



## NEWSBRIEFS

### EQIP Funding

Texas agricultural landowners interested in participating in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) need to apply by Nov. 16, 2007, if they have not already done so to be eligible for the next round of funding, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "Although EQIP is a continuous sign-up program, some producers may not have signed up yet," said Ted Bolzle, NRCS District Conservationist for El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. "We will rank all eligible applications received by the end of the ranking period on Nov. 16 for 2008 funding. There is a strong possibility that EQIP funds will become available in October." EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to help install conservation practices and to implement management systems that promote conservation. Financial assistance is on a cost-shared basis with the producer. The technical assistance is provided at 100 percent of the cost by NRCS. According to Bolzle, there are a few changes in EQIP for 2008. NRCS is adding another state-wide resource concern to the program at the recommendation of the State Technical Committee. Funding will be provided in 2008 specifically for conservation practices that improve habitat for the pronghorn antelope in west Texas. Also new in 2008 will be a process to streamline payments. Instead of the traditional percentage-of-cost rates, NRCS will offer flat-rate payments based on a schedule for each conservation practice. "Landowners will know up-front what the payment in dollars will be," Bolzle said. To sign up for EQIP or to get more information, contact the local NRCS office serving El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. The office is located at 11930 Vista Del Sol Suite B and the phone number is 915-855-0884, ext. 3. You can also get information about Texas NRCS conservation technical assistance and programs at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

### Ribbon cutting

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially dedicate the opening of the new Library-Science Building at Jose J. Alderete Middle School (AMS). The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Monday, Oct. 29, at the AMS campus (801 Talbot/Transmountain). Members of the Alderete family, government dignitaries, and CISD School Board members and administrators are expected to attend. AMS, which became CISD's second middle school last school year, has undergone renovation work throughout the year including construction of the new building which houses a 4,325 square-foot library, eight fully-equipped science labs, 48-station

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*The best thing you can give someone is a chance.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Voters in two school districts asked to approve tax rates

*Canutillo and Tornillo school districts can reap millions in state money for pennies on the tax dollar*

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — Perhaps with a confusion of numbers dancing in their heads, voters go to the polls Nov. 6 in Canutillo and Tornillo in a tax rollback election that impacts their school districts.

Early voting began this week and runs through Nov. 3 that would not only provide for new school facilities but also salary increases for teachers and support staff.

The boards of trustees from the Canutillo and Tornillo ISDs have approved new school tax rates. The districts' senior administrators have been emphasizing that the new rates are not an increase in taxes, but will actually result in lower taxes for homeowners.

There are two components to a school district tax rate. The larger part is M/O for Maintenance and Operations. The second part is I/S which stands for Interest and Sinking Fund. This goes to paying off the bond indebtedness that a district has incurred. The M/O is the portion of property tax addressed by House Bill 1.

To illustrate the whole concept, enter a pie.

The pie does not come with apples or cherries. Rather it is a money pie packed with a savory filling sure to satisfy financial palates. The pie comes courtesy of the Texas Legislature in the form of House Bill 1 which became law this past spring. It mandates a rollback rate of \$1.04 per \$100 of property valuation. If the school districts want more than \$1.04 per \$100, then they have to get voter approval. The most a district can ask for is \$1.17.

To better carry out their education mission, both school districts are asking for more than that amount.

This is where we get back to the analogy of the pie. The state is giving the homeowner a "cut-rate" pie that means lower taxes. In effect, the school districts are asking for the homeowner to relinquish a portion of the state-mandated tax pie. It does not mean higher taxes, but simply less of a decrease.

The decrease is still there. Homeowners still get a hefty slice of the state-baked pie.

There is another aspect to the election. For each additional dollar raised in local taxes by approving the marginally higher rate, the state will give more. In Canutillo, the state will give \$2 for every additional tax dollar. In Tornillo, a poorer school district, the state will match each additional local dollar with \$9.

Here's how it breaks down for the two school districts:

### Canutillo ISD seeks six cents

In August, the Upper Valley school board approved a 2008 total tax rate of \$1.39. Of that, \$1.10 — the M/O — goes for school staffing, equipment, supplies and salaries. The remaining 29 cents (I/S) goes to reduce the district's bond debt. Based on the current tax rate of \$1.66, homeowners (with a \$100,000 home) will see a tax decrease of between \$130 and \$230.

The voters are being asked to decide if the district can keep an extra six cents with an M/O tax rate of \$1.10 per \$100 of property valuation or if they want to keep the rate at \$1.04 per \$100 of property valuation.

If passed by the voters, the additional money will go for, in part:

- Staffing the new Northwest Early College High School;
- Staffing and equipping the new Garcia Elementary School and staffing and equipping the new Arellano Elementary School scheduled for construction in 2009; and
- Maintaining competitive benefits for district employees.

The superintendent of CISD, Dr. Pam Padilla, carries a message of responsible stewardship of district funds in presentations to local groups. She spoke to the Vinton Village Council residents last week.

She emphasized the importance of everyone



Pam Padilla

### Tornillo ISD asks for five cents

The numbers' scenario follows a similar pattern in Tornillo as in Canutillo.

The total tax rate for the 2006-07 school year was \$1.63 per \$100 property valuation. Taking into account the aforementioned state-mandated rollback, the proposed tax rate for 2008-09 is \$1.33.

The Tornillo voters are being asked to decide if the district can keep an extra five cents and an M/O tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of property valuation or if they want to keep the rate at \$1.04 per \$100 of property valuation.

As an example, superintendent Paul Vranish explains that on a \$40,000 home the tax decrease is \$144. Of that amount, Vranish says the district is asking for only \$20 to take care of special needs within the district. The principle is the same — the taxpayer gets a tax break. It simply won't be as much, but a reduction will be there. They too will get a hefty portion of the financial pie from the state.

Vranish is quick to say that the extra money will go to district employees. After all, he points out, it is the efforts of teachers and others to enable TISD to have two Recognized and one Exemplary school. This is out of four campuses.

"Every employee will benefit," he pledges. "They have done a fantastic job." He wants to increase the starting salaries for new teachers



Paul Vranish

## WTCSCD's Learning Center issues GED diplomas to 61 graduates

By Guadalupe Silva  
Special to the Courier

Ana Figueroa, a 24-year-old mother of two, received her high school General Educational Development (GED) diploma from the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department's (WTCSCD) Learning Center on October 24.

"It took me years to get it, but now I feel so good about staying in there," said Figueroa, who left school at 16 because she was pregnant. "It was a crazy time for me then. But things are really looking good for me now. I'm married. I'm happy. I'm looking for a job, but it will be so much easier finding one now, and a better one, with my GED."

Figueroa is one of 59 men and women of all ages who graduated from GED school the same day at the adult probation Learning Center.

Mariella Hernandez, a GED instructor with the WTCSCD's (Adult Probation) Learning Center, said she is very proud of what Figueroa has accomplished. She described her young student as tenacious and driven. If she failed a test the first time, she would take it again and again until she passed it.

"She wouldn't give up," Hernandez said, explaining that Figueroa kept coming back even though she is now pregnant with her third child and has long finished her probationary period.

Stephen L. Enders, WTCSCD's Director, said 361 probationers are now participating in the GED program, 91 of those women. In addition to the GED classes in English, the Learning Center also provides the same courses in Spanish. It offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) and Comprehensive Reading classes for low-level learners.

"It's vital for individuals on probation to understand that despite having made a mistake, they still have a life," he said. "Probation is in no way the end of the line for them. They can still improve themselves, learn, and do something with their lives to help achieve their potential."

The WTCSCD program was started in 1992 at a time when the state considered education to be a priority in rehabilitating probationers, said Chester Adams, who has been with the program since 1994. At that time, there was enough funding to support four or five programs in as many locations, he said. The community was more involved and so was the Upper Rio Grande Private Industry Council.

"Now we only have this program, which is doing very well," Adams said. "But it would be great if we had more computers and the funding could be stretched to cover more instructors. The need definitely is there and so is the desire from more people on probation."

The Learning Center at this time only has seven computers, not all operational at the same time, and three instructors, including Hernandez, a former English teacher in

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## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# Something to remind us

where along Interstate 5 between Bakersfield, California and the junction with 41 that takes you to Fresno, there's a flag planted on the top of a hill overlooking the freeway.

That portion of I-5 isn't like the Southern California coastal roads that have become an urban nightmare, where glimpses of the sea are overshadowed by the fear of death by close-moving autos.

What you will see driving up through the heart of Southern California on I-5 is a community dedicated to producing as much as possible from Mother Earth. Massive olive groves stretch for miles along the roadway, interwoven with gigantic aqueducts carrying untold gallons of water from source to field, vineyard and various orchards of nut trees. Other types of agriculture-related sights are to be seen, like trucks heavily laden with fresh-picked tomatoes — many of which escape to redden the roadsides — and fields in various stages of food production.

There, unattended on the hill top, far from any structure or other hu-

man habitation, flies this flag, the Stars and Stripes, the symbol of the values, dreams and aspirations that governed the forming of our nation.

There's nothing like traveling across the U.S. and seeing this national symbol in unexpected and, frequently, isolated places. It reminds me of what the flag means personally to each of us and the source of the emotions that are evoked by the sight of it.

Flag purists will tell you that it is a shame for that flag to be left out there all by itself, not lit at night, untended by day. I suppose you could look at it that way. I don't deny any purist his right to be pure, but the sight of that flag on a hill top in a countryside far from my own gave me joy and pleasure.

My first association with our national symbol came about, as I suppose it did for many my age, through the schools. I started my education in a tiny one-room country school. I was allowed to help some bigger kid carry the flag out to the pole and run it up in the morning. We also took it down and folded it and put it away when school was over. The ritual

never changed. We did that as certainly as we ate lunch or went out to recess.

When I entered second grade, they built a new school. It was also really small, intended to serve the handful of kids in our isolated Southern New Mexico community. With the new school came two new flags — the brilliant gold New Mexico state flag emblazoned with the scarlet Zia symbol, and, of course, a beautiful, heavy cotton Old Glory.

I don't know how many times I raised and lowered those flags. I attended school there until they closed it at the end of my sixth grade year. Those same flags were still flying the last day of school. They were a permanent part of our environment, like parents, and the pledge of allegiance, and the certainty that the school bus would get us safely home every night.

It's been a long time since the sad day the school was closed and I don't

remember how it all came about but I recall doing some pleading and arguing, and somehow that U.S. flag wound up in my possession. It was more than a little weather-beaten by then but I carefully packed it away with my most precious possessions.

Years later when I spent a few years home schooling my two youngest, I took it out and hung it in our "classroom." Every school needs a flag. What an awesome thing that my kids and I studied under the same one.

I finally bought a nice flag box with a brass nameplate bearing the name of the school where it began its service. It's got a ragged edge and yellowed white stripes, and I still think it's very beautiful.

I know that our flag is often brought out and waved around when we feel threatened, as a sign of our might and strength, like we did on September 11. It is inevitable, too, that it has been carried as a symbol

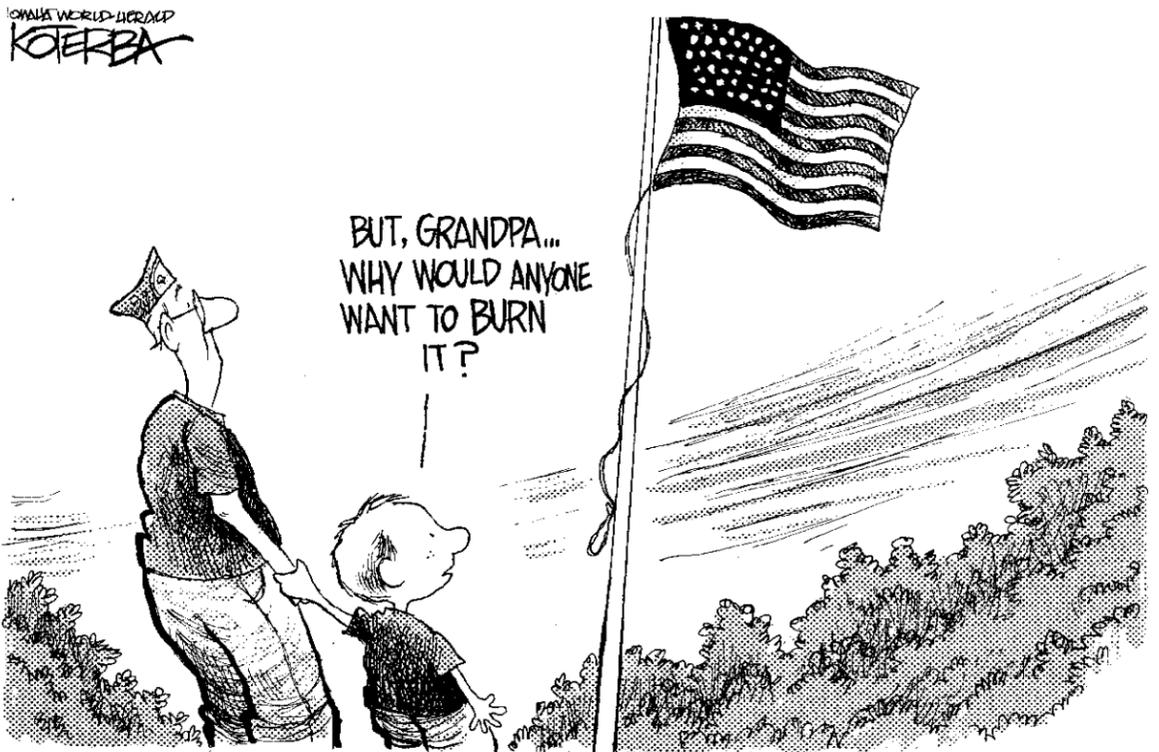
of war and destruction. We fly it in remembrance of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their nation, a symbol of death. Some folks will even burn it because they hate the fact that it represents a nation that possessed might and power that has rarely existed in the history of the world.

For me, though, it's a symbol of life, and growth, and goodness. It symbolizes all that has been good in my life and that of my kids and family. It reminds me that we are a nation that was founded on hard work, and respect for one another and the earth that fed us — any most of all, the sure knowledge that Someone bigger, smarter and more powerful than the whole bunch of us is in charge.

That's why I don't believe that flying a solitary, weather-beaten flag in the heart of a food-producing state is shameful or disrespectful at all.

Maybe it will remind us.

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## Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

# Honorable legacies

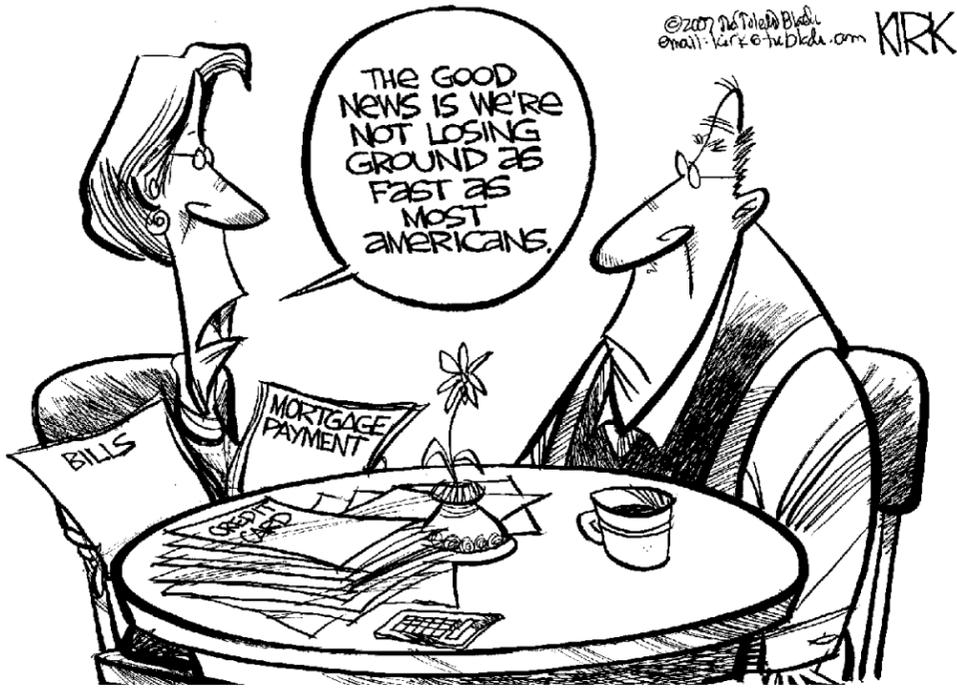
With the recent conclusion of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to highlight the many events that took place to honor Hispanic veterans and El Pasoans from Company E in particular. I participated in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's 30th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month events, where many of my colleagues joined me as we celebrated "Hispanic America: A Legacy of Honor." This year's theme paid special tribute to the thousands of Hispanic veterans who have served our country with pride and bravery.

Perhaps the most memorable moment of the week was the presence of a member of El Paso's very own Company E at the Salute to Veterans reception. Alongside many of my congressional colleagues, I honored Ricardo Palacios Sr., a surviving member of the 36th Division of the 141st Army Infantry Regiment. I also had the opportunity to pay tribute to the late Captain Gabriel Navarrete, who also served in the same company. Members of Company E, many of whom were graduates of Bowie High School, served their country valiantly as the only all-Mexican-American unit during World War II. Though many soldiers sacrificed their lives during a bloody assault at the Rapido River in southern Italy, the members of Company E failed to receive the recognition they so rightly deserved upon their return. It was an honor to correct this historical injustice and ensure these veterans would no longer be the forgotten heroes of World War II.

The struggle to attain recognition for Latino veterans continues. One need only look at this year's controversy over the omission of Latino veterans in the PBS documentary "The War" as evidence. I was proud to stand alongside my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the GI Forum, and many others who pressured PBS and Ken Burns to include Latino veterans in the film. After several meetings with the President and CEO of PBS, the network agreed to incorporate Latino perspectives into the documentary. The contributions of our brave Latino veterans must never be forgotten, and their stories must be preserved for future generations.

Latinos have a proud history of exemplary military service. Latinos have received 42 of the 2,373 Medals of Honor awarded in our nation's history, and at this year's gala, we were fortunate enough to have two of the five living Hispanic Medal of Honor winners in attendance: Rodolfo Hernandez and Alfred Rascon. These veterans remind us of what it means to serve one's country with unselfish bravery and courage. It is imperative that we continue to keep the stories of these heroes alive.

CHCI honored our veterans and all Hispanics as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Over 44 million Hispanic-Americans make up the fastest growing population in our country today. Our mark on American popular culture is significant, as is the presence of Latinos in the political, cultural, and corporate realms of society. I am proud to say that my colleagues and I in the Democratic-led 110th Congress have been working to help serve Hispanic families. With the advancement of legislation increasing the minimum wage, decreasing the cost of college, and improving the State Children's Health Insurance Program, it is clear that substantial efforts are being made for the Latino community. As the year continues, I look forward to continuing my work alongside my colleagues in the U.S. House and Senate to advance legislation that will empower millions of Hispanic-American families and the nation as a whole.



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

**Bariatric bonus**

That's "bariatric," not "geriatric." You know, that crazy operation they perform on fat people to tie their tummies. You've heard the drill before. May have even considered making the leap, to reduce those unsightly pounds, when willpower has just not carried its weight in the face of chocolate cake, French fries, and a veritable potpourri of artery-clogging delicacies. Now your back is to the wall, and it's high time you scoured the scientific literature for an angle on this medical marvel. What does this thing they call bariatric surgery consist in? Is it true what they say that it can keep girth down on wannabe Prince Charmings and Cinderellas, while at the same time increasing their life spans? Let's debunk the myth and proceed to the short and skinny, as we create room at the bar by unfettering space around our waists.

For years doctors have known that weight loss improves cardiovascular risk factors. To the average Joe on the street, that in itself is not an earth-shattering revelation from our Einstein's in white. What is interesting and to date unanswered has been the question of the possible reduction in serious illnesses, like heart attacks and cancer, and their progression toward death by weight loss. In short, does bariatric or stomach surgery prevent deaths?

We have all heard that obesity has become an epidemic in the United States, with about 24% of the population defined as obese in 2005. Worldwide, 300 million people are obese, and those legions are growing. The numbers are simply staggering! The buck does not stop there, either. Abdominal obesity is not only associated with increased risks of maladies such as hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, sleep apnea, coronary artery disease, and stroke, but also contributes significantly to U.S. health care expenditures, in excess of \$100 billion annually for that collective and so-called innocuous jaunt to the doughnut store daily. Shame on us! It is expected that the overall life expectancy in this great nation of ours is destined to decline if we fail to stem the rising tide of obesity. Fat, not wars, pestilence, or Mother Nature, is going to take us down.

The scenario appears bleak, but medical advances are, indeed, on the horizon. One of them is bariatric surgery. The word "bariatric" comes from the Greek word baros, meaning weight, and bariatric surgery or weight loss surgery describes surgical procedures performed spe-

cifically for the purpose of attempting to induce appetite control, weight loss, and long-term dietary modification. Bariatric surgical procedures reduce caloric intake by modifying the anatomy of the gastrointestinal tract. They do this by either creating a small gastric reservoir with a narrow outlet to delay gastric emptying, or by bypassing varying portions of the small intestine where nutrient absorption occurs. The latter procedure, known as gastric bypass surgery, while accounting for only 13% of all bariatric surgery to date, is rapidly growing in popularity and fast becoming the procedure of choice.

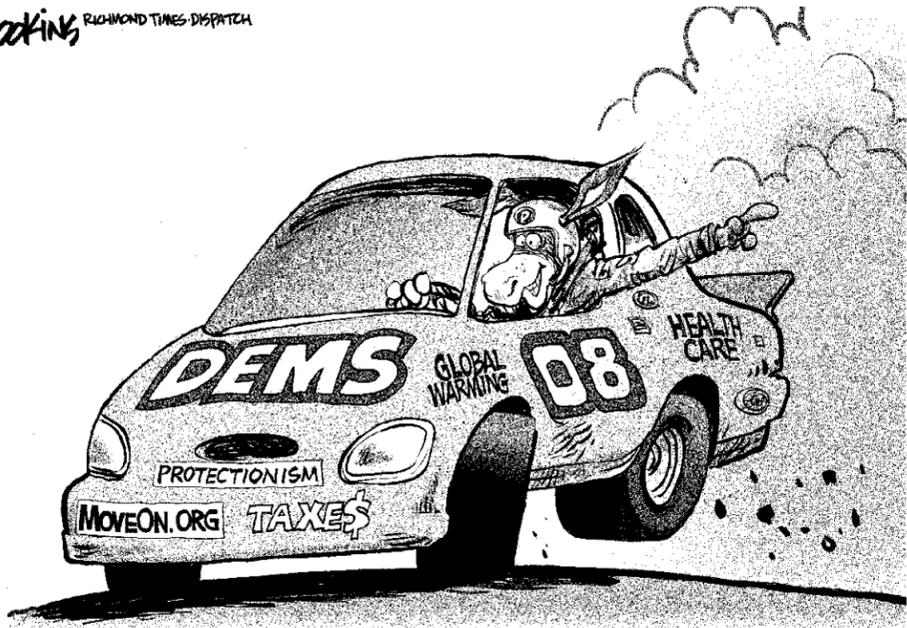
Although many of us believe that we should not tamper with the designs of the Almighty, in the morbidly obese the hand of man may be a useful adjunct to the hand of God. Extensive studies conducted over an 18-year period in both Sweden and here in the U.S. in Utah on a total of 12,000 patients who underwent bariatric surgery have demonstrated the undeniable benefits of the procedure. The participants in the studies lost 32% of their body weight and kept most of it off, survived longer than matched control patients who did not undergo surgery, and saw a 56% reduction in deaths from heart disease. In fact, the estimated number of lives saved was 136 per 10,000 stomach operations. So, one might say that there is no doubt that intentional weight loss, via the surgeon's knife, improves life span.

What good would a silver lining be, however, without a few storm clouds. Indeed, bariatric surgery is not a panacea, and nowhere is the adage of the end not justifying the means more true than in our consideration of complications. Obese patients who undergo bariatric surgery are at high risk for venous thromboembolism, pulmonary embolism and death, and irreversible postoperative copper, thiamine, and vitamin B12 deficiencies leading to peripheral neuropathies, encephalopathies, degeneration of the spinal cord, optic neuropathies, and a host of other neurologic abnormalities.

So, just what is the short and skinny, and who should undergo the surgeon's invasive hand? There is no doubt that the severely obese stand to gain, in terms of morbidity and mortality reduction, from bariatric and gastric bypass surgery. Let the buyer beware, however. The bariatric bonus may be a Pandora's box in disguise. Opening it may unleash something far worse than the weight of added pounds. Only time and your physician's professional opinion and experience hold the key.

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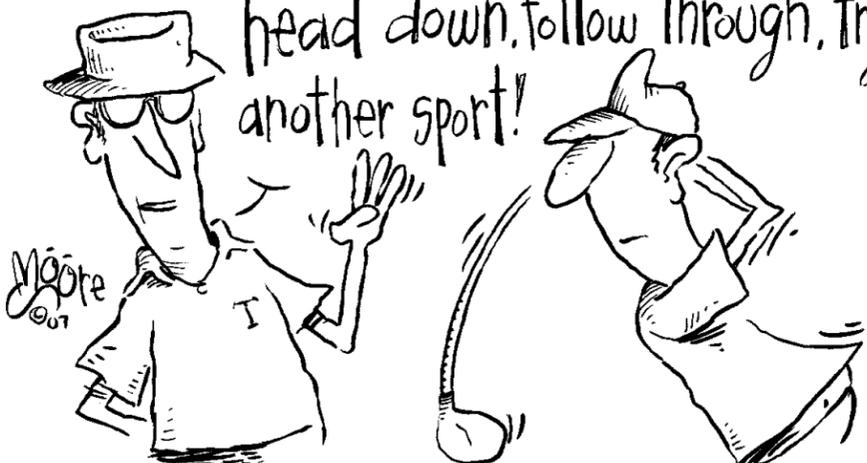


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# Stakes high in fight against the Cattle Fever Tick; pest could spread coast-to-coast

By Carla Everett  
Special to the Courier

Livestock health officials say it could cost upwards of \$13 million and take as long as two years to stop an incursion of fever ticks into the formerly fever tick free areas of five counties along the Texas-Mexico border. The fever tick, less than a 1/8-inch long, is capable of carrying and transmitting 'babesia,' a blood parasite deadly to cattle.

"For most of the country, the fever tick has been pushed out of sight, out of mind, since the 1940s. This tick, however, is capable of transmitting a foreign animal disease and it's sitting in our backyard," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

"If we do not stop it, the fever tick could spread from coast to coast, except the arid lands of New Mexico and Arizona, and as far north as Washington D.C.," stressed Dr. Hillman. "As the tick spreads, so will the need for personnel and resources. Win the battle along the Rio Grande in Texas, and other states won't have to fight the war."

The TAHC has placed temporary fever tick quarantines on 1116.3 square miles in five Texas border counties, including parts of Starr and Zapata counties, and a contiguous area encompassing parts of Maverick, Dimmit and Webb Counties. In addition, an 852-square mile permanent quarantine zone butts up against the Rio Grande from Del Rio to Brownsville and is under the management of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 60-person Fever Tick

Force.

The USDA, which is adding up to 30 temporary tick inspectors, and the TAHC, which has detailed inspectors to south Texas on a rotating basis, are working with ranchers to locate, 'corral' and eradicate the tick. In this area about the size of Delaware, all cattle, horses, penned deer, llamas, camels and any other species that can host the tick are being manually inspected — or "scratched" — by TAHC or USDA inspectors.

If animals in these quarantined areas are moved from their premises, they'll undergo another "scratch" inspection, then be dipped or sprayed, and permitted for movement. Because horses can give ticks a lift, these animals are put under 14-day inspections and treatment, if they're moved routinely from their home base.

When fever tick-infested livestock are detected, the premises are quarantined for six to nine months. As of early October, this included at least 25 premises in the temporary quarantine areas and about 56 premises in the permanent quarantine zone.

Cattle remaining on tick-infested premises must be inspected and dipped every 14 days or treated with doramectin every 28 days. Alternatively, the animals may be moved to a new site, but only after undergoing two consecutive tick-free inspections and dippings. A movement permit then is issued, and the cattle must be transported immediately.

"The USDA has made \$340,000 available for immediate fever tick needs in south Texas, and the state legislature granted the TAHC an extra \$150,000 to purchase additional Co-Ral, the acaricide used for dipping vats and in spray rigs," Dr. Hillman said. He reported that a

USDA assessment concluded that to eliminate fever ticks from the temporary preventive quarantine areas, at least \$13 million was needed to hire additional personnel, repair or replace worn out portable tick dipping equipment, purchase new spray rigs and supplies, and procure other essential equipment. "

To get a handle on potential fever tick spread, the TAHC field staff also is tracing the movement of cattle from infested premises in the temporary quarantine area within the past year," Dr. Hillman noted. So far, this has involved nearly 800 animals, of which about 459 have been located, inspected and found to be fever tick-free. Some were found in Kansas or Texas Panhandle feed yards, and others were scattered across the state and to two other states.

"Many of these animals had been moved as calves without any identification, except the livestock market back tag, or clearly defined destination," he said. "This slows down our work, but we don't give up until all avenues are exhausted."

"The fever tick, by itself, will not cause disease. However, cattle tick fever is imminent if the fever tick is carrying babesia, and transmits it to cattle that are 'naïve,' meaning they have no resistance to the organism that quickly breaks down red blood cells," said Dr. Hillman. "There are two potential scenarios with fever ticks that keep the TAHC, the Tick Force and border ranchers awake at night."

The first scenario, explained Dr. Hillman, involves Mexico, where fever ticks and babesia have not been eradicated. Young calves there may be exposed to the babesia, survive the disease and develop immunity, but continue to carry the organism.

"Even if Mexican feeder cattle carry babesia, they will not cause a disease problem — unless there is fever tick involvement," said Dr. Hillman, setting the scene for the scenario. "Mexican-origin feeder cattle enter the U.S. under strict USDA fever tick inspection and dipping requirements. To keep them away from fever ticks, the TAHC requires Mexican-imported cattle to have an "M" branded on their hip and prohibits these animals from being maintained in the permanent quarantine zone."

"If fever ticks are moved to sites where Mexican feeder cattle are pastured, the pests may pick up babesia. The babesia infected female tick transmits the disease to the next generation of fever ticks. Only one element then would be missing from the dangerous disease equation — U.S. cattle with no immunity to the babesia," noted Dr. Hillman. "If native US cattle, which are susceptible to babesiosis or 'cattle tick fever,' are infested with babesia-infected fever ticks, then disease transmission to the native cattle will occur. Most likely, this will cause significant death loss of native cattle. It's crucial to keep the fever tick pushed beyond the border, and support and fund surveillance activities in the permanent fever tick quarantine zone."

Dr. Hillman said the second scenario involves wildlife as effective alternative hosts and sources for movement of ticks into Texas from Mexico and from the permanent quarantine zone to the free area of Texas. For once, noted Dr. Hillman, the beleaguered feral (wild) hog is not implicated. Fever ticks have not acclimated to swine, goats, sheep or dogs. On the other hand, elk, white-tailed deer, nilgai and red deer, serve as effective hosts for fever ticks, but are not affected by babesia.

"Free-ranging cervids do not respect national borders, shallow rivers, low fences, quarantines, or permits for movement," he said. "Wildlife hosts may crisscross the Rio Grande, hauling in fever ticks. Right now, wildlife presents the greatest risk for fever tick movement." In spring 2007, more than 30 nilgai were depopulated in the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, due to fever tick infestation. Twenty-eight of the 42 free-ranging white-tailed deer that were trapped

and examined this year also were "ticky."

"Treating wildlife is a tricky proposition, because current methods are limited to feeding cervids ivermectin-treated corn or drawing them to 'four-poster' stations where they rub against pyrethrin-treated posts, which transfers the chemical," he said. "Ivermectin use requires a 60-day withholding period prior to slaughter or harvest, so wildlife feeding treatments will be delayed until hunting season ends."

In the meantime, the USDA or TAHC must inspect, treat and permit the movement of hides from deer or exotic hoof stock harvested on tick-infested or exposed premises. (Meat may be moved without inspection.) To avoid the possibility of transporting fever ticks, ranchers and hunters are urged to practice good sanitary measures when leaving a ranch. Brush off clothing to dislodge any ticks that may be on the fabric. Clean off boots and shake out jackets or items that have been on the ground.

"The fever tick is not a human health threat," said Dr. Hillman. "But be careful. Don't transport ticks to new sites. Getting and keeping the fever tick out of Texas and the U.S. is critical for disease control and our continued ability to move livestock without restrictions."

"If we are ultimately to be successful in our battle against the fever tick and 'cattle tick fever,' we must eliminate the current fever tick incursions in the free areas of Texas, then push the pest back into Mexico. To accomplish this, we must acquire resources necessary to fulfill the long-range fever tick eradication plan, fund research and develop additional treatment products and methods. We also must aid our Mexican neighbors in their fight against the fever tick and 'cattle tick fever,'" concluded Dr. Hillman.

**ORANGE**  
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October 27, 2007 Hosted by UTEP

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## Canutillo ISD

From Page 1

voting. "We are not here to sway you," she said.

She spoke of budget cuts to reduce expenses and of partnerships with El Paso Community College and UT El Paso. She also mentioned the district had earned a Superior ranking in statewide financial rating system.

Padilla added that if the tax rate was not approved, they might have to dip into the district's fund balance (a little more than \$4 million) which they'd rather not touch.

The superintendent pointed to the slogan "Canutillo ISD — The Place to Be" during her presentation. To that she added "for our taxpayers."

## Tornillo ISD

From Page 1

in Tornillo which is now \$38,000. This compares to \$43,435 in Clint ISD and \$41,500 in Fabens.

"Only your vote can make a raise happen," he says in an upcoming prepared parent chat presentation. Throughout the presentation he repeats the phrase — "Taxes are going down; taxes are going down."

He adds, "I feel the community will support it." And he indicates he's received positive feedback from members of the community.

Vranish boasts that five years ago the Tornillo district was one of the worst in the state. Now, he says, the district is the best in the region.

With a stable student population, he doesn't foresee the need to build new schools.

# Surge of players take to the tennis courts

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

enthusiasm for tennis has really spread in San Elizario.

The growth in students playing tennis is significant because last year, the middle school fell short in the number of students participating in the sport and the teams were only able to play in a limited number of tournaments. The only exceptions were the 8th graders who won all their tournaments last year and are currently 5-1 as freshmen. So far this year, the amount of students playing tennis for Garcia-Enriquez Middle School have helped the team win the Socorro Tennis Tournament held earlier this month. Another difference from last year is that Coach Vasquez is now working with Cruz Lechuga in training the middle school tennis players. Coach Lechuga leads the after school practice sessions for all the middle school teams from Monday through Thursday.

Coach Vasquez is encouraged to see a large amount of students curious about learning to play tennis. The attention the sport is receiving in the community also really assists all the current players

Tennis has exploded at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School (GEMS) and what was once a little known sport in the San Elizario Independent School District is suddenly becoming one of the most popular. This fall, the middle school experienced a sharp increase in the number of students who have signed up to learn how to swing a tennis racket. According to GEMS health teacher and high school tennis coach Pedro Vasquez, approximately 40 students in 6th through 8th grade are currently suiting up to come out and practice tennis four days a week. "The numbers show there is a growing interest in the program," Coach Vasquez said. Coach Vasquez added that it was unusual for the area to have such a large group because tennis is still a fairly "young" sport in the district. Although Coach Vasquez helps to recruit the middle school students and spark their interest in tennis, it is really through word of mouth that the



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**RAISING A RAQUET** — San Eli's tennis coach, Pedro Vasquez, holds court with his players.

to become more motivated in their games and helps to solidify the tennis program for the district as a whole. At the moment Coach

Vasquez is working closely with a group of talented 8th grade tennis players who will all probably play at the varsity level when they transition

to the high school as freshmen next year. Clearly tennis has cemented itself in the San Elizario athletic community and is here to stay.

## Alderete Middle School raises funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital

By Kim Guzman  
Special to the Courier

nations were collected during the last two weeks of September.

"The goal of this year's student council at AMS is to serve others without expecting anything in return. It was made very clear to students that they were not buying anything with their donation, but were giving to help others," said Angela Orozco, student council sponsor and AMS teacher.

"The fundraiser was the first opportunity this year for students to develop the idea of service to the community and hopefully instilled the idea that students can contribute to their community throughout their lives," added Orozco.

Jose J. Alderete Middle School's (AMS) Student Council raised more than \$1,200 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the fight against childhood cancer through "Create a Pepper Campaign", which was held recently. The fundraising effort was in conjunction with Chili's Restaurant.

AMS students decorated peppers that were displayed in the campus lobby to raise awareness of the cause. The student body was asked to make monetary donations to support the fight against childhood cancer. Do-

## Raising money, awareness

Canutillo High School juniors Heidi Larrea and Jose Paredes, earned the distinction of being crowned Homecoming Junior Prince and Princess for raising the most money for the Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure. They presented a \$1,600 check to John Payne, special events coordinator for the Susan G. Komen organization, during halftime of their homecoming football game.

— Kim Guzman



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

## WTCCSD

From Page 1

Mexico, and Adams. Harvey Lashus is a former instructor at Park College's Sergeant Major Academy and at the Mayfield Business School.

Adams explained that some probationers are gung-ho from the beginning and get even more enthused when they realize they can do the work. Others, however, are often afraid they cannot learn so easily and need more encouragement.

"Those are the ones we work with on a one-to-one basis," said Adams, who does the testing at the Center and who is the official motivator. "We try to teach them a little of everything."

Jonas W. Patrick, WTCCSD Coordinator of Training and Education, said more emphasis needs to be placed on education for probationers as a means to improve their opportunities and quality of life. Any and all investments made on education provide a huge return in the productivity of an individual, whether on probation or not.

"Preferably, we would use computer programs to teach probationers how to write business letters, their resumes, etc." Patrick said, adding that exposing students to computer technology in and of itself prepares them for work life. "Research has proven that education is an excellent tool against recidivism. Fortunately, even with uneven funding the West Texas CSCD and Director Enders make the Learning Center a priority."

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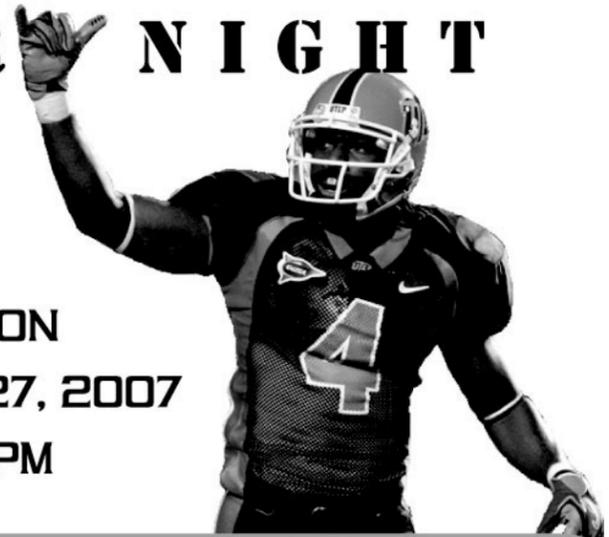
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# Expect an aerial show when NMSU meets Hawaii

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

How many of you football fans enjoy a rough tough smash-mouth defensive struggle that ends in a score of 10-7 or 6-3 or 0-0?

There is something to be said for a good defensive slugfest. After all, the fans spend half their time at a football game chanting, "defense, defense," right?

Well, I would advise those hard-nosed defense lovers to stay far away from this Saturday night's offensive explosion, which will be the game between New Mexico State and Hawaii.

The Aggies travel to Honolulu this weekend looking for their second Western Athletic Conference win of the season. Last Saturday, NMSU put up 45 points in their win over Idaho.

Sixteenth-ranked Hawaii is undefeated (7-0) and has scored at least 42 points in every game they've played this season.

What makes this game especially intriguing is the matchup between the teams' quarterbacks, who are among the best in the country.

The Aggies' Chase Holbrook has completed

206 of his 283 passes for 2,123 yards, 17 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

Hawaii's Colt Brennan has completed 196 of his 282 passes for 2,395 yards, 20 touchdowns and 10 interceptions.

What do all these numbers mean? They mean there won't be a whole lot of people chanting for any type of defense at this game. They'd be chanting in vain.

Don't be surprised if one of these two teams scored 60 points in this clash. I would put the over/under in this game at 100, which means I feel both teams will combine to score at least 100 points, for you non-gambling types out there.

It'll be interesting to see which quarterback will throw more passes in this game. Brennan puts it up 47 times a game and Holbrook throws it over 35 times a game.

This will be a great game to watch this weekend — that is if you have five hours to devote to it. It should be over at about 3:00 a.m. local time.

## Tom Terrific

I remember vividly the sight of Peyton Man-

ning breaking Dan Marino's season touchdown record with his 49th scoring toss in 2004.

Marino set the record in 1984 and it stood for 20 years. It looked as though Manning's record would stand at least another 20 years, or more.

But his record is in serious jeopardy just three years after he set it.

The New England Patriots have played seven games so far this year, which isn't even halfway through the schedule, and quarterback Tom Brady is treating the touchdown record like his own personal birthright.

Brady, amazingly, has 27 TD passes already. If you calculate it — and I have my trusty calculator at my side — he's on pace to throw 61 touchdowns. Now that's what I call obliterating a record.

How is Brady doing it? The guy has always been a winner, but like Joe Montana, he's never been about putting up stats, he's been all about winning championships.

I guess the real reason for the re-birth of Brady's arm is the resurgence of Randy Moss and the arrival of wide receivers Wes Welker and Donte Stallworth.

The Patriots clearly look like the best team in the NFL and Brady looks like the best quarterback in history.

But we can't forget that we're not even halfway through the 2007 season and anything can happen — like he might throw 70 touchdown passes.

## Rocks and Sox

What a great World Series we're going to have this year. I love cheering for the underdog against the big bad bully. And the Boston Red Sox and Colorado Rockies fit the mold perfectly.

Everybody knows who the Red Sox are, Big Papi David Ortiz, Manny Ramirez, Jason Varitek, Josh Beckett, Curt Schilling, Tim Wakefield and Daisuke (Dice-K) Matsuzaka.

Of course the Colorado Rockies consist of... well... there's... oh yeah, Todd Helton.

I don't know who plays for this team and I'll bet you don't either. That's what makes the fact that they've won the last 21 of 22 games all the more puzzling, and endearing.

Who am I cheering for in the World Series — please!

## UTEP awarded grant

By Laura Cruz Acosta  
Special to the Courier

The Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center at UTEP has received a \$6.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health that will significantly advance the center's research in helping eliminate racial and ethnic health inequalities across the nation.

"The center is well positioned to begin scaling up both the scope and the depth of our research on border health and to serve in a leadership role in the development of research on border health in the southwestern area of the United States," said Robert L. Anders, Ph.D., UTEP School of Nursing dean and principal investigator.

The five-year grant comes from the NIH's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The HHDR at UTEP aims to research and find solutions for health disparities — differences or discrepancies between population groups in prevalence of disease, injury, premature death or disability.

The HHDR opened in Oct. 2003 with the support of a \$4.1 million grant from the NIH and is a collaborative effort between UTEP and the University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health — El Paso Regional Campus.

With the new funding the center will continue to work toward understanding and reducing health disparities by supporting two-year research projects with funds ranging from \$20,000 to \$80,000.

"Given that over 80 percent of our community is comprised of minorities, this work, particularly in our southwestern border region, is of critical importance. UTEP and the School of Public Health are committed to making a difference in the lives our citizens," Anders said.

The center will also expand the efforts to train and educate faculty and student researchers and share the results of the research with the community women.

For more information about the Hispanic Health Disparities Center, visit [www.hhdr.utep.edu/](http://www.hhdr.utep.edu/).

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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 - IJYFT58S4YL127107, 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee, silver, temporary license plate 9/27/07. VIN - IGCHC33J6WFO22204, 1998 Chevy P/U, gold, Texas license plate 4MTZ45. WTXCC-10/18/07

#### EP County WCID #4



#### Notice of the Availability of a Supplemental Information Record (SIR) from the 2001 Fabens Water and Waste water System Improvements Environmental Assessment

USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from El Paso Water Control and Improvements District No. 4 Fabens Water and Wastewater System Improvements. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, a Supplemental Information Record (SIR) from the 2001 Environmental Assessment has been prepared, which re-

valuated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed project. This notice announces the availability of the Supplemental Information Record for public review and comment.

The proposed project consists of the following phases as summarized below:

#### Summary of Recommended Wastewater Plan

#### Wastewater System

WWTP — The EPCWCID No. 4 has determined that immediate construction of the Fabens Wastewater Treatment Plant Project is necessary for compliance with TCEQ regulatory requirements and to ensure adequate wastewater treatment. The existing WWTP is deficient in several areas including aeration capacity within the oxidation ditch, capacity of the secondary clarifier and chlorine detention time.

Four treatment processes were evaluated under six facility alternatives using economic and non-economic criteria. It was determined that construction of a new 1.2 MGD AeroMod prepackaged plant would reduce the system complexity and O&M costs of the treatment system. The project includes a headworks structure with screens and grit removal, secondary treatment systems, sludge handling operation with belt filter press, new dis-

infection and other miscellaneous structures. The EPCWCID No. 4 submitted an amendment to the TCEQ for the existing TPDES permit and has obtained the revised permit necessary to operate the new facility.

#### Summary of Recommended Water Plan

10th Street Water Treatment — The water quality continues to experience problems and EPCWCID No. 4 proposes to implement this project utilizing BEIF resources.

10th Street Booster Station — Additional booster pumps and appurtenances are required. In addition the existing pump building needs to be expanded to accommodate the additional new booster pump.

Well No. 4 Equiping — District No. 4 proposes to complete this project, as planned, with the support of BEIF resources. This project has been designed and the estimated construction cost is provided below.

0.5 MG Reservoir — The existing 0.5 MG 10th Street Reservoir is currently the largest in the system and the storage capacity is critical to satisfy daily demands.

District No. 4 proposes to implement a project that will replace the 10th Street Reservoir rather than constructing the additional storage project at Well No. 4, in order to meet the original environmental objective re-

lated to adequate storage capacity ensuring that the distribution system and service to the community is not compromised. The 10th Street Reservoir Replacement Project consists of fabrication, delivery and installation of a 0.5 MG above ground welded steel water storage tank and associated appurtenances to replace the existing structure with an equivalent facility. TCEQ has authorized District No. 4 to construct the reservoir. The existing booster station site will accommodate the new reservoir.

To avoid and or minimize impacts to environmental resources, the following mitigation is proposed:

- Cultural Resources Discovery Mitigation
- Floodplain Mitigation

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at the USDA Rural Development Office located at 11930 Vista del Sol, Suite C, El Paso, TX. 79936.

For further information contact Anita N. Sprinkle at 11930 Vista del Sol, Suite C, El Paso, TX 79936. Phone (915) 855-1229, Ext. 4. Any person interested in commenting on this proposed project should submit comments to the address above by November 16, 2007.

WTCC: 10/25/07

### DOCUMENT ASSISTANCE

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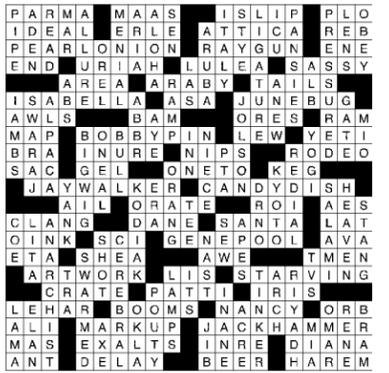
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U.S must address my transportation issues

By Don Flood

A recent newspaper article provided a lurid account of how Tom Cruise is building a special bunker in his Colorado mountaintop home "to protect his family in the event of an intergalactic alien attack."

According to the story in the London Evening Standard, Cruise is apparently "fearful that deposed galactic ruler 'Xenu' is plotting an evil revenge attack on Earth."

I have to admit, I'm not up on the latest news about Xenu's revenge attack — I'm still trying to figure out who the celebrities are on "Dancing With the Stars" — but this time the media have really crossed the line.

However much you might think Cruise is a whacko, to suggest that he's actually building a multi-million dollar shelter because he fears aliens is grossly unfair, a ridiculous slander and beneath the dignity of any reputable journalist for the most obvious reason imaginable: Tom Cruise himself is an alien.

You can tell this from the photos of his daughter, which while carefully framed, clearly show her antennas and at least one of the two eyeballs on the back of her head. (Because of the angle of the shot and the way her hair is arranged it's difficult to get both eyeballs visible in one photo — but they're there all right.) So leave poor Tom alone.

Elsewhere in the news, we have a report about President Bush's opinion on airport delays: He's against them.

More to the point he's going to do something about them. He's going to talk to his Secretary of Transportation, as soon as his aides are able to discover who that is.

(According to an Administration source, "we're pretty doggone sure" a Secretary of Transportation was named, probably in Bush's first year, which is part of the problem. "That's a long time ago," the official said. "Who can remember?")

One idea gaining support is to change time zones at all U.S. airports without telling the airlines. This would mean moving all clocks back, say, two hours.

Under this plan, airlines would continue to schedule flights as usual. The difference is that a "1 p.m. Airport Savings Time" flight would actually leave at 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

"We've hashed it out and we couldn't find any flaws. Frankly, it's brilliant," said the same official. "And if the airlines fall behind we can keep adjusting it."

While I applaud that out-of-box thinking, there is one other thing at Bush's command that would have an immediate impact on our transportation problems: Air Force One.

Now, as is often the case, when I say "our" problems, I mean "my" problems. I have enough respect for other people's abilities to believe they can handle their own affairs.

I have no intention of abusing Air Force One. I realize the president's a busy man; I would be more than willing to plan my vacations around his schedule.

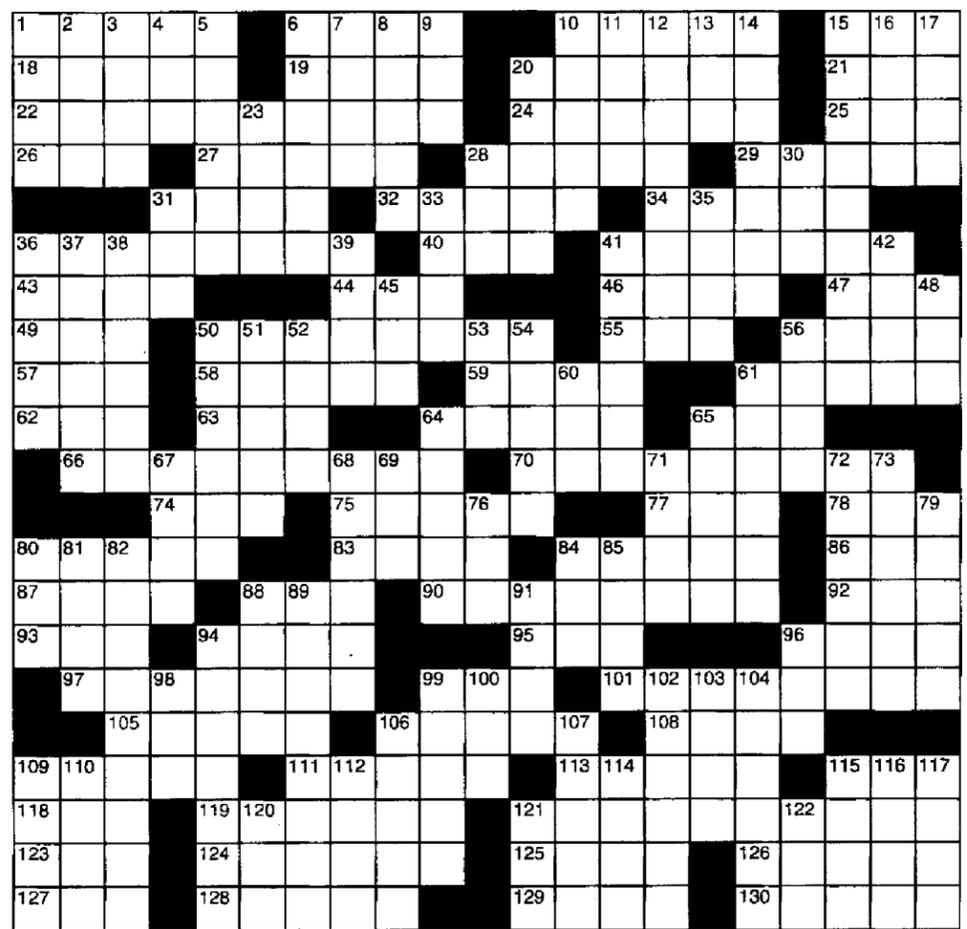
And if by some chance we were going to the same destination, we could plane pool.

Maybe we could tour Cruise's new bunker together.

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King Super Crossword

- APPLY NAMED ACROSS**
- 1 Ohio city
  - 6 "Serpico" author
  - 10 Long Island resort
  - 15 Arafat's grp.
  - 18 Perfect
  - 19 Perry's creator
  - 20 Ancient Greek region
  - 21 CSA soldier
  - 22 Pungent person?
  - 24 Hit man?
  - 25 Compass pt.
  - 26 Goal
  - 27 Horrid Heep
  - 28 Swedish port
  - 29 Fresh
  - 31 Length X Width
  - 32 Sheik site
  - 34 Coin-toss call
  - 36 Actress Rossellini
  - 40 Sly \_ fox
  - 41 Annoying woman?
  - 43 Hole punchers
  - 44 Impact sound
  - 46 Smeltery stuff
  - 47 Merino male
  - 49 Cartographer's creation
  - 50 Sharp guy?
  - 55 Author Wallace
  - 56 He's abominable
  - 57 Bikini part
  - 58 Harden
  - 59 Puppy bites
  - 61 Horse show
  - 62 Cul-de- \_
- DOWN**
- 1 \_ dream
  - 2 Mideastern gulf
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  - 4 Cal. page
  - 5 Entice
  - 6 Servile
  - 7 "La Rondine" rendition
  - 8 Maui greeting
  - 9 DC figure
  - 10 Pasta peninsula
  - 11 Eye problem
  - 12 Tourniquet, e.g.
  - 13 Hosp. area
  - 14 Garden flowers
  - 15 Egged on
  - 16 Beam bender
  - 17 Toe the line
  - 20 Oranjestad's locale
  - 23 Baseball's Hershiser
  - 28 "Viva \_ Vegas" ('64 film)
  - 30 Clerical garb
  - 31 Pecs' partners
  - 33 Inclined plane
  - 35 Once again
  - 36 Poetic feet
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- 124 Glorifies
  - 125 Memo words
  - 126 Rigg or Ross
  - 127 Tiny colonist
  - 128 Hold up
  - 129 Pilsner
  - 130 Seraglio
- DOWN**
- 37 Self-government, in India
  - 38 Llama kin
  - 39 86 Across or 9 Down
  - 41 "Swanee" singer
  - 42 Corral feature
  - 45 Assent at sea
  - 48 "O Sole \_"
  - 50 VIP
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  - 109 Tibetan monk
  - 110 Dash
  - 112 Tulsa's st.
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  - 120 Bunyan's whacker
  - 121 Triangular sail
  - 122 Actress Farrow



Answer Page 6

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** Where can I go to find general information about Medicare benefits?

**A:** Social Security determines whether people are entitled to Medicare benefits, but the program is administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). You can visit the Medicare website at [www.medicare.gov/](http://www.medicare.gov/), or call them at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Online or on the phone, you can find answers to all your Medicare questions at CMS.

**Q:** My son has been disabled since he was little. Now that he's an adult, can he get Social Security, even though he never worked?

**A:** If your son was disabled before reaching age 22 and is currently not

able to work due to a disability, he may be eligible for Social Security disabled adult child benefits. Disabled adult child benefits are paid based on a retired, disabled or deceased parent's or stepparent's record, and in some instances are based on the record of a grandparent or step-grandparent. To learn more about disabled adult child benefits, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dacpage.shtml](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dacpage.shtml) or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Q:** I've always heard that Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is for blind and disabled people. I'm neither, but I'm retiring in a few months and my Social Security isn't enough to pay the bills. Can I get SSI?

**A:** SSI is a needs-based program. If

you have limited income and resources, you might qualify for SSI. To be eligible, you must either be blind, disabled OR age 65 or older. SSI is not only for people with disabilities. To learn more, and to find out whether you're eligible and how to apply, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). You also may call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Q:** I have both Part B and Part D Medicare coverage. What if my monthly Social Security benefit isn't enough to cover multiple premiums at one time?

**A:** If your monthly Social Security benefit isn't enough to cover multiple premium payments at one time, the premiums won't be deducted. Your plan will bill you directly and you can pay them directly. You also can arrange with your plan for the premiums to be automatically withdrawn from your checking or saving bank

account. It appears you might be eligible for extra help with your prescription cost. Contact your local Social Security Office or visit our website [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) for more information.

**Q:** I'm getting married later this month and plan to change my name. What documents do I need to apply for a new Social Security card with the correct name?

**A:** To change your name in Social Security's records, and on your Social Security card, you'll need to provide proof of your U.S. citizenship (if you have not previously established it with us) or immigration status. You'll need to show us evidence of your legal name change by showing us documentation of your old and

new names. Such documents could include a court order for a name change, marriage document, divorce decree or Certificate of Naturalization. Finally, you'll need to show us proof of identity. Visit our website about your Social Security card and number at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/) where you can get more information and fill out your application. Or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://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.

# To Advertise Call 852-3235

## CORRECTED NOTICE NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

### 2007 Property Tax Rates in Town of Horizon City

This notice concerns 2007 property tax rates for the **Town of Horizon City**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

#### Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$1,144,736
Last year's debt taxes	120,324
Last year's total taxes	1,265,060
Last year's tax base	408,083,871
Last year's total tax rate	0.310000/\$100

#### This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$1,264,352
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	414,621,391
=This year's effective tax rate	0.304941/\$100

#### This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$1,144,096
+This year's adjusted tax base	414,621,391
=This year's effective operating rate	0.275938/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.298013/\$100
+This year's debt rate	0.023054/\$100
-This year's rollback rate	0.321067/\$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate	0.070794/\$100
=This year's total rollback rate	0.250273/\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)

#### Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Horizon City** adopts a 2007 tax rate equal to the rollback rate of **\$0.250273** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2006 taxes by **\$35,391**.

#### SCHEDULE A — Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$1,857,895
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

#### SCHEDULE B — 2007 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Ford Motor Credit	\$24,820	\$3,147	\$-0-	\$27,967
SIB Loan (Paving)	27,096	7,189	-0-	34,285
Gov't. Cap. (Vehicle)	4,879	703	-0-	5,582
Bond Service	20,000	29,032	-0-	49,032
Paving Equipment	2,558	368	-0-	2,926

Total required for 2007 debt service	\$119,792
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2007	119,792
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2007	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	\$119,792

#### SCHEDULE C: Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax

In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$367,851 in additional sales and use tax revenues.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval

Title: Tax Assessor/Collector

Date prepared: October 23, 2007

## Briefs

### From Page 1

computer lab, and four additional classrooms. AMS serves about 650 students in grades sixth through eighth. AMS Principal is Annette Brigham. Architect for the new addition was Wright & Dalbin Architects. Contractor for the project was VEMAC Construction Company.

## The Blues

The El Paso Public Library invites all fans of Blues music to a free breakfast of food for the body as well as the soul on Saturday, November 3 at 10 AM at the Main Library. Musical guest, Pat Chase AKA, Guitar Slim, will perform popular blues tunes while guests enjoy a fantastic Southwestern style breakfast. For more information call 543-5466.

## Cell phones wanted

San Eli High School wants to stop cell phones from ending up in landfills. Millions of cell phones go out of service annually and end up as waste dumped into our landfills. By recycling your used cell phones you can help protect the environment. San Elizario High School Student Council is accepting old cell phones for recycling. Just drop off your old phones at the campus. The more phones collected, the better it is for the environment. The San Elizario High School Student Council will also recycle all types of ink and toner cartridges for printers. For more information please contact Cookie Laffler, San Elizario High School Student Activities Manager, at (915) 872-3970 ext. 3711 or by e-mail at [laffler@seisd.net](mailto:laffler@seisd.net).

## Blood drive

Tornillo High School Student Council held a blood drive on Oct. 12, in coordination with United Blood Drive Services of El Paso. Many Tornillo High School students as well as teachers, staff, parents, and community members participated in the event. This was the first Blood Drive Student Council had this year. There would be another blood drive next semester. According to United Blood Services, Tornillo High School donated 58 units. This figure is the highest for the past three years. Mr. Jose Luis Silva, Student Council Sponsor said "For being the first blood drive, it was very successful and I would like to thank all those who participate in this important event." He commented that he hopes to see more people participate in the next blood drive.

## Wanted

Crime Stoppers of El Paso Inc., is assisting the Sheriff's Office by naming a particularly aggressive aggravated robbery as the "Crime of the Week." On Thursday night, Sept. 6, about 10:00 p.m., El Paso County Sheriff's office responded to a dispatch call reference an aggravated robbery in progress at the Piggy Bank grocery store at 280 La Union Street in Canutillo. When deputies arrived they attempted to locate the two unidentified robbers, but were unable to track them down. So the case was turned over to detectives from the Criminal Investigation Division. Their preliminary investigation determined that two male suspects entered the store wearing masks and demanded money, threatening the employees with a bat. The employees immediately took necessary safety precautions and summoned help. Meanwhile, the suspects went behind the counter and took various items. Suspect one is a male in his late teens or early twenties, 5-foot 9-inches tall, medium build, with his face partially covered by a mask. He was wearing blue jeans, black t-shirt, and dark tennis shoes. Suspect two is also a male in his late teens or early twenties, 5-foot 10-inches tall, medium build, and wearing a black mask that completely covered his head. He wore what appeared to be two t-shirts, black on top and white underneath, with black pants. "We were able to pick up some usable evidence at the scene and have been aggressively pursuing this case. We think the public can help us identify one of our suspects. They were very aggressive in their actions and need to be caught," said Sergeant Jim Belknap, El Paso County Sheriff's Office. Individuals with any information about this case should call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will be anonymous and may earn a cash reward if their tip leads to an arrest.

