



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Voting results

El Paso County voters went to the polls on May 7 and during early voting to conclude a number of races contested in the area. Included were:

- Town of Anthony: Art Franco remains mayor, defeating German Avila 310 to 153. Luis Lee Vela is alderman in Place 1, defeating Alex Seañez 258 to 169.
- Horizon City: Raymond Morales is the new mayor, defeating Dianne Whitty 445 to 261. Alderman Place 3 is Luis Najera over Ben Garza, 357 to 333; Alderman Place 5 is Bathani C. Shilladay-Sellers, who garnered 328 votes; Robert G. Reyes won 305, and David J. Kuykendall, 77. Alderman Place 7 is Keith J. McClellan, 467 votes; Keenan Greseth took 216.
- Village of Vinton: Alderperson Place 3 was won by Carla P. Garcia with 102 votes; Margarita Payan took 95. Alderperson Place 4 is Jose L. Alarcón, winning 100 votes; Victor A. Carrejo took 95. Alderperson Place 5 is Cecilia Sanchez who won by one vote over Yolanda Lucero, 97 to 96.
- Anthony ISD: The top two vote-getters from a field of six candidates were elected. They were Bertha Silva-Holguin, 195; and Sally Flores, 180.
- Canutillo ISD: Eight candidates ran for two at-large seats and top vote-getters were Armando Rodriguez with 354 votes and Mago Arellano with 320.
- Clint ISD: The top two vote-getters out of five candidates were Jim Pendell with 510 votes and Janice Armstrong with 273.
- Fabens ISD: In Place 5, Jose Pepe Ramirez took 163 votes. Other candidates were Mark Macias with 114 and Lupe Arriola with 103. In Place 6, Adan Escobar took 249 votes and David Corral Jr. 123. Greg Spence, Place 7, (258) was unopposed.
- San Elizario ISD: In Place 1, Ramon Holguin won 111 and Paul Johnson Jr. 14. Place 2 and 3 ran unopposed with Armando Martinez (92) and Fernie Madrid (88) respectively.
- Socorro ISD: The top two vote-getters from a field of seven candidates were seated in at-large positions on the board: Barbara Perez-Peña won 1598 votes and Charlie E. Garcia, 1561. Craig Patton, 572, ran unopposed for an unexpired single-member seat.
- Tornillo ISD: In Place 4, Carol Escarciaga took 98 votes and Gloria Blanco, 61.

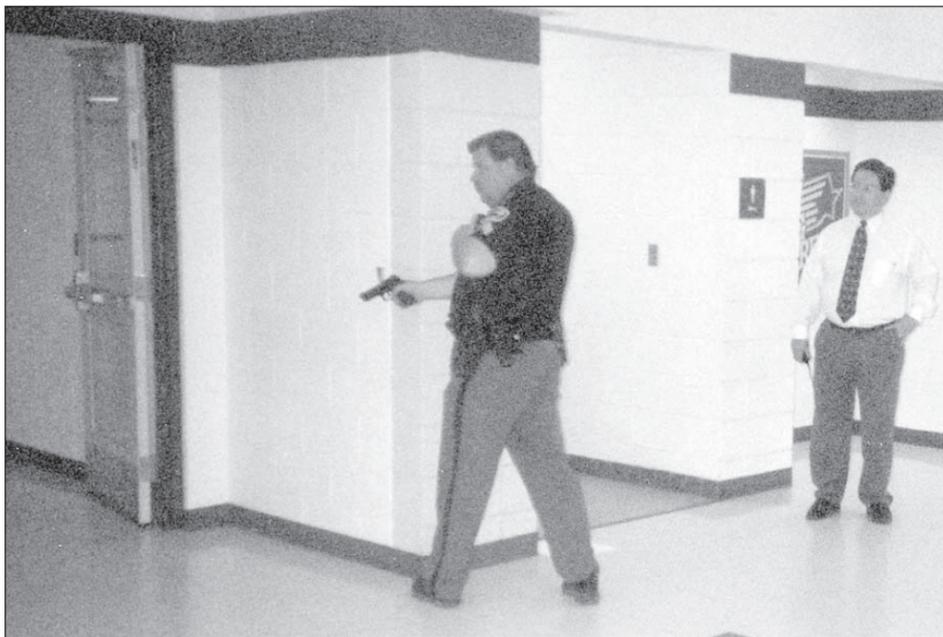
### In other news

■ The William D. Slider Middle School will host a tribute to its namesake on May 18 at 4 p.m. in the WDS Orchestra Room at 11700 School Lane. William "Bill" Slider dedicated his life, July 17, 1926 - March 10, 2005, to the field of education. Those wishing to attend are asked to call Noel R. Rosenbaum at 937-5468.

See BRIEFS, Page 8

*The secret of success and happiness lies not in doing what you like, but in liking what you do.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Don Woodyard

**TENSE SITUATION** — Anthony Police Sgt. Kyle Ramsey was stationed at the entrance to the hallway leading to a classroom where hostages were being held during a mock kidnapping at Anthony High School. AHS Principal Edmond Martinez stood nearby, ready to assist.

## Mock hostage exercise at Anthony High played out in grim real-life fashion

By Don Woodyard  
*Courier Staff Writer*

ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL — Tuesday, May 3 was not your typical school day at Anthony High. It was definitely not business as usual in its corridors and classrooms. There was not the usual chatter of students as they walked down the halls to their next classes.

Instead, there were grim-faced law enforcement officers, in full battle gear and with guns drawn, guarding hallway 101.

It looked all too real.

There was no learning going on in the classrooms — the doors were locked, lights were turned off and students and teachers were sitting on the floor away from windows.

It was a Code Blue, Level 3 lockdown throughout the school.

The reason for the lockdown was that two suspicious looking individuals were seen entering the building, and the administration was uncertain of their intentions.

Fortunately this was not a real situation. The "suspicious looking individuals" were, in fact, El Paso police officers who were carrying out their roles in a mock exercise to test the capa-

bilities of law enforcement agencies to coordinate efforts and work together in effectively dealing with a terrorist-type situation.

As the carefully orchestrated scenario played out, authorities learned that the two were supposed to be escapees from nearby La Tuna Correctional Institution and had taken over Room 105, holding a teacher and students hostage.

While the scenario itself was staged, it was played out with a grim intensity. It was not a childhood game of cops and robbers.

Armed Anthony Police Department officers, first on the scene, guarded the entrance to the 100 hallway.

Guns were pointed menacingly down the hall. Muffled radio communications kept personnel in and out of the school apprised of the other's location and status. Arm and hand signals flashed as the armed men positioned themselves at the head of the hall for any possible action on the part of the intruders.

The Anthony police were among approximately 200 officers who were eventually deployed to contain and resolve the threat. They were quite real. Their drawn rifles and handguns

See HOSTAGE, Page 5

## City of Socorro takes action to protect water rights

By Arleen Beard  
*Special to the Courier*

SOCORRO — In an effort to protect its water rights for the benefit of its citizens, the City of Socorro council has approved second reading and adoption of an ordinance which regulates subdivision fees and water rights dedications to the city.

The action came during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on May 5.

The ordinance is two-fold — to insure that any need for park land which arises from new development is satisfied by the developers at the time the subdivision is established, so that those that generate the need are contributing their proportionate share to

alleviating that need.

It is also intended to ensure that the City of Socorro obtain and retain the water rights to the land within the subdivision so that the rights to this valuable resource remains within the control of the city for the use and for the benefit of its citizens.

The ordinance dictates that water rights beneath subdivisions are to be transferred to the City of Socorro by the developer and that sale documents inform purchasers of the property that this has occurred. Prior to approval of this ordinance, Council held a public hearing regarding the ordinance but there was no public input at the time of the hearing.

In other business, Council authorized the mayor to enter into a two-year contract with Richard Contreras to act as the City Attorney.

## Sambrano teacher receives top mentor honors

By Phillip Cortez  
*Special to the Courier*

SAN ELIZARIO — Sandra Romero, a third grade monolingual teacher at Sambrano Elementary School was one of four instructors to receive Mentor Teacher of the Year honors, a recognition given by UTEP's Education Department in a pre-commencement ceremony held on Friday, May 6, 2005.

According to Josefina Tinajero, Dean of the College of Education, Romero's work exemplified the outstanding job of mentoring that the College of Education believes in and strives to support.

"Without a doubt, each University student and novice teacher who has worked under your guidance has benefited tremendously from the diverse learning experiences you offer them in your school," Tinajero wrote in an award letter given to Romero last month.

Sambrano principal Nancy Swanson agreed.

"As a campus administrator, I have come

See ROMERO, Page 4

## Canutillo High School teacher to attend humanities seminar in Ireland

By Kim Guzman  
*Special to the Courier*

CANUTILLO — Charissa Saenz, an English teacher at Canutillo High School, was accepted recently into the 2005 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Seminar, *W.B. Yeats and the Two Irelands*, to be held in Galway, Ireland.

She is one of only 15 participants who were selected to participate in the seminar, which will be held July 4-July 28. The summer seminar is offered by NEH to provide teachers an opportunity for substantive study of significant humanities ideas and texts. Participants will explore a topic or set of readings with a scholar who has a special interest and expertise in the field.

The principal goal of the W. B. Yeats seminar will be to help teachers deepen their understanding of one of Ireland's most noted authors and poets.

Saenz's application and selection to participate was based on her effectiveness and commitment as a teacher; intellectual interests; special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the seminar;

See SAENZ, Page 4



Charissa Saenz



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

### Feeding the folks

Some people just love to feed other people.

Since we all have to eat sometimes, that's a good thing. Too bad that nowadays the people feeding other people are doing it across a fast-food counter.

Still, I love those rare get-togethers where somebody just worked themselves almost to death to prepare and serve up about a ton of foodstuffs.

What is the price for a meal like that? There's not one. It's priceless. The cook does all that work simply for the joy of watching other people eating.

There are still a few of those people around who will engage in this form of temporary insanity. This one guy — you know who you are — has hosted a two-day family reunion over the past four years. He's got it down to almost an art form. With a lot of meticulous planning, blood, sweat and tears, he has transformed his home-place into a veritable entertainment complex, complete with enough beds to house a small community of relatives, friends, and sometimes a few complete strangers.

Quite the handy-man, he has used his skills to construct a compound that includes a cook-shack, a horse-shoe pitching park, a huge covered concrete patio for dancing, and numerous cozy seating areas nestled in the grass under big, old trees that are like an oasis in the middle of the Otero County desert.

He's done it all on a working-man's salary and more than a few horse-trading instincts.

He gathers everybody who even remotely resembles a musician to play the fiddle and pick the guitar as the sun sets on Mother's Day — you probably already figured out that anybody with a heart this big must be

doing it for his mother, right?

But the part he is becoming legendary for is his cooking. In fact, the numerous invitations he and his wife sent out this year said: "Be prepared to dance, eat, swim, eat, visit, eat, play horseshoes, eat, until you are too tired to function!"

You can see where the emphasis lies.

He's created this incredible cooking trailer, with more hand-made ovens, gauges, cupboards, pipes and gadgets than a space shuttle. He can do more culinary preparation — from sautéing peppers and onions to baking biscuits to slow-cooking slabs of melt-in-your-mouth beef and beer-can chicken — than most commercial kitchens that take up half an acre.

Last year he told me, with a sideways grin, he had mounted everything on the trailer except the kitchen sink. This year — you guessed it — he had mounted a small sink with water connections.

He's been offered several thousands of dollars for this contraption but he says he can't sell it — he would never be able to duplicate it, and it has become as comfortable to his hand as an old glove. He builds and sells smaller, simpler versions for amateurs.

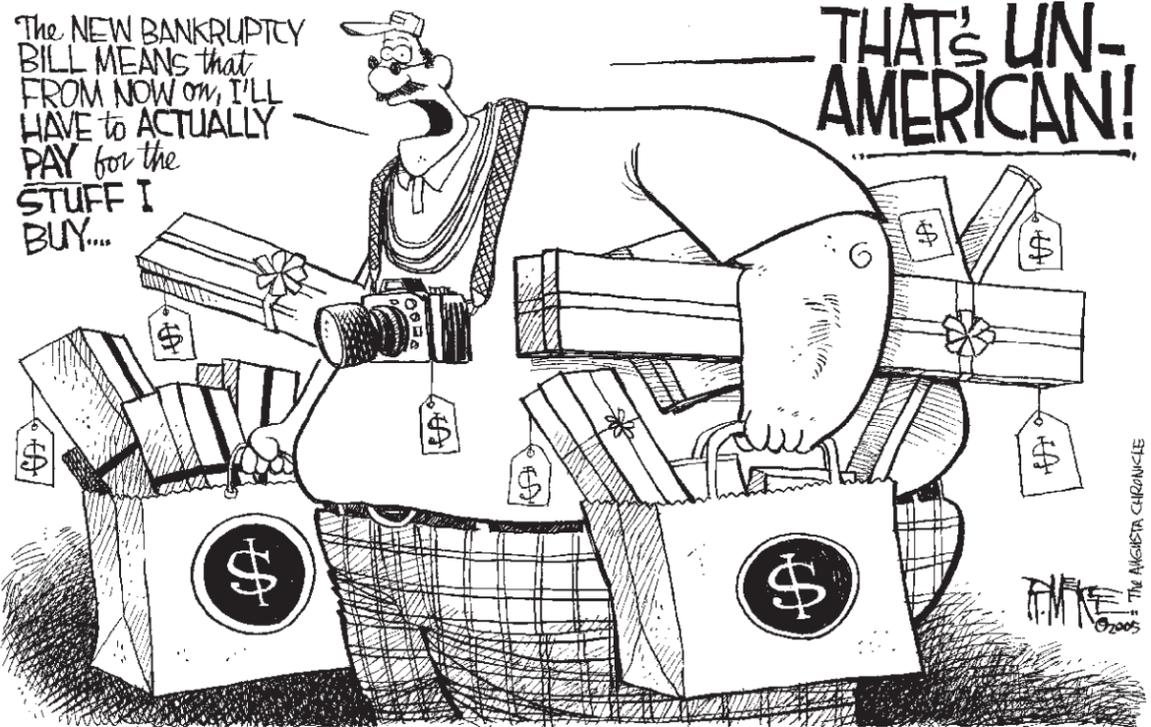
One of his specialties is stuffed, grilled jalapeño peppers. He showed me a new gadget he made recently — a small sheet of metal mounted on legs just the right size to sit inside one of his big grills. The metal sheet had a bunch of holes cut in it, just the right size to hold the small end of a jalapeño pepper. He said he had seen one like it at a fair somewhere, but they wanted too much money for it, so he just made a couple for himself.

Thankfully, he has a willing crew.

See FEEDING, Page 6



THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN TEENS SAY GOODBYE



## Write stuff

Dear Editor:

I would like to sincerely thank the residents of Horizon City who took the time to go to the polls this past Saturday as well as during early voting. No matter your candidate of choice, it was wonderful to see so many new faces in our community. I would also like to encourage everyone to take time and attend a council meeting whenever possible. It is always great to see our regular attendees, but we are all responsible for holding the mayor and council accountable for their decisions. It will be both a pleasure and an

honor to serve the city as alderman again and work with your newly elected mayor, Ray Morales. I believe he will strive to implement a solid long-term plan that will benefit Horizon. Too long have we been without direction and a clarity of purpose.

It would also be remiss of me not to thank those who worked diligently over the last weeks and months who supported Morales, Luis Najera, Keith McClellan, and myself. The Voices for Action PAC is not just for elections, they will regularly update the citizens on

important issues concerning our town. PostNet's Craig and Linda Law and their fellow comrades worked late into the night preparing flyers, signs, and banners. Tom, Tim and Sonja Wilson, and the man with the voice of an angel, Rick, at Whisky Dick's Saloon continually gave my props to their friends. Everyone who graciously placed signs in their yards and walked streets talking to people and passing out flyers, you have my unending gratitude and appreciation.

Congratulations again to my new fellow council members and mayor.

**Bethani Sellers**  
Alderman-elect Place 5

## El Paso Collaborative uses innovative techniques to teach tax wisdom

EL PASO COUNTY — For the third consecutive year, the El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development, a member of the County of El Paso's Strong Families, Strong Future Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition, served as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site, which prepared 586 tax returns for low-income households that resulted in refunds totaling \$949,360. Of those refunds,

\$468,997 were EITC dollars, a special federal benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. The EITC is only accessible by filing a federal income tax return.

This year selected Coalition partners implemented a unique and innovative tool to educate individuals awaiting tax preparation. A series of short videotaped street theatre skits with financial literacy and employment related themes were played in

the waiting area, performed in Spanish with English subtitles, covering such topics as prudent use of EITC dollars, avoiding high interest Refund Anticipation Loans and tips for job seekers. The concepts were reinforced with printed materials regarding budgeting, credit and debt, and home ownership.

The Collaborative staff expressed appreciation to the El Paso Chamber of Commerce which contributed the space and security for the project; the local office of the Internal Revenue Service that provided volunteer training; and AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteers that provided 546 hours of service.

— Contributed by Delia Ponce



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**Por la Gente** By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

**SB 547 favors paying irrigators**

Hola, mi gente — I am working to pass Senate Bill 547, authored by Sen. Frank Madla, which gives the right to vote in water district elections to those people that own irrigation rights in the district, who are qualified voters, and who live in El Paso County. Nothing

more. Nothing less. We are giving the right to those people who own water rights the right to vote in the election of the district's board — the body that sets their taxes. This has happened in other Texas counties, not just in El Paso. The district, which was formed in 1917, exists solely to provide irrigation water to agricultural land. It really is a special purpose district, with taxes based

on acres of irrigable land, but is not an ad-valorem or property tax district. If a person qualifies, he/she may vote. If he/she doesn't qualify, he/she may not vote. It's as simple and as complicated as that. To put things in perspective, let me say that 67 percent of the taxable land is within my House District 75; 17 percent of the taxable land is within Rep. Pat Haggerty's District, and 16

percent of the taxable land is within the district of Rep. Norma Chavez. The situation, as it exists now, is not fair to the farmers who pay taxes to irrigate their land. The majority of the voters, in this instance, don't pay taxes on the water because, again, they don't have land to irrigate. These voters — who don't own land and irrigation rights — have the power to increase taxes for those who do own irrigable land. I say, that's wrong. We cannot allow a situation to develop wherein a group of voters, who really have no standing in a given issue, are allowed to call the shots and raise taxes for the minority, or for those who are truly affected. Our nation was founded on the principles of freedom, including: No taxation without representation. Our founding fathers went to war with the British because they were being taxed, yet they had no say on

how those taxes were used. We don't want to create a situation in El Paso County where the situation that led to a revolution can be fomented again. But there is nothing unfair about working to protect the interests of all our constituents. These farms contribute to the economy of the rural communities of El Paso County, such as Anthony, Canutillo, Clint, Socorro, Fabens, and Tornillo. Our bill supports agricultural workers in El Paso County. It's meant to help those who would be most affected by it — farmers and farm workers. If you are a farmer who pays taxes on the water you use, then this bill is for you. Help us get it across to our community, to our constituents — we really do have everybody's interest at heart. Contact me with ideas or comments on this issue. I remain your public servant, Chente for la gente

**Eye on D.C.** By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

**Medicare drug discount cards**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently introduced new Medicare-approved prescription drug discount cards. The new cards offer seniors discounts of up to 25 percent off the cost of their medications. This is a fantastic opportunity for the seniors of our nation. Like any new program, there is an abundance of information that participants should know and understand. What follows is a series of frequently asked questions regarding the prescription drug discount cards.

1. *What kinds of discounts do the cards offer?*  
The Medicare-approved cards will offer seniors discounts of up to 25 percent off the cost of their medications. Better yet, low-income seniors will be eligible to receive a \$600 credit on their cards to defray their drug costs this year. They will also receive an additional \$600 credit in 2005.
2. *Who is a low-income senior?*  
Under the law, a low-income senior is a person who makes less than 135 percent of the federal poverty level, roughly \$12,900 annually for an individual or \$16,600 for a couple.
3. *When can seniors begin to sign*

- up for these cards?*  
Seniors can sign up for their Medicare-approved immediately.
4. *How do they sign up?*  
Seniors will be able to enroll with a drug card of their choice a number of ways. They include calling their congressional office for assistance signing up, and visiting [www.medicare.com](http://www.medicare.com) or calling 1-800MEDICARE.
5. *How much does it cost to sign up?*  
Some discount card sponsors will charge an enrollment fee of around \$30. However, other card sponsors will offer a lower fee or no fee at all.
6. *What drugs are covered?*  
Every drug, any drug, all drugs, are covered under this program. Though all cards may not cover all drugs, every drug is covered by at least one of the cards offered.
7. *How many cards are offered?*  
Currently, 26 cards will be available nationwide and still others will be available regionally. The number of cards available to seniors will depend largely on where they live.
8. *How will a senior know which card is best for them?*  
Because participation in the discount card program is voluntary, choosing a card will require some re-

search on the part of seniors or caregivers. First, whether or not a card sponsor charges an enrollment fee will be a factor for some seniors. Second, which drugs the card covers and how much of a discount they offer will be other factors. Finally, which pharmacies in a senior's area offer which discounts will be a another factor. 9. *What if a senior has an existing drug discount card?*  
Seniors can have only one Medicare-approved discount card but they CAN KEEP discount drug cards they already have from drug makers or groups. In many cases the savings these cards offer will be greater than those the Medicare-approved card can offer. What types of cards a senior has should be a factor when choosing which Medicare-approved card to sign up for. I hope the information in this week's column proves helpful when making a decision about this new resource for our nation's seniors. For more information on the prescription drug cards, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE.



*Thank you for your support and vote!*

**JIM PENDELL**  
**School Board Trustee**  
**Clint Independent School District**  
Serving the Clint, East Montana and Horizon Communities  
Pol. adv. paid for by Jim Pendell, 14501 North Loop Rd., Clint, TX 79836

**Canutillo Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE**

Any interested representative of a non-profit private school or non-profit home school

- operating within the boundaries of the Canutillo Independent School District, or
- operating outside of the boundaries of the district, but serving students who live within the boundaries

is encouraged to call for an appointment to receive information regarding the Consolidated Application for Federal Funding for 2005-2006. The application provides the following programs, through the "No Child Left Behind Act."

- Title I, Part A — Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C — Education of Migratory Children
- Title II, Part A — Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting
- Title II, Part D — Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III, Part A — English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement
- Title IV, Part A — Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- Title V, Part A — Innovative Programs

Interested persons should call Letty Gonzalez at (915) 877-7440 to schedule an appointment. Representatives will need to provide their school's tax exempt identification number to the district to confirm eligibility. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be made available upon request.

WTCC: 05/12/05



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

**Smithsonian's El Rio comes to UTEP**

Ever wonder about the history of the R a r á m u r i community in Juárez or want to know just what exactly is a churro sheep? An exhibit that has traveled from Washington, D.C. to Mexico and now is on display at the Centennial Museum at UTEP might provide some insight. This exhibit, *El Río*, explores the relationship between traditional knowledge, local culture and sustainable environment in the Río Grande/Río Bravo Basin, which extends across Colorado, New Mexico and Texas in the U.S. and Durango, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León and Tamulipas in Mexico. *El Río* will be on view in El Paso through October 29, 2005. The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. developed the *El Río* exhibit and featured it at the 2000 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall, captivating over a million national and international visitors. Initiated in

1967, the Folklife Festival focuses on contemporary living cultural traditions and over the years has brought more than 16,000 musicians, artists, and performers together to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that characterize the vitality of community-based traditions. *El Río* provides patrons with a holistic view of the culturally diverse men and women who make up the Río Grande basin and explores their arts and culture, agricultural techniques, businesses, and tourism enterprises. For example, *El Río* features the best of South Texan conjunto music, elegant weavings from northern New Mexico, vaquero (cowboy) demonstrations, matachín dancing from Mexico and New Mexico, shrimping from the Gulf of Mexico, and natural fiber work from the Chihuahuan desert. Upon visiting the exhibit on the National Mall in 2000, I recognized El Río's power to educate and interest both residents and the general public in the Río Grande region. At the time, *El Río* was under consideration as a traveling exhibit, and I

urged then-Secretary of the Smithsonian Lawrence Small to approve the idea. All members of Congress who represented the Río Grande region at the time signed on to the letter I wrote to Secretary Small and we were delighted when the "*El Río, The Traveling Exhibition*," became a reality. *El Río* also features a teaching component that will engage young students in El Paso and help them explore and appreciate their cultural heritage. The *El Río* In-School Exhibition and Do-Your-Own-Exhibition teacher's guide are intended to help teachers use the exhibit in the classroom and can complement current social studies curriculums. An exhibit like *El Río* can help these studies come alive for our students. The Smithsonian Institution is America's leading educational facility, and I applaud the men and women of the Smithsonian's Folklife Center not only for recognizing the strong cultural history of the Río Grande basin, but also providing a binational audience with an opportunity to learn about our strong and proud heritage.

## Summer a good time for teens to work — but know the law

AUSTIN — Teenagers become a visible part of the Texas part-time and full-time workforce during summer months. It is important, however, for youth, their parents and employers to be aware of state and federal laws impacting child labor issues.

A large number of the 100,000 additional job seekers who enter the labor market in Texas searching for work between the months of April and June are teenagers who want to earn their first paycheck or gain useful vocational experience.

Child labor laws — both state and federal — prevent children from exposure to occupational settings or working conditions that could prove detrimental to safety, health or well-being. Any person under age 18 is considered a child when employed in the workplace.

Different laws apply to different age groups. For example, workers age 16 or 17 can engage in any task for any number of hours as long as it is not deemed hazardous by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Children 14 or 15 may perform a job beyond school

hours in some nonmanufacturing, nonmining, nonhazardous jobs, but only under certain conditions.

Teens ages 14 or 15, for example, may not work more than three hours on any given school day or more than 18 hours within a school week. They also may not work more than eight hours on a nonschool day or more than the standard 40 hours during a week when school is out. A standard workday for children who are 14 or 15 must be between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., except between June 1 and Labor Day, when they can work no later than 9 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://youthrules.dol.gov/jobs.htm>. Teens seeking job-search assistance can visit their local workforce center. For information about local workforce centers, visit [www.twc.state.tx.us/dirs/wdas/wdamap.html](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/dirs/wdas/wdamap.html).

For other information on prohibited jobs or those with restrictions, call TWC's Labor Law Department at (800) 832-9243 or (512) 837-9559, or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).

## I was there: Alberto Escamilla exhibit opens

By Jan Engels  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — I was there, at the International Museum of Art on May 5 for the opening reception of Alberto Escamilla's art exhibit *Impressionism*. What a great evening — the mood was as light hearted and spontaneous as the tone of Escamilla's art.

Escamilla fulfilled a challenging labor of love — he was commissioned to fill up the two large display rooms at the Museum and he did it with paintings depicting people engaged in livelihoods common to the El Paso area, such as picking chile, cotton and grapes. The exhibit also features fabulous landscapes of morning sunrises, evening sunsets and moon-filled nights. His favorite medium is oil and his passion is to paint — 62 paintings were completed within a three month period. One can see the study of the great impressionists such as Monet and

Pissarro in Escamilla's work.

Alberto Escamilla has been painting professionally for over 25 years. He began his painting career at the tender age of five when he won a coloring contest in his home town of Sanderson, Texas. He taught for several years at Father Yermo and still does private tutoring. This writer became acquainted with him during the nine years, beginning in 1992, he was commissioned to paint the posters for the International Zarzuela Festivals that were held at the Chamizal National Memorial every year. The richness of his colors and the whimsical looks of his subjects are very intriguing to many El Paso and Juarez patrons.

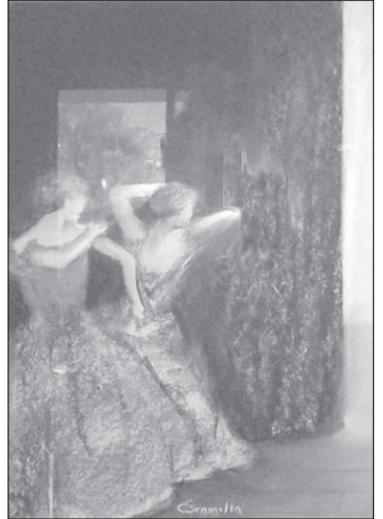
He has exhibited in the famed SoHo galleries in New York, in Scottsdale, Arizona, in Mexico City, at the Pro Noft in Juarez, and in several galleries in France and England. From first hand knowledge, Alberto is as gracious a speaker as he is artist. He was kind enough to conduct a tour for students of the Socorro ISD Community Learning Center one year, sharing some of the trials and triumphs of his life with them. Many of the students still mention his eloquent descriptions in voice mode as inspiring as the artist painting mode.

Alberto Escamilla's inspiration produced this Cinco de Mayo celebration of life on canvas which will be on display through May 29 at the International Museum of Art, 1211 Montana.



— Photo by Rachel Escamilla

Jan Engels with artist Alberto Escamilla.



Alberto Escamilla's "Las Ballerinas," of which Engels is the proud owner.



## EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT

### Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or special appraised value placed on your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the jurisdiction in which you are being taxed
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the Chief Appraiser, Appraisal District or Appraisal Review Board (ARB) that applies to and adversely affected your property.

#### Informal Review

The El Paso Central Appraisal District has a trained staff to assist you with your tax appraisal problems.

In order to have an informal or ARB hearing you **must file a written protest before your deadline** (see below for deadlines).

If you receive a notice of appraised value, a protest form is attached to the bottom below the perforation. If you wish to protest, simply tear off this form, sign the back, and return it to the El Paso Central Appraisal District.

If you do not receive a notice of appraised value, you should send a letter or postcard stating that you wish to protest your property value. Be sure to include your name and address or property identification number.

After your written protest is received, the Appraisal District will send you a letter notifying you of the date and time of your preliminary and/or ARB hearings.

However, if you have a question about exemptions, procedures, or anything not related to a protest, you may call (915) 780-2131. Your call will be logged, your question noted, and given to the appropriate department for a call back.

#### Review by the Appraisal Review Board

If you cannot resolve your problem in a preliminary hearing with the Central Appraisal District (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve

problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a Notice of Protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You will receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing on Saturday or Sunday, or in the evening. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD will use to uphold their determination. The CAD may ask you for a copy of the evidence you plan to present. The hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence, or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. The CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented. You can get a copy of a protest form from the Appraisal District office at:

5801 Trowbridge Drive

**Note:** You should not try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

#### Review by the District Court

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order.

#### Tax Payment

If you appeal and your case is pending, you must pay the lesser of the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

#### More Information

You can get more information by contacting the El Paso Central Appraisal District, 5801 Trowbridge Drive, El Paso, Texas 79925-3345, (915) 780-2131. You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the Appraisal District or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

#### Requests for Evidence

You can request to review evidence to be used by the CAD in your formal ARB hearing by addressing it to the ARB at the El Paso Central Appraisal District office. The envelope should be labeled "Request for Evidence."

#### Special Deadlines

For change of use (the Appraisal District informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change did not result from a protest your filed), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

If you believe the Appraisal District or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1). The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

## Deadline\* for Filing Protests with the ARB

#### Usual Deadline

On or before May 31, (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause.

Late protests are due the day before the Appraisal Review Board approves records for the year. Contact the Appraisal District for more information.

\* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

## Romero

From Page 1

to rely on Sandra's knowledge of curriculum and instruction," Swanson said. "She is energetic, helpful and supportive. She has taught various grade levels and accepts each change in assignment with enthusiasm, regarding them as learning opportunities."

"I feel very honored, it didn't sink in at first but after thinking about it, this is very special to me," Romero said. "I feel honored to bring positive recognition to this district because I feel we are overshadowed by the 'Big Three' (EPISD, SISD, YISD). There's a lot of positive

things going on in our district right now."

Three of Romero's peers were also named Mentor Teachers of the Year. They were Elizabeth Romero, Desertaire Elementary; Lorena Salas, Bill Childress Elementary; Kyann McMillie, Canutillo Elementary. In addition to receiving plaques for their efforts, each teacher was given a check for \$1,000.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**GUIDE AT MY SIDE — Sandra Romero, a third grade teacher at Sambrano Elementary School in San Elizario, receives a Mentor Teacher of the Year plaque from Josefina Tinajero, Dean of the College of Education at a pre-commencement ceremony, Friday, May 6.**

## Saenz

From Page 1

commitment to participate fully in the formal and informal collegial life of the project; and the likelihood that the experience will enhance her teaching.

"I will be working closely with 14 other teachers from around the nation in order to not only educate myself and deepen my personal education within my content area, but I will also return better equipped to present new, exciting and challenging material to my students and my fellow

teachers. The ultimate goal is to give our students the education they deserve," said Saenz.

Saenz joined the CHS faculty this school year. Prior to coming to CHS, she completed her internship in Humanities with an emphasis on Literature at the Boston Arts Academy/Fenway High School in Boston, Massachusetts. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in World Arts & Cultures at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1996, and a Master's degree from Harvard University in 2004.

The CISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Charles Hart recognized Saenz for her selection during the April School Board meeting.

# Hostage

From Page 1

were equally real.

Armed snipers positioned on the roof of the school were also real.

FBI and Sheriff's Department SWAT teams in full battle gear were real.

High school principal Edmond Martinez called for lockdown at about 8:30 a.m. after learning of the intruders on campus. His part was to provide vital background information to police who needed a clearer picture of the situation surrounding the teacher and the students being held hostage.

The silence was suddenly broken. Something was happening in the hallway.

"Hands up! Hands up," shouted an APD officer, his gun aimed at one of the intruders who held a gun and positioned a student hostage as a human shield.

"You need to get out of here," the man down the hall warned menacingly before retreating to the classroom with the hostage.

Soon a student ran down the hallway from the classroom. He was patted down for weapons, and gave "intel" (intelligence about the situation) to police. The more police know, the better they can deal with it.

Another student came out later. He was interrogated and said he was "shot" in the arm by one of the intruders. He reported people getting "antsy" and nervous in the classroom.

More heavily armed Sheriff's Department deputies in full riot gear replaced the APD, and FBI SWAT teams also arrived on scene. Efforts were coordinated through the command post in the Town Hall for the final assault on the classroom. Armed men moved silently and swiftly down the hallway clearing out classrooms nearest the escapees and the hostages. Escorted by SWAT units, students streamed out of the building with hands over their head.

Then came the final assault and rush on Classroom 105 with an overwhelming force. It was successful — the hostages freed and the escapees recaptured. The students and teacher exited quickly through a "hostage corridor" to the outside.

The exercise is over. The good guys have won.

The whole exercise had taken about two hours and 30 minutes to run its course.

A debriefing/assessment was held in the high school auditorium following the mock exercise.

Black-clad SWAT team members from the FBI and Sheriff's Department gathered along with law enforcement personnel from the Bureau of Prisons and the Anthony Police Department.

Although the El Paso Police Department as a whole did not partici-

pate in the training exercise, two casually-clad El Paso police officers introduced themselves — they were the pair who played the part of escapees from nearby La Tuna Correctional Institution in the exercise in which they entered the school and took over a classroom of students and held them and the teacher hostage.

One of the two police officers was David Cox, an eight-year veteran with the EPPD. He is assigned to Mission Valley Patrol and he works in the tactical section/special operations dealing with gangs. Cox was a sports writer for the *Courier* nine years ago before becoming a police officer.

His "co-conspirator" in the mock exercise was Pete Lozano, a detective with Central Regional Command.

Cox said he and Lozano entered

into their role as hostage-takers slowly, so as not to overly alarm the volunteer student participants. He pointed out he and Lozano are not actors and had to grow into their bad guy roles. To make it more realistic, he indicated they were instructed to follow no script after they entered the classroom, rather improvising events as they went along.

They sent out hostages at various times to lend authenticity and test the reaction of law enforcement personnel who closed a perimeter around them before the successful final assault that freed the hostages shortly after 11 a.m.

"It was a little tricky," Cox said later. "The kids did a good job; it went well as a whole."

High school principal Edmund Martinez said he and his staff would be working to strengthen its policies

regarding emergency situations. "A plan is in development," he said. The FBI offered to work with the high school in developing the plan.

Anthony ISD superintendent Vern Butler said it was a "good learning experience — very real. We learned quite a bit." He added his own assessment of the exercise later on that same day at the monthly school board meeting.

The need for effective lines of communication among all participants in the exercise was emphasized, particularly between the command post located in nearby Anthony Town Hall and personnel deployed in and around the high school. Also stressed was the importance of communication between hostage negotiators at the command post and the classroom

in which the students and the teacher were being held.

The teacher hostage, Mary Kay Wheeler, said she was frustrated because her "captors" would not let her call out or to make contact. "There was no contact with us. It was scary," she said. "They wouldn't let me call 911."

The FBI spokesman said the procedure is for hostage-takers to talk with one source.

The need for improved communication left the elementary school in lockdown for an hour after the exercise ended, Butler said.

The Anthony exercise was not the first one in the Upper Valley. About five years ago, a similar terrorist-type of terrorist exercise took place at Canutillo High School.

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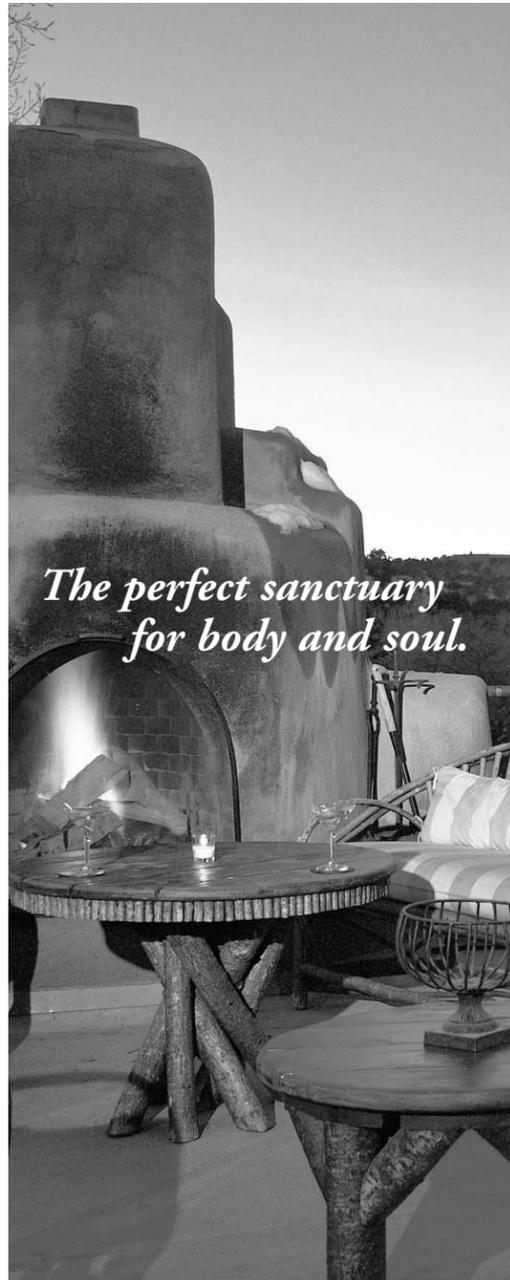


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## Tornillo Independent School District Notice of 2005 Summer Food Services Program

The Tornillo Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided free of charge to children 1 year to 18 years of age at the Tornillo I.S.D. Elementary School Cafeteria, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas. The program will begin June 6, 2005 through June 24, 2005, with breakfast being served from 7:15 A.M. to 8:15 A.M. and lunch being served from 10:45 A.M. to 12:45 P.M., Mondays through Fridays. Daily menus for the Summer Food Service Program will be available on May 24, 2005. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 13247, Austin, Texas 78711 or the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410. NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred only to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services.

## El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo Da Aviso Programa de Servicios para Comida en el Verano para 2005

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo anuncia el patrocinio del programa de servicios para comida en el verano. Almuerzo y comida de mediodía se va servir en la cafetería de le escolar elementario del distrito de Tornillo, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas. Es gratis para todos los niños de 1 año a 18 años de edad. El programa de servicios para comida en el verano empieza el 6 de Junio hasta el 24 de Junio, 2005, Lunes a Viernes. Almuerzo se va servir de 7:15 A.M. hasta las 8:15 A.M. y comida se va servir de las 10:45 A.M. hasta la 12:45 P.M. Los menus van estar listos el 24 de Mayo, 2005. Gente que califiquen para participar en el programa no deberan ser discriminadas por su raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, edad, incapacitacion, religion, o creencia politica. Cualquier persona que pienze que lo han tratado mal injustamente puede escribir inmediatamente al: Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 13247, Austin, Texas 78711 o el Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410. Aviso: Quejas de discriminacion bajo de religion o creencia de politica tienen que dirigir no mas al: Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services.

# Take one football player, add a motorcycle to the mix and...

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Does anyone know what the true measure of a man is?

Maybe it's the size of his wallet. Maybe it's the size of his family. Maybe it's the size of his intelligence.

Or maybe, just maybe, in the case of Cleveland Browns' tight end Kellen Winslow Jr., it's his overwhelming, significant, amazing, awe-inspiring, tremendous, impressive, massive and undeniable lack of intelligence.

Winslow Jr., the son former NFL great, Kellen Winslow, missed almost all of his rookie season last year after fracturing his leg in the second game of 2004.

After struggling to rehab his way back into shape for this coming season, one might think the promising athlete would do everything possible to stay fit and injury free.

Well, everything except maybe get on a motorcycle and drive around like a raving lunatic.

Seems Winslow Jr. went out and bought a motorcycle and proceeded to venture out with his buddies in a college parking lot to learn how to ride it.

It's one thing to go out and risk your health on a motorcycle — but it's quite another to risk

your health on a motorcycle you don't know how to ride.

Well, Winslow went out and rode the bike. He then proceeded to crash the thing, sustaining injuries that will likely cost him the entire 2005 football season. Some have speculated that the injuries could even be career threatening.

How stupid was Winslow? Let me count the ways.

A number of things went wrong with Winslow's motorcycle escapade. First of all, though he at least had the sense to wear a helmet, he didn't have sense enough to strap it on and it flew off at the moment of impact.

Secondly, Winslow was reportedly traveling 35 mph when he hit the curb in the parking lot. He flew over the handlebars at such a rate of speed that he took out a small tree with his body.

Here's a question. Why in the world was he going 35 mph in a parking lot? I thought the whole idea of the parking lot was to slow down and eventually — park.

The third and most devastating part of his accident was sitting in a drawer miles away — his NFL contract.

Winslow's contract, which he signed last year and was originally worth as much as \$40-million, has an interesting stipulation in it against what it refers to as "hazardous activities."

Among all the layers of lawyer-jargon, the

contract is very clear in relation to him engaging in hazardous activities.

It states that the Browns have the right to reject and reclaim Winslow's contract if his actions "... involve a significant risk of personal injury... including, but not limited to skydiving, hang gliding, mountain climbing, auto racing, motorcycling, scuba diving and skiing."

Ouch, can't get much plainer than that. Didn't Winslow read his contract? Can Winslow read his contract?

If that wasn't plain enough, how's this. The bonus part of his contract stipulates that, if Winslow defaults on the contract between Feb. 2, 2005 and Feb. 1, 2006, "The player shall forfeit and immediately return and refund to [the] club, "\$5 million of his original \$6 million signing bonus."

Now I don't know how much his Suzuki cost, but by the time it's all said and done, it may be the most costly motorcycle ever purchased.

## Diablos are back

The El Paso Diablos made their debut last week at Cohen Stadium in front of a tremendous crowd of over 10,000.

The huge turnout must have reflected El Paso's collective sigh of relief, after it appeared there would be no baseball here this summer after last year's owners sold the team to inves-

tors who relocated it to Springfield, Missouri.

In the opener, the team blew a lead late in the game and lost 7-5 but no one seemed to care. Baseball was back, beer was flowing, hot dogs were devoured, fans booed the umpire and fireworks capped the evening.

Ah, yes, baseball was back in El Paso.

Now the game at the Independent League level is a definite step (or stumble) below what we're used to. But this is baseball being played by men trying to either get picked up by a MLB team or get back with one, so the players at this level are much more accessible than some of the affiliated minor league players who think they're already in the majors.

You can't help but root for these guys who are truly chasing a dream which most will never catch. But don't we all love a good underdog story?

The baseball itself is not as refined but remember this — with the announcer's voice blaring, the hot dog vendors chanting, the baseball bats crackling, the star spangled banner playing, the fans cheering, the umpire's voice booming, the babies crying, the little leaguer's hollering for a hit, the fireworks popping and the manager arguing... who cares?

If the team doesn't do that well, don't worry, be happy with what we have. Besides, compare the previous paragraph with a summer of Cohen Stadium in complete silence.

# San Elizario aces the competition

By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — They have been described as athletic, hardworking, tough, and young. But now the San Elizario Middle School 8th grade boy's team can be called one thing more: District Champions. And with the 8th grade girl's team finishing second, the tennis program capped an impressive season that sent a message throughout the area that San Elizario tennis is here to stay.

Key to the boy's top ranking was the doubles play of Hugo Melendez

and Albert Sepulveda, who won first place in front of fellow teammates Abraham Cardona and Adrian Solis, who finished second. In singles, Jorge Reyes earned third place.

Jessica Perez fought for second place in girl's singles, helping to secure second place for the girl's team.

"I think our kids found that tennis is a nice sport," said San Eli tennis coach Pete Vasquez. "Aside from being athletic, these kids are also smart."

One of the best qualities that the team possesses, according to Vasquez, is the desire to dedicate themselves to conditioning and learning the fundamentals of the game.

This bodes well for a program that doesn't want to be satisfied with one good year.

"From what I've seen these kids are going to be able to win a lot of matches because of that dedication."

In order for the team to remain strong, Vasquez will put them through an ambitious summer schedule that will accommodate the athletes taking summer classes. Beginning June 6 until school begins in August, team members will work out from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and then come back in the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. On Fridays, the team will compete against other summer programs in the city.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**LOVE THIS GAME** — Members of the San Elizario Middle School tennis team pose in front of their hardware after the 8th grade boy's team claimed the district championship and the 8th grade girl's team took second. Coach Pete Vasquez (standing, far right) says his team will remain successful if the athletes continue to remain dedicated to the program.

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## Feeding

From Page 2

His wife and two teenagers are just as happy feeding and entertaining as he is. Somewhere from their already crowded schedule of jobs, school and sports they manage to squeeze out enough time to gather food, napkins, paper plates, cups and flatware, and set up enough tables and chairs, to feed an army of relatives and non-relatives who get treated like they were.

The whole family pitches in and they work like beavers for weeks before the event to get the place ready — including filling a stock water tank with ice and cold drinks, and installing a couple of port-a-potties, one labeled for those of the female gender and one for "other." Take your best guess about that one.

But the fever-pitched pace slows down as the guests start coming and by sundown, he is strolling around with an ecstatic grin, beer in hand, collecting his reward: Watching other people eat.

I can't wait till next year.



**Briefs**

From Page 1

■ The El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District will host the First Annual Community Emergency Preparedness Fair on Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the El Paso County Coliseum. The event will provide citizens with information and resources to empower them in case of community disaster or emergency. Diverse topics include designing a family preparedness plan, sheltering-in-place, decontamination, CPR, emergency kits and law enforcement response, to name a few. The event is additionally sponsored by the El Paso City-County Office of Emergency Management, El Paso Fire Dept., El Paso Police Dept., the Sheriff's Office, the FBI, the Red Cross, the Rio Grande Council of Governments and the U.S. Border Patrol. Information: 751-8600 or 256-1955.

■ Canutillo Independent School District teachers, Kyann McMillie, Lorena Salas, and Monica Jaloma, were honored recently during the pre-commencement program of the College of Education at UTEP. McMillie, Reading teacher at Canutillo Elementary School, and Salas, Childress Elementary School third grade teacher, were presented with Mentor Teacher of the Year awards for their work with novice teachers and UTEP interns. "Without a doubt, each novice teacher and University stu-

dent who has worked under Kyann and Lorena's guidance has benefited tremendously from the diverse learning experiences they offer," stated Dr. Josefina Tinajero, UTEP Dean of Education. Jaloma, first year fourth grade teacher at Canutillo ES, was also recognized during the pre-commencement ceremony. She received the Schwartz Award for Innovative Teaching. "Monica's creative work as a beginning teacher exemplifies the outstanding qualities of creativity and excellence that the College of Education believes in and strives to support," Dr. Tinajero said.

■ A "Ring of Honor" will begin at Montwood High School in tribute to MHS student Robert Rodriguez who recently was drafted to play for the Tennessee Titans. A three-by-four-foot photo of Rodriguez will be placed in the Montwood Commons area during a surprise ceremony on Thursday, May 12 at 11 a.m. The ceremony is patterned after the Dallas Cowboys Ring of Honor.

■ Friends of the El Paso County Library at Fabens is hosting a used book sale during library hours, including paperback, novels, hardcovers, children's books and magazines, most for less than a dollar. Book buyers can purchase books By-The-Bag for only one dollar. Additionally, the Library is seeking people of all ages who like to read to come share their talents at 4 p.m. each Friday. The Library is located at 1331 N. Fabens St. in Fabens, and more information is at 764-3635.

■ A Vacation Bible School will

held June 20-24 at the Clint First Baptist Church for children kinder through 6th, 9 a.m. to noon, with the theme of "Come Join Us on the Ramblin' Road Trip." More information is at 592-9081 or 851-1599.

■ Helen Ball Elementary in the Socorro ISD will celebrate its 10th Anniversary at 9 a.m. on May 11. Tours of the campus at 1950 Firehouse Lane will be hosted for the community as well as a celebration rally, student music and dance performances and a luncheon. Special guest will be Helen Ball's husband.

■ Horizon High School is one of 20 schools in Texas to receive the Conference 2005 Scholarship Schools Program grant. A team of seven members will utilize the grant to make the school safe and drug free by educating parents so they can learn how to deal with drug and safety issues at home. Results of their work will be shared at the next conference.

■ Marine Corps Pfc. David J. Nunez, a 2003 graduate of Montwood High School, and Marine Corps Pvt. Christopher J. Telles, son of Angelic M. and Eduardo Sanchez of El Paso recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally. Telles is a 2004 graduate of San Elizario High School. Navy Seaman David B. Elbancol, son of Angelita V. and Danilo E. Elbancol of El Paso, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit

Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Elbancol completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. Elbancol is a 2000 graduate of Montwood High School.

■ The Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) is resulting in the location and detention of illegal aliens with criminal convictions — about 74,000 nationwide since October of last year — and about 7,500 of those have been in the El Paso Sector. This week a U.S. Customs and Border Protection public affairs officer said that agents from the Criminal Alien Program located an undocumented criminal alien who was found guilty of sexual assault and injury to a child after records from the El Paso County Detention Facility identified him. The 36-year-old Juarez resident, Juan Jose Trevino-Alvidrez pleaded guilty to those charges on May 6, and removed from the U.S. under terms which permanently bar him from re-entry. Violation of that statute carries a penalty of up to 60 months in federal prison.

■ The Abraham Chavez Theatre and the newly renovated Plaza Theatre and Performing Arts Centre is preparing to host the next season of Broadway in El Paso, beginning Oct. 23, 2005 and conclude April 27, 2006, at the Plaza. In the meantime, El Paso County can see a performance by Hal Holbrook in what playbill.com

calls his "most famous guise," on May 17 in *Mark Twain Tonight!* Holbrook will subsequently open on Broadway with the performance of the same production he is expected to perform in El Paso. Call 534-0615 for information.

■ Wholesale natural gas prices continue to climb with the price of crude oil, with Texas Gas Service customers in El Paso County to see a five percent increase in their May bills from last month — an increase that shoots up 29 percent over the May, 2004 bills. Richard Fleager, vice-president of TGS for the western region, said that TGS does not forecast any decrease in gas prices anytime soon, and he recommends the "ABC" plan which evens out the peaks in gas charges during winter months over the warmer months. He said the cost of gas fluctuates because it is a "market-driven commodity," and that it is a "pass-through" charge on which TGS makes no profit. For more information, call 562-8411 or log on at [www.txgas.com](http://www.txgas.com).

■ Texans who want to continue hunting on or leasing their land to sportsmen even after it is annexed by a municipality can applaud the signing of Senate Bill 734 by Gov. Rick Perry on May 3. The bill will allow land used for hunting to be exempt from city ordinances banning the discharge of firearms, and adds "wildlife management" to the list of activities to be grandfathered un the Texas "Right to Farm" Act when such land is annexed, prior to development for residential or commercial uses.

**WEATHER**

AccuWeather.com

**SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO**

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
▲ 86°	▼ 57°	▲ 88° ▼ 59°	▲ 90° ▼ 60°	▲ 88° ▼ 62°	▲ 90° ▼ 63°	▲ 91° ▼ 63°	▲ 91° ▼ 61°

**UV INDEX** Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	10	Very High
Friday	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	7	High
Monday	8	High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

**TEXAS WEATHER**

Anthony	86	55
Canutillo	86	56
Clint	86	58
E. Montana	86	57
Fabens	86	58
Horizon	86	58
San Elizario	87	57
Socorro	87	57
Tornillo	86	58
Vinton	86	56



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	77/47/pc	79/50/s	77/51/pc	81/54/c	85/57/s
Atlanta	84/64/pc	84/64/pc	80/60/pc	76/59/t	76/58/s
Atlantic City	76/53/t	62/49/pc	66/54/pc	67/52/t	67/49/sh
Austin/San Antonio	86/66/pc	87/64/r	86/63/pc	84/64/c	87/63/c
Baltimore	76/56/t	64/50/pc	74/54/pc	68/50/t	71/51/sh
Boston	68/46/t	55/43/s	63/46/pc	65/50/t	64/49/pc
Chicago	62/50/r	64/46/t	64/48/sh	62/46/pc	66/47/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	87/68/pc	82/63/pc	80/62/pc	78/62/c	81/61/c
Denver	48/36/r	56/40/sh	62/42/sh	70/45/pc	73/50/c
Flagstaff	62/30/s	68/32/s	72/34/s	75/36/s	73/40/s
Houston	86/68/pc	88/68/pc	88/68/pc	86/70/t	84/60/pc
Kansas City	74/53/t	64/49/t	70/50/pc	70/54/pc	73/55/pc
Las Vegas	79/58/s	82/65/s	88/66/s	90/68/s	94/67/s
Miami	85/71/s	85/71/pc	83/69/sh	85/71/pc	85/69/pc
Minneapolis	45/38/r	55/42/sh	57/45/pc	67/48/t	65/51/r
New Orleans	88/68/s	84/68/t	86/66/t	82/66/t	84/64/s
New York City	76/52/t	63/50/s	69/54/pc	68/54/t	68/53/c
Philadelphia	77/54/t	64/52/pc	70/54/pc	68/52/t	69/53/pc
Phoenix	89/65/s	92/70/s	96/70/s	98/72/s	99/70/s
Portland	72/50/s	70/52/pc	66/50/sh	64/48/sh	63/46/r
San Francisco	68/52/s	70/52/s	70/54/pc	67/52/s	67/48/c
Seattle	70/50/s	66/52/pc	64/50/sh	62/48/sh	61/43/sh
Tucson	88/57/s	91/60/s	94/63/s	97/64/s	95/63/s
Washington, DC	84/56/t	66/56/sh	74/59/pc	74/56/t	71/55/sh

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

**AGRICULTURE**

The region will be dry but breezy on Thursday as a weakened frontal boundary moves to the east. Temperatures will hover close to 90 through the weekend and into the low 90s early next week. Winds Thursday will be out of the southwest at around 10-20 mph with relative humidity averaging near 20 percent.

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