



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Vaccines

El Paso Health District Neighborhood Health Centers are now offering the following adult vaccines, for persons 19 years of age and older, at a very low fee of \$10 dollars for one vaccination and \$20 dollars for two or more vaccinations:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus-HPV (for women 19 years old to 26 years old)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella- MMR
- Meningococcal Conjugate
- Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (for persons 65 years old and older)
- Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis-TDAP
- Varicella-Chicken Pox
- Zoster Vaccine-Shingles (for persons 60 years old and older)

Call the Health Center nearest you for an appointment. Walk-ins are accepted. Clinic locations are:

- Ysleta Health Center, 110 Candelaria, 859-7141;
- Northeast Health Center, 5587 Transmountain, 755-3775;
- Canutillo Health Center, 300 Farm Rd., 877-3164;
- Henderson Health Center, 721 S. Mesa, 534-2533;
- Tigua Health Center, 7862 San Jose Rd., 591-2050; and
- Westside Health Center, 5195 Mace, 833-0493.

For more information, please call 771-5740 or 771-5822.

### \$10 challenge

The Animal Cruelty Heartline of El Paso (ACHE), a 501(c) non-profit organization, is asking the community to join them in a \$10 Challenge. The money will be used to rescue abused and neglected animals and continue to provide education to the community about animal cruelty. Their goal is to find at least 5,000 people that will donate \$10. People can make a donation by going to their website — [www.acheonline.org](http://www.acheonline.org) — and make a PayPal donation or can make a check to “ACHE \$10 Challenge” and send it to ACHE \$10 Challenge, P.O. Box 220109, El Paso, Texas 79913. All donations are tax-deductible and people will receive a donation letter.

### In other news

■ The Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Veny Webb, in Horizon City will hold a pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 18. The dinner includes turkey, ham and all the trimmings. The cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and under. For information call 852-0062 — please leave your name and number.

■ American Legion Post 598 at 13000 Horizon Blvd is hosting 120 troops from Fort Bliss on Thanksgiving Day. Troops

See BRIEFS, Page 6

*Laughter is the sweetest music that ever greeted the human ear.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Three from Socorro ISD receive counseling awards

By Irma Flores  
Special to the Courier

Socorro ISD personnel received three awards from the Texas School Counselor Association. The Director of SISD’s Guidance and Counseling Department Hilda Lopez has been named Counselor Supervisor of the Year, El Dorado Principal Nora Paugh has been named Counselor Advocate of the Year and Ernesto Serna School counselor Tammi Mackaben has been named the Multi-Level Counselor of the Year. All three were honored at a luncheon at the Annual Professional Growth Conference in Corpus Christi on Nov. 9.



Hilda Lopez

“This is one more example of the outstanding service provided to our students here in Socorro,” said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson. “I’m proud of Tammi and Nora and Hilda and their commitment to our kids. It’s wonderful that the state is recognizing them for it.”

“It’s vital to have counselors who support our students and help them make it to post secondary education,” said Mackaben. “This honor is

not just for me, it’s for all school counselors in Socorro who help our kids to have a better life.”

Paugh agrees, calling counselors a great resource. “Counselors are teachers,” said Paugh. “They give lessons and help our students in so many ways. Our kids know they can go to any counselor at any time for any reason. Counselors have a positive impact on the entire school.”

“Counselors help students academically, socially, personally and in so many other ways,” said Lopez. “When kids are in crisis, a counselor is there. When kids need help to guide them in their future college careers, a counselor is there. Each step of the way, counselors are there for our students.”

“I congratulate all three of these women on receiving these honors,” said Charles E. Garcia, SISD Board President. “It’s no surprise to me that Socorro employees keep winning awards like these. I have seen how hard they work.”



Nora Paugh



Tammi Mackaben

## Only one of three small school districts backed by voters

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — A baseball batting average of .333 is considered good, a hit for every three times at bat.

From the baseball field to the field of education, the batting average was the same for three area school districts in elections held Nov. 6.

Tornillo, Canutillo and Fabens ISDs went to the “plate” to get voter approval for special projects requiring new funding in their districts. Tornillo ISD got a big hit while Canutillo and Fabens went down swinging.

A breakdown by school district.

### Tornillo ISD

“I am incredibly proud of the community,” a grateful superintendent, Paul Vranish, says this week. “Our town stepped forward (to support us). We feel a tremendous amount of gratitude,” Vranish adds. “There is a burning desire to hug every member of the community.”

Vranish reaffirms that the money approved by a margin of 98 to 65 (60-40 percent) by Tornillo voters in the rollback election will go to raise employee salaries. There are 178 employees in the district, and the superintendent says each one will see a bigger paycheck this month.

He said he has begun the process of meeting with all of the employees to explain the “nuts and bolts” of the increase.

### Canutillo ISD

Disappointment is the operative word in Canutillo where voters rejected the school district’s request for additional funding for new facilities and staffing to meet the needs of a burgeoning student population.

Nearly 1,000 went to the polls in Canutillo where voters historically have given green lights for multi-million dollar school bond issues for new campuses to include the new Canutillo High School. However, 57 percent (564) said no. The remaining 43 percent (417) supported the projects.

“We were disappointed that we were unable to make our case,” says Pauline Dow, associate superintendent for CISD. “This is a big blow. We did our best to explain it to the voters,” she adds, noting that 24 presentations were made throughout the district prior to the election.

“We left \$4 million on the table in Austin,” she adds, speaking of the money the district would have collected from the state next year if the rollback election had passed.

Dow explains that the administration is poring over budgets with a financial fine-toothed comb to cut expenses and “initiate” even more savings. “We are very carefully monitoring our spending.”

The district is looking for an additional \$1.2 million which would go for salaries, books and other resource materials.

“Salary increases for the 2008-09 year are in jeopardy,” Dow says.

### Fabens ISD

Like in Canutillo, Fabens voters said no — in this case to a \$9 million bond issue which would have brought renovations to O’Donnell Elementary School plus adding a new gym to a new elementary school.

“We are disappointed,” says Superintendent Pablo Garcia.

“We need to analyze what happened.” He

See DISTRICTS, Page 8

## Six Socorro ISD students named as National Hispanic Scholars

By Irma Flores  
Special to the Courier

Six seniors from El Dorado, Montwood and Socorro high schools were recognized by the College Board’s National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP). Theresa Juarez and Sonya Propps from El Dorado, Cesar Leyva from Montwood and Lorena Garcia, Daniel Alex Gurany, and Javier Stell-Fresquez from Socorro were named as scholars based on their PSAT/NMSQT scores.

“I’m honored to have scored that high and I’m proud to be representing my ethnicity in a positive way and my school,” says Theresa Juarez who is on the school’s volleyball and basketball teams as well as a member of National Honor Society (NHS), Student Council, and UIL-Math and Number Sense.

Her classmate Sonya Propps said “I was surprised. This is more than I expected of myself.”

Cesar Leyva is a member of the Mayor’s 100 Teens program and is serving as State Director for the Texas State Energy Board. Leyva is also a member of the National Honor Society and on the Senior Class committee at Montwood High School.

Socorro High School seniors Lorena Garcia, Daniel Alex Gurany and Javier Stell-Fresquez plan on using this recognition to pursue their college goals.

“Hopefully I’ll get into Brown University’s Liberal Medical Education Program and after I finish my bachelor’s degree I can get into medical school,” says Garcia who is in the school’s band, and a member of the NHS, COSMOS, Key Club and Theater. Garcia is also a volunteer with the Southwest Transplant Alliance.

Stell-Fresquez is planning on studying environmental science at Stanford University. He’s won at the state science fair for the past two years and a member of the NHS. Stell-Fresquez, who’s studied Flamenco and Folklorico for 13 years, is a member of Danzas Espanolas, a professional dance company. Gurany is setting his sights on MIT where he will study computer science. Gurany has been on the school’s High Q and Academic Decathlon for four years and has competed in UIL Math and Number Sense categories.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program, established in 1983, is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for postsecondary institutions. This year the NHRP identified 4,000 of the highest scoring students from a nationwide total of 196,000 Hispanic high school juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT. Being listed may give students an opportunity to be recruited by colleges that are particularly interested in communicating with prospective students of Hispanic heritage.



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# Ultimate survivors

He was feeling under the weather, with chills and fever. He was missing work because of it, something he couldn't afford to do. He didn't call the doctor. He called a friend.

The friend had some leftover antibiotics from a prescription given by his doctor earlier in the cold and flu season. The friend had taken a few of the pills but when she started feeling better, she put the rest in the medicine cabinet.

His friend gave him some of the pills. He took them and begin to feel better, too. A few weeks later, though, the infection was back, with a vengeance. This time it took a doctor, an extended treatment of heavy-duty medication and several weeks of downtime to get over it.

I don't know if he learned anything, though.

People are just that way. We do whatever is quickest, easiest, cheapest and most expedient.

We're in a world of hurt because of it.

We're living in a world increasingly infested with what scientists

have termed "super-bugs," bacteria that are resistant to the medicines that used to get rid of them.

It's impossible to tell from historical evidence exactly how much the ancient Chinese, Egyptians or Greeks understood about the healing properties of the molds and plants they used to treat infections — we know now that these substances contain antibiotic properties.

Ernest Duchesnes defined the antibiotic properties of something called Penicillium sp. back in 1897 but he didn't get much notice. The extraordinary power and potential of antibiotics didn't really burst onto the scene until Alexander Fleming picked up where Duchesnes left off in 1928 and the rest is history.

We had found our magic bullet. It had few side effects and it stopped infections that used to end people's lives. We had entered the brave new world of medical science that could end all disease. We relaxed.

Hardly had the need for sanitation, personal hygiene and personal responsibility for one's own health become standard than we found a way to get around all that.



Today, our hospitals are the most deadly places on earth. You go there with a relatively minor complaint, you come home damaged almost beyond repair by some horrific infection.

Because, you see, as much as humans want to survive for as long as we can, even more so do the lethal germs and bacteria that threaten our well-being.

They are survivors, too. Just like agricultural pests have developed resistance to pesticides, so are the microscopic pests that infest our bodies becoming inured to the medicines we ingest to exterminate them.

Unfortunately, though, it's the way we use these medicines that is helping them develop this resistance.

Like vaccines, which give you a little of a disease to help you develop resistance to it, antibiotics have been used in a fashion that has actually helped the infectious germ develop resistance.

Too often, we've taken just enough of our prescribed dosage to feel better — and it has been just enough to inoculate various bacte-

ria against the cure.

In the 1940s and 50s, staph infections could be successfully treated with penicillin. Nowadays, almost all strains of that infection are effectively resistant, leaving only a narrow selection of drugs that are actually useful to treat it.

It is unfortunate that the medical community has used antibiotics improperly as well, prescribing them too quickly, too often, for illnesses that can't be stopped by them or for those that the human body will naturally fight off given proper rest and nutrition.

It also translates back to our culture — we can't afford to miss work, so we take drugs. Our kids can't stay home from school for more than three days without the penalty of a visit to the doctor — who will frequently prescribe antibiotics just to make mom and teacher feel better — even though everybody knows that the cure for the common cold is usually about five to seven days of rest and plenty of liquids.

We stopped requiring students at school to wash their hands, or use a

tissue to blow their noses, or cover their mouths when they sneeze. Teaching manners was too much trouble. We stopped using quarantine when we or our family members are sick. It was too inconvenient. We stopped trying to keep ourselves healthy by eating our fruits and vegetables. Why bother? If we get sick, we'll take something.

In our hospitals, daycares and nursing homes, where dwell the most vulnerable of our community, live the most deadly infectious bacteria. And now, according to a recent federal study, those super-bugs are expanding into the community so that as many of us die annually from staph infections as from another arch menace, the AIDS virus.

We want to survive, right enough, but we don't want to work at it.

We know what to do, we just don't want to do it.

Germs, on the other hand, are not subject to the human proclivities of laziness, apathy, carelessness or stupidity.

That's what makes them the ultimate survivors.

Open 7AM - 8PM Daily

## SHUR-SAV SUPERMARKETS

Low Prices and Daily Specials

1330 Fabens St. • Fabens, TX • 764-2215 or 851-3149

"Family Owned and Operated"

TEXAS LOTTERY WESTERN UNION

1973  
34  
YEARS  
2007

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CASITILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

**PUBLISHED:**  
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

**COPYRIGHT:**  
Entire contents © 2007 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**  
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.

**AD DEADLINE:**  
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

**CLASSIFIED RATES**  
\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

**DISPLAY RATES:**  
Open rate — \$20 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

**MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**  
52 issues for \$35. Delivery via 1st class mail.

**OFFICE:** 14200 Ashford  
**MAIL:** 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235  
Fax: 852-0123  
E-mail: [wtxcc@wtccourier.com](mailto:wtxcc@wtccourier.com)  
Website: [wtccourier.com](http://wtccourier.com)

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum

**Business Manager**  
Francis D. Shrum

**Contributors**  
Don Woodyard  
Steve Escajeda  
Arleen Beard • Jan Engels

**Homesteader News, Inc.**  
Est. 1973



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

# November is National Diabetes Awareness Month

According to the El Paso Diabetes Association, a staggering 85,000 El Pasoans have been diagnosed with diabetes. Similarly, across the country, over 20.8 million Americans — seven percent of the population — have diabetes. These overwhelming numbers reflect that diabetes is a disease to be taken extremely seriously, especially since recent data also reflects that many Americans are currently unaware that they are even living with diabetes. In accordance with National Diabetes Awareness Month and World Diabetes Day, I urge all of us to take the time this November to educate ourselves about this critical health issue.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin. Typically those suffering from it are diagnosed with either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. Here in El Paso, over 90 percent of people suffer from Type 2 diabetes, which is commonly referred to as "adult-onset diabetes," but has now become

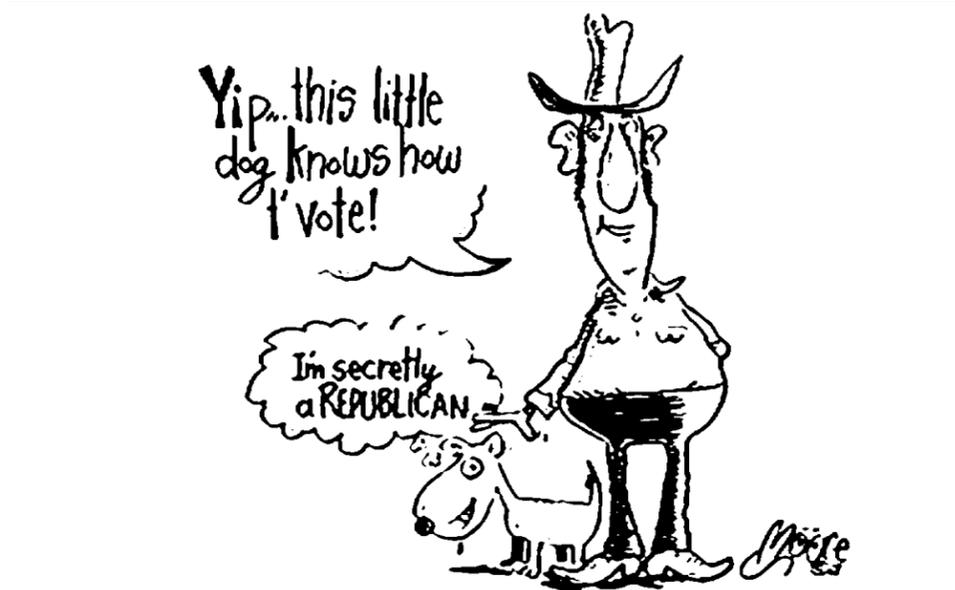
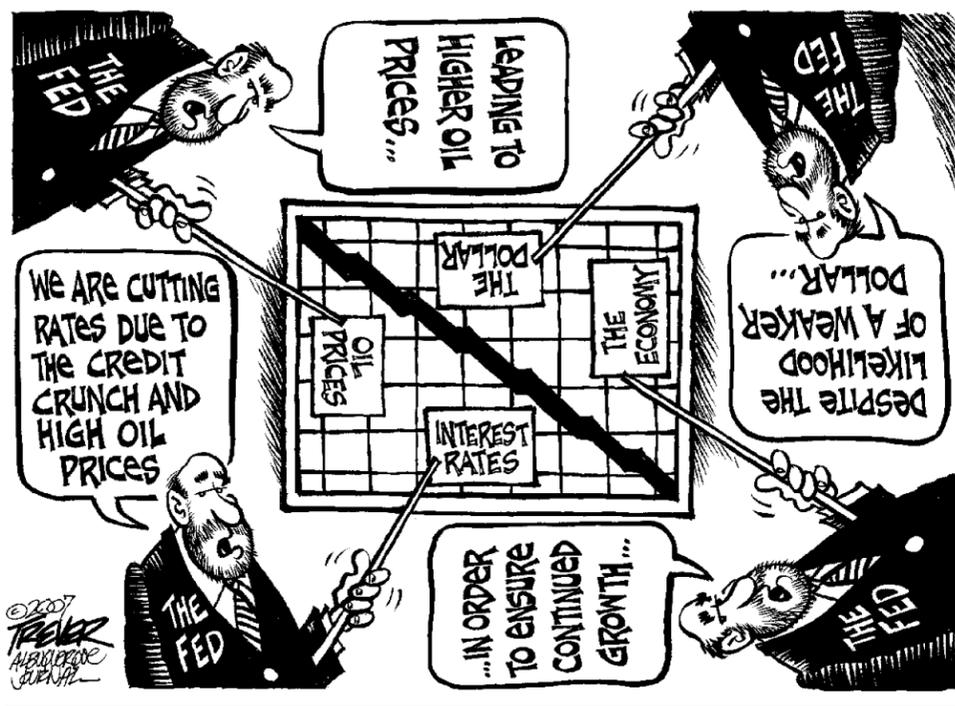
astonishingly prevalent among thousands of children in our community. This dramatic change is closely tied to the increasingly sedentary lifestyle and poor dietary habits our youth have begun to develop. The El Paso Diabetes Association has estimated that 17 percent of El Paso's elementary children and 22 percent of our middle school children are overweight. This information is startling, and I have vowed to continue to help educate our children about the importance of a healthy diet and proper exercise.

There is strong data to indicate that our children are not the only ones at a heightened risk of developing diabetes. According to a recent study released by the Center for Disease Control, Hispanics are twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than non-Hispanics. Though the high rate of obesity plays a significant role in the prevalence of diabetes in the Hispanic community, genetic factors are also responsible. Hispanics with relatives suffering from diabetes are twice as likely to develop the

disease than those with no family history. Given these troubling facts, it is clear that a significant portion of our community must take the preventative measures necessary to reduce their chances of developing this disease.

As a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, I have joined my colleagues in the cosponsorship of several bills to prevent and cure diabetes and to promote and improve the care of individuals with this disease. One of these bills, the Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2007, would specifically focus on addressing the diabetes rate among minorities. This bill would examine the clinical, environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural factors that may contribute to high levels of diabetes in minority populations.

This month, we should all make an effort to educate ourselves about diabetes and improving our health. Together, we can work towards reducing the incidence of diabetes among El Pasoans, and make our community a healthier place overall.



**Moore Texas** by Roger T. Moore Nov. 11, 1885: Fisher became the 1st town in Fisher County. However, Roby later won a vote to become the County seat. One of the "voters" was BILL PURP, a Roby residents dog!

**View from here** By David Guenther

*Flip the switch on electric rates*

Many Texans are frustrated with higher electric rates following the spike in natural gas prices over the last few years.

But despite the complaints, most Texas consumers hold plenty of sway regarding the prices they pay for electricity.

When your cable TV bill gets too high, you can switch to satellite providers. Home telephone too expensive? Go with voice-over-Internet protocol. Don't like your cellular service? The kiosk at the mall will give you a free camera phone if you'll switch. We routinely comparison shop for cars, for groceries, for clothes, for insurance — why not shop for electricity?

In fact, we can. For the last three years, about 80 percent of Texas residential customers have had the option to change their electric provider based on lower rates, stable billing, or good service. Yet there are still those who want to blame today's prices on deregulation and big business.

Perhaps an example will be instructive on this point.

For my first several years in Austin, my apartment rents rose about 10 percent a year. The tech boom brought tons of people to the area, occupancy rates ran in the 98-99 percent range, and home prices were escalating. Although it may have been a "sellers market," there was certainly no shortage of buyers.

But in 2000, the dot.com bubble burst. By the following year, the definition of B2C changed from "Business 2 Commerce" to "Back 2 Cleveland." Customers disappeared in droves. Apartment developers were bringing new developments online but couldn't find any renters. In my current neighborhood, these new communities were offering three free months on a 12-month lease just to get people in the door.

By contrast, my apartment complex proposed a five percent rent increase when my renewal came up. I looked at the rental landscape, saw that home prices and mortgage rates had dropped to a range I could justify, and de-

cidated that I would buy a house instead.

In the month after I turned in my notice, there was a moving truck in front of a different building every day, taking former neighbors out and not bringing anyone in. It wasn't long before the complex looked like a ghost town.

But a couple of months later, the complex was advertising free-rent promotions similar to what their competitors had used to lure away their residents. The rents for that complex remain lower today than they were five years ago.

The moral of the story is that while businesses want to keep their profits high, in a free market they are powerless to do so unless they have the cooperation of consumers.

There has been much hand wringing about what would happen when the last vestige of rate regulation — the "price to beat" — disappeared on Jan. 1. We are already starting to see the answer: more companies are offering lower rates in response to consumer demand.

According to the Public Utility Commission's PowerToChoose.com website, there are now electric companies serving my neighborhood that offer rates one-third below the former "price to beat." I just switched my electric provider for the third time because the company I had been with no longer offers a competitive rate.

Of course, many consumers value factors like reliability, service and price stability over low prices, and are willing to pay more to get them. Competent retailers will in turn offer products suited for these customers. We shouldn't berate companies for meeting consumer demand.

Instead of asking the PUC to re-regulate the electric industry, why not have it deregulate those areas where customers still don't have choices? The key to lower electric prices is more competition, not more regulation.

*David Guenther is the Director of Media and Government Relations for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin.*

**Probationers collect turkeys as part of community service**

By Guadalupe Silva  
Special to the Courier

Probationers encouraged to run a fowl. For El Pasoans on probation that's a trade off made in a dream world — a turkey for hours of community service.

The West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department, (Adult Probation) has kicked off its 2007 Turkey Drive to help some of El Paso's neediest families enjoy a Thanksgiving meal in their own home surrounded by family.

The Turkey Drive consists of asking some probationers to trade off 10 hours of their community service for a 15-pound turkey. They can take the turkey and a receipt that proves they bought it to the Adult Probation's Community Service Center at 1015 N. Campbell.

"We try as much as possible to get people on probation involved in the community, to make them feel that despite having made a

mistake they are still part of the El Paso family," said Stephen L. Enders, WTCCSD Director. "By donating their money, time and effort to helping those in need, they not only get to raise their self-esteem but they also get a sense of belonging. To many of them, that in itself is worth their participation in the program."

Last year more than 1,100 turkeys were collected through the Adult Probation Turkey Drive. The hope for this year is to reach a total of 1,500 turkeys. The frozen fowl will be distributed throughout the community's non-profit organizations, schools and churches.

Agencies who help families participate in our traditional holidays and do not have enough turkeys to go around can call the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department Community Service Section at 771-8509. In exchange they need to remind their recipients to have a kind thought for probationers struggling to improve their lives.

For more information call Sonia E. Islas at 771-8510.

**To Advertise  
Call 852-3235  
www.wtccourier.com**

# MY SOCIAL SECURITY # IS 457-55-5462

I'm Todd Davis, CEO of LifeLock, and this really is my social security number.\* I'm here just to prove how safe your identity can be with LifeLock. All of us, no matter how careful, can become victims of identity theft. In fact, every three seconds another identity is stolen.

Do you ever worry about identity theft? If so, it's time you got to know LifeLock. We work to stop identity theft before it happens. We're so confident, we back our clients with a \$1 million dollar guarantee. If for any reason you fall victim to identity theft, we will spend up to \$1 million to hire the finest professionals to repair the damage and restore your good name. Period.

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.

**Here's what LifeLock offers you:**

- Proactive Identity Theft Protection
  - Reduced Junk Mail
  - Reduced Credit Card Offers
  - \$1 Million Guarantee
  - Comprehensive Programs to Protect Your Employees
- Call for details

**30 DAYS FREE**

Call Today  
**888-215-1424**



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



## Canutillo meeting to address traffic congestion

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Independent School District will host a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the needs of the Canutillo community regarding traffic congestion and safety issue along Transmountain/Talbot Road, at 6 p.m., Monday, Nov. 19, at the Canutillo High School (6675 South Desert Boulevard).

El Paso city, county, and state representatives, as well as Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) officials will participate in the discussion. Facilitating the meeting will be State Senator Eliot Shapleigh. Also expected to attend are representatives from Congressman Silvestre

Reyesí Office and El Paso Community College (EPCC).

"The town hall meeting is an attempt to engage stakeholders in a collaborative spirit to get questions, concerns, and possible solutions out on the table so that we can plan a coordinated strategy," stated Pauline Dow, CISD associate superintendent.

Of particular interest is the proposed Loop 375 Spur that will run behind EPCC Northwest Campus and Canutillo High School to connect Transmountain Road with Doniphan Drive including the extension of Rubalcava Boulevard, which runs between CHS and EPCC Northwest campuses.

The public is urged to attend this important meeting. For more information call 877-7476.

## Pepperoni's Pizza & Deli

852-2544  
Limited Delivery Area

Chinese Food  
Burgers & Subs



- Master Licensed Plumber #M18624
- Bonded and Insured
- Senior Citizens Discount
- Sewer and Drain Cleaning
- Faucet and Sprinkler Repair
- Appliance Installation
- Evaporative Cooler Service

**Horizon Plumbing**  
852-1079

## Public Notice Town of Horizon City, Texas

During the Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, the Town City Council approved the following ordinance:

Ordinance No. 0163 — Adopting a budget for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2007 and ending September 30, 2008 for the Town of Horizon City, Texas.

### Balance Budget Recap for FYE 09/30/2008

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,548,018</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	
Administration	407,915
Community Service	140,000
Public Works	356,617
Streets	71,965
Parks	140,156
Public Safety	851,759
Municipal Court	142,486
Planning	74,329
Capital Improvement	313,759
<b>Sub-total General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 2,498,986</b>
<b>Debt Service Fund</b>	
Debt Service	49,032
<b>Sub-total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 49,032</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,548,018</b>

A complete copy of the proposed budget is available at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas 79928.

Karen Ellefson  
City Clerk

**To Advertise  
Call 852-3235  
www.wtccourier.com**



— Photo by Jan Engels

**FLOATING BY** — This is just one of the many elaborately decorated floats that contestants rode on during the parade. Spectators line up along the streets to get a better view.

## I was there Cartagena beauty pageant was spectacular

By Jan Engels  
Special to the Courier

I was there... in Cartagena, Colombia... for the Miss Colombia Beauty Pageant held Nov. 7 to 11, 2007. The winner will go on to the Miss Universe contest to be held in May 2008.

Cartagena, one of the most beautiful and incomparable cities in South America and nicknamed "The Walled City" because of the thick wall that surrounds it, lives up to its name.

The majority of the weeklong festivities that led up to the crowning of Miss Colombia took place within the walls and called the Old City (Las Murallas).

Two of the activities that were so interesting and fun to attend were the parade/carnival and the White Party. The parade on Thursday, Nov. 8 was held along the beachfront street Malecon facing the Caribbean Sea. A great birds eye view of it was seen from Café del Mar, an upscale bar and restaurant situated on the top of the wall of the Old City. Our gracious host, Carlos Sanchez, was very accommodating and gave us the best seats (stone) in the house to view the parade. The floats were very colorful and striking. Each of the 25 queen contestants had their own floats and their own entourage following them. The sidewalks were filled with many of the 1.2 million inhabitants of Cartagena. The clear crowd favorites were Miss Bogotá, Miss Magdalena and Miss Cartagena. Aguila, not Budweiser was "the king of beers" in Colombia and a major sponsor of the many speculator floats.

The second activity that was so entertaining was the White Party. This was a party given by the host Hotel Sofitel Santa Clara, which was once a cathedral and convent built in 1755. The invitation-only-party was held on the wall — literally — and

all the invited guests wore white. It was stunning to see the beautiful and original versions of white outfits that the more than 600 guests wore. This writer never saw any two outfits alike. The food was scrumptious! Prepared by Master Chef Simon Karl Buhler. Seafood, seafood and more seafood prepared exotically as only

a master chef of culinary reputation can prepare it. And the melt-in-your-mouth delicacies of coconut, caramel and blends of culture food was served by Palenqueras. These colorfully garbed Caribbean women carrying fruit on their heads, added to the wonders of the evening. What a balancing act! The balmy breeze from

the ocean and the tropical temperature of 75 degrees made the night even more unforgettable.

The crowning of Miss Colombia — Maria Cristina Diaz Granados — of Bogotá coincided with Cartagena del Indias' Independence, which took place on Nov. 11, 1811.

The trip to Cartagena del Indias

was truly an incredible time to remember.

*Jan Engels is a frequent contributor to the Courier. She has covered the Democratic National Convention, the Superbowl and major professional fights from her distinctly enthusiastic point of view.*

# ORANGE FEVER CATCH IT

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

**UTEP vs. Texas Southern**  
Sunday, November 18, 2007 @ 4 pm

UTEP Memorabilia Rummage Sale  
Old Warm-Ups, Uniforms, Stools etc.  
East Entrance 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm

Bring a Canned Good and receive a chance to win a Thanksgiving Dinner. One entry form for each canned good received.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**UTEP vs. Texas Corpus Christi A&M**  
Thursday, November 15, 2007 @ 7:05 pm

"Family Night" - Four family packs available includes tickets, drinks and hot dogs \$20-\$40 Post-game Autograph Session

[myspace.com/utepwbball](http://myspace.com/utepwbball)  
Text "wbk" to 72556 for updates

**EUSA**  
For more info call 747-5234

# Gillispie's Wildcats get whipped by... Gardner Webb

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Welcome to the world of big, big, big time college basketball Billy Gillispie.

You all remember Billy Gillispie. He used to coach a certain college basketball team in a certain southwestern town. That's right — it's the same Gillispie that turned the Miners into winners again. And then he bolted as soon as he saw the number of zeros on his next contract.

Yeah, it's the same Gillispie that turned Texas

A&M into winners and then bolted once he saw even more zeros on his next contract.

Now Gillispie is at what is probably considered the top basketball program in the country — Kentucky.

The same Kentucky that has won seven NCAA Tournament championships. The same Kentucky that the Miners whipped in the 1966 title game. And it's the same Kentucky that will not tolerate losing.

But what did the Gillispie-led Kentucky Wildcats do when they took on little Gardner Webb in just his second game as the coach?

They got pounded 84-68.

How does Kentucky, even with me coaching them, lose to Gardner Webb? What is a Gardner Webb? Sounds like one of those low priced law firms.

"If you find yourself drowning under a sea of traffic tickets, call the Gardner Webb law firm, we're the tough guys."

Anyway, I checked it out and Gardner Webb is a college of some kind. What's worse, the Websters are not considered one of those great small college teams that can reach up and bite a big guy if they're not ready. Gardner Webb was 9-21 last season.

So what does this embarrassing loss mean for our old friend, Mr. Gillispie? The first thing it means is that mighty Kentucky has fallen from the Top-25 rankings, where they've spent much of their time the last 50 years.

There has got to be some rumblings going on right now in Lexington about Gillispie, who was not the team's first or second choice for head coach.

Getting creamed by such an inconspicuous college basketball team raises a lot of red flags concerning the former Miner coach. No doubt, the guy has done a great job in Texas but being at an elite school with all the eyes of the nation upon you is not so easy.

And everything has come easy to Gillispie... until now.

## Boston's back

The world of professional sports needs its super franchises to survive. Imagine what Major League Baseball would be like if you didn't have the New York Yankees to love, or hate.

We need teams we can identify with. We need for the Los Angeles Lakers and the Oakland Raiders and the Dallas Cowboys and the

Los Angeles Dodgers and the Montreal Canadians and the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New York Knicks to be viable.

It just makes sense. Whether you love or hate the team, they are icons for their sport.

One such icon has been out of the spotlight for way too long.

From Bob Cousy to K.C Jones to Bill Russell to John Havlichek to Dave Cowans to Jo Jo White to Dennis Johnson to Kevin McHale to Robert Parrish to Larry Bird, the Boston Celtics have always been one of the main faces of the league.

But the Celtics' mystique has taken a bit of a hit over the last 20 years.

That could change.

As they should, the Boston Celtics have started the 2007 season like the champions they used to be. Off to a 5-0 start, the Celtics are not only playing like the best team in their division, there's talk about them being the best team in the entire Eastern Conference.

Why are the Celtics suddenly so good. That's easy. The acquisition of former Minnesota Timberwolves star Kevin Garnett, and former Seattle Sonics star Ray Allen have made Boston a team to care about again.

Take those two players and pair them up with Celtics' star Paul Pierce, and the making of an NBA title contender is complete.

All three are averaging over 20 points a game and Garnett is one of the top three rebounders in the league.

How in the world can the NBA be the NBA without the Boston green four-leaf clover being splashed across the screen?

Everything about the Boston Celtics resurgence is great. There couldn't be anything better for the NBA.

Well, I guess one thing could be better — if Red Auerbach were here to see it.

## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

#### LEGAL NOTICE

On October 19, 2007, Open Arms Community of El Paso filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission requesting authority to construct a new non commercial educational FM radio station to serve Horizon City and surrounding areas. The application proposes a Class AFM station operating at 91 meters with ERP: 0 kW(H) 1.18kW(V) from Horizon City. A copy of the application is available for inspection during business hours in the proposed main studio at 8210 N. Loop, El Paso, TX. 79907  
WTCC-11/15/07

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Alianza Para El Desarrollo Comunitario, Inc.**

#### Invitation for Bids

Alianza Para El Desarrollo Comunitario, Inc. is a recipient of TDHCA Contract for Deed with Rehabilitation, contract #1000538. Alianza will receive sealed bids for residential rehabilitation for two (2) residences and for one (1) manufactured home at APDC, 501 Holguin, El Paso, TX, 79927 until:

**Nov. 23, 2007  
4 PM (Local)**

Bid packets are available at APDC starting:

**Nov. 15, 2007  
10 AM - 4 PM  
Mon. to Fri.**

Bidders will be required to leave a \$25 refundable deposit. All submittals must be sealed and received by 4 PM (local time) on Nov. 23, 2007. Submitted envelopes must be marked "CONTRACT FOR DEED/REHAB BID" on the lower left hand side of the

envelope.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled for:

**Nov. 19, 2007  
2 PM**

at 501 Holguin, El Paso, TX, 79927.

Bids will be opened on:

**Nov. 26, 2007  
3 PM**

at 501 Holguin, El Paso, TX, 79927.

The Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. APDC reserves the right to reject any bid or to waive any informality in the bidding. APDC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and an Equal Housing Opportunity Agency.

WTCC: 11-15-07

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - JKAZX4J12AO48115, 2002 Kawasaki Motorcycle, green and black, no license plate. VIN - ILNLM8W8PY703131, 1993 Lincoln Town Car, white, license plate BDN-217 OK. WTXCC-11/15/07

#### COUNSELING SERVICES

**D A M I A N MAUREIRA, 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.

#### DOCUMENT ASSISTANCE

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

#### HELP WANTED

**ELECTRICIAN** Several positions open. Contact J&G Electrical, 512 S. Main St., Roswell, NM. Call (575) 622-0146. EOE.

#### SELF-HELP

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

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

#### STORAGE

##### National Self Storage BRAND NEW UNITS

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

#### SERVICES

**"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR**  
Windshield Repair Specialists  
By appt. at your home or office:  
R.V. Dick Harshberger  
915-203-7005

#### HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

- Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
- Appliance installation
- Many other plumbing services

Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



## CLASSIFIED AD FORM

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

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	(STOP HERE FOR \$5 AD.)
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35

Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:

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

Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



## Briefs

From Page 1

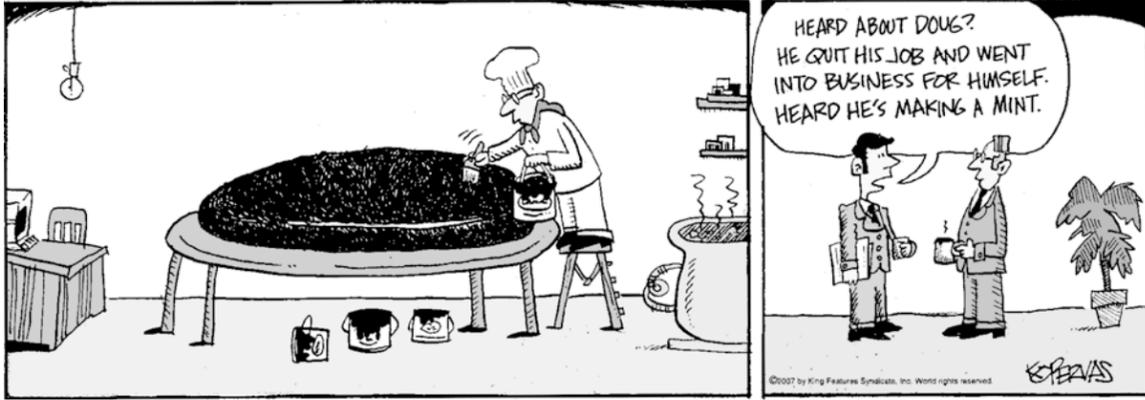
will arrive by bus about 2 p.m. and stay until 8 p.m. and will be given an old fashioned Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings along with entertainment such as darts, pool, shuffleboard, horseshoes and volleyball. If anyone wishes to stop by and thank our finest for keeping us free, you are welcome.

■ This week Crime Stoppers of El Paso Inc is helping the El Paso Community College Police Department locate offenders, who stole a \$5,000 welder from the college, by making this the current "Crime of the Week." On Thursday, Nov. 1, just before 8:00 p.m., an officer with the college observed two men in a pickup exiting a fenced-in greenhouse located on the Valle Verde campus at 919 Hunter Drive. After

answering several questions, the two men in the pickup sped away from the officer and left the campus. Despite pursuit by the officer, and also by a unit from the El Paso Police Department, the suspects managed to escape. An investigation revealed that the men had broken into the greenhouse and stolen a red Lincoln welder that is valued at approximately \$5,000. The suspects are described as Hispanic males. The driver had black hair, and wore a white shirt with a blue zippered sweatshirt. The passenger was described as very heavy-set with a black beard and black hair, wearing a dirty white shirt. The vehicle they were driving was a gold-colored Chevrolet pickup model Z71. The officer was able to get only a partial license plate, with the number "8" as the second digit. 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.

# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



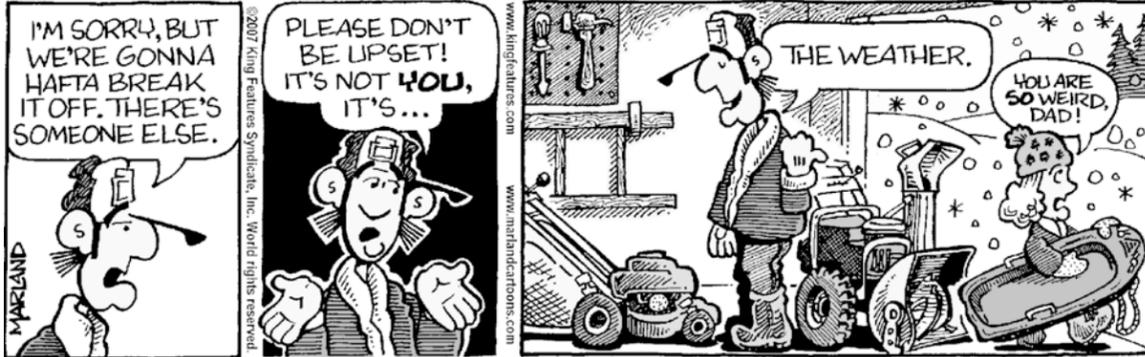
## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# Don't delay Botox treatments

By Don Flood

A recent article revealed that Ashlee Simpson, the very well known celebrity and famous person who is widely recognized for being famous, has begun Botox treatments — at age 23.

The point, presumably, was: Why had she waited so long?

The beginning age for Botox treatments has been dropping faster than Idaho Sen. Larry Craig's friends on Capitol Hill.

Some call this "preventive Botox," the idea being that if you start early enough you can prevent yourself from looking normal later.

Health experts now say that with a regular program of Botox treatments, you can attain, while still in your 30s, the highly coveted "I-can't-sleep-because-I'm-constantly-surprised" look that many aging male action stars fail to achieve until their mid-50s.

You can see where this is heading.

First, a brief history of Botox is in order, mainly because I said so.

Botox, the widely popular beauty treatment, started out as — this is true — "sausage poison," because the first known case of botulism, an often fatal disease that surveys show many people would rather not get, came from improperly prepared sausages.

Later, during World War II, scientists considered Botox for use in biological weapons because — this is also true — it was thought to be "the deadliest substance in the world."

From there, it was short step for Botox to be approved by the FDA for various health and beauty treatments.

(OK, OK, I left out a few steps!)

But the most important step in the history of Botox was the coin-

ing of the term itself — Botox being a far more appealing name than Botulinum Toxin Type A, which is that nasty stuff that kills people. A series of focus groups also determined it was a more appealing name than Sausage Poison.

So the question for parents is: Should my baby get Botox?

Actually, that's poorly phrased. All my readers' children — who are all talented, good-looking and headed toward a HUGE career in the movies — deserve Botox.

What's more, they need Botox now, before they turn into a withered prune face like Ashlee Simpson.

That's right, your child's fresh-faced beauty is fast slipping away. Soon she will begin showing the telltale signs of age. Her skin will become lined and start to sag. Movie producers will begin to overlook her as her luckier contemporaries — those who had parents who actually cared — land the most coveted roles, your daughter too soon consigned to the characters parts doled out to females of a "certain age."

Bitterly, with her youth already a distant memory, she will have no other choice but to go ahead and enter first grade at Loserville Elementary School.

But what if you don't want your child chasing a Hollywood dream?

Botox can still help. One of the side benefits is that you won't have to worry about your children sleeping in class; by middle school it will be difficult for them to close their eyes.

But, still, there's always the chance she could become the next Ashlee Simpson.

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc. dflood287@comcast.net

# King Super Crossword

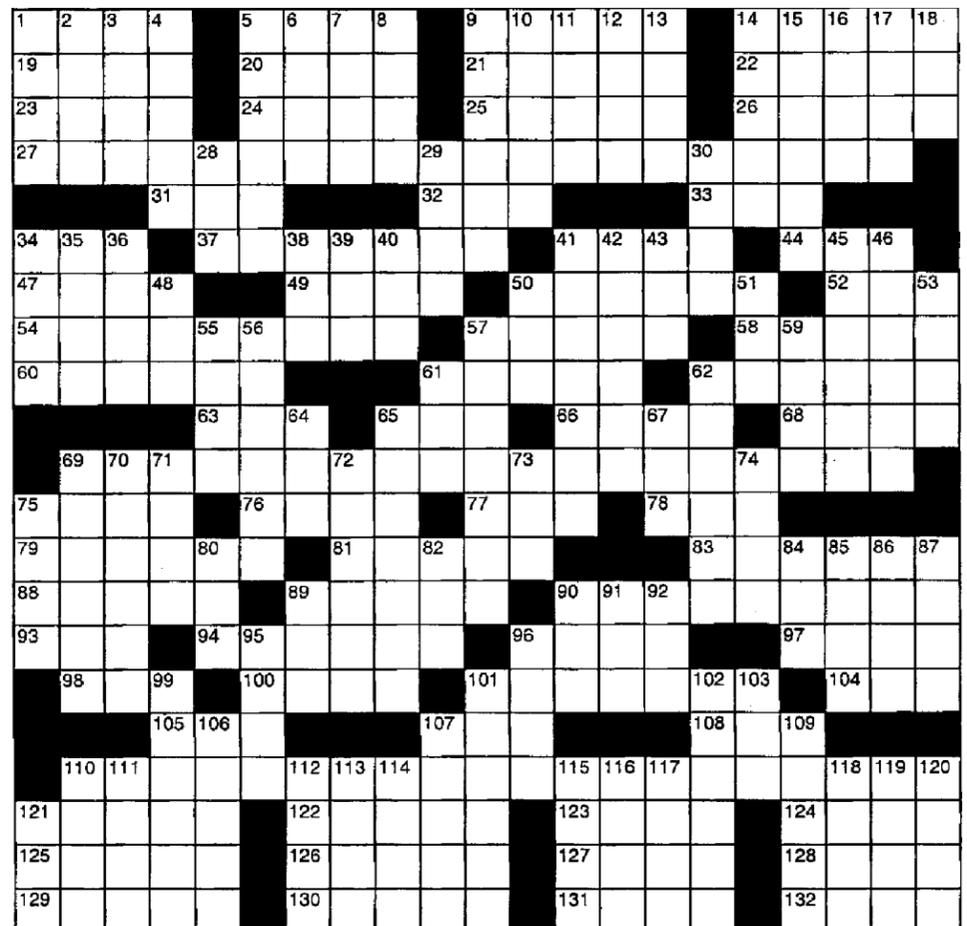
## APRIL DILEMMA

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lump
  - 5 Showed sorrow
  - 9 Anthony of "Boston Public"
  - 14 Jambalaya ingredient
  - 19 Hammett hound
  - 20 Where to find an onager
  - 21 Songwriter
  - Greenwich
  - 22 Spine-tingling
  - 23 Fertile soil
  - 24 Tumble
  - 25 Java joints
  - 26 \_-garde
  - 27 Start of a remark
  - 31 Herriot title start
  - 32 Vigoda or Saperstein
  - 33 Slippery character?
  - 34 Brit. fliers
  - 37 Singer
  - Manchester
  - 41 Celt
  - 44 Faucet
  - 47 94 Across
  - highlight
  - 49 Pants part
  - 50 "The Jungle Book" boy
  - 52 Cask
  - 54 Part 2 of remark
  - 57 "Love \_ the Ruins" (75 film)
- DOWN**
- 58 Neon \_
  - 60 Cap or dolman
  - 61 Bookstore section
  - 62 Bog
  - 63 Precambrian \_
  - 65 In honor of
  - 66 Snick and \_
  - 68 \_ above
  - 19 Hammett hound (somewhat superior)
  - 69 Part 3 of remark
  - 75 Baseball family name
  - 76 Antitoxins
  - 77 Mouth piece?
  - 78 Long or Peeples
  - 79 Solidarity leader
  - 81 Forger's need
  - 83 Cultural
  - 88 Wear away
  - 89 Carthaginian
  - 90 Part 4 of remark
  - 93 Comic Rickles
  - 94 Bizet opera
  - 96 Nasty
  - 97 "How sweet \_!"
  - 98 Cpl.'s superior
  - 100 Type of fuel
  - 101 Porgy and bass
  - 104 Fast flier
  - 105 He gives a hoot
  - 107 Cooke or Donaldson
  - 108 Male swan
  - 110 End of remark
  - 121 Biblical city
  - 122 "That's \_" ('54 tune)
  - 123 Actress Thompson

- 124 Gymnast Korbut
  - 125 "West Side Story" role
  - 126 Porsche propeller
  - 127 Tel \_
  - 128 Crucifix
  - 129 Texas' state tree
  - 130 Marvel marvels
  - 131 Coty or Clair
  - 132 Dweeb
- DOWN**
- 1 French Sudan, today
  - 2 From
  - 3 Command to Fido
  - 4 Mead's milieu
  - 5 Breakfast treat
  - 6 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
  - 7 Disagreeable sort
  - 8 Hard to believe
  - 9 Priam's wife
  - 10 Cheer
  - 11 \_ Romeo
  - 12 Mortgage, for one
  - 13 Actor Amaz
  - 14 Serenity
  - 15 Disgust
  - 16 Composer
  - Khachaturian
  - 17 Deep red
  - 18 Volleyball divider
  - 28 City on the Danube
  - 29 Kind of kiln
  - 30 Fenwick or Carter
  - 34 Snitches

- 35 Inland sea
- 36 Prix \_
- 38 Baton Rouge coll.
- 39 Cloth finish
- 40 \_ Mateo, CA
- 41 Errs
- 42 It darkens your doorway
- 43 Bird-to-be
- 45 Join
- 46 Follow
- 48 " \_ you for real?"
- 50 2001, to Tiberius
- 51 Skater Midori
- 53 Publisher Conde
- 55 At any time
- 56 Brewer or Wright
- 57 Orlon, for instance
- 59 Part of Q.E.D.
- 61 Tofu base
- 62 Occupation
- 64 Sail through
- 65 Cozy cloth
- 67 Tons of time
- 69 Mild cigars
- 70 Fermented tea
- 71 Deplored
- 72 Shock
- 73 Word with baby or snake
- 74 Inauguration Day event
- 75 Filled with wonder
- 80 Instant, for short
- 82 Coq au -
- 84 \_ polloi
- 85 '87 Streisand film
- 86 Egyptian deity

- 87 " \_ la vie"
- 89 Supportive of
- 90 Princess bruiser
- 91 Klutz
- 92 Plastic \_ Band
- 95 Bill of Rights grp.
- 96 Interoffice
- communicate
- 99 Honda competitor
- 101 Wimsey's creator
- 102 From C to shining C?
- 103 TV's "Scooby- \_"
- 106 '81 John Lennon hit
- 107 Senator Thurmond
- 109 Borg of tennis
- 110 Actress Skye
- 111 Bank's backup org.
- 112 Clammy
- 113 "Typee" sequel
- 114 A bit of Beethoven
- 115 Weekend warriors: abbr.
- 116 Donated
- 117 Frigga's fellow
- 118 South African plant
- 119 Sikorsky or Stravinsky
- 120 Diane of "Chinatown"
- 121 Weaken



Answer Page 8



# ORANGE FEVER

CATCH IT

## SENIOR NIGHT

### UTEP VS. SOUTHERN MISS.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007

#### SUN BOWL 5:30 PM

EL PASO

For more info call 747-6150



# Take Vonage for a Test Talk!

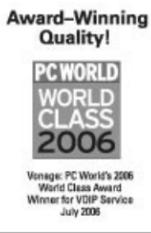
NEW! No Credit Card Required!

### It's Easy to Save with Vonage:

- Get UNLIMITED Local and Long Distance Calling for \$24<sup>99</sup> per month<sup>†</sup>.
- Voicemail, Caller ID, Call Waiting all included – 25 premium features in all!
- FREE Calls to Europe!<sup>‡</sup> –Italy, France, Spain, UK & Ireland see details below for calling conditions
- Keep Your Phone Number<sup>^</sup>. Use Your Existing Home Phone.
- Get Clear Digital Sound Quality Using Your High-Speed Internet Connection.
- 30 Days RISK-FREE!<sup>§</sup>

Try Us for 1 Month FREE! see details below

Save up to \$300 a year on your phone bill!<sup>¶</sup>



FREE Phone Adapter!<sup>‡</sup>



Call: 1-800-425-9152

FREE MONTH OFFER ON \$24.99 UNLIMITED RESIDENTIAL PLAN ONLY. PLAN FEE WAIVED BUT ALL OTHER CHARGES APPLY. NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY. † Free Calls to Europe Offer (Available Only with Unlimited Residential Plan) Does Not Apply To Certain Call Types, Such As Calls to Cell Phones, and is Limited to Italy, France, Spain, UK and Ireland. Other International Rates May Vary. See <http://vonage.com/intrates> for Details. Vonage 911 service operates differently than traditional 911. See [www.vonage.com/911](http://www.vonage.com/911) for details. High-Speed Internet or Broadband Required. Alarms and other systems may not be compatible. ‡ Rates exclude: broadband service, regulatory and activation fees and certain other charges, equipment, taxes, & shipping. International calls billed per minute. Offer valid in the US only. See Terms of Service. † \$300 savings claim based on 3/07 survey of competing land line service providers. For details, visit [www.vonage.com/compare1](http://www.vonage.com/compare1). > Recovery fee equal to the retail value of the router (phone adapter) applies if customer terminates after return period and prior to 1 year. < 30-day money back guarantee is refunded for any paid activation fee, 1st month service charge, initial shipping charges and termination fee. Applicable only to first ordered line per account. Available only in the event of timely cancellation for subscribers who have not exceeded 500 minutes of usage and who obtain a valid return authorization number from 1-VONAGE-HELP, and return of equipment in original condition and packaging within 14 days of cancellation. Refund will not include charges for taxes, international usage, payphone calls to Vonage toll free numbers and directory assistance. Offer revocable. ^ Where available. The number transfer process takes approximately 10 business days from the time you confirm your transfer request. ©2007 Vonage.

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

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

# Social Security improves service, expands outreach to wounded veterans

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, highlighted the agency's efforts to improve service and reach out to wounded veterans last. "On Sunday, we honor America's veterans whose love of country, willingness to serve and sacrifice ensures the many freedoms we enjoy today," Commissioner Astrue said. "While we can never fully repay them for their sacrifices, we can be sure we provide them with the quality of service and the respect they so richly deserve."

how to properly identify and evaluate Traumatic Brain Injury, the signature injury of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Commissioner Astrue highlighted a number of activities Social Security has undertaken in the last several months to improve service and expand outreach to wounded veterans and their families. These include:

- A fact sheet that provides information about Social Security and military service and explains how to apply for Social Security benefits. The fact sheet has been distributed to all branches of the military service, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and other interested groups.

- Expedited processing of disability claims for men and women serving in the U.S. military who become disabled while on active duty. The expedited process is for military service members disabled on or after October 1, 2001, and is applicable regardless of where the disability occurs. Social Security also expedites survivors claims.

- An active presence at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and numerous other treatment facilities throughout the U.S. For example, Social Security employees are onsite every week at Walter Reed, Bethesda, Brooke and other facilities to take disability applications and ensure expeditious handling of the case.

- Development of an easy-to-use website — [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors) — that provides information about Social Security and military service. The website also includes a link to apply for disability benefits online.

- Coordinated efforts with organizations such as the Severely Injured Marines and Sailors and Wounded Warriors Project to address concerns and facilitate open communications regarding the processing of Social Security claims.

- An agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the VA to electronically provide Social Security with the medical records of veterans applying for disability benefits. This agreement enables us to get medical records quicker and more efficiently and helps us expedite the disability determination.

"The Social Security Administration is proud to have within its ranks many people who have honorably served — or are presently serving — their country in uniform," Commissioner Astrue said. "Let me assure veterans and their families that the dedicated men and women of Social Security stand ready to help them in any way they can, and that we will continue to look for ways to improve our service to those who have given so much in defense of our freedom."

- Assigning Social Security liaisons throughout the country to work closely with VA's Transition Patient Advocates (TPAs). Social Security's liaisons provide TPAs with Social Security information and ensure that the application for benefits is expedited.

To learn more about Social Security benefits for wounded veterans go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors). For general information about Social Security, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

- Instructions and extensive training for our disability examiners — the people who make the medical decisions on our disability claims — on

## Districts

From Page 1

says the administration would take its cue for future action based on recommendations and guidance from the board of trustees which meets this week.

Fifty-four percent (193) of Fabens voters voted against the bond issue. Forty-six percent (166) of the voters favored its passage.

## People know Pueblo for its...



Famous Hot Salsa?

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

