



NEWSBRIEFS

IRS Seminars

Representatives from the IRS, SSA and the El Paso Community College Small Business Development Center will offer a two-part Electronic Filing seminar in El Paso October 2, 2007, to help beginning and advanced tax professionals successfully incorporate electronic filing into their practice. Part I, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., is geared toward beginning professionals to help them learn the benefits of the e-file program, how to get started with the program, the application process and using e-Services for tax professionals. It also includes tips on assistance, tools and resources available to electronic return originators (ERO's). Part II, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., aims to update current ERO's on 2008 e-file updates, changes and updates in filing corporate, partnership, individual, exempt organizations and employment taxes as well as reject codes and an e-Services primer. (Participants can attend both sessions). The event will be held at El Paso Community College, Small Business Development Center, 9050 Viscount Blvd. in El Paso. The registration fee is \$20. To register call 915-831-7742 or go online at <http://www.elpasobdc.biz/> (go to the 'training and seminars' tab). Participants can earn a 2-hour CPE for each session.

Fall festivities

Ernesto Serna School will be having their Fall Festival on Friday, September 21st. Food games and fun for all ages. The school is located at 11471 Alameda and the Festival will be from 4:30 to 8:00. Booths for vendors are available for a fee. If you have any questions, please call 937-4800.

Checkmate

Chess players from grade six through 12 can sign up for the Americas High School Spring Chess Roundup on Saturday, Sept. 15. Registration is \$3 per student. Sign up starts at 8 a.m. and the tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. There will be a middle school and high school division. Medals will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for each division. Trophies will be awarded for the top team in each division. The tournament will be held at Americas High School, 12101 Pellicano. For more information please contact Pedro Dominguez at 937-2948. Snacks will be on sale and players will need to bring their own chessmen and boards.

In other news

■ Canutillo High School is currently accepting nominations for the Outstanding Ex for 2007 Homecoming activities. Candidates should have graduated from Canutillo High School and should have achieved success in a chosen field of endeavor. The Honored Ex should also be available to attend Homecoming activities

See BRIEFS, Page 5

A conference is a big business term for swapping stories in somebody's office.

— Quips & Quotes

Socorro ISD GED graduates prepare for brighter future



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

PAPERED — Noe Hernandez held his son Rubin before the GED graduation ceremony.

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

With three sons, Noe Hernandez wanted to set an example for his children as well as secure a better future for his family. "If you don't have high school diploma, you can't get a better job," says Hernandez. "I'm very happy that I finished and that my family is celebrating with me."

Hernandez, who is already back in school to become an HVAC technician, was among more than 40 adults who received their GED at a ceremony at the Socorro Independent School District Board Room on August 30th. The group spent the past months attending the various classes offered by the Socorro ISD

See GED, Page 6

Residents stop pipeline

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

MISSION VALLEY—County Commissioners had something to say last Monday about plans for running another gas pipeline through the Mission Valley.

"No!"

Commissioners weren't the only ones to just say no. Since first learning about the project on Aug. 20, a band of residents who would be affected by the pipeline has collected nearly 200 signatures (in two days) of those who don't want the pipeline coming through a densely populated area and putting thousands at risk from the threat of explosions and fire.

They well remember Rio Grande Pipeline Co. 10 years ago when it survived a firestorm of protest eventually to run a fuel line through the Mission Valley and crossing the river into Mexico in San Elizario.

Jim Ivey, a long-time resident and Mission Valley farmer, is one of those concerned citizens who are heading up opposition to the pipeline. He attended the Monday meeting.

"This vote is a small victory for El Paso County residents," Ivey said after the unanimous vote by commissioners. "(They are) concerned with the safety and private property rights implications of Pemex's desire to import large amounts of both gasoline and diesel into Mexico."

The fuel, Ivey pointed out, would be purchased from the Longhorn Pipeline Co. fuel tank farm located at the intersection of Zaragoza Road and Montana Avenue.

The major players in this scenario:

- Mustang Consulting, LP. The company, which has offices in Houston, is, according to its website, "a full-service pipeline consulting firm." It provides design and engineering

See PIPELINE, Page 5

Canutillo ISD introduces e-Books district-wide

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Students in the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) are able to access a new web-based application this school year to read books online. Electronic books (e-Books) are now available through Destiny, the District's browser-based software program that provides library resources district-wide. The e-books can be reviewed or checked out from any web supported computer.

CISD is first in the region to introduce the e-Books, a web-based reading resource recently purchased by the District's School Resources Division. This system provides fast and easy library management for all CISD schools.

The system helps strengthen the online library-classroom connection by providing a quality online educational environment and resources for students and teachers. "The



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

PAPERLESS — Matthew Hardy (left), Canutillo Middle School seventh grade student, is learning how to use the Q1 computer to check out e-Books with help from Librarian Susan Plotner.

e-Books give students and parents the ability

See BOOKS, Page 8

Security freeze can help stop identity theft

By Linda Anderson
Special to the Courier

COLLEGE STATION — On Sept. 1, Texans received another layer of protection for their personal identities, said a Texas Cooperative Extension expert.

As of that date, all residents of the Lone Star State can request a security freeze on their credit reports, said Dr. Joyce Cavanagh, Extension family economics specialist. Up to that date, only victims of identity theft could request that protection.

A security freeze on your personal credit report prevents creditors from accessing your information as long as the freeze is in effect, she said.

"If (identity thieves) have your name and Social Security number, and you have a security freeze on your account, they will be unable to open any accounts in your name," Cavanagh said.

Establishing a security freeze on personal information takes a little time and money, but could be worth the effort, she said.

According to Consumers Union, as of Sept. 1, "Any consumer in Texas may request a security freeze in writing by certified mail to the credit reporting agency."

The certified letter should contain: name (including middle initial and any designation such as Sr., Jr. or III), address, Social Security number, date of birth, residential addresses for the past five years, proof of current address (such as a utility or phone bill), photocopy of a government-issued identification card such as driver's license or military identification. A \$10 fee payable to each of the credit reporting bureaus — for a total of \$30 — is payable by check, money order or credit card. The fee is waived for victims of identity theft, who should also enclose a copy of a report of the incident.

The addresses of the three credit reporting bureaus are:

- Equifax Security Freeze: P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, Ga. 30348.
- Experian Security Freeze: P.O. Box 9554, Allen, Texas 75013.
- Trans Union Security Freeze: P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, Calif. 92834-6790.

"The freeze takes effect five business days from when the credit bureau receives your request," Cavanagh said. "Within 10 days you will get a confirmation letter with an identification number or password. Keep this safe where you know where it is. In order to have the security freeze lifted, you need to know your identification number or password."

The request needs to be sent to each of the three bureaus, she said, not just to one of them. That means a total of \$30 and three letters.

While the freeze is in effect, your credit report "can still be released to your existing creditors or to collection agencies acting on their own behalf," according to Consumers Union.

If you want to open a new account, you can elect to lift the freeze for one specific creditor at a cost of \$12; lifting a freeze for

See FREEZE, Page 8



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Singin' in the kitchen

There are people who have to describe the condition in which they are really getting things done.

Some folks say they are on a roll. Some are in the groove. Still others are burning it up or maybe moving right along.

My favorite is "singin' in the kitchen."

There was a country song by that title recorded by Bobby Bare some umpteen years ago. It was all about the mama and the daddy and the brother and the sister and the little-bitty baby all singing in the kitchen, banging on the pots and pans.

Somehow the picture it created in my mind has stuck around and when I'm really accomplishing my goals, I consider myself to be singin' in the kitchen.

I really like to sing. What I lack in

harmony I make up for in gusto. It's not very pretty but it's joyful, okay?

With this in mind, consider a person such as myself singing in a choir. This will be the third year that I have sung in the choir at an annual church conference. This should encourage others who have dreamt of belting out the *Hallelujah Chorus* but thought they weren't talented enough. If I can do it, anybody can.

I've discovered a very important secret that has furthered my efforts in pursuing this illustrious endeavor. Not everybody in the choir is always in perfect harmony.

There was a time when the choir was something I watched quietly from my seat. Lovely ladies in floor length gowns, promenading in perfect step up the stairs and gliding across the stage until they arrived at their appointed stations, flawlessly arranging themselves in tapered

rows, opening their choir books in synchronized motion as the director raised his hand in airy permission.

Ah, yes, then the music swelled and so did the voices, all blending in that strange and mysterious thing called harmony — you know, sort of a sophisticated form of singing rounds of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" without losing your place.

Oh, yeah, they were really singin' in the kitchen.

Then one of my friends, who wore lovely gowns and harmonized, said I should try out. So I screwed up my courage and went to a choir audition. The director peered at me over the top of his glasses.

"What do you sing?" he asked.

"What do you want to hear?" I said.

"No, I mean, are you a soprano or alto?"

I didn't know, so he had me sing a few lines. Alto, he said. Then he played a little on the piano and nodded at me to begin.

I did.

Then he said, "You'll be singing

in a group, you know, not doing a solo."

Let's just say I didn't pursue it much further.

Quite a few years later, the ranks of the choir had dwindled and they became a lot less discriminating. I tried again, but this time I had learned. I toned it way down. They let me in.

In fact, I learned a very valuable skill. It's called lip-synching. It's what you do when you don't know the words or can't remember where the ups end and the downs start or when you get confused and can't remember where you are in the round.

It also keeps you out of hot water with the directors who tap their little sticks against the music stand and frown at the group and say something politically correct like, "Let's try that again from the top."

Choir members receive a CD with all the parts on it weeks before the convention. I play it real loud and sing at the top of my lungs going down the freeway to work — who says I don't get to sing solos? —

meanwhile learning where all the ups and downs are in this year's piece.

Then, when it's time to select places on the stage, I finagle my way around until I'm standing next to the loudest, most harmonious singer in my section. The intent is, of course, that this person is going to drown out those other people who are singing a different round from me — and hopefully drown me out, too.

If I can do it discreetly, it helps to put something in my ear on the opposite side from my chosen companion so that those other singers' singing doesn't interfere with my ups and downs.

It takes a little doing, but I try to make sure I don't get stuck at the beginning of a row as we file onto the stage. If I have to lead a row, it is embarrassing at best, deadly at worst.

Then we stand there and the music swells and our voices raise together, including mine in at least some of the parts, and it's really lovely.

It sounds like we're singin' in the kitchen.

Students bid farewell to Robert Rojas

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Carrying signs and holding balloons, the student body of Robert R. Rojas Elementary said goodbye to the man in the white cowboy hat. Robert R. Rojas passed away at the age of 80 on September 3 and made one last visit to the school that bears his name. The Rojas family says his last request was that his funeral procession would drive past the school before he was laid to rest.



Robert R. Rojas

ing help and support to our students and our school."

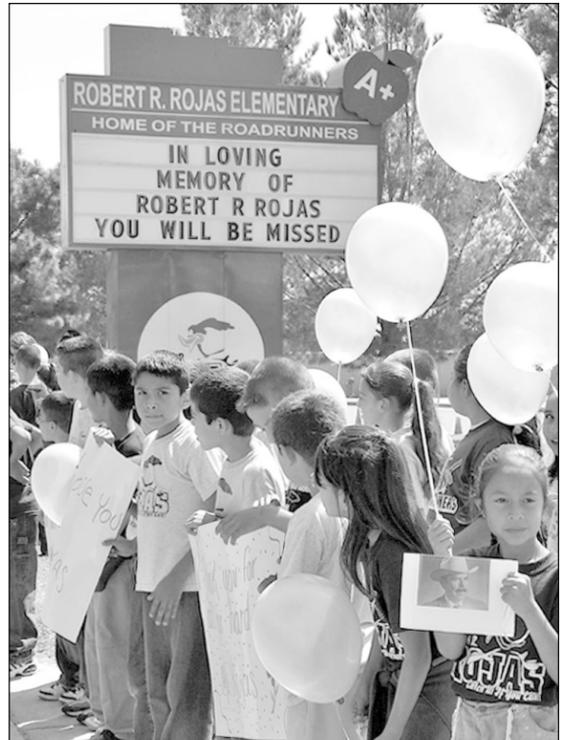
On the morning of September 7 shortly before noon, one by one each class made its way to the front of the school to pay their respects. With "We'll Miss You" signs and blue balloons, the students lined up to watch the funeral procession. As the cavalcade of limousines made its way

down the street, more than 600 students, teachers and staff bowed their heads and whispered a quiet thank you to the man who served the District for more than 20 years as a Board Trustee.

"Mr. Rojas dedicated much of his life in service to Socorro Schools," said Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "He was very involved at Rojas Elementary School. He and his wife Frances also would attend groundbreakings and dedications of our newest schools. He will be missed."

In 1987, the Socorro ISD Board of Trustees honored Rojas for his dedication to the children of Socorro by naming a school after him. Rojas Elementary opened in 1987 and will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year.

Family and friends were on hand to witness the respect and admiration



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

FAREWELL — Rojas students line up to say goodbye to Robert R. Rojas.

both the children and adults demonstrated for Mr. Rojas who spent decades working and living in the Socorro community. As the procession made its way to Saints Peter and Paul Church for the mass, hundreds of blue balloons drifted to the sky as a final farewell.

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

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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Bridge wait times a concern



here in El Paso and across the country have been a source of frustration and concern for many. Having received numerous complaints from El Pasoans who have had to endure over two-hour waits during their commute on the bridges, I called W. Ralph Basham, the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Department of Homeland Security to my office in Washington, DC to find a workable solution to this

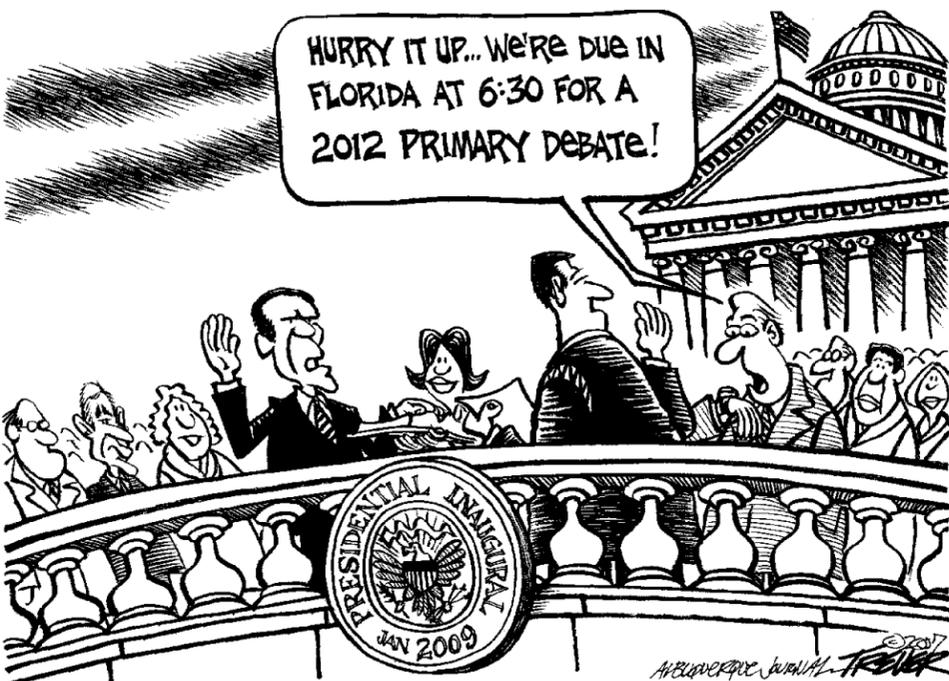
problem.

I have always stressed that we must work hard to strike the delicate and sometimes difficult balance between national security and the timely flow of commerce and travelers through our international ports of entry. As Commissioner Basham participated in the Fourth Annual Border Security Conference, which took place at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in August, I knew he was aware of the issue, which has important economic and national security implications.

I invited Members of Congress who represent Northern and South-

ern border communities to participate, and discussed wait times at the bridges as well as the abrupt disenrollment of Dedicated Commuter Lane (DCL) users. I have also heard from El Pasoans that many individuals who were enrolled in the program for an extended period of time have been expelled from the program, and have found that the process for appealing these expulsions is extremely restrictive.

We had an extensive discussion with Commissioner Basham, and I asked for a comprehensive analysis



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

Headstrong

Barbecues and Labor Day. Flipping burgers and drinking beer, without a care in the world. Life is good, the planets are aligned, and credit card bills have all been paid. Then a sudden fall to the ground, a slurring of speech, weakness in arms or legs, loss of coordination, partial blindness, or a failure to sense light touch on the skin signals that all is not well in Oz. The transition from devil-may-care to "I'd better care" comes at too high a price, with too little done, too late. Even if witnesses to the tragedy maintain their wits about them and remember the three simple steps to identifying a stroke, STR (asking the victim to smile, talk, and raise both arms), the damage already done may portend poor future quality of life, or worse. Do we throw in the towel, or wave a white flag? Answers don't come easy to this complicated medical challenge, and, with stroke ranking second after ischemic heart disease as a cause of death and disability worldwide, we had better begin to look for some solutions.

Eighty percent of strokes are caused by arterial occlusion that cuts off adequate blood flow to the brain, and the remaining 20% are due to hemorrhages. Within thirty days of a stroke, it's "adios, amigos" for between 10% and 17% of the unlucky. Throw increasing age, coexisting diseases (ischemic heart disease and diabetes mellitus), and increasing size of the brain infarct into the mix, and those numbers go up significantly. To make matters worse, consciousness is generally normal or affected only slightly during an acute ischemic stroke, breeding a semblance of normality in the hapless victim that causes precious moments to be lost. The initial headstrong "I'm ok" in the first minutes to hours after a stroke is deceptive to both victims and observers, and has little to do with the head being strong. In fact, clinical deficits appearing early correlate poorly with the irreversible damage that sets in later, as time marches on and reperfusion of the brain with blood continues to remain inadequate.

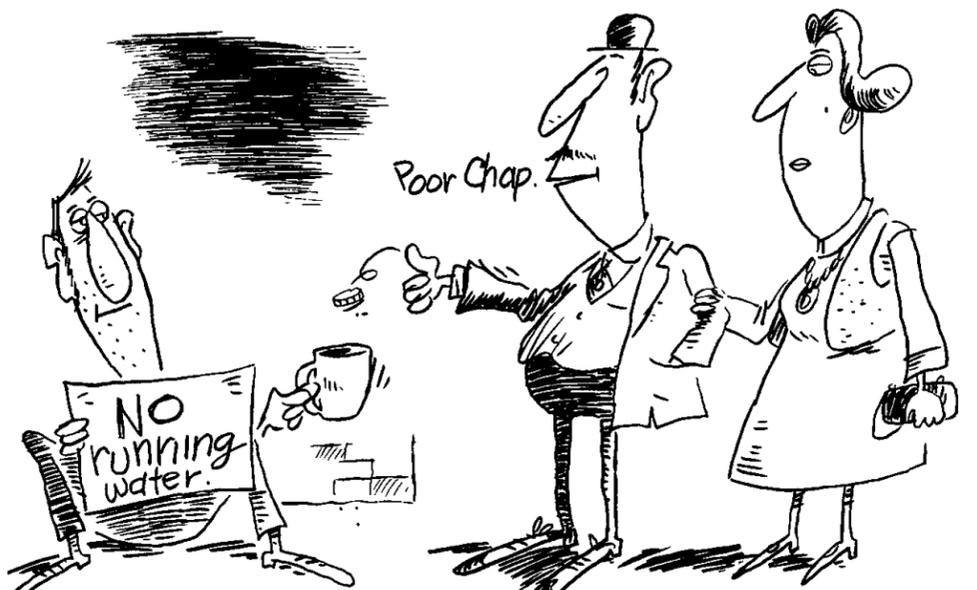
Alas, we know the problem. Let's try to make sense of the solution. The old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," while trite, is nowhere more relevant than when our brains become fertile for attack. You've heard it all before, but driving a stake through the monster requires both a cool wit and seasoned experience built on knowledge. In both victims of stroke and strong candidates for a first stroke, prevention is the name of the game, and the arsenal at our disposal consists of low-dose aspirin and dipyridamole, oral anticoagulation, treatment of hypertension, statin therapy to lower lipid levels, glucose control in diabetes, smoking cessation, and carotid endarterectomy, a surgical cleaning of crusted carotid arteries comparable to a plumber's rodding of clogged

pipes. When those measures reflect a level of impotence on the part of our defenders, we must first be certain that we are dealing with stroke, before initiating the next phase of our defense. Migraine headache, postictal paresis (impaired movement after epileptic seizure), hypoglycemia, conversion disorder (paralysis from hysteria), subdural hematoma, and brain tumors can all simulate acute ischemic stroke, and their treatment in most cases is drastically different from the emergent intervention imposed in the latter.

We set out on the trail of brain vampires such as atherosclerosis, which leads to thromboembolism or local occlusion, and cardioembolism that drain our brains of their life's blood. The instruments in our little black bags, while not as genial and romantic as those in Van Helsing's bag of tricks, are nonetheless much more sophisticated and efficacious. They run the gamut from signs and symptoms (irregular pulse, very high blood pressure, carotid bruit sounds), measurement of glucose level, complete blood count, prothrombin time and partial thromboplastin time (for blood clotting), electrocardiogram, and cardiac monitoring to transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography, computed tomography (CT), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In all patients with suspected ischemic stroke, CT or MRI of the brain are required.

Once our blissful Sunday afternoon has gone from barbecue to emergency department to diagnosis of acute ischemic stroke in a reasonably short period of time, it becomes necessary to intervene in all haste. To do otherwise, and with no intent to make flippant of that which goes beyond serious, would be to harvest "vegetables" from once fertile and dynamic minds. We then turn our attention to the practice guidelines set forth by the Stroke Council of the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association and by the European Stroke Initiative. A patient presenting to the emergency department within 3 hours after the onset of symptoms of stroke should be treated with the intravenous thrombolytic agent, called recombinant tissue plasminogen activator or rt-PA (alteplase). A maximum total dose of 90 mg of rt-PA results in a favorable neurologic or functional outcome at 3 months of 31% to 50%, and thus preserves functional quality of life and perhaps life itself in up to half of those "barbecue" victims. In addition to rt-PA, aspirin administration is recommended 24 hours after stroke (300 mg daily for the first 2 weeks, and then lower doses thereafter) to reduce rates of death and risk of recurrent ischemic stroke. This simple 1,2-combination will not only K.O. acute ischemic stroke in its tracks, but also ensure that the "headstruck" once again become headstrong.

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Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Sept. 9, 1882: Hoity-toity East Dallas was chartered boasting 90% of the town had running water.

Smugglers keep CBP officers busy

By Roger Maier
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers performing anti-terror inspec-

tions at border ports of entry in El Paso, West Texas, and New Mexico made dozens of seizures last week. Items confiscated included child pornography, a sea turtle belt and boots, live roosters, Cuban cigars, illegal drugs, live animals, prohibited agricultural

products and more.

On Wednesday (Aug. 5), CBP officers at the Paso Del Norte (PDN) crossing were performing searches of arriving pedestrians. While checking the items being carried by a 57-year-old man from Canutillo, CBP officers located a videotape labeled with the words "Adolescentes XXX". CBP officers began reviewing the tape and believed it to contain child pornography. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents were contacted and arrived at the port. ICE agents confirmed that the tape contained child pornography and took custody of the subject and videotape.

On Thursday (Aug. 6), CBP officers at PDN were conducting a search of a vehicle that arrived from Mexico when they discovered seven pairs of undeclared boots and three undeclared belts. One belt and one pair of boots were made from sea turtle, a protected species. The 55-year-old El Paso driver and the undeclared items were turned over to U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

CBP officers working at officers working at area border crossings made a total of 38 drug seizures during the past seven days. They seized 5,058 pounds of marijuana in 34 busts, 2.4 pounds of cocaine in three seizures, and a small quantity of methamphetamine in one additional bust.

The largest drug seizure of the week occurred last Friday (Aug. 7) when CBP officers at the Bridge of the Americas commercial cargo facility seized 1,628 pounds of marijuana. The drugs were concealed in



— Photo courtesy CBP

SOMETHING EXTRA — 372 bundles of marijuana tucked away in a tile shipment from Mexico were confiscated by CBP officers.

a shipment of floor tile that arrived from Mexico. CBP officers removed a total of 372 bundles from the shipment after an x-ray exam identified an anomaly in the appearance of the commodity. No arrests were made.

CBP officers working at area border ports recorded 96 immigration violations. CBP officers identified a total of 30 intended immigrant cases (people with legitimate entry documents intending to live/work illegally in the U.S.), 25 imposters (people using a legitimate document not assigned to the person) 31 false claims for U.S. citizenship by non U.S. citizens, nine people attempting to enter the U.S. with counterfeit, fraudulent, or altered entry documents, and one person who attempted to enter the U.S. without inspection.

Area CBP officers made 13 agricultural and food seizures during the week, resulting in \$3,175 in penalties being assessed. Prohibited items seized during the week included raw pork, pork skins, chorizo, bologna, raw chicken, apples, peaches, mangos, oranges, pomegranates, quince, and live plants. The interception of these prohibited items are important in preventing the introduction of pests and disease that pose a risk to the U.S. agriculture industry.

Canutillo ISD tax rate will go to voters

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) Board of Trustees approved a \$45.5 million budget for the 2007-08 school year during a public meeting held August 27. This represents a 7.4 percent increase from last year.

The approved budget includes a tax rate of \$1.39, which is .27 cents lower than last year's tax rate, but six cents over the rate allowed by law without voter approval. This rate, which includes \$1.10 for maintenance and operation and \$0.29 for debt service, will generate an additional \$2 million in state funds for the next two years.

With the new tax rate, the average homeowner with a homestead worth about \$125,000 would see a reduction of \$337.56 in property taxes. However, because the maintenance tax rate is 6 cents higher than the allowable rate, CISD must go to voters to ask for their approval of the \$1.10 maintenance tax rate.

According to Tony Reza, CISD executive director for Business Services, the additional funds are needed for several reasons. CISD is adding a new campus this school year, which means more campus personnel as well as additional utility costs. CISD, in conjunction with El Paso Community College, will open an Early College High School at the EPCC Northwest campus for the 2008-09 school year. Also, the District plans to begin construction of its sixth elementary school east of Interstate-10 in 2009. And, the District needs to continue to provide competitive salaries to attract and maintain highly qualified teachers.

Public Notice Village of Vinton, Texas

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following:

- 1) Ordinance No. 2007-09-18-1, An Ordinance Adopting a Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2007 and Ending on September 30, 2008, for the Village of Vinton, Texas.

Those unable to attend the public Hearing may submit their views to the Village of Vinton. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; Handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Secretary at (915) 886-5104, forty eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Copies of the ordinance are available for review at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821.

Jessica Garza
City Secretary

WTCC: 10/13/07

Come Help us Kick-Off



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2007
6:00 PM — 10:00 PM

Fabens Middle School



The Medical Institute invites the Fabens community to our FIESTA featuring:

- ♥ Manos Arriba Puppet Theater (for all ages)
- ♥ Fabens Folklorico
- ♥ Fabens Middle School Cheerleaders
- ♥ Fabens High School Cheerleaders
- ♥ Mariachis & Disco Music
- ♥ EuroBungy, Boxing Ring, Jumping Balloons, Face Painting

**Tickets for the Food and Activities will be given during the Puppet Show at 6:00 PM

For more information please contact: Bea Gamboa-Young, Fabens Health Educator
Telephone: 915-780-6526 or 915-261-3025



Public Notice Clint Independent School District 504 Child Find

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504, please contact the District's Section 504 Coordinator, Dawn Hocking, at 926-4035, or mail at 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

Aviso de Identificación de Estudiantes Incapacitados bajo la Sección 504

Bajo la Sección del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, el Distrito Escolar esta obligado a identificar, referir, evaluar, y proporcionar servicios educativos apropiados y gratuitos a los estudiantes incapacitados que califican bajo esta ley. Si usted desea mas información sobre los derechos de padres de niños incapacitados, o si tiene preguntas sobre la identificación, evaluación, y colocación de niños en el programa de Sección 504, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Coordinadora de 504 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo, Dawn Hocking, al numero 926-4035, o por correo a la siguiente dirección: 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

WTCC: 09/13/07

TASSP honors three from Socorro ISD

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Two Socorro Independent School District Principals and one Assistant Principal are being recognized by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP). TASSP selected El Dorado Principal Nora Paugh as Outstanding High School Principal, Col. John O. Ensor Principal Rosa A. Hood as Outstanding Middle School Principal and Socorro High School Assistant Principal Sylvia Esparza as Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year for Region 19. TASSP recognizes outstanding principals and assistant principals for



Nora Paugh



Rosa A. Hood



Sylvia Esparza

the twenty region Education Service Centers in the state. School administrators are nominated and chosen by their peers within their regions. Nominations are based upon exemplary performance and outstanding leadership. As Region 19 winners, Paugh, Hood and Esparza are eligible to compete for the state title of the Texas Principal of the Year and Texas Assistant Principal of the Year. Paugh is in her 5th year as Principal at El Dorado which she opened in 2003. She started working in Socorro ISD in 1994 at Socorro High School and then at Americas High School. Paugh has been with Socorro ISD for 13 years. Hood is in her fourth year as a prin-

icipal and has led Col. John O. Ensor Middle School since 2005. She is credited with taking Ensor Middle School from an "Unacceptable" Rating in 2005 to a "Recognized" Rating from the Texas Education Agency in 2007. Esparza has been an assistant principal at Socorro High School for three years and has taught all levels of biology at the school since 1992. She oversees the master schedule and dual credit program at the Mission Valley school which has 2916 students. Each of the regional winners will be presented an award and recognized in a commemorative booklet entitled Texas Principals, Texas Heroes.

Pipeline

From Page 1

services for refineries and chemical plants. It's providing its services to PEMEX. Mustang Consulting has been checking records and contacting landowners in the area in order to get permission, easement rights, to lay pipeline across their land. Ivey says he hasn't contacted anyone who has given the permission. Everybody is opposed.

- PEMEX/PMI. Apparently, although without official confirmation, the Mexican oil and gas giant would be purchasing the oil from Longhorn and would then be shipped across the border to the interior of Mexico. Mexico, according to the Internet, is a "decentralized public entity of the Mexican government." It is the ninth largest oil and gas company in the world.
- Mission Valley residents. Elated at the vote by commissioners, Ivey feels his group caught Mustang "flat-footed," that they weren't expecting such organized resistance.

In the interests of a fair and balanced story, the County Courier contacted representatives of Mustang Consulting. They declined to answer questions about the project such as the length of the pipeline, proposed cost and what alternative plans they have following commissioners turning them down.

Instead, they said they would "pass the questions on." They provided no details. In contrast, Mission Valley residents weren't at all reticent about expressing their displeasure over the whole issue. Anger and frustration boiled to the surface at a meeting last Friday at Cotton Eyed Joe's Restaurant at the Clint/San Elizario exit off I-10. Some in attendance felt that the pipeline was inevitable. The common theme of those attending was that this proposed pipeline just isn't fair; it's fundamentally wrong. It comes down to the fact that the project offers only risk, no benefit, to the residents of the Mission Valley. It only benefits, without risk, the people of Mexico. "We may not have a choice," said Audrey Conklin. "It isn't right." Raul Zamorano sees this area of the Mission Valley becoming a "pipeline alley." Ivey's also points out another problem, a flawed survey for the present Rio Grande pipeline, a flaw that puts people at even greater risk. He says that he was excavating on his property, in what he thought was a safe place — based on available survey data. His excavating equipment hit the pipeline 35 feet from where it should have been. Luckily, he says, he hit it at a bend in the pipe where it was stronger. No damage was done. He

sees a special danger because the proposed pipeline would closely parallel the old. And if the old survey is off, he indicates, then there are far greater safety issues to deal with. One concern mentioned was that if one line exploded, the other could then ignite as well. In his written statement about the commissioners court meeting, Ivey continues: "Commissioner's expressed concern over the current lack of information the County has been given along with the impact the pipeline may have upon affected residents along the route, the majority of whom have not been informed of the desired pipeline." The County Courier checked with officials in the Clint and San Elizario school districts and learned they had not been contacted about the possibility of a pipeline. "The original Mustang/PMI plan," according to Ivey, "places the new pipeline through several subdivisions and comes within a mile of Horizon High School and San Elizario High School." The Commissioner's did not rule out a future approval for a new plan with alternative routing (to the east) as long as the new plan would avoid populated areas, unlike the original proposal. Meanwhile, Pemex can continue to negotiate with private land owners for the easements it needs, up and to the point of condemnation through Texas' eminent domain laws.

Briefs

From Page 1

during the week of October 8 through October 12 in Canutillo. To nominate an individual, submit a letter to the Canutillo ISD Public Information Office, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, or email your nomination to kguzman@canutillo-isd.org, prior to September 21, 2007. Please include information about the individual's high school achievements as well as details about his/her post secondary education and career. Other information requested includes the address and phone number for the nominee as well as the name and

phone of the person submitting the nomination. For more information, contact the CISD public information office at (915) 877-7482.

- A young girl is shot at a party in the desert, and no one seems to know who did the shooting. Or do they? Fourteen-year-old Thelma Fierro of the 8500 block of Tigris, who would have just started high school, died the following morning at Thomason Hospital. Crime Stoppers and the Sheriff's Office are asking for your help in locating the person or persons who caused her family's loss. On Saturday night, Aug. 25, Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to 12700 Starduster in Far East El Paso County reference a shooting. Before the deputies arrived they were

told that the victim was being transported to the hospital by witnesses. The deputies then located the crime scene and began interviewing other witnesses. At that time, several shots came in the direction of the deputies, who did not return fire and were not injured. After deputies executed an exhaustive search of approximately 4 square miles of desert, four individuals were found to have weapons. It is unknown at this time if they were involved in the shooting. If you have any information about this case please call Crime Stoppers at 566-8477 or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You can remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

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NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

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

Town of Anthony

from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 4.55 percent decrease on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

The Town of Anthony 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 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, Texas 79821.

The Battle of I-10 could go either way this year

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

This year's Battle of I-10 has a very different feel to it. The UTEP Miners and the New Mexico State Aggies will go at it again this Saturday but it feels a little different than usual.

Over the last few years, it was rather obvious that the Miners were the fairly heavy favorites and have indeed, won seven of the last nine meetings between the two rivals.

But this year, there is no real favorite and the game can go either way. And a good argument can be made for either team to win.

For the Miners, they found something last week just in time for this week's game — their running attack. UTEP rushed for 215 yards against Texas Tech led by senior Marcus Thomas and sophomore Terrell Jackson.

Thomas gained 85 yards and scored two touchdowns while Jackson added 60 yards, to go along with his 70 in week one.

Another plus for the Miners is the emergence of freshman quarterback Trevor Vittatoe. Vittatoe surprised a lot of people by throwing

for 202 yards and two touchdowns against the Red Raiders.

But when you add it all up, the passing game has not been nice to UTEP so far.

Defensively, the Miners top three tacklers are Amy Braxton, Quintin Demps and Da'Mon Cromartie-Smith, all good players, but all are defensive backs. I don't have to tell you how bad it is when your top three tacklers are defensive backs.

It means the defensive line and the linebackers aren't getting the job done.

The passing game has been much different for the UTEP offense than for the UTEP defense. The Miners have caught 22 passes while their opponents have caught 73. The Miners have gained 297 yards via the pass, but have given up 674 yards.

Ouch. The last thing the Miners need is to face another passing team. Oops, looks like I spoke too soon.

This passing game is exactly why NMSU has an excellent chance to win. Chase Holbrook, the Aggies star quarterback has completed 70 of his 96 passes for 753 yards and eight touchdowns.

And so far the Miners have shown no signs

of being able to stop any kind of passing attack and that could be why the Aggies may beat the Miners for the first time since 2002.

So how do you gauge these teams? Luckily, they do have a common opponent.

Against the only team they both have played, UTEP beat the New Mexico Lobos 10-6 and held them without a single touchdown. The Aggies couldn't keep the Lobos out of the end zone and lost 44-34.

Still, this weekend's game is more anticipated than most because of the unknown. The fact that there is no real favorite, makes the game more intriguing than usual.

My prediction: a high-scoring thriller.

Sad prognosis

I love the National Football League. Every year I kind of go through the motions until the first week in September, and then I begin to walk through the streets of El Paso with a bit of a skip and hint of a whistle.

But instead, after the first week of the NFL season I found myself missing a little of that joy. And it's not because my Cowboys lost — they won. It's not because of any touchdowns, field goals or safeties. It's because of some-

thing far more important.

When the news came around that Buffalo Bills reserve tight end Kevin Everett would likely never walk again (if he even survives his spinal cord injury) after suffering a life-threatening hit in the second half of last Sunday's game, it really hit home.

Everett is in intensive care in a state of forced sedation. Doctors have said that the guy has a very slight chance of recovering and there is still a chance of developing blood clots, infection and breathing failure.

Imagine waking up in the morning and kissing your wife or kids before you go to work. Imagine walking to work, doing your job and at the end of the day, you find out you may never walk again.

It's a harsh reality of the game of football that men get hurt, men get injured. Only most of them have surgery, go to rehab and return to the field in a matter of months.

The 25-year-old Everett isn't worrying about getting back on the football field right now. He's got his whole life to worry about.

I'll continue cheering, booing and walking NFL games, but the sad story of Kevin Everett will remain in the back of my mind.

Library changes computer use procedures

Starting on Monday, Sept. 10, the El Paso Public Library will be making important changes to its computer use procedures. Some of the more significant changes are as follows.

All El Paso area residents wishing to use the library's public access computers will be asked for a library card to sign onto a new PC management system. Visitors from outside the area will be issued temporary guest passes. Patrons will not be denied access to the public access computers if they don't have or don't want a library card. Having a card will only make the system easier to use.

The new system will automate the process of signing up to use a computer and will automatically manage the time a patron uses the system. It

will also automate the process of printing from the computers.

Filtered and unfiltered computer sessions will be available. Parents or guardians will have the option of requesting filtered Internet sessions for their children.

Filtered Internet sessions must be requested on an updated Internet Permission Form. Internet Permission Forms are required to be read and signed by a child's parent or guardian before a child can access the Internet. The designation can be changed simply by notifying library staff.

Parents wishing to update their child's existing Internet Permission Form to reflect either filtered or unfiltered sessions should do so as soon as possible as all sessions will re-

main unfiltered until parents make the request.

A library card is free and easy to get. Simply visit any El Paso Public Library facility and bring a picture identification and proof of current residence. Most cards are granted within the hour. A parent or guardian must accompany children younger than 14. El Paso Public Library cards are free to all residents of the State of Texas, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The cards are good for two years and may be renewed after that for another two years. For more information call you nearest branch library or visit www.elpasolibrary.org.

— Contributed by Jack Galindo

GED

From Page 1

Community Education program which enabled them to earn their GED.

"It is amazing what these men and women have accomplished," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. "Most of the people here tonight have raised their families, worked full time jobs and yet they made the extra effort to go to school and earn their GED. Their commitment to education in spite of these challenges makes them excellent role models."

Hernandez and his classmates were congratulated by Dr. Atkinson, Socorro ISD Board Trustee George Salas and Socorro High School Principal, Miguel Serrano, who recalled his

time with the Community Education program and its impact on students.

"This makes a positive impact on the lives of students and their families. When I taught courses in the early 1990's one of my students was also taking the GED course and now he is one of my teachers at Socorro High School," says Serrano who has been teaching at Socorro ISD for 15 years. "This is a springboard for better things."

Salas echoed the statement and encourage them to be life long learners.

"It's a very special moment but you shouldn't stop. Every step you take is an example for your children to follow," said Salas, a recent UTEP graduate. "You should be very proud of this and I hope that you keep learning."

To learn more about the GED courses offered at the Socorro ISD Community Education program, please call 937-1700.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

ENERGY MANAGEMENT CONTROLS OEM PARTS AND OEM EQUIPMENT
CSP NO. 199-0925-7136RB
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

CHEMICAL FOR THE AQUATIC CENTER
CSP NO. 199-0925-7121RB

ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

REPLACING OF TELESCOPIC STANDS FOR BLEACHES AT SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL
CSP NO. 199-0925-7138

ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT
RFO NO. 199-0925-7131

ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES
CSP NO. 199-0925-8005
ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified

times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-09/13/07

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 Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - JYAC30I657AO22434, 2001 Yamaha 450, white and blue, no license plates. WTXCC-09/13/07

COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAURIERA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth,

Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE SCALE ACCEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

HELP WANTED

Bartender needed minimum wage paid plus tips. Call 852-4823 after 3pm. Call Blanca or Gina. 852-8300.

RENTAL

20 'X45' space for rent. \$250/month, 852-9371, Horizon Self Storage. 8/30

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.

STORAGE

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10'x20' - Special \$85/mth for 3 months. Call Blanca or Gina. 852-8300.

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Deadline: Mondays

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Phone: _____

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Make your changes online

Even when change is necessary or desirable, making changes can be difficult.

Here, then, is some useful advice for any Social Security beneficiary who is thinking about opening a new bank account or changing banks and who may need to change the direct deposit of his or her benefit payments. Just go online to make the process quicker and easier.

First, you will need to get a password from Social Security. You can get a password by ap-

plying online at www.socialsecurity.gov or by calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Once you have your password, you can do business with Social Security with total confidence in the security of your transactions.

Of course, you can also change direct deposit services by:

- Using our automated phone service at 1-800-772-1213;
- Filling out a direct deposit sign-up form

that is available from the Social Security website and taking it to your financial institution or Social Security office; or

- Contacting your bank, credit union or savings and loan association.

You can use any of these methods to set up direct deposit for the first time. However you choose to start or make changes in the direct deposit of your Social Security benefit payments, you can make the process run smoothly by having your Social Security number and a personal check or bank statement handy. Also, we recommend that you wait until deposits are actually going to your new bank, savings and loan or credit union before you close your old account.

One of the most common reasons for changing banking accounts is because a person has

moved to a new address and wants to bank at a nearby institution. It is important for Social Security to have your correct home address, even if you are having your Social Security benefits deposited directly into a banking account, so that we can contact you about other Social Security matters, such as when we mail you your Form 1099 each year.

You also can change your home address and/or telephone number over the Internet at www.socialsecurity.gov. Again, you can use your password to change your address online. Or you can change your address online by answering a series of specific questions whose answers have to match the information in our records. You can also call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Freeze

From Page 1

all creditors costs \$10 at each agency,

Cavanagh said.

Lifting a security freeze takes three business days from when the credit reporting agency receives your request.

A security freeze has no time limit, she said. It will remain in effect until you choose to remove it.

"The best way to prevent identification theft is to safeguard your personal information," Cavanagh said, and a security freeze is one way to do that.

"If you suspect an account has been tampered with, close that account, report unauthorized charges and review your credit report on a regular basis," she said.

For more information visit the Consumers Union website at www.consumersunion.org. Type "Security Freeze" into the search field and click on the search link.

For more information on family economics visit Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences website at <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> and click on the link to "Money."

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Security, peace of mind, protection—that's what LifeLock provides, along with the added bonus of reduced junk mail and pre-approved credit card offers. Normally it's just \$10 a month, but now you can try us free for 30 days. Protect yourself, your family and all you've worked for. Guarantee your good name today.



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 - \$1 Million Guarantee
 - Comprehensive Programs to Protect Your Employees
- Call for details

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FREE

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*Do not share your Social Security Number or personal information unnecessarily.

Reyes

From Page 2

of CBP's short- and long-term needs for infrastructure, personnel, and overtime. I emphasized points Commissioner Basham also heard from many Border Security Conference attendees – the increase in wait times at the international ports of entry in El Paso is of great concern; the frustration over the long waits many must endure during commutes on the international bridges; the ongoing construction at the Paso del Norte Bridge has resulted in additional lane closures, causing wait times to worsen and posing an even bigger strain on our community.

I will continue to work with Commissioner Basham to ensure that the El Paso community is able to commute across the bridges in a timely manner and feel confident in our national security. Federal government officials in Washington, DC must understand the unique nature of border communities, and the movement of commerce and individuals has on our economic and national security.

Books

From Page 1

to see our catalogs from their home computers and check out e-Books," said Susan Plotner, Canutillo Middle School Librarian.

Currently, there are 818 titles of e-Books that can be checked out through the school district's virtual library located on the CISD website. Project Gutenberg adds access to an additional 22,000 e-Books for the District.

"Students and staff are moving forward into the 21st century by checking out a mini personal computer that facilitates the expansion of the educational environment. As an added benefit, this resource management system will help our District to reduce redundant purchasing, ensure resource availability, enable accountability and simplify reporting across the District," said Martha Veale, Executive Director for School Resources. "This is phase one of a virtual (anytime, anywhere) module. Our phase two project will be to take the e-books into the development of District produced reading materials for students, teachers and staff," she added.

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