

NEWSBRIEFS

Early publications

The West Texas County Courier will close for three weeks beginning Tuesday, Sept. 18. The Courier will pre-print two issues for Thursday, Sept. 27 and Thursday, Oct. 4. All material and ad copy must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14 to be published in those issues. The Courier will open again on Monday, Oct. 8.

Busting graffiti

Horizon Communities Improvement Association (HCIA) has joined forces with and will provide resources for the Horizon City Graffiti Busters in cooperation with the Town of Horizon City, Sheriff's Office, Horizon City Explorers, Horizon City Police Department, Eastlake Lions Club, and the Girl Scouts. If you would like to volunteer (or if your group would like to join us), or if you would like to provide an in-kind donation, please contact Lynn Arrigoni at larrigoni@horizoncity.org or Karen Ellefson at kellefson@horizoncity.org; 915-852-1046.

Higher tolls

New toll rates began Sept. 1, 2007 at the Paso Del Norte, Zaragoza, and Stanton International Bridges (southbound only) for passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles. The new rates are \$2.25 for non-commercial vehicles (increased from \$1.65) and \$3.50 per axle for commercial vehicles (increased from \$3.00 per axle). Pedestrian crossings will stay at 35 cents.

In other news

■ Navy Seaman Michael P. Muñoz, son of Linda and Pablo D. Muñoz of Clint, Texas, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Muñoz completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. Muñoz is a 2007 graduate of Clint High School in Clint, Texas.

■ The El Paso Public Library will host the Second Annual Great Southwest Book Fair on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the El Paso Public Library and the El Paso History Museum at Cleveland Square. Through an outstanding collaboration between the Library, History Museum, Adair Margo Gallery, Juntos Art Association and the UTEP Chicano Studies program, writers, publishers, historians and other literature enthusiasts from across the Southwest will convene to provide an international marketplace for Southwest literature. There will also be presentations by some of the areas most respected authors. Writers from as far

See BRIEFS, Page 5

There must be a studio somewhere that makes nothing but reruns.

— Quips & Quotes

New communication system reaches SISD families quickly

Eight minutes is all it takes for Socorro ISD to reach every parent

By Irma Flores

Special to the Courier

The next time bad weather delays the start of school or a snow day forces us to cancel classes, parents of nearly 40,000 Socorro ISD

agrees the system is an important safety measure for the District. "These parents trust us with their children. We want them to know that we are making every effort to keep them informed and in touch with our district and their children."

"With a 200 line capacity, the District can contact SISD families within minutes," says Teresa MacDonald SISD Telecom Team Leader. "Previously, only the high schools had a system to send out messages. Now all the campuses and the District can reach parents."

Each school will be able to input six phone numbers per student. If a call is made on the first attempt, no additional numbers will be called. In addition, school administrators can use the system to send out emails and attach forms to send to parents. The Rapid No-

tification System can also be used to send out report cards, test notifications, holiday or schedule changes, club or team news and school board reminders.

"There is no equipment or hardware with the system," says Joyce Katz, Global Connect Trainer. "The system is a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) which provides clear messages. Schools can send out messages in multiple languages and principals will be able to access their school site from home to send out emergency notifications."

"This is another way to reach parents," says Campestre Elementary Principal Isabel Andresen whose campus has 634 students. "This will also help us maintain our student

See SYSTEM, Page 5



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick

KEEPING IN TOUCH — Mona Sernas and Sulema Mejia and others work on the Socorro ISD's new Global Connect system. The system can contact the parents of every Socorro ISD student in as little as eight minutes.

(SISD) students will be notified in as little as eight minutes by using the District's new Global Connect Rapid Notification System. The company spent two days in August training SISD campus principals and district administrators in the system that will allow the District to send not only emergency notices or Code Blue alerts, but also regular campus reminders, report card information and general informational e-mails.

"It's important for a school district as large as Socorro to be able to contact our parents quickly in case of an emergency or bad weather," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "In addition, it is also important for our campuses to begin using this system to regularly send our parents school information."

SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia

Canutillo ISD assistant principal serves second term as District 19 President

By Kim Guzman

Special to the Courier

Sheryl Maxsom, assistant principal at Gonzalo & Sofia Garcia Elementary School (GES) in Canutillo ISD, will serve a second term as District 19 President for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA). Maxsom and her fellow officers from the 20 TEPSA districts across the state were installed at the association's Summer Leadership Conference.

"TEPSA's leaders are committed to serving the whole child in their schools and communities," said Executive Di-

rector Sandi Borden.

Maxsom's career in education spans 18 years. She received her Masters in Education from Sul Ross State University and is an alumnus of TEPSA Academy VI.

"I'm excited to be at Canutillo Independent School District, and to be able to provide our students with excellent opportunities. I am looking forward to a great year," said Maxsom.

Since 1917, TEPSA has served Texas principals and supervisors. TEPSA has more than 5,300 members. These administrators supervise more than 150,000 teachers who direct the activities of more than 2.1 million pre-kinder through eighth grade school children.



Sheryl Maxsom

First death due to West Nile Virus reported in El Paso

By Sue Beatty

Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — The El Paso City-County Health & Environmental District has confirmed the first death caused by West Nile Virus. The victim is an 82 year old Hispanic male who lived in the 79905 zip code. He was admitted to the hospital on Aug. 14, 2007 and passed away on Aug. 25, 2007. This individual also had other medical conditions at the time of death.

In addition, the El Paso City-County Health & Environmental District has confirmed the diagnosis of three (3) additional human West Nile Virus (WNV) cases.

The first case is a 49 year old Hispanic female who lives in the 79915 zip code. She was admitted to the hospital on Aug. 11, 2007 and discharged on Aug. 22, 2007.

The second case is a 75 year old White female who lives in the 79936 zip code. She was admitted to the hospital on August 11, 2007 and remains hospitalized.

The third case is an 80 year old Hispanic male who lives in the 79905 zip code. He was admitted to the hospital on August 19, 2007 and remains hospitalized.

There are six additional cases that are categorized as probable and suspected.

One probable case is an 82 year old Hispanic male who resides in the 79907 zip code. He was admitted to the hospital on Aug. 6, 2007 and discharged on Aug. 11, 2007. Additional probable cases include a 65 year old male and a 35 year old male with unknown zip codes of residence at this time and a 59 year old female that lives in the 79915 zip code.

There are two suspected cases still awaiting lab results. One is a 21 year old female from the 79903 zip code. She was admitted to the hospital on Aug. 20, 2007 and remains hospitalized. The other is a 59 year old female residing in the 79915 zip code.

These new cases bring the total of confirmed WNV cases to nine, plus four probable cases and two suspected cases, with one death.

Vector Control continues to collect mosquitoes from throughout the County and forwards them to the Texas Department of State Health Services Laboratory in Austin for testing. Mosquitoes collected on Aug. 21, 2007 in the 79904 zip code have tested positive for WNV. Vector Control also continues to fog for mosquitoes in all areas where humans and mosquitoes have tested positive for the disease.

Now that school is back in session, the El Paso City-County Health & Environmental District is also encouraging all schools to reduce irrigation and eliminate standing water that collects on school grounds. Mosquitoes will develop in any puddles that last more than four days. Schools can also encourage students to wear long sleeves, long pants and socks to minimize exposure to mosquitoes while outdoors at dawn, dusk or night-time (such as at football games) when mosquitoes are most active.

All residents of the region need to take extra vigilance to protect themselves from

See WNV, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Wear a helmet

I lost my jury duty notice, so I didn't send it in. I got a court summons to go see the judge about it.

On this particular day there were about 30 of us lining the benches outside the court room. It was the first time I'd been in this setting as the defendant. It was somewhat unsettling.

They called us up alphabetically, which meant I had quite awhile to squirm. When it was my turn, the judge asked, "What happened?"

"I lost it," I said.

"OK," he said, "Can you come back in on such-and-such a date?"

"Yessir," I said. His clerk wrote me out a notice and I left.

It was over, just like that.

The amazing part, and, may I add, the amusing part was the excuses he got from me and my fellow defendants.

Anything was possible, from "I don't open the mail," to "I was out of town," to "what do I do to get out of jury duty ever again?"

One fellow ventured that since he didn't qualify for any of the other exemptions, he might could get convicted of a felony before his time came up. The judge said he didn't recommend that option.

The thing about it was that we all wanted to excuse ourselves for having failed to do something the law requires us to do. We all had a reason for doing — or not doing — what

we should.

They say if you begin at the wrong starting point, you will never arrive at the right destination. The minute I failed to appropriately process the jury duty notice, I was on a collision course with reckoning. The penalty in this case pretty much fit the crime.

Unfortunately, it doesn't always turn out that way. The crimes are sometimes horrendous with devastating consequences to other people. We still want to make excuses for ourselves.

It is equally unfortunate that, frequently, our excuses work. So others set out to balance the scales on their own and Lady Justice is left holding a warped measuring instrument.

There are a group of young black men in Jena, Louisiana, charged with crimes carrying pretty harsh penalties. They allegedly struck a white kid on the back of the head, knocking him unconscious, then kicked and stomped him. Now, these young fellows say they had reason. Primarily, they say, they are outnumbered and have been faced with threatening words, looks and actions by white kids.

I don't doubt that for a minute. In fact, they say that Jena, Louisiana, in which whites heavily outnumber the black population has been somewhat astir with racial tension for weeks prior to the attack.

Still, what is it that makes us all unwilling to accept fault for our misdeeds — ranging from missing jury duty to raising our hand, and foot, against our neighbor?

There are probably few Americans who were of adult age in the spring of 1991 who didn't see the video-taped beating of Rodney King. On parole for robbery and under the influence, King tried to outrun the law, resisted arrest and was soundly thrashed.

The acquittal of three of the four officers charged with King's beatings touched off the horrendous 1992 riots in Los Angeles in which black and other minority neighborhoods suffered the worst of it — at the hand of their own.

Like O.J. Simpson, King was subsequently involved a civil suit. Unlike Simpson, he won — about 3.8 million. Just to prove that money doesn't solve everything, he was arrested again in 1999 and 2003. His crimes included spousal abuse, being under the influence of PCP, speeding, running a red light and refusing to yield to arresting officers.

The Jena Six students and their con-


siderable support group have said that their punishment is far too stiff for what they call a "school yard fight." Those who rioted in Los Angeles, destroying businesses, and literally beating a white trucker — Reginald Denny — until he was first thought to be dead, said they were only responding to injustice done to them.

There's probably a good bit of truth in both those statements, but it still doesn't excuse anyone's bad behavior, be they black, white, purple or polka-dotted.

Wrong is wrong and that's how it is. You do the crime, you can expect to do the time at the whim of the so-called blind Lady Justice. Sometimes, like the LaCrosse players at Duke University, who should have listened when their mama's told them not to go to that kind of party, you get bloodied up even when apparently you didn't do the crime. Sometimes, like the two Border Patrol officers who have had their lives gutted for shooting a fleeing drug dealer and not having the good sense to fess up about it, you get the short end of the stick.

Life isn't fair — to anyone — so send in your jury notices, be nice to your neighbors, and wear a helmet.

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Public Notice

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The September 27 and October 4, 2007 issues will go to press on Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Friday, September 14, 2007.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Tuesday, September 18, 2007. The office will open again on Monday, October 8, 2007.



Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Executive training offered

El Paso business owners will be interested to know that the Small Business Administration (SBA) will hold a 7(j) Executive Training seminar on September 26-27, 2007 at the Tigua Judicial Center at 9421 Socorro Road. This training is geared toward small business leaders who are interested in pursuing contracts with the federal government. The SBA originally scheduled this training for Lubbock, Texas. However, after I emphasized the crucial need for this type of seminar in El Paso with the SBA Administrator, the SBA changed plans and decided to host an event in El Paso. This is the first time the SBA has ever held this type of executive training in El Paso.

This training is valued at \$3,000, but the SBA's Office of 8(a) Business Development is holding the event free of charge. This will be a critical opportunity for El Paso business owners, and highlights of this training include:

- Perfecting the business and strategic plan;
- Marketing and doing business with the federal government;
- Learning the procurement process and how to write winning proposals;
- Improving financial management skills for 7(j) and 8(a) small business owners;
- Improving management and leadership skills for 7(j) and 8(a) small business owners;
- Using the Mentor-Protégé Programs;
- Incorporating technology transfer/SBIR opportunities;
- Understanding new tax policies and getting a handle on your finances;
- Deciding on bid vs. no bid;
- Understanding surety bonding; and
- Identifying points of contact for contracting opportunities.

As Fort Bliss continues to grow, it is important that local business owners — especially 8 (a) and small businesses — are able to take advantage of business opportunities. With over 900 local small businesses in the Central Contracting Registration (CCR) database and in a good position to carry out Fort Bliss-related contracts, it is crucial that El Paso businessmen and women receive the training to run the most qualified and professional businesses in the country.

In order to be eligible for this training, you must be CCR registered, an 8(a) certified firm, a HubZone certified firm, or eligible to receive 8(a) contracts. Only developing 8(a) firms or other 7(j) eligible firms that have been in business for four years or less may attend this seminar.

The training is limited to one representative per company and seating is limited to only 40 people per session. Each participant will receive a certificate of successful completion to demonstrate their commitment to excellence and continuing education for their business. I strongly encourage El Paso business owners to attend this very important event.



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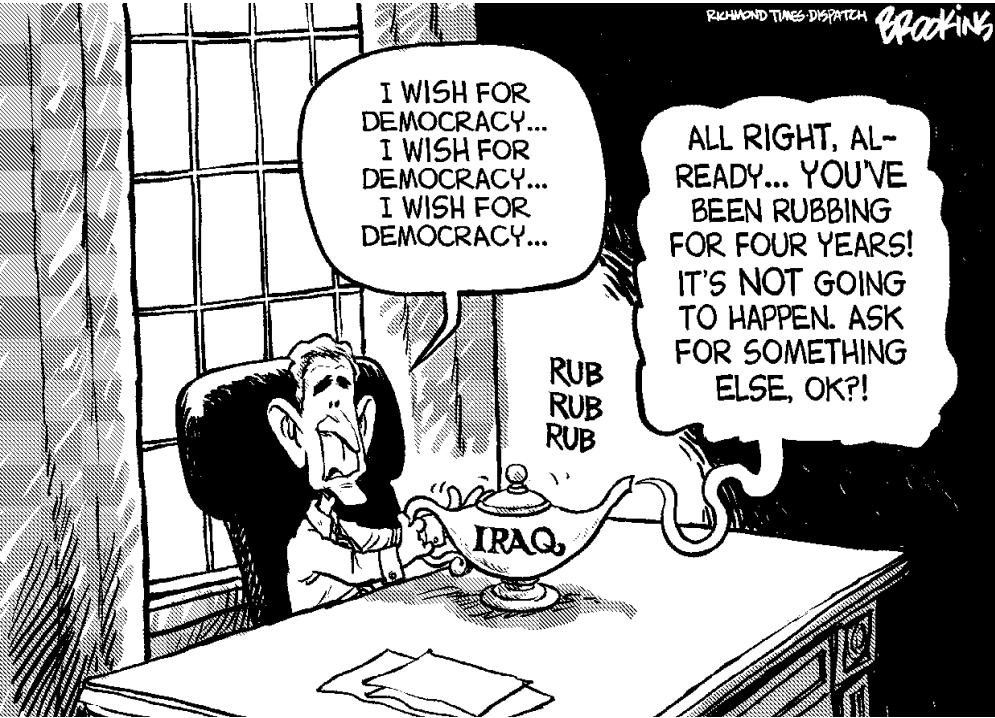
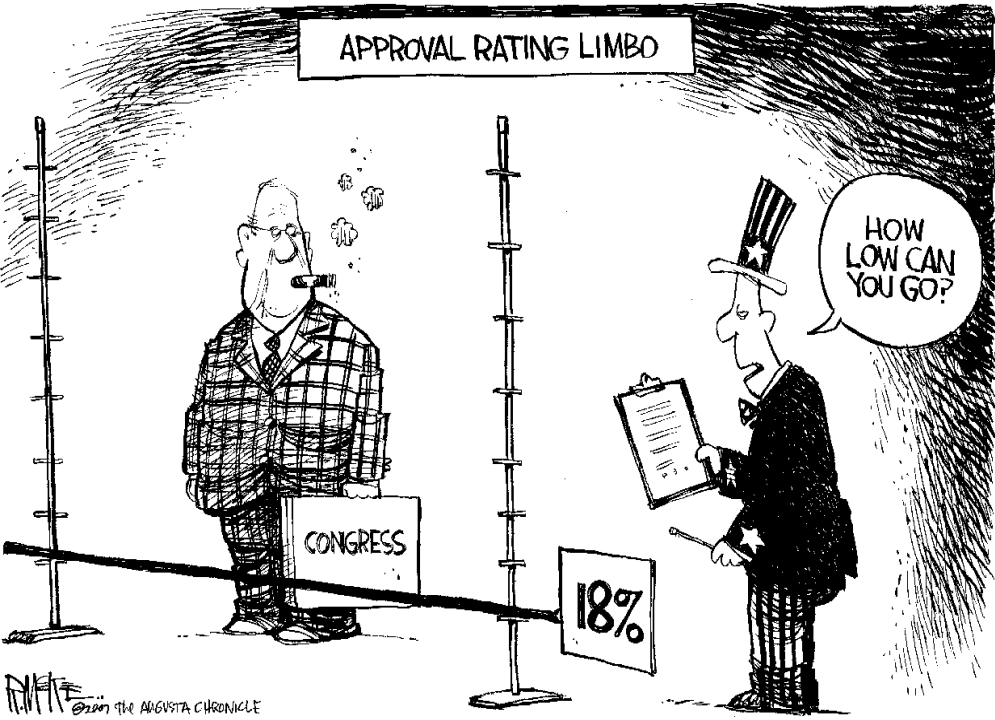
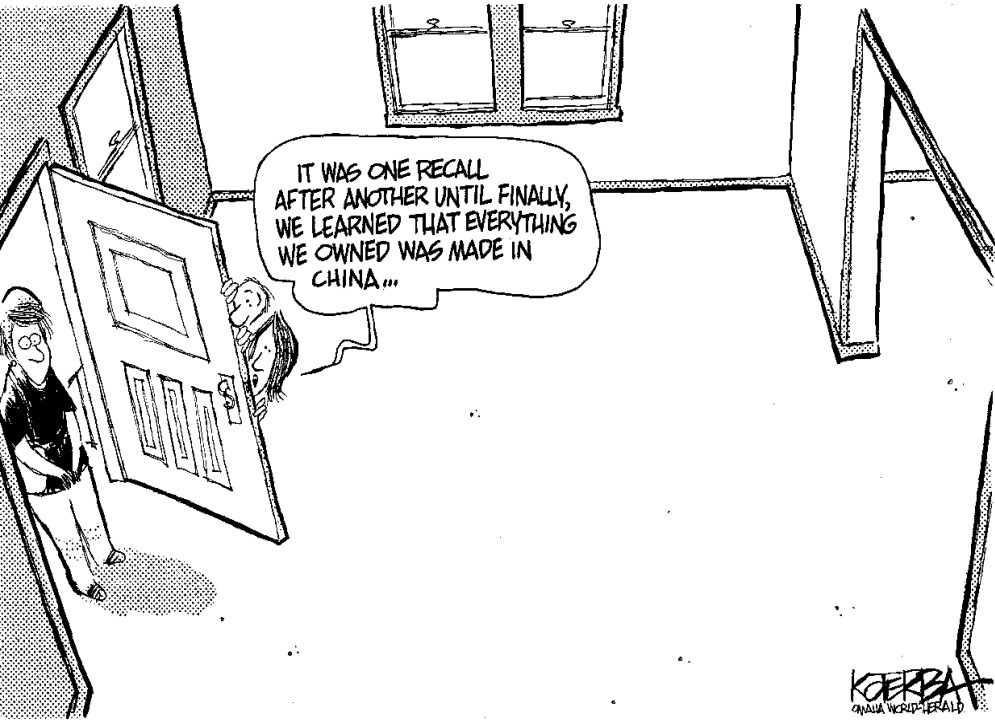
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View from here

By Javier Sambrano

Students urged to use Campus Crime Stoppers

It's a new school year, and Crime Stoppers of El Paso wants all area students to know that everyone has a place to turn when they have information about a crime that has been committed or is about to be committed either on campus or anywhere else in the city. That place is Campus Crime Stoppers. Students can contact Campus Crime Stoppers 24/7 by calling the tips hotline at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or by going online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org to submit a secure tip.

The first reason to call Campus Crime Stoppers is that you can remain completely anonymous. Nobody will ever know who gave the tip. That information is protected by law in the State of Texas and cannot be revealed, even in court.

The second reason to call Campus Crime Stoppers is that the tip information will go directly to the agency that is best able to handle it. For instance, campus crime information will go to the appropriate school district police organization. Other information will go to the proper law enforcement agency that will handle it, such as the D.E.A., Customs and Border Protection, the F.B.I., local Police units or Sheriff's deputies, and so on.

The final reason to call Campus Crime Stoppers is that, if your tip leads to an arrest and our board's approval, you can earn a cash reward. And, just as it is in giving your tip to Campus Crime Stoppers, you also remain completely anonymous when picking up your cash reward. You will never be asked to tell anybody your name or any other identifying information. You simply proceed into a drive-in bank teller (not in the lobby), and submit a code number we give you. In return, the teller will give you cash. Nobody will ever know who you are.

So don't let bullies and criminals ruin your school year. If you have any information about drugs or weapons on campus, after-school fights, graffiti and vandalism, or anything else where people could be hurt, contact Campus Crime Stoppers. Keep your school and neighborhood safe.

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A cartoon by Moore. A man stands at a podium, saying: "Oh say can you see, ol' Sam won th' fight, what so...". A speech bubble from him says: "enuf." The cartoon is signed "MOORE" and dated "©07".

Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Francis Scott Key, of Star Spangled Banner fame, once defended Sam Houston in an assault case.

County notes By Don Woodyard

EL PASO COUNTY — Highlights of August meetings by municipal and education entities in the Upper and Lower Valleys:

August 7
Vinton Village Council

Following a public hearing for community input, the village council

approved revisions to an application through ORCA for a \$295,384 Texas Community Development Block Grant. ORCA is the Office of Rural Community Affairs.

Jessica Garza, village clerk, explained the key elements of the grant application:

“This project is the third phase of

a first-time water construction and will provide a stable, safe supply of potable water to the target area.

“... Although this application is designed by itself to serve only 47 residents, the introduction of new sewer service from El Paso Water Utilities into this area will include a new tap at the Vinton Road pipeline and will incorporate the added benefit of looping with the existing Kiely Road to provide redundancy and pressure stabilization to this portion of the Village of Vinton.”

She continues. It will “provide reliable service to the village.”

After a heated discussion, the council approved the additional expenditure of \$7,000 over budgeted cost of \$18,000 for the purchase of a new village work truck for maintenance department. It would be better suited for transporting visitors as well as La Tuna convicts on work details.

There was discussion, but no action was taken on appointing members to the Keep Vinton Beautiful Commission.

August 8
San Elizario ISD Board

Attorney Larry Baskind, legal counsel for the San Elizario school

district, explained the legislative changes in the Texas Education Code and the impact they will have on local board elections. San Elizario currently conducts its elections on the May uniform election date.

Baskind said the board had two alternatives.

“Extend trustee terms from three years to four years and conduct joint elections with the City of Socorro on the May election date of even numbered years.

“Change from the May uniform election date to the November uniform election date of even-numbered years to coincide with the general election for state and county offices.”

The board voted for the first alternative and will conduct its next elections in May of 2008.

Sylvia Hopp reported on TAKS tests. Four campuses were rated “Acceptable.” Borrego Elementary was rated as “Recognized.”

“Many schools were very close to Recognized,” she pointed out. “We are not where we want to be, but we are on the road to success.”

The Student Code of Conduct was approved.

George Luevano, support services coordinator, said flooding issues

from recent rains have been satisfactorily resolved. All areas of standing water have been treated.

He said work remains on new park behind Excell Academy. Grass will be added.

August 14
Canutillo ISD Board

As with the San Elizario school district, Canutillo ISD addressed board election changes required by legislative changes in the Texas Election Code. After defeating a motion to align its elections with the Village of Vinton, the board then approved the option of having its elections in November of even numbered years to align itself with state and county voting. Term of office would be four years.

This plan would go into effect in 2008.

Superintendent Dr. Pam Padilla had good news for board members in her report.

“We are attracting more experienced teachers,” she said on the eve of the new school year. She added, “100 percent of the new teachers in the district are highly qualified. Only a few vacancies remain.

“Everybody is ready to go back to work.”

Tony Reza, executive director for business services, presented an update on the preliminary budget. He also discussed proposed tax rates to meet the needs of “a growing school district.”

He stressed the importance of accessing additional sources of income to meet those needs which includes the costs of a new elementary school. “We are cutting expenses; we are hitting travel.”

August 21
Vinton Village Council

In its final meeting of the month, the Village Council approved increases in monthly rent for two “tenants,” the substation of the Sheriff’s Department and the office of the Justice of the Peace. The hefty raises would increase rent from \$1,000 to \$1,600 for the El Paso County Sheriff. The cost for the JP’s office would increase from \$800 a month to \$1,200.

Garza later explained the increases approved are tentative and not final. They are subject to negotiations with El Paso County.

The council also approved the budget statement for the 2007/08 fiscal year. It says, in part:

“Rebuilding after the floods continues to be a priority. Not only rebuilding, but improving water controls in the areas hardest hit has proved to be not only difficult for the city engineering firm, but funding as well.

“We anticipate slight increases in salary and benefits for the employees.

“It is our intention to provide the best services at minimal cost.

“Aggressively seek outside funding sources to meet needs of the city.

“Public safety has been and remains a priority concern. We hope to continue regular arroyo maintenance as well as improving storm water controls with new construction.

Completion of existing parks and development of neighborhood parks must be placed higher on the needs list.”

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.

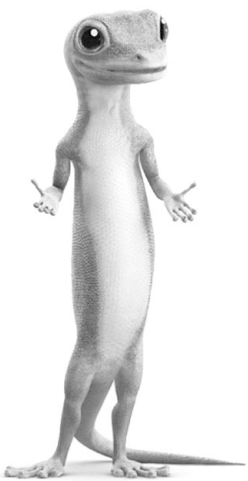
The Town of Horizon City
is scheduled to vote on
the tax rate that will result
in that tax increase at a
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Briefs

From Page 1

away as Houston and Los Angeles have already made plans to attend. Attendance is free. For more information call 543-5466.

■ The Clint Independent School District Board of Trustees adopted a \$69,680,380.00 budget for the 2007-2008 School Year. The budget allows for the growth of the district, which is expected to hit 10,600 students this year. The budget also allows for a 3.5% salary increase plus step for all employees and places 1.4 million in the fund balance. The 2007 tax rate of \$1.335050 was adopted by the board as well. This new tax rate is a decrease from 2006. This new rate includes a Maintenance and Operations rate of 1.040050. The Interest and Sinking rate is \$0.295000. Overall, the 2007-2008 tax rate is a decrease of \$0.35005 from the 2006 tax rate of \$1.685100.

WNV

From Page 1

mosquitoes. The elderly and very young are usually the ones most susceptible, but anyone of any age can be infected.

Follow the 4 D's to prevent mosquito bites and mosquito breeding:

- Dusk and dawn are when mosquitoes are most active. Avoid outdoor activities during these times.
- Dress- If you are outside, cover up by wearing pants, long sleeve shirts, shoes and socks.
- Drain standing water on the ground, or water in tires, plastic containers, cans, kiddie pools or in any

System

From Page 1

records and make sure our information is up to date.”

Each school will have its location site to upload the various lists it may use. The lists can be custom call lists or general lists to include the entire student body or faculty. Specialized

other type of container that can hold water. Mosquitoes can breed in very little water.

- DEET (N, N-Diethyl-m-toluamide). Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET. Be sure to follow the instructions for use on the container.


Other tips:

- Check window and door screens and repair holes. Make sure door seals are secure.
- Do not over-irrigate your farmland or property as this allows water to stagnate and mosquitoes to breed in it.

For more information or to report a complaint, call Vector Control at (915) 594-1568. Visit our website at www.elpasocitycountyhealth.com or

messages can also be recorded through a regular phone line or emailed with an option to connect parents to back to the campus. This internet-based program can also allow schools to send out notifications regarding specific students or to large groups at a single campus such as the junior class or football team.

Texas Department of State Health Services www.dshs.state.tx.us for more information on West Nile Virus.



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Paseo Del Este
Municipal Utility District No. 10
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District No. 10 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2007 on Thursday, September 13, 2007, at 12:30 p.m., at the offices of ECO Resources, 12429 Rojas Dr., Suite A-2, El Paso, TX 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:	Directors Ortega, Spence, Reynolds, Lettunich and Gallardo
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

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

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.750000/\$100	\$0.750000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000/\$100
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised value	\$ 199,076	\$ 236,363
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average taxable value	\$ 199,076	\$ 236,363
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,493.07	\$ 1,772.72
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		+ \$279.65
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+ 18.73%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

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

* The proposed 2007 tax rate is comprised of both a debt service component and a maintenance and operation component. A rollback election would only cause the rollback of the maintenance and operation component of the 2007 tax rate. Due to the way the rollback

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.

Miners get a win but must improve before playing Texas Tech

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I must admit that I had no idea what to expect when I covered the UTEP-New Mexico football game last Saturday.

I didn't know how the quarterback duo of Trevor Vittatoe and Lorne Sam would compare to the departed Jordan Palmer. Or how the receivers would compare with the departed Johnnie Lee Higgins. Or how the running game or the defense would compare to last season's absence of each.

Well the good news is that the Miners sent the Sun Bowl crowd home happy with a hard-fought 10-6 victory.

And it's true what they say — at the end of the season no one is going to remember how you got a win. They only know that you won the game.

The bad news is, to tell you the truth, both the Miners and the Lobos stunk it up out there. Neither could establish much of a rhythm. The Lobos did prove that they could run on the Miners from inside the twenties, but UTEP's defense stiffened every time the Lobos sniffed

the end zone.

It's obvious that UTEP needs a lot of work. It's also obvious to any football fan that the Miners are still not where they need to be on either side of the line. The offensive line has trouble opening up holes and protecting the quarterback. The defensive line kept getting blown off the ball, forcing the secondary to make the bulk of the tackles.

Maybe it was opening day jitters, maybe it was just the lack of experience. Maybe as the season progresses the team will gel into a cohesive unit.

Let's hope so.

I truly believe Vittatoe, just 6 of 21 for 59 yards against the Lobos, will emerge into a solid drop-back passer. And let's not forget that six of his passes were dropped by receivers who have got to step it up.

The Miners don't have a whole lot of time to correct their mistakes. They will travel to Lubbock on Saturday to meet the Texas Tech Red Raiders, a team that throws the ball so much that Peyton Manning's arm gets tired just watching these guys.

Tech threw the ball 52 times against the Miners in the Sun Bowl last year. And guess what?

Tech's quarterback, Graham Harrell, is back to try to do it again to UTEP.

Now I know that Mike Price loves to throw the football. But for the Miners to keep that deadly Texas Tech passing game in check, they're going to have to keep the Raiders off the field. And that means the Miners are going to have to run the football. Some how, some way, UTEP's trio of Marcus Thomas, Terrell Jackson and Donald Buckram is going to have to pick up first downs and shorten the game.

If they don't it could be a very long afternoon for the Miners. And to be honest with you, I hate long afternoons.

Who beat who?

I was with a friend last Saturday afternoon when he gave me the most absurd news, he told me that Appalachian State was beating Michigan 31-20 in the third period.

Of course, my poor misguided friend meant Central Michigan, or Eastern Michigan, or Michigan Tech or the Michigan School of Cosmetology and Automotive Maintenance.

But I know my friend wasn't talking about the Michigan Wolverines, there's no chance, no way, no how.

I was so sure that even my friend was beginning to doubt himself.

But as soon as I got home I turned on the TV to see which team he really meant. After about three minutes my jaw dropped and just hung there for awhile, mouth wide open.

Of course, as it turned out, my friend wasn't misguided after all — it was the Michigan Wolverines were.

How in the world can the powerhouse fifth-ranked Michigan Wolverines lose a game to Division 1-AA Appalachian State? I didn't even know that they were called the Mountaineers.

How do you explain that? Some are already calling it the biggest upset in college football history. I can't think of any other game even coming close.

Not since David and Goliath have I remembered an upset of this magnitude.

Can you imagine being a Michigan football player and having to walk around campus this week. That must be like O.J. walking — well — anywhere.

A win like this reminds us all that anything can happen in the world of sports, and that my friends, is a very good thing.

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I can't find my Medicare card and I need a replacement. Do I need to come into the office?

A: You can get your Medicare card replaced without even leaving your home. Our online Medicare card replacement page is a fast, easy, and secure way to get your new Medicare card sent to your home.

Just go to our website at www.socialsecurity.gov and select "Replace your lost, stolen or damaged Medicare card." The link is on the left side of the page, under "What you can do online." Simply fill out the requested information and you'll get your new Medicare card within 30 days; it will be mailed to your address on record.

If you need immediate proof of your Medicare coverage, visit your local Social Security office.

Q: Are people in the military covered by Social Security?

A: Yes. People in the military services pay Social Security tax just like civilian employees do, and at the same rate of 6.2 percent of their earnings, which is matched by their employer — in this case, the Fed-

eral government. The first \$97,500 of a person's income is subject to Social Security tax. By paying Social Security tax, people in the military receive the same coverage for Social Security survivors, disability and retirement benefits. To learn more, visit our online publication, Military Service and Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-

0778) to ask for a copy to be mailed to you.

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.

Classified Ads

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Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

IRRIGATION SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0914-8002 ACCEPTED UNTIL 9:00 A.M.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM CSP NO. 199-0914-8003 ACCEPTED UNTIL 9:00 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. WTCC-09/06/07

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IFRND7LXSKD02233, 2003 Ford F-150, gray, Texas license V33FKN. VIN - 545866, 1974 Lufkin Trailer, white, no license plates. WTXCC-11/28/02

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DOCUMENT ASSISTANCE

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

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics

Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

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

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The Medical Institute invites the San Elizario community to our **FIESTA** featuring:

- ♥ Manos Arriba Puppet Theater (for all ages)
- ♥ San Elizario Folklorico
- ♥ Garcia-Enriquez Middle School Cheerleaders
- ♥ San Elizario High School Cheerleaders
- ♥ Mariachis & Disco Music
- ♥ Rockwall, EuroBungy, Jumping Balloons, Face Painting

****Tickets for the Food and Activities will be given during the Puppet Show at 9:00 AM**

For more information please contact: Letty Morachiz, San Elizario Health Educator
Telephone: 915-780-6527 or 915-261-3026

Free Admission!!
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Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The **Town of Anthony** will hold public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by **3.11 percent** (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearings will be held on **Thursday, September 13, 2007 and Thursday, September 20, 2007, both at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Dr., Anthony, Texas 79821.**

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

FOR:	Orlando Garcia, Demetrio Cuellar, Luis Vela and Channan Singh
AGAINST:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	Rosie Holguin

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

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

Maintenance and operations	113.30%	Increase
Debt service	(7.31)%	(Decrease)
Total expenditures	104.09%	Increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 119,559,693	\$ 142,630,704
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 2,628,082	\$ 9,874,272
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 99,223,494	\$ 113,786,810
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 2,628,082	\$ 9,836,836

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$1,090,450

Tax Rates

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$ 0.433112	per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$ 0.413420	per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$ (0.019692)	per \$100 in value
Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	(4.55)%	(Decrease)

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

Comparison of Residence Homestead Values

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$ 63,436	\$ 78,898
Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ 63,436	\$ 78,898

Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes


The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be **\$274.75**.

The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be **\$297.24**. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be an **increase** of **\$22.49** in taxes.

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

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

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



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Town of Anthony
PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held during a **Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on Wednesday, September12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.** at Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding proposed rezoning of the following property:

- 1) Tract 67A, 69, 70, 70D and 71, W.D. Marsh Survey No. 183, Wildcat Estates Units 2-5 (48.83 acres), El Paso County, Texas, from PRE-DEVELOPMENT to RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, APARTMENT and CONDO/TOWNHOUSE use.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Town Clerk of the Town of Anthony at P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821.

Myriam P. Uribe
Town Clerk

WTCC: 09/06/07

Town of Anthony
PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 during the Regular Town Council Meeting at Anthony Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Dr., Anthony, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s), second reading:

- 1) Ordinance No. 445. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND IMPOSING A COLLECTION FEE AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE 103.0031, TEXAS CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, IN THE AMOUNT OF 30% OF DEBTS AND ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, SUCH AS UNPAID FINES, FEES, COURT COSTS, FORFEITED BONDS, AND RESTITUTION ORDERED PAID BY A MUNICIPAL COURT SERVING THE CITY WHEN SUCH DEBT OR ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE IS MORE THEN 60 DAYS PAST DUE AND HAS BEEN REFERRED TO AN ATTORNEY OR PRIVATE VENDOR FOR COLLECTION WITHIN THE TOWN OF ANTHONY, TEXAS.

Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the Town Clerk at the above address. Those that are unable to attend may submit their written comments to the Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821. Persons in need of assistance to attend are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 886-3944.

Myriam P. Uribe
Town Clerk

WTCC: 09/06/07