NEWSBRIEFS

Wide-open drugs
Border Patrol agents from the El Paso secto seized 1,304 pounds of marijuana along across the border in one of those stops, Aug. 8. Agents were alerted to activity in an area about six miles west of the Fabens Port of Entry and spotted two people hiding in an irrigation canal. A few minutes later, the two were approached by a silver 1990 Chevy pickup truck. When agents decided to investigate, they found the vehicle abandoned and about 23 people were seen running south across the border into Mexico. In plain view in the bed and cab of the truck were numerous bundles of marijuana, determined to have a street value of $1,043,760. Combined with several other seizures — including 262 pounds of marijuana in a vehicle on U.S. 52, 242 pounds hidden in an arroyo in Hachita, N.M., and 307 pounds in a vehicle on Texas Highway 108 — the total marijuana preseizes was 2,115 pounds of marijuana with a value of about $1.7 million.

Tragic pilgrimage
Four people were struck in two separate incidents as people walked along San Elizario Road late Sunday night. According to a report received Aug. 10 in a traditional pilgrimage to San Lorenzo Church in Clint. Maria Teresa Urquidi, 60, who was in the pilgrimage group for more than 60 years, was walking with two young relatives when they were struck from behind by a 73-year-old man who was placed under arrest for failure to stop and render aid. Another woman, 61-year-old Emilia Rivera was struck by an unidentified driver as she also walked on San Elizario Road about 2:30 a.m. on Aug. 10. Both were hospitalized at Thomason, police said. The festival, which draws thousands each August, has about 10,000 people traveling south across the border into Mexico.

In other news
■ Calling all cars! The El Paso Speedway Park will host three races with a chance to win $1,500 by saying they exemplify the “true meaning of service.” The superintendents said the board of trustees has one responsibility — they make student-centered decisions.

Clint school board named Region 19’s School Board of the Year
By Debra Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — A Regional Judging Panel recently selected the Clint Independent School District’s Board of Trustees as Region 19’s “Outstanding School Board of the Year.”

The judging panel, comprised of five superintendents, including an executive committee members of the Texas Association of School Administrators, also nominated the Clint ISD Board of Trustee for the state’s “Outstanding School Board Award.”

Region 19’s Executive Director R. Vasquez congratulated Clint ISD Superintendent Dr. Lea Hutchinson and board of trustees stating he was proud because “an outstanding board reflects ability to build the ‘Team of Eight’ concept, wherein, the board of trustees and the superintendent work together in a manner that ensures good management and student success.”

Perez praised Clint ISD board members, including President James R. Pendell, Vice-President Mary Macias, Secretary Robert Lara, Trustees Alfred Gonzales and Bobby Caraway by saying they exemplify the “true meaning of service.”

The superintendent said the board of trustees has one responsibility — they make student-centered decisions.

He said their leadership in developing a clear vision and goals, along with various policies have resulted in this district’s first ever “Recognized” status by the Texas Education Agency.

“The board believes in accountability, responsibility, integrity, and transparency, while having sensitivity to working with your students, staff and constituent on educational matters,” Perez said. This recognition is truly well-deserved honor for our Clint ISD Board of Trustees.

County’s Animal Shelter needs beefing up
By Marjorie F. Graham
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County’s Animal Shelter has been going to the dogs for a long time, managers say.

This is why this vulnerable border community needs, at a minimum, 12 more positions added to the staff of 35 already in place with the City/County Environmental and Health District.

Dr. Lea Hutchinson, deputy director, said in a recent budget hearing that doing so would advance the program “to where it was 30 years ago.”

The Shelter’s Advisory Committee, of which Patricia L. Palafos is chairman, endorses the gradual increase in full-time personnel along with authorization of $31,200 for contract veterinary services.

The new places would include three kennel attendants, one kennel supervisor, one vet technician, four animal control officers, two animal control attendants, one kennel supervisor, one vet technician and one telephone operator.

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) listed inadequate staffing among the major deficiencies found during its November, 2000, inspection of the agency’s facility. It noted that, over the past decade, “staffing levels, rather than increasing to keep pace with population growth, have instead declined 17 percent from 49 positions in 1999 to 35 in the current fiscal year. At present, the agency is operating at less than 50 percent of the staffing level recommended by the National Animal Control Association, given the area and population of the county, and the number of animals impounded daily.”

The budget increase for ARADC to $1,525,429 for FY 2002. The proposed figure is $1,440,693.

The district’s total budget, at $17,285,378 now, would rise to $18,902,042 next year.

In other County business Monday, Commissioners court aside the suggestion that the City of El Paso should take over operation of Ascarate Park, but they agreed to meet with City Council members to hear ideas on how to improve it. Faced with the Lake’s closing until November because of E-coli bacterial and cholera-causing contamination, they authorized immediate purchase of three air “raiders,” each costing $6,000 to $8,000, to rent from 49 positions in 1999 to 35 in the current fiscal year. At present, the agency is operating at less than 50 percent of the staffing level recommended by the National Animal Control Association, given the area and population of the county, and the number of animals impounded daily.

Dr. Gail Parrish, chief of veterinary services for Animal Regulation and Disease Control,

Finally, a new court devoted entirely to drug prevention and counseling, at a lieu of incarceration for probationers meeting specific guidelines, was approved.

Lower Valley Water District seeking to fill two vacancies
By Marjorie F. Graham
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — The Lower Valley Water District is seeking to fill two vacancies on its board of directors following resignation of members who no longer live in the district.

Following repeated requests by the El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization (EPSO), Joe Carrasco and Rogelio Lourzo were asked to resign since both now are reportedly residents of California.

The EPSO, a community-rights activist group, has been heavily involved in water issues in the El Paso County. EPSO spokesmen contrasted non-residents should not represent the local community because they cannot keep adequately informed on area issues.

Other objections were that travel costs to bring the directors to El Paso County for meetings were unnecessary expenses.

This year, the board was asked to notify the district via fax at (915) 791-4483 or by hand delivery to LWWD’s administrative offices at 15870 E. Rd. Clint, TX 79836, no later than 12:00 noon, Aug. 24, 2001.

A taxpayer might be referred to as a government worker with no vacations, no sick leaves, and no holidays.

— Quotes and Quotes
HORZON CITY — Remember that story by H.G. Wells about the time machine? A fellow travels forward in time to find that mankind has become split into two sub-species. One species of predatory creatures becomes split into two sub-species. One species of predatory creatures become split into two sub-species. One species of predatory creatures become split into two sub-species. One species of predatory creatures become split into two sub-species. One species of predatory creatures become split into two sub-species.

Some say the solution to high natural gas prices is for the federal government to step in and impose price controls. But the fact is that we tried that in the 1970s, with disastrous results. The price controls started out innocently enough as an attempt to protect consumers from exploitation by profiteering producers. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court told federal energy regulators that they must ensure that the price of gas sold in interstate commerce is “just and reasonable.” That sounds good, but it leaves a lot of room for interpretation.

Federal regulators interpreted this to mean that they should establish cost-based prices for hundreds of different gas producers around the country. Producers could no longer charge prices that exceeded their historical costs. This meant that when the cost of production increased, producers would suffer a corresponding decrease in profits unless regulators increased the controlled price.

Since it cost more to find and extract new natural gas, regulators found themselves buried in more requests for price increases than they could handle. They then tried several other methods of setting prices for groups of producers. Regulated prices never rose high enough to provide adequate incentives for new supplies. Artificially low prices didn’t just reduce the supply of natural gas. They also encouraged people to use more gas. As a result, consumption expanded and reserves dwindled, shortages were the inevitable result.

Even though federal regulators eventually abandoned price controls on natural gas, the regulators are still supposed to insist that prices be “just and reasonable.” And even if they are not being enforced by law, the temptation to issue price controls will continue persist.

Today, as power generators and farmers worry about the high cost of natural gas, lawmakers must ensure that there will be enough gas for all that need it. That means setting policies that encourage more production and expand existing pipeline capacity. This is one reason why I recently voted for the Securing America’s Future Energy (SAFE) Act. This legislation will help build new natural gas pipelines. It’s also going to repair and upgrade entire transmission grids and build new lines, in order to meet the energy demand we face.

America’s energy problem did not happen overnight and it can’t be fixed overnight. But by enacting the SAFE Act, Congress can put in place a balanced energy plan to increase production and promote conservation while protecting our environmental priorities. It’s the only way to guarantee a secure, reliable energy supply to fuel the U.S. economy in the 21st century.

**West Texas County Courier**

**August 16, 2001**
Waiting to be paid — must be captured immediately

Snap, then folding them to expose only the article be-

city commuter bus, turning the pages with a quick

zine. Reading a newspaper needs skills last used on a

stream until you put something on top of the maga-

azine's pages snap and riffle nonstop in the air

of mumbling; he suggests I'm going deaf.

To hear

and do the same.

If I can work here, I expect my computer to snap to

gets below 50 degrees in the winter and a fan when

least equal to my own. But no, my wussy computer

have our own personal fans, each aimed at our re-

ously until the end of October. As the days heat up,

summers — hot, dry and dusty as

Blowin' in the wind

No matter how much I love

of cat, I never had a fan when the
down all the paper on my desk. But when a paper-

paperwork of irish potatoes. Balanced and smooth, they are

My fat little pink paperweight is a great stress reliever.

and do the same.)

Even my computer has a fan. (That really ticks me

Some actually are paperweights. I have an polished

Some actualy are paperweights. I have an polished

The constant low hum of the fans moving the warm

看过 the TV news, we crank up the volume. I accuse

The constant low hum of the fans moving the warm

less I hear the

event. I expect my tools to have operating tolerances

at least equal to my own. But no, my wussy computer

wants to do something on top of the maga-

azine. Reading a newspaper needs skills last used on a

city commuter bus, turning the pages with a quick

There is no honest and straightforward.

Last month, the administration re-

seized an interim report put out by

the Social Security Commission that

depends on grains of sand to blan-

本土 American hammer stones. I can imagine their

like Irish potatoes. Balanced and smooth, they are

14 years out of the

They are — they make me a tad

twitchy, a little ringy.

The ceiling fans in the house

go on in April and run continu-

ously until the end of October. As the days heat up,

other fans go on line as they are needed. Right now,

six other fans are running full blast. Pardner and I each

have our own personal fans, each aimed at our re-

pective side of the bed.

Even my computer has a fan. (That really ticks me

Well, the 

expect that all adults should save enough

on a regular basis so that they can pro-

vide for their own retirement and for

that matter, their health and medical

needs. While this may be an easy task

for some people, it is extremely diffi-

cult or impossible for others.

Also, the Commission’s assertion

that Social Security is going bust in 2016 is not true. The fact is that So-

cial Security has enough reserve in

the trust fund to last until at least 2038. These assets have the full faith

and credit of the United States gov-

ernment behind them, and the Social Security system is fundamentally

strong for many years to come.

The Commission also concluded

that women and minorities, who are

the biggest beneficiaries of Social Security, stand to gain the most from

a privatization plan. In reality, they

have the most to lose in a switch to

privatization. Women spend an av-

erage of 14 years out of the

workforce. Women also tend to live

longer than men, so a woman would

have to live longer with less money.

Social Security has faced financing

imbalance before and the program has

been adjusted to stay solvent. The ex-

isting financing imbalance is manage-

able. But to find the best solution for
generations of Americans, we need a

sound consideration of a variety of re-

form proposals, and not proposals

and conclusions that are biased and lack

sense.

Social Security became law be-
cause millions of Americans believed

in the idea and because Franklin

Roosevelt had the vision to usher it

through Congress. That generation

had the courage to stand up for real

reform that made a meaningful, posi-

tive difference in people’s lives. Be-

cause of those actions, millions of

Americans have been helped by this

program. Together with my col-

leagues in Congress, I will fight to

keep Social Security solvent. We will

continue to fight for a fair and balanced

approach to the Social Security pro-

gram, and we will never stop fighting

for a plan that strengthens Social Se-

curity for many generations to come.

Dear Editor:

The Velarde family would like to

thank everyone for all the acts of

kindness extended during the loss of

our beloved mother and grand-

mother, Natalia Velarde. Your cards, calls, food, flowers and

your presence all meant so much to

us and are greatly appreciated.

Thank you all and may God bless

all of you.

The Family of

Natalia M. Velarde

Fabens
**NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE**

2001 Property Tax Rates in the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1

This notice concerns 2001 property tax rates for the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1. It provides information about the tax rates.

Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes. This year's effective tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case, these rates are divided by the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per $100 of property value.

**Last year's tax rate:**
- Last year's operating taxes: $269,592
- Last year's debt taxes: $0
- Last year's total taxes: $269,592
- Last year's tax rate: $0.004090

**This year's effective tax rate:**
- This year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on property) $269,543
- This year's added tax rate (after subtracting taxes on property) 0.001719
- This year's effective tax rate: $0.004095

**This year's rollback tax rate:**
- Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) $269,543
- This year's added tax rate (after subtracting taxes on property) 0.001719
- This year's effective tax rate: $0.004095

**SCHEDULE A: Unencumbered Fund Balances**
The following estimated balances will be listed in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

**Type of Property Tax Fund**
- Maintenance & Operations (M&O)
- Debt Service (DS)
- Unencumbered Amount to be Used

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

**Proposed Debt Service Contract Payment**
- Description of Paid from Amount to be Paid Total Paid
- Description of Debt Property Taxes Other Amounts Total Payment
- None $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE**
The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 27, 2001 in the Canutillo High School Cafeteria, 7311 Bosque Rd., Canutillo, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited. The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

**Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year's Rates**

**Maintenance & Operation**
- Interest & Sinking Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Maintenance &amp; Operation</th>
<th>Interest &amp; Sinking Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Year</td>
<td>$1,429,555</td>
<td>$0.271361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate to Maintain Same</td>
<td>$1,700,716</td>
<td>$1,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Revenue</td>
<td>$4,453</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Revenue per Student**
- $1,429,555
- $1,700,716
- $4,453

**Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence**

| Year          | Average Market Value of Residence | Average Taxable Value of Residence | Last Year's Rate | Proposed Rate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Year</td>
<td>$53,308</td>
<td>$38,071</td>
<td>$0.004090</td>
<td>$0.004165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This Year</td>
<td>$54,284</td>
<td>$38,998</td>
<td>$0.004165</td>
<td>$0.004201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notice of Rollback Rate:**
The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.606870. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.606870.

**Fund Balances**
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

**Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance:** $1,080,771

**Interest & Sinking Fund Balance:** $376,741
Government regulations are a parent trap

In its attempt to extend fairness to the less fortunate, the disabled and safety for those who can’t follow instructions, the federal government continues to parent the people of this country with excessive, costly regulations to the tune of $18.7 billion. The reason? It’s good for you.

From low-flow toilet legislation designed to conserve water to ordinances for businesses to install a bi-cycle rack that no one uses, government seems to relish the practice of imposing the ridiculous and costly. Is all of this in the name of balance, equity and conservation — or just conservative estimates, it takes over 100 days of the average American’s salary to pay for the cost of government. Individually, these examples don’t seem so drastically costly, but consider this: the federal government alone has 134,723 pages of regulations, which takes over 130,000 employees to implement and enforce. Is this really necessary? Ronald Reagan didn’t think so when he established the Grace Commission in 1981 to come up with cost-cutting ideas for government. Because of his efforts the number of regulations was reduced by 30%.
Take these steps to hold down on mosquitoes

• Keep swimming pools treated and circulate. Unclog rain gutters.
• Use bug repellents when outdoors and wear head nets, long sleeves and pants if you go into high mosquito population areas.
• Make sure your windows are bug-proof.
• Replace outdoor lighting with yellow bug repelling bulbs.
• Get more information at www.mosquito.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, August 27, 2001 in the Middle School Library, Anthony, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparision of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintenance &amp; Operation</th>
<th>Local Revenue</th>
<th>State Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Sinking Fund</td>
<td>Total Per Student</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Year’s Rate</td>
<td>$1.457385</td>
<td>$1.631109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Year’s Rate</td>
<td>$1.457385</td>
<td>$0.173724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparision of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>This Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Market Value of Residences</td>
<td>$52,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Taxable Value of Residences</td>
<td>$37,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Year’s Rate</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Rate per $100 Value</td>
<td>$1.631109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes Due on Average Residence</td>
<td>$604.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (Decrease) in Taxes</td>
<td>$90.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 2.045311. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 2.045311.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

- Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) | $1,500,000
- Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s) | $0

You, too, can stomp grapes like Lucy at La Vina wine festival

By Michelle J. Brown Special to the Courier

Tickets are $10, which include up to six tastings or a glass of wine and a souvenir glass. Stomping contests with prizes for the most果汁stomper will be held, for an additional charge, with winners receiving bottles of wine. Photos of attendees and their own stomping adventures will also be available for purchase. Live music and multicultural food booths round out the weekend’s entertainment.

Located at 4201 Highway 28, one mile north of I-10’s Vinton Exit, just 20 minutes from El Paso, La Vina covers 43 acres, with 25 devoted to grapes in the production of 13 award-winning varietal wines available only in New Mexico. Established in 1977, the current owners recently dedicated 10,000 sq. ft. to production for tours and tastings year round as well as two acres of yard with a stage and dance floor for festival celebrations.

For more information about the winery or the La Vina Grape Stomp, call Denise Stark (915) 859-6403 or (915) 241-3848 or Ana M. Telles at (915) 859-6403.

Public Notice

Fabens Independent School District

Fabens, Texas

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Fabens Independent School District provides educational services for the special needs students from the ages of three through twenty-two if their twenty-second birthday falls after September 1. Services are also available through the district for visually handicapped or hearing impaired children from birth to three years of age.

District programs for the special needs population include pre-vocational, vocational, academic, fundamental living skills and socialization skills.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 94-142, parents and adult students have the right to inspect the educational records of handicapped students. District policies FL, FL-E and FL-L provide for student record inspection, confidentiality, and complaint procedures. If parents have questions, they may call the campus principal.

SERVICIOS EDUCATIVOS PARA ESTUDIANTES INCAPACITADOS

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens provee servicios educacionales para incapacitados desde la edad de tres años hasta la edad de veintidós, si su veintidós cumpleaños cae después de Septiembre 1. También hay servicios disponibles mediante el distrito para incapacitados visualmente o con impedimentos del sentido del oído desde su nacimiento hasta los treinta años. Los estudiantes de edades de tres años a veintidós que están incapacitados incluyen educación pre-vocacional, vocacional, académica, destrezas fundamentales, para vivir y socializar.

En conformidad con los Derechos Educacionales de la Familia y el Acto Privado de 1974 y la Ley Publica 94-142, padres y estudiantes adultos tienen el derecho de revisar los archivos educacionales de estudiantes incapacitados. Las Políticas del Distrito en los Artículos FL, FL-E y FL-L proveen inspección de archivos de estudiantes, procedimientos de confidencialidad y quejas. Si los padres tienen preguntas, ellos pueden llamar al director de la escuela.
View from here

By Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff

Booming growth and soaring health costs are driving our state budget

Traveling throughout Texas since the legislative session ended, I have found folks from every end of our state who only have one comment to make on the work their legislators did in Austin this year. Time and time again, I’ve heard: “$14 billion is a lot of money.”

They get no argument from me. $14 billion is a lot of money. But I wouldn’t be doing our state any service if I didn’t tell Texans why our state budget has grown and still struggles to keep pace with the demands placed on it.

Historically, Texans have been quick to brag that we live in a big state. And they’re right. Covering well over a quarter million square miles, Texas is 68 percent larger than California, with a boundary line that could rope in all of the states in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois combined. As they say in Austin this year — surpassing New York to become the second largest state in the nation. And year after year, Texas lawmakers have faced the challenge those growing demands have placed on our budget by rejecting tax increases and stretching our state dollars further and further to try to make ends meet.

Although Texas now ranks No. 2 in population and still outstrips every other state in the continental U.S. when it comes to per capita state spending, we’ve topped the charts to No. 49 — second only to Mississippi in the small amount we invest in the men, women and children who live here.

While many Texans can find good reason to put our public school system — which has been adding 70,000 new students a year — at the top of their lists of the largest state expenses, the single item that is driving our state budget harder, higher and faster than any other is the soaring cost of health care. In fact, the only population in Texas that is growing cost of health care. In fact, the only population in Texas that is growing at a quicker pace, percentage-wise, than our schoolchildren, is the number of people in our nursing homes. And four out of five of them depend on some kind of public assistance.

Many Texans are surprised to learn how deeply rooted health care costs are in the state budget. While the Medicaid program for poor children and elderly citizens who cannot take care of themselves is a huge health cost for the state, recent estimates for the state employee health plan have shown increases ranging anywhere from 20 to 40 percent for each two-year budget period. The state health insurance plan for our retired teachers alone required an additional $452 million last session — just to stay solvent for the next two fiscal years.

Texas’ mental health and mental retardation facilities also have an enormous medical cost attached to them. Many of their clients face severe physical problems in addition to challenging mental condition. And very few of them have adequate resources to take care of themselves.

Texas’ foster children program is another costly investment. Many foster children are fostered simply because they have such serious health conditions that their parents cannot take care of them. Others have been abused or neglected to such an extreme that they require serious medical attention to restore their health.

Texas also runs one of the largest hospital systems in the world within the confines of our prison system. There are approximately 150,000 state inmates behind bars in Texas on any given day. Some of them have AIDS, or are HIV positive. It should come as no surprise that a growing number of aging inmates are housed in geriatric units — or should be.

All Texans are tough on crime and the number of state prisoners now in geriatric units is expected to grow more and more inmates who need the kind of major medical care required by any elderly population anywhere.

Pharmaceuticals are a health cost drive in the state budget that cannot be ignored — and it is an area that clearly illustrates the dilemma law-makers have faced in setting spending priorities. In the last two years alone, state prescription drug costs have skyrocketed 56 percent, while general revenue spending for the next biennium increased only 8.8 percent — or 4.4 percent a year.

There is little question that law-makers are going to have to give serious, thoughtful and credible consideration to all of the tough issues Texas will face in the future. And there is even less doubt that finding a way to corral the rising cost of health care in the state budget should be at the top of that list.

Fabens Independent School District

PUBLIC NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Fabens Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The Fabens Independent School District is fully committed to the performance of its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua ingles no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas vocacionales y educativos.

5) Para más información sobre sus derechos y procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Titulo IX: Eldeltono “Poncho” Garcia, Asistente Superintendente, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79788, (915) 764-2025.

Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia de Fabens ISD

1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens ofrece programas de carreras y tecnología en Economia Domestica, Educacion de Negocios, y Mecanica. La admision a estos programas se basa en el rendimiento en la escuela de Fabens y completar los requisitos necesarios.

2) Es norma de El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios, o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, que fue enmendada, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.

3) Es norma de El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens no discriminar por motivos que sean de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como lo requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmienda, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua ingles no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas vocacionales y educativos.

¿”It came down to the wire”? A situation that is resolved only in the last few seconds.

A close foot race, a winner is not known until one contestant is marked as first by a judge or a referee, even though the tape or string is tightly wound as they cross the finish line.
Hottest prediction for fall — who will take the World Series?

By Steve Escoveda
Special to the Courier

West, we are three-fourths of the way through the Major League Baseball season and I believe that I can tell you with some confidence which team will win the World Series.

Too early, you say? Maybe so, but barring any unforeseen injuries, each team is peaking at just the right time and has a swagger about them not seen by any other team.

Who will win it all? Let's examine all the contenders.

The New York Yankees have won four of the last five championships and when this season is over, they will have won four of the last six — because they don't have the pitching that they've enjoyed in the past.

The Boston Red Sox aren't guaranteed a healthy Pedro Martinez down the home stretch of the season, and, of course, they have that old "Yankee curse" thing to contend with.

The Minnesota Twins and the Cleveland Indians keep passing the American League Central lead to one another like a hot potato and neither team wants it.

The Seattle Mariners have been the best team in baseball since the season began and show no signs of slowing down. But this is the regular season, and you can imagine the pressure a young team has on their shoulders to live up to the pace they set all season.

In the National League the Atlanta Braves no longer have that third starter to back Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine. The Braves really miss the likes of a Fred McGriff or a "Big Cat" Galaragga.

The Philadelphia Phillies got off to a great start this season but reality is beginning to set in at the worst time of year.

The Chicago Cubs are winning with a pitching staff that is performing way over their heads and, in the end, the Cubs will always be the Cubs.

The Houston Astros probably have the best hitting team in baseball but one of the youngest pitching staffs. If they can hold on to Mosis Alou, the Astros could be a year away.

The Arizona Diamondbacks have the best 1-2 pitchng punch in the majors in Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling and the best all-around hitter in Carlos Baerga. But they lack pitching depth and big bats.

The Los Angeles Dodgers have done well to stay in the National League West race for as long as they have but look for them to fall off the pace during the last month of the season.

The San Francisco Giants will be watching Barry Bonds' home run tour but their pitching staff is what's winning baseball games. The Giants have plenty of offense but are running thin in quality arms.

So who will win the World Series? The hottest team in baseball team over the last two months. Yes, they are even hotter than the Seattle Mariners.

The Oakland A's started the season horribly with an 8-16 record in last place in the American League West. But they've turned things around and as of last Sunday had won 30 of their last 39 games.

The A's are getting great pitching and scoring runs in bunches. I know the A's were going to be a contender this season I couldn't understand the slow start.

With the new bash brothers, Jeremy and Jason Giambi, Johnny Damon and Miguel Tejada, the A's are pushing runs across the plate. And with a pitching staff that includes Tim Hudson (14-6) and Mark Mulder (14-6) and an emerging Barry Zito (8-7) and 144 strike outs in 149 innings. The A's are indeed the team to beat.

The A's have something else too, they have a quiet confidence about them. They seem to know what it takes to win the close games (when their games are close.

Don't believe me — see you in October.

Eagle eyes

What has the heck been going on with Philadelphia football over the last few years? I don't mean the football team, I mean the football cheerleaders.

Seems two of the former Eagles cheerleaders have filed suit against 23 NFL teams that supposedly got to see a little more of the cheerleaders than they were supposed to.

The two claim that visiting teams drilled holes through the cheerleaders' locker room, which is adjacent to the visiting team's locker room in Veterans Stadium.

They say they are seeking damages of $757,000 from each team but ironically, they aren't seeking a penny from the organization that allowed this peep show to go on…the Philadelphia Eagles.

Some cheerleaders claim that they have been putting tape over the holes for years so that tells me the Eagles knew about the behavior.

The cheerleaders should go after the organization that allowed this to happen… and that's the naked truth.

Village of Vinton

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:00 p.m. during the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2001 at Vinton Village Hall, 436 Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas.

Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

1) An Ordinance amending the Vinton Subdivision Ordinance affecting Subdivision Improvement Design Standards and Water Distribution Standards and Specifications for the Village of Vinton, Texas.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Clerk of the Village of Vinton. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the Clerk at the above address.

IRMA RODRIGUEZ
Village Clerk

El Distrito Escolar de Anthony

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

El Distrito escolar de Anthony provee los siguientes programas/ser vicios educacionales a ninos que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito concomitante con el tercer cumpleanos hasta los 21 anos.

Programa de instruccion: inicia con el tercer cumpleanos hasta el edad de 5 anos, y clases contenedas (K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services and 10) Homebound Services

Services are provided to identified audito rial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policies FL and FL-E provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a child with disabilities who is not receiving educ ational services, please contact: Pat Caballero, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821, (915) 886-6500.
Past of colorful Cordova Island explored by El Paso historian

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso Border Patrol Sector Chief Patrol Agent Luis Barker.

Luis Barker.

“El Paso resident Jesus Maria Rivera-Chavez was convicted in District Court of a federal offense relating to Title 8, U.S.C. 1324, which covers miseries for profit,” said El Paso Border Patrol Sector Chief Patrol Agent Luis Barker. Barker.

Recently expanded Federal statutes prohibit harboring or concealing illegal immigrants, private homes, bank holdings, vehicles and other applicable assets.

According to court records, Rivera-Chavez used his $70,000 home as a stash for illegal immigrants.

Home forfeited in connection with immigration trafficking case

Anthony Independent School District
Public Notice Of Non-Discrimination

Anthony Independent School District Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Programs

1) The Anthony Independent School District offers career and technology education programs in:

- Business Professions;
- Human Service Professions including culinary arts and cosmetology;
- Commercial Arts Professions;
- Health Professions;
- Industrial Professions including air conditioning and refrigeration, electronics, plumbing and metal trades;
- Computer Professions including Macromedia certification, Microsoft Windows NT, microcomputer technician, and telecommunications and networking.
- Automotive Professions including diesel mechanics and automotive technology.

Admission to these programs is based on appropriate age, grade, aptitude and ability.

2) It is the policy of Anthony Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

3) It is the policy of Anthony Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

4) Anthony Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all career and technology programs.

5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator/Section 504 Coordinator: Mr. Robert Ortega, (915) 886-6500, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821.

Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia

1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony ofrece programas de carrera y tecnología:

- Profesiones en negocios;
- Profesiones en servicios humanos incluyendo artes culinarias y cosmetologia;
- Profesiones en arte comercial;
- Profesiones en salud;
- Profesiones industriales incluyendo aire acondicionado y refrigeración, electrónica, plomería y oficio en el metal;
- Profesiones de computación como certificación de macromedia, Microsoft Windows NT, Técnico en micro-computación, telecomunicaciones, y red de radiodifusión, y;
- Profesiones automotrices incluyendo mecánica diesel y tecnología automotriz.

Para admisión a éstos programas se basa en edad apropiada, grado, aptitud y habilidad.

2) Es norma del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios, o actividades relacionadas, tal como lo requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

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4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua inglés no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas carreras y tecnología.

5) Para más información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX/Coordinador de la Sección 504, Mr. Robert Ortega, (915) 886-6500, en 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821.
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
2001 GRANT APPLICATION
PUBLIC NOTICE

The County of El Paso, Texas, is giving notice of the county's intent to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs under the 2001 Housing Infrastructure Fund. The grant application will be submitted for $400,000 to provide infrastructure improvements in support of an affordable housing subdivision in Horizon City.

Interested persons are invited to review the application Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Suite 313 of the County Courthouse Building at 500 E. San Antonio Ave., El Paso, Texas 79901. For more information, please contact the Community Development Division at (915) 543-3845.

WTCC: 08/16/01

EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
2000 GRANT APPLICATION
PUBLIC NOTICE

The County of El Paso, Texas, is giving notice of the county’s intent to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs under the 2000 Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program. The grant application will be submitted for $190,692 to provide first-time residential water and sewer services in unincorporated areas eligible under the Economically Distressed Areas Program.

Interested persons are invited to review the application Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Suite 313 of the County Courthouse Building at 500 E. San Antonio Ave., El Paso, Texas 79901. For more information, please contact the Community Development Division at (915) 543-3845.

WTCC: 08/16/01

West Texas County Courier
August 16, 2001

Attention
From Page 2

was perfectly acceptable.

It cost EPCWA $338 last year to publish a detailed accounting in 10,000 copies of the Courier that were distributed all over El Paso County and in 22 states outside Texas. That’s not a budget breaker for EPCWA — not for this publication. In light of the fact that so many water providers are now under management by private corporations, it seems even more imperative that the public should be informed of how they spend tax dollars. Considering EOC’s windfall under the guise of “professional services” the sky seems to be limit where public funds can be spent without accountability. As the tax bill continues to go up, up and away, the respect for taxpayers and the trust to spend public money carefully seems to be going in the opposite direction. One local elected official once lamented that early Horizon councils listened too much to community input and kept the tax rate low. I thought elected officials were supposed to do that.

One look at your Horizon Tax bill this year should confirm that the “mistake” of keeping taxes low is one that won’t be made again anytime soon.

In view of the predatory nature of our taxing entities toward the folks who are their “food source,” maybe we should change the term “community service” to “community-serves-us.” With such a voracious tax appetite in El Paso County, we’d best not let our kids wander out alone in the dark.

The Anthony Independent School District serves breakfast and lunch every school day. All children in the District will receive a reimbursable meal at no charge through the academic year of 2001-2002. All children will receive a free breakfast and a free lunch regardless of income. In the operation of the child feeding program no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, age or national origin.

Anthony Independent
School District
2001-2002 Meal Policy

The Anthony Independent School District offers delicious and nutritious meals to all students enrolled in the district. The menu includes a variety of options to meet the needs of all students. All students receive a free breakfast and a free lunch regardless of income. The District ensures that all meals meet or exceed the nutritional guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The menu includes a variety of options to meet the needs of all students.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony Regla de Alimentos
Año 2001-2002

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony ofrece desayuno y comida todos los días escolares. A los estudiantes de la escuela se les servirá alimentos a ningún costo durante el año académico de 2001-2002. Todo estudiante recibirá el desayuno y la comida gratuita sin costo en cuenta ingresos. En el funcionamiento del programa de alimentación ningún niño ni niña será discriminado contra su raza, color, religión, sexo, incapacidad, edad o origen nacional.

WTCC: 8/16/01

King Super Crossword

Año 2001-2002 Meal Policy

West Texas County Courier
August 16, 2001

Page 10
Not laughing till it hurts

By Don Flood

It’s not like we didn’t know.

During last year’s election campaign, I wrote about what was then believed to be the Worst Joke in the History of the Universe.

As asked by TV host David Letterman what made him a “uniter, not a divider,” candidate George W. Bush let loose with this memorable quip: “When it comes to sex, I have two thoughts. One is, ‘Is it hurting?’ and the other is, ‘What’s it going to be?’”

Since then, humor scientists have been using everything from an electron microscope to the Hubble Telescope to find even the tiniest particle of humor — to no avail.

Looking on the bright side, observers said Americans could take heart in knowing that we had survived the worst joke Bush could throw at us.

But last week, appearing with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the president made a statement that — if meant to be a joke — would have proven that Bush was only toying with us when he told the earlier gag.

After waiting patiently for Blair to finish his statement, President Bush came out of nowhere and said something like, “I just wanted to know if anybody has some extra Pepsodent.”

What followed was what you might expect if the president were to suddenly announce that he was, in fact, a Canada goose and that it was time for him to fly south for the winter — Absolute Stunned Silence.

For a few horrible seconds he glared at the audience, and then the President of the United States was actually reduced to saying, “Get it?”

More silence. It was excruciating. It was also, according to humor historians, the most painful public appearance ever for a politician — with the possible exception of the appearance ever for a politician — of Mr. McMahon, a Professional Laugher who worked for 30 years on the “Tonight Show.” For added effectiveness, McMahon could be cloned.

And what about innocent bystanders who fall victim to his jokes?

President Bush let loose with this memorable quip: “When it comes time to sew up your chest cavity, we use stitches as opposed to opening it up. That’s what that means.”

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Somehow, I don’t think this is a job for Dick Cheney.

While the Constitution doesn’t directly address the issue of a president being unable to fulfill his duties as comic-in-chief, Bush could at least show his humanitarian spirit by promising not to tell jokes within 1,000 feet of:

• Schools and hospitals;
• Houses of worship;
• Cows waiting to be milked;
• Dog obedience schools.

To ensure the success of this plan, audience members would be “warmed up” beforehand with jokes and a friendly reminder that the Secret Service was under orders to shoot people who didn’t laugh.

Plan No. 2 — Appoint a co-host to travel with Bush — someone like Ed McMahon, a Professional Laugher who worked for 30 years on the “Tonight Show.” For added effectiveness, McMahon could be cloned.

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Clint school district to hold community meetings on bond election

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Clint Independent School District has scheduled community meetings in August and September regarding the proposed school bond election scheduled for Oct. 6, 2001.

District officials will be providing bond package information to community members and will be delivering school bond presentations during each scheduled event.

The Clint district trustees voted in favor of adopting an estimated $67 million bond and maintenance tax election during its regular meeting July 25.

The community meetings will be held at the following locations and dates:
• Clint Junior High School Library, 6 p.m. Aug. 27
• Suratt Elementary Gym, 6 p.m. Aug. 28
• Clint High School, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 28
• Frank Macias Elementary, 6 p.m. Aug. 29
• Desert Hills Elementary, 6 p.m. Aug. 30
• Carroll T. Welch Middle School Library, 6 p.m. Sept. 5
• East Montana Middle School Library, 6 p.m. Sept. 6
• Mountain View High School Library, 7 p.m. Sept. 6
• Montana Vista Elementary Library, 6 p.m. Sept. 11
• Red Sands Elementary Library, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 11

Early voting on the bond election is scheduled for Sept. 19-Oct. 2 at Clint Junior High School, Desert Hills Elementary School and Montana Vista Elementary School. Voters can also take to the polls from 5-9 p.m. Sept. 27 at all Clint ISD campus sites.

Voter registration cards may be picked up at any school campus office. Deadline for voter registration is Sept. 6.

— Contributed by Debra Dominguez

WEATHER

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

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