



NEWSBRIEFS

AISD Board vacancy

The Anthony Independent School District Board of Education is accepting applications from interested district residents to fill a vacant position on the Board. To be eligible, a person must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, and be a resident of the district. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest and resume to the Board of Education by Wednesday, January 9, 2008. Required materials can be mailed or delivered to the Superintendent's office located at 840 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas, 79821. Interviews with the Board will be conducted on Thursday, January 10th. For additional information, contact Catalina Levario at 886-6506.

Canutillo HS appeal

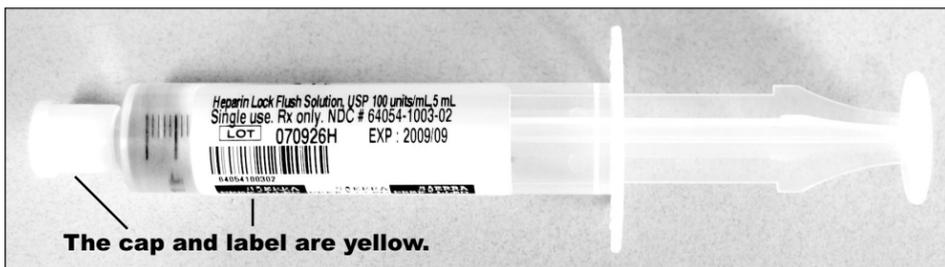
Texas Education Agency (TEA) notified Canutillo Independent School District on Dec. 11 that it has granted Canutillo High School's appeal for meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading participation. CHS's appeal requested the change in status of 12 students in the reading participation calculation from non-participants to participants based on a miscoding entry. Documentation provided by the district, and staff research of the assessment data, confirmed that the 12 students in question were, in fact, present during the TAKS testing period. "As a result of our appeal, the participation measure was recalculated to include 12 additional students, and the AYP standard was met. Subsequently, the 2007 AYP status for Canutillo High School is Meets AYP," said Dr. Pam Padilla, CISD superintendent. "This rating is important because it indicates that the high school campus is meeting criteria in the federal accountability system."

Mortgage insurance

In the current housing market, potential homeowners are paying special attention to mortgage insurance that can make it possible to buy a home with a down payment of as little as three to five percent. But since mortgage insurance protects the lender, not the homeowner, against financial loss, it's crucial that you can really afford to keep up the payments on your home. Find out more, including how much mortgage you can afford, with How to Buy a Home With a Low Down Payment from the Mortgage Insurance Companies of America. For your free copy, send your name and address to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 597R, Pueblo, CO 81009. Or call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, and ask for Item 597R. And visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov to read or print this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.

The vanishing American is one who pays cash for everything he buys.

— Quips & Quotes



RECALL — Sierra Pre-Filled Inc. has recalled "Heparin Lock Flush Solution USP" syringes with lot number 070926H on the packaging and on a yellow label affixed to the barrel of each syringe. Tests found *Serratia marcescens*, a bacterium, in the product.

Manufacturer recalls syringes

By Doug McBride
Special to the Courier

The Texas Department of State Health Services is urging Texans to heed a recent national recall of certain heparin flush syringes made by Sierra Pre-Filled Inc., a North Carolina company.

The recalled syringes contain "Heparin Lock Flush Solution USP" and lot number 070926H on the packaging and on a yellow label affixed to the barrel of each syringe.

People who have used the recalled syringes should contact their physicians for guidance.

Those who have unused syringes should not use them and should contact their physicians,

pharmacies or other suppliers for instructions about what to do with them.

Heparin is an anticoagulant. The recalled syringes typically are used in hospitals and by outpatients to keep catheters open.

The recall was prompted by bacterial illnesses in Texas and other states since early November that were linked to use of the product. Laboratory tests detected *Serratia marcescens*, a bacterium, in the product.

The manufacturer is voluntarily recalling the product in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Physicians and others who have prescribed the recalled products are urged to contact their patients.

Davenport teacher selected for West Texas Writing Project's Teacher Institute

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Torsten Knauerhase, second grade dual language teacher at Deanna Davenport Elementary School (DDE) in the Canutillo Independent School District, was selected recently to participate in the West Texas Writing Project's (WTWP) Teacher Institute that is sponsored by the Department of English, College of Liberal Arts, at the University of Texas at El Paso.

WTWP is designed to improve the teaching of writing, use of writing in the classroom, and provide leadership opportunities and recognition for El Paso area teachers.

As an Institute member, Knauerhase will at-

tend monthly, Saturday workshops throughout the school year, which have been designed by master teachers. The workshops will cover a number of important topics, from making the most of collaborative work in the classroom to using technology to teach writing skills and content.

"After meeting with Torsten in person and reading a writing sample, my co-directors and I decided immediately that we wanted him to be an Institute participant. Torsten is an incredibly dedicated teacher who thinks about serious pedagogical questions and brings creative and exciting ideas to his classroom," said Jonna Perrillo, Assistant Professor of English and West Texas Writing Project Director.



Torsten Knauerhase



— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

BAND IS FIRST IN CLASS — Fabens ISD band members celebrating with each other stood still long enough for a picture with their trophy.

Fabens marching band takes first at NMSU meet

By Raquel Ramirez
Special to the Courier

The Fabens High School marching band placed first in their class at the NMSU Tournament of Bands in November. Band members excited about their recognition claimed to have felt "successful and relieved," after they stepped off the field.

"The NMSU Tournament of Bands is very important for us. It's proof of the hard work that our students have done this year," Mr. Gonzales, FHS band

CBP to keep all lanes open to handle traffic

By Roger Maier
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials in El Paso are anticipating an increase in border traffic through the holidays. As a result, the agency is implementing a holiday lane initiative Dec. 28-31. The CBP plans to staff all lanes between 5 a.m. and 2 a.m. as traffic levels dictate.

"We implemented a similar strategy during the recent Thanksgiving holiday weekend and the results were positive," said Polly Figueroa, CBP acting El Paso Port Director. "Most people crossed the border in a minimal amount of time in the three days immediately after Thanksgiving."

The holiday travel season has historically been a period when people who are infrequent border crossers travel to and from the U.S. In addition, regular border crossers typically cross more frequently than normal to shop and attend holiday functions. The holiday lane initiative will help however CBP is also reminding members of the traveling public that there are strategies they can employ to cross the border quickly, safely and without incident.

"If the public adopts some of our tips, we believe we can keep traffic moving while insuring that our enforcement concerns are properly addressed," said Arthur Gonzales, CBP acting Director of Field Operations in El Paso. "Our goal is enforce our anti-terror mission while allowing law abiding border crossers to reach their destinations in a timely manner during this busy travel period. We believe these tips will help the process."

- Travelers should prepare for the inspection process before arriving at the inspection booth. Individuals should have their crossing documents available for the inspection and they should be prepared to declare all items acquired abroad. In addition, individuals should end cellular phone conversations before arriving at the inspection booth.

- Travelers should plan to build extra time into their trips in the event they cross during periods of exceptionally heavy traffic. This includes Dedicated Commuter Lane users. CBP is also reminding travelers that the DCL service hours were recently expanded at both DCL locations, making the DCL program an attractive option for any border crosser.

- Travelers should familiarize themselves with the "Know Before You Go" section of the CBP website at <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg/> to avoid fines and penalties associated with the importation of prohibited items. "Know Before You Go" brochures are also available at border ports.

- Members of the traveling public should consult the CBP website site at www.cbp.gov to monitor border wait times. Information is updated hourly and is useful in planning trips and identifying periods of light use/short waits.

- During periods of heavy travel, border crossers may wish to consider alternative entry routes. For example, border crossers



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

The peace formula

What do you figure we're doing wrong?

If you add two and two together, you always get four. Math is like that. Whatever variables you feed into the formula, that is the answer you get. Every time.

Life is like that, too, as little as we want to admit it. You ingest the wrong things, you get sick. You don't get enough sleep, you aren't productive. You are rude to other people, they are rude back. You disrespect law and order, you have chaos. You hit somebody, you are likely to get hit.

With that kind of natural simplicity, you'd think that running a global community wouldn't be that complicated. You just do right things, other people do right things, and everything works out, right?

Of course, it is never that simple. Our attempts at world management

are, no matter how you slice it, an abysmal failure. There has never been, since the Garden of Eden, a time when mankind wasn't fighting with itself for one reason or another, or more likely, for no reason at all.

In the beginning, Eve just couldn't keep her hands out of the wrong tree at the utopian produce market. She didn't respect another's property. It led to lying, the family getting evicted, and ultimately her first born son became the first murderer when he killed his younger brother in a jealous rage. It was the culmination of an formula that was guaranteed to come up with only one answer — disaster.

I recently watched a horribly tragic news story about a killing that didn't have to happen. A bogus posting on MySpace.com — our virtual cesspool of gossip and societal intrigue

— indicated that a young black man wanted to do unspeakable things to a white female student.

The brother of the girl, 17-year-old Daniel Cicciaro, was understandably offended but instead of finding out what was truth and error, he and a group of other teens went to the young man's house late at night with an undeniable intent to inflict a little retribution for the alleged infraction. They had been drinking, adding to this formula for disaster.

John White, 54, the father of the wrongly accused young man, heard the brother was coming, but instead of rationally handing the matter over to the authorities, he got his gun and went outside to "talk" to the angry brother.

In the inevitable melee of misunderstandings, emotional outrage and anger on both sides, White's gun went off and killed the brother.

Now White, convicted of second-degree manslaughter, faces a prison sentence of up to 15 years, and the Cicciaros no longer have their son.

In the aftermath of this debacle, do you think anyone stepped back and

tried to figure out what was wrong with the formula? No, indeed.

The defense denied any responsibility by saying that White's behavior was a result of being traumatized by a racial attack that occurred in his family 30 years before he was born.

Cicciaro's friends and family drove away from the court chanting and honking their horns in victory. His mother said it meant that her son had been "vindicated." Little comfort, since he was also dead.

On Christmas Day, the Catholic Pope Benedict XVI appealed to world leaders to find the "wisdom and courage" to end the wars that are ongoing in the world. Thousands attended the speech and it was broadcast live to more than 40 countries, in at least as many languages.

This has been a yearly appeal by the sitting Pope since long before I was born. I still don't see anyone sitting up and taking notice. In fact, the number of conflicts and the intensity of their devastation has only increased in my lifetime.

We're really good at making war. We're just really bad at making

peace.

So here we are again at the time of year that humans want to invoke "peace on earth," but what we have in reality is chaos, destruction, and needless loss of life and property.

The FOX News headline would be funny if they weren't so pitiful: "There's nobody nice on this Christmas list: snowman stabbers, Grinch snatchers, wreath-robbing weasels."

In Yonkers, New York, a man stole staff bonuses and money from the office safe during the office Christmas party. In South Carolina, a motorcycle-riding Santa Claus snatched an eight-year-old girl from the sidewalk and had to be chased down by her father at speeds exceeding 80 mph.

So much for the season for peace and joy.

We need a lot more than lip service when we call for peace on earth. True peace requires personal responsibility and that's something in short supply when it comes to actually doing unto others as we'd like to have done unto us.

For the formula to work, we have to work it.

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

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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Wrapping up the year

I took this year to benefit working families, veterans and students in El Paso and across the country.

Veterans

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the largest increase in health care funding in the 77-year history of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This year's funding exceeds President Bush's budget request by almost \$4 billion and is \$6.6 billion over 2007 funding. The VA funding bill \$37.2 billion for health care, \$124.2 million to provide 1,800 new claims processors to address the 400,000 benefit claims backlog, and \$125 million to increase the reimbursement rate for veterans who must travel long distances for medical appointments.

Innovation

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science (COMPETES) Act, a major part of the House Democrats' Innovation Agenda. It is an important bill that will help El Paso students, teachers, businesses and workers have the tools they need to succeed in the global economy.

The bill authorizes funding for programs to create more qualified teachers in science and math fields and to sup-

port scientific research and innovation through the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. As someone who has long been working for more teachers in these fields, I also included provisions in the bill to help improve opportunities for underrepresented minorities in these fields.

Students

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the College Cost Reduction Act, which boosts college financial aid by about \$18 billion over the next five years. This is the single largest investment in college financial aid since the GI Bill in 1944, and is without additional cost to taxpayers.

With El Paso students specifically in mind, I worked with the House Democratic leadership to increase federal funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) like the University of Texas at El Paso and El Paso Community College. The College Cost Reduction Act will invest \$200 million in HSIs.

These bills, along with raising the minimum wage, passing major energy legislation, and reauthorizing the Head Start program, are all important priorities that assist individuals and families across the country, and I am happy to celebrate them this holiday season. As the Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I will also continue to work on behalf of our servicemembers and military families, and this holiday season and always, I pray for their security and safety.

Clint ISD board recognized for service

Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) Executive Director, Dr. Johnny Veselka, paid a visit to Clint Independent School District (CISD) on Dec. 13, 2007 to recognize the CISD Board of Trustees. CISD's board was named Outstanding School Board of Texas for 2007 on Sept. 30, 2007. "You are an example for school boards and school districts in this region as well as across the state. More than 1,000 school districts and 7,000 board members should look to you and what you have done in this community," said Veselka. "I have often heard it said that with any great honor comes greater responsibility. The responsibility is to always be worthy of this award. The way we can always do that is by always keeping ourselves focused on doing what's best for children," said Jim Pendell, CISD Board President. At left, Veselka presented Pendell with a plaque commemorating CISD's selection as School Board of the Year. Each board member was recognized and given a plaque by Veselka from the TASA. "The 110 years of service of this board is a remarkable commitment in terms of effective and stable leadership," said Veselka.

— Contributed by Laura Cade

School board notes By Don Woodyard



"I LOVE THIS EPISODE! THIS IS THE ONE WHERE THE WOMAN GOES TO PRISON FOR NAMING HER TEDDY BEAR 'MUHAMMAD'!!!"



EL PASO COUNTY — Area school districts are on break, but it was business as usual for school board trustees in the weeks prior to the holidays.

This week the *Courier* reports on three school board meetings.

However, in coming issues, the *Courier* will strive to expand its coverage of what's important to residents of the Upper and Lower Valleys to include not only the school districts, but also news of what's going on in the towns of Anthony, Vinton and Clint.

In particular, we will continue coverage of the contentious pipeline issue that hangs like a dark cloud over the Lower Valley

We will kick off coverage in January with a conversation with long-time Anthony Mayor Art Franco.

We welcome suggestions for other stories in the region.

However, before launching into a new year, we wrap up the old with coverage of December school board meetings in Canutillo, San Elizario and Anthony.

Canutillo ISD - Dec. 11

Taken from Board Notes, the district's summary of board meeting action.

Dr. Pam Padilla, CISD's superintendent, updated board members on projects which included Northwest Early College High School, the Mind Institute pilot program at Childress Elementary and campus facilities' enhancements.

The board was to receive administration's recommendation that week for principal of the new high school.

She said the Mind Institute program is showing positive results.

She added that the focus of operations and support of campus facilities "is reaping benefits district-wide."

The board approved the purchase of furniture, supplies and janitorial equipment for Garcia Elementary School.

Jorge Padilla, attorney with Delgado, Acosta, Spencer, Linebarger & Perez reported on his law firm's delinquent tax collection efforts on behalf of the school district. It had collected more than \$510,000 in delinquent taxes, penalty and interest from Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, 2007.

San Elizario ISD - Dec. 12

As expected, trustees of SEISD approved a resolution opposing the planned construction of the PMI/Pemex pipeline through the Lower Valley and across the border into Mexico.

The resolution explains its opposition and reads, in part:

"Whereas the proposed pipeline would likely pose health and safety risks to the residents of El Paso County and the students of the San Elizario ISD." Opposition, the resolution goes on to state, "is in the best interests of the taxpayers and students in the school district."

George Luevano, director of support services, reported on the status of school construction projects which are nearing completion.

The library at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School will be completed by end of January of 2008. Carpeting has caused the delay. The multi-classroom addition will be finished by end of the year and ready when students return Jan. 7. Eight crews will be moving classroom furniture and other supplies during the Christmas break.

The new cafeteria at Alarcon Elementary will be completed in mid-to late January.

Sylvia Hopp, assistant superintendent, highlighted the Texas Education Agency's AEIS (Academic Excellence Indicator System) report. It is a report card on campus and district operations.

"We have made very good gains, but we need to go further. We aren't there yet."

The board commended the district for its efforts.

Ramon Holguin was elected the new president of the board, replacing Roberto Garcia who resigned because of requirements of his new job with the Border Patrol. Armando Martinez is the new vice president of the board, and Irene Jaquez is the new secretary.

Principal Joe Keith reported on the high school receiving the \$140,000 Texas Educators Excellence grant for outstanding performance by teachers.

Anthony ISD - Dec. 18

The Anthony board meeting was a mix of entertainment and business.

High school student Becky Salcedo took part in both areas.

Representing a group of students, she asked the board to reinstate royal blue to the school's colors. "Royal blue has been a part of our school," she said in the public forum portion of the meeting. "It is a part of our tradition; it is part of our memories."

Later in the forum, she and fellow high school drama student Paul Enriquez performed their winning duet from a recent speech tournament.

Anthony ISD may be getting new propane-fueled school buses in the new year.

It was reported that the Texas Railroad Commission has approached AISD with a grant proposal that could provide the district with up to five new 72-passenger buses to replace outdated vehicles.

"If we are approved for the grant, we could purchase each \$90,000 bus for \$18,000," said superintendent Ron Haugen said. The district should be notified by February or March if it qualifies for the grant funds. If approved, it could have the buses by summer.

The board voted to accept the resignation of vice president Bertha Silva-Holguin who no longer resides in the district. The board will

See SCHOOLS, Page 4



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Dec. 27, 1839: The city of Austin incorporated with 856 residents (I bet there were weird ones even then).



"Please try to understand, Mr. White, that when I say, 'Lie down,' I'm talking to your dog."

Lanes

From Page 1

may want to use the nearby and less heavily traveled Fabens or Santa Teresa ports of entry instead of the El Paso port.

- Visit the port of entry to obtain I-94 travel documents in advance of the busiest holiday travel periods. This will allow travelers who require I-94 documents (those planning to travel beyond the bor-

der zone or stay in the U.S. for more than 30 days) to bypass those lines when they formally enter the U.S. They will still be subject to the inspection process.

- Regarding I-94's, travelers should not attempt to obtain this document at the Paso Del Norte crossing. Because of an ongoing \$26 million renovation project, space is limited and travelers would be better served by obtaining this document at an alternate crossing point.

- Drivers should insure that the

vehicles they use to cross the border are properly maintained and mechanically sound and that occupants avoid riding in areas of vehicles not specifically designed to carry passengers. Failure to follow these steps can expose crossers/passengers to carbon monoxide.

CBP officials continually monitor traffic and border crossing times and will employ various traffic management operations to maintain the flow of traffic during periods of exceptionally heavy usage.

The principal mission of U.S.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is anti-terrorism. CBP officers at border ports of entry are committed to identifying and stopping terrorists and the tools of terror. As a result, border crossers should continue to expect a thorough inspection process when they enter the U.S. from Mexico.

Band

From Page 1

director said. The FHS marching band an outscored the other two schools in their class. "We knew that we had the power to beat the two bands if we all did our part", said Jonathan Reyes, a senior drum major.

The FHS band was one of the earliest bands to perform, arriving at NMSU at 7:30 a.m. Tournament of Bands is held at NMSU every year in late October or early November. It showcases bands from around the region including Texas, Colorado, and Arizona.

About 35 bands compete each year the top ten go on to perform in the second part of the competition beginning at 8:00 p.m. The Tournament of Bands is an all day event usually ending past 10:00 pm. "I think that the students who are in band this year and the ones to come, have the potential to succeed one more in this and in the next years competition and go beyond," Reyes said.

Schools

From Page 3

advertise for applicants to replace her and is expected to make a selection prior to its Jan. 15, 2008 board meeting.

There was also discussion of improving recreational opportunities for high school and middle school students to play in during their lunch hour. Haugen said he'd meet with the principals about what can be done in this area.

Attorney Carmen Perez with Delgado, Acosta, Spencer, Linebarger and Perez, reported that her law firm had filed 16 lawsuits and subsequently collected \$30,061 in delinquent taxes.

Virginia Murillo was honored as the outstanding support staff member for December.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4
 P.O. Box 3880
 Fabens, TX 79838-3880
 (915) 764-2212

December 18, 2007

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS:

The USDA Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4. The proposed project consists of:

DESCRIPTION OF OWNER'S PROJECT (Water System)

WELL NO. 4:

The project for Well #4 consists of furnishing and installing equipment to pump water from Well No. 4 including pump, shaft, column piping, discharge head base, pump appurtenances and the motor for the well. The obligations under this contract shall consist of delivery, furnishing and installing the well equipment, materials, manufacturer's shop drawings, submittals, articles, mechanical completion, training, delivery, and other appurtenances and items for complete and functional system of the Well, cement-lined ductile iron piping, controls, valves and related appurtenances; construct retention pond; construct a Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) building to house all electrical and miscellaneous equipment, AC unit, a steel structural steel canopy, gravel driveway with header curb, furnish and install 12-inch ductile iron well collector line and connect to the existing well transmission main inside the fenced area, all associated above ground yard piping and appurtenances, trench safety system, all labor and materials necessary for an operational well site.

10th STREET BOOSTER STATION SITE:

The booster station water system improvements consist of furnishing and installing filter treatment unit including backwash, inline booster, and reclaim pumps, reclaim tank, pre-fabricated metal building including ventilation, lighting, architectural fascia, controls and all related appurtenances; construct retention pond; provide and install centrifugal booster pumps, valves, cement-lined ductile iron piping, meter, related appurtenances, CMU building expansion attached to existing booster station; furnish and install 0.5 MG steel reservoir, and all associated above ground yard piping and appurtenances; construct site improvements including site grading, retention pond and gravel driveway with header curb, trench safety system, and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, all labor and materials necessary for an operational site.

The work covered under this contract will be performed at Well No. 4 site located at 1220 Camp Northeast; the 10th Street Booster Station site is located at 990 Walker Ave.

DESCRIPTION OF OWNER'S PROJECT (Wastewater Treatment Plant)

The overall project will consist of the following improvements to the wastewater plant: The construction of a new 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd) pre-engineered extended aeration wastewater treatment plant located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the intersection of State Highway 20 (Alameda) and Fabens Road adjacent to the existing wastewater treatment plant. The site is located at 17154 Alameda Avenue. The existing wastewater treatment plant will be abandoned in place.

The new plant will be located adjacent and east of the existing Fabens Wastewater Treatment Plant. Work shall include, but not be limited to, all equipment and installation, complete in place, 10 feet beyond the existing limits of the existing fence, according to the plans and specifications as follows: site work, grading, and site finish work; chain link fence; controls, valves and related appurtenances; architectural fascia and noise attenuation blankets, controls and related appurtenances; plant water booster station including pumps, controls, valves, stainless steel piping and all related appurtenances, headworks system including controls, valves and all related appurtenances; extended aeration system including controls, valves, PVC piping, stainless steel piping, slide gates, blowers, silencers, filters, and all related appurtenances; belt press system including controls, sludge pump, polymer feed system, piping and all related appurtenances; chlorine disinfection system including controls, valves, chlorine equipment, stainless steel weir, jib crane and all related appurtenances; plant drain station including controls, pumps, PVC piping, and all related appurtenances; Plant water station including controls, pumps, and all related appurtenances; effluent flow meter, controls and all related appurtenances.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Rural Utilities Service has assessed the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and has determined that the proposal will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an Environment Impact Statement will not be prepared. The basis of this determination is that the original Environmental Information Document (EID) that was conducted in January 2001 for the specific upgrades and expansions to improve the water and wastewater infrastructure within the current District boundaries has not changed. Therefore, no changes to the EID are required. A Supplemental Information Record was conducted on September 2007 to address any changes on the existing environment based on the proposed improvements. No environmental impacts were found to affect the environment receptors in the study area.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment can be reviewed or obtained at the USDA-Rural Development Office, 11930 Vista Del Sol, Suite C, El Paso, Texas 79935, (915) 855-1229. For further information, please contact Anita Sprinkle, Rural Development Manager at (915) 855-1229.

Geri de la Torre
 Interim General Manager
 West Texas County Courier
 December 27, 2007

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**“Happy
Holidays
to all!”**



“As we are truly fortunate to enjoy these holidays with loved ones, let’s remember our men and women in uniform — and their families — who safeguard our freedoms and our country.”

*Congressman Silvestre Reyes
16TH Congressional District*



College athletes risk losing eligibility by taking academic shortcuts

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

What in the world is going on in the world of college football?

Every player on every team plays his heart out to make it to a bowl game at the end of the season. That's the ultimate reward a team (and its players) can receive at the end of the regular season.

And yet, all we hear about is the epidemic of bowl-bound players who are now ineligible

to play in their team's bowl game for one reason or another.

The biggest culprit is Florida State.

The Seminoles, of the legendary but aging Bobby Bowden, outdid themselves. Seems about three dozen football players did extraordinarily well in their music history exam.

Problem is, the guys were great because they were provided with the answers. Not a bad scam — until you get caught. And boy did they get caught.

Now Florida State will go into the Dec. 31 Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl against Ken-

tucky, severely short-handed.

And they should. But their selfish behavior hurts the school, it hurts their fans, and it hurts their families.

And I bet you thought college players and staff members didn't deal in that sort of underhandedness.

Another big school to go to its bowl game without its entire team are the Tennessee Volunteers.

Tennessee will be without six players for its Outback Bowl shootout with Wisconsin on Jan. 1.

I guess these guys didn't have the sense to cheat. They merely forgot to pass their courses.

I guess its no secret that Florida State's Bobby Bowden and Tennessee's Phil Fulmer have a history of scandal at their respective school.

But then isn't that where sports are today? Why work hard when you can cheat or take the easy way out.

New Mexico won its bowl game against Nevada without starting running back Rodney Ferguson, who failed to meet his academic requirements.

Ohio State also had one of its players ruled academically ineligible for the Buckeyes' upcoming national title game against LSU.

And of course, there will be more players ruled ineligible for either failing classes, cheating, breaking team rules or breaking the law.

Why would anyone work so hard just to throw it all away?

I don't know. Maybe I'll ask Barry Bonds.

Breaking records

Stefon Jackson topped the 30-point mark last Saturday for the third time this season, which is only 10 games old.

By doing so, Jackson also topped the 1000-point mark for his career with the Miners, which is only two years and 10 games old.

What this means is that Jackson is on pace to be the Miners' all-time leading scorer. He could even be the first UTEP player to crack the 2000-point barrier.

Of course, that's if he stays at UTEP after this season. There is some speculation whether Jackson will skip his senior season for the greener pastures of the NBA.



For very selfish reasons, I hope he stays. Next season could be one of the best in years for the Miners. And by the way, they're not doing too bad this year.

Defying the odds

Maybe I'm getting old — my memory isn't what it used to be. I don't remember too much of what happened three months ago.

But there was an incident which happened back on Sept. 9 that I do remember vividly. It was the sight of Buffalo Bills reserve tight end Kevin Edwards lying on the field.

It was Edwards who collided with a Denver Broncos player on a kick return, and never got up, at least not on his own.

The helmet-to-helmet hit left Edwards paralyzed, with very little hope for any kind of recovery.

At the time, doctors hinted that there was very little hope that Edwards would ever walk again — if he lived through the next few days.

Well Edwards lived. And believe it or not, last Sunday before the Bills' game with the New York Giants, he walked into the locker room on his own.

Talk about a miracle. The sight of Edwards walking will probably stay with me for years to come.

Can you imagine how he feels today? Can you imagine how his family feels today?

The Buffalo Bills may not make the playoffs this season but every player, coach and employee of the organization may have experienced something far more valuable than participating in any playoff game.

They all witnessed what can be accomplished when like-minded individuals strive toward a common goal.

You may or may not beat the Packers, Colts or Cowboys, but you can never beat the human spirit.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

ORDINANCE NO. 0163 AMENDMENT NO. 006

Section I

WHEREAS, an ordinance was enacted on the 25th day of September, 2007, which adopted a budget for the fiscal year of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008 for the Town of Horizon City, and

WHEREAS, it is now necessary to amend said budget for items not previously considered,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HORIZON CITY, TEXAS, THAT:

The following funds are to be transferred as follows:

From: Acct. # 400615 — Prior

Year Excess 915-852-1046.
\$200.00

To: Acct. # 400605 — Miscellaneous Revenue \$200.00

Explanation: To record previous years unspent allocated amount for the 2006 Christmas Party.

The following funds are to be transferred as follows:
From: Acct. # 400615 — Prior Year Excess \$352,938.00

To: Acct. # 500818 — Contingencies \$352,938.00

Explanation: To record the prior year difference between expense amounts budgeted and expenses actually spent.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
WTCC-12/27/07

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

ORDINANCE NO. 0163 AMENDMENT NO. 005

Section I

WHEREAS, an ordinance was enacted on the 25th day of September, 2007, which adopted a budget for the fiscal year of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008 for the Town of Horizon City, and

WHEREAS, it is now necessary to amend said budget for items not previously considered,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HORIZON CITY, TEXAS, THAT:

The following funds

are to be transferred as follows:

From: Acct. #500818 — Contingencies \$ 3,500.00

To: Acct. #504303 — Street Department Materials and Supplies \$ 3,500.00

Explanation: To adjust for the materials and supplies needed to repair/pave Veny Webb Street.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 915-852-1046.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
WTCC-12/27/07

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim

their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN IGCEC14W84ZI97167, 2000 Chevy Pickup, white, TX license plate P527841. VIN KNJPT05H5M6147449, 1991 Ford, yellow, NM license plate GRM751. WTXCC-12/27/07

EDUCATION

JUMP START your child's education. **CERTIFIED TEACHERS** for tutoring. Call Eddie, 526-1739, or Maribel, 525-9656.

SELF-HELP

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

STORAGE

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.



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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
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24	25	26	27
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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: _____

Montwood's Urbina named outstanding wrestler

Montwood High School senior Jesus Urbina was honored by area wrestling coaches during the 2nd Army Strong Invitational held at Fort Bliss. The 18-year Varsity team member was named outstanding wrestler during the two day meet that featured teams from 31 schools in El Paso, West Texas and Southern New Mexico. Urbina and the Montwood team were among the 800 wrestlers that took part of the tournament which kicks off the wrestling season. Held at Stout Gym at Fort Bliss, the tournament featured four divisions and allowed schools to include junior varsity members.



Jesus Urbina

Urbina took 1st place in the 119 division while the Montwood team placed 8th overall in the tournament. During the meet, coaches vote on the wrestler that impressed them the most. Urbina who has been on the wrestling team for four years was happy with the honor and is looking forward to a winning season.

"The meet went pretty well for us. We had three team members place in their divisions," said Urbina. He along with 15-member varsity team, the 18-member junior varsity and girls team will go up against 10 schools at the El Dorado High School Team Duals/Girls Individual Tournament on November 30 and December 1.

During his junior year, Urbina posted a 30-8 record, took 1st place District-wide, had a 4th place finish in regional competition and competed at the state level. Urbina has been wrestling since he was a child has taken what was a hobby into a lifestyle.

"He has been with me for the last four years and he has been growing in technique and motivation. He knows what to expect and what to do," said Montwood High School's wrestling Coach Leo Garcia. "When our kids beat other wrestlers on a regional level other coaches take notice and they saw what Jesus can do."



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Notice of Public Hearing Fabens Independent School District

A Public Hearing on the A.E.I.S. Report (Academic Excellence Indicator System) will be held at 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 9, 2008 in the Fabens Independent School District's Board Room at 821 N.E. "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

WTCC: 12-27-07

Hola mi gente y...



...Happy New Year

7TH Annual Holiday
Holiday Pachanga

New Year's Day • Tuesday, January 1, 2008

- ◆ Festivities from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Lunch served from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please Join Us • No Invitation Required

- Door Prizes
- Beverages
- Food
- Music
- 2008 State Capitol Calendars

Mission Valley Ballroom
10600 N. Loop Rd.
Socorro, Texas
Information: 859-3111

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Please remember the men and women serving our country and protecting this nation in this New Year.

— Chente Quintanilla
State Rep., District 75

Pol. Ad Paid For By Hector Delgado, Treasurer; 221 N. Kansas, Ste. 2000, El Paso, TX 79901

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Answer Page 4

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: Which Preventive Services are covered by Medicare?

A: The following Medicare covered Preventive Services are listed on MyMedicare.gov:

- "Welcome to Medicare" Physical Exam
- Cardiovascular Screening
- Screening Mammography
- Cervical and Vaginal Cancer Screening (Pap Test and Pelvic Exam)
- Colon Cancer Screening (includes Fecal Occult Blood, Sigmoidoscopy, Colonoscopy, and Barium Enema)
- Prostate Cancer Screening (PSA)
- Pneumococcal Vaccine
- Diabetes Screening, Supplies and Self-Management Training

Q: I am a 62-year-old woman who was married for almost 30 years before my divorce several years ago. I expect a relatively small Social Security retirement check, since I mostly worked part-time jobs. However, I am thinking of remarrying my ex-husband. He is 69 and already getting about \$1,800 per month from Social Security. Would I be entitled to wife's benefits if I remarry him?

A: Yes, you would. But you also should know that you would be due the same benefits even if you do not remarry. Under Social Security, a divorced wife who was married for more than 10 years and is currently unmarried is entitled to the same benefits as a wife. Learn more by visiting our website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

www.wtccourier.com



UTEP vs. New Mexico
BASKETBALL

Men's

ORANGE OUT

Wednesday, January 2, 2008
Don Haskins Center 7:05 pm

25% off for all educator's with school ID
FREE Orange T-shirts
to the first 5,000 fans.

Women's

Sunday, December 30, 2007
Don Haskins Center 2:05 pm

50% off any ticket for fans wearing an Orange t-shirt



for more info 747.6065