



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Crossroads show

Save the date — Sunday, May 20, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Paso Museum of Art for the opening of *Sister Cities: Testing Boundaries: Art and Artisans Along the U.S.-Mexico Border Contemporary Crossroads*. Featuring artists such as Margarita Cabrera, Gaspar Enriquez, Carlos Gomez, Louis Hock, Alfred Quiroz, Mauricio Saenz and Einar and James de la Torre from the sister cities along the U.S. and Mexico border, this event investigates why the U.S./Mexico border and the frequent passage of ideas, culture and people found there has become an increasingly crucial subject that produces numerous misunderstood realities and paradoxes. This multi-state and binational exhibition explores the work of emerging and established living artists working in a variety of media and testing physical, aesthetic and conceptual boundaries. A reception will follow. Call (915) 532-1707 to RSVP or to request more information. This event is free to the public. The Museum is now open until 9 p.m. Thursday evenings for your convenience.

### A say in pay

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, on April 20. Congressman Silvestre Reyes voted in favor of the bill. "Essentially, this bill is about accountability," said Reyes. "As Americans learn more about lavish compensation packages for CEOs and other executives, many feel they should have the ability to weigh in. If shareholders buy stock in a company, they should have some say in the company's executive pay practices." The bill would require public companies to include in their annual proxies a non-binding advisory shareholder vote on their executive pay plans. It does not set limits on pay, but will ensure that shareholders have an opportunity to give their approval or disapproval on the company's executive pay practices. The bill also contains a separate advisory vote if a company gives a new, not yet disclosed "golden parachute" — often a severance pay, cash bonus and stock options package included in a contract — while simultaneously negotiating to buy or sell a company. The legislation builds on the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) executive pay disclosure rules to require that public companies include in their annual proxy to investors the opportunity to vote on the company's executive pay plans.

### In other news

■ A man has been missing for more than one week and detectives from the El Paso Police Department's Westside Regional Command Center are asking for the public's assistance. On Wednesday, April 11 2007, 20-year old Adam Thomas Oury was last seen in the area of Mesa and

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*What we want is progress, if we can have it without change.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

**CALIFORNIA CHATTING** — TISD Parent Antonia Alonso delivers part of the "Parent Chat" presentation at the annual NSBA Conference in San Francisco.

## Tornillo's parent program presented during conference in San Francisco

By Rudy Barreda  
*Special to the Courier*

Trustees recently presented a session on parent involvement at the National School Boards Association (NSBA) 67th Annual Conference

TORNILLO — The Tornillo ISD Board of

See TORNILLO, Page 4

## Area teachers appointed to state panel

*Villegas surprised, excited to be chosen*

By Irma Flores  
*Special to the Courier*

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Elvia Villegas, a first grade Bilingual teacher at Bill Sybert School in the Socorro Independent School District, has been appointed to the State Review Panel for Mathematics, English and Spanish versions for grades K-2. She, along with other educators across Texas, will meet in Austin in June to determine which instructional materials will be used by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools over the next few years.



Elvia Villegas

"I was surprised to be accepted, but I'm excited to be part of this state panel," says Villegas.

The UTEP grad has been teaching for nine years with the last three being at Bill Sybert School. As a member of the State Review Panel, Villegas will be reviewing and evaluating instructional materials submitted for the November 2007 adoption by the State Board of Education. Panel members will also help identify factual errors in the assigned materials.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) had selected another SISD teacher to assist in reviewing testing materials. Socorro Middle School 6th Grade Math Teacher, Tony Murillo, reviewed the Math portion (6th grade) of the TAKS in October 2007. Commissioner of Education Shirley Neeley selected Murillo to serve a third term to the Student Assessment Division as an Education Committee Member. Murillo is the only one from Region 19, which includes El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, to be selected for this committee.

*Santarriaga sees great opportunity*

By Kim Guzman  
*Special to the Courier*

UPPER VALLEY — Emma Santarriaga, fifth grade bilingual education teacher at Damian Elementary School in the Canutillo Independent School District, has been appointed to the State Review Panel for Mathematics, English and Spanish versions for grades 3-5. The panel will meet in Austin during the week of June 18 - 22.



Emma Santarriaga

As a state review panel member, she will occupy one of the most influential advisory positions in Texas education, and this appointment reflects her interest, ability and expertise in her field. Santarriaga will play an important role in determining which instructional materials will be used by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for the next few years.

"As a member of the State Review Panel, Santarriaga's responsibilities will include reviewing and evaluating instructional materials submitted for the November 2007 adoption by the State Board of Education. As a review panelist, she will determine the extent to which instructional materials cover the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)," said Anita Deibert, Review and Adoption Specialist in Instructional Materials and Educational Technology for the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

"Based on my professional experience and my love for my students, I feel that this is a great opportunity for me to be able to express my opinion about our students' educational needs. I hope to meet the State Review Panel's expectations," said Santarriaga.

## Attempt to cross border with illegal pork costs \$500

By Roger Maier  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the Stanton Street Dedicated Commuter Lane (DCL) fined a 25-year-old El Paso woman \$500 last week after they discovered prohibited food items in her car. The driver also lost her DCL crossing privileges after CBP officers found one kilo of ham and one kilo of bacon concealed in the vehicle.

**"We have a zero tolerance policy for violations."**

"It is important that CBP maintain the integrity of the DCL program through regular targeted and random inspections. We trust but we also verify," said David Longoria, CBP El Paso Port Director. "We have a zero tolerance policy for violations."

In addition to the DCL seizure, area CBP officers made 22 additional agricultural seizures during the week, resulting in \$6,100 in penalties being assessed. First time violators face penalties of up to \$300. Prohibited items seized this week included bologna, chorizo, pork skins, raw pork, raw eggs, avocados, apples, mangos, oranges, guavas, plums and hibiscus tea. Dozens of other prohibited agricultural items were abandoned at border ports during the inspection process. The interception of these prohibited items are important in preventing the introduction of pests and disease that pose a risk to the U.S. agriculture industry.

CBP enforcement activity was not limited to agriculture seizures. CBP officers working at the border ports of entry in El Paso, West Texas and New Mexico recorded 161 immigration violations during the last seven days. During the week, CBP officers identified a total of 72 imposters (people using a legitimate document not assigned to the person) including 24 in a single day at the Paso Del Norte crossing last Saturday. They also identified 62 intended immigrant cases (people with legitimate entry documents intending to live/work illegally in the U.S.), 14 false claims for U.S. citizenship by non U.S. citizens, eight people attempting to enter the U.S. with counterfeit or fraudulent entry documents, four people attempting to enter without inspection, and one visa overstay violation.

CBP officers performing anti-terror inspections at border ports of entry in El Paso, West Texas and New Mexico seized 4,271 pounds of marijuana in 45 seizures and a small quantity of cocaine in two additional busts during the last seven days.

CBP officers also seized three live roosters, four other live birds, recovered a \$24,000 stolen backhoe, and assessed \$1,000 in penalties for a pair of vehicle export violations. Anti-terrorism remains the primary mission of CBP. The intensive inspection process associated with the anti-terror mission continues to yield impressive enforcement numbers in all categories.



# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## Revolution ain't cheap

Historians say there was a point in history when American powers-that-be realized that horse-power wasn't cutting it anymore. As newer, faster alternatives loomed on the world's horizon there was a realization that profit and productivity lay in a massive reformation of our national transportation system.

portation system.

Enter the automobile. Posthaste arrived the interstate highway system that provides a major transportation artery to every section of this nation. We resurrected the dinosaur, or at least his leavings in the tar pits, and became a nation fueled by petroleum. Along the way, we bought, sold and scrapped millions of wheeled boxes made of steel, plastic, rubber and fiberglass, ever seeking the latest "improvement" to our mode of transportation.

The ability to make major, national improvements or upgrades always lies in the grip of the rich and powerful. We are all familiar with the side effects of our chemical dependency on petroleum, but we can't quit using it yet because our entire economy is based on it. Until it becomes financially beneficial to the big boys, all the technology necessary to recover from our addiction will remain firmly locked in the closet.

Same with the internet.

As you already know, this "trans-

portation system" of nothingness has begun to affect every level of life in America. A few decades ago it was chugging along like a horse and buggy. Few realized the power it would eventually wield.

Boys and girls, hold onto your hats. It has apparently become financially advantageous for the powers-that-be to make improvements to — otherwise known as take over — this ever-expanding connectivity.

Words like "scrapping" and "clean slate" are beginning to rattle the foundations of America's new-found source of everything. This latest great frontier of uncontrolled American progress is about to bite the dust.

"Five years ago, we thought of the Web as a new medium, not a new economy," wrote Clement Mok.

Well, not anymore, sir, because that's exactly what it has become.

Now, I'm not in favor of a great deal of activity that takes place on the internet, but the medium does offer flexible and inexpensive information sharing that is productive, convenient and extremely beneficial if used appropriately. The downside is that the effectiveness of the internet has imprisoned us all to one degree or another.

Information is power and the internet has become the major force utilized by almost every agency, government or otherwise, to disseminate fully detailed information.

Want a job? It's listed on the internet. Want to file out an application? Do it on the internet. Want to take an exam? Go on the internet. Want to know your credit score, book an airline ticket, write your sister a letter and have her receive it within minutes if not seconds? You can do it all on the internet.

The infant internet was the brain-child of university researchers who worked quietly in their labs with their work largely ignored. They had no idea the power of their creation.

The next-generation internet about to swallow up it's predecessor is experiencing no such benign birthing. The new mother's name is Commercialism, and she is attended by the surgical team of Cisco Systems, Japan's NTT DoCoMo Inc. and Germany's Deutsche Telekom AG, to mention a few, and the fee for their services won't be small.

"Commercial considerations are clearly in the minds of researchers," said AP writer Anick Jesdanun, who notes that "most of the work is still being done in ivory towers, using grants from leading high-tech companies and government agencies."

Of course, to hear them tell it, it's all for our own good. The new system will improve security and privacy. It will better integrate various technologies and types of devices used to tap into the Web, and it will create "civic functionality" in which users can access location-specific assistance during emergencies or inclement weather. Not to mention, make it easier for law enforcement to track illegal activity.

The main problem is, of course, that it won't be inexpensive to utilize this new Web and those that hold the keys to the kingdom will be immune to the weaknesses of altruism.

Albert Einstein said it best: "It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity."



**1973**  
**34**  
**2007**

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## Town of Anthony Election — May 12, 2007

Under the new law (Section 2.051-054) of the Election Code the Town of Anthony will not be holding an election May 12, 2007 due to the fact that the candidates on the ballot are unopposed and no write-in candidates have filed to challenge them by the write-in deadline. The election process is rendered virtually meaningless since voters will be able to cast a vote only for the unopposed candidates on the ballot.

Unopposed candidates are: Luis Vela — Alderman Place One; Rosie Holguin — Alderwoman Place Two; and Art Franco — Mayor.

### Eleccion — 12 de mayo de 2007

*Bajo la nueva ley (Seccion 2.051-054) de la Codificacion de Elecciones en El Pueblo de Anthony, Texas, no habra una eleccion el dia 12 de mayo de 2007 debido al hecho que los candidatos en la papeleta de voto estaran sin oposicion y ningun candidato por escrito ha archivado desafiar ha la fecha indicada. El proceso de la eleccion sera virtualmentes sin sentido, pues se lanzaran a los votantes un voto solo por los candidatos sin oposicion en la papeleta de voto.*

*Candidatos sin oposicion son los siguientes regidores: Luis Vela — Lugar Uno; Rosie Holguin — Lugar Dos; y Art Franco — Alcalde.*

## Write stuff

Dear Editor:

The Horizon City Fire Department participated in a boot drive to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association in August of 2006 and March of 2007. The Fire Department was able to raise a total of \$6,846 due to the support and generosity of the Horizon City community. The Fire Department and the Muscular Dystrophy Association would like to thank you for all your continuing effort in the fight against this debilitating condition. We hope to see your continued support in August.

**Ron Larson**  
Horizon City Fire Department

Dear Editor:

As we look out across our yard to Cougar Park in Socorro, what for years has been a lonely couple of baseball fields with a few swings, we've seen a dramatic facelift. New playground equipment and benches as well as landscaping have been installed and restroom facilities are in the process of being built as we speak.

These new improvements seem to be well-received by the citizens of Socorro, since there has been an increase of citizens who, along with their children, have been visiting and using the new equipment and spending the afternoon enjoying themselves.

One person who has been a presence since this work has be-

gun is the mayor, Trini Lopez. He has been there on an almost daily basis, not simply observing, but actually lending a hand by picking up a shovel and digging and helping unload other materials.

Other members of the Socorro City Council should look at the mayor and lead by example, getting down to work to improve this city. Mayor Lopez has shown that he is someone who takes charge and doesn't simply sit behind a desk and give orders, but actually lends a hand in making Socorro better.

We should thank the mayor for his hard work and get other members of council to get on the ball and begin working for the benefit of the whole city and not for only a few.

**Gilbert R. Lujan III**  
Socorro

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for publishing the article "Be Anything" regarding the fund-raiser being held at Mountain View High School. The Lobo Strutters Dance Team greatly appreciates your help for advertising our fund-raiser. The concert turned out to be amazing, and we are certain that the article contributed to its success. Thank you again for your assistance in making it possible.

**Raquel Onsurez**  
Lobo Strutters

## View from here By The Honorable Talmadge Heflin

### Will the taxpayers' friends please stand up?

All session, Texas lawmakers have declared that this legislature will be measured by how it treats the children. Legislators have accessorized their conviction with large buttons displaying their support for children, and made passionate statements that they must "err on the side of children."

Despite \$14 billion in new revenue coming into the state's coffers, any notion that the legislature will be measured by how it treats hardworking Texas taxpayers has been forgotten. Some lawmakers who wrapped themselves in the flag of limited government, limited spending, and low taxes during their election campaigns have removed it from display now that they are in Austin.

Where are the buttons displaying support for taxpayers?

And with less than five weeks left in the session, few lawmakers are urging their colleagues to err on the side of protecting taxpayers.

But of course, perhaps that is all too cynical. It may simply be that legislators have not yet had the opportunity to demonstrate their support for taxpayers since the taxpayer protection legislation, until recently, has languished in committee without a hearing.

The days of 2003 are not long behind us, but the lessons seem to be a distant memory. Upon arriving in Austin, that legislature was confronted with a \$10 billion budget shortfall, the byproducts of a slow-

ing economy and lower than expected tax collections. But the real culprit of this shortfall was the record spending binge of the previous legislature, which inflated state spending by \$11 billion, or 13 percent.

With \$14 billion in surplus funds, you might think that legislators would not only be conscious of restraining government growth in an effort to prevent a future shortfall, but also preventing those surplus funds from ever arriving in Austin for a similar spending bonanza.

Unfortunately, there has been little enthusiasm for tightening the state's ineffectual spending limit — which we support — or even limiting the state's collection of revenue when it exceeds that weak current limit.

Furthermore, unless we restrain the growth of local government, the billions for property tax relief that lawmakers promised will instead be soaked up by local governments to fund their own excessive growth.

No doubt my former colleagues do not want to sit in that same situation in two or even 10 years, forced to rehash the same arguments or think of ways to spend a surplus, only to later regret

such actions as a budget hole deepens. Neither do they want to return to their districts and face the same frustrated property owners who have seen promised property tax cuts devoured by ravenous local governments.

The only way to muzzle the rabid bite of growing government is to enact taxpayer protections that limit state and local expenditures. When government believes it needs to grow bigger or faster than these protections would allow, it should ask the people for that permission. Such growth would likely become the exception, rather than the rule.

But not all is bad news. House and Senate panels conducted hearings last week on the taxpayer protection proposals, but time is running short and the bills must complete a lengthy process to become law. If these bills make it for a vote, surely legislators will renew their commitment to the taxpayers, parading proudly in their taxpayer protection buttons and boldly announcing that they are the taxpayers' friends.

The special interests hire their own

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

### Water projects vital to El Paso

From flood mitigation to water reclamation, the U.S. House

of Representatives considered multiple El Paso projects recently. Among them were the \$25 million authorization in the Water Resources and Development Act which the U.S. House of Representatives passed last week for flood control and other water and wastewater projects in El Paso.

I secured this authorization for funding in H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and voted in favor of the bill. This authorization is important for El Paso as we work to protect ourselves from future flooding. Army Corps projects play a critical role in flood mitigation in El Paso, and also complement current water management efforts.

The Water Resources Development Act is a multi-year authorization bill for Army Corps of Engineers water projects and programs which:

- Addresses new water resources needs and fine-tunes the Army Corps' missions and responsibilities;
- Includes provisions for streamlining and expediting Army Corps' project delivery and permits, and for the improvement of the Army Corps' planning and project development process, including independent peer review of larger and more controversial studies;
- Authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct water resource studies and undertake specified projects and programs for flood control, inland navigation, shoreline protection, and environmental restoration;
- Extends, terminates, or modifies existing authorizations for various water projects and authorizes new programs to develop water resources and protect the environment.

I also testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, urging federal funding for the following projects:

- North Central El Paso Fort Bliss Reclaimed Water Project
- El Paso Water Utilities' (EPWU) latest efforts will include expanding the Haskell Street Wastewater Treatment Plant water recycling program to North Central El Paso to provide reclaimed water to Fort Bliss, parks, and schools in the area. EPWU requires federal funds to be set aside in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) to allow for the engineering, design and construction of these projects.
- Vinton Water Infrastructure Improvements

During the last several years, the EPWU has provided planning assistance to the Village of Vinton in an effort to provide city water service to the approximately 2,500 residents who live there. Recent planning studies indicate Vinton requires federal assistance to provide water service to all residents within the community. There

is no municipal wastewater system and the residents rely on septic systems to dispose of their wastewater.

• The Chamizal National Memorial  
The Chamizal is dedicated to furthering the spirit of goodwill and understanding between two nations by using the visual, literary, and performing arts as a medium of cultural interchange. Unfortunately, there is currently no exhibit that tells the story of the Chamizal land dispute and its peaceful resolution in the borderland community. In short, people are not fully understanding why Congress established the Memorial in the first place. I requested federal funds for the creation of a new exhibit at the Chamizal National Memorial that adequately tells the history of the Memorial and the importance of the Memorial's existence.

• The Consortium for Hi-Technology Investigations in Water and Wastewater (CHIWAWA)

The University of Texas at El Paso is a partner in CHIWAWA, which will provide unique opportunities for research, education, and outreach programs related to water management and desalination. I requested federal funds for CHIWAWA to facilitate the transfer of technology, training, and research among the universities, the cities of El Paso and Alamogordo, and other local, state, and federal agencies and promote research, training, and education related to water resource management, and inland desalination in particular.

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- 2006 Lions Club Christmas Parade
- I Attend All City Council Meetings
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**My Goals:**

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- More Neighborhood Watches
- Meet With Citizens for Their Ideas
- Establish Programs for Our Kids
- Clean Up Horizon's Streets & Lots

Let's Move Horizon City Forward!

Pol. ad paid for by the committee to elect Bill Armas.



**Moore Texas** by Roger T. Moore April 22, 1897, Houston, Tx: Sarah Seelye becomes the only woman ever to serve in the Grand Army of the Republic.

# Vinton recovering from floods, expects new grants, funding

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

VINTON — Post-flood cleanup and fix up continues to be a way of life for the village of Vinton.

And there is more in store, quality of life improvement projects, for the small community pummeled by last summer's heavy rains which wreaked havoc throughout the Upper Valley.

Vinton Mayor Madeleine Praino and village clerk Jessica Garza discussed events of the past, actions of the present and plans for the future. Discussion took place in the Village Council meeting room which, only

nine months ago, was stacked high with supplies for victims of the flood.

Praino, who took office two months before the floods hit, said that a new six-foot by six-foot concrete culvert is now in place on Ledbetter. The new culvert is larger than the old one that clogged with debris and couldn't handle the high volume of water that backed up and swept around, causing extensive damage to adjacent properties.

"It is much better now," Praino says. "Traffic is open both ways." Work is expected to be completed in the early part of May.

Ledbetter and Kiely are the focus of street repairs. There will be resurfacing of the roadways. In addition,

there will be new culverts, curbing and storm drains to better handle future runoff. This will be mainly on the southern part of Kiely which was badly damaged.

Total cost of all flood-related repairs on Ledbetter Road came to more than \$70,000, of which only \$11,000 came from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). The money came from general revenue funds and property taxes, the mayor says. She admits it was a strain on the village's budget, but looks at it simply and realistically.

"It had to be done; it needed to be done—you just do it."

In reflecting on what she describes as the "totally overwhelming" prob-

lems of the past, she praises the people of her council and the work they did to help fellow residents of Vinton.

"My council was amazing; they were united; they rallied around Vinton. I am very proud of each of them."

The discussion went from water in an uncontrolled sense to water in a controlled and positive sense.

The mayor says her administration is expecting word in sometime in May from ORCA (Office of Rural Community Affairs) regarding a \$253,000 state grant application it submitted to provide better water service through El Paso Water Utilities to about 30 families along Quejette and Douglas who now get their water from wells.

Underscoring the importance of the project, Praino says water lines along Kiely are at capacity. She says the new service would relieve pressure and help stabilize the water distribution system.

But that's not all.

Still another, broader-based effort, discussed earlier, is \$6.1 million in funding from the United States Department of Agriculture to unite and provide better water service for the entire village. The village has already filed a pre-application with the federal agency.

All this, she adds, is designed to

bring the village into the 21st Century in terms of water service.

On a "lighter" note, the mayor says that 11 new street lights have been put in throughout the village at a cost of \$9,000. Within the next 10 months 15 more lights will be put in.

Ledbetter and Kiely are not the only roads under scrutiny.

Praino says the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) will start to make improvements on Vinton Road starting this summer or early fall. The \$5 million project, will take 18 months to two years to complete, calls for widening the present roadway to four lanes, including turn lanes and curbing. Sidewalks will be built along both sides of the roadway. It will also have a center median and feature landscaping.

It is similar to the state spur road recently built in Anthony which connects from the freeway to Doniphan.

"It will be very beautiful," the mayor adds.

Other items for discussion were:

- Remodeling for the village hall which she says is showing its age. "It's long overdue." No date or timeframe set.

- Various fund-raising activities to improve recreational activities in Vinton. This includes the baseball field across from town hall.

## Town of Horizon City, Texas Notice of Municipal Election Aviso de Eleccion Municipal

**To the registered voters of the Town of Horizon City, Texas:**

**A los votantes registrados del Pueblo de Horizon City, Texas:**

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2007 for voting in a Municipal election, to elect a Mayor and three (3) Aldermen (Places 3, 5 and 7) for full two-year terms; and two (2) Aldermen (Places 2 and 4) for one-year terms.

*Notifíquese, por presente, que las casillas electorales sitadas abajo se abren desde las 7 de la mañana hasta las 7 de la tarde el sábado 12 de mayo de 2007 para votar en la elección para elegir un Alcalde y tres (3) Regidores (Posiciones 3, 5 y 7) para el término completo de dos años; y dos (2) Regidores (Posiciones 2 y 4) para el término de un año.*

Location of polling places

*Localidades de las casillas electorales*

Polling location for voters in **Part of Precinct 147 - Horizon Heights Elementary School, 13601 Ryderwood Ave.**

*El sitio de votación para dentro parte de el recinto 147 se localiza en la escuela Horizon Heights Elementary, 13601 Ryderwood Ave.*

Polling location for voters in **Part of Precinct 157, all of Precinct 167 and Part of Precinct 168 - Desert Hills Elementary School, 300 Eastlake Dr.**

*El sitio de votación para parte de el recinto 157, todo de recinto 167 y parte de el recinto 168 se localiza en la escuela Desert Hills Elementary, 300 Eastlake Drive.*

**EARLY VOTING**

**VOTACION TEMPRANA**

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at (**THIS IS NOT AN ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACE**):

*La votación en ausencia en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en (ESTE NO ES UN SITIO O DIA DE ELECCION):*

**Oz Glaze Senior Center  
13969 Veny Webb, Horizon City, Texas  
79928**

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. beginning on April 30, 2007 and ending on May 8, 2007 on each day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday.

*entre las 8 de la mañana y las 5 de la tarde empezando el día 30 de abril de 2007, y terminando el día 8 de mayo de 2007 en los días aquí nombrados en todos los días que no sean sábado, domingo, o día oficial de vacaciones estatales.*

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted at all locations within El Paso County, at which Early Voting is conducted by the County Elections Department beginning on April 30, 2007 and ending on May 8, 2007 on each day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday.

*La votacion anticipo en persona se llevara a cabo en todos locaciones en el Condado de El Paso, en donde se lleva a cabo votaciones tempranas manejadas por el Departamento de Elecciones del condado empezando el día 30 de abril de 2007, y terminando el día 8 de mayo de 2007 en los días aquí nombrados en todos los días que no sean sábado, domingo, o día oficial de vacaciones estatales.*

**EARLY VOTING BY MAIL  
VOTACION TEMPRANA POR  
CORREO**

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

*Las solicitudes para boletas para votar en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:*

**Helen Jamison  
500 E. San Antonio, Rm. 402  
El Paso, Texas 79901**

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on the 4th day of May, 2007.

*Las solicitudes para boletas para votar en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el día 4 de mayo de 2007.*

Issued this 13th day of February, 2007.  
*Emitada esta 13 día de febrero de 2007.*

Ramond Morales, Mayor

WTCC: 04/19/07

## Abraham James Mowad dies at 78

EL PASO COUNTY — Abraham "Abie" James Mowad, a longtime resident of El Paso County, died on April 16, 2007. He was 78.

Mowad was born Jan. 28, 1929 in Ramos Arizpe, Mexico, to Jamil and Bahia Hanna Mowad. He graduated from Peacock Military Academy in San Antonio, Texas and earned a B.S. degree in Economics from New Mexico A&M in Las Cruces.

He served as a Lieutenant with the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Mowad settled in El Paso in 1953 and married Naomi Elizabeth Wilburn.

He was an accountant for the El Paso Natural Gas Co. before entering the apparel industry as a partner

in Tex Manufacturing Company. He later held executive positions with Levi Strauss Co., Farah Manufacturing and Texas Apparel Group. In 1995, he started his own business, Mowad Apparel, a twin plant operation, which he operated until his retirement in 2001.

He is described by his family as a man who worked hard to reach goals and inspired others to strive for high ideals as well. He loved the outdoors and nature, horses and raising animals on his farm.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Naomi; three children, Leslie McNeil, James Mowad and Patricia Mowad and their spouses; four grandchildren; a sister, Angelina Ayoub; and numerous nieces and nephews.

An online memorial tribute can be viewed at [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com).

## Tornillo

From Page 1

in San Francisco, California.

School Board President Joe Tittle, along with Board Secretary Rachel Avila, Trustee Ofelia Bosquez and TISD parent Antonia Alonso gave the presentation, along with District Superintendent Paul Vranish.



Paul Vranish

The group was selected to present at the NSBA Conference because the topic of parental involvement is a crucial issue for school districts across the country. Tornillo ISD has had great success with their "Parent Chats," which are parent meetings held each month and sponsored by one of the district's four campuses. Dis-

tricts across the state were eager to hear the presentation, which received extremely high evaluations.

The "standing room only" crowd was also quite impressed with the fact that the chats are simultaneously translated into Spanish. TISD employee Estela Pacheco, who serves as the interpreter during the chats, also presented and translated part of the San Francisco presentation. The Tornillo team was pleased to have such a tremendous turnout, especially since their presentation was scheduled for the morning of April 15, a Sunday.

The NSBA is a not-for-profit federation of state associations of school boards across the U.S. Its mission is to foster excellence and equity in public education through school board leadership.

"We're pleased and honored that Tornillo ISD is gaining national recognition," stated Superintendent Vranish. "The concept of team is crucial to our success, which begins with the excellent support of our Board of Trustees."

**Briefs**

From Page 1

Festival. Since that day Oury's family and friends have not seen or heard from him. Detectives are asking for anyone in the community that may have seen Oury or has information on his whereabouts to call El Paso Police Communications at 832-4400.

■ Americas High School offensive lineman Jeremy Montelongo signed with Doane College in Crete, Nebraska on April 13. Nick Fulton attended the signing, as did Montelongo's parents, Frank and Irma, and Head Coach Rick Miller.

■ Gabriel Mendoza, an Americas High School senior and member of the Americas National Honor Society, has been named one of nine Regional Winners of a National Honor Society (NHS) scholarship



**Gabriel Mendoza**

from the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Mendoza was chosen for the \$3,000 college scholarship out of a pool of 5,700 applicants. Mendoza has been in COSMOS (Curriculum Opportunities for Science and Math Oriented Students) taking advanced placement classes; while actively involved in various organizations, such as, the National Honor Society, Art Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. He is also the Executive Officer for Leaders of Americas, National Honor Society President, and High Q Team Captain. Some of the notable awards include: National Merit Scholar, INTEL Science Talent Search, Gold Sweepstakes and International science awards, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics awards, Naval Science awards, to name a few. He is a well-rounded student who is actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America, serving as Senior Patrol Leader and elected Order of the Arrow Officer.

■ Valle Park in the Valle Del Sol Community in East El Paso County is the recipient of some 30 Modesto Ash Trees, thanks to a donation from Alan Serna and the hard work of young people working on a project for National Global Youth Service Day. Sponsored by the Americorps with the Upper Rio Grande Conservation Corps and Texas Cooperative Extension, the NGYSD project focuses on beautifying the community and bringing people to-

gether in a beneficial project. For more information, contact Jesenia Perez at (915) 351-7015.

■ The Rio Grande Citizen's Forum will meet on Wednesday, May 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 East Picacho, in Las Cruces. Rio Grande issues affecting the greater Las Cruces-El Paso region will be on the agenda. The RGCF is a public outreach program of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, which operated various Rio Grande projects in the region.

■ The City of El Paso and Sun Metro are furthering their commitment to provide Earth-friendly public transportation with the recent delivery of 35 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered buses. Sun Metro went before the Mass Transit Board on April 24 to seek approval for the acquisition of an additional 20 CNG-powered buses for delivery in November 2007. Sun Metro will continue to replace the remaining diesel fleet and hopes to be 100 percent natural gas powered by April 2008, a spokesman said. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, "medium and heavy-duty natural gas engines have demonstrated over 90 percent reductions of carbon monoxide and more than 50 percent reduction in nitrogen oxides relative to diesel engines."

■ American Cancer Society Golf Pass is now on sale for \$40 with all proceeds to benefit the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education, advocacy and patient services. The Golf Pass offers more than 800 rounds of golf at 300 participating courses throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. It's the perfect gift for parents, grandparents, friends, and spouses. Order the 2007 American Cancer Society Golf Pass by calling 1-800-ACS-2345, or online at [www.golfpass4cancer.org](http://www.golfpass4cancer.org) where a special search feature will help you locate participating courses. Major credit cards accepted.

■ As part of a plan to set standards for accountability in state spending, Comptroller Susan Combs has announced 12 more state agencies have made their expenditures available on the Comptroller's Web site. The agencies most recently posting expenditures on the Comptroller's Web site, [www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us), include the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Public Finance Authority, Employees Retirement System of Texas, Texas Department of Insurance, Texas Building and Procurement Commission, Teacher Retirement System of Texas, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Department of Information Resources, Texas Water Development Board and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Combs began posting her agency's expenditures online during her first week in office. Detailed expenditure lists for eight additional agencies were posted on the Comptroller's Web

site in February, and taxpayers can now view the details of these 12 other agencies' expenditures. Combs previously posted expenditures for the Comptroller's office, Texas Education Agency, Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and Texas Department of State Health Services.

■ The U.S. Department of Justice awarded \$493,000 to the City of El Paso, Congressman Silvestre Reyes announced. The funds will be used to help establish the El Paso Regional Laboratory, a multi-agency facility that will include a crime laboratory, agricultural lab and other state-of-the-art facilities. Currently, all crime scene DNA evidence is sent to labs outside of El Paso, resulting in cumbersome delays in the investigative process. This laboratory will enhance the El Paso area's capacity for forensic analysis, toxicology testing, and environmental and food analysis. The laboratory will also provide testing for insecticides and pesticides on fruits and produce entering into the United States. "El Paso is in great need of a lab like this, and this federal funding is an important step toward making it a reality," said Reyes. "Locally, this lab will play a critical role in emergency response efforts, and it could also have an impact across the nation given El Paso's position as a major international port of entry that tests materials entering our country." Reyes secured this funding in the fiscal year 2005 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill. Additionally, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded the El Paso Symphony Orchestra a \$15,000 federal grant, Reyes, said. This grant, awarded through NEA's Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth category, will support youth orchestral music activities at the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the NEA is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts.

■ The Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account has distributed \$82.7 million to help cities, counties and hospital districts recover their costs for indigent health care provided during 2006. This year the El Paso Hospital District received \$2,217,754.59 from the fund — just over four percent of the \$50,860,096.38 in unreimbursed health care expenditures incurred in 2006. A list of cities, counties and hospital districts receiving tobacco settlement funds this year is available on the Texas Department of State Health Services Web site at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/tobaccosettlement/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tobaccosettlement/default.shtm).

**NOTICE OF ELECTION  
AVISO DE ELECCIONES  
VILLAGE OF VINTON, TEXAS**

**TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF VINTON, TEXAS  
A LOS VOTANTES REGISTRADOS DE VINTON, TEXAS**

1. A General Election for the Village of Vinton shall be held on Saturday, May 12, 2007.  
*La eleccion general del Pueblo de Vinton se llevara acabo el dia sabado 12, de mayo, 2007.*
2. The polling place for said election shall be the West Valley Fire Department, 510 E. Vinton Road, El Paso County, Texas.  
*El sitio de las urnas electorales para dichas elecciones sera el edificio del West Valley Fire Department, 510 Vinton Road, Condado de El Paso, Texas.*
3. The polls will be open between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on May 12, 2007.  
*Las urnas electorales se abriran dentro las horas de las 7 de la manana y las 7 de la tarde 12 de mayo, 2007.*
4. The offices to be voted on May 12, 2007 General Election are Aldermanic Places 3, 4 and 5.  
*Los puestos de oficina para elejirse son los siguientes puestos: Regidores para los lugares 3, 4 y 5.*
5. Early voting will begin on April 30, 2007.  
*Votacion por absentia empezara el dia 30, de abril, 2007.*
6. Early voting will be conducted on April 30, 2007 through May 8, 2007, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day on each day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. The main absentee polling place will be the West Valley Fire Department, 510 E. Vinton Road, El Paso County, Texas.  
*Votacion por absentia se llevara acabo el 30 de abril 2007, hasta el 8 de mayo 2007, dentro las horas de 3 p.m. a 6 p.m. en los dias aqui nombrados en todos los dias que no sean sabado, domingo, o dia oficial de vacaciones estatales. El sitio principal donde se llevaran acabo las votaciones por absentia sera el edificio del West Valley Fire Department, 510 E. Vinton Road, El Condado de El Paso, Texas.*

Early voting by personal appearance will also be conducted at all locations within El Paso County, at which Early Voting is conducted by the County Elections Department beginning on April 30, 2007 and ending on May 8, 2007.  
*La votacion anticipo en persona se llevara a cabo en todos locaciones en el Condado de El Paso, en donde se lleva a cabo votaciones tempranas manejadas por el Departamento de Elecciones del condado empezando el 30 de abril de 2007 y terminando el 8 de mayo de 2007.*

7. Applications for ballot by mail should be mailed to:  
*Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:*

**Helen Jamison  
500 E. San Antonio, Room 402  
El Paso, Texas 79901**

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 4, 2007.  
*Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio del 4 de mayo 2007.*

Signed this 6th day of February, 2007  
*Firmado este 6 dia de febrero, 2007*

Madeleine Praino, Mayor  
Village of Vinton, Texas

WTCC: 04/19/07

**To Advertise  
Call 852-3235**

# Yankees fans drowning in boos with A-Rod's fantastic start

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

The Major League Baseball season is not even three weeks old and I already feel real sorry for New York Yankee fans everywhere. They haven't been able to partake in their favorite pastime — Alex Rodriguez hasn't given them an opportunity to boo him yet.

Remember last season when A-Rod stunk it up for the Yankees. He put up one of the worst seasons in history. Let's take a look — he batted just .290, scored only 113 runs, he could only manage 35 home runs and a miniscule 121 RBI to go along with his 15 stolen bases.

Whew! Those are... those are... some pretty impressive numbers!

So why did Yankee fans boo this guy every time he on the pinstripes?

Something tells me that if they could, they'd all knock on his door, present him with a nice bouquet of roses and say I'm sorry.

Rodriguez may be having the best start to the season any player has in history. His home run and RBI start has been staggering. I mean

he had 30 RBI in his first 15 games.

It's true A-Rod has had his troubles in the playoffs but c'mon, this guy has it 131 home runs in his 486 games as a Yankee, that's a home run every 3.7 games.

Oh yeah, and he also won the Most Valuable Player award two years ago as a Yankee.

That's not too shabby.

I haven't seen a guy — well, not since Bill Buckner — be ridiculed by the fans as much as Rodriguez. And what makes it worse is that he hasn't deserved it.

Maybe A-Rod will have the last laugh on the Yankee fans at season's end. I can almost hear the well-groomed ESPN guy now, "Big news today, After his historic 81 home run and 193 RBI season in 2007, A-Rod has just signed a free agent contract with the Boston Red Sox."

## Strahan yard sale

In case you haven't heard, New York Giants' defensive end and avid Campbell's Soup connoisseur, Michael Strahan, was divorced from his wife a couple years ago.

And like most divorces, the biggest battle has been about the money. In the end, his wife had

to settle for a measly \$15.3-million settlement and a monthly \$18,000 check for child support.

But to prove that she can no longer afford the 30-room, 8-car garage, \$3.6-million home she ended up with, she did what every American in a pinch does — she held a garage sale.

Among the goodies she put on sale were cocktail dresses, a bronze football statue, handmade rugs, antiques and a set of cassette tapes on how to make relationships succeed.

One Giants fan walked away with two televisions, with 32- and 20-inch screens, for \$100.

When asked whether the sets were flat screens, he answered, "She's not that mad at him."

Michael has only paid his ex-wife half of the \$15-million and is trying to convince the judge that it's too much.

Maybe he should hold a yard sale.

## Athletes behavin' badly

The Boston Celtics' Sebastian Telfair must have never been allowed anywhere near a gun as a child. That might explain his fascination with them now.

Telfair was stopped by police after the ve-

hicle he was driving was caught speeding at almost 4:00 in the morning.

Now, let me make a statement, there is absolutely nothing — except for maybe snoring or working at NORAD — that anyone should be doing at nearly 4:00 in the morning.

As it turned out, Telfair, who also didn't have a valid driver's license, had a loaded gun on the front seat.

But it's okay because Telfair and his buddy, who was also in the car, told police they knew nothing about the gun.

They knew nothing about the gun? They actually expected the police to believe that? Now that kind of stupid does not grow on trees.

This wasn't Telfair's only problem with guns. As a member of the Portland Trailblazers, the 28-year-old was caught carrying a gun on a plane. Of course, he said it was his girlfriend's gun and he just picked up the wrong bag.

His girlfriend's gun? You don't want to mess with this couple.

I don't know a whole lot more about Sebastian Telfair, but it's fair to say this is yet another guy with more dollars than brain cells — always a dangerous equation.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Village of Vinton, Texas

#### United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan Grant Application

The Village of Vinton is giving notice of the city's intent to submit a Rural Development Loan Grant Application for a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. The grant application request is \$6,144,050 for a public water system for the Village of Vinton. The application will be available for review at the Village Hall in Vinton after May 1, 2007 during regular business hours.

Madeleine Praino, Mayor  
Village of Vinton, Texas

Published:  
04/19/07

archives: [www.wtccourier.com](http://www.wtccourier.com)

# Americas senior heads East to play Division 1 Volleyball

By Irma Flores  
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — An Americas High School senior heads to the East Coast to fulfill her dream of playing for a Division 1 school. In front of a cheering crowd in the school's library, Monique Flores signed with St. Peter's College, located in Jersey City, New Jersey. The MVP hitter received a 5-year 150,000 scholarship to play volleyball and participate in track and field for the university.

Monique has been playing volleyball for seven years and has been a varsity member since her sophomore year. She credits her team and family, especially her sister, Giselle who was also on the Trailblazer volleyball team, for

her drive.

"I watched her play since I was little. I became the player I am today because of her," she says. "I want to thank my parents and my team for pushing me to reach my dream. All the practicing, running over benches and into walls has paid off."

Monique was the MVP of the 1-5A District and MVP Hitter for the All-City Team. This past year, she had a total of 354 kills, 223 digs, four assists, 32 aces and 15 blocks.

"Monique is the kind of player other players are scared of playing



Monique Flores

against," says her coach, Alicia Gomez. "She is driven and motivated the team to play at another level. There are so few athletes like her that stand out."

Monique's parents also recognized Coach Gomez and her other coaches for all their work in preparing Monique for the next level and giving her these opportunities.

"I am very proud of Monique," says her mother, Armida Flores. "I am so proud that she is going to be taking her Hispanic heritage to another part of the country."

## 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, MAY 2, 2007**

**YEARBOOK CSP NO. 199-0502-7090 ACCEPTED UNTIL**

### 10:30 A.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](http://www.sisd.net). WTCC-04/26/07

### REAL ESTATE

**OPEN HOUSE, Sunday, April**

**29, 1-5 p.m.** at 291 Langford St., Clint. 2,700 sq. ft., beautiful condition, 1/4 acre. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, open kitchen, Great Room w/fireplace, bonus room and laundry room, refrigerated air/central heat, storage shed, sprinkler system, many extras. (817) 657-7818, (915) 525-4790 or (915) 241-3869. 4/26

### BARGAINS

FOR SALE - Power electric chair, three years old. Good condition. \$900. 852-2910.

### DOCUMENT ASSISTANCE

Divorce documents prepared, includes petition, waiver, final decree. Covers children and property. \$275. (915) 851-1425 5/3

### HELP WANTED

Need part-time office assistant with very flexible hours. Call 851-2391, ask for Mary. 4/26

### SERVICES

**"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

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

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5	6	7	8
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13	14	15	( STOP HERE ) ( FOR \$5 AD. )
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
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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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Friends

From Page 3

lobbyists, but the taxpayers rely on their elected representatives to represent them. If legislators won't defend the taxpayer, who will?

We can only hope that the taxpayers' friends will stand up before it's too late.

*The Honorable Talmadge Heflin served 11 terms in the Texas House and is a former chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He is presently a Visiting Research Fellow in the Center for Fiscal Policy Studies at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, research institute in Austin.*



"You mind checking that universal TV remote you're packin' at the door?"

B	E	D	L	A	M	W	E	S	T	S	H	A	M	E	S	P	A		
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West Texas County Courier  
852-3235

# Comix

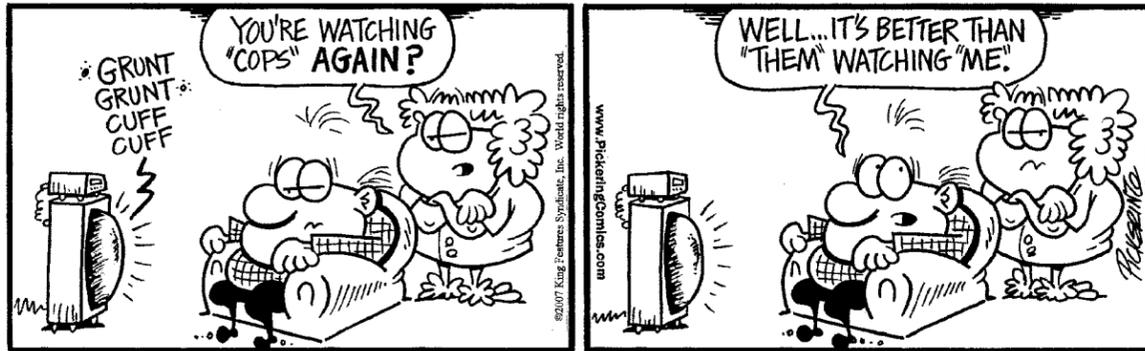
## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# Searching for a search engine

By Don Flood

My beef with search engines is their silly names. Google is a misspelling of Googol. (You'd think these Internet whiz kids might think to check Dictionary.com.) Yahoo sounds like an online hillbilly dating service, one that might include livestock.

Wouldn't it be great to have a search engine named Einstein, a name associated with intelligence that gave you confidence in its findings?

We don't have that yet, but we do have the next best thing: Search with Kevin, an actual search engine named after Kevin Federline, the K-Fed himself, the former Mr. Britney Spears.

The draw is irresistible. According to the home page, "Every time you search the web you stand a chance of winning a prize from Kevin Federline. It's that simple. Really."

And the prizes! This month's giveaways include, and this is all true, autographed 8 x 10 photos, Kevin Federline T-shirts, "Playing With Fire" autographed CDs; and entry into autograph sweepstakes.

That's right. Every time you "search with Kevin" you have a chance of being entered into a sweepstakes with the grand prize of a Kevin Federline autograph!

Who cares about carpal tunnel syndrome?

(Bonus Medical Alert: Because of the extraordinary desirability and value of the prizes offered, the Surgeon General of the United States has issued a warning that people should spend no more than eight hours a day "searching with Kevin." "It's just so darned addicting," he said. "I kept hoping and hoping I'd win the latest K-Fed

CD, and before I knew it my wife and kids had moved out.")

The album, "Playing With Fire," has been a huge seller, winning the coveted "Double Cardboard" designation, meaning it had sold seven copies in only four months.

Reports that Kevin himself bought five of those copies to goose his rating were still unconfirmed at press time. But in the Age of Downloading, selling two copies is still quite an achievement, even if it was his mother who bought them, after he gave her the money, which he had taken from Britney's purse.

As always, K-Fed's a master at wordplay. Sample lyrics: "Don't hate because I'm a superstar! And I'm married to a superstar! Nothin' come between us no matter who you are!"

Tell 'em, Kevin! Even if it's not quite true or partially true or, for that matter, an indication that you're living in the same universe with everyone else.

The home page shows Kevin, with a buzz cut similar to his former wife's, playing poker. He has a big drink. He appears to be alone, and seems pensive, as if the struggle of heading up a new search engine is getting to him.

But no matter how exciting the prizes, a search engine has to work.

So, out of the blue, I decided to type in "backup dancer total loser."

The first link that came up was about Kevin Federline.

Next, also out of nowhere, I typed in "mooching off his wife." Bingo! Kevin again. The search engine works great.

But, unfortunately, I've yet to win anything.

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

# King Super Crossword

### LABOR-INTENSIVE ACROSS

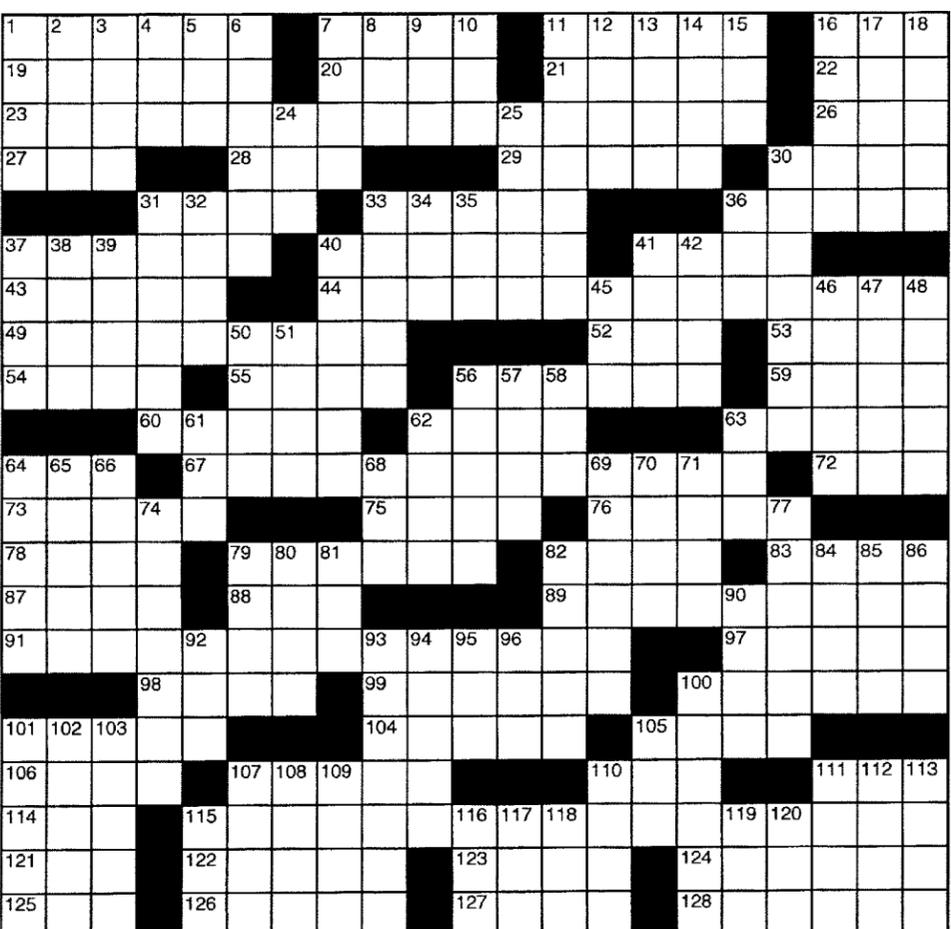
- 1 Tumult
- 7 Singer Dottie
- 11 Ignominy
- 16 Hydrotherapy site
- 19 Disquiet
- 20 "Nabucco" number
- 21 Bile producer
- 22 Son of Noah
- 23 '79 Judy Davis film
- 26 Literary collection
- 27 Bit of butter
- 28 LummoX
- 29 Fore Stall
- 30 Surprise test
- 31 Funnyman Foxx
- 33 Feta marinade
- 36 Light weight
- 37 Telescope view
- 40 Donahue of "Get a Life"
- 41 Besch or Andersson
- 43 Came around
- 44 '31 Marx Brothers movie
- 49 Toody and Muldoon
- 52 Monte Rosa, e.g.
- 53 Machu Picchu
- 54 Vivacity
- 55 "My Sweet ..." ('70 smash)
- 56 With enthusiasm
- 59 "The Subject Was Roses" star

- 60 Norwegian composer
- 62 Bridge term
- 63 Conductor's concern
- 64 Mini, to MacTavish
- 67 Kirk's command
- 72 Itch
- 73 Explorer Sebastian
- 75 Elwes or Grant
- 76 Dodge
- 78 Spirited steed
- 79 Attempt
- 82 Obstacle
- 83 Salt serving
- 87 Mediterranean port
- 88 Skater Babilonia
- 89 Sciorra of "Jungle Fever"
- 91 "Double, double ..." ("Macbeth" refrain)
- 97 Heavenly hunter
- 98 "Dies ..."
- 99 Jim Varney character
- 100 Had a knight job?
- 101 Clear the slate
- 104 Dutch export
- 105 Take-out order?
- 106 Pull sharply
- 107 Valhalla VIP
- 110 Calendar abbr.
- 111 "Wiedersehen"
- 114 Goal
- 115 Peter Graves series
- 121 Middling mark

- 122 Comic Sherman
  - 123 Hodgepodge
  - 124 Verdi hero
  - 125 Hamilton bill
  - 126 Effluvia
  - 127 Wording
  - 128 Basket material
- DOWN**
- 1 Phrenology term
  - 2 "Orinoco Flow" singer
  - 3 Liability
  - 4 Household deity
  - 5 "A Fool Such ..." ('59 hit)
  - 6 Tune
  - 7 Street urchin
  - 8 History division
  - 9 Offense
  - 10 Make lace
  - 11 Bondage
  - 12 Take on board
  - 13 Maintain
  - 14 Competition
  - 15 Drop a brick
  - 16 Rocker Cassidy
  - 17 Lose control
  - 18 Stun
  - 24 Housman's "A Shropshire ..."
  - 25 Lake sight
  - 30 Malaria treatment
  - 31 Leaves work?
  - 32 Small business-man?
  - 33 Fair
  - 34 \_ Tin Tin

- 35 Cephalopod's squirt
- 36 Kimono closer
- 37 Rubberneck
- 38 Way off base?
- 39 "Damn Yankees" siren
- 40 Materialize
- 41 Vatican document
- 42 Culp/Cosby series
- 45 Spoiled
- 46 Foe
- 47 Word form for "view"
- 48 Upscale shop
- 50 "... Coming" ('69 song)
- 51 Berg and Drabowsky
- 56 Put on guard
- 57 Be different
- 58 Rapsallion
- 61 Furrow
- 62 Firmament feature
- 63 Rocker Nugent
- 64 Barely there
- 65 "Tosca" tenor
- 66 Problem solvers?
- 68 Sgt. or cpl.
- 69 Cheesemaker's need
- 70 A Karamazov brother
- 71 It's a long story
- 74 Cleopatra's Needle, for one
- 77 Swimmer
- Gertrude

- 79 Empedocles' last stand?
- 80 Lose luster
- 81 Robust
- 82 Taco topping
- 84 Landed
- 85 Gin flavoring
- 86 Round of applause
- 90 Cook in a cauldron
- 92 Exist
- 93 Gets back
- 94 Maine town
- 95 Burmese statesman
- 96 You can retire on it
- 100 More nervous
- 101 Tape-deck button
- 102 Actress Adoree
- 103 "As You Like It" setting
- 105 Couple
- 107 Unrestrained
- 108 '52 Winter Olympics site
- 109 Tyrant
- 110 Detect
- 111 Blind as ...
- 112 Radius' sidekick?
- 113 Sinn ...
- 115 Hua's predecessor
- 116 "I kid you ..."
- 117 \_ du Diable
- 118 Combine
- 119 Mexican Mrs.
- 120 Part of UPI



Answer Page 6

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**Social Security Q&A** By Ray Vigil

**Socorro Independent School District  
Notice of trustee Election  
Aviso de Eleccion de Regentes**

The Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees hereby gives notice of an election to be held on May 12, 2007, for the purpose of electing two (2) trustees for full three(3) year terms, one trustee for District Two (2) and one trustee for District Four (4)

*Por la presente la junta de regents del distrito escolar de Socorro da aviso que se llevara acabo una eleccion el día 12 de mayo de 2007 con el propósito de elegir dos (2) regentes para terminos completos de tres (3) años, un regente para el Distrito Dos (2) y regente para el Distrito Cuatro (4).*

**EARLY VOTING** by personal appearance will begin on Monday, April 30, 2007, and continue through Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at the designated hours on each day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. Official state holidays do not include "spring break".

**VOTACION POR AUSENCIA** en persona comenzará el lunes 30 de abril, 2007 y continuará hasta el martes 8 de mayo, 2007 a las horas designadas en todos los días que no sean sábado, domingo, o día oficial de vacaciones estatales. Días oficiales de vacaciones estatales no incluyen "spring break".

Early voting in person shall be conducted at Robert R. Rojas Elementary, 500 Bauman Rd. between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; and at all locations within El Paso County, at which Early Voting is conducted by the County Elections Department.

*Votando por ausencia en persona va ser conducida acerca de Robert R. Rojas Elementary, 500 Bauman Rd. entre las 8 de la mañana y las 5 de la tarde; y en todos locaciones en el Condado de El Paso, en donde se lleva a cabo votaciones tempranas manejadas por el Departamento de Elecciones del condado.*

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:  
*Las solicitudes para boletas para votar en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:*

**Helen Jamison**  
**500 E. San Antonio, Rm. 402**  
**El Paso, Texas 79901**

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on the 4th day of May, 2007.

*Las solicitudes para boletas para votar en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el día 4 de mayo de 2007.*

**The POLLING PLACES** designated below will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm on the day of the election.

**Los sitios de votación** indicados abajo se abrirán de 7:00am a 7:00pm el día de la elección.

**Precinct Number (Número de precinto) .. Location (Colocación)**  
**DISTRICT 2**

- 111 / 165 ..... Lujan-Chavez School, 2200 Sun Country Dr.
- 119-1 ..... Sierra Vista School, 1501 Bob Hope Dr.
- 120-2 (Partial) ..... Americas High School, 12101 Pellicano Dr.
- 146 (Partial) ..... Red Sands Elementary School, 4250 O'Shea Rd.
- 147-1 / 147-2 / 147-3 (Partial)/166
- ..... Horizon Heights School, 13601 Ryderwood Ave.

**DISTRICT 4**

- 118-1 ..... Myrtle Cooper School, 1515 Rebecca Ann Dr.
- 119-2 (Partial) ..... Sierra Vista School, 1501 Bob Hope Dr.
- 120-1 (Partial) ..... Americas High School, 12101 Pellicano Dr.
- 147-4 / 147-5 / 147-6 (Partial)
- ..... Horizon Heights School, 13601 Ryderwood Ave.
- 148 ..... Sparks Community Center, 12899 Sparks Drive
- 150/152 (Partial) ..... Robert R. Rojas School, 500 Bauman Rd.

WTCC: 04/26/07

*Q: Does my baby really need a Social Security number?*

A: In most cases, yes, as you will need the child's number in order to claim your child as a dependent on your federal tax return. We encourage all parents to apply for a Social Security card for their children. In fact, nine out of 10 parents apply for a Social Security card while still in the hospital. In addition to needing your child's number for a federal tax deduction, the number is also needed when filing for certain government benefits.

*Q: When I first became eligible for Medicare, I didn't enroll in Medicare Part B. Now that I'm going to the doctor more often, I think I need it. Can I enroll?*

A: Once your initial enrollment period has passed, the only time you may enroll in Medicare Part B is during the general enrollment period, from January 1 to March 31 of each year. Your coverage begins the fol-

lowing July. If you do not make the deadline on March 31, the next time you will be allowed to enroll in Medicare Part B will be during the 2008 general enrollment period. Your monthly premium increases 10 percent for each 12-month period you were eligible but didn't enroll. Special rules apply when you have health insurance because of your own or your spouse's employment.

*Q: There's a lot of talk about online services. But what about people like me who don't have Internet access?*

A: We realize that not everyone has access to the Internet, which is why many of our automated services are available over the phone as well. You can use our automated phone services, at 1-800-772-1213, to request publications and information, get a replacement Medicare card, ask for a Social Security card application (Form SS-5) or get an Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement (SSA-7004). If you already receive ben-

efits, you can also use the phone services to change your mailing address and direct deposit information. To use our automated phone services, call our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213.

*Q: What is the highest monthly payment a person can get in Social Security retirement benefits?*

A: The maximum benefit actually depends on how old you are when you retire. The monthly amount for 2007 for a person retiring at full retirement age (65 years and 10 months) is \$2,116 provided that you paid taxes on the maximum amount each year for every year since you were 21. A husband and wife who both fall into this category would each get this maximum amount.

*For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.*

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

**Ganging up on gastritis and uncompromising ulcer**

Nothing is ever simple in this complex world of ours. Even ulceration of our gastrointestinal tracts goes beyond elementary caustic erosion to something far more involved, with one plus one surpassing two. *Helicobacter pylori*, a major protagonist in this drama, is an uninvited bacterial guest in 80% of the developing world and 20-50% of the industrialized world's stomachs. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) costar, with their more than 30 billion over-the-counter tablets and 70 million prescriptions sold yearly in the United States. *H. pylori* plus or minus a widespread pill-popping mentality can add up to gastritis, peptic ulcer disease (PUD), gastric lymphoma, or gastric cancer. Isn't it high time we ganged up on gastritis and his big brother, uncompromising ulcer?

While multiple factors such as cigarette smoking, genetic predisposition (in first-degree relatives), psychological stress (neuroticism), diet, beverages containing alcohol and caffeine, and specific disorders (chronic pulmonary disease, chronic renal failure, liver cirrhosis, kidney stones, hyperparathyroidism, coronary artery disease, chronic pancreatitis) may play a role in the pathogenesis of gastritis and PUD, the main culprits are still our pesky bacteria and our friendly, neighborhood pharmacies. When the aggressive factors mentioned, along with defects in gastrointestinal protection/repair and an unhealthy dose of gastric acid, have their way with us, we are left with no choice but to submit and then call on a gang of our own for support against these chronic thugs.

When do we sound the alarm, however? Abdominal pain, in the form of a burning or gnawing discomfort 90 minutes to 3 hours after a meal and relieved by food or antacids, is suspect. Should the pain disturb our nightly slumber and creep upon us with two accomplices, namely nausea and vomiting, it becomes necessary to call in the professionals, before something far more sinister transpires. Left to its own devices or benevolently ignored, PUD can progress from simple misdemeanor to complicated capital crime of gastrointestinal bleeding, perforation, or gastric outlet obstruction. Like thieves in the night, as many as 20% of ulcer-related hemorrhages drain their unwary victims without as much as a single warning sign or symptom.

Our stalwart clinical investigators are left with two tools at their disposal, radiographic (barium studies) and endoscopic procedures. Before making "CSI" proud, however, trial therapy in individuals who are otherwise healthy and younger than 45 years is the name of the game. Barium studies can then be employed as a first test, to localize a duodenal or a gastric ulcer, the latter

unfortunately representing a malignancy in many cases, and both ulcer types not without an evident link to chronic active gastritis. It does not end there, however, as up to 8% of malignant gastric ulcers appear benign to radiography, requiring the bigger guns of endoscopy and biopsy to settle the issue, as well as to identify lesions too small to detect by radiographic examination.

Once apprehended, placing an ulcer behind bars requires a three-step approach. While acid neutralizing and inhibitory drugs are still useful adjuncts, the mainstay of therapy entails eradication of *H. pylori* and elimination or prevention of NSAID-induced disease. Antacids like Maalox and Mylanta, which are not without side effects, have gone the route of the horse and buggy, ceding the turf to exotically named remedies like H2 receptor antagonists (cimetidine, ranitidine, famotidine, nizatidine) and proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole, esomeprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole, pantoprazole), all effective in reducing stomach acid through a myriad of mechanisms, and none without an unpleasant side that can border on the downright dangerous. As is always the case, health care professionals must be questioned in that light, and drug brochures and inserts combed with a magnifying glass.

Firepower in our medical armory continues to grow, as we add sucralfate and bismuth-containing preparations (Pepto-Bismol) to coat and blanket intruders who have "dug in." Triple therapy for 14 days with Pepto-Bismol, metronidazole, and tetracycline (known as Helidac) is effective against *H. pylori*, but not without drawbacks such as poor patient compliance to a long treatment regimen and side effects such as black stools, constipation, darkening of the tongue, and worse to further blacken already gloomy days. The mere mention of quadruple therapy at that point may be just enough to warrant our raising the white flag.

As we top off our bag of tricks by cutting our reliance on NSAIDs for daily aches and pains and adding a prostaglandin, called misoprostol, to prevent NSAID-induced ulceration, the grim realization that surgery may be the only option left open to us looms heavily on the horizon. Outgunning ulcer-related complications in patients unresponsive to medical and endoscopic therapy may mandate a call to the knife, but only as a last resort.

Ganging up on gastritis before it transforms itself into uncompromising ulcer is an exercise in weekly vigilance for those not weak of heart.

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