



NEWSBRIEFS

Warm up at Festival

Long before the Spanish settlers crossed the Rio Grande, El Paso's Mission Valley was already known for its magnificent cultivation of the long green chile. It is the same green chile used to make the salsa that has surpassed ketchup in national popularity polls. A taste of that salsa will be available at the Fourth Annual Rio Grande Chili War Festival from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at Speaking Rock Parking Lot #1, 119 S. Old Pueblo Rd. In addition to a salsa- and chile-eating contest, the festival will offer other foods, good music and dancing, along with games, arts and crafts. Headlining the show will be Tejano Roots Music Hall of Famer Johnny Hernandez, little brother of Little Joe and la Familia, and the Avizo band, which was Grammy nominated this year for its CD, "Power of Friends." On stage also will be Suky Ramos, the Heart of the Valley; Little Mike and the Blue Kings, Kingdom Scab, Azycar, Los Gavilanes de Socorro, the Ysleta High School Band, San Elizario Desperados and the Six Guns and Shady Ladies and others. Sponsors for this year's festival are the Mission Trail Association, the Texas Cooperative Extension, El Paso County, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Speaking Rock, City of Socorro, Desert Eagle Distributing Co. and Lopez Advertising Group. Admission is free. For more information on the Rio Grande Chili War Festival, call 851-9997, 241-4724 or 355-5639.

Pedestrian death

An El Paso County Sheriff's Dept. spokesman said Monday that a Fabens man was killed on Friday, Aug. 18, about 9:20 p.m. while crossing from the south side of Texas 20 to the north side near the intersection of Herring Rd. near Clint. Roberto Macias, 46, was reportedly wearing dark colored clothing when he attempted to walk across the road in an undesignated area. He was narrowly missed by one driver but was struck by a second vehicle, a Ford F-150 pickup, driven by another man from Fabens, Juan Carillo, who slammed on his brakes when he sighted the pedestrian but was unable to stop. Officers said lighting in the area is limited. An autopsy and toxicology report is pending, and officers said alcohol is considered a contributing factor to the situation. Preliminary investigation indicates the pedestrian was at fault and no charges will be filed against the driver of the truck, officers said.

In other news

A spokesman for the El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU) said that several residents in the community of Westway have raised questions about the quality of the water they are drinking. EPWU would like to assure everyone that the potable water within the Westway community, as well

See BRIEFS, Page 4

The person that never makes a mistake must get awfully tired of doing nothing.
Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy FEMA

GOING MOBILE — FEMA's bus helps the agency process information on the move.

County works with FEMA to begin relief process, recovery centers open this week

EL PASO COUNTY — With last week's declaration of eligibility to receive federal disaster aid from Washington, D.C., various agencies in the El Paso region have begun working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide relief funding for local governments, businesses and individuals affected by the recent flooding.

This assistance, coordinated by FEMA, includes grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration will also be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Kenneth Clark has been named by FEMA Director David Paulison as Coordinating Officer for the recovery operation in the El Paso County area. Clark said damage surveys are

continuing and more counties and additional forms of assistance may be designated as assessments are completed.

In the meantime, two Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) have been opened in the County for residents affected by the severe storms to meet face-to-face with representatives from state, federal and volunteer agencies to find answers to questions they may have.

However, individuals should register for assistance by phone or online before going to a DRC. To register by phone, call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or, if hearing impaired, 1-800-462-7585, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time seven days a week until further notice. Registration can also be handled online at www.fema.gov.

One of the two DRCs has been established

See FEMA, Page 3

Socorro council hears out residents who suffered in flooding

By Arleen Beard
 Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — The recent rains of these past few weeks have caused tremendous flooding throughout the City of Socorro. While quick action has been taken by many volunteers and city employees to help out those affected by the flooding, some citizens of Socorro voiced their disappointment in the infrastructure — or lack of it — during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Aug. 17.

Many community members came out to express their frustration on the lack of attention paid to the vulnerability to flooding of many areas within the city limits.

Teodora Trujillo asked City Council to make these improvements before approving any more subdivisions. This issue was addressed during Open Forum and several citizens were in attendance to voice their dissatisfaction.

In other business, Mayor Trini Lopez hoped to reconsider Ordinance No. 222, Amendment No. 3, which created an on-call tow truck services provider list and established rules and regulations. The ordinance was approved by Council during the meeting of Aug. 3, which

Mayor Lopez did not attend.

His concern was that, because tow truck providers within the city limits of Socorro pay taxes to Socorro, they should be given preference.

Two tow truck company representatives were in attendance and expressed their hope to get preferential treatment because they operate their business within the city limits and are housed in Socorro.

Chief of Police Klaus Mansion informed City Council that this amendment would bring the wording up to date, since some of the wording was not legal and he also wanted to regulate a standard fee. He added that the two tow truck providers located in Socorro are not equipped to handle all tow service requirements, therefore, he placed other providers on the list.

Willie Gandara also addressed City Council and asked them to consider being loyal to their constituents who elected them by giving the two local tow truck providers the preferential treatment.

After considerable discussion, City Councilman Mary Perez made a motion to deny the reconsideration. City Council approved the denial by a vote of 4-1 with the sole opposing vote by Councilman Sergio Cox.

DSHS launches prevention campaign for whooping cough

By Emily Palmer
 Special to the Courier

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) began a pertussis education campaign on Aug. 21 in the face of an increasing number of cases of the serious bacterial illness, also known as whooping cough.

The campaign will provide information about new vaccines to protect older children and adults against pertussis, or whooping cough, and serve to remind parents of the critical importance of having their children complete the vaccine series at the recommended ages.

The all-time low number of cases in Texas was 36 cases recorded in 1976. But last year DSHS reported more than 2,000 cases of pertussis with nine deaths. Eight of those who died were infants.

"Pertussis used to kill as many as 10,000 people a year in the United States," said DSHS Commissioner Eduardo Sanchez. "After a vaccine was licensed for use in 1949, those numbers dropped dramatically. But the disease is on the rise again."

Pertussis can be especially threatening to infants too young to be vaccinated. It also is a serious health threat for older children, teens and adults whose immunity from vaccinations has waned. Pertussis symptoms include runny nose, sneezing and a cough similar to a cold, severe coughing fits and coughing spells lasting more than six weeks.

"The good news is we now have new vaccines designed to protect people in the 10 to 64 age range," Sanchez said. "These new vaccines coupled with on-time immunizations for children are major public health tools that can help prevent serious disease and death."

Five doses of a combined diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTP) are recommended at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, between 15 months and 18 months and between 4 years and 6 years of age.

The new tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine, known as Tdap, is recommended to be given to adolescents beginning at 11 to 12 years of age to replace the tetanus/diphtheria (Td) booster dose usually recommended at that age. A single dose of Tdap can replace a single dose of Td booster in adults and can be given five years after the last Td booster as protection against pertussis. Pregnant women who previously have not received Tdap should receive Tdap after childbirth, before being discharged from the hospital or birthing center.

The English/Spanish campaign, which lasts six weeks, targets areas of the state with high rates of pertussis, including El Paso County, Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Waco/Killeen/Bryan, Amarillo and the Rio Grande Valley.

More information about pertussis and immunizations is available from DSHS online at ImmunizeTexas.com.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Treatise on stupidity

It's a common ailment and it afflicts us all, to one degree or another, during every stage of life. Some of us have it worse than others. It's called stupidity.

There's a fellow in Germany who says he's created an anti-stupidity pill. But we'll get back to him in a minute.

Sometimes stupidity is a fleeting occurrence that simply serves to keep us humble, but sometimes it occurs with sufficient regularity that we should not be allowed to go out in public unattended. These more severe afflictions are commonly associated with children between the ages of 13 and 21 — a condition also common to parents who actually allow them to go out in public unattended.

Stupid is a useful word in a number of contexts but it's usually abused and distorted — and mostly used for abuse.

To gain a deeper understanding, I looked it up.

My raggedy old Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary says that

the English word "stupid" is derived from the Latin *stupidus*, which means benumbed or be astonished.

The folks who made up the Spanish language liked the word, too, only they just put an "o" on the end to make it sound more Spanish, I guess. They pronounce it *stoo-peed-o*.

The English version has four basic definitions, including slow of mind; given to unintelligent decisions or acts; dulled in feeling; senseless behavior marked by unreasoned thinking; or lacking interest or point.

Now, it has long been suggested in conversations to which I have been party that we should create a "stupid sticker" gun. This gun could be useful in dealing with our traffic problems. The police are either too busy or too apathetic to resolve blatant acts of traffic-law-breaking right under their noses — unless it will result in a hefty fine, like speeding — so we could give them a hand.

You know, like a vigilante posse. We could all be issued a certain number of stupid stickers each morning with which to shoot one another's

cars when we observe one another engaged in *traffickus stupidus* or similar behavior associated with automobiles. At the end of the day, we would all pass through a checkpoint on the way home at which time the number of stickers on each car is tallied up and we fork over cold, hard cash to the state accordingly.

I thought it would encourage us to become more thoughtful of one another on the roadways, but I've been told it is a stupid idea.

Anyway, back to this fellow with the anti-stupid pill. Hans-Hilger Ropers, 62, is director at Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Genetics in Berlin. He says he has tested a pill that "thwarts hyperactivity in certain brain nerve cells, helping stabilize short-term memory and improve attentiveness."

Wonderful! But the first draw-back I can see to this miraculous break-through in modern science is that his tests have shown encouraging results in eliminating the loss of short-term memory in mice and fruit flies.

Now, this is one of those scientific studies that leave me with a few unanswered questions. For instance: How do you know that a fruit fly even has a memory? I can't see how this could be determined except for the fact that their lives are too short for them to develop any memory of the

long-term variety. But if they do have short-term memory, how could you figure out if they have lost it? Do they fill out a questionnaire?

There is also a second drawback. This fellow calls it an "anti-stupidity" pill. According to Mr. Webster, none of the definitions of the word has anything to do with memory at all, long or short term. If the fellow doesn't even know what the word means, how can he claim to have developed an antidote?

So I'm reading about this scientific experiment on a news website the other day and suddenly I start noticing the ads that are posted around the story. News websites often sell ad

space to folks who carry products that are somehow related to the stories they are publishing, and these products gave me a chuckle.

They included something called BrainQuicken Performance, purported to improve memory and help you finish your work faster without giving you the jitters. Another was from a company called iMusicSeries, which offered to activate your mind and build more neural connections.

Anybody who might be inspired to buy something from these advertisers after reading about an antidote for short-term memory loss in a fruit fly needs to be vaccinated for a severe case of *dumm*. That's German for stupid.



Notice to Public Hearing Town of Anthony, Texas

Texas Community Development Program Completion and Closeout of Project #724029

The Town of Anthony will conduct a public hearing to solicit the input and participation of its residents in its Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) project. Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting and voice opinions concerning the completion of a sewer system improvements project that has been carried out under TCDP/CD Contract No. 724029. Topics to be discussed will include the completed activities of the project, and the town's implementation of the project, including location, general cost, and project benefits.

Location: Anthony Town Hall
Date: Monday, August 28, 2006
Time: 5:00 p.m.

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; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk by telephone at (915) 886-3944.

El publico en general está invitado a asistir a estas audiencias. La presentación y discusión del Programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad del Estado de Texas se haran en español para aque las personas que asi lo deseen.

Art Franco
Mayor

Date Published:
08/24/06

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Disaster aide has come quickly



In response to the disastrous storms and mudslides that struck our community, President George W. Bush signed a major disaster declaration for El Paso County last week, approving Public Assistance, Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation federal aid for our region. This declaration will

infuse El Paso recovery efforts with much-needed federal dollars, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel are already on the ground in El Paso to facilitate this assistance.

I applaud President Bush for his decision. In a disaster of this scope, the federal government should step in and provide resources to help local communities rebuild. President Bush signed the disaster declaration in a timely manner, and I think that

is in large part due to the collaborative efforts of El Paso community leaders.

Since first surveying the damage and talking with families forced to live in shelters, I have worked with El Paso Mayor John Cook and other local mayors, Texas Governor Rick Perry, U.S. Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn of Texas, the White House, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Fort Bliss, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army to secure a disaster declaration for El Paso.

As part of that effort, I wrote four letters to President Bush alerting him of the severity of the situation and urged him to direct, in the fastest possible manner, federal resources to assist the El Paso community. I also wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, and the FEMA Director, R. David Paulison, urging them to approve all types of available federal assistance for El Paso.

Public Assistance is aid for state and local governments to address damaged public buildings and infrastructure; individual assistance is aid to individuals and households; and hazard mitigation funds will reduce or eliminate losses from future disasters.

Individuals, families, community leaders and business owners who believe they are eligible for federal assistance should call 1-800-621-FEMA to speak with a FEMA representative in El Paso. FEMA recently announced its opening of two Disaster Recovery offices in El Paso. The following types of assistance are available:

- Technical assistance;
- Loans and loan guarantees;



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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$20 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Educating future leaders

Hola, mi gente! Once again I hope that all of you are safe and moving forward after the rains of August. I urge you to contact FEMA if you feel you suffered from the incident. The toll free number is 800-621-3362, or you can file online at www.fema.gov. Your relief cannot begin until you enroll for it.

All of us have been so preoccupied with the rains and floods that perhaps, as is the case with me, we forgot that this is a very special time of the year. Our future leaders went back to school in August. Some students are beginning their final year of school, the seniors. Other students are just beginning their 13 years in public education, the kindergartners.

From this date until the end of May, these students will solve thousands of problems and overcome thousands of challenges. They will also experience different levels of stress trying to meet the standards we have set. All of us teachers, administrators, former teachers, legislators and taxpayers must support our students. After all, the issue of public education should primarily be about them.

I, and my wife Gracie, are very blessed to have been involved in the education of so many good students during our careers. We, along with our fellow teachers, developed the minds of our students by teaching and challenging them. They learned the three R's (Reading, Riting and Rithmetic) and soon learned to think on their own.

The public school system is not broken. Whatever shortcomings people see in the system can be overcome by refocusing on teaching and learning. The effort to refocus needs to begin with the federal and state leadership.

I am hearing more and more people voice their dissatisfaction with the current direction in education. Parents are not happy that students are spending so much of their energies toward passing the TAKS test. This test does nothing to prepare our children for college or the real world.

Washington reduced local control on schools by passing the "No Child Left Behind" act. I feel we are better off with parents and local schools initiating programs which guarantee that "All Children Move Forward." We can do it.

There is a place in public education for people to enrich themselves financially. The reward for contributing to the education of our

the county (see schedule below).

The USDA Farm Service Agency has also announced availability of emergency agricultural loans to cover losses and damages incurred by the flooding. Applications for these loans will be accepted through April 16, 2007, but prompt applications are recommended. For more information call (432) 336-5206, Ext. 2 or log on at www.fsa.usda.gov/tx.

FEMA

From Page 1

7500 Viscount (near the bus terminal) in El Paso, open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

The second, a mobile unit, will move around

FEMA Mobile Schedule

Location	Address	Dates
Socorro	City Hall 860 Rio Vista	Aug. 31 and Sept. 1
Horizon City	Oz Glaze Senior Citizen Center 13969 Veny Webb	Aug. 24 Sept. 1 and 2
Clint and San Elizario	Clint Community Center 200 N. San Elizario Rd.	Aug. 25 and 26 Sept. 4 and 5
West EP County	West Valley Fire Dept. 510 E. Vinton Rd.	Aug. 27, 28, 29 and 30 Sept. 6, 7, 8 and 9

When calling:
1) Get a contact number. 2) Talk with the appropriate agency. Give them your name and address. 3) Get your damage inspected. Keep vidoes/pictures and all repair receipts.

UTEP MINERS

ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL

DON'T BE LEFT ON THE SIDE LINES GET INTO THE GAME.



OPENING DATES

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FOOTBALL TEXAS TECH SEPT. 9TH 7PM
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 Always In Season.

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SOCCER GRAMBLING ST. AUG. 31ST 7PM

ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL

VOLLEYBALL SUN BOWL TOURNAY AUG. 25TH 7:30 PM
26TH 7:30 PM

ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL

For Individual Tickets Call 747-5234



ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL

children should not be trivial. However, when the debate focuses too much on the amounts of contracts for supervisors, administrators, vendors, teachers and publishers, we lose the chance to talk about how to improve the way children learn the three R's.

There seems to be a political wind of change

about to impact Texas in November. If that is the case, I look forward to a new debate; one that is compassionate and bi-partisan. Let's take care of our needy and of our children and let the corporations take care of themselves.

Gracias, mi gente, and I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.

2006 Property Tax Rates in the County of El Paso

This notice concerns 2006 property tax rates for the **County of El Paso, Texas**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$	82,273,330
Last year's debt taxes	\$	15,419,427
Last year's total taxes	\$	97,692,757
Last year's tax base	\$	22,600,514,275
Last year's total tax rate	\$0.432259	/ \$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$	97,471,309
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$	24,903,839,740
=This year's effective tax rate	\$0.391390	/ \$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$	109,215,777
+This year's adjusted tax base	\$	24,903,839,740
=This year's effective operating rate	\$0.438550	/ \$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$0.473634	/ \$100
+This year's debt rate	\$0.059160	/ \$100
=This year's rollback rate	\$0.532794	/ \$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate	\$0.116350	/ \$100
=Rollback tax rate	\$0.416444	/ \$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **County of El Paso** adopts a 2006 tax rate equal to the effective rate of \$0.391390 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2005 taxes by \$3,147,020.

SCHEDULE A - Unencumbered Fund Balances

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

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$43,500,000
Debt Service (I&S)	\$737,421

SCHEDULE B - 2006 Debt Service

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

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Certificate of Obligation Series 1997	\$440,000	\$297,350	\$0	\$737,350
Certificate of Obligation Series 1998	\$1,510,000	\$373,260	\$0	\$1,883,260
General Obligation Ref Series 1998	\$2,920,000	\$941,970	\$0	\$3,861,970
Certificate of Obligation Series 2001	\$1,270,000	\$1,471,514	\$0	\$2,741,514
General Obligation Ref, Series 2001	\$3,445,000	\$252,794	\$0	\$3,697,794
Certificate of Obligation Series 2002	\$200,000	\$1,422,192	\$0	\$1,622,192
General Obligation Ref Series 2002	\$0	\$49,963	\$0	\$49,963
General Obligation Ref Series 2002A	\$1,135,000	\$250,813	\$0	\$1,385,813

Total required for 2006 debt service	\$15,979,856
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	\$737,421
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	\$0
-Excess collections last year	\$0
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2006	\$15,242,435
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2006	\$0
=Total Debt Levy	\$15,242,435

SCHEDULE C: Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax

In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$29,976,823 in additional sales and use tax revenues. The County has excluded any amount that is or will be distributed for economic development grants from this amount of expected sales tax revenue

SCHEDULE D: State Criminal Justice Mandate

The County of El Paso Auditor certifies that County of El Paso has spent \$1,467,835 in the previous 12 months beginning September 1, 2005, for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. County of El Paso Sheriff has provided information on these costs.

SCHEDULE E: Transfer of Department, Function or Activity

The County of El Paso spent \$82,981 from August 2005 to July 2006 on the Fabens Library. The Fabens Independent School District operates this function in all or a majority of the County of El Paso.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 500 E. Overland Avenue Suite 101, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Name of person preparing this notice: Victor A. Flores, R.T.C.
Title: County Tax Assessor-Collector
Date prepared: August 8, 2006

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The **Town of Horizon City** will hold public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by **34.39 percent** (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearings will be held on **Friday, September 1, 2006 and Friday, September 8, 2006 both at 6:30 p.m. at 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas 79928.**

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Rafael Padilla Jr., Luis Najera, Jay Blobner and Carole Zimmerman
 AGAINST:
 PRESENT and not voting: Walter Miller
 ABSENT: Jennifer Whiskeyman and Keith McClellan

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	22%	(increase)
Debt service	2%	(decrease)
Total expenditures	20%	(increase)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 327,449,422	\$ 406,662,855
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 32,074,458	\$ 49,435,608
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 314,555,926	\$ 391,509,048
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 31,792,393	\$ 48,058,094

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$750,000

Tax Rates

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$.31	per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$.31	per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$ -0-	per \$100 in value
Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	-0- %	Increase OR Decrease

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

Comparison of Residence Homestead Values

Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$ 93,738	\$ 101,999
Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ 93,738	\$ 101,999

Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes

The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be **\$290.59**.

The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be **\$316.20**. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be an **increase of \$25.61** in taxes.

Briefs

From Page 1

as throughout the city of El Paso, is and continues to meet all drinking water standards and is safe to drink. Additionally, there are also unconfirmed reports that a few residents living within the Village of Vinton may be without water service or may be experiencing low water pressure. EPWU customers experiencing such problems are asked to contact the Utility dispatcher at 594-5775 to have crews come out to address concerns, the spokesman said, since all water utility customers should be able to receive water service at this time.

■ On Saturday, Aug. 12 the Socorro Police Department responded to the 11000 block of Favila in Socorro at about 5 a.m. in reference to what was initially reported as the unattended death of Asuncion Flores Montes, 78. However, on Aug. 14, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office was notified by the El Paso County Medical Examiner that the incident may have involved foul play — that an autopsy revealed she died of manual strangulation and trauma to the head. A thorough canvass of the area and the recovery of evidence by Sheriff's Detectives and Crime Scene Technicians over the next four days resulted in the arrest of Juan Levario Leal, 29, who was subsequently charged with murder at 3 a.m. on Aug. 18. His bond has been set at \$500,000. "Under the circumstances, and being handed a case more than 48 hours cold, detectives worked tirelessly to make sure a murderer isn't running loose in our community. This is an example of team work," said Chief Deputy Jimmy Apodaca, El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

■ The Rotary Club of Anthony NM/TX has set Friday, Sept. 1, 2006 as the date for its annual golf tournament at Dos Lagos Golf Course, according to spokesman Patricia Dia, who serves as chairman for the event. Money from the tournament annually funds college scholarships for area seniors, scholarships for students to attend Rotary's leadership camp, as well as funding for community and international projects. "This event is one of the highlights of the club's year as it has proven to be a great way for citizens of Southern Dona Ana and Western El Paso Counties to net work while raising funds for worthy projects," Diaz said. "The tournament is also known as a player pleaser as everyone has fun and each golfer receives a prize." Team and Sponsorship Applications are available on the Club's website at: <http://www.rotary5520.org/anthony> or by contacting Golf Day Chair, Mike Olson at: 505-882-2830.

■ The Socorro Independent School District's Fine Arts Department is offering group piano and keyboard classes this year. With partners Brook Mays Music Company and Midi For Kids, the classes will combine traditional music theory with creativity and improvisation. Students

will learn how to play, compose, create, build instrumental skills, play by ear, read notation and connect musical concepts to other subjects such as math and language. The once-a-week after-school lessons will be held at El Dorado High School for grades 7-12 and adults with instructor Sara Long. Classes for students in kindergarten through sixth grade will be held at John Drugan Elementary with instructor Laura Aguirre. The class cost is \$15 per week and registration is open at <http://www.midiforkids.com/>. Class size is limited to seven students. Additional classes may be added based on interest. Classes at El Dorado will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4:30-5:15 p.m. or 5:15 - 6 p.m. At John Drugan, classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 - 4:45 p.m. or 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Sara Long, 937-3397 or Laura Aguirre, 937-5867.

■ Operation AYUDA service and intake center has moved and is operating at 6935 Commerce St. The center is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The old location at the Convention Center closed on Aug. 18. The Operation AYUDA intake center on Commerce St. will have Salvation Army staff on hand to provide assistance to residents who have been affected by the storms, beginning with a needs evaluation. The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP) will still provide housing assistance to those in need at their main office located at 5300 E. Paisano from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Residents may also contact HACEP at 849-3742. Residents can access Red Cross service information at <http://www.texasnewmexicofloods.org> or by calling 1-866-GET INFO (438-4636).

■ The El Paso Police Department is currently investigating a case where two young girls, identified as being 10 and 11 years of age were soliciting donations for the "Candlelighters" organization. An EPPD spokesman said investigators have spoken with Candlelighters and verified that they *do not* solicit donations door-to-door. Anyone with information regarding this matter are asked to call the EPPD. The El Paso Police Department would like to remind the public that they need to always verify the identity of persons seeking donations on behalf of non-profit organizations. Always speak with a representative of the company if you question the legitimacy of the individuals soliciting.

■ The annual book fair at Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School has gone hi-tech, offering everyone an opportunity to purchase books online as well as at the traditional fair site at the school. Customers can shop online through Friday, Sept. 1, at www.ubah.com/BF18835 and the books will be sent directly to the buyer's home. Those who prefer to review the books in person first can stop by the school library at 1515 Bob Hope, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 28-31.

Playing sports not the answer

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

All of us have played practical jokes on other people from time to time. We all get a kick out of watching our buddies look dumb, especially if it comes at the expense of some perfectly diabolical scheme we thought up all on our own.

Most of the time it's just harmless fun like watching someone turn red after sitting on a whoopie cushion or discovering fake vomit on the expensive living room sofa.

Of course there is this unwritten rule about crossing the "practical joke" line.

These jokes are never intended to hurt anyone and people are expected to have the common sense to know where that line is.

But then there wouldn't be a Jerry Springer Show if we all knew how to use our brains.

Two teenagers, that I'm willing to bet are avid Jerry Springer, South Park and Beavis and Butthead fans, tried to play a practical joke on some unsuspecting people last winter.

Seems Dailyn Campbell, 16 years old, and Jesse Howard, 17, of Kenton, Ohio, got this brilliant idea last November of stealing a fake deer, the kind used by hunters to attract real live deer.

This is where the two guys really stretched their brains to full capacity. They wrote obscenities all over the fake deer and placed it in the middle of a road at night to see what would happen.

The two had tons of fun watching driver after driver swerve to narrowly miss the deer.

But they didn't laugh as hard when two other teenagers came by.

A car driven by Robert Roby Jr. swerved to miss the deer and ran off the road crashing into a pole.

Roby's neck, collarbone, arm and leg were broken, leaving him disabled.

As bad as all that sounds, he made out much better than his passenger, Dustin Zachariah, who came out of the crash with brain damage and now enjoys the cognitive ability of a sixth grader.

It appears that our little pranksters, Campbell and Howard, didn't have a clue where the "practical joke" line was.

The second half of this story is

not a joke at all, which makes it very disturbing.

The two dimwits pleaded no contest last month to two charges of vehicular assault and were found delinquent on charges of possessing criminal tools and petty theft.

So the judge in the case had the responsibility of sentencing the pranksters who caused the life-altering injuries of two teenagers.

But there was this one extenuating circumstance. It turns out that our two jokesters are stars of the high school football team.

So the judge, who must be a season-ticket holder, not only sentenced the boys to a whopping 60 days in detention. He also said they didn't have to serve their sentences until after the football season.

Judge Gary F. McKinley said he made the decision to give the guys a chance to get a scholarship to college and live productive lives.

One of those "two wrongs don't make a right" kind of decisions.

In other words, the judge gave the boys a second chance at life.

Gee, I wonder what he gave the disabled kid and the brain damaged boy?

I guess they didn't get a second chance at life. I'm guessing they didn't play on the football team.

But I should be fair. The judge did sentence them to more punishment.

He also said they have to perform community service, pay a fine and write a 500-word essay on the topic "Why I should Think Before I Act."

Oh come on! I think it's the judge who should be writing an essay on the topic, "Why I Should Think Before I Make a Ruling."

First of all, why these two morons got just 60 days I'll never know. And then to go out of his way to hold the

sentence until after they are allowed to play football is unbelievable.

I don't know who is worse, the pranksters or the judge.

I'm not saying the boys should get the chair for their stupidity, but let's make them go through at least a little something that puts some fear into them.

Going by this logic, everyone should be released from jail and allowed to go to college for the chance at a better life — especially if they can score a touchdown.

Have your birthday party
at the Fabens

CORN MAZE!

Open: Sept. 30 - Nov 11

Information: (915)764-3530
www.williamsriverfarm.com

Activities include: 2 mazes, corn catapult, face painting, punkin' painting, hay jump, hay slide, tricycle maze, volley ball, soccer and more!



2006 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Emergency Services District #1

This notice concerns 2006 property tax rates for the **El Paso County Emergency Services District #1**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes _____	\$ 553,011
Last year's debt taxes _____	\$ 0
Last year's total taxes _____	\$ 553,011
Last year's tax base _____	\$ 568,298,222
Last year's total tax rate _____	\$0.097310 / \$100

This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$ 552,872
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____	\$ 594,425,049
=This year's effective tax rate _____	\$0.093009 / \$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

This year's rollback tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____	\$ 552,872
+This year's adjusted tax base _____	\$ 594,425,049
=This year's effective operating rate _____	\$0.093009 / \$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate _____	\$0.100450 / \$100
+This year's debt rate _____	\$0.015094 / \$100
=This year's rollback rate _____	\$0.115544 / \$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **El Paso County Emergency Services District #1** adopts a 2006 tax rate equal to the effective rate of \$ 0.093009 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2005 taxes by \$ 71,504.

SCHEDULE A — Unencumbered Fund Balances

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

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O) _____	\$ 235,430
Debt Service (I&S) _____	\$ 0

SCHEDULE B — 2006 Debt Service

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

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Capital Lease - Pumper	\$46,371	\$2,416	\$0	\$48,787
Capital Lease - Tanker	\$43,445	\$9,123	\$0	\$52,568

Total required for 2006 debt service _____	\$101,355
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A _____	\$0
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources _____	\$0
-Excess collections last year _____	\$0
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2006 _____	\$101,355
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2006 _____	\$0
=Total Debt Levy _____	\$101,355

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 500 E. Overland Avenue Suite 101, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Name of person preparing this notice: Victor A. Flores, R.T.C.
Title: County Tax Assessor-Collector
Date prepared: August 8, 2006

2006 Property Tax Rates in Town of Clint

This notice concerns 2006 property tax rates for the **Town of Clint**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes _____	\$ 110,826
Last year's debt taxes _____	\$ 22,431
Last year's total taxes _____	\$ 133,257
Last year's tax base _____	\$ 32,205,340
Last year's total tax rate _____	\$0.413773 / \$100

This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$ 133,257
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____	\$ 34,027,090
=This year's effective tax rate _____	\$0.391620 / \$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

This year's rollback tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____	\$ 110,826
+This year's adjusted tax base _____	\$ 34,027,090
=This year's effective operating rate _____	\$0.325696 / \$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate _____	\$0.351751 / \$100
+This year's debt rate _____	\$0.065163 / \$100
=This year's rollback rate _____	\$0.416914 / \$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Clint** adopts a 2006 tax rate equal to the effective rate of \$0.391620 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2005 taxes by \$1,886.

SCHEDULE A — Unencumbered Fund Balances

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

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O) _____	\$135,810
Debt Service (I&S) _____	\$18,000

SCHEDULE B — 2006 Debt Service

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

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Line of Credit	\$17,000	\$2,210	\$1,050	\$20,260
Note	\$19,045	\$1,182	\$0	\$20,227

Total required for 2006 debt service _____	\$40,487
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A _____	\$18,000
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources _____	\$0
-Excess collections last year _____	\$0
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2006 _____	\$22,487
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2006 _____	\$0
=Total Debt Levy _____	\$22,487

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 500 E. Overland Avenue Suite 101, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Name of person preparing this notice: Victor A. Flores
Title: County Tax Assessor-Collector
Date prepared: August 7, 2006

Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30,

2006

CUSTODIAL CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
CSP NO. 199-0830-6128
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

CHEMICAL FOR THE AQUATIC CENTER
CSP NO. 199-0830-6090RB
ACCEPTED UNTIL

2:30 P.M.

OPTIVITY TELEPHONY MANAGER 2.1 UPGRADE
CSP NO. 199-0830-6150
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and on the Socorro ISD website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-08/24/06

Fabens Independent School District
Invitation to Bid

Sealed Athletic Equipment, Supplies and Uniform Catalog Bids, Bid No. 081706-901, addressed to Gilbert Alarcon, Fabens Independent School District, 821 NE "G" Avenue or P.O. Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838 will be received at the above address until 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 25, 2006, at which time they will be publicly opened. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by calling (915) 764-2025. 8/24

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Socorro High School Class of 1996 Reunion, Sunday, September 3, 2006, 1914 Lounge on 115 Durango, 7

p.m. - 2 a.m. Info: socorrodassof96.com 8/31

HELP WANTED

Ryan Supply/Ace Hardware in Fabens has a full time opening for Sales Associate Competitive wage. Completed applications accepted and spot interviews conducted Saturday between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. 117 North Fabens Street Fabens, Texas 8/24

STORAGE

HORIZON SELF STORAGE
• Small, Medium & Large Units
• Yard Space
418 S. Kenazo
852-9371

TFN

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

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

SERVICES

Professional Administrative Services
Professional Document Preparation
Notary Public
Translations
Resume Preparation & Cover letters
Typing Services
Affordable tax returns

Bookkeeping/Adm. Services
HR consulting and more
Call: Loraine at 252-0760 or 852-9185

9/7

AV CONSTRUCTION
Additions & Remodeling
Custom-made Kitchens
Bathroom Remodeling
Porches, Patios & Carports
Fascia & Cornice Repairs
Decks & Ramps
Garage Conversions & Enclosures
Free Estimates
Ask for Alfonso: **433-4102**

8/24

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

West Texas County Courier 852-3235

Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick
Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
•Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
•Appliance installation
•Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

West Texas County Courier 852-3235

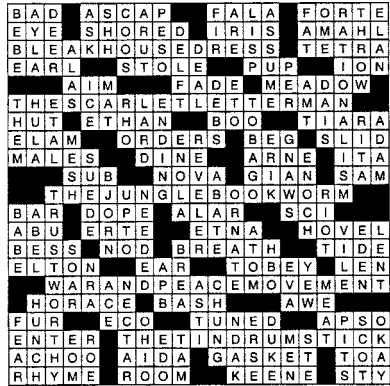
Reyes

From Page 2

- Grants;
- Temporary housing;
- Access to counseling professionals; and
- Medical assistance.

Further details are available at www.house.gov/reyes.

The safety and well-being of El Paso families was my top concern as we moved through this process to direct federal aid to our community. I pursued every avenue to inform federal and Administration officials about the devastating flooding and mudslides in our community. The President's announcement reflects that the Administration listened and acted quickly, and I thank them for responding to the needs of El Paso families in the face of such tragedy. In the coming days, weeks and months, I will continue to work with federal, state and local officials to ensure that both the short and long-term needs of our community are met.



El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2006 on September 6, 2006, 6:00 pm, at St. Rita Hall, 19211 Cobb St., Tornillo, Texas 79853. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal:	Jose Luis Soria, Eliberto Nuñez, Clemente Escalante, and Norma Morales
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	Luis Vega, Delia Bochmeyer and Warren Ivey

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.066343/\$100	\$0.066343/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		+ \$0.000000/\$100
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised value	\$ 31,574	\$ 33,963
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)	\$0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 31,574	\$ 33,963
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 20.95	\$ 22.53
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		+ \$1.58
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+ 7.54%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

2006 PROPERTY TAX RATES Town of Clint Small Taxing Unit Notice

The **Town of Clint** will hold a meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 12, 2006 at the Clint Community Center, 200 N. San Elizario Rd. to consider adopting a proposed tax rate of \$0.416914 per \$100 of valuation.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the Town of Clint by 8%.

WTCC: 08/24/06

Public Notice Village of Vinton

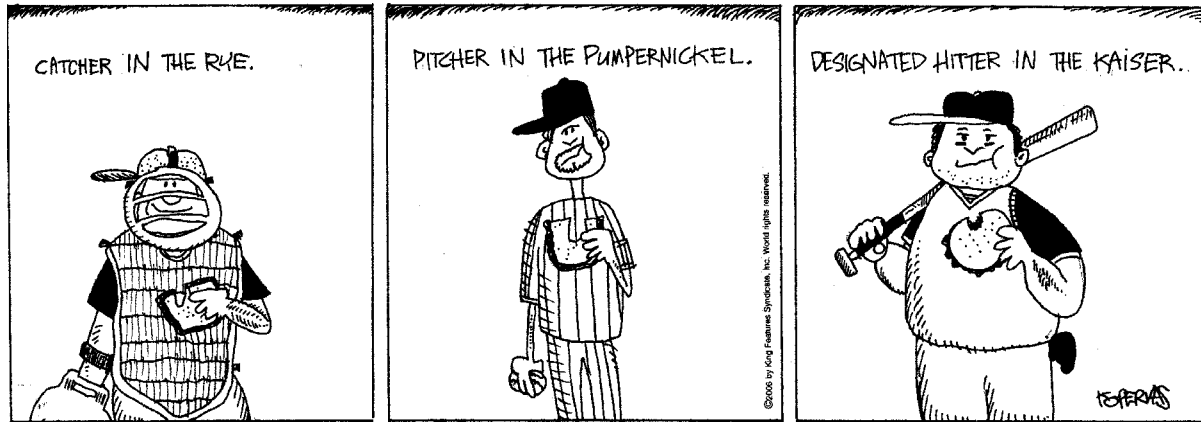
Texas Community Development Block Grant Program

The Village of Vinton will hold a public hearing at **6 p.m. on August 29, 2006 at City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd.** in regard to the submission of an application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The Village encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TxCDBG application and to make their views known at the public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Jessica Garza, City Secretary at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

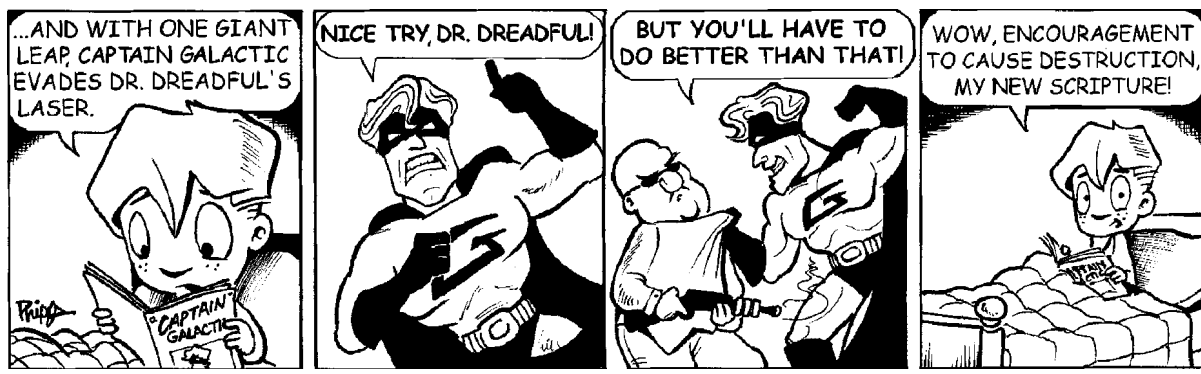
WTCC: 08/24/06

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



All the snooze that fits

By Don Flood

Katie Couric, the perky newscaster who reportedly hates to be described as "perky," will soon take on a big assignment: She will host the Night News That No One Actually Watches Any More.

Well, that's not true. Some people watch it, and, judging by the ads, they are huge consumers of medical products.

But CBS is hoping Couric can change that because she's so, you know, perky. (Sorry, Katie!)

On tour recently, Couric was perkily frank about the problems in attracting new viewers: "We heard from many people the news is just too depressing."

Yeah, there is that. Unless it's about you personally winning the lottery, the news tends to be a downer.

But here's how Katie might be able to perk it up:

COURIC: Good evening. Tonight we lead off with a story from Windflatten, Kansas, which has been the scene of many destructive tornadoes.

REPORTER: At 11 a.m. this morning, in the town of Windflatten, Kansas, it appeared to be just another day. The sun was shining. It was warm; the kids were out playing. Still, some of the long-time residents were concerned.

LOCAL WOMAN: I just had a funny feeling that something was going to happen. I don't claim to be a psychic, but sometimes you just know.

REPORTER: Her next-door neighbor had a similar premonition.

LOCAL MAN: My bunions was acting up something fierce. That's always a sure sign of trouble. Generally, it means a storm, though it sometimes happens before the Kansas City Royals blow a late-inning lead.

REPORTER: Down at the police station, Chief Wideload began preparing for an emergency.

CHIEF: It was quiet, you know what I mean? A little too quiet.

REPORTER: But as it turned out, there was no emergency.

COURIC: No sign of a tornado?

REPORTER: Nope, everything's fine here. Weather's pleasant; people are going about their everyday activities — it's just a real nice day here in the Heartland.

COURIC: Thank you for that special report. Now we go to Dullsville, Idaho, where a postal worker has reported for work without shooting anybody.

REPORTER: That's right, Katie. Bob Smiley showed up for work today at the regular time and went about his business in his usual friendly manner. Co-workers describe the man that many called "amazingly untroubled."

CO-WORKER: We heard rumors that there weren't any problems at home, that he was happily married. They were just rumors, of course, but you always wonder.

REPORTER: We can now confirm those rumors to be true. Another co-worker who was an eyewitness tells what happened this morning.

CO-WORKER: Well, I saw him as his wife dropped him off at work. He had a strange expression on his face. He was smiling and he kissed his wife goodbye. Then he got out of the car and walked in the door.

REPORTER: Were you concerned he was going to start shooting people?

CO-WORKER: Of course not, Bob's a great guy. Everybody likes him.

REPORTER: There you have it, Katie. It's just another super workday at the Dullsville Post Office.

COURIC: Thank you. As many of you may have heard, some people in the Middle East aren't getting along as well as they should, but we now have a live report of an unexploded bomb.

REPORTER: That's right, Katie...

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

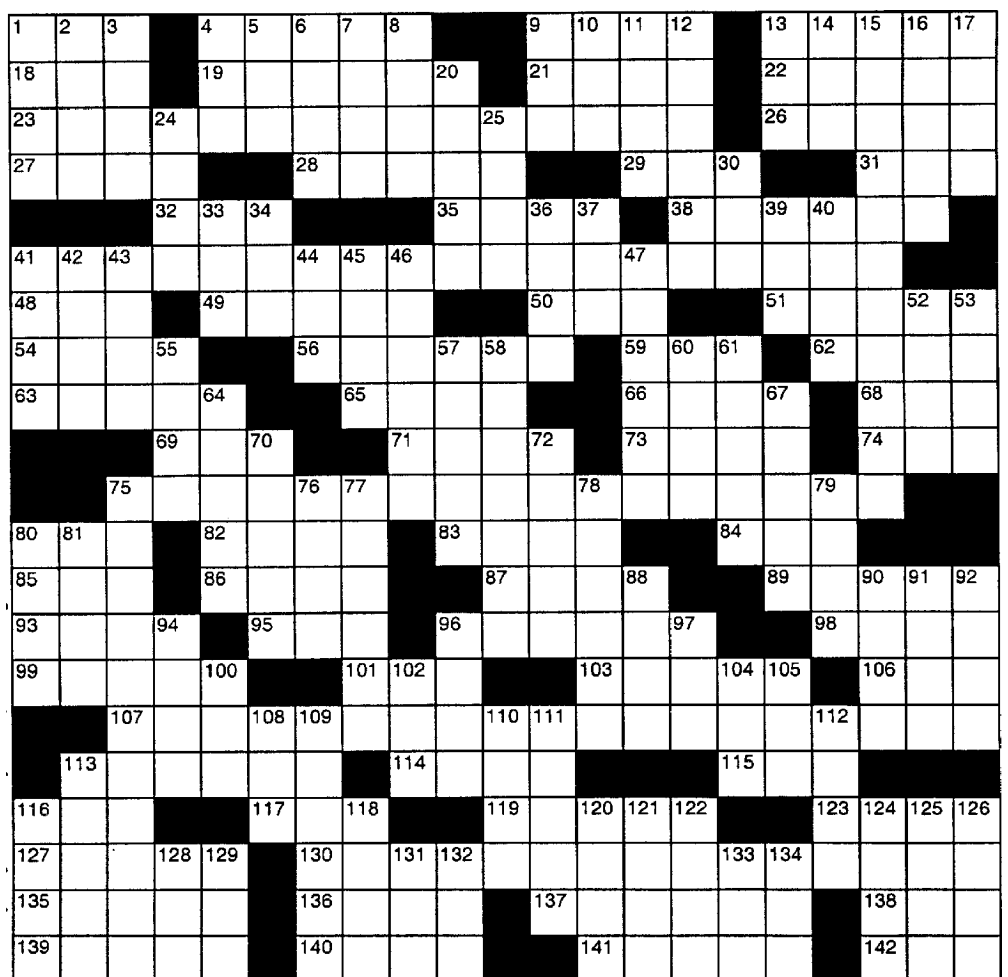
NOVEL BEGINNINGS

- ACROSS**
- 1 "One _ Apple" ('71 song)
 - 4 Broadway org.
 - 9 Presidential pooch
 - 13 Loudly, to Liszt
 - 18 Spud bud
 - 19 Propped (up)
 - 21 Author Murdoch
 - 22 Menotti title character
 - 23 Over-laundered muumuu?
 - 26 Aquarium fish
 - 27 Viscount's better
 - 28 Walked off with
 - 29 Baby beagle
 - 31 Noun suffix
 - 32 Objective
 - 35 Lose luster
 - 38 One of the Sopranos
 - 41 Embarrassed late-night host?
 - 48 Humble abode
 - 49 Hawke of "Training Day"
 - 50 Start to cry?
 - 51 Pageant prop
 - 54 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
 - 56 Dicta
 - 59 Seek change?
 - 62 Coasted
 - 63 Cock and bull
 - 65 Sup in style
 - 66 "Rule Britannia" composer
- DOWN**
- 68 Call _ day
 - 69 Fill in
 - 71 _ Scotia
 - 73 Sculptor Bernini
 - 74 Snead or Spiegel
 - 75 Tarzan the Studious?
 - 80 Ingot
 - 82 Airhead
 - 83 Fruit-tree spray
 - 84 Biol. or chem.
 - 85 _ Dhabi
 - 86 Art deco designer muumuu?
 - 87 Sicilian volcano
 - 89 Humble abode
 - 93 Gershwin heroine
 - 95 Wordless greeting
 - 96 "Every _ You Take" ('83 hit)
 - 98 Cheer competitor
 - 99 Singer John
 - 101 Organ of equilibrium
 - 103 Maguire of "Spider-Man"
 - 106 Singer Barry
 - 107 Undecided activists?
 - 113 Roman writer
 - 114 Hit hard
 - 115 Reverence
 - 116 It may be fake
 - 117 Author Umberto
 - 119 Adjusted an Amati
 - 123 Lhasa _
 - 127 Come in
 - 130 Good source of minerals?

- 135 Cold sound
 - 136 "Ritorna vincitor!" singer
 - 137 Piston packing
 - 138 Shelley's _ Skylark"
 - 139 Versify
 - 140 Inn offering
 - 141 New Hampshire campus
 - 142 Hog heaven?
- DOWN**
- 1 Actress Neuwirth
 - 2 Auel heroine
 - 3 Forest beauty
 - 4 Request
 - 5 "Quiet!"
 - 6 Dove sounds
 - 7 In _ (bored)
 - 8 Cuban currency
 - 9 Evergreen tree
 - 10 Exist
 - 11 Speech problem
 - 12 Take for granted
 - 13 Too big for one's breeches?
 - 14 Doolittle's digs
 - 15 Type of philosophy
 - 16 Hurl
 - 17 Panache
 - 20 Dutch pottery
 - 24 Sitka's st.
 - 25 Work in Vegas
 - 30 By means of
 - 33 Cover the cake
 - 34 Wrestling surface
 - 36 Labor leader

- Eugene
- 37 WWII area
- 39 Qty.
- 40 Emcee's site
- 41 '54 James Arness film
- 42 A shake in the grass?
- 43 List ender
- 44 Pi follower
- 45 Cooking fat
- 46 Close
- 47 Trinidad's neighbor
- 52 Moreno or Hayworth
- 53 Inspector
- Dalgliesh
- 55 Engage, as gears
- 57 " _ Gay"
- 58 Party animal
- 60 Palladino of "ER"
- 61 Behaves like a beaver
- 64 Kid stuff?
- 67 Methuselah's dad
- 70 Borg or Ulvaeus
- 72 Subside
- 75 Reliable
- 76 As many as
- 77 Essential
- 78 Elaborate
- 79 Brilliant display
- 80 Movie piglet
- 81 Explorer Tasman
- 88 Energy source
- 90 Offensive
- 91 Churchill's

- successor
- 92 Time to give up
- 94 Head for the clouds
- 96 La _ Tar Pits
- 97 "Six Feet Under" network
- 100 Pro-gun grp.
- 102 PD alert
- 104 _ Marie Saint
- 105 Evergreen tree
- 108 Expert
- 109 The gods guzzle it
- 110 _ Spumante
- 111 Newscaster
- Connie
- 112 Nut part
- 113 Feeling
- 116 Dread
- 118 Phil Donahue's birthplace
- 120 Neighbor of Mont.
- 121 Gaelic
- 122 Luke, Bo, or Daisy
- 124 Prepares cherries
- 125 Glasgow guy
- 126 Hunky-dory
- 128 Accounting abbr.
- 129 Singer Tommy
- 131 Maestro de Waart
- 132 Hat for 125 Down
- 133 Game pieces
- 134 Canonized Mlle.



Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: Why doesn't my Social Security Statement show any earnings from my job as an elementary school teacher for the past five years?

A: If you work for a state or local agency — including a school system, college or university — your earnings may not be covered by Social Security. If you are covered only by your state or local pension plan and you don't pay Social Security taxes, your earnings won't be on your Social Security record. (Your record

will show your Medicare wages if you pay into that program.) If your school system is covered by both your state/local pension plan and Social Security, you pay Social Security and Medicare taxes just as you would for any other Social Security-covered job. In this instance, you should see your earnings on your Social Security Statement. If you believe that your Social Security-covered earnings are not reflected correctly on your Statement, you should contact your local Social Se-

curity office. It is important that your earnings record be accurate because your future Social Security benefits are based on those earnings.

Q: I am thinking of appealing the denial that Social Security made on my claim for disability benefits and want to hire an attorney to represent me. My question is this: do legal representatives in Social Security-related hearings have to use contingency fee arrangements?

A: No. Although many individuals represent claimants on a contingency basis, with the fee usually based on 25 percent of past-due benefits if suc-

cessful and nothing if unsuccessful, the Social Security Act does not require this arrangement. Neither the law nor regulations prevent a representative from requesting a fee if the outcome of the case is unfavorable. However, to charge you any fee for services, your representative first must file either a fee agreement or a fee petition with Social Security. Your representative cannot charge you more than the fee amount approved by Social Security.

Q: My husband gets Social Security disability benefits because of severe diabetes. Last month, his leg was amputated due to his diabetes.

Can we apply for an increase in his benefits since his condition has worsened?

A: No. The benefit amount individuals receive is based on their work and earnings prior to their disability, not on the severity of their disabling condition.

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

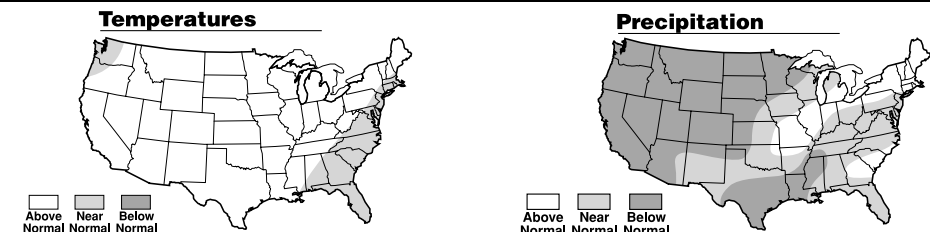
AccuWeather.com®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Clouds and sun, a t-storm	Mainly cloudy	Clouds and sun	A thundershower possible	Clouds and sun, a t-storm	Thunderstorms possible	Cloudy	Clouds and sun
94°	73°	94° 73°	93° 70°	89° 68°	89° 66°	87° 65°	87° 63°
RealFeel 99°	RealFeel 72°	RealFeel 92° 71°	RealFeel 91° 69°	RealFeel 87° 66°	RealFeel 91° 66°	RealFeel 90° 65°	RealFeel 93° 64°

The patented RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY



Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	New	First
Thu.	6:36 a.m.	7:40 p.m.	Thu.	7:18 a.m.	8:17 p.m.		
Fri.	6:37 a.m.	7:38 p.m.	Fri.	8:12 a.m.	8:42 p.m.	8/23	8/31
Sat.	6:37 a.m.	7:37 p.m.	Sat.	9:06 a.m.	9:06 p.m.	Full	Last
Sun.	6:38 a.m.	7:36 p.m.	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	9:30 p.m.		
Mon.	6:38 a.m.	7:35 p.m.	Mon.	10:55 a.m.	9:57 p.m.	97	9/14
Tues.	6:39 a.m.	7:34 p.m.	Tues.	11:52 a.m.	10:28 p.m.		
Wed.	6:40 a.m.	7:32 p.m.	Wed.	12:52 p.m.	11:04 p.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

REGIONAL CITIES

U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W		HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	97	73	s	94	73	s	93	71	pc	90	70	pc	Atlanta	87	72	pc	87	72	pc	87	73	pc	87	72	t
Albuquerque, NM	89	65	t	90	64	t	88	65	t	86	63	t	Boston	72	57	pc	72	64	pc	77	65	pc	84	66	pc
Amarillo, TX	94	67	pc	93	65	s	85	63	pc	84	61	pc	Chicago	84	68	t	90	68	t	84	64	t	82	62	pc
Austin, TX	96	74	pc	98	76	s	97	73	pc	96	73	pc	Denver	91	57	s	83	54	pc	81	54	pc	85	57	s
Brownsville, TX	95	79	pc	97	79	pc	97	77	pc	94	77	pc	Detroit	80	62	t	86	66	pc	84	65	t	82	63	t
Dodge City, KS	94	67	s	91	65	pc	86	61	pc	86	62	s	Houston	94	76	t	94	76	s	94	77	t	96	75	t
Jackson, MS	90	73	t	91	74	t	91	74	t	91	73	t	Indianapolis	88	67	pc	91	69	s	88	67	t	83	65	pc
Laredo, TX	102	80	pc	104	80	s	103	80	pc	100	78	pc	Kansas City	90	72	pc	92	70	pc	86	65	pc	86	66	s
Little Rock, AR	93	72	s	92	73	t	89	74	t	91	71	pc	Los Angeles	83	65	pc	82	64	pc	82	64	pc	82	64	pc
Lubbock, TX	94	69	pc	94	68	s	92	66	pc	86	66	pc	Miami	89	78	t	90	79	pc	91	79	t	90	80	t
Memphis, TN	94	75	s	94	75	t	90	75	t	90	74	t	Minneapolis	81	64	pc	83	64	pc	77	61	pc	77	65	pc
Midland, TX	97	72	pc	96	70	s	94	69	pc	88	70	s	New Orleans	91	78	t	92	77	t	91	78	t	90	77	t
Pueblo, CO	96	54	s	91	56	pc	85	54	pc	88	55	s	New York City	72	66	pc	80	68	pc	84	70	pc	87	73	pc
Roswell, NM	95	67	t	95	68	t	89	64	pc	87	64	t	Omaha	93	68	s	88	66	pc	83	62	pc	84	64	pc
St. Louis, MO	92	74	pc	92	73	pc	89	70	pc	85	69	pc	Phoenix	104	85	t	104	85	t	102	84	t	105	84	s
San Antonio, TX	100	77	pc	100	78	s	97	75	pc	97	73	pc	San Francisco	70	54	s	68	54	pc	66	54	pc	72	56	pc
Texarkana, AR	92	74	t	94	75	t	93	72	pc	94	72	pc	Seattle	75	56	s	80	56	s	85	58	s	85	58	s
Waco, TX	97	76	t	96	76	s	95	75	pc	95	75	t	Washington	84	70	s	88	70	pc	90	72	s	90	73	pc
Wichita, KS	93	72	s	94	70	pc	86	65	pc	89	66	s													

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

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