboard light, when our rpm's increase.

If that were not enough, not all members of the medical community have embraced the idea of a syndrome that cannot be better defined by specific clinical sign or laboratory test. Furthermore, many patients with CFS also have major psychiatric illnesses, such as depression, which of themselves, and also by virtue of the medicines used to treat them, can

cause some of the CFS symptoms.

This has led sympathetic clinicians to consider CFS as part of a range of illnesses that have fatigue as a major symptom, and to formalize its diagnosis specifically, only when four of the seven possible symptoms mentioned previously are present and the other causes of the same symptoms

**... CSF symptoms taunt us, demoralize us, and then retreat, only to reappear...**

have been ruled out. So, where does that leave us? Do we trade in our old vehicles, or do we still have a few good years left in them? A good doctor, like a good mechanic, must first make an accurate diagnosis before that decision can be made. Diseases that have similar symptoms to CFS must be ruled out. Only then can measures be taken to jump-start physiology and recharge our proverbial batteries. When a battery cable will just not do the trick, a highly nutritious diet, stress control, a monitored exercise regimen, frequent rest breaks throughout the day, and judicious use of sleeping pills, antidepressants, and analgesics can go a long way to resurrecting fallen soles.

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**WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER**

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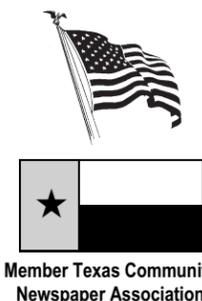
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IT ALL BEGAN WITH COMMERCIAL SPACE TRAVEL...



## National Diabetes Month

Every November this column announces National Diabetes Month. The goal is to increase awareness of this killer, as well as update you on recent developments.

Blindness, heart attack, stroke, kidney failure and amputations can all result from diabetes, which impairs, or even halts, your body's ability to process food sugar into energy. You may already know this because a friend or family member suffers from this terrible disease. Maybe even you have it. In fact, perhaps the scariest thing is that of the 850,000 Texans who have diabetes, half of them may not even know it.

they need to battle diabetes. While the researchers make progress in the labs, there is other good news for diabetes sufferers. Recently, the Health Care Financing Administration agreed to provide Medicare coverage of insulin infusion pumps for beneficiaries who have Type I, or juvenile, diabetes. In Type I diabetes, the body can't make any insulin to process blood sugar.



### Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

The battery-powered insulin pumps are about the size of a beeper. They inject preprogrammed dosages 24 hours a day through a tube to a needle inserted just under the skin. The pump not only

provides diabetes patients greater freedom, but also means greater safety and fewer complications from inaccurate dosages. Let's not forget that it is your tax dollars that help pay for medical research. Hopefully, we agree that these are national priorities that need to be addressed. Diabetes alone costs Texans almost \$3 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity. More importantly, it is costing the lives of our fellow citizens.

One day, I hope this column can report a cure for diabetes. Until then, best defenses against diabetes are awareness and education. For more information regarding diabetes, please call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-DIABETES.

The medical experts tell us that we are close to curing this killer disease. To that extent, I and several members of the House Appropriations Committee have worked to ensure that these researchers have the funds

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger T. Moore, Nov. 3, 1835: Delegates from all Texas settlements convene to draft a Texas Declaration of "intentions" toward Mexico.



### Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

## Small businesses must have access to capital



With expenses ranging from start-up costs, equipment repairs or employee compensation, businesses — both large and small — need access to affordable business financing to meet their daily operational costs and to expand and grow. With the necessary capital, many enterprises meet these needs and thrive through business loans and other financing options.

Many small businesses, however, lack significant capital, making it difficult to access the financing and loans they need to succeed. With fewer assets to pledge as collateral and more uncertain earnings than larger businesses, small businesses have difficulty tapping into traditional business loans. To bridge this gap in capital, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has numerous programs designed to provide affordable financing options.

One of those programs is the 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program. By utilizing this loan program, small busi-

nesses have more access to bank financing because the SBA guarantees 50-85 percent of the loan. The 7(a) program functions as a public-private partnership and provided 5,200 small businesses in Texas with over \$1 billion in loans in 2003 alone.

This year, the 7(a) program suffered some setbacks through a shutdown and the imposition of loan caps, and while it has been revived for the near-term, a long-term solution has yet to be achieved. For fiscal year 2005, the Bush administration has requested no budget authority for the 7(a) program, instead proposing to fund it through increased fees for both the small business borrowers and lenders who use the program.

However, my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives saved the program by successfully securing \$79 million for the program when we debated the yearly funding bill for the SBA earlier this year. The Senate has not yet passed their version of the bill and once House-Senate negotiations begin, we will ensure that the

funding is retained in the final bill.

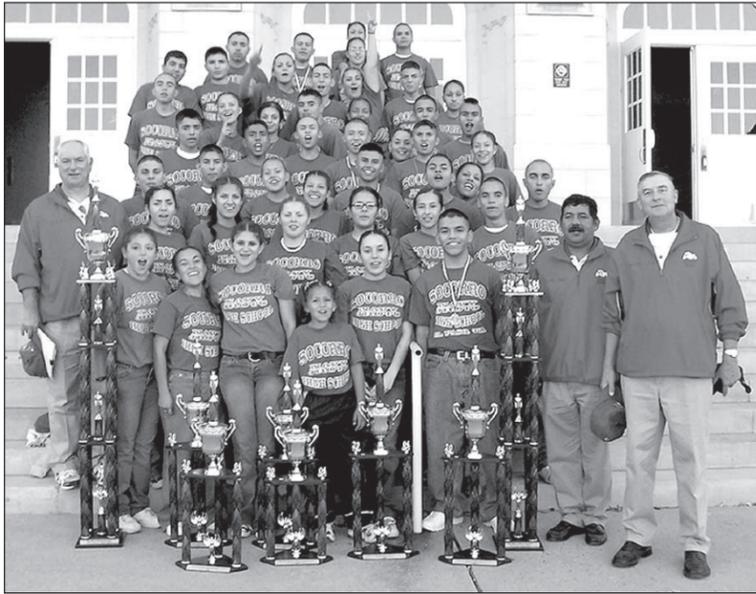
The SBA's Microloan program also fills an important need in the capital market, providing small loans to startups, especially those owned by low-income entrepreneurs. While mainstream financial institutions have been actively lending loans under \$100,000, they have not lent to individuals who would access funding through the Microloan program. A typical Microloan borrower is plagued by poor credit history, lack of collateral, or lack of business training.

The Microloan program has been extremely successful, providing entrepreneurs with \$26.5 million in very small loans last year. However, the administration has proposed to eliminate the program, asserting that very small loans are more widely available now than they were a decade ago when the Microloan program began. My colleagues and I in the House also successfully offered an amendment to the SBA's yearly funding bill to save this program. Again, as we begin conference ne-

gotiations with the Senate, we will work to ensure this important funding is secured in the final bill.

Access to capital provides small businesses with access to opportunity. Both the 7(a) program and the Microloan program — and other SBA loan programs — have filled a void in the capital markets and have enabled small businesses to start-up, grow, and succeed. In times of eco-

nomie uncertainty, small businesses have led the way to recovery, and as a country, we are once more relying on our entrepreneurs and small firms to provide jobs and boost our economy. To do so, though, small businesses need the right tools to do the job. For the health of our businesses and the health of our economy, the budget must include full funding for all SBA loan programs.



**CHAMPS** — Socorro High School's NJROTC was named best overall in the New Mexico Military Institute Annual Drill and Field Meet. They brought a little hardware back for their ever expanding trophy case.

## Socorro NJROTC continues to set high standards in region

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro High School's NJROTC was named best overall when its cadets competed in what is considered the premier drill meet in the West Texas and New Mexico area — the New Mexico Military Institute Annual Drill and Field Meet held in Roswell, NM. This was their 18th annual drill meet and took place on Saturday, Oct. 23.

There were 30 JROTC units competing from all four services — Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. Of those, 15 were from the El Paso and Las Cruces area.

Socorro NJROTC was judged to be the best overall JROTC unit and was awarded the NMMI Superintendent's Sweepstakes Trophy as the Drill Meet Winner. This is the second time Socorro has won this meet with the last win occurring in 1999. The unit finished second in

2002 and did not compete in 2003. Other Trophies included first place wins in the categories of Armed Drill Team Overall, Male Color Guard, Armed Drill Team Inspection, Unarmed Drill Team Exhibition, Rifle Team prone position Individual. Second place honors were earned in Armed Drill Team Regulation and Unarmed Drill Team Inspection.

Socorro also recently won the NJROTC Area 10 West Texas Regional Texas State qualifying drill meet, being the first NJROTC unit in Texas to qualify for State Competition at Texas A&M to be held in February 2005.

The unit has 170 cadets enrolled in the unit. LCDR Gerry Mangrum is the Senior Naval Science Instructor. Sgt Major Bob Way and Chief Petty Officer Oscar Reyes are Naval Science Instructors.

## CMS remembers dangers of drugs during commemorative week

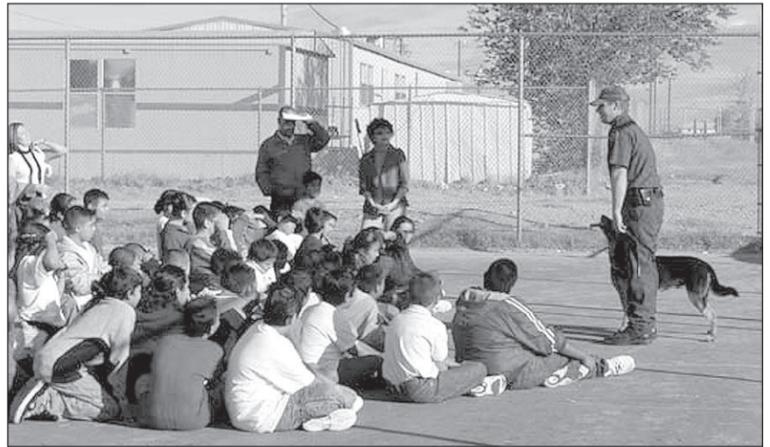
By Kim Guzman  
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Middle School held various presentations and displays to promote a drug free environment in observance of Red Ribbon Week recently. The U.S. Border Patrol, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office also provided displays of vehicles and equipment employed to fight the war on drugs.

Bobby Leyva, CMS Campus Drug Free coordinator, arranged for students from Deanna Davenport Elementary, Jose Damian Elementary, and CMS to tour the different displays and presentations.

Several displays of alcohol and drug paraphernalia were provided by the El Paso County Sheriff's Command Center. Deputies also offered students the opportunity to view different vehicles used by the sheriff's department including a motorcycle, Ford Mustang, and sports utility vehicle.

Border Patrol agents were on hand to demonstrate different vehicles, equipment, and animals used in this region to stop drug trafficking. Students were given the opportunity to see John, a drug sniffing German Sheppard, perform with his handler, Agent Hartshorn; Agents Gonzalez and Tellez-Giron brought two horses that they use to patrol the desert and mountainous areas. Agents Orozco and Ramirez answered students' questions on how they do their job using specially equipped bicycles, and Agent Calvillo thrilled students with the equipment featured on the Humvee that he uses for tracking and transporting.



Border Patrol Agent Hartshorn introduces his dog, John, to CISD students.

Gilbert Gonzalez, DEA agent for 18 years, reminded the students that National Red Ribbon week serves as a tribute to Special Agent Enrique Camarena, who was kidnapped and brutally tortured and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico several years ago.

Leyva also arranged a Drug Free Volleyball Game featuring CMS staff versus the Canutillo High School varsity volleyball girls' team as a means of impressing upon students that living a drug free lifestyle that includes sports activities is a smart choice.



Agent Tellez-Giron explains horse patrol to the Davenport Elementary students.

### Briefs

From Page 1

will be provided, and participants who register by Nov. 3 will receive a T-shirt. Registration forms are available at Montwood High School, 12000 Montwood Drive. The registration fee is \$25. For more information, call the school, 937-2400 or 937-2569.

■ Monica Gomez, born in Mexico and raised in El Paso is the featured artist of the November "Raisin' the Roof" concert series at the Desert View United Church of Christ, 11160 Montwood, on Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. She has more than 30 years of experience as a writer, humorist, recording artist and performer, and has appeared in festivals across the U.S. Tickets are \$5 at the door or by calling 593-1169.

■ The Rio Grande Citizen's Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission will be held Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 East Picacho in Las Cruces. For information call 832-4175.

■ The Socorro ISD Warehouse Holiday Store Project is accepting donations of clothing, canned food, furniture, heaters and blankets at 201 Tanton Rd. at Alameda Ave. in Socorro. The items will be distributed to needy families in the area. Call 937-0800 or 937-0805 for drop-off information.

■ The El Paso School of Excel-

lence Elementary celebrated Red Ribbon Week by joining hands in a circle around their school, symbolizing a desire to protect it from drug abuse. Special guest speakers from the DEA, State Troopers, and the El Paso Police Dept. Canine Unit and Fire Dept. participated. EPSE, a Texas Charter School, opened its doors on Sept. 11, 2001 with 110 students. The elementary now has 334 in grades Pre-K to 5.

■ Frances Gonzalez has been approved as the new assistant principal for Robert R. Rojas Elementary and Esteban Alvarez will take that post at Salvador Sanchez Middle, according to a decision by the Socorro ISD school board on Oct. 19.

■ The El Paso County Office of Texas Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the Texas Forest Service, is having the annual windbreak tree sale, with deadline to purchase Jan. 21. Seedlings of evergreens and hardwood trees are offered, suitable for planting in the El Paso area, in single species bundles of 30 to 50, or mixed species batches of 100. Prices range from \$30 to \$52. Call 859-7725 for ordering information.

■ *Site Selection Magazine*, the world's foremost publication for business expansion and relocation, has named Texas the top state in the nation to do business. In its annual ranking of state business climates, *Site Selection Magazine* ranked Texas first, surging ahead of three-year leader North Carolina, as the top business climate in the country.

# MEMORIAL GYM MADNESS IT'S BACK!!!

## IT'S YOUR FIRST CHANCE TO SEE *UTEP* BASKETBALL

### SATURDAY NOV. 6TH @ 6:00 P.M. MEMORIAL GYM

# 1000 ORANGE T-SHIRTS

UTEP WOMEN

GIVE-A-WAYS

DUNK CONTEST

UTEP MEN

THREE POINT CHALLENGE



# FREE TO EVERYONE!!!

## Alarcon students join link to a better future

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Computers offer links to a seemingly infinite variety of locations. Students at Alarcon Elementary in the San Elizario Independent School District offer nearly 9,000 links that will help forge a paper trail to just one important location — the future.

Paying 10 cents each for a link in a lengthy paper chain, students in the first- through fifth-grades raised \$886.44 last month to fund a \$300 scholarship that will go to a San

Elizario High School graduate.

Through an interview process, the “most worthy” graduate is selected for the scholarship, explains Dickie Garza, lead counselor at the high school. The money can be used for any educational purpose.

Another \$300 is earmarked for the El Paso Diabetes Association. The remainder goes to provide various treats throughout the year for the 556 students at the Lower Valley school.

“These kids are so willing (and) so enthusiastic about helping others,” says Norma DeKoats, counselor at Alarcon Elementary. “They are so excited — they really like it.”

She says this is the fourth year for the program.

DeKoats explains that the scholarship fund-raising is one aspect of a character development activity in which the students take part. It fosters and promotes “six pillars of character” — trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

“It’s very important for students to learn about character development and its universal values,” she adds.

The school has its own Character Education Fund and is a part of the nationwide Character Counts Coalition.



HELPING OTHERS, HELPING THEMSELVES — San Elizario High School counselor Dickie Garza (left) and the El Paso Diabetes Association’s Michelle Avila (far right), display their \$300 checks courtesy of the students at Alarcón Elementary Friday, October 29, 2004. Garza and his staff will help award a deserving San Eli senior with the \$300 Character Scholarship later this year while Avila will use her money to help pay for a youth camp. Alarcón Elementary principal Barbara Orozco (center) holds up a certificate awarded to her campus for its donation to the El Paso Diabetes Association.

## Clint ISD bilingual educators play key role in State Conference

By Laura Cade  
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Clint Independent School District’s Coordinator of Bilingual Education, Margarita Saenz-Flores was selected as the Co-Chair of the 32nd Annual Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) Conference held in El Paso on Oct. 20-23 at the El Paso Convention Center and Camino Real Hotel. The conference, which registered about 2,000 attendees, had not been held in El Paso in five years.

As Conference Co-Chair, Ms. Saenz-Flores had oversight of committees organizing school tours, selecting entertainment, planning the Awards Luncheon, displaying student art work, scheduling hotel transportation shuttles, placing directory signage in the conference facilities, and securing an artist for the conference poster.

“Having served as the Co-Chair for TABE was a tremendous honor for me. I had a fabulous experience and I would like to thank all the Clint ISD teachers who helped in making this a success,” said Ms. Saenz-Flores. As



Guadalupe Pina, left, took time to sign posters made from her original artwork. Margarita Saenz-Flores, right, was selected as Co-Chair for the conference. The poster, “Embracing Diversity: The Path to the Future,” is shown in full under the the teachers.



to meet and talk with Commissioner Dr. Shirley Neeley and Sen. Eliot Shapleigh about issues in bilingual education.

Frank Macias Elementary Pre-Kindergarten teacher, Guadalupe Piña, was asked to create the artwork for the conference poster. Using the conference theme, “Embracing Diversity: The Path to the Future”, her painting depicts a storyteller with a diverse group of children among the missions and geography of the El Paso area. Her artwork was also used as the cover for the conference program, placed on the conference bags and on a mouse pad given to attendees.

During the conference, Ms. Piña signed posters for attendees who lauded her work. She was also recognized during the Teacher of the Year luncheon. The Southwest Association for Bilingual Education is having her original art work professionally framed for her to keep.

“It is events such as these that allow teachers to learn new innovative strategies to implement the best practices that are best for kids to succeed,” said Ms. Saenz-Flores.

## San Eli

From Page 1

will celebrate this year’s Veterans Day with a focus on the brave servicemen from San Elizario who lost their lives in action in WWII.

The parents of these brave young men are no longer with us, but we remember their grief and sorrow upon receiving that dreadful notice informing the family of their soldier’s death. A telegram with two stars at the top, from the Adjutant General, would be delivered to the home. Thirteen telegrams were delivered to San Elizario in 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Guerra received such a telegram in September, 1944: “The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your son, PFC Benjamin Guerra, was killed in action on Sept. 13 in Belgium.” A follow-up letter from the Adjutant General arrived a few days later confirming Benjamin’s death: “It is with regret that I am writing to confirm the recent telegram inform-

ing you of the death of your son, who was killed in action on Sept. 13, 1944 in Belgium. I know the sorrow this message has brought you and it is my hope that in time the knowledge of his heroic service to his country, even unto death, may be of sustaining comfort to you. I extend to you my deepest sympathy.”

The rest of the families of the community, upon hearing the solemnity of the church bells, would quickly send a kid running to the church to ask the *padre* for whom the bells tolled. The word would spread quickly and soon people would pay a visit to the home of the deceased to offer their condolences. Usually a prepared dish of food was brought to the family.

It has been 60 years since taps were played at the funeral of 13 of these young men from San Elizario who were buried in the foreign soil they so bravely defended. These same young men will be honored on Nov. 11, 2004, with a special plaque to commemorate their sacrifice. The playing of taps by Specialist Steven Mosack from the 62nd Army Band

will be part of the ceremony.

Taps, as played at a military funeral, carries with it a more intense sound of finality, creating a sense of permanent departure, as if to say: “Farewell, dear soldiers, and thank you for your service to our country. May the stars and stripes forever fly on this great nation that you helped to preserve. Freedom is not free, it comes with a price tag.”

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at the San Elizario Cemetery and will feature a parade to the Veterans Memorial Plaza to continue the event. Troops now serving in Iraq and in other posts will be honored as will Eduardo Pedregon, still MIA from the Korean War; Michael Torres; Sgt. Isela Rubalcava; PFC Adrian Rosales; Seaman Second Class Lorenzo Armando Borrego and others.

PFC Nicolas C. Lujan will be presented a U.S. and a Texas flag which have flown over the respective capitals by Congressman Silvestre Reyes and State Rep. Chente Quintanilla. Reyes, Quintanilla, Commissioner Miguel Teran will speak, as will Benjamin Sanchez, Master of Ceremonies.

## Colorful El Paso icon, Guerrero, to be honored with special event at Chamizal

EL PASO — Rosa Guerrero, El Paso’s educational/cultural icon, and Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso’s National Park, will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Guerrero’s Golden Cine Award-winning film *Tapestry* on Friday, Nov. 12 with a reception and showing beginning at 6 p.m. at the Memorial.

Both are open to the public without charge.

“This is a film that illustrates how dance and music weave the bridges of cultural understanding,” Guerrero said.

“I call America a tapestry, a mosaic, a salad bowl, a rainbow, a fruit basket. It is not a melting pot,” she added.

In talking to young students, she once said “When I was a little girl, I refused when my teachers told me, a melting pot! I don’t want to melt.”

Guerrero, who has a school named in her honor, taught for 20 years before her retirement in 1980. She still works with children and students. “I do creative dance with the children. I do movement education. I do bilingual concepts that nobody has ever touched, because I feel that a child can learn a

language through movement.”

She made her first film in 1974 and it won first place in the nation for its documentary with the Golden Cine Award.

“If Rosa has a gift, she has the gift of instilling self-worth and importance in each of us. She helps us find our commonalities as we explore our differences and she does it seamlessly through music, dance and movement itself,” Isabel Montes, Superintendent of Chamizal National Memorial said.

Further illustrating the importance of music as a teaching tool, Guerrero said, “When I hear the music with the castanets, I become Spanish. But then, when I hear the drum and the flutes, I become Indian — Native American. And I asked my dad, ‘What am I? People say I’m not Spanish and I’m not Indian.’ And he says, ‘You’re Mexican. And this is the Mexican.’ I tell this to the children, I say, ‘When God made a Mexican, he got an indigenous person and he got a Spaniard, he mixed them together and made delicious guacamole! That’s what we are!’”

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# Texas Tech wins with Britton commitment while both Floridas lose

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

I have to admit that I was really disappointed when I heard that Montwood running back Edward Britton had decided to go to Texas Tech.

Did I want him to go to UTEP? You bet. I wanted him to be a part of what Mike Price is building here in his home town.

But I was also disappointed in the fact that he didn't choose Nebraska, even more disappointed that he didn't choose Stanford. I was a bit shocked that he chose to go to Lubbock.

I'm still not sure how he'll flourish at the pass-happy school. If he were a wide receiver I could see it but as a top-rated running back I think he could have made a lot better choices.

But I guess that's what makes Edward Britton different. Unfortunately, many high school football players pick the college with the most to offer — football wise.

Britton is as picky about his options in the

classroom as his options on the football field. The senior has always been obsessed with computers. He is also contemplating going to law school. Texas Tech offers excellent resources for each.

Britton once told me he was called a nerd for much of his youth because he spent so much time on his schoolwork and his computer and card games (and I don't mean poker or Texas hold 'em).

He also is also mature enough to see the taunts as compliments as he got older.

All of us who were disappointed at his choice of college should take a step back and be happy and proud for one of our own.

And look at it this way. If it kills you to see him running for Texas Tech on Saturdays, maybe you'll be happier with the team he'll eventually play for on Sundays.

## The sad sunshine state

A lot of things have happened since the year after I graduated high school.

Since 1978, I've seen the space shuttle take

off and land many times, I've seen personal computers emerge in almost every home in the United States and I've even seen a singer expose her boob during the half-time show of the Super Bowl.

But the one thing I hadn't seen in all that time is Florida State, Miami (Fla.) and Florida lose on the same day — until last weekend.

The big three had gone an amazing 26 years since losing on the same day.

All three, Florida, Florida State and Miami have made a habit of winning NCAA football championships over the last couple of decades but last Saturday they were all humbled at the same time.

I remember thinking immediately after I saw the scores, how long had it been since all three lost on the same day. I knew it was a long time but I didn't it was that long.

The state of Florida has claimed it has the best football players in the nation recently so I can't say I was sad when they took a little slap in the face last weekend.

Besides, everybody knows the best football

players in the country come from Texas.

## The Price really is right

A lot has been made this week about the incentives Mike Price will probably receive at the end of his first season with the Miners and I say "fantastic."

It's great that UTEP will have to fork over all this additional money to Price. What the man has done at UTEP this season is simply amazing.

And the national press we've received is a bargain at any price.

Let's face it, the main reason we are ranked in the top-25 is Mike Price. It's a great story and it put El Paso on the map.

Again, all I ask of El Pasoans is to fill the Sun Bowl during the last two Miners home games and help UTEP come up with the money to pay Mike Price and his assistants.

It's a privilege to pay Mike Price every extra penny we can especially when you consider why he's getting it.

He earned it.

## Flu

From Page 1

have negative effects on sleep. Don't go to bed on a full stomach.

Finish exercise workouts at least three hours before bedtime. Relax before bed. Try soaking in a warm bath, reading or listening to soothing music. Sleep on a comfortable, sup-

portive mattress and keep the room dark, quiet, cool and comfortable. Daytime naps should be short and sweet — no more than 20 or 30 minutes.

If you do come down with the flu, experts from the Mayo Clinic advise getting rest, drinking fluids, avoiding alcohol and tobacco, and seeking medical advice.

Take antiviral medication if prescribed and above all, don't go to work, school or anywhere else you might spread the disease to others.

## Ranger

From Page 1

Escontrias principal Becky Quiett, Early Childhood Center principal Ron First and former Escontrias principal Alfonso Cardenas.

"It's an honor for me to be here," Durón told the family during his remarks. "On behalf of our school board. We're very appreciative of you and all the things you've done for the school district."

Other members of the family, including Escontrias' daughters Patty Castañeda, Bea Morales, Mary Alice Tellez and Irma Sanchez and their families, who attended the ceremony.

The original Escontrias School — four classrooms, two offices, a cloakroom and a five-bedroom teacherage — was opened in 1924 and built with money from a \$20,000 bond election. The original building now houses the District's Early Childhood Center.

"It's very important that we honor him," Quiett says. "He made a huge contribution. By today's standards we're talking hundreds of thousands of dollars. This is the start — this is the cornerstone of Socorro ISD."

## Adopt

From Page 8

to last at least 12 months.

Are there other Social Security benefits or situations that parents of adopted children should know about? Yes. For example, Social Security provides benefit payments to the widow(er) and children (natural or adopted) of deceased workers. If a widowed parent remarries and the new spouse wants to adopt the child as his or her own, the child's survivors benefit payments would continue until the child reaches age 18 (or up to age 19 if they are attending elementary or secondary school full time).

To learn more about Social Security benefits for children, visit Social Security's Parent's Place at [www.SocialSecurity.gov/kids/parent1.htm](http://www.SocialSecurity.gov/kids/parent1.htm).

For more information visit your local social security office, visit our website [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

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## King Super Crossword

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| <p><b>HOG WASH ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Off-the-wall</p> <p>6 Ukrainian city</p> <p>11 Peepers, to Pope</p> <p>15 Arrange type</p> <p>18 Repeated</p> <p>20 French spa</p> <p>21 Rain heavily</p> <p>22 Gob</p> <p>23 Start of a remark</p> <p>25 Earmark</p> <p>27 Asian holiday</p> <p>28 Annual award?</p> <p>29 Shake _ (hurry)</p> <p>30 Hurries</p> <p>31 Depraved</p> <p>33 Pile up</p> <p>36 Squirrel's stash</p> <p>38 Snake-charmer's crew</p> <p>41 Outcast</p> <p>43 Globule</p> <p>44 Riyadh religion</p> <p>45 Damone or Dana</p> <p>46 Part 2 of remark</p> <p>51 Neighbor of Fla.</p> <p>52 Rice dish</p> <p>55 Waikiki wing-ding</p> <p>56 Salute for Caesar</p> <p>57 Unaware</p> <p>59 Wee serving</p> <p>61 Poe crow</p> <p>63 Ain't right?</p> <p>64 Type of cabbage</p> <p>66 Part of NB range?</p> <p>67 High-rise building?</p> <p>69 Part 3 of remark</p> | <p>70 Know-it-all</p> <p>73 Semester</p> <p>74 Prickly plant</p> <p>75 Hellman's "The Little _"</p> <p>76 Marsh sight</p> <p>78 It should be square</p> <p>79 Put an end to</p> <p>83 Carnival site</p> <p>84 Dentist's directive</p> <p>86 "The _ Kid" ('84 film)</p> <p>87 Meyers of "Kate &amp; Allie"</p> <p>89 Part 4 of remark</p> <p>94 Corn portion</p> <p>95 Broadcast in July</p> <p>97 Bates or Rickman</p> <p>98 Cheerless</p> <p>100 One of the</p> <p>Waughs</p> <p>101 Elegant</p> <p>104 _ terrier</p> <p>105 Salchow kin</p> <p>106 Sludge</p> <p>107 Bloomsbury buggy</p> <p>109 Bookstore section</p> <p>112 Actress Cassidy</p> <p>115 Managers</p> <p>117 End of remark</p> <p>121 Be human</p> <p>122 MD's area</p> <p>123 Riser's relative</p> <p>124 Home on the range?</p> <p>125 "So there!"</p> <p>126 Man, for one</p> | <p>127 At daybreak</p> <p>128 Gushes</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 "Miss Lonelyhearts" writer</p> <p>2 Dull pain</p> <p>3 Atkins or Huntley</p> <p>4 Holyfield stats</p> <p>5 "Definitely!"</p> <p>6 He's abominable</p> <p>7 Rara _</p> <p>8 One-dimensional</p> <p>9 Label</p> <p>10 Whichever</p> <p>11 Iridescent stones</p> <p>12 Hamlet or Herman</p> <p>Munster</p> <p>13 Where to spend leva</p> <p>14 Smash letters</p> <p>15 Flight segment</p> <p>16 Consumed</p> <p>17 Lock</p> <p>19 Name of a Day</p> <p>24 "My Gal _" (1905 tune)</p> <p>26 Butcher-shop display</p> <p>29 '75 Wimbledon winner</p> <p>31 Age</p> <p>32 Garlic hater</p> <p>34 Bad start</p> <p>35 Contented sigh</p> <p>37 _ d'Alene, ID</p> <p>38 Spy org.</p> <p>39 '52 Winter</p> | <p>Olympics site</p> <p>40 Spill the beans</p> <p>41 Navigate</p> <p>42 Bill of Rights grp.</p> <p>43 _ major</p> <p>45 Like some leaves</p> <p>47 Chew out</p> <p>48 Sheltered spot</p> <p>49 Happening</p> <p>50 Russo of "Get Shorty"</p> <p>53 Maintain</p> <p>54 Beset</p> <p>58 Delibes opera</p> <p>59 "Rusalka" composer</p> <p>60 Ely or Darling</p> <p>62 Disconcert</p> <p>65 "Stroker _" ('83 film)</p> <p>67 Get cracking</p> <p>68 It's kept in a quiver</p> <p>69 Bikini part</p> <p>70 Opposite</p> <p>71 Way out</p> <p>72 Merit</p> <p>73 Hatcher of "Lois &amp; Clark"</p> <p>74 Crooked</p> <p>75 Raid</p> <p>77 Adz and awl</p> <p>78 Chow _</p> <p>80 Actor Parley</p> <p>81 Viscount's better</p> <p>82 Cart</p> <p>85 Nursery items</p> <p>88 Hotel</p> <p>90 Desert refugees</p> | <p>91 Dutch town</p> <p>92 _ Lanka</p> <p>93 "_ the fields we go ..."</p> <p>96 Smoked delicacy</p> <p>99 Response</p> <p>100 Be</p> <p>101 Sheep sheds</p> <p>102 "M" man</p> <p>103 Blue hue</p> <p>104 Social group</p> <p>105 Sternward</p> <p>108 TV's "_ People"</p> <p>110 Barbecue fuel</p> <p>111 The _ 500</p> <p>112 Mature</p> <p>113 From the top</p> <p>114 Gets by (with "out")</p> <p>116 Mai _</p> <p>117 Ideologue's suffix</p> <p>118 Singer's syllable</p> <p>119 Cock and bull</p> <p>120 Dem.'s opponent</p> |
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Answer Page 7

# 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



# Might as well face it, you're addicted to coffee

By Don Flood

Talk about scare headlines: "State GOP says Michael Moore of 'Fahrenheit 9/11' fame illegally offered underwear in exchange for voting."

I just about spit out my coffee, which according to another headline might have been a good idea since, "Just one cup a day causes caffeine addiction, researchers say."

Yikes! It was the kind of morning that might have sent me back to bed, except of course I was too hopped up from the Big Slurp half-gallon jug of coffee I'd invested in at the convenience store.

But first, let's look at Moore's underwear. (Oops! Bad, bad sentence — coffee's got my nerves all jangled.)

Also, to clarify, Moore was not offering his personal underwear; that would have been a felony.

Anyway, the story is that the Michigan GOP wants charges filed against Moore because he was offering students, in exchange for their promising to vote for Kerry, "gag prizes such as clean underwear."

What gag? Ask your average 35-year-old former college man how often he remembers doing his laundry in school.

If he's like four out of five former students — the fifth one still lives at home with his mom — he'll slap his forehead and say, "I knew I forgot something!"

But the GOP has a point. It starts with underwear. Pretty soon they're offering socks, ties, cummerbunds — who knows what? — anything to steal the election. (In Florida, they could offer white shoes to go with the knee-high socks.)

Next thing you know we'll be like one of those banana republics like ... um, well, the United States ... where people have lost faith in

the election process.

Of course, it could have been worse. Moore could have been offering drugs, such as caffeine. We could have millions of young people, enslaved by demon coffee, answering only to the will of Juan Valdez.

Not possible, you say? (When I cross the 500-milligram threshold, I start getting the ability to read minds — really!)

Well, listen to this. (Not that you can really listen to it of course, unless you read it to yourself out loud.) *Caffeine is addictive.*

That's according to Roland Griffiths, a professor of psychiatry and neuroscience who, according to MSNBC, "led a review of 170 years' worth of studies of caffeine."

One hundred and seventy years' worth of studies? How much you want to bet these guys were seriously wired? RESEARCHER: Let's call it a night.

TEAM LEADER: No way, man, we've got another hundred years to go. Make another pot! RESEARCHER: How 'bout we go to Starbucks instead?

TEAM LEADER: Even better! But you're wondering — I'm at 600 milligrams and counting, so your brain signal is coming in loud and clear — how do I know if I'm addicted?

Look in your hand. Is that a coffee mug? (It is.) You're addicted. Period.

But don't despair — unless you're drinking some really awful coffee.

This absolutely real-life quote comes from the Coffee Man himself, Roland Griffiths: "The best treatment for caffeine withdrawal is caffeine."

So have another cup. I'll join you.

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# Classified Ads

### LEGAL

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2004 AT 3 P.M.**

**DATA CABLING FOR WIRELESS ACCESS POINT**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0528

**SCHOOL WIRELESS ACCESS POINT**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0529

**WIRELESS NETWORK CARDS**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0530

**INLINE POWER SWITCHES**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0532

**MEDIA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0544

**MEDIA RETRIEVAL I**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0545

**MEDIA RETRIEVAL II**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0546

**MEDIA RETRIEVAL III**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0547

**MEDIA RETRIEVAL IV**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0548

**NETWORK SWITCHES FOR NEW SCHOOLS**  
CSP NO.199-1130-0549

Proposals will be received at Busi-

ness Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-11/04/04

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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004**

**PRINTING MATERIALS**  
CSP NO.199-1112-0504

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**BACKFLOW PREVENTERS**  
CSP NO.199-1112-0510  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.**

**BUILDING MATERIALS**  
CSP NO.199-1112-0518  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL 3 P.M.**

**LANDSCAPING, XERISCAPING AND MASONRY SERVICES**  
CSP NO.199-1112-0519  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 P.M.**

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above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-11/04/04

### PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IC3EJ56HXSN54753, 1995 Chrysler Cirrus, grey, 4-door, no license plates VIN - 2MEBM74FJX639106, 1988 Mercury Grand Marquis, blue, 4-door, New Mexico license, DAZ 680 VIN - WWWGB064H-W688035, 1987 Volkswagen Jetta GLI, red, no

license plates VIN - IB4GH54LIRX183581, 1994 Dodge Caravan, champagne, Illinois license Y60016 WTCC-11/04/04

**El Paso County Emergency Services District #1**  
Invitation to Bid/Respond:

El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 is requesting sealed bids for the following:

Lots 3 & 4, Block 8, Horizon Hills is offered by El Paso County ESD #1. No offer will be considered less than \$95,000.00. Send sealed bids to: 14151 Nunda, El Paso, Texas 79928, Attention Ron Larson. Bids will not be accepted after 6:00 P.M. on Monday, November 16, 2004. Bids will be

opened and read at the Board of Commissioners regular meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2004 at 6:30 P.M. The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. For information call 915/852-3204 and leave a message. WTCC-11/04/04

### GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale, Saturday, Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., 15000 Ashford St., TH#32-36. Small appliances, computer desk/chair, gas logs, deco., clothes/shoes for men/women/kids. 852-9125.

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Fairway Townhouse, Horizon City, view 18th hole, Emerald Springs. Two bedroom, two bath, available. 755-1730, 494-3054.

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# Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

## Social Security and adopted children

November is National Adoption Month, a time when Americans focus on the increasing number of children waiting for adoption and the parents who wish to adopt them. According to the latest available statistics, about 120,000 children are adopted every year by American families. Some are adopted through local child welfare systems; some are adopted by step parents or family friends or relatives of children whose

parent or parents have died; and some are children from other countries. In 2002, in fact, more than 20,000 children from other countries were adopted by Americans — the highest total in history.

If you are considering adoption, or if you have already adopted a child, here is important information you should know about adopted children and Social Security benefits.

All adoptive parents should re-

member that their child usually needs a Social Security number (SSN) if they intend to claim the child on their annual income tax returns, or to get medical coverage or apply for any government services for the child.

While an adopted child can be assigned an SSN before the adoption is complete, sometimes parents will want to wait and apply for a Social Security card after the process has been completed. Then they can apply for the number using the child's new name and their names as parents. If they want to claim their child for tax purposes while the adoption is still pending, they would need to con-

tact the Internal Revenue Service for Form W-7A, (<http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw7a.pdf>) Application for Taxpayer Identification Number for Pending U.S. Adoptions.

Also, the process for getting an SSN can be slightly more involved for parents adopting children from outside of the U.S. Legislation was passed several years ago that grants an adopted child immigrating to the United States "automatic" citizenship. But Social Security requires specific documents to issue SSNs, and parents of children adopted from abroad should contact their local So-

cial Security office for more information.

If you are the parent of an adopted child with a disabling condition, he or she may qualify for benefits under the Supplemental Security Income program, also known as SSI. SSI can pay monthly benefits to children who are disabled and whose families have little income and resources. A child under 18 is considered disabled if his or her physical or mental condition is so severe that it results in severe functional limitations, and if the condition is expected

See ADOPT, Page 6

# WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny.	Mainly clear.	Partly sunny and cool.	Partly sunny.	Sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Partly sunny.	Times of clouds and sun.
▲ 68°	▼ 40°	▲ 62° ▼ 40°	▲ 70° ▼ 44°	▲ 74° ▼ 44°	▲ 72° ▼ 42°	▲ 68° ▼ 42°	▲ 66° ▼ 40°

### UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	6	Moderate
Friday	5	Moderate
Saturday	6	Moderate
Sunday	6	Moderate
Monday	5	Moderate
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	3	Low

### REAL FEEL TEMP®

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

Thursday	67°
Friday	59°
Saturday	67°
Sunday	70°
Monday	69°
Tuesday	62°
Wednesday	65°

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	68	40
Canutillo	68	40
Clint	67	38
E. Montana	68	40
Fabens	67	38
Horizon	69	40
San Elizario	66	37
Socorro	67	39
Tornillo	67	38
Vinton	68	40

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	62/36/pc	58/33/s	60/35/s	62/38/s	61/35/s
Atlanta	67/46/sh	64/40/s	61/43/s	64/48/s	68/44/sh
Atlantic City	54/42/r	57/35/pc	54/39/pc	57/37/pc	49/31/sh
Austin/San Antonio	72/42/s	66/40/s	70/44/s	74/47/s	68/45/s
Baltimore	54/44/r	56/39/pc	56/39/pc	60/43/pc	50/31/sh
Boston	52/40/pc	49/38/c	50/40/c	51/38/c	45/33/sh
Chicago	50/34/r	46/34/pc	54/40/pc	54/38/sh	39/27/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	66/43/s	62/44/s	70/47/s	72/48/s	65/42/s
Denver	48/23/sh	56/33/s	63/34/s	61/34/s	58/31/s
Flagstaff	58/23/s	53/23/pc	55/26/pc	57/26/s	54/19/pc
Houston	74/50/s	68/46/s	70/48/s	74/50/s	74/50/s
Kansas City	56/34/s	56/37/s	64/41/s	55/33/s	48/30/s
Las Vegas	68/50/pc	72/52/pc	72/52/pc	70/49/pc	70/47/pc
Miami	88/74/pc	84/67/t	80/65/pc	78/66/s	79/64/s
Minneapolis	46/28/c	46/30/pc	48/34/pc	50/32/pc	36/23/s
New Orleans	71/52/s	68/49/s	70/50/s	72/53/s	69/47/s
New York City	52/44/r	54/42/pc	52/40/pc	52/43/pc	51/36/sh
Philadelphia	54/46/r	54/42/pc	54/40/pc	59/44/pc	51/34/pc
Phoenix	78/54/s	78/54/pc	78/56/pc	81/58/s	78/49/pc
Portland	56/38/s	58/40/pc	58/42/pc	58/42/s	56/44/pc
San Francisco	68/49/s	67/49/s	66/50/s	67/50/s	67/50/s
Seattle	52/38/pc	54/40/pc	54/42/pc	56/42/s	54/40/pc
Tucson	78/48/s	80/50/pc	80/52/pc	80/54/s	75/44/pc
Washington, DC	55/46/r	58/40/pc	56/42/pc	57/42/pc	52/34/c

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

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