

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 7

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

FEBRUARY 14, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Anthony ISD grant

The Anthony Independent School District, under the direction of Superintendent Robert Ortega, was awarded a Texas Education Agency (TEA) School Repair and Renovation Grant for \$967,034. Community input indicated that the monies will be utilized at the elementary and middle school to replace portions of the roof, heating and cooling units, linoleum, carpeting and the fire alarm system. With the completion of the new high school, the opening of the Fine Arts Auditorium, and a facelift for the elementary and middle schools, Anthony ISD will have a much-needed fresh new look, Ortega said. AISD, a TEA "Recognized" district, will celebrate the ribbon-cutting of the new High School Fine Arts Auditorium at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 14 at 800 Oak St. An open house will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Student task forces

High school students in Fabens and Tornillo have been recruited by State Rep. Manny Najera to help educate other students on the subject of sexual offenders. "I have asked students to volunteer to form a Task Force to be utilized to help explain various topics concerning sex offenders to younger students and their parents," Najera said. "I know that high school students have opinions pertaining to these matters because they are intelligent, innovative and sensitive to these topics." The selected students will undergo in-depth training from the El Paso Police Department with the permission of their parents, and their superintendents, Dr. Lu Stephens of Fabens and Dr. Donna Smith of Tornillo. The initial members of the Fabens team are Erica Bustamante, Freddy Romero, Jerry Vasquez, Nalleli Gallardo, Marisol Amaya and Elisa Rubio. In Tornillo, the first team will consist of Linda Menchaca, Wendy Duran, Liliana Benavidez and Joanna Ortero. The teams will hold discussions, perform skits and host other interactive activities in the schools.

In other news

■ A free public series on aging will begin on Tuesday evenings starting Feb. 19. Book and resource browsing, and refreshments, will be offered at 6:30 p.m. followed by panel presentations 7-8:30 p.m. A question and answer period will follow. The first week will focus on the medical, spiritual, psychological and emotional aspects of aging and how they impact both the elder and the caregiver. Davy Johnson of the Rio Grande Council on Aging and Dr. Richard Patterson, psychologist and author, will be presenters. All sessions will be held at the Church of the Incarnation, 15000 Darrington Rd. (at the intersection of Darrington and Horizon Blvd.) in Horizon City. For more information call 852-4171.

■ The Risinger Early Childhood Center in the Fabens Independent School District is participating in the Pennies for Patients program, a school/youth program in which spare change is collected for donation to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help patients battle these diseases. The program will conclude on Feb. 15. Those wishing to

See BRIEFS, Page 7

Never mess up an apology with an excuse.

— Quips and Quotes

New energy-efficient houses in San Elizario are among latest in affordable housing projects

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Through Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario Anthony Araujo is trying to change the face of the community one

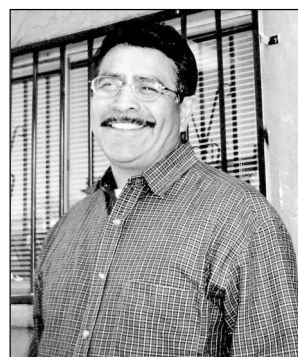
house at a time. He sees his organization as a catalyst for change.

"We are trying to improve the quality of life in San Elizario with affordable and decent housing for low-income families," said Araujo, president of Progresiva, a community development corporation. Driving

through the Lower Valley community that borders on the Rio Grande, he stops at a new home on Zempoala to illustrate his point. This contractor-built home is part of that new face.

Working through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural development program, Progresiva was the contractor for a three-bedroom, two-bath, energy-efficient home that the Gordillo family is expected to move into on Friday. Pablo and Rosa Gordillo and their two children, presently live a few yards behind their new 1,100 square-foot house in a mobile home.

"We are anxious to move in," Rosa said with



Anthony Araujo wants to change San Elizario one house at a time.



WORKING WITH NATURE — Energy efficient home utilizes the seasonal angles of the sun.

See HOUSES, Page 7

Canutillo's new high school will be near Northwest EPCC campus

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — The Canutillo Independent School District board of trustees has moved ahead with locating a new high school on a course that took shape in special back-to-back community-input/school board meetings held Feb. 6 and 7.

On Feb. 6 the board heard the word of the people in a public hearing to find out where the community felt the new high school should be located. The hearing was scheduled because the board was unable to agree on a site for the new high school at a fractious Jan. 23 meeting.

Approximately 120 people packed the boardroom of the central administration building for the Feb. 6 meeting. Twenty-six spoke at the meeting; only four were against site number one, said Alfredo Vasquez, public information officer for the district.

He said the "overwhelming majority" favored the site adjacent to the Northwest campus of El Paso Community College and moving ahead with plans for collaborative academic efforts to benefit the students.

Having heard public input, the board heeded it the following night and voted 5-2 to authorize the administration to move ahead to finalize a sale price with the owners of the land adjacent to the Northwest campus. If the two sides were unable to reach agreement on a sale

price within five working days, the board gave the green light for administration and the district's attorney, Larry Baskind, to initiate eminent domain proceedings. The district's appraised price was \$2.18 million. The owners were asking \$2.20 million.

As of Feb. 12, no agreement had been reached. The five-working day period ends Thursday, Feb. 14.

"Eminent domain is not a dirty word," pointed out board member Yvonne Sanchez. "We are not going to steal the land. We should keep the students in mind — not personal interests."

Disappointed by the outcome of the Jan. 23 meeting, Superintendent Charles Hart was much happier on Feb. 7.

"I am thrilled Canutillo is going to have a new high school," he said.

Although the board did move ahead on the high school, the Feb. 7 meeting had its confrontational moments chiefly in exchanges between board president Joe Villarreal and board member Laure Searls. Before voting, Searls sought more detailed information about possible collaborative projects between the school district and the community college.

"What are we going to share?" she asked.

She also expressed concern that the board wasn't being fiscally responsible with the cost



Board member Laure Searls has doubts about the value of the new site.

of the land that she quoted at \$43,000 an acre. She felt that spending so much on the land would take away from the construction of a first-rate facility.

The Feb. 7 meeting was the sixth — special and otherwise — the board has held in the last 30 days.

A recap:

- Jan. 8: Special board meeting at which trustees agreed to move forward with joint academic endeavors with El Paso Community College.
- Jan. 10: Meeting of the board for annual evaluation of district superintendent.
- Jan. 15: Two architectural firms withdrew their bids for educational specifications for new high school in regular monthly board meeting.
- Jan. 23: Superintendent Charles Hart "disappointed" as trustees are unable to agree on new site for high school in special board meeting.
- Feb. 6: Board gets community input on new site in public hearing.
- Feb. 7: Trustees approve EPCC site in special board meeting.

The week of Feb. 11 has board members busy with two meetings. The first was the regular school board meeting on Feb. 12. The second is a special Feb. 14 board committee meeting on curriculum and instruction.

Lawsuit against Fabens water company by tortillaria owners is dismissed

FABENS — A years-long dispute between owners of a Fabens tortillaria and the Fabens water provider, El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4, has been dismissed in County Court at Law No. 7.

Brother and sister business partners, Dora Chuca and Armando Martinez opened Martinez Tortillaria on Main Street in Fabens in 1993. In January of 1999, the EPCWCID #4 terminated water service to their place of business, citing failure by the pair to comply

with state requirements that they install a grease trap to reduce environmental and water supply contamination.

By the time Martinez and Chuca came to an agreement with the water company concerning the grease trap it was 60 days later and Martinez said by then they had no customers left. Martinez accused the water company of effectively putting him out of business.

The factory owners filed suit against the EPCWCID #4; a former member of the board

of directors, Michael Surratt; and the executive director of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission. Grounds for the suit cited questionable legality of the board require to a grease trap; the specific methods used to enforce the issue; and possible conflicts of interest arising from an alleged personal agenda on the part of one of the defendants.

However, on Feb. 12 Judge Peter Peca Jr. granted a Motion for Summary Judgment filed by the defendants and dismissed the lawsuit.



One perspective
By Francis Shrum

Road trip realities

It's never what you thought it would be but it's always good.

Road trips start in your imagination and culminate when a carload of weary travelers crawl out of their vehicles with crackers in their hair and no socks.

Traveling to Phoenix last week was one of those. We loaded up the car with ice chests, sleeping bags, road snacks, water and the diaper bag.

Two women, two kids and a baby. First official stop is Benson, Arizona. I love Benson. It's big enough to have plenty of quirky tourist attractions, gas stations and eateries, but small enough to not have air pollution.

We're going to visit my grandmother's gravesite. The weather is custom made — clear, clean and warm without being hot. There's a lovely picnic spot near the cemetery under some pines. We're going to have lunch as we look out over the beautiful Arizona desert. My daughters will remember this moment fondly.

They would have, too, except for the bees. And the dogs.

There is a house just across the road from the little country cemetery. They have two dogs, one a blue heeler with opaque white eyes, the other a long-legged black mix of some kind.

They are both territorial and the gate to their yard is wide open. We ease out of the car and through the cemetery gate real quick. Except we left the ice chest in the car. Rather than risk all I have invested in my daughters, I ease back to the car as the first bee arrives.

He's more territorial than the dogs, but I'm too busy keeping an eye on the blue heeler just off the rear bumper.

We begin to eat lunch as the bee's reinforcements arrive in droves. They love the colors on the black and yellow ice chest, the Pepsi cans, and the potato chip sack. After several near misses, we get back in the car, eating lunch with the windows rolled up, wasting all that beautiful sunshine, the bees and the dogs circling outside.

Back on I-10 the girls are absorbed in their books in the backseat. The baby is getting a cold and has a runny nose.

Up until Tucson the traffic is light and easy. After Tucson, things get serious.

I feel like the quarry in a fox-and-hound chase. I get out in the fast lane as long as I dare, with the hounds bearing down on me. I jump back in the slow lane behind the pickup truck loaded with spare parts and wooden pallets to let the big guys go by, but if I want to make it to Phoenix by sundown I have to get back out there.

After several eventful days in Phoenix we head back on a breezy, dusty Sunday morning. I keep remembering the warning signs out by Wilcox and Deming that say the road may be closed by blowing dust.

I don't want to spend the night on the side of the road so we pass up the ostrich farm near Tucson. Besides, the baby is coughing and we don't figure the wind and dust will help his condition any.

By the time we get past the dust danger area, we can still catch the Stein Ghost Town tour, a really unexpected treat.

Back in El Paso on Monday morning, I fill up the car with gas and dig the wadded-up tissue paper and candy wrappers out of the seats.



"HELLO, I'M WALTER, CHIEF CONGRESSIONAL CUSTODIAL ENGINEER, and I WILL BE CONDUCTING these HEARINGS.... DUE to CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS from ENRON, EVERYONE ELSE in the BUILDING HAD to RECUSE THEMSELVES...."



I wonder what my girls will remember most from this trip. Will it be the monkeys with fluorescent golden hair in the Phoenix Zoo? Will it be riding a big brown horse with the Superstition Mountains shimmering in the distance? Will it be the new and old friends we visited — the darling little girl with black disco pants and curly blond hair?

The things I planned may not have all panned out exactly like I envisioned, but I feel strangely sentimental about this Cheezit I'm digging out of the floor mat.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

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

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

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

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$16 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The *Courier* reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$30.
Delivery via 1st class mail.

ADDRESS:
13899 Horizon Blvd., Ste. 2
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The *Courier* reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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Est. 1973

Bonilla invites Veneman to visit 23rd District

By Taryn Fritz
Special to the Courier

WASHINGTON D.C. — Four days after President George W. Bush presented his budget to the Congress, Chairman Henry Bonilla held a one-on-one meeting with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman. The two met in Bonilla's Washington, D.C. office and discussed how the budget would affect farmers and ranchers throughout the 23rd district, the state of Texas and the nation.

"This was a productive meeting. I always appreciate having the Secretary visit me on Capitol Hill," said Bonilla. "She and I share several goals, most importantly how to keep the agriculture industry strong and productive."

The two specifically discussed the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program, which is a nutrition assistance program; foreign food aid and donation programs, which will assist the world's needy and hungry, most specifically in Afghanistan; border inspections; the USDA's role in food security; and the progress made in foot

and mouth disease prevention.

Bonilla also extended an invitation for Secretary Veneman to visit the 23rd district and meet with farmers, ranchers and producers. The secretary accepted and plans will be in the works shortly.

The two also discussed an issue currently facing Bonilla's district: the Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) eradication program. The program was enacted to help prevent the continued spread of this disease. Bonilla has introduced legislation that will amend a 1986 section of the tax code so that farmers are not penalized for participating in the program.

"Over the last couple of years, I secured the funding necessary to complete the herd depopulation necessary



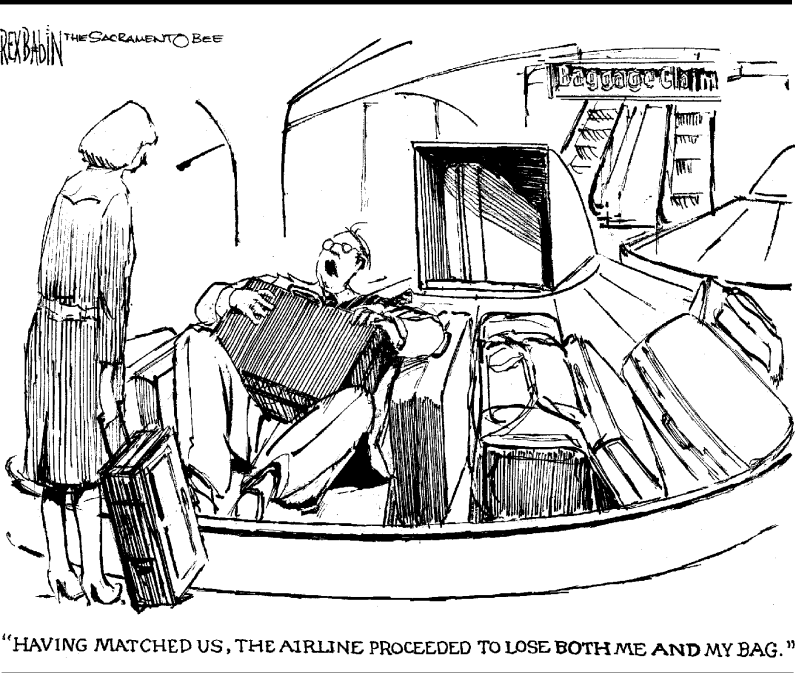
HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS — Congressman Henry Bonilla and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Veneman discussed tax ramifications of the herd buy-out to eradicate Bovine TB.

to eradicate Bovine TB. But for the plan to work, we must address the negative tax ramifications that will result from the herd buy-out," Bonilla said.

"Our nation has changed greatly since September. We have many new issues and concerns on the agenda. We will continue to get the job done. We will not let the terrorists slow us down."



TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore Feb. 10, 1923, The Texas Legislature created Texas Technological College and stipulated it had to be in West Texas!



SALE OF FARM REAL ESTATE

173 Acres More or Less
Hudspeth County, Texas

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will sell approximately 173 acres of farm real estate at a Trustee's Foreclosure Sale to the highest bidder or bidders, for cash, at the Hudspeth County Courthouse, located in the city of Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth County, Texas on Tuesday, March 5, 2002. The minimum FSA bid will be \$32,407.00. For specific information, contact the Farm Service Agency, 2306 W. Dickinson, Suite 1, Fort Stockton, Texas. Phone number: (915) 336-5206, Extension 2.

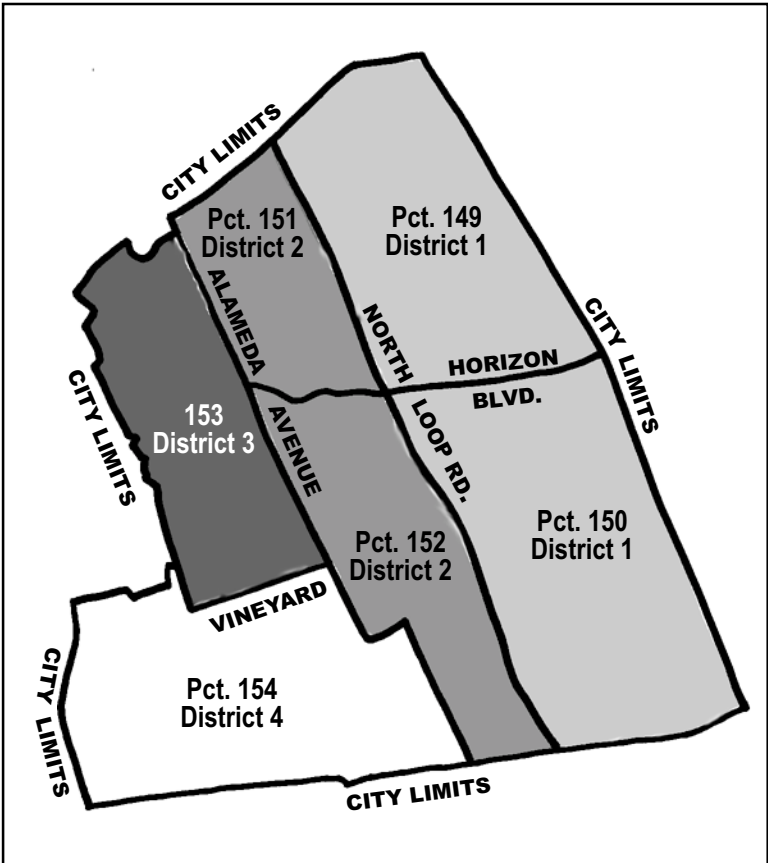
City of Socorro
Public Notice

The following qualifications and Districts have been set forth by the recently approved Charter for the City of Socorro, Texas:

Section 3.02 — QUALIFICATIONS. All qualifications must be met at the time of candidacy filing in addition to other qualifications prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas.

- A. Be a citizen of the United States of America and qualified voter of the City of Socorro;
- B. Have resided for at least 12 months preceding the election within the corporate limits of the city, or for 12 months within the territory which has been annexed by the City;
- C. Not be in arrears in the payments of any taxes or other liability due to the City in the last two years;
- D. A member of the City Council and the Mayor, ceasing to possess any of the Qualifications specified in this section or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (crimes of moral turpitude) while in office, or absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings in one year without being excused by the City Council, his or her office shall be declared vacant by City Council;
- E. A majority vote of the elected members of the City Council in regular session is required to declare the office vacated;
- F. Show proof that his/her homestead and residency are one and the same, and that such property lies within the corporate boundaries of the City of Socorro, Texas.

The map shows the four (4) districts, with their respective boundaries and precincts:



| District | Precincts | Polling Location | Address |
|----------|------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 149 150 | Hilley Elementary School Rojas Elementary School | 693 Rio Vista Rd. 500 Bauman |
| 2 | 151 152 | Socorro High School Rojas Elementary School | 10150 Alameda Ave. 500 Bauman |
| 3 | 153 | Escontrias Elementary School | 205 Buford Rd. |
| 4 | 154 | Campestre Elementary School | 11399 Socorro Rd. |

City of Socorro
PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. during the City Council Meeting of Thursday, February 21, 2002 at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Ordinance No. 34, Amendment 4 an Ordinance requiring that all operating businesses within the city limits of the City of Socorro, Texas be registered with the City Clerk.

Those that are unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Secretary (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Copies of ordinances are posted in City Hall and are available upon request.

TERE RODRIGUEZ
City Secretary

WTCC: 02/14/02

About 900 feral felines treated in first
year of county-wide feral cat program

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Completing its first year, the Feral Cat Program has resulted in about 900 felines being vaccinated and spayed or neutered, thanks to the efforts of concerned citizens, El Paso Veterinary Medical Association (EPVMA) which sponsors the program, and Valley Feed Pet Food Centers.

The EPVMA Feral Cat Program is a Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) program for feral cats 12 weeks of age and older — the cats are treated and returned to their wild homes.

An onslaught of El Paso area feral cats — which are defined as those who live outside and are intolerant of direct human physical contact — prompted authorities to address the growing problem last year. Most cats to date have come from far east, west and northeast El Paso county.

However, program officials warn that the number of trapped cats being brought to vets has stopped growing and they fear a boom of spring kittens if concerned residents do not continue to trap the feral animals.

Funds are available to keep the program viable throughout 2002, but more trappers are needed to maximize program effectiveness.

The TNR program encourages people in feral cat problem areas to borrow traps from one of seven Valley Feed locations, humanely trap the cats, take them to participating veterinarians for spaying/neutering and rabies shots and release them back where they were caught.

Traps are available on a first-come-first-served basis and can be borrowed from any Valley Feed location for a fully refundable \$50 deposit. Complete humane trapping methods and instructions, along with a list of participating veterinary clinics and hospitals are included with each loaned trap.

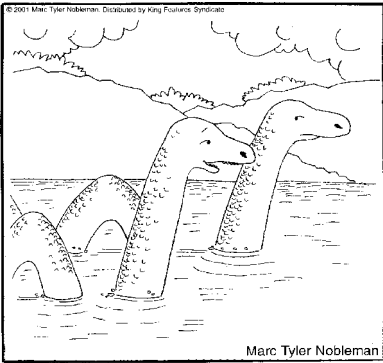
There is no cost to the trappers for the program. Veterinarians are reimbursed from the non-profit EPVMA program funds, which are derived from tax-deductible individual donations and organizational contributions, foundation and matching community grants, local and national corporate gifts and fundraising events.

Since its inception one year ago, operating funds have come from this

combination of grants and private contributions, including \$7,000 from the Fred Hervey Foundation, named for the Circle K founder.

Dr. Robin Dettman, chairperson of the Feral Cat Program said: “By working with citizens to limit the reproduction of these very fertile animals we can eventually eliminate the colonies. We have funds. Now we need more trappers.”

For more information about the EPVMA Feral Cat TNR Program or to make contributions, call Dr. Dettman at 755-2231. Contributions can be sent to the EPVMA Feral Cat Program, P.O. Box 808, Santa Teresa, NM 88008.



“Do you believe in Bigfoot?”

Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

OFFICE FURNITURE
CSP NO..
199-0222-0233
FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 22, 2002,
3:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-2/14/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

CONCRETE REDI MIX
CSP NO.
199-0222-0246
FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 22, 2002,
1:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-2/14/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

SOCIAL STUDIES MATERIALS
CSP NO.
199-0221-0232
THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 21, 2002,
2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-2/14/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

MEDICAID SERVICES
CSP NO.
199-0220-0236
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 20, 2002,
3:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-2/14/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/

CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

SCIENCE AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT
CSP NO.
199-0225-0231
MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 25, 2002,
2:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-2/14/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
CSP NO.
199-0220-0237
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 20, 2002,
2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-2/14/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Respond:

Sealed bids for providing all labor and materials for the construction of the

SISD Pre-K-5 Expandable School, Bid Packages: 0501-125 Steel Materials, 0502-125 Reinforcement Material, 0503-125 Steel Erection, 0504-125 Steel Material & Erection, 0301-125 Site & Building Concrete will be received at Socorro Independent School District, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79927 until 2 p.m., local time, Feb. 15, 2002, at which time they will be publicly read out loud.

Bids shall be addressed to Socorro Independent School District; all BIDS must be sealed and clearly marked as follows:

- 0501-125 Steel Materials
- 0502-125 Reinforcement Material
- 0503-125 Steel Erection
- 0504-125 Steel Material & Erection
- 0301-125 Site & Building Concrete

Bidders may obtain bid documents starting Feb. 5, 2002, by contacting:

PSRBB Architects
1845 Northwestern Drive
El Paso, Texas 79912
Phone: (915) 877-2020
Fax: (915) 877-2222

Bid deposit is refundable \$250 per set in the form of a cashier's check or certified check payable to Socorro Independent School District.
WTCC-02/14/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services accepted at the following times:

PORTABLE RENOVATION FOR MONTWOOD HIGH

SCHOOL CSP NO.
199-0219-0244
TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 2002,
2 P.M.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Department, 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Bidders may obtain copies of the bid documents by contacting the Socorro ISD office at PSRBB Architects:

PSRBB Architects
1845 Northwestern Drive
El Paso, Texas 79912
Phone: (915) 877-2020
Fax: (915) 877-2222

Bid deposit is refundable \$100 per set in the form of a cashier's check or certified check payable to Socorro Independent School District.
WTCC-02/14/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Respond:

Sealed bids for providing all labor and materials for the construction of the SISD Pre-K-5 Expandable School. Bid Packages will be received at Socorro Independent School District, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79927 until 2 p.m., local time, Feb. 22, 2002, at which time the identity of the respondents will be publicly read out loud.

Bids shall be addressed to Socorro Independent School District; all BIDS must be sealed and clearly marked as follows:

SISD Pre-K-5 Expandable:

• 0401-125 Masonry

- 0601-125 Millwork
- 0701-125 Built-Up Roofing
- 0702-125 Caulking & Sealants
- 0801-125 Doors & Hardware
- 0802-125 Installation of Doors & Hardware
- 0803-125 Doors & Hardware & Installation
- 0804-125 Overhead Doors
- 0805-125 Glass & Glazing
- 0901-125 Drywall
- 0902-125 Ceramic & Quarry Tile
- 0903-125 Acoustical Ceilings & Wall Panels
- 0904-125 Carpet & Resilient
- 0905-125 Painting
- 1001-125 Marker/ Tack Boards
- 1002-125 Toilet Partitions & Accessories
- 1003-125 Aluminum Flagpoles
- 1004-125 Signage
- 1005-125 Metal Lockers
- 1006-125 Fire Extinguishers
- 1007-125 Mail Boxes
- 1008-125 Cubicle Curtains
- 1101-125 Food Service Equipment
- 1102-125 Appliances
- 1103-125 Basketball Equipment
- 1104-125 TVs & Brackets
- 1201-125 Window Treatments
- 1202-125 Portable Stage
- 1501-125 Plumbing
- 1502-125 Mechanical
- 1503-125 Plumbing & Mechanical Combination
- 1601-125 Electrical
- 1701-125 TVSS System
- 1801-125 Plumbing, Mechanical & Electrical Combination

BARGAINS

Glass-top coffee table with brass legs. \$25 OBO. 852-1682.

OFFICE SPACE

Office for lease in Horizon City. Corner of Darrington and Horizon Blvd. \$350/month. Call Horizon Properties, 852-3331.

SELF-HELP OPPORTUNITIES

Alcoholics Anonymous Group Paso Del Norte meets at 8501 Kingsway in Westway, Monday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Call 886-4948 for information.

PSRBB Architects
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Attn: Guillermo Barajas
Phone: (915) 877-2020
Fax: (915) 877-2222

Bid deposit is refundable \$250 per set in the form of a cashier's check or certified check payable to Socorro Independent School District.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on Feb. 14, 2002 at 2 p.m. at the Socorro Independent School District, Education Center located at 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79927. Proposals will be received at the Business Services Department, 12300 Eastlake Drive until the specified times.
WTCC-02/14/02

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Colonization law clears the way for settlers to obtain titles

History of Texas Public Lands - Part Five

TEXAS — As this series on Texas public lands continues, the era of the *empresarios* became fully established with a series of laws and entitlements that settled the Texas frontier.

The colonization law provided that *empresarios*, in exchange for all their hard work bringing in new settlers, would receive five leagues for every 100 families — up to a maximum of 800 — they persuaded to settle in a colony. Once he had introduced a minimum of 100 families, an *empresario* was eligible for this compensation.

The State Colonization Law also provided leeway to charge fees in order to cover their expenses. A total of 35 colonization contracts received between 1824 and 1835, about 4,000 titles (covering 26 million acres of land) were issued.

The “Grant”

Land which had been set aside for the settlement of immigrants under *empresario* contracts was often referred to as the *empresario*’s “grant.” Unfortunately, the use of this term has led to some confusion when it is interpreted as meaning that the *empresario* acquired actual ownership of the land. In this context, “grant” simply referred to public land

reserved for a colony.

Early Texas maps, especially those made in the 1830s and ’40s, may give a somewhat misleading picture of the nature and extent of the colonies. Aside from the assumption that a grant implied ownership, colonies were also frequently shown in which no settlement occurred. Several contracts were made for colonies located in areas where settlement would have been difficult, if not impossible. The most successful were in areas with good land, adequate water, and infrequent Indian raids.

Individuals interested in obtaining a colonization contract submitted a petition to the Mexican government outlining their plans. *Empresarios*, commissioners and surveyors played important roles in issuing land titles. Surveyors laid out the boundaries, made maps, and prepared the description of the grant. The commissioners, appointed by the government, issued and recorded the land title for each settler, and were responsible for maintaining the archives that such record-keeping created.

In March 1827, a petition signed by 168 settlers living in the area of Ayish Bayou, Sabine River and Trinity River was sent to the president of

Mexico, asking for a commissioner to issue titles to land. These settlers, as they pointed out in their petition, had moved to the area before enactment of the National Colonization Law; had taken the oath of loyalty to the government; and had made substantial improvements to the land, including building cotton gins and grist mills. The governor of Coahuila and Texas added his recommendation for approval of the petition, noting “that the inhabitants of Nacogdoches have rendered very important services to the Government by making their declarations against the revolutionists of Nacogdoches raised by Haden Edwards and associates, in December 1826, with whose assistance that nefarious assemblage was completely routed and broken up, and good order restored to that section...”

Juan Antonio Padilla was appointed commissioner general by the governor of Coahuila and Texas on December 4, 1828. A major charge of his office, in response to the March 1827 petition, was to issue land titles to settlers living in the border areas of East Texas. Padilla began his work a year later, but his commission was revoked before he could issue many titles. Jose Francisco Madero followed with an appointment to issue land titles in the area of Atascosito

(present-day Liberty). He issued titles in that area in 1831-32 and established the municipality of Liberty. In 1835, George Smyth and Charles Taylor were appointed as special commissioners to issue titles in the area of San Augustine and Nacogdoches.

Taylor and some of the *alcaldes* also issued land titles resulting from sales of public lands by the state. In 1835, the state of Coahuila and Texas sold public land to individuals under a contract with John Durst and Samuel M. Williams. It wasn’t long before these sales were nullified by an Act of the General Congress of Mexico and by the 10th section of the Constitution of the Republic of Texas.

Radford Berry, *alcalde* of Nacogdoches, issued titles to 41 men for land located in East Texas in 1835. Under a contract with Samuel M. Williams, Francis W. Johnson and Robert Peebles, the state of Coahuila and Texas granted land to military volunteers; the intent was to raise a militia of a thousand men. John Cameron, authorized by an April 7, 1835 contract with James Grant to sell 100 leagues of land, issued titles in November of that same year. But, since they were issued after the closing of the land offices, these titles were also among those made null by the

Constitution of the Republic of Texas. A list of all commissioners and other individuals appointed or authorized to issue land titles in Texas by the Spanish and Mexican governments is available in the Guide to Spanish and Mexican Land Titles, 1995, unpublished, through the Texas General Land Office.

Surveying Mexican Texas

The running of boundary lines, defining the framework of ownership and citizenship, is a staple of surveying and mapmaking and at no time is a land surveyor cast in a more indispensable and exciting role than during the settlement of a new territory.

Surveying the land for each grant was a crucial function in Mexican Texas, as it was in any frontier region. To receive the legal title from the government, a settler had to have a complete description, in Spanish, of the land granted. Before settlers even arrived, land surveyors had often made maps of Texas that charted streams and other land features, essential information for settlement.

(Part VI will continue next week. The information contained in this historical series can be accessed at www.glo.state.tx.us, and is reprinted with permission of the Texas General Land Office.)

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Cora Viescas, Executive Director/Chief Appraiser, El Paso Central Appraisal District, is currently accepting application(s) for the following:

RENDITIONS

- 1. Personal Property
- 2. Real Estate

DEADLINE FOR FILING OF RENDITIONS, PROPERTY INFORMATION REPORTS, AND REPORTS OF DECREASED VALUE IS MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2002.

EXEMPTIONS*

- 1. Residential Homestead Exemption
- 2. Over-65 Exemption**
- 3. Over 55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption
- 4. Medical Disability Exemption
- 5. Veteran’s Disability Exemption
- 6. Widow of Disabled Veteran Exemption

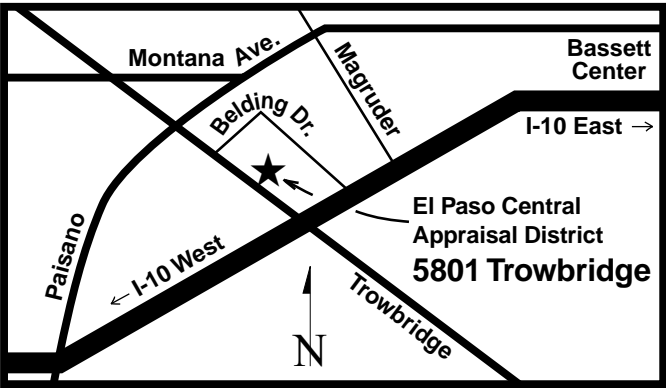
*If you received a Homestead and/or an Over-65 Exemption, or an Over-55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption, a Disability Exemption, or a Disabled Veteran’s Exemption in 2001, it is not necessary for you to file again this year.

**The Over-65 School Homestead Exemption can be transported to another home within Texas on a percentage basis. (Please contact the Appraisal District for forms and explanation.)


SPECIAL USE EVALUATIONS

Agricultural Valuation - Applications are being accepted for Ad Valorem Tax purposes as provided under Article III, Section 1-d and 1-d-1 of the Texas State Constitution. Properties qualifying under these Amendments are valued on the basis of Agricultural Productivity rather than their market value. The tax that would be levied on market value is deferred. Information on agricultural use valuation is available in the State Comptroller’s Publication, *Taxpayers’ Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities*. Copies are available at the Appraisal District Office.

DEADLINE FOR FILING FOR EXEMPTIONS AND APPLYING FOR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS IS APRIL 30, 2002, FOR ALL TAXING JURISDICTIONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AT THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 5801 TROWBRIDGE, EL PASO, TEXAS 79925. FOR APPLICATIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE APPRAISAL DISTRICT AT (915) 780-2131.



NO FEE IS REQUIRED FOR FILING ANY OF THE ABOVE RENDITIONS, EXEMPTIONS OR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS



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Can Veliz produce a golden fleece for the Montwood Rams?

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

If there's one thing that the Montwood Rams' football team has been consistent at over the last few years it's been their inconsistency. Montwood, the largest school, enrollment-wise, in the city has had to watch teams like Socorro and Del Valle dominate District 2-5A over the last decade while they came close but not close enough. The up-and-down Rams hit rock bottom last season when they finished an unbelievable 1-8 and it cost Tommy Moss his head coaching job. So what did Montwood do? The only thing

they could do. The largest school in the city should probably have the best coach and the Rams went out and got him. The guy that took an embarrassingly bad program at Del Valle and turned it into the envy of the city, Chuck Veliz, was named the new head coach at Montwood last week. After weeks of speculation, Veliz will take his show to Montwood and try to inject some life into this once proud program. The Rams weren't just bad last year, they were really quite boring with no sense of direction. And like the challenge at Del Valle, it will be fun to see if Veliz will turn this team around in his first season there. Veliz' new job at Montwood answered a few

questions but it also brings up some new ones. How much will he change the look of the conservative Rams. Montwood has been grounding it out, a la the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for years. Veliz had Del Valle playing a pro-style offense throwing it as much as he ran. Don't be surprised if this team begins to resemble the St. Louis Rams. Another question is what will now happen to the Conquistadores of Del Valle? It took them 10 years to start winning football games. Will they return to the days of 1-9 seasons or will Veliz' replacement keep the winning ways going? And what about realignment? The new 2002

District 1-5 consists of nine teams. Montwood will now have to battle the likes of Franklin, Address, Coronado, as well as Eastwood, Bel Air, Hanks, Americas and Socorro. It's going to be tough for Veliz and Montwood to come all the way back in one season. But it sure is going to be fun seeing if they can. I wouldn't bet against it.

City of brotherly hate

Did you hear about the new NBA catch phrase? It goes something like this, "I love this game — but I hate Kobe Bryant!" Or at least that's the way it goes in Philadelphia. During last Sunday's NBA all star game in Philly, the fans, who are notorious for showing their eternal hatred for certain players showed it once again. Kobe Bryant, who grew up in Philadelphia, was booed heavily throughout the game and especially after winning the game's MVP award. Bryant scored 31 points after putting up a whopping 25 shots, the all-time all-star record is 27 shots. It got to the point that every time he touched the ball in the second half he was booed. Now I'm no Kobe fan but why the harsh treatment? He grew up there, for goodness sake, and his father played for the home 76ers. Maybe it's the fact that his Lakers beat the Sixers in last years NBA final. Bryant said after the game that his feelings were hurt. Poor Kobe. But I know a way to make him feel better. "Hey Kobe — go back home and take a gander at your bank statement!"

Canutillo students qualify for state HOSA competition

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Students enrolled in Canutillo High School's Health Occupations program advanced to the Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA) state finals after finishing on top in medical events during the recent area competition. More than 600 high school students from West Texas competed in the HOSA Area IV Spring Leadership Conference for a chance to advance to the state conference April 10-13 in Houston. They ap

plied health-related skills as they competed in categories such as dental assisting, veterinary assisting, medical spelling and job seeking. CHS state qualifiers are Priscilla Rangel, Mariaelena Mendez, Claudia Iglesias, Araceli Calzadias, Evelyn Lopez, Luis Galvan, Ruben Salinas, Nancy Mendoza, Lulu Romero, Ida Almaguer and Crystal Mata. CHS Junior Ruben Salinas also earned Area IV credentials to run for one of six state office positions. Sophomores Claudia Iglesias and Araceli Calzadias qualified to run for area officer positions. CHS Health Occupations instructors are Julie Vinikoff and Rebecca Vasquez.



ADVANCING TO STATE — Canutillo HS Health Occupations Students who qualified for state Competition are shown, front row from left, Claudia Iglesias, Crystal Mata, Nancy Mendoza, and Lulu Romero. Back row from left Ruben Salinas, Aracely Calzadias, Evelyn Lopez, Priscilla Rangel, Mariaelena Mendez.

Horizon City Community Chapel

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Yth. Group ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Adult
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Dean Pinney, Pastor

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Estudio Dominical 9:45 a.m.
Servicios en Español .. 10:45 a.m.
Estudio en Español
Biblico Jueves 6:30 p.m.

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Next one's on KG

Now that's the way to make friends. Think you're a smooth character because you proclaim that you're buying the next round? That's what the Minnesota Timberwolves Kevin Garnett said recently. Only he bought drinks for 10,000 fans. Garnett announced that he wanted the Minnesota fans to start getting crazy at games. So Garnett bought the first 10,000 fans at Wednesday's game against the Phoenix Suns a drink. Only those over 21 could get a beer while others could get a soft drink. The tab was estimated at a cool \$50,000. But don't feel too sorry for KG, he's only making \$125 million. Cheers!

King Super Crossword

- FILM CLIP**
CROSS
1 Songwriters' org.
6 Old Glory feature
10 _ -jongg
13 Ali _
17 Playground fixture
18 Ripped
19 Inland sea
21 It multiplies by di-
viding
23 Islamic text
24 Columnist
Bombeck
25 Mrs. Zeus
26 Astronomer Carl
27 Catchall abbr.
28 Party pots
30 Bandleader Hamp-
ton
32 Gusto
33 Start of a remark by
George Leonard
38 Cry of discovery
39 Pound of poetry
40 Forster's "Howards
_"
41 Film division
44 Swerves danger-
ously
47 _ -de-lance
48 Spearheaded
51 Colorless
52 Ship's slammer
53 Salon supply
54 Part 2 of remark
56 _ du Diable
57 Lost one's tail?
- 59 It can be wicked
61 Writer O'Brien
62 _ Tin Tin
63 Overdramatic thes-
pian
64 Nichols' " _ Irish
Rose"
67 Montgomery's st.
69 Part 3 of remark
77 Humorist George
78 Pine product
79 Affliction
80 Palindromic
Parseghian
81 Old tub
84 Rock's Fleetwood -
85 Part of a diet
88 Ferris-wheel unit
89 Part 4 of remark
92 Time Warner part-
ner
95 Sharpen a skill
96 Location
97 Even so
98 Shack
99 Occur earlier
101 Croc's kin
102 Droop
103 Director Mira
104 Tin _
105 End of remark
116 Chianti, e.g.
117 Keen insight
118 Graceland name
119 _ roll
120 Above it all
122 Mr. Ed's mother
123 "Clinton's Ditch"
- 125 Buffalo Bill, for one
127 Tenor Mario
128 North Carolina
campus
129 Baseball's Sammy
130 Disburse
131 Nourish
132 Humorist Buchwald
133 Manuscript impera-
tive
134 Bolger/Lahr co-star
- DOWN**
1 Crooked
2 Arboreal animal
3 She brought out the
beast in men
4 Periodontists' org.
5 Kind of fudge
6 Shorthand, shortly
7 Museum piece
8 It's up your sleeve
9 Get it
10 '75 Diana Ross film
11 Stadium
12 Seraglio
13 Coll. degrees
14 Bowled over
15 Sire
16 Disconcert
20 Composer Schifrin
22 Up-front money
29 Plutarch character
31 "The Woman _" ('84
film)
34 Nary a soul
35 It suits many
36 41 Down, for one
- 37 Calvary inscription
41 Mr. Agnew
42 Neighbor of Nev.
43 Skater Berezhnaya
44 Brioche bit
45 Pitch in
46 Put in stitches
47 Crafty critter
48 Top
49 Tons of time
50 Heredity letters
52 Responsibility
55 Shipshape
57 Israel's Barak
58 Place to pontificate
60 "Just _ thought!"
65 Bach's "Bist du _
mir"
66 Travelers' stops
67 Dwelling
68 Tun throwaways
70 Time to crow?
71 Monk's title
72 Sum up
73 Swill connoisseur
74 Implied
75 Urania's sister
76 Not as common
81 Farm feature
82 " _ gelida manina"
(Puccini aria)
83 _ bran
84 Encountered
86 Actress Maureen
87 Fate
90 Bangkok resident
91 "Les Miserables"
author
- 93 Frill
94 Rent
96 Amritsar attire
100 Gloom
101 Parsley, perhaps
102 Nap
104 Word form for "en-
vironment"
105 Ellipse
106 Mideastern me-
lange
107 _ fell swoop
108 June, but not July
109 Florida city
110 Colossal commo-
tion
111 Elevate
112 Actor Williams
113 It gets wet as it dries
114 Absurd
115 Sweet treat
121 In thing
124 Disintegrate
126 _ -Locka, FL

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| 116 | | | | | | | 117 | | | | | | 118 | | | | | 119 | | | |
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Absolutely free e-mail management tips

By Don Flood

American business is facing a grave and dangerous new challenge: e-mail.

According to the business press, executives are drowning in it.

I'm quite an active e-mail correspondent myself.

Since I work for a newspaper, I receive e-mail from all over the country.

It's wonderful! This miracle of modern technology has opened up a whole new world and allowed me to correspond with hundreds of people I've never even met.

And these people are experts! They know everything there is to know about religion, politics, you name it.

They are the source of all wisdom and knowledge!

Unfortunately, they don't always agree with each other, which is disappointing because you would expect fonts of all wisdom and knowledge to hold similar worldviews.

But they don't.

Not that that prevents me from reaching out and communicating with my far-flung correspondents.

Here's a typical, thoughtful response to one of my beloved "keyboard pals": "REMOVE."

That's right, "Remove," as in remove from e-mail list.

OK, I know it's a little dry — perhaps a tad curt — but that's what it says to do at the bottom if I don't want their e-mails.

Sometimes when I'm in a bright and sunny mood — which I admit doesn't seem to correspond with when I'm doing my e-mail — I write, "Remove, please."

(The e-mail at home seems to be a little different. Those e-mailers seem to assume I have no job, though I admit that making \$100,000, \$200,000 — and more! — working part-time at home while watching TV sounds really interesting!)

Computer-generated responses to my "remove" requests tend to be polite.

Others are not. These would be the people-generated responses.

These writers seem to assume that I should be honored and thrilled to receive their 10,000-word missives on new inventions, evolution, spiritual growth, global warming, various and sundry conspiracies, etc.

They're offended by my requests. They think I don't care. They're right!

The growth of e-mail, however, does offer opportunity to those who want to specialize in E-mail Management.

(The other major job growth field

is, of course, Executive Paper Shredder. As we successfully make the transition to a "paperless" society, we are, naturally, forced to use more and more paper, much of which has to be shredded before it can be subpoenaed by a Congressional committee.)

Here are some e-mail management tips, absolutely free!

- If it's Tuesday, it must be trash day — Pick a day of the week, at random, and dump all e-mail. Don't even read the subject line. You might get suckered in.
- Lucky No. 3 — Similar to first suggestion but instead of trashing an entire day's mail, delete every third e-mail. (Experienced e-mail management professionals combine both methods.)
- Executive decision-making — Forward all e-mail to a person you consider trustworthy and responsible. If you're lucky, they'll handle the important stuff. (To escape being the victim of this gambit, avoid being trustworthy and responsible yourself.) I could send you an e-mail with more tips if you're interested, but I'd advise you to delete it.

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RATTLE ON THE RUN — The Rattlers team is shown standing from left, Coach Arcides, Crystal Torres, Erika Gonzalez, Rebecca Manriquez, Maira Villalobos, Monica Siller and Marylynn Mejia; and sitting from left is Amanda Cruz, Sonia Navar, Maria Lujan, Jessica Miranda, Amanda Ramirez and Crystal Amaya.

EMMS Lady Rattlers take district championship

EAST MONTANA — The East Montana Middle School's Lady Rattler basketball team clinched the district championship on Feb. 1 in a solid match-up with Clint Jr. High.

Good team work and dedication were qualities found in this Lady Rattler team all season, according to Coach Hilda Segura.

"These girls gave 100 percent during practices as well as games," she said. "This dedication was obvious on the basketball court as they were able to run quite a few plays with a good amount of success throughout the season."

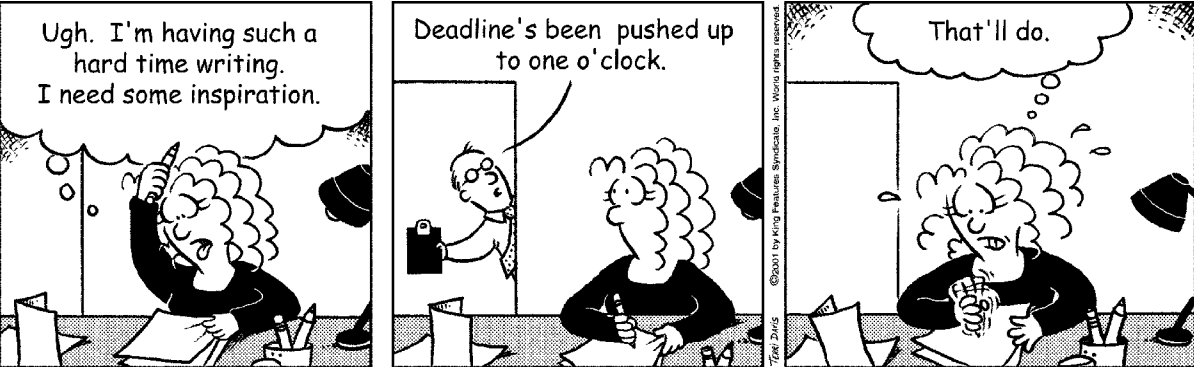
"Each player contributed to the success of the 7th grade Lady Rattler Basketball Team 2001-2002. We are all very proud of them and look forward to seeing many successes come their way."

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



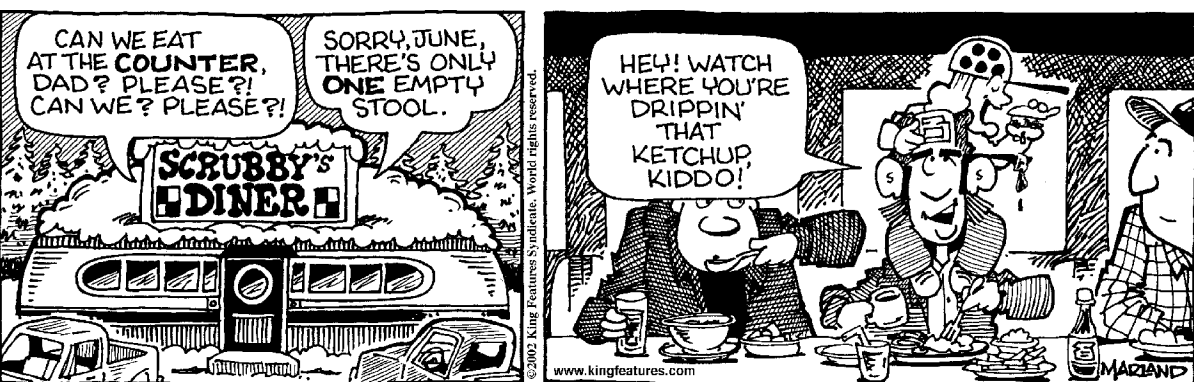
GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Briefs

From Page 1

donate may do so at any Fabens campus, Big 8 Food Store, McDonald's, Ryan's Hardware, or the Good Time Store on Main Street. For information, call 764-3330.

■ Americas High School will host the Americas Cup 2002 Cheer and Dance Competition on Friday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, Feb. 23, in the Blazer Gym. Dance competition will be Friday at 6:30 and the cheer competition will be on Saturday, at 1 p.m. Deadline to submit entry forms is Friday,

Feb. 15. The Dance competition will have nine divisions, based on grade level and style of dance. The Cheer competition will have seven divisions each for the non-mount and mount categories, based on grade levels. Contact Miyesser K. Collins, Americas Student Activities Director for further information.

■ Marine Corps Pfc. Joshua J. Roza, a 2001 graduate of Socorro High School, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. Roza successfully completed 12 weeks of rigorous training designed to challenge Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Houses

From Page 1

a big smile.

With adobe walls and two inches of insulation, Araujo explains that the home is built at an angle to the sun to take maximum advantage of the sun's rays. This will save on energy costs, keeping it cooler in the summer and warmer in winter.

Another solar-efficient contractor-built home, on Tikal Street, is expected to be ready by the end of February by the Friez family. Through large windows, the sun's rays highlight the tile floors of the \$65,000 home which is built at a 15-degree angle to the sun to maximize its warming effects.

Contractor-built, energy-efficient homes is one of two ways Progresiva is working with families to help them move into better housing.

The second part is through a self-help USDA program in which quali-

fied families can shave several thousand dollars from the cost of their new home through "sweat-equity." Sweat equity is a hands-on involvement by the family in the actual construction of their new home.

Construction is scheduled to begin March 6 on four sweat-equity homes in San Elizario.

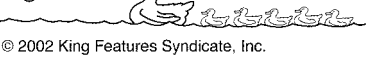
Building the home is the final step in the process. The first steps come when families contact Progresiva about buying a new home. Araujo and his staff guide people through the required labyrinth of paperwork to see if they qualify for a guaranteed loan or if they are interested in the self-help program.

Araujo, who is also president of the board of trustees of the San Elizario Independent School District, explains that his organization is not the banker through whom people make house payments under the programs. That is handled directly through USDA. Progresiva is paid a fee to administer its programs and coordinate housing construction in the area.

Phamiliar phrases

"get your ducks in a row"

This phrase usually conveys a need to get everything that is needed ready for the next activity. When a mother duck begins her trip across the pond, she will gather all members of her brood; they fall into a line behind her while traveling together.



Social Security: Q & A

by Ray Vigil

Q. I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because I am elderly and have no income. My brother recently died and left me the money he had in a savings account. Will this extra money affect my SSI benefits? Will my SSI payments stop?

A. The money inherited from your brother is considered income for the month you receive it and could make you ineligible for that month, depending on the amount of the inheritance. If you keep the money into the next month, it then becomes a part of your resources. An individual cannot have more than \$2,000 in resources to remain eligible. Call Social Security and report the inheritance. They will tell you how your eligibility will be affected and what you can do to remain eligible.

Q. How do I correct an error in my record of earnings?

You should call us at 1-800-772-1213. If available, have your W-2 or tax return handy. However, please contact us even if you do not have your W-2 or tax return available. We may be able to search our records using the information you give us concerning your employer's business name address. It is important for us to correct any errors with your earnings as soon as possible. Your future Social Security benefits are based upon the earnings on your Social Security record. (Remember that your earnings for last year may still be in process and so may not yet appear on your record. Your earnings for the current year won't be reported to us until next year.).

Q. As an attorney who represents Social Security clients on a regular basis, I routinely need information from the Program Operating Manual System and the Social Security Handbook. Is there an easy way to access such materials?

A. We're glad to inform you that there is. We have a website just for you, called Representing Clients. Go to www.ssa.gov/representation for information on fee agreements, fee petitions, a model fee agreement, standards of conduct official forms and links to other important information.

Q. I worked for the last 10 years and I now have my 40 credits. Does this mean that I get the maximum Social Security retirement benefit?







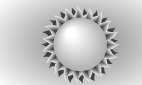
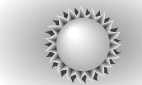
A. Probably not. The 40 credits are the minimum number you need to qualify for a benefit. The amount of the benefit, however, is not based on those credits; it's based on your earnings. We determine your average earnings over your working years and use a special calculation formula that is set by law. For most people like you who need 40 credits, we must average their best 35 years of earnings to figure the benefit amount.

For more information visit your local Security office, see <http://www.ssa.gov>, or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

| THURSDAY | THUR. NIGHT | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly sunny. | Partly cloudy. | Partial sunshine. | Partly sunny. | Partial sunshine. | Mostly sunny. | Sunshine. | Sunny. |
| ▲ 62° | ▼ 40° | ▲ 66° ▼ 40° | ▲ 66° ▼ 38° | ▲ 62° ▼ 40° | ▲ 62° ▼ 24° | ▲ 62° ▼ 28° | ▲ 66° ▼ 34° |

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

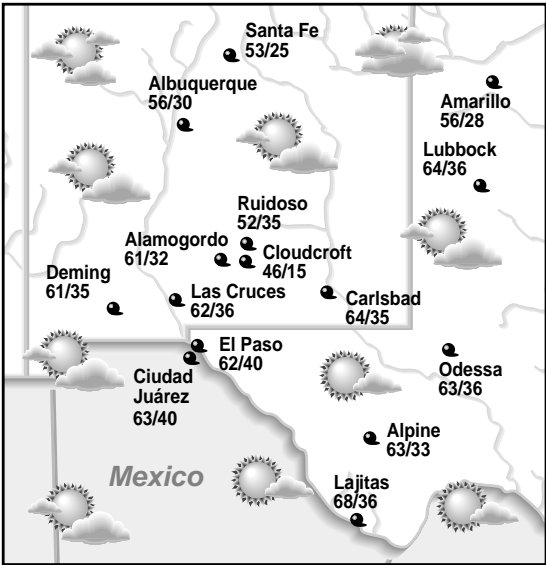
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------|
| Thursday | 6 | Moderate |
| Friday | 5 | Moderate |
| Saturday | 5 | Moderate |
| Sunday | 5 | Moderate |
| Monday | 6 | Moderate |
| Tuesday | 6 | Moderate |
| Wednesday | 6 | Moderate |

TEXAS WEATHER

| | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| Anthony | 62 | 40 |
| Canutillo | 63 | 41 |
| Clint | 61 | 40 |
| E. Montana | 62 | 40 |
| Fabens | 61 | 41 |
| Horizon | 63 | 41 |
| San Elizario | 60 | 38 |
| Socorro | 61 | 39 |
| Tornillo | 61 | 40 |
| Vinton | 63 | 41 |

Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.



TRAVELERS CITIES

| City | Thur. Hi/Low/W | Fri. Hi/Low/W | Sat. Hi/Low/W | Sun. Hi/Low/W | Mon. Hi/Low/W |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Albuquerque | 56/30/pc | 54/30/pc | 56/32/pc | 56/32/pc | 52/28/c |
| Atlanta | 53/34/s | 55/34/s | 57/36/s | 59/39/s | 59/44/sh |
| Atlantic City | 42/30/s | 48/32/pc | 48/32/c | 42/30/pc | 40/24/s |
| Austin/San Antonio | 60/42/s | 66/50/pc | 68/54/c | 70/52/sh | 68/46/c |
| Baltimore | 42/24/s | 50/32/pc | 50/28/c | 42/26/pc | 42/20/s |
| Boston | 36/23/s | 44/27/pc | 40/27/pc | 32/23/c | 36/16/c |
| Chicago | 44/34/pc | 40/24/c | 44/32/pc | 42/34/pc | 44/32/pc |
| Dallas/Ft. Worth | 56/36/s | 60/44/s | 62/46/pc | 62/46/sh | 64/42/c |
| Denver | 48/20/pc | 44/26/pc | 56/30/pc | 50/26/pc | 44/22/c |
| Flagstaff | 52/22/s | 48/22/pc | 42/21/c | 42/18/c | 39/8/pc |
| Houston | 66/44/pc | 68/48/pc | 70/54/sh | 70/48/r | 70/44/c |
| Kansas City | 50/24/s | 50/32/pc | 54/34/pc | 50/32/c | 52/30/c |
| Las Vegas | 61/43/c | 61/43/pc | 63/41/pc | 61/40/c | 61/35/c |
| Miami | 74/60/c | 76/58/pc | 76/58/s | 78/62/s | 77/57/s |
| Minneapolis | 36/18/sf | 34/16/pc | 34/20/pc | 36/22/s | 38/24/pc |
| New Orleans | 58/38/s | 64/44/s | 70/50/s | 70/52/s | 68/56/pc |
| New York City | 40/30/s | 46/34/pc | 44/32/c | 40/30/pc | 38/24/s |
| Philadelphia | 42/28/s | 48/32/pc | 48/32/c | 42/28/pc | 40/22/s |
| Phoenix | 75/52/pc | 73/50/pc | 71/48/pc | 71/46/pc | 67/46/pc |
| Portland | 52/36/s | 54/40/pc | 50/38/c | 48/38/c | 48/38/pc |
| San Francisco | 60/44/s | 62/46/s | 58/48/c | 56/46/sh | 58/42/pc |
| Seattle | 50/38/s | 52/40/pc | 50/38/c | 48/36/c | 46/40/pc |
| Tucson | 74/44/pc | 74/44/s | 68/42/pc | 70/40/pc | 66/40/pc |
| Washington, DC | 44/32/s | 52/34/pc | 52/32/c | 44/30/pc | 44/26/s |

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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