



NEWSBRIEFS

Water to colonias

After four years, the combined efforts of Alianza Para El Desarrollo Comunitario, Congressman Silvestre Reyes, the Lower Valley Water District and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, a total of \$3.8 million in federal funds has been awarded to bring potable community water to Colonia del Paseo, better known as Las Colonias, and the colonias of Ascension Park. A total of about 370 families in six colonias are expected to be served by the project, to include two ground wells, a storage tank, pumping facilities and infrastructure to carry the water to the homes. The subdivisions, located above I-10, have had residents living in them for as long as 15 years without running water. The grant was presented to the LVWD by Reyes on Aug. 24. Incorporated in 1999, Alianza has worked to improve the quality of life in under-served communities in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. Executive Director Daniel Solis can be reached at 858-8829.

Dance expo

El Paso Parks and Recreation Department will host *El Paso Parks Dance Fest 2006* on Saturday, Sept. 9, and Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Plaza Theatre. The exhibition of the dance art, spirit and cultural expression, is being held to promote cultural awareness, promote the Folklorico dance, and to offer the opportunity to different groups to exhibit their talent and learn from other different groups. It is also an opportunity for the little dancers to perform at the Grand Plaza. More than 40 diverse dance groups from three different cities, three states and two nations will make this festival a special and unique event. The event starts at 6 p.m. on Sept. 9 and at 3 p.m. on Sept. 10. Admission is \$5 and proceeds will benefit the after school programs at the different recreation centers. For more Information Enrique Valadez at 240-3326.

In other news

■ A Horizon woman, 27-year old Maria Esther Porras, was found dead in the backyard of an El Paso home in the early hours of Sunday morning, Aug. 26. She was last reported being seen alive at the Rodeo Night Club in El Paso at approximately 2 a.m. Saturday morning. She and a friend, Ruben Munoz, 29, appear to have interrupted a car thief who then attacked them. Arrested in the case was Jose Lorenzo Esparza, 23, who lived in the home where Porras was found dead. Munoz remains hospitalized with brain injuries and skull fractures, police said, after he was found



Maria Porras

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The kid who used to get spanked for writing obscenities in restrooms is now cleaning up as a writer in Hollywood.
— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

JOB WELL DONE — The Tornillo ISD Board of Trustees congratulates administrators **Alonso Delgado, Bertha Brew, Joe Tittle, TES Principal Severo Alcoset, Ofelia Bosquez, Carol Escarciga, TISD Superintendent Paul Vranish, and Rachel Avila.**

Tornillo Elementary is rated ‘Exemplary’ for a second time

By Rudy Barreda
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — Tornillo Elementary School has been rated “Exemplary” by the Texas Education Agency for the second time in three years, the highest rating the Agency designates. In 2004, Tornillo Elementary was the only public, open-enrollment school in the Region 19 area to be rated Exemplary. This year, TES was one of only three public schools in the Region 19 area to be given that rating.

The district was rated “Academically Acceptable” as were the three other Tornillo ISD campuses — Tornillo Intermediate, Tornillo Junior High and Tornillo High School. Scores across the campuses have risen substantially. In fact, had it not been for the district’s overall science scores, the district would have been rated “Recognized.”

In keeping with the expectations of the TISD School Board, an incentive system is in place for students and teachers who meet the higher state ratings. Students who pass all sections of the TAKS are rewarded with a district-sponsored train trip to Los Angeles. Also, the district provides an incentive system to pay all teachers on a campus a generous stipend when the campus reaches Recognized or Exemplary status.

TES principal Severo Alcoset said the rating is a reflection of the teamwork displayed by all stakeholders — teachers, support staff, students and parents. He also believes many of the initiatives the campus used this year contributed to the success of the school. Some of these initiatives included the tutoring programs, Saturday school, and regular assessments. “The positive attitudes and hard work of the teachers and staff, students, and parents played a big part in our success,” said Alcoset. “All in all, it was a team effort, and the rewards were bountiful.”

More than \$1.9 million approved for FEMA housing assistance in El Paso

EL PASO COUNTY — The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved more than \$1.9 million in individual housing assistance funds to help El Paso area residents recover from the recent flooding.

As of Aug. 27, about 2,700 individuals had registered for FEMA assistance and 2,097 inspections had been completed.

Hudspeth County was an add-on Aug. 28 to the Disaster Declaration, making that county eligible for assistance for storm damages — incurred since July 31 — under Category B of FEMA’s Public Assistance Grant Program. This means that assistance to partially reimburse eligible expenses after a disaster to save lives, protect public health and safety, and protect improved public and private property will be offered to state and local governments in Hudspeth County and to certain non-profit organizations, according to Kenneth Clark, FEMA coordinating

officer, but it will not include individual and household assistance.

Meanwhile, for El Paso County residents who have applied by phone or on-line for assistance but still want a face-to-face interview with a FEMA representative, the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) remains open at 7500 Viscount in El Paso from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

A mobile unit of the DRC is continuing to visit other areas of the county on the following schedule:

- Socorro City Hall at 860 Rio Vista on Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Horizon City Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Veny Webb, Sept. 2-3, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Clint Community Center, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Sept. 4-5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Vinton Fire Hall, 501 E. Vinton Road, Sept. 6-9, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Before visiting a DRC, individuals should register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-3362 or by going online at www.fema.gov.

Canutillo ISD school board approves budget for 2006-07

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a \$42.3 million budget for the 2006-07 school year during a public meeting Thursday, Aug. 24. This represents a 15.6 percent increase from last year.

“The increase is due to the adding of Alderete Middle School, increases in utility costs, as well as to the state mandated salary pay raises for teachers, nurses, librarians, counselors and other support personnel. Additionally, the District purchased a new comprehensive software system for storing and accessing district data including student attendance records, payroll, inventory, budgeting, and other important files,” said Tony Reza, CISD Business Services executive director.

The Board also voted to approve administration’s recommendation of a four-percent increase for maintenance and operations to generate about \$452,000 in additional state funds and \$400,000 in additional local revenue. Texas Legislature mandated school districts to lower the cap on the part of the tax rate that pays for operations to \$1.33 from \$1.50 this year.

Superintendent Dr. Pam Padilla said that the district had to increase the \$1.33 maintenance tax rate to \$1.37 in order to qualify for the additional state funds. Moreover, the four cents will increase state funding for the next biennium.

The new tax rate is \$1.66 for \$100 of assessed valuation. This includes \$1.37 for maintenance and operation and 29 cents for debt service. Reza said that during the recent

bond election, CISD promised voters that it would apply for state funds through the Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) program to assist with the bond payment.

“We informed voters, at that time, that if we did not get IFA funding, we would not raise property taxes more than six cents per year for debt service,” Reza said. “Unfortunately, CISD did not qualify for IFA funding. So, we are moving forward with the six cent increase to fulfill our promise to voters to construct two new elementary schools and to add a library, science labs and classroom wing at the Alderete Middle School campus,” he said.

According to Reza, valuations in the district have increased significantly because of the growth in the District. The district tax bill for the owner of an average home of \$82,965 (minus a \$15,000 homestead exemption) would be about \$1,381 a year. Last year, the tax rate was \$1.73, but the average home in the district was worth \$65,290. The average tax rate for schools then was \$1,133.

“The Board feels that we have to move forward and construct these facilities as soon as possible before the cost of materials and labor increases and impacts significantly the completion of these projects,” said Dr. Padilla.



Pam Padilla



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Take me out to the ball game

It's a great old song. *Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the game...*

To my family's chagrin, I like to sing. Out loud. Real loud. Dance, too, but that's a whole other story. And I know just enough of the lyrics to be dangerously obnoxious.

My middle grandboy, however, being only five years old, usually likes my slightly off-key renditions. He also likes that song, so we sang it alot on Saturday night when we went to the Diablos's last game of the season.

Buy me some peanuts and crack-erjacks...

The ticket price was family-friendly, only \$5 a head. They weren't selling peanuts and cracker-jacks, though. They were selling nachos, jalapeños, chili-fries, funnel cakes, cotton candy, sodas and beer. Prices on that stuff wasn't quite so family friendly. But do you think that deterred a game-happy group from indulging in way more junk food than is imaginably good for a human body? Not so, I say. We ate till we were sick.

And I don't care if I never get back!

Well, that's not necessarily true. After I topped off my culinary indiscretions with about half a sugary, greasy funnel cake, I just wanted to slip away somewhere into the darkness never to be seen again. But the feeling passed and the evening continued.

Well, we'll root, root, root for the home team...

Root we did. We hollered, and criticized, and whistled and laughed and in general kept up our part of the noise-making bargain. I think we'd have had more noise coming from one of my teenagers except she didn't recover as quickly from her junk food intake and spent some time looking an odd green color.

And if they don't win it's a shame!

It's a real neat thing when the one game you go to in a season, your team wins. Our team won. The Diablos thrashed the Coastal Bend Aviators, 5-1, in a satisfying sort of low-key way. One guy from the opposing

team got thrown out for kicking dirt on the umpire. All in all, a thoroughly satisfying contest.

So, it's one, two, three strikes you're out —

Yes, there were even a few strike outs. And kiddie foot races. And pseudo-sumo wrestling and something called Balloon Busting, which seemed a little unfair to the female half of the competing teams, but it was plenty entertaining.

There was even a foot race between the Chicken Mascot and a tiny — though spunky enough — little girl. The chicken had her beat until someone rushed onto the field and engaged him in a wrestling match so she could win the race. True to her El Paso roots, she forgot all about the race and stopped to watch the fight. She's preparing for freeway driving, I guess.

At the old ball game!

I've heard sports gurus say that, even if the Diablos are the worst team in the league this year, El Paso fans have really done their job this season coming out to support their team, averaging about 3,500 per game. The final night there were more than 7,000. For El Paso, that's saying something. The only thing I'd say was bigger than the support of the

fans was the size of the mosquitoes who failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the hometown crowd.

Somewhere along the way, even before the fireworks, the grandboy fell fast asleep and had to be carried bodily out of the stands and to the car. But as he was being jostled along he raised a fist into the air and sleepily intoned: "It's one, two, three strikes..." before he fell soundly asleep again.

By the way, if I got the lyrics wrong to that great old song, I don't want to hear about it.

My family has already given me enough grief!

What's up, doc? By Albert Balesh, M.D.

Skin Deeper

(Part 2)

Like the depths that selfishly guard their secrets, our bodies hold inner truths that may or may not become evident at some mysteriously designated point in time. When, how, and why concern us very little. What is a weightier element, as we feel the visible can actually hurt us. We continue on our journey to investigate the skin as a window to hidden disease and our physiologic workings.

Do we dare breathe a sigh of relief

through a purple nose? Perhaps for a Sioux warrior on the Little Bighorn that might have been possible. The war paint of today, however, in the form of red to purple plaques on the nose, raises smoke of an impending doom, reversing the historical tides of victory. Sarcoidosis, a multisystem, inflammatory disease with large cellular nodules in the lungs, bones, eyes, and skin, is a worthy and indomitable adversary who might have made even Custer proud.

It doesn't end there, however. Patients with psoriatic arthritis, lupus erythematosus, and scleroderma are already behind the eight ball. They

suffer from a battery of symptoms and signs resembling rheumatoid arthritis, as well as graver, more systemic manifestations. When it rains, they find themselves without umbrellas, and the facial rash, photosensitivity, skin calcification, oral ulcers, blisters, baldness, finger pallor, cyanosis, and redness, and further cutaneous incursions can be extremely annoying and demoralizing for their already ceaselessly trodden psyches.

The abdomen is a funny creature. We are alerted to its grumblings when nausea and vomiting point to our lack of self-control at the dinner table, a bug that has crept into our lives, or Montezuma's revenge. But if that were not enough, just the sound of terms like Peutz-Jeghers syndrome and hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasias (Osler-Weber-Rendu syndrome) are enough to scare the living daylights out of us. What we don't know can hurt us, however, so the skin, lip, and oral freckles of Peutz-Jeghers and the dilated blood vessels in the lungs, liver brain, eye, and gastrointestinal tract of Osler-Weber-Rendu warrant a careful search for polyps of the small intestine and brain tumors, respectively. Throw the cutaneous manifestations of dermatitis herpetiformis, hepatitis C infection, and pyoderma gangrenosum into the mix, and we become painfully aware of the intricate nature of the tryst involving skin and gastrointestinal tract. In the case of pyoderma gangrenosum, the painful ulcers of the legs, often following trauma, may affect patients having inflammatory bowel disease or rheumatoid arthritis.

Which brings us to the stuff of nightmares. Who's afraid of the big bad wolf, vampires, werewolves, gargoyles, goblins, ghosts, and mummies? Not us, you say. Well, that's well and good, but the blistering skin lesions of porphyria and pseudoporphyria were once connected with folk tales, the living dead, and Count Dracula's aversion to sunlight. Today we know the former disease processes to be connected to the ingestion of alcohol and medications (estrogen, diuretics, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, tetracycline), to kidney dialysis, to hepatitis B or C infection, and to tanning bed use.

Finally, the best (or worst) for last. It has been noted that 30%-50% of diabetic patients have or will have skin disease. Truth in numbers gives added weight to the already widely held notion that strict blood glucose control can do much to ward off the evil complications of this ubiquitous malady.

While a thick skin can do much to buttress a fragile ego, in much the same way that a wetsuit protects from the blue depths, thinner is better when it sounds the medical alarm to dive skin deep.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Sept. 1, 1835: Joe Harrell writes to the Legislature to complain that the Gov's privy is right by his front door.

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARMER, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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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.

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— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

CLINT WELCOMES EDUCATION COMMISSIONER — From left are board member Robert Lara, Superintendent Ricardo Estrada, Commissioner Dr. Shirley Neeley, and board member Alfred Gonzalez.

Texas Commissioner of Education visits Clint ISD

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Dr. Shirley Neeley, Texas Commissioner of Education, made a one-day visit to Clint Independent School District on Aug. 3, taking time to offer a few comments to new teachers during an orientation session before addressing administrators on important legislative issues.

Commissioner Neeley spoke to the district’s new teachers during orientation at Horizon Middle School and then to a group of board members, district leadership and invited guests at the Central Administration Building.

During her speeches, Commissioner Neeley discussed the changes in House Bill 1 and how it will affect teaching and accountability in years to come. She applauded the school board for approving the 2006-2007 salary package which starts new teachers at \$42,000 and includes a

four percent increase plus a step to all other employees.

Neeley also praised the district for its academic performance this past school year attributing the success to the district’s implementation of a benchmarking program. The Clint ISD was rated “Academically Acceptable” by the Texas Education Agency showing improvements in the core subject areas.

Frank Macias Elementary is one of just a few campuses in the El Paso area who received an “Exemplary” rating and Desert Hills Elementary received a “Recognized” rating. The district’s ten other campuses were all rated “Academically Acceptable.” In addition, five campuses in the district have received the Governor’s Education Excellence Award this past year. Campuses selected for this award based on improvement in reading and math performance are East Montana Middle School, Clint Junior High School, Frank Macias Elementary, Red Sands Elementary and W.D. Surratt Elementary.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

REGIONAL RECOGNITION — Miguel Mendez, kindergarten teacher at Loya Primary in the San Elizario ISD, was recognized as one of the region’s top teachers during the ESC Region 19 Teacher of the Year Awards ceremony, Thursday, Aug. 24, 2006. The evening took place at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center, as the packed house was treated to great food, lively entertainment, and the powerful words from some of the region’s most respected educators, including Dr. James Vasquez, ESC Region 19 Executive Director, and Dr. Shirley Neeley, Commissioner of Education for the State of Texas. School districts in the region name their top elementary and secondary teachers during near the end of the school year. These individuals are then recognized at the beginning of the next school year. Mendez was named primary teacher of the year for San Elizario on May 18, 2006.

San Eliceario Catholic Church

Fiesta 2006

In the San Elizario Plaza

Friday Sept. 8

5 PM to Midnight

Saturday Sept. 9

5 PM to Midnight

Sunday Sept. 10

10 AM to 11 PM

Free Entry / Entrada Gratis

• Entertainment

• Food & Drink

• Novelty Booths

• Huacha Tourney

• Fun For All

Notice of Public Hearing

Town of Clint

Texas Community Development Program FY 2007-2008

The Town of Clint, Texas, will hold a public hearing concerning the submission of an application(s) to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for grant assistance from the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP). The purpose of this hearing is to provide residents an opportunity to discuss the locality’s Citizen Participation Plan, local housing and community development needs statements, the amount of TCDP funding available, all eligible TCDP activities, and the use of past TCDP funds. The Town of Clint encourages its residents to participate in the development of applications and invites them to make their views known at this public hearing. Residents unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments at the Clint Community Center, or by mail addressed to the Town of Clint, 200 N. San Elizario Road, Clint, TX 79836. Written comments will be accepted until this public hearing is concluded. Residents with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services to attend this meeting should contact the Town Secretary at (915) 851-3146, at least two days before the hearing, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: CLINT COMMUNITY CENTER

200 N. SAN ELIZARIO ROAD

A notice will be published in the newspaper at a later date, no later than five days before the submission of any TCDP application, describing the proposed project, locations proposed improvements, cost, and benefits to the Low and Moderate Income residents. At that time, a copy of the application will be available for review at the Clint municipal offices during regular office hours.

El publico en general esta invitado a asistir a una audiencia para discutir la asistencia que se ofrece del Programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad del Estado de Texas. La presentacion y las discusiones sobre este programa se haran en espanol para aquellas personas que asi las deseen.

Dale Reinhart

Mayor

Date published

August 31, 2006

Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

America still sends letters from home

The United States of America has fought several wars, primarily on foreign soil. On a quiet morning in December of 1941, 353 Imperial Japanese Navy planes attacked Pearl Harbor killing 2,403 American servicemen and 68 civilians. Nearly 60 years later, nearly 3,000 Americans were killed when four commercial airplanes hijacked by 19 al-Qaeda terrorists crashed into both towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., as well as the final plane, brought down outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after the heroic passengers and crew fought to retake the aircraft.

As the smoke cleared, Americans once again found the resolve to defend freedom from tyranny.

The brave men and women of the Armed Forces continue to fight the War on Terror on many fronts. We continue to place our lives and liberties in the hands of our troops fighting on the front lines. These individuals risk their lives every day to preserve our freedom and safety. While we buy school supplies and run our family errands, our troops find themselves in harms way in foreign territory. Now, more than ever, it is paramount that we rally behind our troops and show our support.

When I think of our troops so far away from home, I am reminded of a story I heard many years ago. Dur-

ing the Vietnam War, Sgt. Billy Thompson sent a simple holiday request to news columnist Abigail Van Buren, the author of the famous column, ‘Dear Abby.’ He suggested that “just a letter from home” would make a wonderful Christmas present. This resulted in the holiday letter writing campaign called “Operation Dear Abby.”

For 17 years, American citizens sent letters and cards to servicemen deployed away from home. These cards served to boost morale and spread holiday cheer to thousands of military personnel. Many years later, during Operation Desert Storm, a new letter-writing campaign was born. Rather than focus only on the holiday season, “Any Service Member” aimed to promote the morale of our troops year-round. During operations in Bosnia, the campaign continued to grow and brought joy to many members of armed services.

Unfortunately, recent threats of Anthrax and biological warfare have made delivering large amounts of mail to our troops unsafe. The Department of Defense was forced to announce that both of these highly successful campaigns would be indefinitely suspended. In the midst of a new kind of war, we must find new means of supporting our servicemen and women.

As times change, we adapt and new technology is helping make it

easier for us all to show our appreciation for our troops. The Navy created a web-based alternative to traditional letter-writing campaigns. The new “Any Service Member” website provides a simple system to send e-mail greetings to our troops. Anyone wishing a reply to their message, need only to include a return e-mail address. This simple process allows those sending the message to choose any branch of the military to send their greetings. While our troops will miss the brightly-colored envelopes and picturesque cards, they are excited about the convenience of e-mail.

Our troops are still stationed all around the world. As our troops face new challenges, we must still demonstrate our appreciation for their sacrifices. Each person must do their part to help boost the morale of those who are far from friends, family, and home. I urge each of you to participate in this thoughtful and patriotic campaign. It will take only a few minutes, but think of the joy it will bring to these very special and admirable men and women.

For more information about the Navy’s “Any Service Member” campaign visit <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>.

Archives: www.wtccourier.com

Former assistant secretary now has sights set on doctorate

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — As she marks her 20th year with the Socorro Independent School District, Margaret Ruybe is celebrating a first in her career — her first year as an assistant principal at Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School.

When she started working at Escontrias Pre-School Center as an

assistant secretary in 1987, she didn’t have a college degree but she knew she wanted to help the children she saw every day. With support from other teachers and her family, she decided to finish her college education.

There were challenges and obstacles that came up, but the goal of pursuing a higher education always stayed with her. As she raised her daughter, who is now 21, she also gained valuable experience

working with various school and community leaders especially during her 12 years at Montwood High School. As she was promoted through the district, she kept thinking about heading back to school. When she did decide to go back, Margaret had built a network of support, guidance and friendship that helped this single mom.

“I met teachers who told me I could do so much more,” she says. “I’d work all day and go to school at night. I just needed a year and half to finish, because I would try to go little by little. I got my bachelor’s degree and got hired as the business teacher in career technology at Montwood and I loved it.”

At Montwood, she taught for five years and feels that she has a common background with her students. As the youngest of 11 children, less than half of whom finished high school, Margaret is the only one to receive a bachelor’s degree. She identified with those students who thought college was not an option.

“A lot of my students did not be-

lieve in themselves, they didn’t feel they could go anywhere or be anyone,” she recalls. “You make your goals; you try your best and let other people help you get there. Sometimes its not easy doing it by yourself, sometimes somebody has to step in or encourage you. In my heart I always wanted to do it but when you are up against odds, you wonder am I the person who can do it? Can I achieve my goals? Will I ever finish college?”

Margaret acknowledges that without the kindness of the teaching staff that encouraged and supported her, she might not have been able to face the challenge alone.

“The high school teachers I knew told me that I can do so much more. I would wish I had my degree, or I wish I could teach. I finally felt that these wishes can come true because



Margaret Ruybe

there are people who believe in me, who are encouraging me and they gave me that drive,” she says.

While she enjoyed working in the classroom and preparing students for what lay beyond, she still felt that she could do more.

“I’ve always enjoyed the school, the students and teaching. But since I had worked so much in an office with the administrators I also liked the dynamic of what makes a school run, so I pursued my master’s degree in educational administration.” Margaret’s master’s led to her recent promotion to a position as an assistant principal at Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School.

She received her master’s from UTEP in 2004 and hopes to pursue a doctorate. “I know I have a lot of stumbling blocks to go through but I know I have the support of the administration here and I know that it’s going to be good. I feel positive about it, I feel good about it and I know having that support makes the job a little bit better. I have the enthusiasm and I’m ready to go out and help.”

Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

Canutillo Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in its employment practices or in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs.

For additional information regarding Canutillo Independent School District’s policy of nondiscrimination contact: Renee O’Donnell, (915) 877-7423, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas 79932.

Notificación Pública

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo no discrimina en cuanto a raza, color, origen, sexo, edad o discapacidad en lo que se refiere a sus prácticas de empleo o a proveer servicios, actividades y programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para mayor información respecto a la política de no discriminación del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo, favor de contactar a: Renee O’Donnell, (915) 877-7423, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, TX 79932.

WTCC: 08/31/06

Canutillo Independent School District 2006-2007 Meal Policy

The Canutillo Independent School District serves breakfast and lunch every school day. All students in the District will receive a reimbursable meal at no charge through the academic year of 2006-2007. All children will receive a free breakfast and a free lunch regardless of income. In the operation of the child feeding program no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, age or national origin. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact Adele Balesh, Director of Food Services, at 877-7451.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo Regla de Alimentos Año 2006-2007

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo ofrece desayuno y comida todos los días escolares. A todos los estudiantes del distrito se les servirán alimentos a ningún costo durante el año académico de 2006-2007. Todo estudiante recibirá almuerzo y comida gratis no tomando en cuenta ingresos. En el funcionamiento del programa de alimentación ningún niño ó estudiante será discriminando contra su raza, color, religión, sexo, incapacidad, edad o origen nacional. Para mas informacion de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con Adele Balesh, Directora de Servicios de Alimentación, a 877-7451.

WTCC: 09/15/05

Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2006 on September 21, 2006, 6:00 pm, at 1539 Pawling Dr., Horizon City, Texas 79928. 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:	Bonnie Moorhouse, Florence Thomas and John Navidomskis
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	Lillard Thompson and Robert Surratt

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)	0.468693/\$100	0.468693/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised value	\$ 82,439	\$ 93,441
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)	0.00	0.00
Average taxable value	\$ 82,439	\$ 93,441
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 386.39	\$ 437.95
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		+ \$51.56
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+ 13.34%

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.

Briefs

From Page 1

Saturday morning, beaten, in an alley on East Yandell near Esparza’s home. Porras is survived by two sons, ages 11 and 7.

■ Volunteers and nominations for open positions on the Canutillo ISD District and Campuses Site-Based Management Committees are now being taken for the 2006-2007 school year. Canutillo ISD welcomes individuals who are parents of enrolled students, persons who reside in the community, and business persons who have an interest in the Canutillo school district to be on these committees. If you would be willing to serve, or you would like to nominate someone, please contact the CISD public information office at 877-7482.

■ The Oz Glaze Senior Center in Horizon City will host a crafts/baked-goods/yard sale o Sept. 9, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendors can participate for \$10 per table. Call 852-4006 or 852-3372 for more information.

■ The U.S. Customs and Border Protection El Paso Sector has seized about \$146 million in illegal narcotics in 2006, the latest of which was \$1.2 million worth of cocaine found Monday hidden in an after-market compartment behind the radiator of a Ford Taurus from Mexico driven by two male occupants attempting to pass through the Las Cruces I-25 checkpoint. In separate incidents, about \$249,536 worth of marijuana bundled in burlap was found stashed in a remote area south of I-10 near Lordsburg. Agents found it tracking footprints.

■ On Sept. 10, 2006, PBS viewers will be introduced to a kindergarten class at Escontrias Early Childhood Center and get a lesson about bilingual education. Escontrias is one of six schools featured in the PBS program Reading Rockets: Launching Young Readers. “Becoming Bilingual” is part seven of an eight part series created by PBS for parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers, and anyone else who touches children’s lives. Based on the latest research findings, each half-hour program examines a stage young children go through in developing their reading skills. The show will air on KCOS-TV Channel 13 (Cable Channel 12) at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 10. The Escontrias program was selected for its comprehensive reading program that helps develop bilingual skills at an early age as part of the “Success for All” Foundation which helps schools create and develop strategies to assist all students in reaching their full potential. Escontrias Early Childhood Center and Sierra Vista were two Socorro ISD schools that were selected to be involved in a national study on bilingual education conducted

by Johns Hopkins University. Fifteen schools nation-wide were selected to participate in this study.

■ Students at John Drugan School have raised \$1,000 to donate to the American Red Cross to assist victims of the recent flooding. The check was presented at the school on Aug. 16.

■ Marc Hernandez, president of Marnell Associates, and Joy Schreiber, vice president of operations for Block Vision, presented a \$2,500 company check recently to assist families in the communities of Canutillo following the recent storms and flooding. Block Vision, one of the District’s vision plan providers under the health benefits package, also donated school supplies.

■ Socorro ISD has announced the appointment of three new assistant principals:

• Norma Ayala was named as assistant principal at Slider Middle School.

This is her first assignment as an assistant principal. She was the Business Education Instructor at Socorro High School and has been with Socorro ISD since August 1990. Ayala was Socorro ISD 2002 Secondary Teacher of the Year and WalMart 2001 Teacher of the Year.

• Rosa Vega Barrio will be the assistant principal at Paso Del Norte School. She was at Loma Verde Elementary for two years as the TEKS Director. Two years prior to being the TEKS Director, she was a Reading Facilitator

at Hueco Elementary. This will be Barrio’s first year as an assistant principal she has been teaching in Socorro ISD for six years.

• Anna Fuentes is heading to John Drugan School as assistant principal. This will be her first appointment as an assistant principal. Previously, she was a counselor at Loma Verde Elementary and Hueco School. She has been in education for 19 years, 18 of which have been with Socorro ISD.



Norma Ayala



Rosa Vega Barrios



Anna Fuentes

MVP

From Page 6

as any team can, the fans held up their end of the bargain.

Though they were by far the worst team in the league, El Paso ranked fourth attendance-wise in the 10-team American Association averaging 3,538 fans per home game.

Five teams in the league averaged less than 2,000 fans per game.

You have to give a lot of credit to the Diablos front office, which has dedicated itself to provide fans with the kind of gimmicks they used to dish out during the Diablos glory days at Cohen Stadium.

They’ve been able to keep the fans coming to the ballpark but sooner or later the fans will want to see some good baseball being played here. And right now the baseball is anything but good.

But like they say at Wrigley Field after every season, “just wait till next year.”

Clint ISD names new administrative positions

EASTELPASO COUNTY — Clint ISD administration has announced the appointment of Morris Aldridge as the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, a new position in the district, on Aug. 16.

Aldridge was formerly the principal at Clint High School and has been with the district for 17 years as a teacher, athletic trainer, assistant principal, and principal. He will now oversee campus principals.



Morris Aldridge

Mark Ayala has been tapped to become principal of Clint High School. Ayala has been the principal at Desert Hills Elementary, a TEA “Recognized” campus, for the past 11 years. He said his priorities as principal of Clint High School are to build positive relationships, instill a belief system, to become familiar with the strengths of the team, and “to have fun.”

Pam Howard has been selected to serve as principal of Horizon High School. Howard has been in education for 26 years and is the former of principal of Frank Macias Elementary, a TEA “Exemplary” campus. Her plan at Horizon High School is to develop a community that is student centered, parent centered, and self disciplined, she said.



Mark Ayala

Mario Acosta will return to Clint ISD to serve as the new principal of East Montana Middle School. He returns to Clint ISD from El Paso ISD where he served as the Director of Assessment. Acosta, a former coach, math teacher and mentor, has been in education for 30 years. He was formerly an assistant principal in Clint ISD from 1999-2003.

Robert Flores is the new principal at W.D. Surratt Elementary. Flores was formerly an assistant principal in YISD for the past nine years and has 15 years experience in education.

— Contributed by Laura Cade

Lower Valley Water District
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Lower Valley District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2006 on September 11, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas 79836. 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:	Rosalinda Vigil, Alicia L. Fresquez, David Carrasco, Henry Trujillo and Gerald Grijalva	
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE	
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE	
ABSENT:	NONE	

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)	0.244392/\$100	0.227266/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ - 0.017126/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)	- 7.01%	
Average appraised value	\$ 52,285	\$ 58,428
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Average taxable value	\$ 52,285	\$ 58,428
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 127.78	\$ 132.79
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	+ \$ 5.01	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	+ 3.92%	

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.

Cowboys look like they’re ready to bring it on this year

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It’s been quite a few years since the Dallas Cowboys resembled a team that could realistically contend for a championship. But even though Da Boys have only played three pre-season games in 2006, it’s apparent this is not the same Dallas team of the last decade.

Jerry Jones brought in Bill Parcells a few years ago to turn the proud franchise around. Over the last three seasons, Parcells’ Cowboys have been pretty mediocre — at best.

But this season I’ve seen something in the Cowboys that I haven’t seen in about 10 years. Dallas has been playing with the passion and enthusiasm of a team on a mission.

Of course, the big off-season acquisition of Terrell Owens was supposed to help their anemic offense put points on the board.

And so far it’s worked. The Cowboys’ offense is picking up chunks of yardage and first downs. They’re putting together 10-, 13- and 15-play drives while eating up the play clock keeping the opposing team’s offense on the sidelines.

The ironic thing is that the Cowboys are moving the ball up and down the field without the moody T.O.

Owens is still nursing a sore hamstring and

though he’s put more miles on the bike this year than Lance Armstrong, he’s done nothing to help the Cowboys’ offense.

Maybe Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is beginning to realize something Parcells has always known, that the team doesn’t need T.O. to be successful. They’re certainly proving it on the field.

So far Dallas has outscored its first three opponents 60-17. And as good as the Cowboys offense has looked — the defense has been even better.

The defense has held every opponent thus far to single-digit scoring and totally shut down the Saints’ rookie sensation Reggie Bush, holding him to seven yards rushing and 14 yards receiving.

I’m not saying the Dallas Cowboys are going to win the Super Bowl, but for the first time in many seasons, I’m not going to say they have no shot either.

They have an excellent chance to win it all — with or without Terrell Owens.

A Devil of a season

The El Paso Diablos played their final game of the season last weekend and it couldn’t have come any sooner.

The Diablos spent the entire 2006 baseball season in a last-place hole they could never climb out of. They were so deep they couldn’t

even see daylight.

The team went through three different managers on the way to a dismal 32-61 overall record. They finished in last place during the first half of the season and were in last place at the end of the second-half race.

Normally consistency is a pretty good thing. If Butch Henry comes back to lead the team next season I have no doubt that he can have a competitive squad, but he needs some players and above all, some pitchers that can hold their

opponents to under 10 runs a game.

But the Diablos did have an outstanding player this year. A presence that performed no matter whether the team was winning or losing. Someone who showed up every game even at the team’s bleakest hours.

The Diablos MVP for 2006 was the El Paso fans.

Though the team performed about as badly

See MVP, Page 5

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, SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM AT OPERATIONAL SERVICES CSP NO. 199-0906-6152 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2006 in the Socorro ISD, Operational Services Department located at 201 Tanton Road, El Paso, Texas 79927. At this conference bidders will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any aspect of the project. Although attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory, all bidders are responsible for the information discussed at the conference, and are strongly urged to attend. It is also highly recommended that all bidders visit and inspect each work site prior to submitting a bid.

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-08/31/06

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and

lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IG2WJ4T2KF3I6246, 1989 Pontiac Gran Prix, red, Mexico license 356-SKZ-3 WTCC-01/20/05

RENTALS

3 bedroom 2 bath home on Homestead in Horizon City, Socorro ISD. Large bedrooms, double garage with opener. 494-3054 or 755-1730. 8/31

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: socorroclassof96.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 St. Fabens, Texas 8/31

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. Información: 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

“Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring” JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

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 roter service for sewers and drains
- Appliance installation
- Many other plumbing services

Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING: ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	(STOP HERE) (FOR \$5 AD.)
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35

Please print.Send form and payment (no cash) to:

West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

2006 Property Tax Rates in R.E. Thomason Hospital

This notice concerns 2006 property tax rates for the Hospital District (DBA R.E. Thomason General Hospital). 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	\$	42,050,643
Last year’s debt taxes	\$	3,086,007
Last year’s total taxes	\$	45,136,650
Last year’s tax base	\$	24,120,735,539
Last year’s total tax rate		\$0.187128 / \$100

This year’s effective tax rate:

Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$	45,116,062
+This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$	26,423,868,303
=This year’s effective tax rate		\$0.170739 / \$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)	\$	42,031,462
+This year’s adjusted tax base	\$	26,423,868,303
=This year’s effective operating rate		\$0.159066 / \$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate		\$0.171791 / \$100
+This year’s debt rate		\$0.021737 / \$100
=This year’s rollback rate		\$0.193528 / \$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Hospital District (R. E. Thomason General Hospital)** adopts a 2006 tax rate equal to the effective rate of \$0.170739 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2005 taxes by \$1,450,988.

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)	\$ 98,630,151 (b)
Debt Service (I&S)	\$ 4,508,224 (a)
(a) I&S Debt Service Fund Balance includes \$4,508,224 transferred from Hospital Operations in Fiscal Year 2006.	
(b) M&O Fund Balance includes the following items which have been set aside for a specific purpose and are not available to fund operations: (1) Depreciation Fund - \$11,266,188 (2) Self Insurance Fund - \$8,744,063 (3) Flex Plan Trust - \$53,362 (4) El Paso First Restricted Cash - \$572,760 and (5) El Paso First Medical Claims - \$9,700,430.	

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
1998 General Obligation Refunding Bonds	\$2,260,000	\$812,700	\$0	\$3,072,700
2002 Personal Property Contractual Obligations	\$500,000	\$941,306	\$0	\$1,441,306
2005 General Obligation Debt	\$0	\$5,925,350	\$0	\$5,925,350
Total required for 2006 debt service				\$10,439,356
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				\$ 4,508,224
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
-Excess collections last year				\$0
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2006				\$ 5,931,132
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2006				\$0
=Total Debt Levy				\$ 5,931,132

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 Ave., 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 15, 2006

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



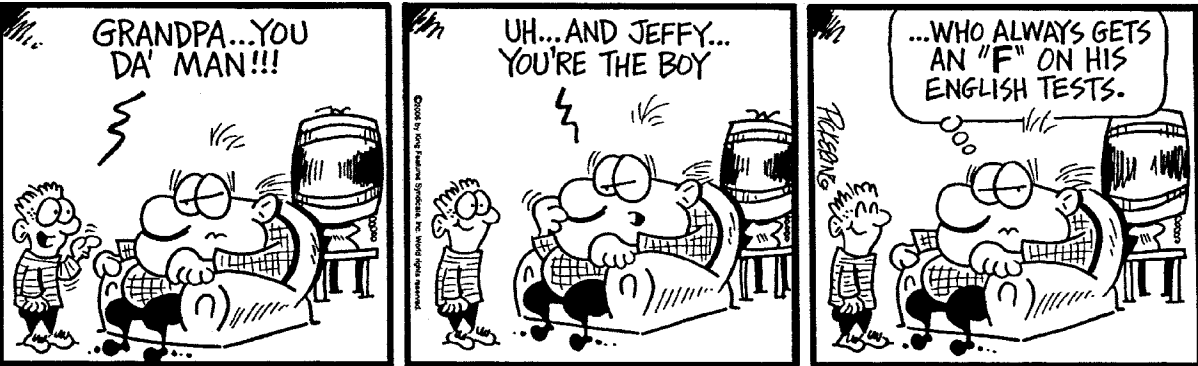
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Ringin' up new business

By Don Flood

A phone company has launched a great new calling plan for parents worried about how much time their teenagers will rack up on the cell phone: unlimited minutes.

That's right, Unlimited Minutes! No more worrying about whether that 3 billion minutes a month plan will be enough.

But there is one small, teensy weensy... well, WIDE GAPING GRAND CANYON OF A CATCH: The "unlimited minutes" are for the parents and the kids to talk to EACH OTHER.

No, not the other kids that your precious darlings talk to 59 hours of the day. (I may be exaggerating slightly.) These "unlimited minutes" are for you and your little bundles of joy to use.

Because that's the problem, right? Those lovable, crazy kids can't stop calling you and chatting about what they're doing, their hopes and dreams and interests and plans for the weekend and on and on and on.

Is there one parent in America dumb enough to fall for this? If so, let's remove the kids from the home now before they're forever harmed by this deluded nutcase.

PARENT: Good news! With our new calling plan you'll be able to call me and talk as long as you want.

CHILD: I'm not criticizing today's kids. A one-minute-and-38-second plan would have lasted me from ages 13 to 17, longer if I didn't need a ride.

And there's more good news on the cell-phone front: Mel Gibson ring tones!

No, I'm not kidding here either. You can download your very own version of Gibson's bigoted

tirade to the Malibu police department and make it your very own ring tone.

It's not really Gibson, of course. It's an actor, probably in his first leading role.

("And the Academy Award for best performance in a ring tone is...")

There's more on the way. According to a spokeswoman from Oasys Mobile, "Mel in Malibu" is part of a Scandal Tones series the company will offer.

(I'm still not making this up. I'll tell you when I do — at least maybe.)

They already have one planned for — who else? — Lindsay Lohan, who delivers fresh scandals the way Papa John's delivers pizzas. They're just waiting for the next scandal to erupt.

As the spokeswoman said, "She's already been hospitalized three times this year, so we figure we won't have to wait long."

I'm embarrassed to admit this, but I never would have conceived of the need for such a product, which is obviously why I'm not getting rich in the ring-tone biz.

(That strange whirling sound you hear is Alexander Graham Bell turning over in his grave. He's up to about 10,000 rpm by now.)

But now I can see there's no end to wacky and amusing ring tones.

Imagine the fun you'd have with an Adolph Hitler ring tone. Talk about a conversation starter!

And who wouldn't enjoy the Nails on a Chalkboard ring tone?

Of course some of these ring tones may require the help of an actor. Mel Gibson may be available.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

SWEET TALK

ACROSS

1 Singer Ian

6 Get the picture

11 Bespectacled dwarf

14 Craze

17 Coleridge's "Dejection: _"

18 Piled up

20 Honest name

21 Nutritional abbr.

22 Start of a remark

24 "Short _" ('86 film)

26 _-di-dah

27 Cavalry characteristic

28 Wapiti

30 First-class

31 Neighbor of Cal.

32 Hindu deity

36 Excludes

37 Caution

40 Peter of "Becket"

42 Long-legged wader

44 Part 2 of remark

50 Tree trim

51 Mischievous

52 Trigger-happy guy?

53 Cen. segments

55 Label

56 Mortgages, e.g.

58 Virginia _

60 Small combo

61 Adolescent

62 Witch wheels?

65 Repeated

67 TV's " _ City"

69 Part 3 of remark

73 Temporary calm

74 Witch doctor

76 Synonym source

77 Support

79 Sheet of stamps

80 Heady quaffs

82 Destroyed

84 Regulatory agcy.

87 White House spokesman Fleischer

88 Sault _ Marie, MI

89 Alex Rieger, for one

93 Bunch of bass

95 Part 4 of remark

99 Black or Valentine

100 Reach

101 Riches' predecessor

102 Rubbish

104 Mortarboard part

106 Cookbook author

109 Guitar features

110 John _ Passos

111 On the briny

112 Fast flier

115 Last name in talk shows

117 End of remark

123 Mineral suffix

124 Wrong

125 Printing

126 Romeo and Juliet

127 _ Guevara

128 Dram

129 Examine

130 Like a lummoX

DOWN

1 Secure spot

2 Dancer Pavlova

3 Hit the chips

4 A mean Amin

5 Passover meal

6 Feds

7 Vole kin

8 Gray matter?

9 Vane dir.

10 _ diem

11 Actor Rambo

12 Ben _-Wan Kenobi

13 Rite

14 Healthful snack

15 Mine entries

16 See socially

18 Wonder Woman, for one

19 Believe

23 Yalie

25 Hold fast

29 Bolger/Haley co-star

31 Hill dwellers

32 High times

33 Gambol

34 Jai _

35 Coop crowd

36 Baltimore bird

37 Skater Katarina

38 Kuwait's continent

39 Tolled

41 Pollux or Bert Bobbsey

43 Rochester's missis

45 Montana's capital

46 Tennis pro

48 Nastase

47 Pulsate

48 Austrian province

49 Bay window

54 Lay down the lawn

57 MIT grad

59 Cassowary kin

60 Consequently

61 Use a stopwatch

62 Marsh

63 Actress

64 McClanahan

64 Legendary Giant

66 Boxing maneuver

67 Lewis or Belafonte

68 " _ Room" ('02 film)

70 Archaic

preposition

71 Puccini heroine

72 Indian export

74 Health club

75 Character

78 Essence

81 _ majesty

82 Rope material

83 Utah city

84 "My kingdom _ horse!"

85 Henning or McClure

86 48 Across attraction

88 Photo

90 "Woe is me!"

91 Certain sandwiches

92 Eight bits

94 Jealous Olympian

96 Japanese dog

97 Till

98 Complete agreement

102 Solemn vow

103 Soprano Fleming

105 " _ forgive those..."

107 VCR button

108 Native New Zealander

109 Bk.'s backup

110 Adroit

111 Sailor's shout

112 Mall event

113 _ aerobics

114 Exam

116 Tabloid flier

118 Mrs. McKinley

119 "Whether _ nobler in the mind..."

120 Hasbrouck _ , NJ

121 Security grp.

122 Cambodia's _ Nol

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Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My brother is 39 years old and has congestive heart failure and diabetes. Because he has not worked for several years, he could not qualify for Social Security disability benefits but has just been told that he is eligible for SSI disability benefits. Can you tell me what other types of assistance he would qualify for since he will be getting SSI?

A: In most states, SSI recipients also get Medicaid. You should contact your state medical assistance office

for more information. SSI recipients are also generally eligible for social services provided by the state, city or county where they live. These may include homemaker services, arrangements for meals or transportation. More information on these types of services is available at the local public assistance office. And SSI recipients may also qualify for food stamps.

Q: Do I have to report a lost Social Security card?

A: No. If you have lost your Social Security card you may apply for a replacement, but even that may not be necessary if you know your number. You should keep your Social Security card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry it with you unless you need to show it to an employer or service provider. This will minimize the changes of losing your Social Security card or having it stolen.

Q: I am a 73-year-old retiree who, unfortunately, always seems to put everything off until the last minute. With the deadline for the Medicare Prescription Drug program coming

up soon, I need to know where I can go to quickly find information about the program and sign up for it?

A: For more information or to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you can visit the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov, or call them at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). You may also want to find out if you might be eligible for extra help in paying monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments that is available to some beneficiaries with limited income and resources. That extra help could be worth an average of \$2,100 per year for those who qualify. You could qualify for the

extra help if you have limited income (below \$14,700 for an individual or \$19,800 for a married couple) and resources (below \$11,500 for an individual or \$23,000 for a married couple). Even though the enroll period but Part D has expired, if you qualify for Extra Help, you will still be allowed to select a prescription plan without penalty for late enrollment.

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, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

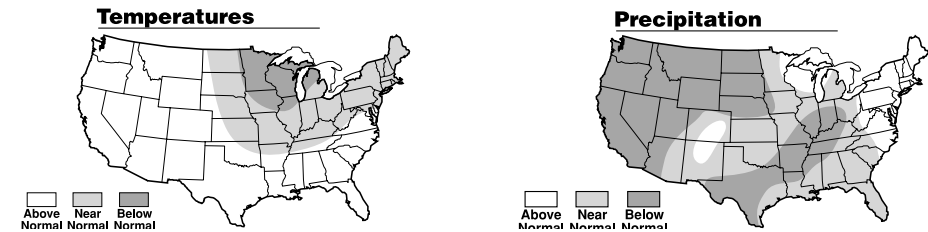
7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

AccuWeather.com®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
A p.m. t-storm possible	Cloudy most of the time	Partly sunny	A p.m. t-storm possible	A p.m. t-storm possible	Cloudy most of the time	Mainly cloudy	Mostly sunny
91°	69°	89° 69°	89° 66°	84° 64°	86° 64°	86° 64°	87° 63°
RealFeel 97°	RealFeel 67°	RealFeel 89° 67°	RealFeel 85° 64°	RealFeel 83° 62°	RealFeel 86° 64°	RealFeel 91° 64°	RealFeel 94° 61°

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	First	Full
Thu.	6:40 a.m.	7:31 p.m.	Thu.	1:53 p.m.	11:47 p.m.		
Fri.	6:41 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	Fri.	2:55 p.m.	none	8/31	9/7
Sat.	6:42 a.m.	7:29 p.m.	Sat.	3:55 p.m.	12:39 a.m.	Last	New
Sun.	6:42 a.m.	7:27 p.m.	Sun.	4:50 p.m.	1:40 a.m.		
Mon.	6:43 a.m.	7:26 p.m.	Mon.	5:38 p.m.	2:49 a.m.	9/14	9/22
Tues.	6:43 a.m.	7:25 p.m.	Tues.	6:20 p.m.	4:01 a.m.		
Wed.	6:44 a.m.	7:24 p.m.	Wed.	6:57 p.m.	5:15 a.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

REGIONAL CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	90	67	pc	90	67	s	89	63	pc	85	63	t
Albuquerque, NM	87	63	pc	86	63	pc	83	62	pc	81	60	t
Amarillo, TX	90	62	s	86	60	pc	80	57	t	80	56	s
Austin, TX	95	70	pc	95	68	pc	92	65	pc	95	67	t
Brownsville, TX	94	77	pc	94	76	pc	93	74	pc	93	73	pc
Dodge City, KS	86	62	s	84	59	s	80	57	pc	83	56	s
Jackson, MS	88	68	pc	90	68	pc	89	66	pc	88	65	pc
Laredo, TX	101	78	s	104	78	s	104	77	s	102	74	pc
Little Rock, AR	87	68	s	91	67	s	88	64	s	86	64	pc
Lubbock, TX	90	64	s	88	64	pc	84	60	t	83	59	s
Memphis, TN	84	68	s	89	68	pc	88	69	s	86	67	t
Midland, TX	92	67	pc	90	66	pc	85	63	pc	84	62	t
Pueblo, CO	92	54	s	85	52	pc	79	51	pc	85	53	s
Roswell, NM	92	64	pc	90	64	pc	84	60	t	83	60	t
St. Louis, MO	78	67	s	85	65	s	80	61	pc	79	61	s
San Antonio, TX	96	74	pc	98	72	s	98	72	pc	92	70	pc
Texarkana, AR	91	68	s	92	68	pc	93	66	s	86	68	t
Waco, TX	94	69	pc	94	68	s	95	67	pc	92	68	t
Wichita, KS	84	64	s	84	61	s	84	59	pc	83	59	s

U.S. CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Atlanta	84	69	t	82	67	pc	83	68	pc	83	67	pc
Boston	72	58	s	70	57	pc	70	58	pc	68	60	sh
Chicago	76	58	pc	78	59	pc	78	58	pc	76	56	pc
Denver	86	53	s	77	50	pc	78	49	s	80	54	s
Detroit	78	58	pc	76	59	pc	76	57	pc	76	59	t
Houston	92	72	pc	92	74	pc	94	74	s	92	74	pc
Indianapolis	76	61	pc	79	61	pc	78	61	s	77	60	t
Kansas City	82	62	s	82	62	s	80	55	pc	76	56	s
Los Angeles	84	64	pc	84	63	pc	86	65	pc	82	64	pc
Miami	90	77	t	89	79	t	90	78	pc	90	78	pc
Minneapolis	82	62	s	76	58	pc	72	54	pc	70	53	c
New Orleans	92	77	t	90	75	pc	91	75	s	89	72	pc
New York City	72	64	pc	80	65	pc	78	62	r	78	67	r
Omaha	82	62	s	78	60	pc	78	54	pc	77	54	pc
Phoenix	102	82	t	102	83	t	104	82	t	104	82	t
San Francisco	76	56	pc	76	58	pc	76	56	pc	73	57	pc
Seattle	74	54	s	84	56	s	86	58	s	86	58	s
Washington	78	64	sh	78	64	r	76	64	r	80	67	t

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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