



NEWSBRIEFS

Medicaid meeting

State Rep. Chente Quintanilla and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services invites the public meeting concerning the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program (MERP) on Wednesday, Oct. 5, at Mountain View High School cafeteria, 14964 Greg Dr. in East Montana from 6-8 p.m. and on Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Socorro High School Band Room, 10150 Alameda Ave., 6-8 p.m. Persons who are 55 years of age or older or care for someone of that age, you need to be aware of the program and its possible impact on your life. Under this program, the state may file a claim against the estate of a deceased Medicaid recipient, age 55 and older, who applied for certain long-term care services on or after March 1, 2005. Claims include the cost of services, hospital care, and prescription drugs supported by Medicaid under various programs. For more information call the office of Rep. Chente Quintanilla at 859-3111. Both meetings will be given in Spanish and English.

Pet walk

People and their pets usher in autumn at the 1st Annual Howl-O-Wine Dog Walk Sunday, Oct. 23, at noon at the La Vina Winery in La Union, NM. Participants celebrate with the one-mile walk around the beautiful grounds of La Vina while family, friends and favorite canines help raise funds to fight pet overpopulation and support spay/neuter programs. On-site registration begins at 12 p.m. and the walk at 1 p.m. For more information, rules and guidelines or to register call (915) 855-7273 or email info@petsaliveelpaso.org. Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to Pets Alive-El Paso, 9398 Viscount, Bldg. 5-A, El Paso, TX 79925.

In other news

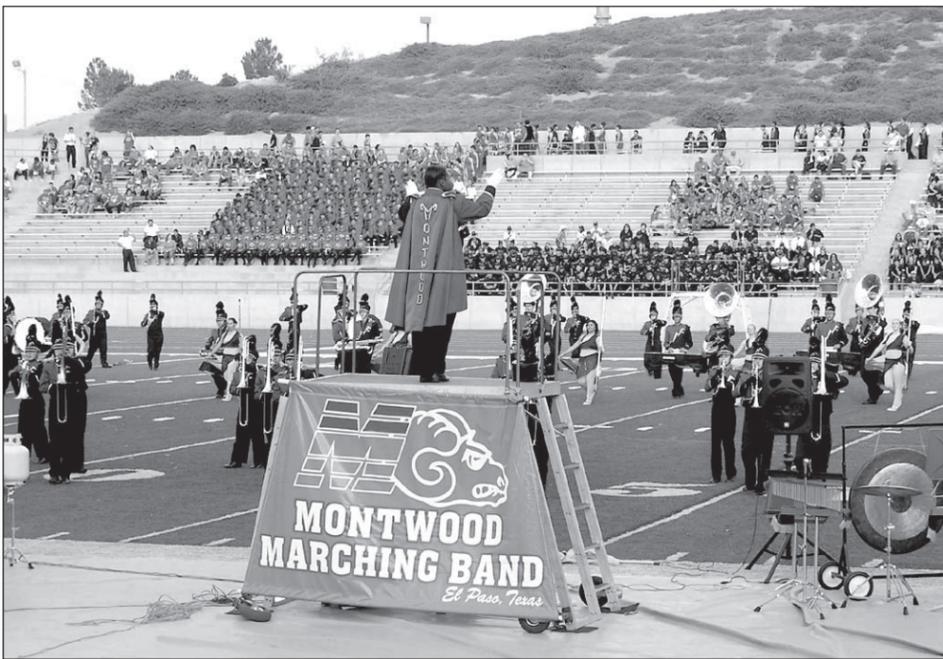
■ The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Canutillo Independent School District a total of \$993,819 over a three year period in federal funds through the Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse Program to fund the Canutillo Alcohol Reduction Program (CARP), which is designed to create a comprehensive effort utilizing grade specific model programs and curricula including effective partners and mentors, professional motivational speakers, after-school and summer programs, and parenting workshops. The program's effectiveness will be measured by increased age of onset of alcohol use; decreased frequency of alcohol use; decreased frequency of binge drinking; and increased perception of disapproval of use by peers and adults. Margarita Armendariz, director of student/community services for CISD, will oversee the grant.

■ The Far West Texas Classic Cross Country meet will be held on Saturday,

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Discretion is something that comes to people after they're too old for it to do them any good.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

A HAPPY NOTE — Drum major Nicole Harris leads the Montwood band performance at MarchFest. The Montwood band earned a superior rating at the competition.

High school marching bands get a good warm up at Socorro ISD and UTEP's MarchFest

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Over 3,500 people filled the Socorro Student Activities Complex on Saturday, Oct. 1, to experience the bright flag colors, symphonic melodies, beautiful stages and detailed formations of 23 marching bands performing at MarchFest. The event, organized by SISD and UTEP, included high school bands from El Paso and New

Mexico.

MarchFest is the first area invitational band competition of the year. The first UIL competition, scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 18, will also be at the Socorro ISD SAC. This year bands from 1A, 2A and 4A schools that earn a superior rating will advance to the area competition in Lubbock, Texas on Oct. 29.

"MarchFest is a really good warm-up exercise for UIL competition," says Laura Damez,

See BANDS, Page 5

Lessons from Grandma include important safety advice

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Sure, Mary Sanders might be a loving, baking, doting grandmother to her grandchildren at home, but when she stood in front of the students at Alarcón Elementary school in San Elizario on Sept. 27 she was one tough cookie.

"My name is Grandma Mary and I came to talk to you about keeping you safe, is that okay?" she began and a gymnasium full of students sat at attention.

For the second year in a row, Sanders brought her "Grandma Mary's Stranger Danger Program" to San Elizario, a program that teaches kids and their parents important safety lessons that are practical to use in today's world. Already in its 10th year, the Stranger Danger Program is part of the El Paso Police Department's Volunteer Program, yet is financed mostly through Sanders and, more recently, donations from local business such as KVIA Channel 7, Price's Creameries, Wal-Mart, the Kiwanis Club and, of course, local schools such as Alarcón Elementary.

The program started out geared to pre-kindergarten, kinder, and first grades, Sanders says, but soon found a need to develop her program for

older kid's too.

"The principals started saying that we needed something to get through to older kids," she said.

While Alarcón students were busy hearing from Grandma Mary, parents and other adults in the audience were browsing through Sanders' "A Parent's Guide to Child Safety," which gives safety lessons and facts that every parent should know in order to protect their children.

For example, good people and bad people look the same, according to brochure. "The

See LESSONS, Page 3



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION — Mary Sanders, right, and her helper, Dorothy Rasmussen, were in San Elizario to share important safety tips to students at Alarcón Elementary.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

THE GRADUATES ARE... — Raul and Celia Holguin were two of the 57 graduates to receive their GED certificate on Sept. 21 through Socorro ISD's Community Services Adult Learning Center.

Nearly 60 adults graduate through Socorro ISD's GED program

By Jan Engels
Special to the Courier

MISSION VALLEY — Socorro ISD's Community Services Adult Learning Center held their 12th Annual GED graduation Ceremony on Sept. 21 at the Socorro High School Auditorium. The 57 graduates — from all walks of life and ranging in ages from 21 to 71 — received their certificates.

Several students earned their diplomas while their children were also attending classes in SISD schools, thus they served as role models to each other. Many students attended evening classes while holding full time jobs. In addition, two married couples graduated together.

Raul and Celia Holguin were one of those couples. Mrs. Holguin says they decided to take advantage of the Socorro ISD's GED program to improve their lives.

"It took us eight months to complete the program," she says. "But it was well worth it. Receiving our certificate was so satisfying, especially with our family there congratulating us. Everyone should take advantage of the program."

Community Services receives funding for these classes from the Adult Basic Education grant, and the *El Paso Families: Together and Safe* grant. Socorro ISD supports these classes by providing the rooms and materials.

Miguel Cervantes, a Criminal Attorney from El Paso, was the guest speaker. His message was very clear.

"We all have choices in life, a short road and a long road," he told the graduates. "It is harder to take the long road but that choice reaps greater rewards."

Martha Serna, SISD Community Services director, says she is glad Socorro ISD supports the GED program.

"The support we get from our District is indicative of the commitment that SISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón places on promoting life long learners in our school community," says Community Services director Martha Serna.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

House full of women

It's not just because I am heads and find a quieter place to be. It runs in the family. Shouts of laughter have always been a part of family reunions, especially when all my great aunts used to get together.

Most of my female ancestors I've been blessed to know personally have been headstrong but honest, contrary but capable and absolutely dedicated to those given into their care. The ones who have passed from this life have been deeply mourned. May I be so fortunate as to leave behind the same legacy.

I'm watching my daughters grow with a sense of awe. They are funny, strong, smart and pretty. I don't see them as outgrowths of myself but as wonderful people it has been my great privilege to know, love and guide as best my inadequacies will allow. I deeply enjoy their successes, sympathize in their pain when they bomb, and strive to help them understand that no one has failed unless they give up and quit. I want them to know that peace and happiness lies not in what somebody else thinks of you but in what you think of yourself.

Being in a house full of women has its drawbacks, of course. Just ask any man who lives in one. On the other hand, it is at least as pleasant as living in a house full of men. And, in most cases, cleaner.

There are a lot of stereotypes stamped on women that, in general, may be true. One of these is that women just aren't capable of taking care of themselves and their thinking is somehow flawed when it comes to practical matters. While I won't argue the point, I will simply say that necessity is the mother of invention. When called upon to do so there aren't too many practical

problems I can't present to my house full of daughters to which they don't come up with a more than adequate solution. The bigger the problem, the more practical the response. It may not be the same as would come from a male mind, but it'll get 'er done.

Another stereotype is that all women are overly emotional. Probably. I readily admit my household is. At any given moment we've got about as many different emotions going as we have women. And it's not like we aren't striving to hold it

down, either. If we didn't, the roof might come off. Still, I don't see what this has to do with the overall survival of the human species other than it tends to make our male counterparts uncomfortable.

A close male relative — you know who you are — recently described a female's "inner woman" as the one a man never wants to meet. He said she is both frightening and tiresome.

Hmm. Sounds a little like an outer man.

But the one stereotype I would like

most to debunk is that women are not capable of laughing at themselves. I don't know about other families, but I learned real early that the women in my family have found themselves to be a rich source of humor material. I can still laugh out loud thinking about some of the stories my female relatives — including my daughters — have related to me. But I won't repeat them.

We greatly enjoy laughing at ourselves, we just don't want anybody else to.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Medicaid alert

Hola, mi gente. I have some very vital information regarding what is

being called The Medicaid Estate Recovery Program (MERP). Under MERP, if you were 55 or older after March 1, 2005 and accessed such services as long-term care, prescription drugs, and other health programs covered by Medicaid, then you might wind up losing your home or your estate.

MERP came about because every state is federally mandated to implement the program. In Texas, the Health and Human Services Commission is the state Medicaid agency, and the Department of Aging and Disability Services is the implementation group for MERP. The money collected by the state under this program will be used to fund Medicaid long-term care services, including community-based care and institutional care.

To answer some of your questions, I have planned a Medicaid Alert Meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2005 at Mountain View High school, 14964 Gregg Drive, in East Montana. The meeting, which is being co-sponsored by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, will be held in the cafeteria

from 6 to 8 p.m. A second meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2005 at Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda Avenue, in the Band Room from 6 to 8 p.m.

In a nutshell, what MERP purports to do is to file a claim against the estate of a deceased Medicaid recipient, age 55 and older, who applied for certain long-term care services on or after March 1, 2005. Claims include the cost of services, hospital care, and prescription drugs supported by Medicaid under various programs.

For example, you might be liable to the state if you applied for Medicaid services after March 1, 2005. Some of those services include nursing facilities; intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation — this includes state schools; community living assistance and support services; deaf-blind with multiple disabilities waiver; home and community-based services; Texas Home Living program; consolidated waiver programs; community-based alternatives, which includes Star Plus services, and community attendant services.

Of course, MERP will not try to collect from you if your estate is valued at \$10,000 or less, if the recoverable amount of Medicaid costs is

\$3,000 or less, or if the cost of the sale of the property would be equal to or greater than the value of the property. Additionally, MERP will leave you alone if you meet the following conditions:

- There is a surviving spouse;
- There is a surviving child or children under 21 years of age;
- There is a surviving child or children of any age who are blind or permanently and totally disabled under Social Security requirements;
- There is an unmarried adult child residing continuously in the Medicaid recipient's homestead for at least one year before the time of the Medicaid recipient's death.

Under these rules, a person may apply for a undue hardship waiver if the meet the following conditions:

- The estate property is a family business, farm, or ranch; is the primary income producing asset of the heirs; produces at least 50 percent of the livelihood for heirs for at least 12 months prior to the death of the Medicaid recipient, and recovery by the state would affect the property and result in heirs losing their primary source of income;
- Beneficiaries of the estate will be eligible for public or medical assistance if recovery claim is collected;
- Allowing one or more heirs to

See CHENTE, Page 3

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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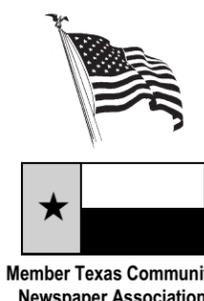
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ADDRESS:
14200 Ashford
Horizon City, TX 79928

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum
Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard • Jan Engels

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Drugs and the border

Due to El Paso's geographic location on the U.S.-Mexico border, our community is unfortunately well aware of the dangers of drug abuse and drug trafficking. Recently, Newsweek magazine profiled a "new" drug — methamphetamine or "meth" — that is ravaging many cities and has drawn national exposure highlighting the horrors of its addiction.

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office has reported that their Metro Narcotics Task Force has confiscated over 4350 grams of meth over the past year, and I am working in Congress to protect our community from this dangerous substance.

I have long been a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, known as the "Meth Caucus," a bipartisan organization of over 100 Members of Congress focused on the growing nationwide problems and dangers with the abuse and production of

meth. We work together to create strong public policies related to meth manufacturing, distribution, and use. We recently held a roundtable discussion with representatives from numerous federal agencies — the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Federal funding to help local law enforcement identify and disband drug networks is an important tool in the fight against meth. However, in their fiscal year 2006 budget request, the Bush Administration suggested the reduction or elimination of several anti-drug/law enforcement programs including the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program and the Edward Byrne Discretionary Grant program, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs, and funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

(HIDTA). The West Texas Region of the Southwest Border HIDTA alone must try to dismantle drug trafficking organizations over a stretch of 490 miles of international border, including five of the busiest ports of entry we have nationwide.

Along with my colleagues in the Meth Caucus and other members of the House of Representatives, we worked across party aisles to restore these programs in the 2006 funding bill we recently passed in Congress. We provided \$60 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, \$110 million for Byrne Discretionary Grant program, \$118 million for the COPS program, and \$9 million for the HIDTA program. The Senate has yet to pass their version of the bill, but we will work closely with them in conference to ensure these programs receive this necessary funding.

Drug abuse, trafficking, and violence are dangerous problems that

See REYES, Page 3

Anthony Middle School teacher receives Crawford Kids Campaign Award

By John R. Carrillo
Special to the Courier

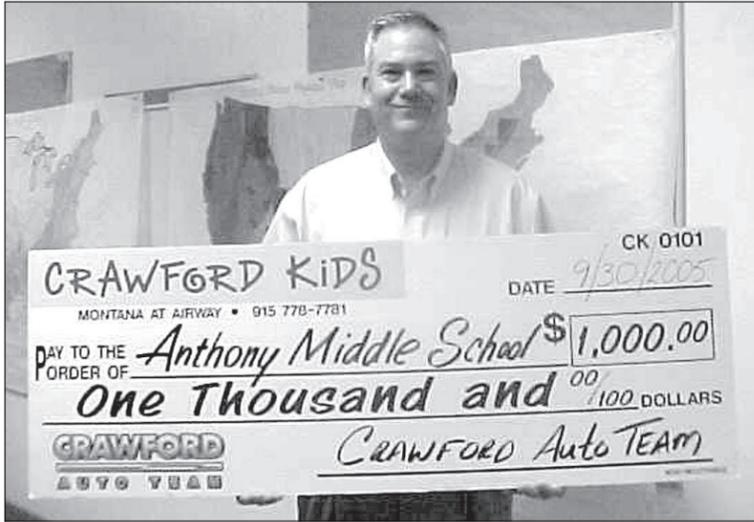
UPPER VALLEY — Anthony Middle School instructor David Price was recently presented with a check for \$1000 from the Crawford Kids Campaign. Price is the latest recipient of this initiative designed to motivate students one classroom at a time. The cash award will be used to promote technology and science in the classroom through robotics. The award will allow his students to receive a robotics kit which will be built throughout the school year.

Price is an 8th grade technology teacher who teaches a robotics class as a means to impart critical thinking skills to his students. "I particularly enjoy watching them build their kits and then seeing them figure out a problem when it doesn't work properly," Price commented. The kits include robotic arms and cars which

interface directly with classroom computers. Thus, students are also exposed to computer programming.

The Crawford Kids Campaign is a program initiated by KDBC-TV and

the Crawford Auto Team. The award is provided to schools based on need and those programs which keep students excited about learning and on the path to college.



— Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

BIG CHECK — David Price will use the funds to purchase a robotics kit for his students to build during the school year.

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

The new chief on the court

With all of the media attention surrounding the nomination of Judge John Roberts to the Supreme Court, most people feel like mini-experts on the Judge. Yet many individuals still may be asking, who is John Roberts the man and what is his life story?

Roberts was born in Buffalo, New York on Jan. 27, 1955. He has three sisters and is the second-eldest. His father worked as an executive in a steel company. When he was in grade school, his family moved to Indiana. He attended a small private high school in Indiana where he was very active in sports, student government, newspaper, choir and drama. He also studied six years of Latin and ended up graduating first in his class. He truly was a jack of all trades.

After high school, Roberts decided to attend Harvard and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in just three years, graduating summa cum laude. He went on to obtain his law degree from Harvard as well, where he graduated magna cum laude. There he worked as an editor for the

Harvard Law Review.

Life after college bore success after success for Roberts. He has served as a judge and a lawyer, as well as a husband and a father. He worked as a public attorney, serving in the position of Deputy Solicitor General, where he argued and won many cases for the United States before the Supreme Court. Roberts has also worked on and off as a private attorney for Hogan & Hartson, where he ultimately became a partner. He most recently served as a judge for the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, a position that the President of the United States had to appoint him to and the Senate had to confirm. Too say the least, Judge Roberts has had years of experience and success with the law in both the private and public sectors. Law is a subject of true passion for Roberts.

John Roberts is an equally passionate husband and father. He is married to Jane Marie Sullivan, also a lawyer, and they live in Bethesda,

Maryland.

The couple was not able to conceive so in 2000 they adopted two children, Josephine and Jack. You may remember seeing Jack dancing to the delight of the international media when President George W. Bush formally introduced Judge Roberts as his nominee.

Now that Judge Roberts has been formally approved by the U.S. Senate he will go on to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The title of Supreme Court Justice is a life-time appointment. During his life he will review approximately 7,000 cases each year, although only 70 to 90 cases receive formal written opinions. Roberts has a whole lot of law ahead of him, especially since he is the second youngest Chief Justice in U.S. History.

It's my honor to congratulate Judge Roberts and thank him in advance for his service.



Lessons

From Page 1

only way to tell them apart is to judge them by their actions. So we tell the children that bad people will try to take them away without their parents' permission — the

good person will help a child who is in danger by stepping in when the child shows signs of stress, but they will never take the child away without parents' permission," Sanders writes.

Important safety rules that children should know:

- Never talk to strangers.
- Never get in a stranger's car.

- Never walk away with a stranger.
- Never take candy, money, or presents from a stranger.
- Never open the door to let a stranger into your home.
- Never tell anyone on the telephone you are home alone.
- Never go anywhere, with anybody at any time, without your parent's permission.

Chente

From Page 2

receive the estate enables them to discontinue eligibility for public or medical assistance;

- The Medicaid recipient received

medical assistance as the result of being a crime victim;

• The value assessed by the tax appraisal district is less than \$100,000 and the heirs have gross family income below 300 percent of the Federal poverty level, and other compelling reasons exist.

MERP is a tough program that

might impact on your family's future well being. You need to be informed. Please come to one of the two meetings. If, however, you want to learn more about MERP before the meetings, call me at 915-859-3111. Both meetings will be held in English and in Spanish. I remain your friend and public servant, Chente for la Gente.

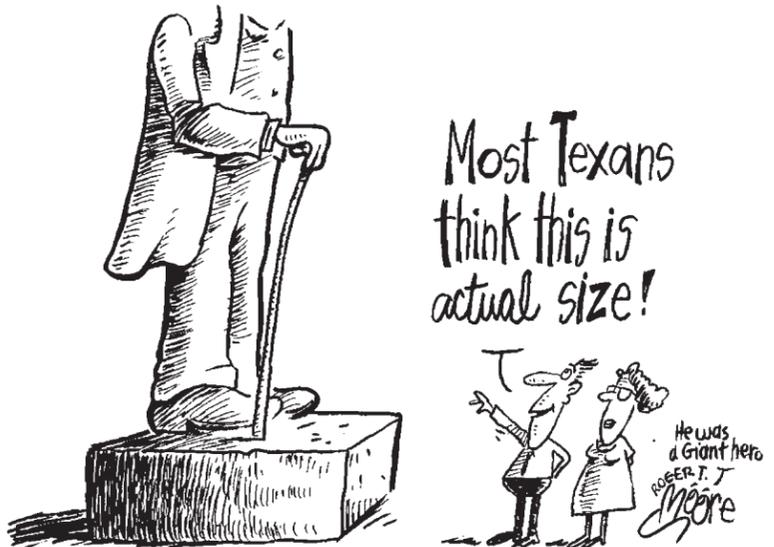
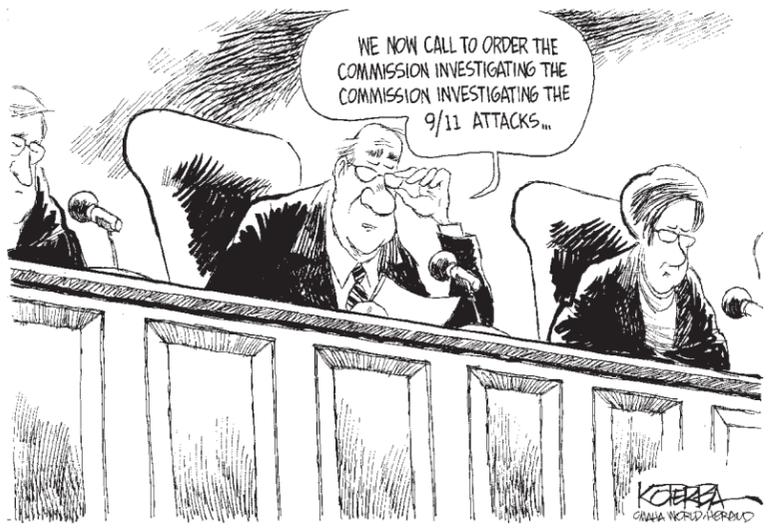
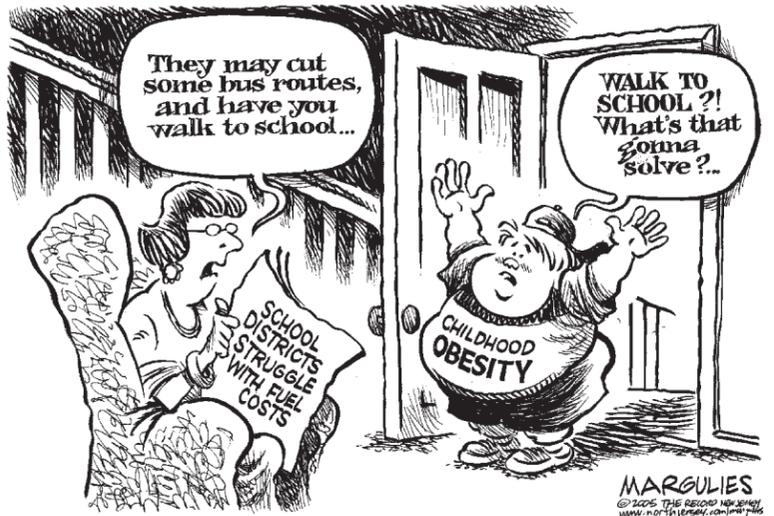
Reyes

From Page 2

can affect all aspects of life. As a

former Border Patrol agent, I saw the affects of drugs firsthand, and know that we need to work together to keep drugs out of our society. The Meth Caucus plays an important role in

applying pressure to Congress and Administration officials to ensure that local law enforcement have the funding and support they need to help us fight the war on drugs.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore, The world's LARGEST statue of an American hero is Sam Houston's likeness displayed in Huntsville, Texas. It is 67 feet tall.

SISD Board of Trustees appoint new member to fill vacant seat

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The vacancy on the Socorro ISD Board

of Trustees was officially filled on Tuesday, Sept. 20 when Karen P. Blaine took the oath to fill the District 2 seat. Blaine will hold the seat until the next board election in May OF 2006.

Blaine is a graduate of Socorro High School and the United States Air Force Academy. She served with distinction on active duty in the U.S. Air Force for five years prior to returning to El Paso to pursue a career in education. She is a former SISD teacher who taught at Socorro Middle School, Sun Ridge Middle School and Americas High School. She also served as El Dorado High School's first tech pilot.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

SWORN IN — Karen P. Blaine

"I attended Socorro schools from second through 12th grade and I taught in the district for seven years," she says. "Socorro ISD is a great district and I would like to use my experience and abilities to help the district continue to improve and offer our students the best opportunities for learning."

Blaine currently works for the Education Service Center in Region 19 as grant writer who works to obtain funding for educational programs, technology and research for the entire region.

"My goals are to work productively with the other board members and the superintendent to increase opportunities for student success, and keep the parents and other members of the community informed about local, state, and national policies that affect our children," she says. "I want to be proactive in planning for the tremendous growth in our district."

Prior to her appointment to the SISD Board of Trustees, Blaine was an active volunteer in the district. She assisted with various school activities, tutored at-risk students and mentored former students.

"I am looking forward to making sure students' voices are heard and considered in the decisions made by the board," she says.

Public Notice

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The October 20 and 23, 2005 issues will go to press on Tuesday, October 27, 2005.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Tuesday, October 11, 2005.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Thursday, October 13, 2005. The office will open again on Monday, October 31, 2005.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Town of Anthony, Texas

AMENDMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROJECT

TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CONTRACT #724029

The Town of Anthony is considering a proposed amendment of the approved Texas Community Development Program Contract #724029 between the Town of Anthony and the Office of Rural Community Affairs. The amendment is proposed for the purpose of amending the scope of the sanitary sewer system improvements being carried out under this contract.

A public hearing concerning the proposed amendment has been scheduled. All residents of Anthony are encouraged to attend this meeting and voice their opinions concerning the amendment of this contract. The discussion will include details regarding location, general costs, project benefit, and any impact on the Low to Moderate Income residents of the community.

Date and Time: Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2005, at 5:00 p.m.
Location: Anthony Town Hall

The Town of Anthony has a Citizen Participation Plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation at all stages of the Community Development Program; copies are available upon request. Individuals unable to attend this public hearing may submit their views at the Anthony Town Hall during regular hours.

Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available. Those in need of special assistance for attending this hearing are encouraged to contact the Anthony Town Clerk at (915) 886-3944.

El publico en general esta invitado a asistir a esta audiencia. La presentacion y la discusion del Programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad se haran en espanol para aquellas personas que asi las deseen.

Fecha y hora: martes, el 11 de octubre, 2005, a las 5:00 p.m.

Lugar: Anthony Town Hall

Art Franco, Mayor
Town of Anthony, Texas

Date Published:
October 6, 2005

Lifelong Horizonites moving to new home

HORIZON — Michelle A. Farley, a lifelong resident of Horizon City, along with her 10-year-old daughter, Annie Irwin, are moving to Alamogordo, New Mexico where Michelle has accepted a position with New Mexico State University-Alamogordo as Coordinator of Instructional Technology. Michelle is a graduate student enrolled at New Mexico State University-Las Cruces working towards a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction-Educational Learning Technologies. She was recently



awarded a PEO International Continuing Education Scholarship and is on the National Chancellor's List as well as a member of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She currently holds an Associates of Applied Science in Fire Technology-Fire Management and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics. She is currently an online instructor for Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell in the fire protection technology division. She leaves behind 10 years of service with the El Paso County E.S.D #1 and a position

on the Fire Technology Advisory Committee for both El Paso Community College and ENMU-R. Michelle has attended the National Fire Academy twice and is a member of many fire-related and education and technology associations and other community organizations. Her daughter, Annie, is a 5th grader at John O. Ensor Middle School, is a member of Girl Scout Chapter #224 and the Ensor Band where she plays the oboe, and is a dancer and horsewoman. They both attend St. Brendan's Episcopal Church. They are sorry to leave Horizon and the many wonderful friends and experiences here, but look forward to news ones in their new home.

Briefs

From Page 1

Oct. 8, at the SISD SAC beginning at 9 a.m. The meet will include 22 high schools with six divisions, with about 60 runners per division. Information: 937-0280.

■ Salvador H. Sanchez Middle School is developing an after school tutoring program and is looking to hire five college students to help students with homework and TAKS preparation. Applicants must have 45 credit hours and good knowledge of core area subjects, specifically Algebra, Pre-Algebra, English, Grammar, The Writing Process, Science, Social Studies and Reading. Tutors will work 12 hours per week from 2-5 p.m. and will earn \$8 per hour. Applicants must have a resume, a letter of recommendation and a copy of an unofficial transcript to show proof of 48 college credit hours and grade point average. Applicants should call assistant principal Elizabeth Maldonado at 937-5204 to schedule an interview.

■ Campestre Elementary, 11399 Socorro Rd., is hosting several activities specifically geared for parents. On Tuesday, Oct. 11, curriculum coach Laura Juarez will be conducting a math workshop for parents of children who are in Kindergarten through 5th grade from 9-10 a.m. The workshop titled *Helping Your Child Learn Mathematics* will teach parents

hands-on activities they can use at home to strengthen their children's mathematical skills. On Wednesday, Oct. 12, Juarez and science teacher Shelly Hurley will host Science Parent Night from 5-6 p.m. Parents who have children in 3rd through 5th grade will receive information about the science fair, including science fair ideas, scientific process and effective research questions. On Wednesday, Oct. 19, parents are invited to parent/teacher conferences from 5-7 p.m.

■ National 4-H Week will see El Paso County youth in the Mission Trail Harvest Market event "Taste of 4-H" which will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Speaking Rock parking lot. For information contact Jim Rodgers at 859-7725, ext. 237.

■ The federal government has awarded \$740,224 in grants to the El Paso community, according to Congressman Silvestre Reyes.

• The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded \$484,816 to UTEP for the community-based research project "Can Promotoras Change Clinical Outcomes for Chronic Diseases in El Paso, Texas," in which community health workers identify and suggest possible solutions to local health concerns.

• The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded \$153,523 to the El Paso Center for Children, Inc to serve runaway and homeless youth.

• The Department of Education has awarded \$101,885 to El Paso Community College (EPCC) for

their Childcare Program, which provides on-campus and off-campus childcare for EPCC students.

• The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded UTEP a \$234,650 grant for a research project entitled: "Nitroarene-Dependent Nitration of Neural Proteins as a Mechanism of Toxicity."

• The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso a \$50,000 grant through the federal Compassion Capital Fund Targeted Capacity Building Program.

• The Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded three grants to Project Bravo through the federal Housing Counseling Program, which offers counseling services on homelessness, buying or renting a home, and mortgage delinquency. They include:

- \$49,909 for comprehensive services
- \$34,438 for counseling on predatory lending
- \$30,409 for counseling for colonias residents

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso a \$76,405 Housing Choice Voucher-Family Self Sufficiency (HCV-FSS) grant which provides funds to pay the salaries of HCV-FSS program coordinators and homeownership program coordinators which link program participants with the training and support services needed to achieve self-sufficiency.

Canutillo ISD students demonstrated character of caring in effort

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Carnivals and wipies may seem an odd combination but they worked well as Canutillo Independent School District elementary school students, faculty, and staff did their part in helping the recent hurricane victims.

Canutillo Elementary School held two events to aid in the hurricane Katrina relief fund recently. The campus collected cleansing wipes for babies and bottled water on their "Water-Wipey Wednesday" and its "CES-We Do It Big Carnival-Help Now Fund," which was a carnival to raise funds for the relief. The carnival included games and activities along with the selling of various food

items. Contributions purchased items needed for the disaster victims that stayed at the convention center in El Paso, according to the physical education coaches at CES, who sponsored the relief effort.

Bill Childress Elementary School raised funds to give to the American Red Cross on behalf of the New Orleans Relief Fund. The students challenged each other to see which grade level would bring in the most donations. The class that collected the most money received a pizza party from the Parent/Teachers Organization (PTO). BCE students raised a total of \$1,501.03.

Jose H. Damian Elementary held a canned-food drive and all goods collected were given to the Salvation Army for delivery to the devastated families.

Deanna Davenport Elementary students, staff, and faculty also collected funds by placing a five gallon water bottle in the office, so that anyone who wished to donate money for the hurricane relief effort could do so by dropping coins or bills into the jar. The proceeds from the jar will be sent to the American Red Cross.

"We here at DDE sought a way to express one of our Pillars of Character: Caring in light of the havoc brought upon our fellow citizens by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf region, as well as upon the people of our sister city, New Orleans," said Hermes Forbes, sixth grade teacher at DDE. "All of us have contributed to the welfare of our fellow citizens via demonstrated love, care, concern and a small vehicle called funds," he added.

Bands

From Page 1

Americas High band drum major. "It really gets us going and makes us work hard."



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

AN EYE TO ADVANCE — The Socorro High School band earned an excellent rating at the MarchFest competition.

According to Nellie Ponikvar, local schools. According to Naomi SISD director of Fine Arts, Barrera, Socorro band drum major, the overall event really pumps up band members.

MarchFest also provides some unique technological training tools for band directors. At other marching contests, bands get a video of their performance and a cassette tape recording of the judges' comments. "The problem is that you have to try to match up what the judge is saying to what you are seeing on the video tape," she says. "In MarchFest, with the help of Socorro High School's video tech students, our bands get five videos, one for each of the

judges."

The judge is in constant communication with the video tech student. So the video tech student shoots specifically what the judge is critiquing.

"The band directors can see exactly what the judges are commenting on," Ponikvar says. "It's matched in real time for them, an invaluable teaching tool in preparation for UIL competition."

UTEP brings their band to perform at the end of the competition, showing the high school bands what they have to look forward to at the collegiate level.

"Their performance at MarchFest has really helped with UTEP recruiting," Ponikvar says. "MarchFest has a very captive audience. A lot of people who don't normally go to Miner football games get to see one of the UTEP band's finest performances."

This year the UTEP marching band had 70 additional members they did not anticipate. About 80 percent of those were from

local schools. According to Naomi SISD director of Fine Arts, Barrera, Socorro band drum major, the overall event really pumps up band members.

"MarchFest gives us a chance to see what everyone has been working on," she says. "It gives us a very different environment from football games. It's neat that people are here to see us. So we want to give them a good show."

Socorro ISD high schools had great performances at MarchFest. Americas, Montwood and El Dorado received a superior rating. Socorro High earned an excellent rating.

"It went great," says Nicole Harris, Montwood band drum major. "Our tempos and marching were good. I have to say it was one of our best performances of the year."

Lettonich

From Page 6

senior, says that since this is her last year, she can spend it playing with her sisters competing in a sport that they all love.

Aside from playing volleyball, Nikki and Jolene also participate in basketball and golf, while Lauren plays tennis year round. Volleyball coach Rose Guedea says that these girls have developed a positive attitude on the team and seems this gives her team the edge for the present as well as the upcoming years. The Lettonich trio have talent and attitude and are hard, dedicated workers who take pride in what they accomplish, she said. Nikki is a born leader, while Lauren is dependable, and Jolene is a strong hitter and blocker, she

added. All three play the front line at the same time.

When the girls were asked to describe each other they agreed that Nikki is the optimist, Lauren is the social butterfly, and Jolene is the outspoken one. The volleyball team at Fabens seems to have taken a turn that shows better attitude, hustle, enthusiasm and new life since the two younger Lettonich sisters were added to the team. Their goal now is to try and make the playoffs instead of just competing.

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Canutillo Independent School District SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Canutillo Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified disabled children who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

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

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

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

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Priscilla Caballero, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, (915) 877-7450.

El Distrito Escolar de Canutillo SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL

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

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

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

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

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña deshabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Canutillo que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Priscilla Caballero, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, (915) 877-7450.

Miners need to play four quarters, finish drives

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Maybe it was because that they were coming off an emotional victory over the New Mexico Lobos the week before and suffered a letdown.

Maybe it was the fact that Memphis had lost its top two quarterbacks to injury and a tiny bit of overconfidence set in.

Or maybe it was the fact that the Miners, who have struggled in all four games this season, aren't quite the team we all hoped they would be.

Last week's game against Memphis brought back memories of years gone by. Memories of the games of my youth when Miner teams didn't stand a chance of even being competitive with most of their opponents.

And though we were competitive this time, we really stunk!

Exactly how bad were the Miners? Let me count the ways. There were so many bad decisions — passes that should not have been thrown, bad tackling, bad blocking, poor execution, bad play calling, too many penalties and way too many turnovers.

And for the first time I saw something missing in a Mike Price coached UTEP football team — heart. I didn't see the emotion or the grit or the mental toughness or the poise or the leadership I've come to take for granted.

Maybe it was just the fact that Memphis, with all that adversity staring them in the face, played over their heads. Or maybe it was just the fact that the Miners coughed up the ball six times and Memphis didn't lose it once.

There have been some dangerous patterns developing on this team.

The Miners can move the ball up and down the field, between the twenties. But once they get inside the red — I mean, orange — zone

they act more like a David Lee coached team.

UTEP is also having a lot of trouble running the football, and if Jordan Palmer is going to put the ball up over 50 times a game, the Miners are in big trouble.

And another thing, will someone please tell Palmer that it's better to throw the ball away than throwing it in the middle of coverage, against his body, off his back foot?

The Miners are off this week and have two weeks to think about the Memphis loss and the fact that they should have scored three or four more touchdowns in the game had they just held on to the football.

It's not so much that the Miners lost. It was inevitable that they would lose a game or two this season, but it's the way they lost.

All I kept thinking about was ESPN's Chris "Boomer" Berman yelling his patented "rumblin' bumblin' stumblin'" as the Miners looked more like first-timers on the ice instead of seasoned football players.

Well, the season is still young and the Miners still have time to make some noise in the conference and even nationally. But they've played eight very bad quarters of football out of 16 this year, and that will never cut it.

C'mon, Jason Boyd, let's go, Tyler Ebell, heads up, Jordan Palmer, get going, Thomas Howard, it's time to start the season over and re-dedicate yourselves.

After all, last year's team was sensational — and they lost four games!

Playoff time

The baseball playoffs are here and it's time to choose some winners.

But please remember, these are unofficial — don't forget I picked the Yankees to beat the Red Sox in six games last year.

Let's go to the American League where those Yankees will take on the California, ah, I mean Anaheim, ah, pardon me — Los Angeles An-

gels of Anaheim.

First of all, I'm picking the Yankees just because of the Angels' stupid name.

Then I'm picking the Red Sox to take out the White Sox, who are just happy someone applied the Heimlich in time.

The Yankees will turn the tables on the BoSox this year and start year one of Boston's new A-Rod jinx.

In the National League the Houston Astros have way too much pitching for the Atlanta Braves.

In my upset special, just because weird things happen sometimes, the San Diego Padres will

upset the St. Louis Cardinals. Why pick the Padres over the Cards? I have no idea — but you heard it here first.

San Diego's luck will run out against Houston's surprising all-pitch no-hit Astros.

This brings us to the World Series, the New York Yankees against the Houston Astros.

Will Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte get the last laugh against the Yankees? When you toss in Roy Oswalt and closer Brad Lidge, it's inevitable.

The Astros will beat the Yankees in six games.

Okay, you can all go bet the farm now.

Lettunich legacy strikes Fabens

By Vivian Manzano
Special to the Courier

FABENS — A bit of history is being made Fabens High School by the Lettunich sisters. According to Robert Sepulveda, school principal and former student here, this is the first time to his recollection that three sisters are playing on the Fabens Varsity Volleyball team all at the same time.

Nikki, who is a senior, has been playing Varsity ball for the last three years. Lauren, a sophomore, just moved up from the Jr. Varsity, and Jolene, a freshman, was also recently moved up from the freshman team.

Jolene, 15, is very excited since this is her first year in high school. She said this is an opportunity to have closer ties with her sis-



— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

THE LETTUNICH SISTERS— Nikki, Lauren and Jolene.

ters. Lauren, 16, likes the idea of them playing together because she knows that she can always count on her siblings for their comfort and support. Nikki, the 18 year old

See LETTUNICH, Page 5

Classified Ads

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

(Larry Otten, TX Lic. #6482)

Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Amigo Self-Storage, 761 Sparks Circle, Socorro, Texas at 4 p.m. on Oct. 25, 2005. Property includes the contents of the following tenants:

- Annette Juarez: Sofas, refrigerator, end tables, miscellaneous household goods
 - Juan Moreno: Lawn mower, grill, portable pool, camping gear, miscellaneous household goods
 - Bertha Aguilar: Sofas, refrigerator, bookshelf, miscellaneous household goods
- WTCC-10/6/05

PUBLIC MEETING

FY 2006/2007 Solid Waste Grants Program

A public meeting will be held by the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) regarding the Solid Waste Management Grants program for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. An estimated total of \$226,000 will be available in FY 2006 and \$223,000 will be available in FY 2007 to local governments in each of the next two years for projects in the following categories:

- Local Law Enforcement to Curb Illegal Dumping
- Community and Workplace Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Household Hazardous Waste Man-

agement

- Litter and Illegal Dumping Cleanup
- Citizens Collection Stations and "Small" Registered Transfer Stations
- Community Collection Events
- Technical Studies
- Educational and Training Projects

Grant-funded activities must be conducted in a way that will not create unfair competition with the private sector. Activities must generally support solid waste management options other than basic collection and land disposal. Activities must be in accordance with the Municipal Solid Waste Plan for Far West Texas and the Solid Waste Management Plan for Texas. Grant-funded activities must help to implement the regional solid waste management plan, and show measurable results.

RGCOG staff will explain the goals and objectives of the regional plan, the recommended grant categories, the availability of grant funding to local governments, and the process for considering private industry concerns regarding particular projects. Public

comment is invited regarding the recommended priorities for funding and the proposed funding plan. Questions or comments regarding eligible activities, proposal review procedures, and private industry concerns will also be welcomed.

Meeting location, date, and time are as follows:

Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. (CST) at the Van Horn Convention Center, 1801 West Broadway, Van Horn, Texas

Persons unable to attend the meeting are invited to submit written comments to the Rio Grande Council of Governments, Attention: Evaristo A. Cruz, 1100 North Stanton Street, Suite 610, El Paso, Texas 79902, or fax their comments to: (915) 532-9385.

WTCC: 10/06/05

GARAGE SALES

MOVING SALE: Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7-8. Tools, movies, audio books, clothes, furniture, household items, dishes,

shelves, ladder, etc. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No early birds. 3611 Buxton in Horizon City.

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

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AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Buyers beware!

By Don Flood

Today's question is: "I would like to start a collection of flatware containing traces of celebrity saliva, such as Matt Damon's. What do you recommend?" — A Loyal Reader.

An excellent and timely question, Loyal Reader, because — by an amazing coincidence — a fork, reportedly once used by Mr. Damon himself, has appeared on eBay.

According to the real-life posting on eBay, "His DNA is on it (too bad we can't clone yet!). This is a rare opportunity; Matt had the fork in his mouth!!!!"

As if this weren't enough to get your collector's heart racing, the site also offers a puff pastry nibbled on by Matt Damon!

So if you snooze, you lose, right? If you want it, go for it!

Sorry, but that may not be the best course for a new collector, even when an obviously gold-standard celebrity item such as this one comes up for auction.

What makes this particular fork so valuable is that 1) the fork hasn't been washed, and 2) the seller has a pay stub showing he once worked on the set of a Matt Damon movie. (Really.)

Needless to say, that's the kind of proof collectors dream about.

Because authenticity is all-important. Here's why. Let's say you were to buy this fork and loan it to the Smithsonian Institution, which specializes in all sorts of flatware containing celebrity spit.

From all over the world, record crowds line up to see your fork, and you revel in the public acclamation that accompanies your display of civic mindedness.

Life is good. But one day that one special jewel, the Holy Grail of your

collector's ambition, becomes available: a Q-tip containing the actual earwax of Brad Pitt.

You are willing to sell everything you own to possess this one great prize, but only one item will raise the necessary cash: the Matt Damon fork.

Secure in your faith in its authenticity, you post it for sale. Surely it will yield a great profit, but suddenly a potential buyer, following up an old rumor, demands proof that the fork does indeed contain traces of Damon's saliva.

Unconcerned, you agree to testing, only to discover, to your immense public humiliation, that it's not Matt Damon's saliva at all.

Even worse, further testing reveals the saliva belonged to Ben Affleck!

In one fell swoop, you have lost your Matt Damon fork and your dream of owning the Brad Pitt Q-tip.

Life is bad. (Your depression only deepens when you hear that this is the actual Q-tip that caused the breakup of the Brad Pitt-Jennifer Aniston marriage. After repeatedly telling Brad not to leave his dirty Q-tips lying around the sink, Jennifer reportedly found this one — the fourth in five days — and snapped, making this the most valuable cultural artifact in the history of the world.)

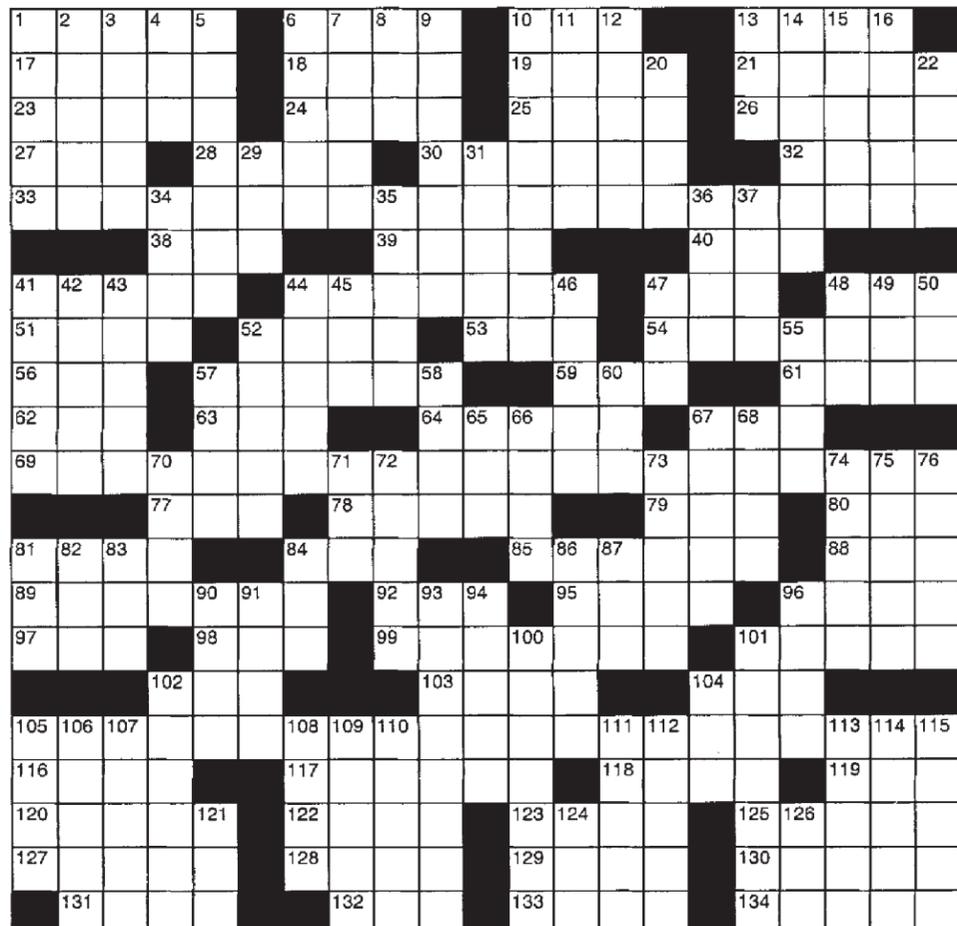
So start small. A wide variety of celebrity gum also comes up for auction, including gum once chewed by Christina Aguilera, Eminem and Jessica Simpson. (Really.)

And if you fear keeping such valuables around the house, consider loaning them to the Smithsonian.

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King Super Crossword

- FILM CLIP**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Songwriters' org.
 - 6 Old Glory feature
 - 10 — -jongg
 - 13 Aii _
 - 17 Playground fixture
 - 18 Ripped
 - 19 Inland sea
 - 21 It multiplies by dividing
 - 23 Islamic text
 - 24 Columnist
 - Bombeck
 - 25 Mrs. Zeus
 - 26 Astronomer Carl
 - 27 Catchall abbr.
 - 28 Party pots
 - 30 Bandleader
 - Hampton
 - 32 Gusto
 - 33 Start of a remark by George Leonard
 - 38 Cry of discovery
 - 39 Pound of poetry
 - 40 Forster's
 - "Howards _"
 - 41 Film division
 - 44 Swerves
 - dangerously
 - 47 _ -de-lance
 - 48 Spearheaded
 - 51 Colorless
 - 52 Ship's slammer
 - 53 Salon supply
 - 54 Part 2 of remark
 - 56 _ du Diable
 - 57 Lost one's tail?
- DOWN**
- 11 Clinton's Ditch"
 - 125 Buffalo Bill, for one
 - 127 Tenor Mario
 - 128 North Carolina campus
 - 129 Baseball's Sammy
 - 130 Disburse
 - 131 Nourish
 - 132 Humorist
 - Buchwald
 - 133 Manuscript imperative
 - 134 Bolger/Lahr co-star
- DOWN**
- 1 Crooked
 - 2 Arboreal animal
 - 3 She brought out the beast in men
 - 4 Periodontists' org.
 - 5 Kind of fudge
 - 6 Shorthand, shortly
 - 7 Museum piece
 - 8 It's up your sleeve
 - 9 Get it
 - 10 '75 Diana Ross film
 - 11 Stadium
 - 12 Seraglio
 - 13 Coll. degrees
 - 14 Bowled over
 - 15 Sire
 - 16 Disconcert
 - 20 Composer Schifrin
 - 22 Up-front money
 - 29 Plutarch character
- 31 "The Woman _" ('84 film)
 - 34 Nary a soul
 - 35 It suits many
 - 36 41 Down, for one
 - 37 Calvary inscription
 - 41 Mr. Agnew
 - 42 Neighbor of Nev.
 - 43 Skater
 - Berezhnaya
 - 44 Brioche bit
 - 45 Pitch in
 - 46 Put in stitches
 - 47 Crafty critter
 - 48 Top
 - 49 Tons of time
 - 50 Heredity letters
 - 52 Responsibility
 - 55 Shipshape
 - 57 Israel's Barak
 - 58 Place to pontificate
 - 60 "Just _ thought!"
 - 65 Bach's "Bist du _ mir"
 - 66 Travelers' stops
 - 67 Dwelling
 - 68 Tun throwaways
 - 70 Time to crow?
 - 71 Monk's title
 - 72 Sum up
 - 73 Swill connoisseur
 - 74 Implied
 - 75 Urania's sister
 - 76 Not as common
 - 81 Farm feature
 - 82 " _ gelida manina" (Puccini aria)
- 83 _ bran
 - 84 Encountered
 - 86 Actress Maureen
 - 87 Fate
 - 90 Bangkok resident
 - 91 "Les Miserables" author
 - 93 Frill
 - 94 Rent
 - 96 Amritsar attire
 - 100 Gloom
 - 101 Parsley, perhaps
 - 102 Nap
 - 104 Word form for "environment"
 - 105 Ellipse
 - 106 Mideastern melange
 - 107 _ fell swoop
 - 108 June, but not July
 - 109 Florida city
 - 110 Colossal commotion
 - 111 Elevate
 - 112 Actor Williams
 - 113 It gets wet as it dries
 - 114 Absurd
 - 115 Sweet treat
 - 121 In thing
 - 124 Disintegrate
 - 126 _ -Locka, FL



Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I recently applied for Social Security disability benefits. If I'm approved, when can I expect my payments to start?

A: If Social Security determines that you are disabled and eligible to receive Social Security disability benefits, your monthly payments will begin the sixth full month of your disability.

Q: My brother recently lost his job and has not been able to find a new one. He doesn't have any savings,

and is worried that he might be evicted from his apartment. Would it be possible for him to get Supplemental Security Income since he has no income and few resources?

A: Probably not. Although Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, is a needs-based program, the person also must be blind, have a disability or be age 65 or older.

Q: I have been meaning to see if my wife and I could qualify for the extra financial help that is available to help

meet the costs of the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program. But I have let things slip a little bit, and I know the date is getting near to actually sign-up for a prescription drug plan. Is there any way that I could still apply to see if we can get that extra help with costs?

A: Yes. There is still time to apply for extra financial help through the new Medicare prescription drug program that will go into effect on January 1, 2006. You can complete an online application at www.socialsecurity.gov. Or you can contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask

for an application in the mail, or request more information.

Q: My Social Security Statement says my full-retirement age is 66 years. But my wife's full-retirement age is 66 years and 2 months. I thought that everyone could retire at 65. Why are the retirement ages now so different?

A: For many years, full retirement age for workers was 65. The 1983 Social Security Amendments included a provision for raising the full retirement age, beginning with people born in 1938 or later. In 2005, for example, full retirement age is 65 years and 6 months. Full retirement

age will continue to increase gradually until it reaches 67 for people born after 1959. But no matter what your full retirement age is, you still will be able to retire as early as age 62 if you have earned enough Social Security credits, although your monthly benefits will be permanently reduced if you retire early.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

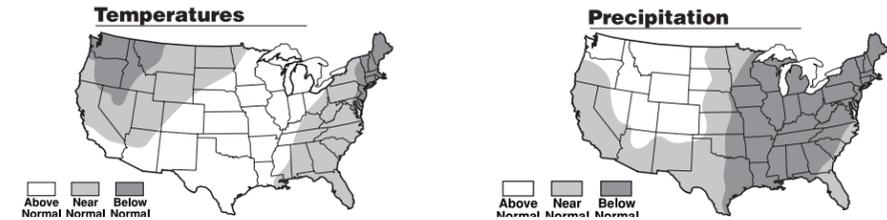
7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

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Some sun with a t-shower	Mainly cloudy	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Abundant sunshine
70°	54°	75° / 57°	80° / 58°	86° / 57°	83° / 58°	83° / 60°	85° / 60°
RealFeel 65°	RealFeel 51°	RealFeel 75° / 54°	RealFeel 79° / 55°	RealFeel 83° / 56°	RealFeel 81° / 59°	RealFeel 85° / 63°	RealFeel 91° / 53°

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IN THE SKY

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	First	Full
Thu.	7:03 a.m.	6:44 p.m.	Thu.	10:13 a.m.	8:36 p.m.		
Fri.	7:03 a.m.	6:43 p.m.	Fri.	11:19 a.m.	9:20 p.m.	10/10	10/17
Sat.	7:04 a.m.	6:42 p.m.	Sat.	12:25 p.m.	10:13 p.m.	Last	New
Sun.	7:05 a.m.	6:40 p.m.	Sun.	1:28 p.m.	11:13 p.m.		
Mon.	7:05 a.m.	6:39 p.m.	Mon.	2:25 p.m.	none	10/24	11/1
Tues.	7:06 a.m.	6:38 p.m.	Tues.	3:15 p.m.	12:21 a.m.		
Wed.	7:07 a.m.	6:37 p.m.	Wed.	3:57 p.m.	1:32 a.m.		

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	60	48	sh	73	51	s	76	57	s	82	57	s
Albuquerque, NM	66	50	t	73	52	pc	75	52	pc	77	50	t
Amarillo, TX	56	41	t	64	43	pc	74	50	s	75	50	s
Austin, TX	74	54	sh	78	51	pc	79	54	s	80	57	s
Brownsville, TX	88	68	t	85	65	pc	84	68	s	87	72	pc
Dodge City, KS	56	37	s	64	42	s	69	45	s	70	46	s
Jackson, MS	80	62	pc	70	53	t	74	55	s	81	54	s
Laredo, TX	85	63	t	85	61	pc	85	64	s	90	66	s
Little Rock, AR	72	50	sh	70	49	s	72	49	s	73	52	s
Lubbock, TX	60	42	sh	66	46	c	76	50	s	78	50	s
Memphis, TN	73	52	t	70	50	pc	72	54	s	76	55	s
Midland, TX	58	50	sh	71	52	pc	80	57	s	82	54	s
Pueblo, CO	63	35	s	67	38	s	73	40	s	76	35	s
Roswell, NM	60	45	t	70	49	pc	80	52	s	84	50	pc
St. Louis, MO	62	42	pc	61	43	s	64	46	s	66	48	s
San Antonio, TX	78	55	sh	80	54	pc	80	58	s	80	60	s
Texarkana, AR	75	50	sh	70	51	s	72	53	s	76	54	s
Waco, TX	68	49	sh	75	52	s	77	57	s	78	60	s
Wichita, KS	61	42	s	64	43	s	69	48	s	70	51	s

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

U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Atlanta	78	66	sh	76	58	t	74	55	s	74	59	pc
Boston	76	58	sh	66	56	r	56	48	r	60	48	pc
Chicago	58	42	pc	58	39	pc	60	42	s	64	44	s
Denver	59	34	s	66	38	s	72	44	s	71	40	s
Detroit	66	42	sh	58	40	pc	60	42	pc	62	44	s
Houston	82	60	t	80	56	pc	78	60	s	82	62	s
Indianapolis	64	41	sh	59	40	pc	61	41	s	68	44	s
Kansas City	62	39	s	62	42	s	66	46	s	67	47	s
Los Angeles	90	62	s	86	60	s	82	60	pc	82	60	s
Miami	88	78	t	88	78	t	88	76	t	87	75	t
Minneapolis	48	33	s	54	38	s	62	42	s	65	44	pc
New Orleans	85	69	pc	75	64	t	79	65	s	79	65	s
New York City	78	58	sh	66	50	r	60	50	r	63	52	pc
Omaha	54	36	s	62	39	s	68	42	s	70	45	s
Phoenix	99	74	s	98	73	s	99	69	s	96	70	s
San Francisco	73	56	s	72	54	pc	68	52	pc	74	55	s
Seattle	62	50	pc	60	48	sh	58	46	sh	62	50	pc
Washington	78	62	sh	70	50	r	66	51	sh	66	52	pc

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