EST TEXAS C

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

AUGUST 30, 2007

NEWSBRIEFS

Chief moving on

Horizon Police Chief Antonio Aguilar is moving on, but not very far. He will be going to Clint ISD (CISD) as their Security Supervisor. His new office is just a few blocks away from Horizon Town Hall at CISD's facilities on the corner of Kenazo and Darrington Rd. He started with Horizon PD on Mar. 10, 2001 and his last day is Sept. 7, 2007. He reports to CISD on Sept. 10, 2007.

Volunteers wanted

Canutillo Independent School District 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 volunteer to serve on the District and Campuses Site-Based Management Committees. Volunteers and nominations for open positions are now being taken for the 2007-2008 school year.

Scholarship help

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, Sep. 6, 2007 to help the Latino community navigate through the complexities of preparing and paying for college and applying for scholarships. This free event is sponsored by New York Life and is open to the public. It will be held at Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda, El Paso, TX 79927 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Clint ISD ups pay

The Clint Independent School District (CISD) Board of Trustees approved the 2007-2008 Salary Schedules during their regular meeting on August 15, 2007. New certified teachers will start at \$43,435 (\$42,435 + \$1,000 sign-on bonus). All teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors will receive a 3.5% increase plus a step. All other employees will also receive a 3.5% increase plus a step. CISD has provided each employee with a significant pay and stipend increase for the last few years and is committed to maintaining attractive and competitive schedules. CISD has set a goal to become the employer of choice in order to seek and retain effective personnel.

In other news

■ Nurses interested in becoming nurse clinician educators can get their master's degrees by enrolling for online courses at UTEP. The School of Nursing was awarded a \$129,000 grant from the University of Texas Telecampus System to develop an online curriculum for the program. The master's was created in 2004 with a grant of more than \$730,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration. It aims to produce professionals who can teach nursing courses and in turn increase the number of practicing nurses

See BRIEFS, Page 6

Trying to make life easy is often what makes it so hard.

— Quips & Quotes

Clint ISD board recognized as Region 19 Board of the Year

By Laura Cade Special to the Courier

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) announced early this month that has rebuilt the fund balance to over 14 million

Clint ISD School Board has been recognized as the 2007 School Board Award Programs Regional Winner for Region 19.

"We are greatly excited for the recognition they have received. Our school board has displayed nothing but dedication and passion for this district. The years of service they have managed to contribute makes this board very deserving of this award. They have exhibited equality, fair-

dent Ricardo Estrada.

The board was recognized based on criteria

that measured the manner in which the board functioned as a policy making body. Its provision of financial support for the district was also reviewed. Clint ISD is financially sound. Five consecutive years of operating surpluses

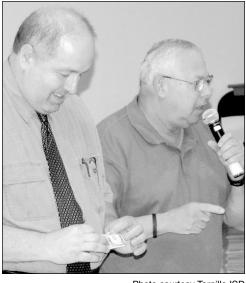


BEST IN THE WEST — Standing (from left) are Robert Lara, Alfred P. Gonzalez, James R. Pendell (President), Fred Martinez, and Paul T. James; seated are (from left) Janice Armstrong, Ricardo Estrada (Superintendent), and Mary Macias.

ness, and professionalism throughout their years dollars. The district also received a bond of service to this district," said Clint Superinten- rating upgrade from B+++ to A- due to its

See BOARD, Page 2

Tornillo ISD has first parent chat of year



- Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

THE BUCK STAYS HERE — Tornillo ISD Superintendent Paul Vranish receives a dollar from Paul Strelzin, symbolically illustrating how one locally raised dollar brings nine more from the state, which will fund a pay raise for all TISD employees.

By Rudy Barreda Special to the Courier

Tornillo ISD held its first Parent Chat for the 2007-2008 school year last Tuesday at the Tornillo High School Cafeteria. A crowd of about 200 had the opportunity to see every student who passed the TAKS last year receive an award given by a member of the TISD Board

Before the awards were given, a brief progress report on new building construction was given. Next, Superintendent Paul Vranish gave a presentation regarding property tax decreases. "This year, taxes are going down," stated Vranish. "But I want your permission to keep a small amount of the decrease to give every employee a well-deserved pay raise." Indeed, the academic progress made by the district is the best in the El Paso Region 19 area. Tornillo Elementary is again rated

See CHAT, Page 4

Canutillo ISD moves election to 2008

By Alfredo Vasquez Special to the Courier

Canutillo Independent School District Trustees decided during its August regular monthly meeting to cancel the November 2007 School Board election, re-schedule it for November 2008, and extend the length of board members' terms to four years to comply with a recent interpretation of the law by the State Attorney General.

The changes are in response to election laws adopted by the Legislature in 2007. The Attorney General issued an opinion, which states that

all elections must "strictly comply" with the law by exactly aligning with either the municipal election date or the date of general elections of state and county officers and requires school districts to change the length of terms if necessary.

Accordingly, CISD Board members approved, by a six to one vote, to continue school board elections on the November Uniform Election but have elections only on the same date as the state and county officers, which is every November of even numbered years commencing in 2008. By aligning with county and

See ELECTIONS, Page 4

Crime Victims Memorial Wall has a home, funding

By Guadalupe Silva Special to the Courier

If retribution is sweet, the Crime Victims Memorial project can provide a much needed catharsis for the healing of many wounds, particularly to many El Pasoans on Probation.

El Paso's Adult Probation Department gave a check for \$20,471 to the Crime Victims Council of El Paso toward construction of the Crime Victims Memorial wall in Yucca Park. The donation took place Wednesday, Aug. 29 in the Adult Probation administration offices at 800 E. Overland.

Through the Crime Victims Memorial project El Pasoans on Probation exchanged their community service hours for donations on a memorial to the 945 victims who died a violent death during the past 10 years. They are the victims of homicides, automobile accidents at the hands of drivers under the influence or of other negligent behavior.

Adult Probation Director Stephen Enders described the special project as one where probationers paid \$20 toward the memorial in lieu of 10 community service hours for the month of June. Although the Community Service Section of the Adult Probation Department was in charge of collecting the money, the project was an effort by the whole department with the support of the Council of Judges and other organizations.

The \$20,471 for the memorial was collected since June, Enders said. Prior to that time, the fund had collected \$18,000 over the previous nine years. This means the fund now has an estimated \$38,471, more than enough to start the memorial that will include an amphitheatre, reading garden and walking paths.

"Every probationer has the opportunity to contribute in some way to paying back to the community," Enders said. "This is a good thing for El Paso, and what can be better than contributing to a memorial to crime victims. For the probation department it is part of its mission to reinforce the positive in everyone. In this case, everybody is a winner."

The memorial is now ready to become a reality at Yucca Park in the East Side, said Patrick Turley, President of the Crime Victims Council of El Paso, explaining that the project had spent 10 years in the planning process and the fund-raising mode. The Council is the umbrella organization for many local agencies that work with victims and their families. The memorial will serve as a reminder to El Pasoans of the fragility of life and a testament to the victims who have not died in vain.

"But it was the recent efforts of the Adult Probation Department that has given the memorial a major step into its becoming a reality," Turley said. "It was a great idea, because it has to make those people on probation feel good about their contributions."

More than 600 probationers have made their donations with more still coming in, said Sonia Islas, a staff member of the Adult Probation Department Community Service Section. Most of them were glad to do it; some even wanted to give more than the limits set by the department and the judges.

"They were glad not because they would

See WALL, Page 2



One perspective **By Francis Shrum**

Having babies

kids. By ity. today's standards that's

quite a few. In 2006, kids made up about 25 percent of the U.S. population, down from somewhere around 36 at the end of the "baby boom" expected to hold at least through 2020.

they needed more humans to mature as the parents aged, to pick up where they left off and perpetuate society as they knew it.

Fathers hoped to have sons to help feeding and protecting the family. Mothers hoped for strong, willing daughters who would produce and raise grand babies, and care for their parents in their time of infirmity.

Of course, we've outgrown such mundane objectives as these and that's part of the reason we don't have as many kids as we used to - the tables have turned. Nowadays, we know that we'll be feeding, clothing and educating our offspring well into what was formerly considered adulthood. Therefore, we are likely to con-

I have four some cases, an actual financial liabil-

And we don't always provide very well, either. The percentage of kids living below the federal definition of poverty has fluctuated from between 16 and 22 percent since the early 80s.

We also don't put them first anyback in 1964. The 25-percent ratio is more when it comes to making personal choices. People used to stay married for the kids — a decidedly People used to have kids because unpopular notion these days. Almost a quarter of U.S. kids live with their mothers only, with all the attendant negative social and economic factors that situation produces.

However, more kids are staying with the work load and carry on with home these days after they become so-called adults. There was a time when kids couldn't wait to grow up and see the world. Nowadays they want to watch it all on television which takes the place of actual adventure.

There are also examples that make you proud. There was a young man I met recently who was home from college for the summer vacation. His family had friends at the management level of a major financial organization. So instead of hanging out at home this summer — "taking a sider kids more of a luxury — in break" as our young people love to

call it — he went to work everyday on an unpaid internship.

He spent at least one day in every department of the institution, more in some cases, ranging from the upper level management of the trust department to account representative to courier.

At the end of his stay he had been given the kind of overall education in a specific kind of business that many college graduates will never receive, because it was extended, hands-on, and real. It wasn't a text book scenario presented by an instructor. It was direct exposure to real people doing a real job.

Not everybody has opportunities like this available, but those who produce outstanding, productive kids seem to find a way. There are certain churches that send their young people out into the world on "missions" in

which they live and interact with 19. Incredibly, the couple is planning communities far from their own familiar surroundings. I can't help but think that's a good thing. If it weren't for the killing-other-people aspect of military service, I'd recommend every young person doing a stint at the time of life when they are youngest, strongest and most apt to form lifelong habits.

In spite of the intimidating aspects of providing food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and education to our offspring, however, there are people who charge undaunted into the frontier of child-rearing with a fearlessness that leaves me breathless.

Rock, Arkansas, who recently welcomed their 17th child into the world. On Aug. 2, an 8.5-pound baby girl joined six other daughters and 10 sons, who range in age from two to

to have more.

Not surprisingly, this family produced by Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar have received plenty of media attention. The Discovery Health's Web page devoted to the Duggars mentions that a baby has been born in every month except June; the Duggars have gone through about 90,000 diapers, and Michelle, 40, has been pregnant for 126 months, or 10.5 years of her life.

These folks are fearless, not only in having the babies, but in raising them. All of these kids are being home schooled — in more ways than There is a couple living near Little one. Not only are they getting their academics at home, they are learning how to care for other humans at every age level.

> Their everyday life is the ultimate hands-on training in raising babies.

Wall

From Page 1

get out of performing community service work but because they felt it was toward a good cause," she said. "They said it was something in which everybody would benefit."

Originally, plans for the memorial were that it would be built on the esplanade outside the El Paso County Courthouse. That changed, however, when members of the Crime Victims Rights Council talked to El Paso City Rep. Steve

Ortega about building the memorial at Yucca Park on the East Side, next to the recently renamed Judge Edward J. Marquez Memorial Library on Yarbrough.

When asked if there was some park space available in his district, Rep. Ortega said he immediately thought of the area between Yucca Park and the Library, which was not in use and would be a natural space for the memorial. Some community leaders also liked the idea and have in funding and in-kind donations, to the construction of the memorial.

"I'm really excited about the

project," Ortega said. "It's not only going to be an enduring memorial to all crime victims but it will also provide the community with a monument that can be used for other activities "

El Paso's Adult Probation Department is a branch of the State of Texas. The Adult Probation Department oversees 8,327 individuals on probation. It consists of probation officers, including administrators committed more than \$250,000, both and managers. More than 130 of those probation officers are case workers. A total staff of 330 work in the department.







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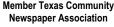
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Board

From Page 1

financial improvements and strength. The board was also reviewed based on educational improvement

with state-established standards and their community awareness. The further review the school board for board's commitment to the district's consideration as the 2007 TASA code of ethics and adherence to board policies was taken into account.

school boards from across the State vention in Dallas.

projects, performance in accordance of Texas to be recognized as regional winners. A committee will Outstanding Board. The winner will be announced on September The Clint board is among seven 30, 2007 at the TASB/TASA Con-



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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Predatory lending must stop

recently emerged regarding home

mortgages, as increasing numbers of families across the country have lost their homes due to foreclosures, desubprime home lending market, and to some extent in the conventional loan market. I support the work of the House Financial Services Com-

Troubling the victim of predatory lending and throughout the country, homeowners trends have loses their home due to unfair loan practices, and to seek a balanced solution to the slumping housing market to safeguard our economy as a

Subprime loans generally go to borrowers with limited or damaged faults and delinquency in the credit, although there is evidence that some borrowers are shifted into the subprime category because they are Hispanic or African-American. Luckily, the El Paso community has mittee to help ensure that no one is had relatively few foreclosures, but

have been surprised to find out that community organizations are doing their loans have been reset to high interest rates and their monthly payments are spiking. Many have struggled to make these increasingly high payments, and as a result, have lost their homes.

In response to these home lending difficulties, the House Financial Services Committee is working toward a balanced solution that cracks down on predatory lending practices, finding a balance between limiting riskier home finance schemes and ensuring that credit is available for Americans to achieve the dream of home ownership.

issue through hearings and is working with federal and state banking regulators to improve guidelines and disclosures, and is in the process of drafting a legislative response to these problems that will be introduced later this session.

Committee has begun a series of hearings designed to determine:

- The scope of the problem and its implications for homeowners and the economy;
 - The causes of the problem;
- What regulators, industry and about it; and
- What additional steps regulators and Congress can take to improve the situation and ensure that we do not end up here again.

The Committee will also be addressing the discrimination aspects of these activities and has also planned a September 5 hearing on the functioning of the U.S. and international credit markets and the economic implications of distress in the U.S. mortgage market, which will feature witnesses from the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Federal Reserve.

Some responses do not require leg-The Committee is examining this islation and are already being implemented. Working cooperatively with the House Financial Services Committee, federal and state banking regulators have issued new guidelines to improve loan underwriting and consumer disclosures for risky loan products. The Committee has U.S. economy overall.

The House Financial Services also urged federal regulators to provide clear authority to financial institutions so they can voluntarily avert foreclosures.

> El Paso residents can help arm themselves against predatory and unfair lending practices through financial literacy. It is important to learn more about financial, mortgage, and other loan transactions well before beginning the often complex process of purchasing a home. There are local resources that can help El Pasoans gain a better understanding of home purchasing and financing, including the El Paso Collaborative and El Paso Credit Union Affordable Housing (AHCUSO), two organizations that have financial literacy programs and information that can help the average person be better prepared when buying a home.

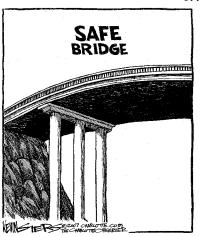
> Families must be protected against predatory lenders, consumers must have access to the best terms and loans for which they are qualified, and lenders should not make loans that consumers cannot pay back. Owning a home is the American Dream, and no one should try to exploit the process, and it is an extremely important component of the

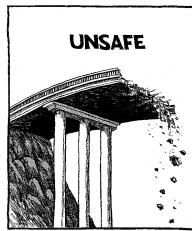


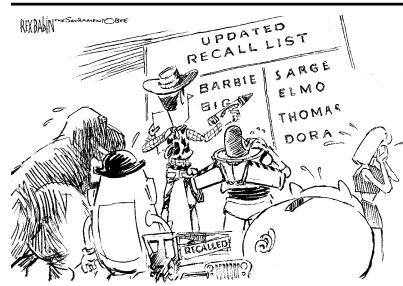
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Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Aug. 30, 1836: Boasting a healthy sea breeze and spring water", the Allen brothers start selling lots in the swamp they call Houston.

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

The El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2007 on September 6, 2007, 6:00 pm, at St. Rita Hall, 19211 Cobb St., Tornillo, Texas 79853. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Jose Luis Soria, Emma Nuñez, Clemente Escalante

and Norma Morales

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: Eliberto Nuñez, Delia Bochmeyer and Luis Vega

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.

	I	ast Year		T	his Year	
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.066343/\$100 Adopted		0.	0.060716/\$10 Proposed		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.0	05627/\$100			
Percentage increase / decrease in rates ((+/-)		- 8.48%			
Average appraised value	\$	33,738		\$	39,808	
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)		0.00			0.00	
Average taxable value	\$	33,738		\$	39,808	
Tax on average residence homestead Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$	22.38	+ \$1.79 + 8.00%	\$	24.17	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the quali fied 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.

Century-old fiesta invites public to San Elizario

saint fiesta for more than 100 years. This year the historic presidio will hold a fiesta from Sept. 7-9 to raise funds for the maintenance and operation of the San Elceario parish throughout the year.

The event opens on Friday, Sept. 7, 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday from 6 p.m. to midnight and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday's ceremonies include a mass at 10 a.m., followed by a procession with the statue of San Elzear, led by matachines dancing in his honor. A relic of San Elzear will be exhibited in the church throughout the weekend, guarded by the Knights of Columbus.

Church volunteers will be making and selling their famous and delicious gorditas. Numerous vendors will sell food items such as tacos, dogs, chilindrinas, churros, funnel of all, admission is free.

San Elceario Catholic Church has cakes, spiral fries, snow cones and been celebrating their annual patron ice cream. Numerous other vendors will provide novelty items and games for children and adults.

> Pazos Entertainment will provide an enormous slide, a bungee trampoline, an obstacle course, a rock wall, a space spin and a bungee run for young adults and those young at heart. There will also be a jumping balloon and carnival rides for children.

Live entertainment includes matachines (Mexican Indian dancers), folklorico dancers, and a variety of music including Mariachis, rock, norteño, Mexican, oldies, tejano, country, Spanish rock, classical rock and tropical music. The unique gazebo, the Plazita, with surrounding trees will make this an enjoyable outing for the entire family and the majestic San Elceario Church burritos, tripitas, elotes (corn), hot makes a beautiful background. Best

visit: www.wtccourier.com

Chat

From Page 1

"Exemplary" by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for a third year. a "yes" vote at the November Tornillo Elementary is the only open elections. enrollment public school to earn this rating for three years.

High School has been rated acceptable, giving the district three schools are rated above the norm," announced Vranish. "This is the the state and the country." highest percentage for any public school district in all of Region 19. By giving the district a "yes" vote of Trustees took a turn giving out on taxes, you as a member of the community are thanking the ery student who passed all secteachers and staff for doing an tions of the TAKS. Those who excellent job." Vranish explained scored "commended" on one or to the crowd why simply cutting more sections, as well as those back on other programs would not be a smart way to fund a pay raise. sections of the TAKS, were iden-"We are a 90/10 district, which tified during the presentation. means for every dollar we raise Every dollar you give the district throughout the school year.

permission to keep gives us nine more dollars from the state. This means the state will fund 90% of the pay raise we want to give." It is anticipated that the community will have the opportunity to give

Right before the TAKS awards were given, Paul Strelzin, host of Tornillo Intermediate School is KHRO radio's "El Paso on the rated "Recognized" as well as Move" show, addressed the Tornillo Junior High. Tornillo crowd. "This community has a lot to be proud of", stated Strelzin. "The success achieved by the out of four campuses with a rat- teachers and staff of TISD is ing above acceptable. "75% of our amazing. You guys have the best superintendent in El Paso, if not

> Rounding out the evening, each member of the Tornillo ISD Board certificates of recognition for evwho scored "commended on all

As in last the few years, TISD will locally, the state gives us nine. host a Parent Chat every month

Election

From Page 1

state elections, the Board also had to change the term board members serve in office from three years to four years.

The decision necessitated adjustments to terms of current board members. CISD Board of Trustees' terms now expire as follows:

- Terms of Carl Frietze and Frank Lerma, whose seats would have been up for election in November 2007, will expire November 2008.
- Terms for Margarito (Mago) Arellano and Armando Rodriguez will expire November 2008; they took office in May 2005.
- Terms for Sergio Coronado, Shonda Jordan, and Yvonne Sapien-Sanchez will expire November 2010; they were voted into office in November 2006.

"There have been changes to the election laws relevant to school districts over the past two years that have significant impact on the timing of elections and board member terms," stated Larry Baskind, CISD legal counsel.

Paseo Del Este **Municipal Utility District #1** Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District #1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2007 on September 19, 2007, 11:30 am, at the offices of Gray Jansing & Associates, Inc., 8217 Shoal Creek Blvd., Ste. 200, Austin, TX. 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: Jack Holford, Dan Roark, Dan McMahon

Larry Mullenbruch and Ken Mills

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.

	Las	t Year		This	Year	
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.750000/\$100		\$0.75	\$0.750000/\$100		
	Ado	pted		Proj	posed	
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$0.00000/\$100					
Percentage increase / decrease in rates	(+/-)		0.00%			
Average appraised value	\$	N/A		\$	N/A	
General exemptions available		\$0			\$ 0	
(excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)						
Average taxable value	\$	N/A		\$	N/A	
Tax on average residence homestead	*	\$0		7	\$0	
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if		•			,	
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)			N/A			
and percentage of increase (+/-)			N/A			

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the quali fied 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.

This District has no residence homesteads.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

The El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 conducted public hearings on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the

El Paso County Emergency Services District #2

from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 8.00 percent on Thursday, August 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, August 30, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

The El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at San Elizario Fire Rescue, 1425 San Antonio St., San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC: 08/30/07

Explorer Scouts are alive, well and serving

Aguilar.

sandwiches in 16-20

schedule, according to

Police Chief Tony

De Avila in the EPPD

cellent record" with the

department. He de-

scribes De Avila as a

"very experienced, com-

mitted and loyal" police

By Don Woodyard Courier Staff Writer

HORIZON CITY — The Boy Scouts of America is alive and well He serves as advisor to in El Paso.

No better indicator of that is the plorer post which he efforts of Explorer Post 2725 spon- helped establish in 2005. sored by the Horizon City Police De- He finds his work with partment.

In a ceremony Aug. 17 at the Horizon City Hall, the post received a other Explorer units in El check for \$500 from Wal-Mart at Paso County. He has Zaragosa/Montwood for its three-day efforts in signing up people for a enforcement post for six years. chance at a store shopping spree. In addition to the check for their support, the Explorer post got names of people who might be interested in supporting the program which also Department. He has also served with has the support of local businesses.

Explorer Post 2725 is one of six in Yucca Council, BSA which administers the Scouting program in West Texas and southern New Mexico. Jefferson High School in the El Paso Through trained volunteer leaders and a professional staff, Yucca Council also serves Cub Scout packs, Boy

Scout troops and Venture crews.

One of those volunteer leaders is Jesus De Avila, a Scouter for 21 years. the Horizon City Exyouth "very rewarding."

He has worked with

worked with the Border Patrol's law officer."

who has 33 years in the field of law enforcement. Twenty-two of those years were with the El Paso Police the Clint Police Department.

Besides one for Scouting, De Avila keeps him young. wears two other hats:

He is a full-time teacher at ers falls into two areas. Independent School District.

He is presently a reserve/part-time police officer in Horizon City. He



Tony Aguilar

He praises the Exploring as an "ex-De Avila is a veteran police officer cellent program — keeping the young population busy doing constructive things. They help us; we ing at street corners or plastering help them."

youth in the Exploring program

His work with his post's 10 Explor-

In the career-oriented Scout program, he teaches them fundamental police procedures such as crowd conchanges as these can help shape the trol, traffic stops and room searches. future of Greater El Paso. We are

Outreach to the community. They proud of each of them." hours a week of police have put their police training into duty around his teaching practice by augmenting regular police units in Thanksgiving parade control. The Explorers have also helped distribute food baskets to Aguilar served with needy families during the holidays.

Ramon Sanchez, 17, is a senior at and said he had an "ex- Horizon City High School. He has been an Explorer Scout for a year. He praises De Avila as a "really good mentor (who) takes the time to work with us."

> Wal-Mart stores, in a press release, supports the Explorer program.

Speaking about the youth, the release says, in part:

"You won't see these teens hanggraffiti. But you WILL see them at De Avila, 58, says working with the traffic jams and accidents helping officers; at major events assisting with safety. You see them on desert survival training for emergency relief and dozens of others places that help the community.

"... Teens creating positive

For more detailed information on joining an Explorer post (either as adult volunteer or as a youth), contact the Yucca Council Boy Scout office at 772-2292.

People know Pueblo for its...



Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.



NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

The Town of Horizon City conducted public hearings on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the

Town of Horizon City

from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 23.94 percent on Thursday, August 30, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

The Town of Horizon City is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on Monday, September 17, 2007 at 6:30 p.m., 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas 79928.

Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District #3 Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District #3 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2007 on September 12, 2007, 9:30 am, at the offices of Hunt Communities, Inc., 4401 N. Mesa., Ste. 201, El Paso, TX. 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: Ken Weaver, J. Ivan Alcocer, Mark Dyer

and Sandy Boswell

AGAINST the proposal: **NONE**

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: L. Gus Haddad

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.

	Las	t Year		This Year	
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.750000/\$100		\$0.750000/\$100		
	Ado	pted		Proposed	
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		+ \$0.	000000/\$100		
Percentage increase / decrease in rate	s (+/-)		0.00%		
Average appraised value	\$	N/A	\$	150,181	
General exemptions available		\$0		\$ 0	
(excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)					
Average taxable value	\$	N/A	\$	150,181	
Tax on average residence homestead		\$0	\$	1,126.36	
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if					
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)			N/A		
and percentage of increase (+/-)			N/A		

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the quali fied 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.

This District had no residence homesteads in 2006.

'Senior moment' turns a blown chance into a teaching opportunity

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

There were quite a number of disturbing college football-related stories this past week. Of course there were quite a bit of disturbing sports stories, in general, last week.

But college football seemed to hog up the negative headlines.

There was Arkansas defensive end Marcus Harrison, who was suspended from the team indefinitely after being arrested on felony drug and misdemeanor traffic charges. Harrison was charged with possession of a controlled substance, speeding, driving with a restricted driver's license and not wearing a seat belt.

Then there was South Carolina safety Emanuel Cook, who was kicked out of school for a weapons charge.

One of the sadder stories was of a high school student who will never get the chance to play college football. Herman Mitchell, a Houston prep standout who had already verbally committed to play football at Oklahoma, was shot and killed at an apartment complex last week. Seems an argument with another guy got a little out of hand, to say the least.

running back Loren Wade, who was sentenced trespassing because he had been warned after

to 20 years in prison for shooting and killing another former ASU Sun Devil football player. You see, Wade saw Brandon Falkner talking to his girlfriend, so naturally, he shot the guy.

LSU linebacker Derrick Odom III was arrested after being accused of trying to break into a condo near campus following an argument with the person who lives there. Once he saw he couldn't force his way into the residence, Odom then allegedly vandalized the person's car.

Two West Virginia football players, James Thomas and Ellis Lankster were suspended from the team after they were charged with stealing computers.

From the "I'm just too stupid to figure it out" department comes Kansas State tight end Rashaad Norwood, who was kicked off the team after being charged with domestic battery, criminal damage to property, criminal trespassing and obstruction of the legal process.

Seems Norwood pounded on the apartment door of a woman he knew and when she ignored him, he broke a sliding glass door with a chair, entered the apartment and pushed her onto the bed. The woman, who wasn't injured, called police and Norwood fled but was apprehended.

A few hours later, police were called again to the apartment, where they found Norwood hid-There was the story of former Arizona State ing under a bed. He was charged with criminal

the first arrest to stay away from the woman.

And how can we forget the five UTEP football players who thought they were above the law a couple weeks ago and got into brawl at a nightclub? Though two players weren't charged with felonies, they will still be charged with misdemeanors.

Now you've got to admit that there are a lot of college football players whose jersey numbers are representative of their IQ. But don't give up hope, I did managed to save the best for last.

I did manage to find one uplifting story that doesn't contain the words assault, arrest, probation, suspension, felony, battery, kidnapping, possession, rape, crime, stabbing, solicitation, robbery, intoxication, prostitution, incarceration or indecent exposure.

I'm talking about the story out of little Division III Sul Ross State in nearby Alpine Texas.

This feel-good story is about a college senior. I mean a real college "senior."

Senior like in 59-year-old Mike Flynt, who always had this one regret in his life — being kicked off his college football team. In his day he got into more than a few scrapes and his last fight at school really was his last fight.

Off the team and out of Sul Ross he did finish his degree

and had a very

successful ca-

TL: V--

reer. But he never got over being booted. Sul Ross' '71 season went nowhere without Flynn. He was their captain and played linebacker. He said that it was his team and he had let them down.

So this year he got off the dime and decided to do something about it. As crazy as it seems, he tried out for the team — and made it.

It turns out that Flynt, who is a grandfather and a member of AARP, is eight years older than his coach and he has two kids who are older than any of his teammates.

Now please understand that Flynt hasn't been sitting around the house eating Doritos and drinking beer since his college days. He has devoted his life to physical fitness and has been the strength and conditioning coach at Nebraska, Oregon and Texas A&M.

This guy even invented a Powerbase training system and his clients include several school districts and the military.

Gee, I wonder if those jerks in jail or on suspension have devoted their lives to anything except corruption and their own gratification.

I alsowonder how many other college coaches would like a Mike Flynt on their team — just for the shear inspiration alone.

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 2007 on September 12, 2007, 6:15 p.m., at 1557 FM Rd. 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, David Carrasco, Alicia L. Fresquez

and Gerald Grijalva

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: Henry Trujillo

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.

	J	Last Year		1	his Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value) 0.	0.227266/\$100 Adopted		0.2	0.214407/\$10 Proposed	
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ - 0	0.012859/\$100		
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)			- 5.66%		
Average appraised value	\$	57,502		\$	63,858
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)		0.00			0.00
Average taxable value	\$	57,502		\$	63,858
Tax on average residence homestead Annual increase / decrease in taxes if	\$	130.68		\$	136.92
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)			+ \$6.24		
and percentage of increase (+/-)			+ 4.78%		

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the quali fied 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

across the nation. For more information about the program, visit www.utep.edu/nursing.

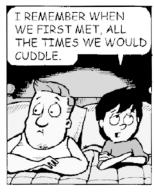
- Cross Country season is starting in El Paso schools. Socorro High School Boys Cross Country Team is ranked sixth in Texas.
- The El Paso Public Library would like to remind everyone that libraries are a great escape from the summer heat. Libraries not only offer heat relief, but also have a large array of activities for the whole family to enjoy together. Besides books, library patrons can read all the latest magazines, newspapers, revistas and novelas, play board games and watch movies. They can also use the computers
- there to work on resumes, look for job and health information, get recipes, play online games, send email and much more. All public libraries are open Tuesday through Saturday during midday. Some are open on Sunday and Monday. To find a library near you can call 541-4106 or visit www.elpasolibrary.org.
- The El Paso Audubon Society will host a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17, at the UTEP Centennial Museum. Christina Kleberg, wildlife biologist with the Peregrine Fund, will give a lecture titled "Bring back an endangered species: Northern Aplomado Falcon Update." Kleberg will discuss how to establish a self-sustaining population of the endangered falcons through captive breeding, reintroduction, release and management. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call 915/526-7725.

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



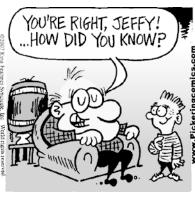






THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering







R.F.D. By Mike Marland





DEAR WANDA, I'M RELUCTANT TO DIVULGE MY GARDEN SECRETS, BUT I'LL MAKETHIS ONE-TIME EXCEPTION. (SEE ATTACHED PHOTO)





Watch your diet: It may change tomorrow

By Don Flood

Fox News — this is true — recently staged a pillow fight between female supporters of Barack Obama and Rudy Giuliani.

I'm not kidding when I say I find this extremely troubling, because if news shows parody themselves by hosting pillow fights between suspiciously attractive female campaign supporters, what's left for me to make fun of?

contact your Congresspersons. Tell them, no more pillow fights for presidential candidates. On second thought, don't contact them. It'll just give them ideas.

(Who won the fight? Most political observers agreed it was a draw. A tie, however, works in Obama's favor, since the Giuliani girls were expected to win.)

But moving on to today's topic: health and nutrition.

Recently, it was announced that vitamin C does nothing to prevent

It's a shame, but everybody knew vitamin C was heading for a fall. It's been a little too high and mighty for its own good.

Many of the other vitamins were sick of it, most notably vitamins A and B, who correctly pointed out that they came earlier in the alphabet. Vitamin D also had a falling out with its former friend.

The announcement, of course, was part of the long-standing government program to keep people guessing about what foods are good for them.

The most extreme current example is "antioxidants," which all sorts of food products claim to contain even though no one knows what they are.

The following is a conversation I recorded through my own warrantless wiretap program.

came out with a new study.

COLLEAGUE: Sure, what will it be this time?

SCIENTIST: Know how we've been saying "antioxidants" are good for you?

COLLEAGUE: Yeah, that one's a classic.

SCIENTIST: Yes, but it's time to pull the old switcheroo — from now on antioxidants are bad for you. What people really need are "oxidants," lots of 'em.

COLLEAGUE: Where can people get these "oxidants"?

SCIENTISTS: Let's say cat food – from China!

COLLEAGUE: Brilliant!

But there is good news for parents trying to get their kids to eat whatever is supposed to be good for them at the moment: McDonald's wrappers.

According to a recent study, food in McDonald's wrappers tastes better to kids — even carrots and milk.

Some critics said this showed the potential harm of McDonald's advertising, but I think it's the best nutritional news since they announced red wine is good for your heart. (And they better not announce it's not good for you. It's the only health regimen I've been able to stick with.)

Just load up on McDonald's wrappers and serve your kids lima beans, cauliflower, tuna casserole — it doesn't matter!

To show how this works, I'll pause this column for an actual, laboratory demonstration:

KID (given carrots with no wrapper): Yuck!

KID (given carrots with McDonald's wrapper): Yippee!

And if the kids are really good about finishing their dinner, you can let them watch the political pillow fights on C-Span.

SCIENTIST: Hey, it's time we (c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

A ROMANCE **ACROSS**

- 1 Tower town 5 Ditch
- 9 Married Mlle 12 "_ Life" ('66 hit)
- grandma 18 Sills solo

17 Acted like

- 19 Tam material
- 21 Actor Alex
- 22 "Aida" river 23 "Meter" leader
- 24 Actress Rivera 25 Throb 26 Loser to DDE
- 27 Author Christie 29 Stirrup site 30 Riddle: Part 1
- 36 Gridiron position 37 Z _ zebra 38 Present for pop 39 Dutch export
- 42 Ms. Silkwood 44 Wine variety 50 Sought office
- 51 Famed caravel 52 Om. for instance 53 Actress Joanne 54 ABA member 55 Skater Hughes
- 56 Come out of one's shell 57 Dutch export 58 Sharif role
- 60 22 Across feature 61 Internet acronym

- 63 Riddle: Part 2 68 Permit 69 Grows light
- 70 Studio 73 Word with camp or 76 "_ Rolling Stone"
- ('65 hit) 77 Groundwork 79 Before, to Byron
- 81 Wobble 83 Add a lane 84 It may be white
- 85 Titmouse kin 87 Emulate Elle 88 _ Castro
- 90 "_ vous plait" 91 Joyce's land 92 Implore 93 Answer to riddle
- 104 "Exodus" protagonist 105 Plaza Hotel kid 106 Get a galley going
- 107 Marineland performer 108 Kanga's creator 111 Construct
- 112 Crow's toe 114 TV's "Mad _ You" 115 Celebrity 116 Mispickel and
- galena 117 Costa -118 Rampal's instrument
- 119 _ apso

120 Draft agcy. 121 Dentist's directive 122 French bean?

DOWN

- 1 Doggy 2 Restless 3 Left the Union 4 Fuss and feathers
- 5 A Lennon sister 7 West's "Diamond
- 8 kwon do 9 Drilling site? 10 Club creed
- 11 Yale or Root 12 Tic - _ - toe
- 13 "What?" 14 "Farewell. Francois!" 15 Big guy
- 16 Austere 17 Close the curtains 19 Cart 26 Postfix
- 27 Exiled dictator 28 Mary of "Dodsworth" 31 Claire or Balin
- 32 Big revolver? 33 Lost 34 "The Ramayana" heroine
- 35 Barbie's boyfriend 39 Austrian city 40 Solemn statement 41 "Wait _ Dark" ('67

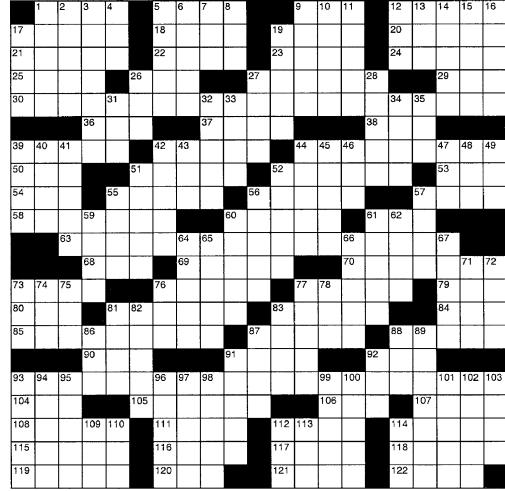
- 42 Ballet company 43 Santa , CA
- 44 Smith or Page 45 Like Machu Picchu 46 Utmost
- 47 Bizarre 48 Nest egg 49 Zombie base
- Tender" 52 Fountain treats 55 Use coupons
- 56 Shampoo ingredient 57 Middle Eastern airline
- 59 Electrical measure 60 Librarian Melvil 61 "The Addams
- Family" actor 62 Pindaric poetry 64 Stop on -65 Delibes opera
- 66 Blackboard support 67 Cry uncle 71 Cleveland's lake 72 Stagger

73 English channel?

74 Fireworks reaction 75 Kimono cummerbund 76 Peeper protector 77 Senator from Delaware

78 Humorist George

- 81 Stowe gear 82 Bisect 83 Sported
- 86 Civil War initials 87 Pixie and Dixie 88 Charge
- 89 Vile 91 Road curves 92 Luxury car
- 93 Veronica of "Hill 94 Maestro Leinsdorf
- 95 Novelist Cather 96 St. _ fire 97 Savanna sounds
- 98 Startled cry 99 Vestige 100 Dubuque denizen 101 Game fish
- 102 Intense 103 Behind schedule 109 Mil. base
- 112 -Magnon 113 Back talk 114 Sternward
- 110 Homeric character **Answer Page 8**



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Back-to-school reminder

Submit form so Social Security benefits continue for eligible students after age 18

If your son or daughter is a high school student turnbenefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/schoolofficials/ ing 18 and collecting monthly Social Security benefits, there is one more item to add to your "Back-to-School" checklist.

To ensure that Social Security benefits continue beyond age 18, eligible students must submit the necessary form to school officials to certify they are still in school. Otherwise, monthly Social Security checks automatically stop when a student turns 18.

About 200,000 students receive Social Security benefits in the United States. Some students receive Social Security survivors benefits because a parent is deceased. Others may get dependent benefits because their parent receives Social Security retirement or disability benefits. Benefits for minor children generally continue until age 18 or 19 if they're still in high school, unless they are disabled and eligible for childhood disability benefits. In that case, a separate application for benefits is required.

For more information about Social Security student Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

. The website outlines how the process works with instructions on what the student and school official must do to ensure benefits continue past the student's 18th birthday. With the appropriate certification, Social Security generally does not stop benefits until the month before the month the student turns 19, or the first month in which he or she is not a full-time student, whichever is earlier.

Social Security's website also includes:

- A downloadable version of the required SSA-1372 form — Students' Statement Regarding School Attendance — that must be completed by the student, certified by the school and returned to Social Security;
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions for school officials and students; and
- A field office locator to find the address of a local Social Security office.

If you do not have access to the Internet, call Social

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 2007 on September 27, 2007, 6:30 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, John Navidomskis, Florence Thomas

Robert Surratt and Pat Randleel

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.

	1	Last Year		This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.468693/\$100		0.468693/\$	
	I	Adopted		Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value			\$0.00/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (-	+/-)		0.00%	
Average appraised value	\$	94,032		\$ 109,272
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)		0.00		0.00
Average taxable value	\$	94,032		\$ 109,272
Tax on average residence homestead Annual increase / decrease in taxes if	\$	440.72		\$ 512.15
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)			+ \$71.43 + 16.21%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the quali fied 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.

Classified Ads

contractor

must ensure that

LEGAL

Border Fair Housing & Economic Justice Center

Invitation for **Bids**

The Border Fair

Housing & Economic Justice Center (BHFC) is a recipient of a TDHCA Contract for Deed Conversion with Rehab grant contract number 1000561. The BFHC will receive sealed bids for 3 home reconstructions or replacements with Mobil home including demolition & clean up until 4:00 p.m. (local time) on August 29th 2007 at BFHC 1444 Montana Ave., Suite 100 El Paso, TX 79902. Bid packets are available at the BFHC starting August 20th 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 Monday through Friday.

bids must be sealed and received by 4:00 August 24th 2007. Submitted envelopes must be marked "CON-TRACT DEED BID" on the lower left hand side of the envelope.

All submitted

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on August 23rd 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at Montana Ave., Suite 100, El Paso. TX 79902. Bids will be opened on August 29, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at 1444 Montana Ave., Ste.

100, El Paso, TX

The

employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Border Fair Housing & Economic Justice Center reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or to waive any informality in the bidding. BFHC is an Affirmative Ac-

Equal Opportunity Employer.

Anibal Olague Executive Director

WTCC: 08-30-07

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20 'X45'space for rent. \$250/month. 852-9371, Horizon Self Storage.

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PERSONALS

Thank you St. Jude and Sacred Heart of Jesus for favor received.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: Former Justice Court Building,12708 Alameda Frank Macias, 8512007/588-0968.

SELF-HELP

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

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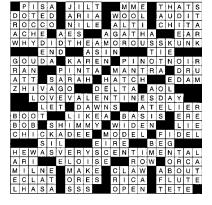
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payment (no cash) to:

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

Deadline: Mondays

Phone: _